

**Day 1, Saturday, September 8, 2018**

We woke up around 6:30 AM and loaded Marty's car with my biking and Cycle Oregon stuff. She dropped me off at the Airport Sheraton at about 8:00 AM. At about 9:00 AM I boarded the seat towards the back of the bus (one row of seats behind me with 2 women) where there were two adjacent seats. No one sat next to me, so I was able to relax and sleep on the bus. I was very lucky there were only 2 empty seats on the bus (one next to me). The bus took off at about 9:00 AM. The bus did not have cool air circulating to the back of the bus, it was very hot where I was sitting. The ladies in the last seat kept telling people that it was very hot and that if they passed out in the restroom to knock on the door. They told one guy the restroom was in use, but the guys still opened the door while someone was in there. Not sure what he heard the ladies say, but I cannot hear good and did hear them tell him the bathroom was occupied. The ladies were very nice looking; one was from Michigan and the other one was from Chicago. The majority of the cyclist riding on Cycle Oregon are white males. The bus arrived at Baker City a little after 2:00 PM. Since this was my first Cycle Oregon when we arrived, I did not know what to do. I went to check in and found the volunteers I knew from the Mazamas, Joey and Bob. They told me what to do and gave me free T-shirts from the previous year (there was a table with boxes of free T-shirts from the previous year's cancelled Cycle Oregon). There were lots of free shirts, so I took a few of them. They were laid out on a table for everyone. After checking in for the ride I set up my tent and got dinner. After dinner I found Larry, Liz, Marie and Susan from Cycle maniacs. They went to have a beer, but I decided not to have one (I had a bad headache). I went to sleep at about 10:00 PM. (Bike miles 0 miles)

**Day 2, Sunday, September 9, 2018 - Baker City to Halfway**

I did not sleep well that night and woke up around 5:30 AM. I had an early breakfast and took off cycling at about 7:00 AM. The first day's ride was not bad, it was from Baker City to Halfway. I arrived in Halfway at about 12:30 PM and walked around town. I saw Larry with his lady friends as they entered town on their bikes. I ate dinner and bugged Larry and his friends until about 9:00 PM. I went to sleep before 10:00 PM. (Bike miles 55.21 miles)

**Day 3, Monday, September 10, 2018 - Halfway to Wallowa Lake**

This was the hardest day of the Cycle Oregon event, so I left camp when they first opened the course at 6:30 AM. The route started with an easy slight downhill ride for 10 miles, then there was a 20-mile gradual uphill with an elevation gain of about 3,000 ft. I did that part fine and Rod from cycle maniacs showed up when I reached the top. Rod is a very good hill climber on his bike; he started an hour after I did and arrived at the top the same time I arrived there. Then I continued to the optional part of the route that took me to the Hells Canyon Overlook. I left before Rod, but he ended up right behind me. I arrived at the lookout around 11:00 AM. At the lookout I had my first cell phone coverage of the trip. Other people had cell coverage in Halfway, but not me. I sent e-mails and text messages while I was at the Hells Canyon Lookout. I was probably there for about an hour and then continued riding. The rest of the day was slow, when I arrived at the lunch stop, I found Sue (Karen's friend and x neighbor) and had lunch with her and her friend. At one point the Cycle Oregon police escort went past and announced trucks coming down the highway. I could feel them coming up and

inched off the road, my wheel caught the dirt and I cycled into the ditch. I did not fall over. Once in Joseph I took my time and took several photos there and along the lake. Then I continued riding, I did not make it to camp until 5:30 PM. I found Larry's camp and they had not arrived yet, Rod was wondering what happened. Rod had been there for a couple hours. Larry showed up and I waited for everyone so I could eat dinner with them. I ended up bugging Larry and his friends until about 9:00 PM. I went to sleep before 9:30 PM. (Bike miles 84.04 miles)

