



Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Ride

Day 2: Ohiopyle to Frostburg (56 miles)

This morning started a little later than yesterday, but we were still up early and ready to go. We started the morning with breakfast at the [Ohiopyle Bakery & Sandwich Shoppe](#) before I did a phone interview with Larry Richert of [KDKA Radio](#). Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker and her husband joined us at Ohiopyle and we were back on the [Great Allegheny Passage](#) by 8:30 a.m.

Our first leg of the ride was 11 miles to Confluence which was named for where the Youghiogheny, the Casselman and the Laurel Hill Creek meet. We stopped by the [Parker House](#) in Confluence where Larry Walsh, Mary Aukerman, Cathy McCollom and Wendy Duchene greeted us, and talked a little bit about the economic development that the trail has generated. The town has a town square with a bandstand and businesses include a bike shop, local grocery store, café and library. This area of the trail is also one of [Pennsylvania's Important Bird Areas](#), designated by the [National Audubon Society](#).

The second leg was 18 miles to Rockwood. We met Linda McKenna Boxx of the Allegheny Trail Alliance at the Fort Hill Trailhead. Linda and the Alliance have been instrumental in completing the connections from Pittsburgh to the [C&O Canal Towpath](#) which has made the GAP possible. It took 35 years and \$80 million to complete, but Linda and her colleagues were dedicated to making it happen. Linda rode with us through the [Pinkerton Tunnel](#) and on to the Markleton Trailhead. The Pinkerton Neck includes a former railroad tunnel and bridges over the Casselman River. Thanks to work on the trail, riders get to take advantage of the bridge-tunnel-bridge feature and get a spectacular view.

At around 1:00 p.m., we arrived at Rockwood where we stopped for lunch at the [Rockwood Mill Shoppes](#). Rockwood has a fantastic locomotive sculpture on its trailhead and has a bike shop, two Bed & Breakfasts and a campground located close to the trail. The Shoppes were [formerly where lumber and feed were processed](#), but the building was restored in 2000 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Following lunch, Linda McKenna Boxx, Dr. Hacker and Eric headed back down the trail towards Pittsburgh, while the rest of us got back on the GAP at 1:50 p.m.

The third leg is 11 miles to Meyersdale. We rode the [Salisbury Viaduct](#) which was once the longest bridge on the railroad, spanning the Casselman River Valley. It was abandoned in April 1975, but was renovated and put into use as part of the [Allegheny Highlands Trail](#) on the GAP. The day has been generally overcast, but it's been good riding weather and so we arrived in Meyersdale around 3:30 p.m. On our way out of town, we biked past the [Meyersdale Train Station](#), which was the former Western Maryland Station. Now renovated, it is a welcome center for trail users.

On our way out of Meyersdale, we also crossed the [Bollman Bridge](#) – it has been moved twice. The bridge was first built for the B & O Railroad to cross Gladdens Run in Bedford County. Then it was moved

to Somerset County to serve as a farm road crossing over the railroad. In 2007, it was relocated to have a new life on the trail. Shortly after passing the bridge, we also crossed the [Keystone Viaduct](#) and then headed toward the [Eastern Continental Divide \(ECD\)](#), arriving around 4:40 p.m. The ECD is the boundary between the watersheds of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. It sits at an elevation of 2,392 feet above sea level.

After passing the divide, we went through the [Big Savage Tunnel](#). It is the longest tunnel on the trip and is just two miles short of the state line. Built in 1911, it cuts 3,300 feet through the mountain and was reconstructed in 2002-03 for trail use. Just a mile and a half later, we reached the [Mason-Dixon line](#).

The final leg into Frostburg included the [Borden Tunnel](#), which isn't lighted, and is 957' long. We dismounted and walked our bikes through the tunnel. By 6 p.m., we had reached the Frostburg Depot Station. There is a [scenic railroad](#) from Cumberland that runs from May to December. Just a short 15 minutes later, we stopped in Frostburg and checked into the B & B that we're staying at tonight. Frostburg is a college town, but has a small town feel. After cleaning up from our ride, we walked to dinner at [Shift](#), a farm to table restaurant in Frostburg. I have no doubt we'll sleep well tonight.

Tomorrow we'll be riding 60 miles, from Frostburg, MD to Little Orleans, MD and will be moving to the C&O Canal towpath.

Good night from Frostburg, MD