

PRE PLANNING

- Day 1, Friday June 27th: Drive to Cumberland and meet Aaron. Take our car to John Butler's B & B which is off the trail in Buena Vista. Return to Cumberland.
- Day 2, Saturday June 28: Ride our bikes from Cumberland to Meyersdale, 32 miles.
- Day 3, Sunday June 29: Ride our bikes from Meyersdale to Ohiopyle, 42 miles.
- Day 4, Monday June 30th: Ride our bikes from Ohiopyle to Buena Vista, 47 miles

Friday, June 27th we drove to Cumberland and met Aaron. We took our car to John Butler's B & B, 800 Rock Road, Elizabeth, PA – phone 412-751-6670. Christine Ward runs the B & B and she allowed us to park our car there for the three days we were on the trail. The B & B is located on the grounds of a 36 hole golf course. There are 5 rooms.

Aaron then brought us back to Cumberland where we spent the night at the Inn at Decatur on 108 Decatur Street; phone 301-722-4887. Friday evening in Cumberland was very enjoyable in that every Friday evening the pedestrian mall is jammed with people enjoying the music, food and the great summer weather. We ate at the Baltimore Grill.

DAY 1 – SATURDAY June 28th

We got up early for a great breakfast at the inn. After breakfast we got our gear together and got our bikes out from storage in their cellar. We were about 4 blocks from the Allegheny Trail which is located in the Canal Park. You might want to visit the park as there are places to eat and it is also where the C & O Canal Trail also begins. We got to the Trail Head at 9:00 and we were off for an unknown adventure, hopeful that we would have good weather and no mechanical difficulties.

We arrived at **Brush Tunnel** at 9:57 (bike riding time 48 min.). When you get to **Woodcock Hollow Road**, just past the 10 mile marker there's a small shelter and port-a-potty. It started to rain but luckily it stopped.

It was 11:00 AM when we hit the **11 mile marker** – 2 hours on the trail. My odometer read:

1:26 (riding time) the timer stops when the bike stops!

9.5 miles

6.6 mph

We reached the 15 mile marker at 11:37 AM, my odometer read:

2:00 hrs riding time

13.07 miles (you'll notice that the odometer time doesn't match the mile marker)

6.5 mph

We thought there'd be more amenities at **Frostburg (near mile marker 15)**, but there was not. In order to go into Frostburg, you'd have to go up a pretty steep hill. We decided to continue on even though it looked like the rain was coming any second.

We reached the **Borden Tunnel (mile marker 18)** at 12:10 PM. My odometer showed:

2:20 riding time

15.75 miles

6.7 mph

We reached the **Mason-Dixon Line** just above **mile marker 20** at 12:46 PM

2:45 riding time

18.82 miles

6.8 mph

We reached the **Savage Tunnel** at 1:03 PM (4 hrs on the trail). Check out the great view just before the tunnel.

2:55 riding time

20.02

6.9 mph

We didn't know it when we started but reaching the **Eastern Continental Divide** turned out to be the best part of our first days ride. This divide is just before the **25 mile marker** near **Deal**. The elevation at **Cumberland** is 625'. At the **Divide** it is 2,390'. **So it's all down hill from here. The incline from Cumberland to the Divide** ranges from 1.5 to 1.8. I spent most of the ride to the **Divide** in gear 3.2 – 3.5, Pat was in 2.7 – 2.9. For the rest of the trip I was in 3.5 or higher.

1:19 Pm

3:08 riding time

21.96 miles

7.0 mph

At 2:00 PM we reached the **Keystone Viaduct (near mile marker 30)**.

3:43 riding time

28.14 miles

7.6 mph (notice since reaching the Divide our speed has increased)

We reached our first destination Meyersdale at 2:22 PM

3:56 on bike

30.40 miles

7.7 mph

We spent some time at the **Restored Western Maryland Railway Station** upon our arrival. You'll enjoy the pictures of the trail and the work that was done to restore this station.

We were giving directions to a restaurant, **Take Six**. We stopped there for a cold draft, which really hit the spot and met some of the town people, who were very nice and quite informative. The Yoder Motel was across the street, so it was very convenient.

The **Yoder Motel** about 4 blocks from the trail. This was an OK place to stay. Helen Yoder is the owner and was very accommodating. We stored our bikes under the house. The room was quite small but had all the amenities that we needed.

After cleaning up we took a walk around the town. We got the feeling that we were in a Stephen King novel. All the stores were closed and at times it looked like nobody lived here. This was 4:00 in the afternoon. We ended up eating at **Take Six**. We ended up having a salad and pizza and the pizza was great, reminding me of the bar pizza at the old Ponce de Leon during my college days at Alfred.

