

GOBA NEWS



Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure * May Newsletter

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The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure

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Your adventure awaits!

Welcome to the May Newsletter for the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure!

Soon we will gather in Bowling Green to commence the 31st annual tour from June 15-22. All along the routes, local volunteers have been working tirelessly to welcome us and show off their communities. GOBA staff and volunteers also have been working hard to try to ensure that our more than 1,200 registrants have a safe, fun experience full of wonderful memories.

In this newsletter, we'll focus on some the details of greatest importance to tour participants — including a few things that have changed since past years. The newsletter is mostly a big FAQ — frequently asked questions — edition about the nuts and bolts of GOBA, whether it's your first ride or your 31st. (And if it's your 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th or 31st, be sure to read the

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New hotline for on-road help

The bright plastic wristband you wear on GOBA will have a new feature: a phone number to summon help on the road.

Calling the special number will put you in touch with a GOBA volunteer who can dispatch a GOBA ambulance for non-life-threatening situations such as dehydration, or send a SAG to offer aid for a mechanical problem or fatigued rider.

For a serious medical situation or other emergency, riders should call 911 first – and IMMEDIATELY!

We will respond as quickly as possible, but be aware that the wait in non-emergencies could be several hours.

Medical profile and liability waiver

If you haven't submitted your medical profile and liability waiver, it's easy to do.

GOBA riders and non-riders are asked to fill out the Columbus Outdoor Pursuits online medical profile and event liability waiver. The medical information is kept confidential and used only in a medical emergency to offer appropriate aid.

If you did not fill out the questionnaire during registration, you can access it at <https://app.donorview.com/Mwb3>

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article about the Golden GOBA Dinner!)

If you haven't been to the GOBA website — goba.com — lately, then by all means go there. Each of our overnight cities now has its own page, filled with details about the activities that await us. Also note the discounts available exclusively to GOBA registrants for attractions, dining, ferries baseball tickets and lodging.

Soon we will add a goba.com page that features this year's food stops — you won't want to miss a single one! Also upcoming are more information about the routes, safe-riding tips and the revived "GOBA Digest" — your guide to history, trivia and tips about the places along our journey.

Goba.com also is the go-to place for information about GOBA policies and practices. Especially helpful are the "How to GOBA" and "Camp Rules" pages, and the "Way to GOBA" handbook.

Prepare your mind and your body for GOBA, because it's almost here and you'll want to make the most of your voyage!





Your voyage begins with check-in

We're all eager for GOBA, and the adventure begins June 15-16 when we arrive in camp at the Wood County Fairgrounds in Bowling Green.

Directions to the camp and details about the procedures for arrival and checking in will appear on goba.com and in the June Newsletter. But here are a few things to note (some pertain to all GOBA camps):

WHEN DOES CAMP OPEN? GOBA camp opens to registrants at noon on Saturday, June 15. NO EARLY ENTRY allowed as our staff and volunteers will be quite busy getting set up. We hate to be inhospitable, but please don't enter the fairgrounds before noon or you will be asked to leave. Bowling Green has a lot of cool things to do and see, and some great coffee shops, so just relax and enjoy.

WHERE DO I PARK? All non-staff vehicle parking, including car-campers, will be in the huge lot on the south side of Poe Road, across from the fairgrounds. Student volunteers from Bowling Green High School will help you park and can shuttle your luggage to the fairgrounds (please remember to tip them and support BGHS athletics!). The entrance to the lot is on Poe Road. If you want to leave the lot, please use the exit on the southwest side of the lot for access to Haskins Road (there are huge yellow signs).

GET YOUR PACKET: Once you enter the fairgrounds, one of the first things you'll want to do is pick up your packet and any add-ons that you ordered. *If more than one person was on your registration purchase — for example, couples and families — be sure to read the article*

on Page 4 of this newsletter about pickup. Packet pickup is from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and 6-8:30 a.m. Sunday.

