

Biking to the 50th

Suspense: 20 November 2018

The Best of the Line is planning a week-long bicycle ride, 10-16 May 2019, from Syracuse, NY to West Point just prior to the 50th reunion. This is a stress-free event guided and supported by BIKETernity, LLC, a professional bike tour company we selected for their experience, their good reputation, and their responsiveness to our needs. There will be six ride days and one rest day in Albany. Total mileage for all six ride days—for those who want to ride every mile—will be about 285 miles. Spouses/others who want to accompany the event but don't plan to ride are very welcome! This promises to be a convivial gathering of classmates as much as a bike ride, with lots of time to socialize and tour around, and options to ride or just relax and enjoy good company.

Participants should plan to arrive in Syracuse on 9 May 2019. Details about our hotel in Syracuse will be sent with the information packet for the trip. Once we complete the ride, in West Point on 16 May, we'll be transported to the Westchester Marriott, our 50th reunion hotel.

BIKETernity has established a minimum number of 10 riders, so if we do not reach that number, we will look at other options for riding or for a pre-reunion gathering. The cost is \$1,100 per rider, assuming we have ten riders. (The cost will be less with more riders.) What that DOES NOT include is the cost of hotels, the cost of meals, and bike rental.

What it DOES include:

- Continuous BIKETernity support vehicle (can carry up to six people with bikes) accompaniment during the entire trip. That includes water stops and lunch on the road.
- A BIKETernity “sweep” rider at the back of the group, to provide any assistance needed.
- Elementary repair (flat tires, etc.). For repairs beyond the elementary, transport of bike & rider to/from a bike shop. BIKETernity is prepared with information on bike shops (and other potential emergency facilities) along the route.
- Route planning, which will include turn-by-turn instructions and maps with elevation profiles and elevation gain/loss each day of the ride. The preliminary route plan is attached (excel file). The plan is reviewed and adjusted each day and revised instructions/maps that take into account construction and safety conditions are prepared for each rider.
- Pick up of rented bikes from the bike store in Syracuse, and return of rented bikes to the bike store after completion of the event.
- Cell phone contact with the support vehicle and the “sweep” rider, both of which will have emergency contact information.

Participants are welcome to bring their own bikes, but arrangements for rental are part of the service provided by BIKETernity. Bike rental, including helmet, is \$175 per person (in addition to the cost for participation) for the whole event. BIKETernity will provide participants with a point of contact for rentals, and it will be up to each participant to arrange for the rental. BIKETernity will pick up the rental bikes and have them ready for participants at the start of the event. BIKETernity will also return the bikes (from West Point to Syracuse) at the end of the ride. E-bikes are not available, but classmates who would

like to participate with an E-bike should express their interest. If there is enough interest, we'll pursue further a source for E-bike rentals.

Fifteen hotel rooms per day are being reserved along the route for the event. This should provide plenty of rooms for riders, spouses, and others. Riders are welcome to share a room. Overnight bike storage will be in separate rooms in each hotel. Riders will make their own hotel reservations at the designated hotels (info to be provided when deposit is made).

We are working on an option for riders to join the group in Albany on 13 May. Up to four riders can be accommodated in this option. The cost for the option is being worked. The ride distances for the days from Albany to West Point are shorter, averaging around 40 miles per day, but the last day is hilly (remember Storm King Mountain?).

At any point on any of the rides, a rider can ask for the support vehicle to pick him/her up, including bike.

The rider will stay with the vehicle for the rest of the day, as the support vehicle has to accompany the riders and be available continuously.

The route is mostly rural and full of beauty and historically significant places. Our route will take us generally along the Erie Canal during the first three ride days of relatively level riding averaging about 55 miles per day. The route for the last three days of riding follows the Hudson from Albany to West Point. BIKEternity will provide each rider with a packet that includes information on the interesting sights along or near our route.

To join the ride, send an email to John McBeth (njmcbeth@yahoo.com) before November 20th indicating your interest in participating, and whether or not you want to do the full ride (6 riding days) or just the portion from Albany to West Point. John will send you instructions for payment of the cost and additional details about the ride.