#### **Day 4, Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - Wallowa Lake to Elgin**

This day's ride was very easy. A lot of downhill to lunch. I was at the lunch stop by 10:30 AM. Then we had a climb of about 1000 vertical feet in 6 miles (not that noticeable). The ride ended with some more downhill. I checked out the town of Elgin a little before heading to camp. I stopped at 2 stores looking for sleep aid, but they did not have any. I still had enough for the night, so I was OK. I cycled to camp and was there by 1:00 PM. I set up my tent and then walked around town. I toured the Elgin Opera house; it was a very nice old theater where they performed live plays (I saw advertisement for their plays in La Grande). I walked back to camp and waited to have dinner with Larry and his friends. I bugged Larry and his friends until about 9:00 PM. I went to sleep before 9:30 PM. (Bike miles 61.52 miles)

#### **Day 5, Wednesday, September 12, 2018 - Elgin to Pendleton**

I left camp at about 6:45 AM and that day started with a long uphill. I kept a constant pace all the way to the top, it was about 15 miles and a little over 2,000 vertical feet of climbing. Right before I reached the top of the pass Rod passed me. I saw him at the rest stop, he started about an hour after I had started, what a great hill climber. The rest of the day had small hills with an overall downhill grade. I did not make it to camp until about 3:00 PM. I set up my tent and found out that the guy camped next to me was from North Portland, he lives on Montana street, only about 2 blocks from where I live, his name is Jason. I looked for Larry's tent. I could not find it. I saw Rod and he showed me their group tent site. Larry's large tent was not set up yet, that was why I could not find his campsite. I wondered down to where the Pendleton roundup takes place and checked out the Indian jewelry. Then I went back to camp and found Larry and his friends for dinner. Larry lent me a charger, so I could charge my phone and camera. I returned it to him that night after charging my stuff, but could have and should have held onto it. I bugged Larry and his friends until about 9:00 PM. I went to sleep before 10:00 PM. (Bike miles 75.96 miles)

#### **Day 6, Thursday, September 13, 2018 – Pendleton**

I did not ride the optional ride, I woke up around 7:00 AM and had breakfast. Then I walked to Main Street in Pendleton to see the 9:00 AM Indian beauty pageant. When I arrived on Main Street, I could not find the pageant, so I looked it up on my smart phone and found that it was not until the next day. The Cycle Oregon daily news letter was wrong; it said the Pageant was on this day. I went to the visitor center to get a town map and find out what was going on in town. They also confirmed the pageant was not until the next day. I found 2 other people from Cycle Oregon looking for the pageant and told them there was no pageant until the next day. The

visitor center recommended the underground tour, so I went to see if I could get on one of the tours and they had one opening at 10:30 AM, so I signed up for the tour. It was a very busy day for the underground tour, the tours take about 2 hours and had several guides, so they could run about 5 to 10 tours at the same time (each guide would follow the previous guide with gaps – we only saw the previous group at the start and never saw the group behind us). Then I went to see if I could get a ticket for the Pendleton roundup. When I was in line a man came up trying to sell 3 tickets, the guy in front of me bought 2 of them and I bought the other one. The seat numbers were 53, 54, and 55. I took seat 55 and was lucky because that seat was at the end of an aisle. At first, I did not find my seat and stood up for about an hour, then I decided to find my seat, I assumed it would be in the middle of an aisle without any view. Well, I found the seat and it was an excellent seat, right where a lot of the action started. By the time the rodeo was over I had run down my batteries on my camera and wished I had kept the charger Larry lent to me. I then decided to buy a charger at Wal-Mart and get it charged up (It cost \$5.00 to charge electronics at Cycle Oregon). Well, the charger I bought at Wal-Mart was pre-owned and already had a slight charge, but it was useless because the cord was not included. I ended up partially charging my phone and camera and then returned the charger. I went back to camp to see if Larry was going to dinner and was told he went to main street and was eating at a restaurant. I then went to eat my Cycle Oregon dinner and went to sleep before 9:30 PM. I forgot to mark my campsite at Pendleton with my GPS. (Bike miles 0 miles)

