

...SPOKIN' WORDS...
COUNTRY ROADS CYCLISTS NEWSLETTER
Serving North Central West Virginia Cyclists
July-August 2021

Rides, Good byes and Events

3 day gravel ride:

Phil Slates

I had a good time Thursday Friday and Saturday doing my first mainly gravel road tour of the mountains of Randolph and Pocahontas counties. Did not get too tired out and only had to do some walking up very steep hills a few times because of gravel on one area and degree of slope on another. On my last day ran into other cyclists for the first time and they were starting their own modified route we both got from <https://bikepacking.com/routes/west-fork-overnighter/>

I parked at the lot on top of Shavers Mountain just off Rt 33 and took a new road for me down to Alpena which was very bad and involved needing some walking. Next time would just go down the hill on Rt 33 but had never been to Alpena so wanted to check it out. The road from there to Gladys was very quiet and then I walked to the top of the very steep hill to Bemis because I had never been there and there were some people fishing for trout because of recently being stocked in the Shavers Fork. I saw no signs of the railroad tunnel near Bemis but did get to walk to see the Gladys side of the tunnel and along the way spoke to a local. I love to know the history of the railroad and the line use to go on to what is now the Greenbrier River trail.

The West Fork trail is very interesting and all along the way are information signs regarding the former towns. I saw no one else on that trail.

When I got to Durbin I road through town on Rt 92 because it is very quiet and I had not been there for years when I had used that as my cycling base and then started riding back north on Forest Service roads where I camped by myself at an official dispersed camping area where it was as if I was by myself because the sites are so spread out.



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The next day continued north and visited the Laurel Fork wilderness and campground and then later realized I was apparently off the forest service roads because of seeing a school bus. Back at Rt 33 went north via Sully Road which is a very back road along a ridge and then down a very steep paved slope to the Glady Fork valley to camp at the Lower Glady Dispersed campground.



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Each night I stayed at an official forest service area but the Friday night in Lower Glady was packed for the weekend and about a dozen people playing the game corn hole and everything from large tents to campers. I kept riding in the camping area knowing the road ended and luckily a good way from the numerous people got a nice quiet area near a nice sounding stream for my night and that was all I heard. The next morning spoke to turnkey hunters and trout fisherman and did some exploring of the Allegheny Trail which I was camped next to.



Saturday morning as I was leaving the campground everyone had their generators on because my thermometer had 34 degrees but luckily where I had camped I could not hear those. I then took Rt 12 back to Alpena and had to do some walking because of the steep slope coming out of the valley and being a little worn out from the previous days. I finally went back to view Rt 33 to see if I thought I could possibly ride up its very steep slope back to the top of Shavers Mountain and decided I would most likely be walking most of it and there was no siding of the road there so once again took the very bad route 12/1 back up probably walking most of it.



Overall I loved the route and can't wait to go back for rides and backpacking the area. My next trip will be to backpack from Canaan Valley to that area via the Allegheny Trail.



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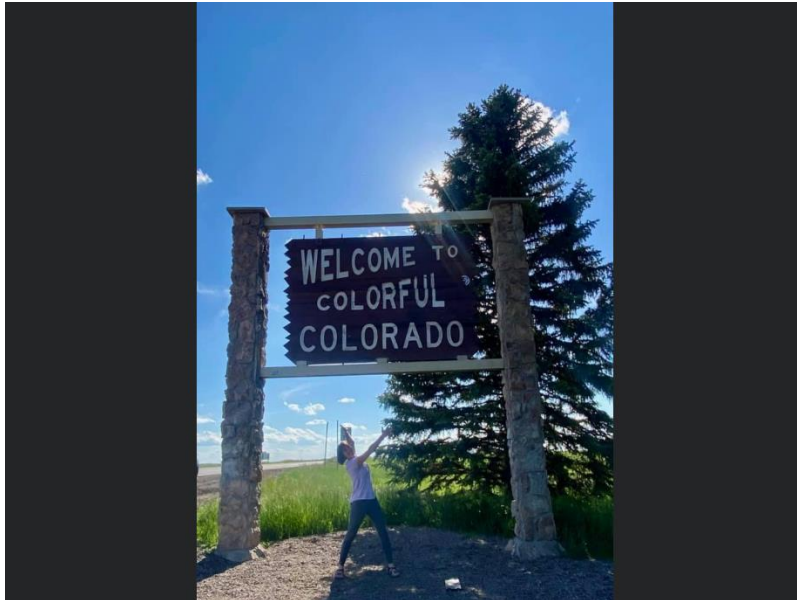
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Good Bye to Dana King: Friday, May 14

The going away pizza party for Dana and Kathy King was held on Friday, May 14th at 6 PM, at the president's house in Morgantown. Dana and Kathy King have moved to Winston-Salem, NC. Fifteen club members attended the going away party. Hopefully, Dana can find a cycling group in Winston-Salem that enjoys biking up and down the hills of NC. Below is a small montage of pictures of the infamously hard to photograph Dana!



And, Goodbye to Stacy Bolle



Stacy Bolle also had a going away party at her home in Bridgeport. Several club members attended the party. Stacey has moved to Colorado, to pursue her vocation. We wish her the best of luck.

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Deckers Creek CleanUp :



Rick P and Tim N participated in a clean up of the Deckers Creek Trail, sponsored by MUB and by the MRTC, on May 15. We thank them for helping to keep the trail and the creek clean.

