

Creemore Classic 400 June 9, 2012 Ride Report

by
Carey Chappelle

The Huron Chapter hosted 2012's Creemore Classic with three IMPORTANT initiatives ... Eat, Drink and be Merry! Southampton's Elk & Finch hosted several of the riders with their spouses for dinner Friday night. Bill Hodgkins, the Elk & Finch's Chef, served incredible meals that included fish, chicken, steak, pasta ... and just about anything else you would be looking for! Nathan Klages although not cycling, couldn't resist joining us for dinner. After dinner, Huron Chapter's Official Bike Mechanic Dick Felton took the pressure off Bill Little, when he replaced Bills Campagnola Chain SUCCESSFULLY, using the correct Campagnola tool that he brought with him from Sarnia! Thanks again Dick! Oh ya ... Bill ... toss out that Walmart Chain tool!



Figure 1: Nathan saying hello!



Figure 2: Campagnola chain installation

Saturday morning, the thunderstorm, wind and rain stopped around 05:30am to encourage the Randonneurs to pump up their tires and hit the road. Enjoying the scenery from Port Elgin, thru Sauble

Beach, Wiarton and then up the Bruce Peninsula thru Big Bay to Owen Sound, the Randonneurs found a GREAT place to have brunch.. THE FROG PONDS CAFE. With the front wall OPEN, the Randonneurs sat and enjoyed one of the popular Turkey, bacon, avocado panini's along with a Cappacino, Espresso etc. One Randonneur enjoyed the gluten free treats that were available.



Figure 3: The Frog Cafe

Leaping like Frogs, the Randonneurs hopped East then South thru Bognor to Walter's Falls, Ontario. A quick visit at the General Store (cyclist's have DNF'd here a few times on other rides), the Randonneurs headed towards Eugenia earning a great snack at the Beaver River Grill ... but not before being chased up or passed on the escarpment by none other than Renato Alessandrini! Larry Sowerby and I, were fortunate enough to reach the Eugenia town sign before being captured by Renato!



Figure 4: Walter's Falls General Store



Figure 5: Renato Alessandrini

Leaving Eugenia, the Randonneurs headed East then South towards Collingwood, Ontario. Anyone familiar with Grey 19 knows how incredible the scenery is from Kolopore to Collingwood. Descending down Scenic Grey 19 towards Collingwood, I flew past some Mountain Bikers who cheered me on! I noticed how dirty they looked, then reminded myself of their sport. Travelling at 76km/hr I noticed a Mountain Biker sneaking up on me ... faster ... faster ... then ... HELLO CAREY! What are you doing out here? I realized this was Dr. Gerry Day from Sarnia, who had been the Best Man at my wedding and I was his Best Man at his wedding!!! We hadn't seen each other in a few years so we stopped and got to know what each of us was up to. His group of mountain bikers joined John Maccio and myself for a few minutes, when I suggested they join us for a BOWLING Competition in Collingwood! Mountain Bikers vs Roadies! I also suggested they stay dirty so we would fit in with them at the Bowling Alley. Unfortunately they decided not to join us. Getting our Control Cards signed in Collingwood we headed towards Creemore for the traditional pint at the OLD MILL HOUSE PUB!



Figure 6: Creemore Pints

While enjoying our pint's, a Lady cyclist sitting at a table beside us, mentioned that she had done a 70km ride Friday, how windy it was and asked us how far we were going. The Randonneurs enjoyed letting her know we were doing 400km and how much fun we were having. Her friend showed up during the middle of our conversation and claimed that I was the professional cyclist she had met once before, I had no memory of meeting her but for a minute or two... wondered if I had actually been a professional cyclist at or before 2005, she didn't accept my denial... so we exchanged hugs...then... she admitted her mistake...I was not the professional cyclist she had met! Thank-God, I hadn't lost all of my memory! Getting ready to leave, the Lady Cyclist came out to have her picture taken with us.



Figure 7: The Lady Cyclist

Leaving Creemore starts with a challenging climb, short but steep, then pretty much a downhill for 10-15km! A little work for a lot of fun! Heading towards Collingwood, the Randonneurs were getting excited about Bowling one game only ... but something a little unusual! Have you seen nicer bowling shoes than these?

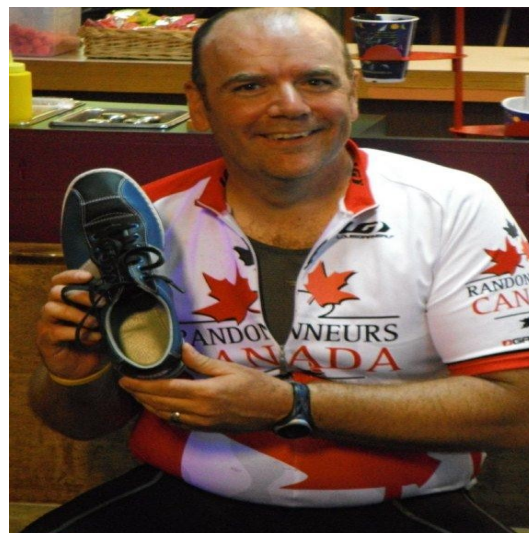


Figure 8: Maccio's Bowling Shoes

Bill Little started the competition missing the Pins on his first three balls! Chappy was third and brought the crowd to it's feet with the first of two strikes in a row!



