

Silver Wheels Information About the MESA Bike Tour: July 10 - 15

The MESA bike Tour is a Rotary event which Silver Wheels has on the calendar because we have members who are participating. Club founder Ed Stewart is the main Tour Coordinator and started the tour in 2005.

The MESA Bike tour is a six-day event that starts this year in Toledo, Ohio. Some of our Silver Wheelers will be riding all week and participation is open to anyone – Rotary membership is not required. The tour is a fundraiser for the special Rotary project called MESA (Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad). The project collects used but usable medical and educational equipment and supplies and ships them to target areas throughout the world. The funds raised are generally used to cover shipping costs for these items. More information about the MESA project is available at their website: www.rotarymesa.org.

There are three ways Silver wheelers can participate in this event.

1. You can sign up and ride the tour all week. Some of our current and past members are doing just that. Ed Stewart, Bud Ennis, Pat Serio, Mikki Sobczak (before she hurt her arm), Herb de la Porte, Judy Keys and others from the area will be on the tour. Last year Joe Etzler rode all week too.
2. You can “participate” by making a cash donation. A donation form can be printed and you send in a check or a pledge for any amount you wish. If you make a pledge the MESA project will send you an invoice after the tour. On the form they ask for a name of a rider or team to sponsor – you can write in the name of any of those shown above who are riding or just use “Team Lorain County”.
3. What most members will be doing is to join the tour for a day, on **Monday, July 12** (shown on the calendar as *Team Challenge*). Here are the details about that day:
 - a. We will leave the Holiday Inn at Midway Mall in Elyria at 9:00 am. Plan to show up around 8:30. You will need to register onsite (you also need to pre-register, see below) so we know who is on the ride, just like our own rides.
 - b. Our route that day is about 60 miles. We head out on the High Meadows Trail and follow it to its end at Colorado Ave. in Lorain. From there we ride to Lakeview Park and meet briefly with the Lorain rotary Club. Then we ride south, through the neighborhoods of Lorain and in the country to Oberlin – taking the bike trail part of the way. Lunch is in Oberlin. After lunch with that rotary Club we ride west to Norwalk, arriving around 4 p.m. the pace is what you make it – generally there are two groups, faster (15-18) and slower (13-15). There are two support vehicles with water and food and just about any other supply needed, including a seat if you get too tired.
 - c. Once we arrive in Norwalk you will have a shuttle bus back to the Holiday Inn. You would return there around 5:30 p.m.
 - d. This is a fundraiser. The cost for a one-day tour is \$50 which you can easily raise by asking friends and neighbors and family to support a worthy cause. The shuttle is an additional \$10 cost. You would get for this the food supplied along the way (stop in Lorain and lunch in Oberlin) plus the support vehicle service, maps, etc.
 - e. Many of our members have already shown an interest in the one-day ride and we expect a strong turnout from Silver Wheels. I can only imagine the songs and laughter erupting from the bus on the trip back.
 - f. You must pre-register: use this form to register as a **rider**.
http://www.rotarymesa.org/uploads/2010_Rider_Registration_Form1-4.pdf
 - g. If you cannot ride but want to make a monetary **donation**, use this brochure form:
http://www.rotarymesa.org/uploads/2010_Bike_Tour_Brochure_Std.pdf

If you have any questions, such as, what if you want to ride from Toledo to Norwalk – how do you do that? Call or email Ed Stewart emsbiker514@gmail.com 440-315-3012.

Yes, you get club miles for this ride. Woo-Hoo.