Tellico Lake

NEWS

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Five Cyclists Achieve Century Distinction in Heavy Rain

(Loudon, TN) – Seventeen cyclists attempted Saturday's 100 mile "Century" ride during the Tour de Tellico. Just five bicyclists were able to complete the endurance test.

The skies opened wide during last Saturday's Tour de Tellico held in Loudon and Monroe Counties. Enduring heavy rain, throbbing legs and arm numbness, Candie Hewgley, 41, a Farragut rider, completed her first 100 mile ride. She finished the 100 mile course in just over 6 hours. Other riders achieving the Century distinction included Casey Hewgley, 51, Farragut; Mike Johnson, 48, Sweetwater; Tom Perry, 59, Knoxville, and David Green, 45, Pensacola, FL. Green traveled from Pensacola to participate in the event. Green remarked that Saturday's rain was similar to afternoon downpours common in Florida. However, this was a bit cooler than a Florida rain storm. Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, William Wells, provided a blanket for Green upon the completion of his ride to help him regain body temperature.

In addition to successfully completing Saturday's Century event, Tom Perry received recognition earlier this year for completing a coast-to-coast solo bicycle ride. Perry recently retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

According to Rick Coffey with Blount Emergency Communications, at times rain fell at more than two inches per hour. Blount Emergency Communications teams helped track more than 100 riders on three different courses as they traversed country roads, hills and valleys.

Coffey said, "Aside from ponding water and one spill requiring minor first aid, the events went smoothly. Considering the challenging weather conditions, this was a good day from our point of view."

The Century ride was one of three bicycling courses offered during the 4th Annual Tour de Tellico. A total of 110 riders registered for the 50 and 100 kilometer rides and the 100 mile events.

Tour de Tellico is a Tellico Lake Rotary club fund raising project. This year's proceeds benefit Loudon County Habitat for Humanity and Monroe County area Boys and Girls Clubs. Major sponsors included BB&T Bank, Covenant Senior Health, East Tennessee Mountain Views and Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. Get With It Women's Fitness and Wellness organization provided Dahleen Castlebury to lead warm up exercises for the riders.

The Tellico Lake Rotary club provides service to the community, networks with other organizations, promotes high ethical standards, advances goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.