Figure 9: Chappy's First Strike

Larry was convinced that the light on his bicycle helmet would give him an edge!



Figure 10: Lighting Larry

Hamiltonian Wayne ... All smiles on his first attempt!

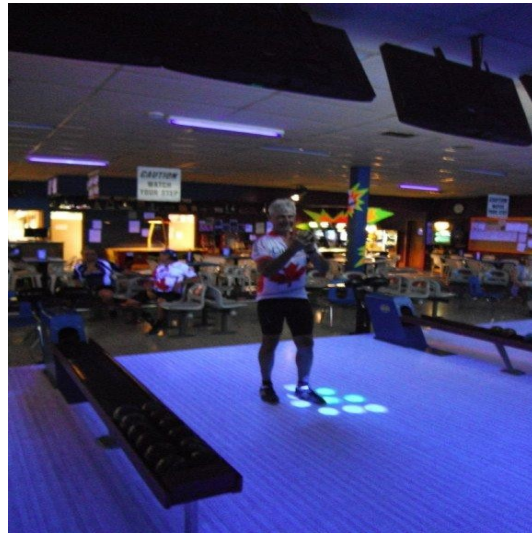


Figure 11: Hamiltonian Wayne!

Bowling Bill was all smiles before his next attempt ... a classy dance, one 360, then tossed the ball between his legs for a STRIKE! Way to go Bill! Unfortunately I only took his picture prior to his amazing toss!

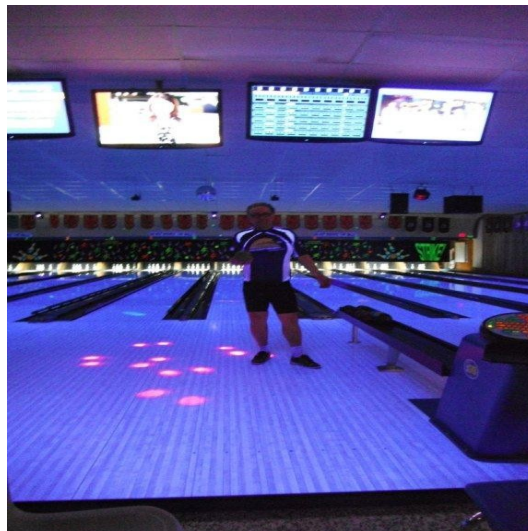


Figure 12: Bowling Bill!

A close finish had myself and Terry battling it out for the lead ... CONGRATULATIONS TERRY! the CREAMORE CLASSICS BOWLING CHAMPION 2012!



Figure 13: Creemore Classic Bowling Champion!

The Randonneurs would of liked to stay for another game but with sore shoulders and arms, decided to swap the bowling shoes for cycling shoes and headed to the Village of Blue Mountain. With a small amount of time lost bowling, Bill convinced everyone to have a quick dinner in Collingwood, then head to the Village to have their Control Cards signed. Leaving the Village and heading towards the Scenic Cave is always exciting, Larry and Wayne both mentioned at the top... what a great climb that was! Approaching 11pm, the Randonneurs stayed together, headed down into the Beaver Valley then back out to Walter's Falls and the second last Control in Chatsworth. Of course the Chatsworth Donut Shop closes at 11pm so the Randonneurs decided to take a 1/2hr nap on the two picnic tables outside the shop.

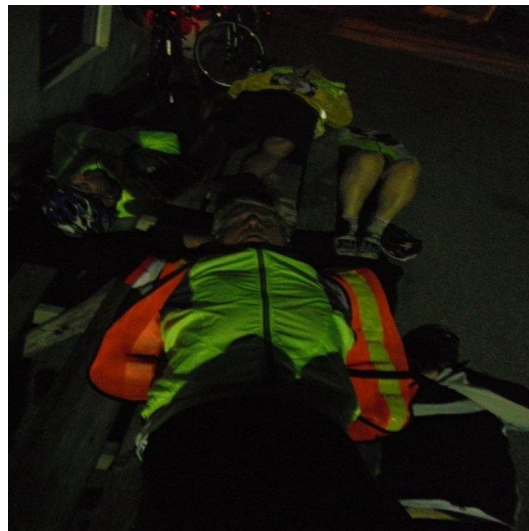


Figure 14: Chatsworth Control Picnic Table Nap

After taking the picture of these relaxed Randonneurs, I woke them up and suggested we head out and finish the last 50km! Mild weather, clear sky and rolling hills to the finish went quickly as we all discussed what a GREAT 400 this turned out to be ...Overall we ATE, DRANK AND WERE MERRY!!

Congrats to Larry Sowerby and Wayne Meigs who finished their FIRST 400KM BREVET!
Congrats to John Maccio, who has returned to the Long Distance Cyclist he was in 2007!
Congrats to Terry Payne ...the Creemore Classic Bowling Champion!

See You in 2013!

Huron Chapter V.P.,

Carey Chappelle