BIKE and KAYAK and PICNIC: June 6: Annual CRC Picnic at Twin Spruce Marina

The annual club picnic was held June 6 at the Twin Spruce Marina. After Jennifer's Bike and Kayak ride, we all ended up at the marina for hot dogs and hamburgers and brownies, before several club members kayaked on the river. Thanks to Jennifer for organizing the ride, to Steve for being the Grill Master, and to Peggy Pings for allowing us to use her marina (again, now two years in a row).



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GAP RIDE MAY 16: Connellsville to Ohiopyle



We held our first GAP club ride of the year on May 16th. It is always a pleasure to ride on the GAP Trail. There trail is always in good shape, and we lucked out by having pleasant weather, and Ohiopyle was not crowded (due to the fact that rafting had not yet started for the season.) We stopped to examine a waterfall that Judith from Uniontown knew the location of. A nice ride to Ohiopyle, lunch at the Falls View Inn, and then a brisk ride down the trail to the start.

Upcoming Rides

ALLEGHENY RIVER TRAIL: July 24 and 25

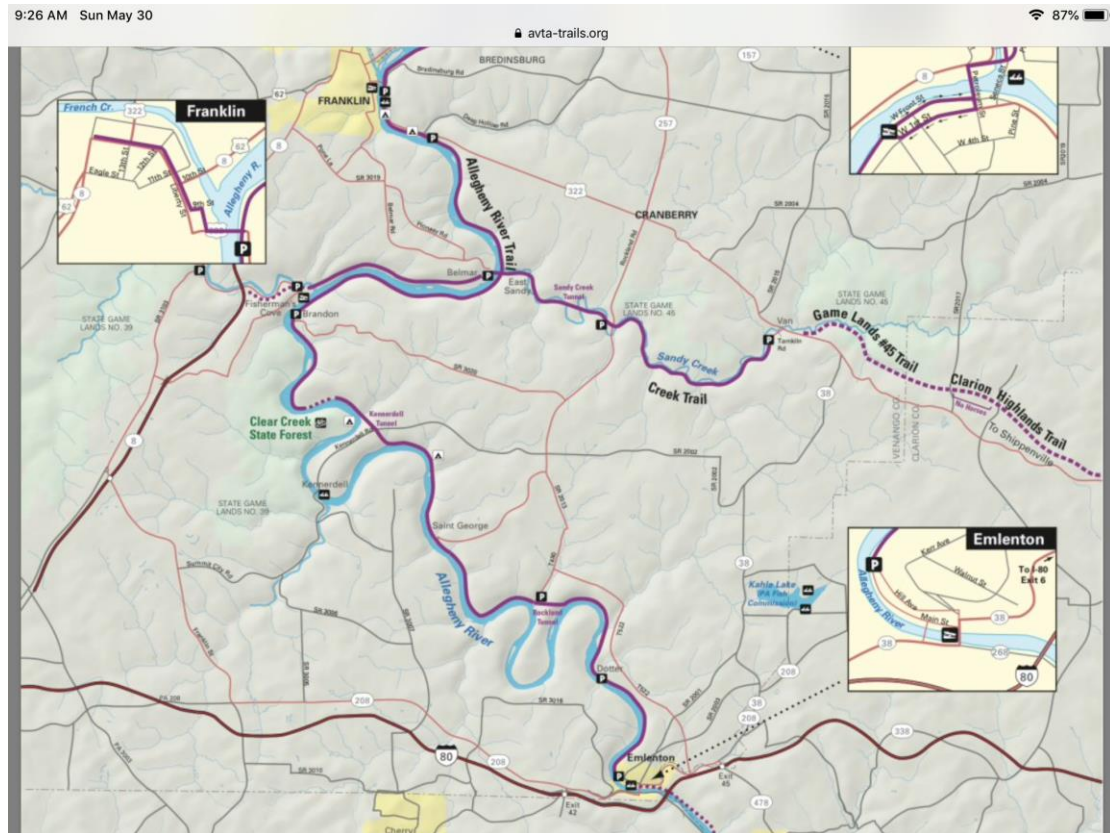
Plan on riding the Allegheny River Trail on July 24 and July 25. The club will be riding from Emlenton, starting at 11 AM, to Franklin. We will also be riding on the Sandy Creek Trail on the way north from Emlenton. We will be staying at the Quality Inn in Franklin (1411 Liberty Street, 814-437-3031). There are camping options in the area. On Sunday, we will first bike north on the Justin Trail to Oil City, then start the return trip to Emlenton.

NOTE: There are two tunnels without lights, so bring a good flashlight. And, there are no services along the trail, so bring plenty of food and water.

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Any questions, contact Kelly Williams (kellyrwilliams@msn.com)



Upcoming Regional Rides:

GRUSK (Gravel Race Up Spruce Knob) will be held on July 9-10-11, starting from Circleville, WV. Go to www.mountainrides.net for more details.

The Rolling Coal Gravel Race will be held in Shinnston on August 7. The race is sponsored by Pike's Street Bikes in Shinnston. If you are not racing that day in Shinnston, then contact Jason Miller at Pike's Street Bikes (215 Pike Street) to help out with the race. (304-592-3000).

Lancaster Covered Bridge Ride will be held on August 15. This year there will be several different starting points, the route can be 35, 65, or 100 miles. Several club members have participated in this ride over the years. Go to www.coveredbridgeclassic.com for more information.