During our walk around town we noticed some very nice home in the vicinity of our motel. You might enjoy staying at the **Levi Deal Mansion**. Beautiful mansion but might be pricey compared to \$43.00 at our motel.

DAY 2 SUNDAY June 29th

We got up early and walked across the street to **Donge's Restaurant** for our morning breakfast of coffee, eggs and toast. It was good and inexpensive. We left our motel around 9:06 and my odometer read:

Time 3:56
Mileage 30.40

We were on the trail by 9:15 and hit the **32 mile marker** a short distance from Meyersdale. At 10:15 we hit **trail marker 40** after 1 hour on the trail the second day. Our speed was much faster of course because we were now going down hill.

Odometer reading
4:54 on bikes
39.58 miles
8.1 miles per hour

During this part of the trip you'll travel across the Salisbury Viaduct and as you look about you will see windmills that are part of **Garrett Wind Farm**.

Our next stop was **Rockwood** a small community which has a bike shop, **Rockwood Trail House**, just off the trail along with their B & B. (see info in trail book). Just down the hill about 50 yards is a gas station. We took the time to go to the gas station to get some coffee and also took the time to pump up our tires. We were back on the trail at 11:22 AM.

Markleton – nothing here and we're just shy of **trail marker 49** at 12:14 PM

Odometer reading
5:55 on bikes
49.77 miles
8.4 mph

Just above **mile marker 50** you will reach the **Pinkerton Tunnel** which is closed so for approximately 2 miles the trail follows the oxbow on the abandoned "shoo-fly" of the former B & O Railroad

We reached **Harnedsville** at 1:26 PM. This is nothing but the trail crossing the road. However, there's a sign that says that the Stepping Stone B & B is on this road about a mile away.

Odometer reads:

6:54 on bikes
60.33 miles
8.7 mph

We arrived at **Confluence** at 1:45 PM. Odometer reading:

7:11 on bikes
62.83 miles
8.7 mph

We stopped to eat at **Lucky Dog Café** just a short distance off the trail just before the bridge. Looks can be deceiving but this place had a great menu and the food was great.

We arrive at **Ohiopyle** at 3:46 PM, just below mile marker 72. Odometer reading

8:16 on bikes
73.49 miles
8.9 mph

We stayed at the **Yough Plaza Motel** located a short distance off the trail. We considered this a 5 star motel. Excellent accommodations and close too many amenities. We took the time to walk around and went over to the river where there is a miniature falls. They also have a visitor's center right on the trail. We ate that night at the Firefly Grill across the street from the motel.

DAY 3 Monday June 30th

We got up early and had breakfast at the **Falls Market and Inn** which is an everything kind of a store and a restaurant. The special for breakfast was an English muffin with tomato and cheese – much better than McDonalds!

We were on the trail at 7:48. It was overcast and cool so we had our long sleeves/jackets on for the first time.

There are virtually no amenities from **Ohiopyle to Connellsville**. It took us a little over 2 hours to reach **Connellsville** (10:02 AM). Odometer readings:

10:05 on bikes
91.10 miles
9.0 mph

Connellsville is probably the largest community we traveled through on the trail. The trail runs parallel to the road as you ride through this community. You'll ride by **Bike's Unlimited** on the corner of Crawford Ave. The bike shop is closed on Mondays, but we met a gentleman near the store who gave us directions to **Valley Dairy** where we went for some coffee and snack.

We started out again at approximately 10:45. The trail was a little confusing at Stewart's Crossing Park. Stay inside the white line and keep going left through the park as the trail starts up again on the other side of the park

At 12:10, we hit the 100 mile marker. We stopped just above the 104 marker in **Whitset** at 12:41. There's a softball field and shelter there and bathroom facilities. Make sure you look at the gorgeous house just before arriving here. Why did someone built such a house here????

We were back on the trail at 1:15 and arrived at west Newton at 2:42 PM. Odometer reading:

12:49 on bikes

116 miles

9.0 mph

We stopped at **Trailside Convenience** store where there's a restaurant and bike shop. Excellent menu – good food.

For the last few miles we've been traveling in the rain and it looks like it's not going to stop, so we decide to get our rain jackets on and get going. The last 5 miles the rain did not let up and to make things worse we went by our last stop by a mile. We turned around and found the road that led to the **Butler B & B** (uphill for a mile).

At the end of the trip (5:00 PM), we were wet and dirty but glad that we had made it without a breakdown. We could now say that we had completed the C & O and the Allegheny Trail.

My final odometer reading was:

13 hours 55 minutes on the bikes

125.35 miles

9.0 mph average