Here is the schedule of payments:

- Deposit of \$250.00 due by 1 December 2018.
- Payment of the remainder (\$850 per rider) is due by 1 March 2019. The amount for riders joining at Albany is to be determined and will be sent out before the end of October. Additionally, information on the availability of E-Bikes will be sent out when this information becomes available.

We plan to finish up by rendezvousing (probably at Camp Buckner) and then riding into West Point together as a group. We'll have transportation arranged for riders and others to travel from West Point to the reunion hotel. Worth re-emphasizing: this is a stress-free event, an outing with the incomparable fellowship of the Best of the Line, and with only as much biking as each rider wishes. Five have signed up to bike with us so far (as of end of September); join us!

We also plan for three days of socializing at the Finger Lakes from 6-9 May. Thanks to Jim McDonough, we have identified a pleasing hotel, Skaneateles Suites (in Skaneateles, NY, about 25 miles from Syracuse). We will send out more information on the Finger Lakes plan after 1 December.

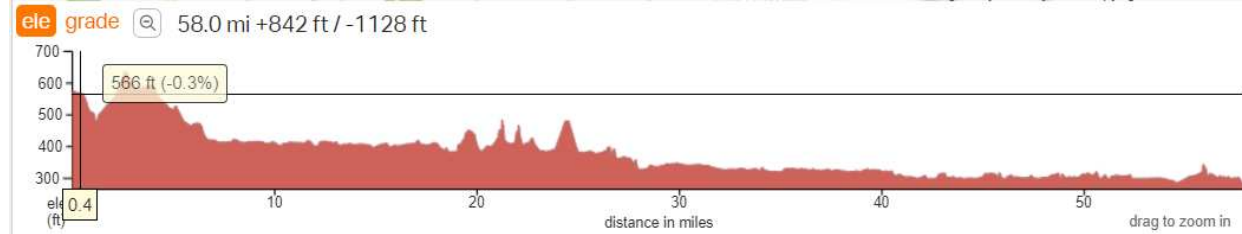
The following page contains the day-by-day profiles.

Day-By-Day Profile

Day 1



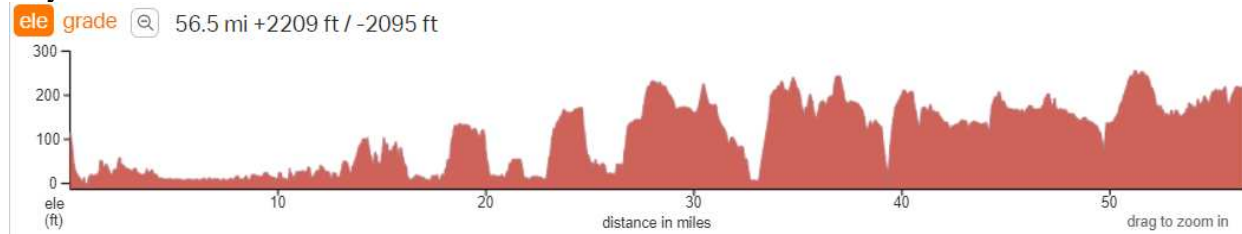
Day 2



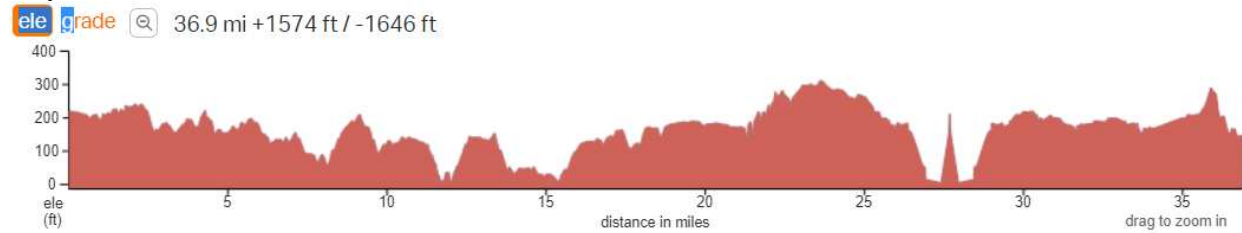
Day 3



Day 4



Day 5



Day 6

