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## More than 500 bike riders stop in Central New York as they follow the Erie Canal

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By **Tim Fenster / The Post-Standard**

By



**Enlarge**

**Ellen Blalock / The Post-Standard**

From left: sisters, Elaine Hersey, of Queensbury, NY and Katy Ericson, of Seattle, WA, with their mother, Kit Huggard, of North Creek, NY, are some of the 500 bicyclists participating in the Erie Canal ride. They stopped to rest at the Camillus Erie Canal Park. They talked about making their next stop ice cream.

**Cycling the Erie Canal Tour** gallery (4 photos)

Syracuse, NY -- About 550 bicyclists rested at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park in Syracuse Wednesday night, marking the mid point of a week-long, 400-mile ride following the Erie Canal.

The bicyclists, who travel mostly off-road along the canal, left Buffalo Sunday and expect to arrive in Albany this coming Sunday. The riders range in age from 6 to 89.

Though they have pedaled through this week's oppressive heat, the mood was still overwhelmingly positive at a stop in Camillus Wednesday, where some enjoyed ice cream and a boat ride before heading to zoo in Burnet Park. They leave for

Albany this morning.

The ride had been "above and beyond my expectations," said Sandi Willsey, a tour volunteer and first-time rider. "I knew it'd be fun but I didn't think it'd be this much fun. My only complaint is I'm saddle sore."

Though some riders admitted the journey is tough, they said it is manageable due to flat ground along most of the trail. More than a dozen children participated, including a 6-year-old girl who is riding a tandem bike. Tour volunteer Linda Vishnesky said retirees make up the largest age group of riders.

**Erie Canal Bicyclists**