

‘Bike the Rogue’ draws from Oregon, California

September 17, 2019



Seventy-eight riders from across Oregon and northern California gathered Sept. 7 at Buffington Park in Gold Beach for the 10th-annual “Bike the Rogue” event.

Riders could choose from one of four scenic routes offered in the cycling event.

Thirty-eight riders completed the 25-mile route, heading east along the south bank of the Rogue River, crossing Lobster Creek Bridge, and returning to Gold Beach along the north bank of the river.

Fourteen cyclists rode the 40-mile route, which included an 8-mile stretch through ranch land, and 11 miles along the ocean with views of sea stacks and sandy beaches.

Twenty-one metric-century (62.2 miles) cyclists rode an extended version of the 40-mile route, adding an additional 22.5 miles east along the Rogue River.

And four die-hard riders completed the challenging 100-mile route, including Charles Mahaffy of Coos Bay, who turns 80 years old in January 2020.

The youngest rider this year was 14 years old, the oldest 95.

All riders were treated to a warm welcome across the finish line. That included free beer, provided at cost to the event by locally owned Arch Rock Brewing, and a free wood-oven-fired pizza, all included as part of each cyclist's entry fee.

While enjoying their personal pizzas, James and Frances Maunder of Eureka, California said this was their first time in the Gold Beach event. They've participated in numerous bike rides throughout the U.S., and said "Bike the Rogue's" metric-century route along the Rogue River and the Pacific Ocean is now their favorite.

They said they plan to return to Gold Beach on Sept. 12, 2020 for the 11th-annual event, which is hosted by the Rotary Club of Gold Beach.

Sandy Grumman of Gold Beach contributed to this report.