SAFETY PLEDGE REQUIRED: To pick up a packet, you must turn in a signed Safety Pledge, a short form that says you'll abide by the rules of the road and safe cycling practices. You'll receive an email with a pledge that you can print and sign in advance, or you can get a form during check-in.

SAFETY SHOW: The GOBA Safety Show and video will be presented in the packet pickup area on Saturday, beginning at 2 p.m., and Sunday. It lasts about 20 minutes and highly recommended for new GOBA riders and others who would like a refresher.

VEHICLE PASSES: Car-camper and box truck passes will be distributed at packet pickup and must be displayed on the front dashboard or windshield throughout GOBA. Please read the rules on the pass, which also are at goba.com/goba-registration. All drivers and passengers who are staying at a GOBA camp must be registered as a rider or non-rider, as they are entitled to all GOBA services such as medical, shower trucks and restrooms to name a few.

DON'T PLUG IN: The camping on GOBA is primitive for both tents and car-campers, with no utility hookups, including electricity. Campers at all GOBA locations are prohibited from plugging extension cords into any outdoor electrical outlet.

Learn more about camp rules at goba.com/goba-camper-extras/ and goba.com/goba-how-to-goba/.

GOBA add-ons: Only the purchaser can pick them up

GOBA registrants who ordered “add-ons” such as apparel, camper services and car-camper passes will receive them during packet pickup June 15-16 in Bowling Green.

Any GOBA registrant can pick up his or her own packet, regardless of whether they purchased their registration or another person purchased it for them. But for multiple registrations made on the same purchase (a couple or family, for example) only the PURCHASER can pick up packets for others in their group besides themselves. The packet contains a rider wristband, bike plate, luggage tags and other important material.

To streamline packet pickup, most of the add-ons will be distributed in a separate area, and given only to the purchaser, who then can pass along the items to others in his or her group.

A list in your packet will show what merchandise and services you purchased for yourself and others, and the vendor will check your name and rider wristband number. If another person purchased the item for you, it will be on the list in their packet— not yours — and only they can pick it up from the vendor.



For example, Knights Kingdom will have a table where it distributes the merchandise and services it sells — jerseys, T-shirts, tent rental, tent setup, towel service and chair service. The purchaser would pick up the actual items or vouchers (such as a wristband) for the services.

Likewise, the floor sleeping sites and the Cedar Point shuttle bus will have a list of purchasers and their rider numbers. The purchaser would show his or her rider wristband at the check-in desk and receive the number of spaces he or she purchased.

For the Mud Hens baseball packages, the purchaser will receive game tickets either at the information booth in Oregon or the will-call window at the stadium; the details are still being worked out.

We hope in the future to have a registration system that allows purchasers to assign items to each person in their group during the registration process so they can pick up all of their add-ons individually. But for now everything in the transaction is tied to the purchaser.

June 1 deadline for online sales of most add-ons

Online sales of most GOBA merchandise and add-ons, such as car-camper passes, will end at the end of the day Saturday, June 1, so place your order now!

But if you miss the June 1 deadline, don't despair. GOBA vendor Knights Kingdom will be selling jerseys, T-shirts and camper services (tent rentals, tent setup, towel service, chair service) in camp while supplies last.

Online sales of Toledo Mud Hens tickets, Cedar Point shuttle trips and indoor floor sleeping may continue for a few days after June 1, depending on availability.

Floor sleeping is nearly sold out in several locations. Walkup purchase of floor sleeping might or might not be available – it's up to the local group that's providing the space. (GOBA does not provide floor sleeping but encourages local groups to do so as a fundraiser and a convenience to riders.)

GOBA food stops a worthy destination

On GOBA, “getting there” can be half the fun as we experience hospitality and good food from the towns along the way as we ride from one overnight town to the next or take advantage of the optional routes on “layover days.”