#### **Day 7, Friday, September 14, 2018 - Pendleton to La Grande**

I left camp at about 6:35 AM. There were not a lot of people started yet. I came to an intersection that had a single arrow pointed to the right. Normally when they have a turn there is a triple arrow, I assumed the arrow blew over or was moved so I went straight. I went a short ways and wondered if I went the right way, I turned around and saw 2 people behind me so I assumed I was going the right way. The one guy passed me and then stopped before getting on the freeway. When I came up to him, we decided the arrow that we had seen about 1.5 miles back was to indicate a turn and headed back. The other lady was still following us and she also turned back with us. We did about an extra 3 miles with a slight uphill grade. It was a gradual mostly uphill ride for about 30 miles, not too hard. When I got to the top of the Hill Rod once again passed me. The last 25 miles was an easy mostly downhill ride. I arrived at camp around 1:30 PM and setup my tent and found Larry's site, he and his lady friends were not there yet. I had found a great private camp spot. I walked into La Grande and checked out the tourist attractions. Then I went back to camp. I found Larry and then I took a nap. I came back to Larry's place and they were headed to dinner, so I joined them. Then we listen to the daily announcements and watched the band. I had my ride included beer, which was the only beer I had for the entire Cycle Oregon event. It was too loud for me, so I went back to my campsite when the dancing started. I went to sleep before 10:00 PM. (Bike miles 60.36 miles)

#### **Day 8, Saturday, September 15, 2018 - La Grande to Baker City**

I left camp at 6:45 AM and it was an easy day's ride. I took a lot of photos and must have kept a quick pace. I arrived at the finish line at 11:45 AM. My bus was due to leave at 4:00 PM and I was able to change buses for a new departure time of 3:00 PM. Then I cycled into the town of Baker City and took photos of all the old buildings. Then I biked back to the Cycle Oregon finish line to eat lunch,

take a shower and loaded my bike on the bike truck. Larry and his group showed up to eat, but I was done eating. So, I wondered around aimlessly until my 3:00 PM bus departed. I lucked out again and got a seat with an empty seat next to me. The 3:00 PM bus had several empty seats (5 to 10 empty seats). I slept and played with my GPS for the bus ride home. Once back in Portland the bikes were not yet there. When the truck arrived, it could not drive to the unloading location and the driver would not unload where he temperately parked. The truck driver could not get his truck into the front-loading area of the Portland Airport Sheraton and he said it would be hours before he could unload the bikes. They needed to move several cars before he could make the turn (The Sheraton was supposed to put up cones in the parking lot so the truck could make the turn). Since I had plenty of time, I took the max home and got my car. I drove back to the Airport Sheraton expecting to see people still waiting for the trucks to get unloaded. Well, everyone was gone, so I asked about my bike and they had the unclaimed bikes stored it in a meeting room. They let me into the meeting room to get my bike, there were about 5 bikes stored in the meeting room. I showed the guy that my wrist number matches the number of my bike, but he did not seem to care, I could have taken any of the bikes and said it was mine. I then loaded my bike in my car and drove home. I stayed up until about 1:00 AM working on unpacking and stuff. (Bike miles 55.21 miles)

### **Day 9, Sunday, September 16, 2018**

I did laundry, unloaded my stuff from Cycle Oregon and cycled to town to look for this local Travel Agent. It was a condo in town, I contacted them a few days later to see if they could help set up an itinerary that I can send to get my Bolivia visa. When I contacted them, they would not help me set up an itinerary so I could get a Bolivia visa. They recommended a third party; I ended up sending my passport directly to the Bolivia embassy in Los Angeles and setup up hotels using Orbitz.com and bus transportation using TicketsBolivia.com.



Cycle Oregon 2018 trip route



Ted at the welcome sign to Halfway, Oregon.



Ted at Hell's Canyon overlook.



Wallowa Lake



Cycle Oregon beer garden.



Oregon trail interpretive example at a state park.





Ted in jail cell of Pendleton underground tour.



Indian with baby at Pendleton Rodeo.

Ladies balancing on big horn cattle outside Pendleton rodeo.



Ted at the finish line of Cycle Oregon 2018 – Baker City, Oregon.

Lady riding horses at Pendleton rodeo.



Larry, Marie, Susan and Liz at the finish line of Cycle Oregon 2018 – Baker City, Oregon.