

Capt. Kirk Ride - 62 miles or 0.00000000001057 light years



This is a ride started by the MelonHeads several years ago; but we did not name it until after the first ride. We established a suitable route from past RAGBRAI experiences. But, when we arrived in Riverside, they were having a big Star Trek Convention. It seems that James T. Kirk, captain of the Starship Enterprise, will be born in Riverside...in the year 2233. Little did we know or care!

As we headed out of town, we became intermixed with the annual Star Trek parade. While dressed in our MelonHead jerseys, the judges thought we were Star Trek characters and awarded us second place for the best costumes. I don't ever recall pink and green uniforms in any of the Star Trek TV shows, but I could be wrong.

Anyway, on to the ride: Begin in Riverside and park your cars at the park or the grade school as you enter the town. Then head west on Hwy 22 towards Kalona. This can be a busy stretch as Kalona is a mecca for shoppers. You might want to stop and buy a quilt or other hand made knick-knacks.

From Kalona stay on Hwy 22 until you come to the town of Wellman. The downtown of Wellman is not on the highway, but signs will point you south and it is a nice downhill ride into town. Exit Wellman to the south on W38. It is a long, gentle climb out of town.

Continue about 6 miles to G26 and turn right heading towards Keota. There is a Z-jog just before town.

Coming back from Keota you have two options. One is to take the Keo-Wash trail through the town of West Chester (see green line on map). The trail is not well maintained and when we took it was very soggy from a previous day's storm. We abandoned it at West Chester and got back on the main route, as shown. We now call it the Keo-Washed-out Trail!

The better way is to head out of Keota, going west until you get to W15 and turn south. Continue for about 5 miles until you come to Tallyrand (the infamous party spot on RAGBRAI). You never know if the bar is open or closed here, so plan on the worst. From Tallyrand, head back east to Washington. it is a long and rolling 15 mile stretch.

Depart Washington by heading east from the downtown until you spot W61 and turn left. This W-61 route is flat and winding back to Riverside.

At Riverside you might want to stop for a cold one at the Ice House. If you have tons of money, stop at the Riverside Casino on the way home. One of the MelonHeads works there. TIP WELL!