

The Oneida Daily Dispatch (oneidadispatch.com), Serving Oneida, NY

Sports

Cycling the Erie Canal tour heading to Madison County, Rome

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

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More than 500 bicyclists will roll through Madison County as part of their eight-day tour of the Erie Canal.

The group departed from Buffalo on Sunday for the 13th annual Cycling the Erie Canal tour, organized by Parks and Trails New York, a statewide non-profit advocacy organization.

Between 8 a.m. and noon, the bicyclists are scheduled to travel from Syracuse to make morning rest stops at the Chittenango Landing Boat Museum and the Canastota Canal Town Museum.

At noon, they are scheduled to arrive at Verona Town Hall. Later, they will have time throughout the afternoon to visit the Rome Erie Canal Village, Fort Stanwix National Monument and Rome Family YMCA.

Approximately two-thirds of the 400-mile tour takes place along the completed portion of the Canalway Trail. When finished, the New York State Canalway Trail System will span more than 500 miles and connect cities, towns and villages along the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego and Champlain canals, making it one of the longest multi-use recreational trails in the country.

"The 13th annual Cycling the Erie Canal tour is an economical and healthy way to explore the Erie Canal and upstate New York, plus it's fun," said Robin Dropkin, Parks and Trails New York executive director. "I call it a rolling summer camp for all ages.

"We have cyclists from over 35 states and three countries plus several hundred volunteers in communities along the route ready to welcome riders and help them discover what makes the Erie Canal and upstate New York unique," she added.

On Friday, they are scheduled to travel from Rome to Canajoharie then Saturday from Canajoharie to Scotia and Sunday from Schenectady to Albany. The tour is scheduled to end at Corning Preserve Boat Launch in Albany on Sunday.

For more information visit:

www.ptny.org/canaltour

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