This year, 20 towns and other places on the routes will serve and sell food to GOBA riders. A few are just water stops with snacks or food trucks in remote areas. But others are destinations in their own right, especially on these three layover days:

- On Tuesday, the Lakeside Chautauqua will host us for a buffet lunch in the front lawn of the historic **Hotel Lakeside (below)**, overlooking Lake Erie, while music plays in the nearby pavilion where riders can swim on the beach, rent a kayak or stroll along picturesque paths. Restaurants in the quaint downtown also will serve us, and GOBA participants can visit sites that explain the Chautauqua movement and why this community is an oasis in the modern world. Lakeside will be on the optional bike route around the Marblehead peninsula, or you can take a free shuttle bus from GOBA camp in Port Clinton.
- On Wednesday, a group of restaurants in a two-block stretch of Front Street in **downtown Fremont** are teaming up to offer a variety of sit-down and grab-and-go options, with seating both indoors and outdoors, to riders on the optional 50- and 100-mile loops. The stop, organized by Downtown Fremont Inc., is at the 25-mile mark of the 50-mile route, and at the 25- and 75-mile marks of



the century ride. Both routes begin and end in Port Clinton. Also on the 100-mile route, the garden club in the Clyde will show off the town’s horticultural achievements at a snack stop in the downtown gazebo along the North Coast Inland Trail.

- On Thursday, the layover day loop out of Oregon takes us to the visitors center at **Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge (above)** for lunch. Free tram rides past the marshes will be offered. The Friends of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge will be our host.

Watch goba.com and the June Newsletter for information about all of the stops, including a main stop in Elmore that will raise money for a coffee shop that provides learn-to-work opportunities for kids with developmental disabilities and an alternative stop in Elmore at Schedel Gardens (limited seating for food).





Sandy Woosley and her late husband, Steve. The couple met on the first GOBA in 1989 and honeymooned on GOBA 2.

GORDON MEMORIAL AWARD

Honoree rides on in her husband's memory

The memory of the very first GOBA in 1989 burns bright for Sandy Woosley. That's when the schoolteacher from Elyria met Steve Woosley, a B.F. Goodrich factory machine repairman from Troy.

By that fall, they were engaged. Then they were married hours before the second GOBA in 1990, spending their honeymoon on the tour.

This year, for the first time in GOBA's 31-year history, the Woosleys won't be riding together. They were among the first registrants in November, but Steve died unexpectedly in April at age 76.

Sandy, 68, will ride, surrounded by the love of the couple's many GOBA friends.

The Woosleys will be honored as the winners of the third annual Bill Gordon Memorial Award, given to people who personify the "spirit of love of GOBA" of Gordon, the late director of GOBA and Columbus

Outdoor Pursuits who died unexpectedly in June 2016.

Sandy's bike will display Rider Number 1, and Rider Number 2 has been set aside in tribute to Steve. Sandy said she is "very touched" by the honor. She'll be joined during the first weekend of the tour by her nephew, Aaron Creswell.

In a 2014 story in the Mansfield News Journal, Steve recalled that the first GOBA started in Springfield on a misty morning and he saw few riders.

"I finally saw somebody ahead. It was Sandy," he told the newspaper. "We talked and rode together for awhile. Even with that many people, we kept running into each other."

About that wedding and honeymoon? Sandy explained

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GOBA veteran Ginnie Schaffer will be missed

The GOBA community mourns the loss Ginnie Schaffer, 74, an all-year participant who passed away April 4.



Ginnie is missed by all who worked with her during her

many years as a volunteer for GOBA and Columbus Outdoor Pursuits. Her warm smile could be found at GOBA lunch stops, where she organized other volunteers and greeted riders. The Worthington resident also rode in GOBA, served as the Safety Cycle coordinator, and for more than 25 years was a valued member of the amateur radio team.

Ginnie’s survivors include her husband of 54 years, Raymond W. Schaffer, and daughters Judy Chandler (Stephanie) and Kathy Cartier (Brian).

Services were held May 26. Her obituary can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yypbkx6a>

Riders win drawings for numbers 31 and 2019

Two GOBA riders won special drawings for the rider numbers 31 and 2019 on this year’s tour.

