

## Baton passed for Alfred University reunion bicycle ride

6/12/18



ALFRED, NY The leadership of the Alfred University “reunion bikers,” a group of alumni who spend the week preceding Reunion Weekend bicycling to Alfred, changed with a symbolic “baton passing” at the end of the ride held during last weekend’s reunion.

In 1998, two 1958 Alfred University graduates Elliott Lasky and Russ Fahey bicycled from Colmar, PA, to Alfred to attend their 40th reunion. Five years later, in 2003, several more members of the Class of ’58 joined Lasky and Fahey for a ride to campus to celebrate their 45th reunion.

This year marked the 10th time since the bike ride of 2003 that the reunion bikers group pedaled into Alfred to join fellow alumni at reunion. The group also rode in 2008 the year of its 50th alumni reunion before embarking on nine consecutive trips from 2010-18.

On Friday, a group that included founding members Lasky and Fahey, and several other Alfred University alumni, rode onto campus after a six-day trek that began in Sackets Harbor, NY, on the banks of Lake Ontario in Jefferson County.

After arriving campus Friday morning, the group held a ceremonial “baton passing” from the 1958 alumni to 1977 graduate Jim Randall, signifying a change on leadership for the annual event. Randall has been active in the annual ride, as a participant and organizer.

“As those of you who have been on these rides know, what has made these trips so special from other bike trips has been the shared Alfred background, the camaraderie on the ride, and the pleasant evenings spent together,” Lasky commented. “To recognize the most recent leader, we the Class of ’58 want to pass this symbolic baton to Jim Randall who has done a great job with several rides. We are passing it to Jim in hopes that he will continue the Alfred bike riding tradition, and eventually pass the leadership on to a new generation of riders.”

This year, the reunion bikers met in Sackets Harbor Saturday, June 2, and spend one night there before departing on Sunday for a 40-mile ride north along the Great Lakes Seaway Trail to Clayton, NY.

Following an overnight stay in Clayton, the group took a 10-mile ride Monday to Alexandria Bay and the 1000 Islands. After some sightseeing, the bicyclists pedaled back to Clayton and were driven to Pittsford, NY. On Monday and Tuesday nights, the group stayed in Bushnell&s Basin along the Erie Canal Trail. They biked along the Erie Canal and Genesee River trails Tuesday and Wednesday before leaving Wednesday for Letchworth State Park and an overnight stay at the Genesee Falls Inn. The group challenged the rolling hills of the park on Thursday before heading to Hornell and their final overnight stay. On Friday, June 8, they joined local bikers in Hornell, at The Bicycle Man shop in Alfred Station, and at various points along the way for their "Victory Ride" into Alfred and up to the King Alfred statue in center of the Alfred University campus.

This year&s participants included several founding members and veteran bikers from the class of 1958 returning for their 60th reunion, including Roger Eiss, Russ and Pat Fahey, Elliott and Bonnie Lasky, Andy Seaman, and Dave and Tinker (class of 1957) Wilcox. Eiss, Russ Fahey, Elliott Lasky and Dave Wilcox are founding members of the original 2003 ride. Another veteran rider, Larry Ploetz &68, is returning for his 50th reunion along with his wife, Denise &69. Randall and friend Carolyn Zimlich, along with Roberta Auerbach &74, were other returning veteran bikers.

In the photo above, Russ Fahey &58 (third from left) passes a ceremonial plaque signifying a change in leadership for the annual Alfred University Reunion Bike Ride to Jim Randall &77 (second from right), who is joined by Alfred University President Mark Zupan (third from right). Looking on are Elliott Lasky &58 (left), Andy Seaman &58 (second from left), Ed Law &58 (fourth from right) and Carolyn Zimlich (right).