

◆Hubs and Spokes◆ riders favor the format

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Riders on the Alfred University (AU) “Hubs and Spokes with Alfred Blokes” tour to Reunion 2015 pedaled to another successful journey earlier this month when they completed their six-day trip to campus.

This eighth ride-to-reunion tour took a little different tack in that riders and their traveling companions enjoyed two-day stays and regional exploring at New York State stops in Auburn, Canandaigua, and Letchworth State Park before completing the journey at the King Alfred statue on campus Friday, June 12, the first day of Reunion.

Veteran tour participants included David &77 and Regina Holleb, David Conrad &76, David &61 and Kate Perry, Russ Fahey &58, David &58 and Claire “Tinker” Wilcox &57, and Jim Randall Jr. &77; they welcomed newcomer Eric Gerber &80. John Wagner &74 and his wife, Donna, (of Corning, NY) joined the bike crew for dinner at the Glen Iris on the fifth evening of the trip.

It seems, according to the veteran riders, the new format was a welcome change.

“I enjoyed it very much. This year’s tour was a hub and spoke concept that allowed the riders to stay an extra day in each ‘hub’ to allow other riders who could not devote an entire week for the tour to join in the event,” explained Dave Conrad. “It also allowed for some extra exploring of each area by the riders and the supporters. Each day’s ride was no longer than 50 miles and allowed some more down time with fellow AU alumni to catch up and to talk about the ride and our time at Alfred.”

This year’s favorite memory? “The hills in Letchworth Park and the stay at the Glen Iris Inn,” said Conrad, who “most definitely” plans to be part of the Reunion 2016 ride experience.

When asked how these rides bring about a new connectedness to AU and fellow alumni, Jim Randall noted, “It was great seeing Janan Chandler &80 at the reunion this year. She was our local sponsor in Toronto last year and a classmate of Eric Gerber &80 who took part in the ride this year. I lunched with the class of 1980 and met others in that class who came to the reunion for their 35th.”

It’s that type of experience that leads Randall to say, “I’m looking forward to my fifth reunion ride next year, God

willing!”

“Regina and I had a great time on the Hub-and-Spoke ride this year,” said David Holleb. “The best part about it was being able to ride together because we returned every day to the starting point so we weren’t concerned about getting back to our car.

“The next best part was not having to pack and unpack every day because we stayed at the same hotel for two days,” he continued, adding “The scenery was gorgeous and I wished more alumni had joined us for the beginning of the trip.”

Holleb also “loved the reception by the students at the statue of King Alfred! It really pumped me up and made me proud to be an alumnus. We love Letchworth State Park and being with our lifetime friends. You can count us to be there next year!”

The “hub-and-spoke concept made it easy for Tinker and I to join the group” and was a “great way to get to know alums of other class years,” said Dave Wilcox. “It was a “great ride.”

“Sleeping in Mr. Letchworth’s bedroom - rumor was it was where he died” caused the couple to be “spooked” when fellow rider Russ Fahey stopped at their door one evening. Even so, Wilcox pledged “We’ll try again in 2017, Tinker’s 60th!”

It’s not too soon for fellow alumni riders or not - to begin thinking about joining this group either on the ride or along the way in 2016. Details will appear in E-News early in the new year.