Connie Brys of Concord, Ohio, won the raffle drawing for Rider Number 31, and Susan Livingston of Columbus won Rider Number 2019 in a random drawing among everyone who signed up by Dec. 31.

Both winners will have their registration fee refunded and will receive a free jersey and free massage.

Brys will be riding in her ninth GOBA, and Livingston will be riding for the third time.

Congratulations, Connie and Susan!

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recently that the 1990 tour started in Oberlin, about 9 miles from Elyria. After the wedding on Saturday, June 16, in her hometown church, the couple hopped aboard a tandem bike adorned with a “just married” sign, paper wedding bells and dragging tin cans (which didn’t last long). When they arrived at GOBA camp, she was surprised to see that Steve had earlier set up their tent, which was decorated with crepe paper.

Over the years, the Ontario, Ohio, retirees wintered in Florida and rode in tours throughout the country, but GOBA always was the most special.

“We just loved it from the start, and it was our first weeklong ride. Then it got to be our anniversary — it’s just what we do,” Sandy explained. “We loved GOBAville, our traveling utopia where people are always in a good mood. It’s just a great vacation.”

The Woosleys’ 29th anniversary will fall on Sunday of GOBA week. In addition to the embrace of her friends, Sandy will find comfort in this poem Steve wrote her after that first GOBA:

Misty morning

Wheels turning

Hearts meeting

Twining

Summer bliss

Never ending

The GOBA traditions continue

Part of the appeal of GOBA is its traditions. From silly songs to colorful parades to recognition for longtime riders, we'll be honoring those traditions again this year.

Another custom returns with the **"GOBA Digest,"** written by Julie Schmitt. The digital publication, which you can view online or download as a pdf, offers insights about some of the places we'll be visiting.

Also, you won't want to miss the **GOBA opening ceremony** at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 16, in the Student Activities Center at Terra State. The event will include special announcements, a welcome from Fremont's mayor and music by the college's own Fusion ensemble.

GOBA Bike Parade and Decorating Contest

- **When:** 4-5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 15
- **Where:** parade forms at the Wood County Fairgrounds and ends downtown at Wooster Green
- **About:** The bike parade and decorating contest return to GOBA this year and will be part of the welcome celebration hosted by the the city of Bowling Green and its visitors bureau. Riders will begin lining up around 4 p.m. near the main entrance to the fairgrounds (Gate C), and judging will be conducted from 4:15-4:45 (this year's theme is "Come Sail Away"). The bikes will be divided into three groups (dignitaries, decorating contestants and non-contestants) for the parade. A police car will lead the parade out of the fairgrounds at 5 p.m. for the 1.7-mile ride to Wooster Green, the city's new downtown green space at W. Wooster and S. Grove streets. The route ends at a monitored bike corral that is available to all who ride to the celebration. The judges' results will be announced during the celebration, with the top three contestants receiving prizes and the winner receiving a package that includes a free registration, jersey and massage for GOBA 2020.



Golden GOBA Dinner

- **When:** 7-9 p.m. Thursday, June 20
- **Where:** Hope Community Church at 5650 Starr Ave. in Oregon, about a 12-minute walk from our camp at Clay High School
- **About:** All riders who are marking their 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th and 31st years on GOBA can eat a free meal at the church, enjoy each other's company and be part of the group photos at this annual gathering. No ticket required; attendance eligibility is on the honor system. GOBA staff also are invited.

GOBA Song Contest

- **When:** 6 p.m. Friday, June 21
- **Where:** football stadium at Clay High School in Oregon
- **About:** The GOBA Song Contest will be part of the final-night festivities on the covered stage at Clay's spacious, modern stadium. First, local actors will perform snippets of drama from 5-5:45 p.m. Then at 6 p.m., competitors in the GOBA Song Contest will vie for a free registration on GOBA 32, performing their original ditties about life on the tour. Then the pop, rock and country band Mess With Emily will perform from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Song contest contestants must sign up in advance at the GOBA information booth and submit their lyrics for approval as family-friendly, so keep it clean!

