

'Different Spokes for Alfred Folks' group prepares to ride again

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Cyclists will begin this year's trip at Geneva-on-the-Lake, in Ohio.

The year was 1998, and a group of Alfred University alumni returning to campus for Reunion Weekend decided to add some gusto to the trip.

Elliott Lasky and Russ Fahey, both members of the Class of '58, decided to travel by bicycle, across 300 miles of rugged terrain. Their fortitude inspired other alumni, and a tradition was born, complete with a motto, "Different Spokes for Alfred Folks."

Planning is underway for the 2017 journey, according to Jim Randall, '77. "We invite other alumni to join us!" Randall wrote in an email to his alma mater. "You are welcome to take part in the entire ride, ride with us for a day or two, or meet us for lunch, dinner, or sightseeing along the way."

The cycling will begin June 4 at Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio, where alumni may begin congregating on June 2 or 3. The resort village began attracting tourists to Lake Erie in the nineteenth century and is recognized as Ohio's first summer resort. Randall notes it is also the center of Ohio wine country, with several wineries located nearby.

The tour moves to Erie, Pa., where bikers will spend two nights and tour Presque Isle State Park. The park occupies a sandy peninsula jutting into Lake Erie and containing a 13-mile paved bike path that follows the circumference of the island. Cyclists can enjoy spectacular wildlife viewing and historic sites from the War of 1812.

Randall describes the final stop on the tour as an old standby: Letchworth State Park, where bikers will challenge the hills of Park Road. The group will spend one night in the park before pushing on to Hornell for one more night before making the triumphant ride into Alfred Friday morning, June 9.

"A couple of alumni are considering meeting early in Cleveland for sightseeing and a Cleveland Indians baseball game," Randall says. "For those interested in taking in the sights (possible suggestions: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Great Lakes Science Center, and the USS Cod submarine all located at the waterfront), we are planning on staying in Cleveland Thursday, June 1 and Friday, June 2."

Randall also extends an invitation to any Alfred alum to join the group. Anyone interested in learning more about the trip should contact Randal at JamesRandallJr@msn.com, or call (607) 776-4404.