

The Century Tuscaloosa Makeup Ride  
A View from the Front Of the pack  
The Fisher Report  
By Greg (Bulldog) Fisher

I write this report from a very different position for me. On this ride I was in the front of the pack with the fast guys. The guys who could generate electricity by the speed of their cadence. The rocket riders, men of speed. The masters of the hill climb

Friday morning Larry Pierson, Paul Weaver, Jack Nicholson (Not the actor) Miles Eddins Gary and the always-lovely Trica Falls and the yours truly gathered at the rec.center. We saw Phil Hardy there to see us off. He was also there on our return. Thank you Phil that means a lot to us.

The weather was cold but not bitter cold. Cloudy with a site breeze.

We promptly departed at 8: 30 A.M. to avoid some of the traffic on the dreaded McFarland Blvd and the McFarland Bridge. We hadn't gone very far when it was apparent that group wouldn't stay together long. Gary and Trica and Jack would take a slower pace. We stopped at the North River Fire station to regroup and decide on a riding plan. The fireman had the hoses out washing the driveway off and I told Larry, here is another chance to get his bike washed.

In a few minutes Gary and Trica and Jack pull up. Gary said you guys go ahead. We can't keep the pace you are going. So Miles, Paul and I, yes me Bulldog. The man in the rear. The guy who always comes in last. The solo finisher was now in the front.

We rode down county 42 to county 47 to Yellow Creek Rode and then on the Tierce Patton to the Pump and Dine.

Ten minutes later Larry, Gary and Trica pull up at the Pump and Dine, but no Jack. I ask about him and I am assured that he is back there somewhere. After refreshing ourselves and checking our makeup. This was makeup ride. Larry, Paul, Miles and myself headed up Bone Camp hill. Gary and Trica would follow. And what about Jack Nicholson (Not the actor). Was he still out there, lonely, cold, perhaps lost? Did aliens abduct him? People think we look like aliens. A cow on Tierce Patton road could have attached him. We didn't know.

We later found out that he had severe leg cramps and had to bail. He was able to ride home from the Pump and Dine which was not far from his home. A good effort on Jack's part. Not many 62 year old men taking on a 100 mile ride. Maybe next ride Jack.

We proceeded down Bone Camp to Rue road then on to Mount Olive and on to Lake Lurleen.

From Lake Lurleen to upper Columbus in route to Echola at the 50 Mile mark. We talked about waiting on Gary and Trica. But then we said nah. So saddled up and went on down Echola road to lower Columbus to Buhl and on to the very long Sipse valley road. About half way down North Sipse valley road. Miles and Paul decide to kick it into over pedal. They would begin to widen the gap between Larry and I. Larry who wasn't a 100% and still sickly didn't give chase. Larry on occasion would start coughing and I was afraid he was going to cough up a lung.

We won't see Miles and Paul again till we got to Ralph. And where were Gary and Trica alone riding together on deserted road. A couple who seems very much love with other. We figured they may have stopped and went parking.

After a brief refresh and some grunting we mounted our wheeled steeds and headed down the home stretch. We met Major Dave on Sanders and he caught up with us at Capital Park. He rode on CyclePath with us. We got back to the rec. center at 4:30. We would have gotten back sooner had we not stopped at the CyclePath to see Chris Hendricks and Jason Capley.

Larry and I got out of our cycling stuff and sat and waited for Gary and the always lovely Trica. At 5: 30 P.M. we started to get concerned about where Gary and Trica might be. We left the Rec., center and rode up to the stripe in the van. We spotted them just passed Reed Street. We turned around and met them back at the rec. center.

Gary and Trica were glad that we waited on them. This is what we do on these long rides. We wait till every one in back and safe. Congratulations to Gary and Trica for completing the 100-mile ride. Especially to Trica, the first women this year to do a century ride. Also to Paul Weaver, who help me lose a one-dollar wager to Larry that he wouldn't do a century. Miles and Larry also completed their century ride. And lastly yours truly completed the century ride too. Special thanks to Chris Hendricks at CyclePath for the beautiful T-shirts. Those who completed the century ride will receive a T-shirt. Those who did the century twice will get professional help. All in all a good ride with a mixed bag of clouds and sun and wind. However the dogs were a disappointment.