About the route maps

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"When will we get the routes?" It's a perennial question, and the answer requires a delicate balance.

GOBA riders naturally are curious to see the routes so they can plan their rides. And we are quite proud of the routes that GOBA Routemeister Dwaine Wheeler has crafted for us.

But road construction and other factors leave those beautiful routes subject to change, right up until the day we ride them. And once a route is released to riders, it's hard to "unring the bell" and call them back.

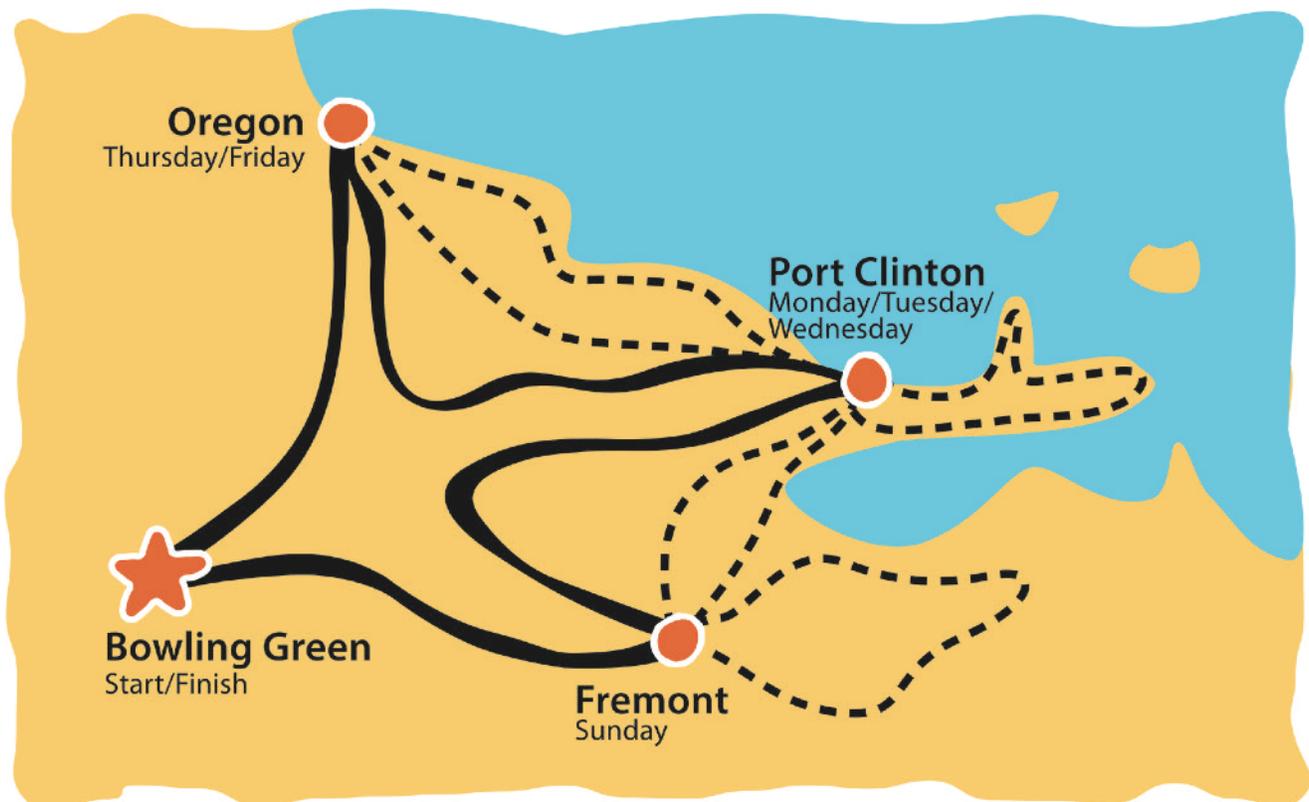
So we wait until early in the week of June 9 to release the maps on the goba.com routes page, giving Dwaine a chance to make adjustments and allowing riders ample time to download the digital files from the Ride With GPS links or print the pdfs of the custom maps and cue sheets that Dwaine is creating. (We'll also have printed maps

available each day at the GOBA Information booth. And Dwaine's pavement markings are clear and thorough.)

