

October 2023

Dear Family and Friends,

Fund Raising Summary and Thank You!

The 2023 Long Island Ride for the Puppies Team is reaching out to all of you with our heartfelt thanks for your support of The Seeing Eye, Inc. Your contributions and moral support were the wind beneath our wings and at our backs as we rode across New York bringing awareness to people we met and with your help, significant funds to TSE. Our total raised this year is just shy of \$43,000!

Over the past five years, through five endurance events, we raised \$120,000 for The Seeing Eye in loving memory of John Freiss (Jim's brother) and in honor of others we have met along the way who have also benefited from The Seeing Eye's great work. We are so proud and fortunate to have such compassionate, loving, and generous supporters for our fundraising efforts.

Trip Report for 2023 – Niagara Falls, Canada to Blue Point, NY

This year, we again had eight riders. Saddling up for our 600-mile adventure was Jim Freiss (our captain and five-year veteran), accompanied by three-year veterans Bill Ude, David DuBois, Jay Ratto, Victor Fassano, two-year veterans Barbara McCoy and Glenn Morse, and Bill Girona, our newbie this year. We started at the Niagara Falls viewing area in Canada. We snaked south along the Canadian side of the Niagara River to just north of Buffalo, crossed into the USA at the Peace Bridge, and found our way through downtown Buffalo to the start of the Erie Canal and the Empire State Trail. From there, we worked our way across the state following the canal and trail all the way to Albany. Then we turned south on the trail crossing over to Poughkeepsie on the Walkway Over the Hudson and finally east into Connecticut to the Port Jefferson ferry in Bridgeport. We concluded on day 8 with a short ride from Port Jefferson to Patchogue for a celebration at the Blue Point Brewery (a generous fundraising supporter).

Once again, we had a wonderful support team or in cycling jargon, the "SAG" team! SAG stands for "support and gear." SAG's role is to keep everyone safe,

provide tools and bike support and help shepherd the ride. They shadow us each day to simplify our logistics. This crew showed up with food and comfort along the course each day and always had an assortment of cold beverages ready for us at the end when it was needed the most! The support was captained by our two-year veteran SAG driver, the extraordinary Kevin Green, and by Jim's sister and brother-in-law, Kate and David Mickle. We owe the three of them a huge thank you. We hope to convince them to come back again next year!

You know it's been a good trip when before it's over you're making plans for 2024 Ride for the Puppies! Stay tuned, you will hear from us again....

A picture is worth a thousand words! Some photos of our journey follow:

Canadian side of Niagara Falls.

As we embark on another puppy ride, we stand together side-by-side ready for the challenge at hand.



Crossing the Peace Bridge back into the US of A



Empire State Trail – getting into the daily groove!



A pleasant stop in Lockport to meet some of Kevin's family and friends. What an awesome picnic!



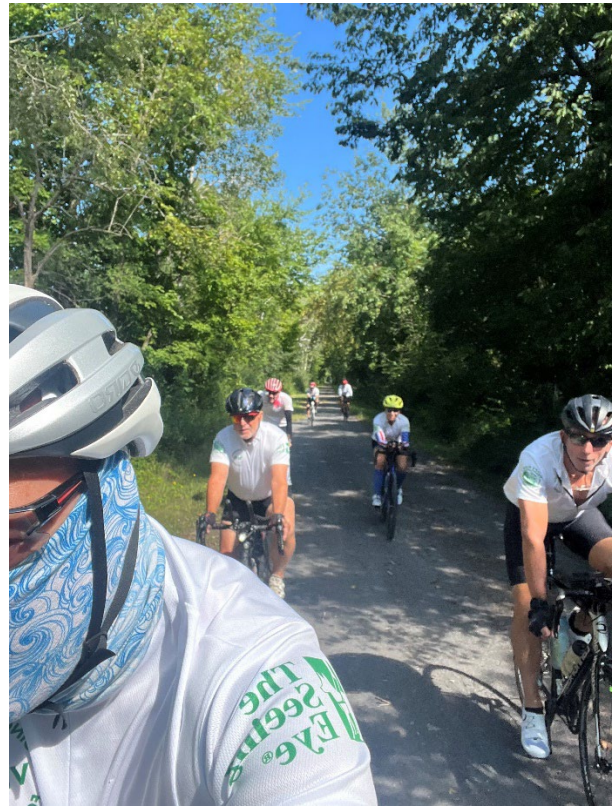
Palmyra and the Ganargua Creek.



Flats plagued the team in the first half of the ride! We got fast at repairs!



Going the Distance!



Our second-year SAG Master! Kevin was always there on the spot for us!



Our First-year SAG Masters! Kate and David Mickel were a huge help to us this year! They are pictured here on the left and in the center on the ground next to Kevin!



Breakfast with many laughs! The trail had characters along it that made the trip memorable! Thanks Michael!

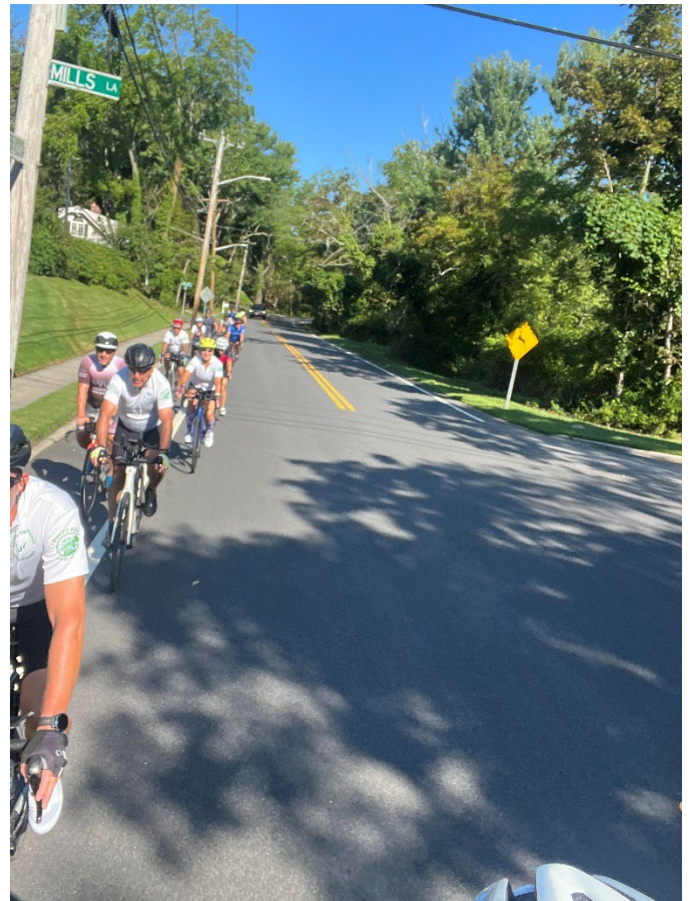
Riding has risks and we had one tough day where Glenn took a spill. Fortunately, Glenn is one tough dude and has bounced back since!



Bridgeport, Connecticut ferry ride back to Long Island.



A big crew of friends on Long Island riding with us on our last leg to the Blue Point Brewery!



At the Blue Point Brewery celebrating the end of a 600-mile ride with friends, a cold beer and some puppies in training!

