

Bike For Zike-N-Fury Final Report 6-29-09



I pulled into Derek's subdivision on Thursday 6-25 at about noon. I was greeted at the gate by Derek in his chair and his dad in the car. Derek was finishing up his "lap" around the block. I wasn't going to hug him but he whined about my sweat so I tried to get as much on him as I could!

We ate a bite and told a few stories back and forth. Derek continues to show small signs of improvement physically. I do sense, understandably, that his spirit is not quite the same as when I first met him last summer. He seems to still be adjusting to this completely new way of life and is not yet "himself". Primarily, we need to pray that Derek gets back to goal setting and striving to achieve these goals. I gave him a week to come up with a small, yet attainable goal. I will follow up with him on Thursday.

As far as the ride itself.....it was quite an adventure. My family drove down with me to Lafayette, IN on Wednesday and I rode about 20 miles that night. We stayed in a hotel and I was dropped off near Antioch, IN on Thursday morning. Unfortunately, I went south on route 39 instead of southeast on route 38. When I arrived in Lebanon, I realized what I had done and was just glad I did not have a platoon of soldiers following me! I picked up route 32 and headed East! Fortunately there was a nice tail wind and it only added about 45-50 minutes to the ride (12-13 Miles). That was a long day of 44 miles and it began to get pretty hot around 10am. My military and sports training helped me and I stayed very well hydrated.

The heat was more of an issue on many days than my wind or my legs. I ended up riding 7 days out of 12 and averaged about 30 miles per day. Storms, extreme heat and some business issues prevented riding on the other days.

The best story was when I wrongly routed a small stretch of country road and it ended up being gravel for about 2 miles. I was near the end of the gravel road and I heard barking..... and the barking was coming toward me. Now this was not the first time I had heard barking, I passed a lot of dogs that barked, but this was the first one that was chasing me! Anyway, I put my head down and tried to speed up, thinking I could outrun the little guy (it was a pug). When I looked back to my left, somewhat fearfully, to see if it was about to grab hold of me, my leg, or my bike, I was surprised not to see it....I quickly glanced to my right and to my great relief and surprise the dog was not planning on biting me, instead it was racing me and possibly was escorting me down the rest of the gravel road. We were both doing about 20 miles per hour and after about a ¼ mile, he stopped racing me and trotted home. I went from scared to relieved to laughing, all in about 10 seconds.

I think next year I will try to get more folks involved and do everything locally in a forest preserve or the like. Maybe we can even have one ride here in Chicago and another ride in Indy! I will get back with everyone soon.

I can happily report to you that I was pledged a total of between \$17,000 and \$25,000, (a couple folks were not sure what they could do).

Thanks to all of you who were so generous. "God loves a cheerful giver.."

With Sincere Appreciation,

Marc

PS If you did not pledge the event but would still like to donate, it is not too late. Please send your donation to Bike-For-Zike and Fury, 848 S. Linden Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126. Make check payable to "Chicago Fury".