The routes on the four "mandatory" days when we move to a new camp are 54.7 miles on Sunday, 50.0 on Monday, 50.3 on Thursday and 34.0 on Saturday. With GOBA's new sanctioned cutoffs, the mileage is reduced to 39.8 on Sunday, 36.5 on Monday and 39.3 on Thursday. There is no cutoff on Saturday because the mileage on the full route is so short, allowing us to get back to our cars in Bowling Green a little earlier.

Because of the flat terrain on this year's GOBA, there is little climbing – less than 500 feet of ascent on any "mandatory" route and only 1,062 feet on the optional 102.7-mile century ride on Wednesday.

A cyclist can ride as few as four days and 146.6 miles on GOBA – or all seven days and all 392.7 miles. The choice is yours!



GOBA NEWS BRIEFS

SHUTTLE BUSES

A portion of your registration fee covers the cost of passenger shuttle buses that are free for GOBA registrants. Hotels may or may not be on the routes, and please note that the shuttle buses (usually school buses) can't transport bikes. There will be loop routes in Fremont, Port Clinton and Oregon to transport us from camp to shopping areas, groceries, pharmacies and laundromats. Additionally, there will be special, limited-stop shuttles from camp to Lakeside on Tuesday and the Catawba ferry docks (service to South Bass Island) on Wednesday. You can take the bus for free and skip riding on the often-busy roads.

HOTEL SHUTTLE

Ohio Trail Shuttle is offering a new for-fee service between the camps and nearby hotels. The service will be available each morning to transport you and your bike and/or luggage to the GOBA camp, and after your daily ride to get you back to your hotel. Please email

brian.peters@outdoor-pursuits.org for details and to make arrangements.

NEW SPONSOR

GOBA is proud to welcome Knabe Law Firm Co., L.P.A., of Lakewood, Ohio, as a 2019 sponsor. Attorney Ken Knabe, a longtime cyclist and cycling advocate, has provided a handy, wallet-sized card that will be included in each registrant's packet. On one side, the card has tips for cyclists who are struck by a motorist. The other side lists cycling law provisions in the Ohio Revised Code. Don't leave home without it!

NO CLEATS

A reminder not to wear exposed cleats indoors, especially in dining areas at food stops and in the camps, and in gyms and other overnight sleeping areas. Please respect the floors of our gracious hosts!

AVOID METAL TENT STAKES

A forgotten metal tent stake can become a flying, lethal hazard to mowing crews after we leave a campsite. The best bet is to use plastic stakes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GOBA has several volunteer opportunities for riders and others:

PHOTOGRAPHER: We need someone with a good camera and photography skills to join our photo team, which takes pictures for use on the GOBA website and Smug Mug page, and in the 2019 scrapbook.

MASSAGE: Professional massage therapists from our host communities are needed to help in the massage tent during GOBA.

MEDICAL TEAM: Are you a doctor or nurse with a current license and insurance? Join the GOBA medical team that cares for riders in camp from the GOBA medical RV.

HAM RADIO: If you are a licensed amateur radio operator, join the GOBA HAMS and help keep riders safe on the road.

CAR CAMPER COORDINATOR: Direct car campers to the proper location in camp and check for credentials.

SAFETY CYCLE TEAM: Help with the Safety Show in Bowling Green on Saturday, June 15, and Sunday morning, June 16.

REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: The GOBA and local information tables need volunteers to help keep riders informed, distribute packets and load/unload the supply truck.

Interested? Please let us know via email at goba@outdoorpursuits.org. Your message will be forwarded to the team.