

Camera Work



Cornfields are a common sight.



Riders from all over the world gather to ride across Iowa during RAGBRAI XLII, which was held last July 20 through July 26.



The communities and people of Iowa are the heart of the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, also known as RAGBRAI. The 2014 route included a one-day 41.2-mile ride from Forest City to Mason City.

ROLLIN' ON RAGBRAI

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Dance parties in cornfields. A random pink "Mr. Pork Chop" bus that serves some of the juiciest meat you've ever (or never) had. Cold beer. And watermelon. Midwest hospitality. People of all ages and sizes. Colorful tents that dot the landscape. And lots and lots of bikes. Thousands.

Welcome to RAGBRAI.

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa enters its 42nd year this July. More than 10,000 riders from around the world will converge for seven days and almost 500 miles of riding.

The route changes annually, and daily mileage varies.

"It's hot, hilly and humid," says longtime rider Carl Obert, of Rochester. "But the food is great."

And sometimes, it rains.

But that's all part of the sometimes unpredictable and always colorful experience of RAGBRAI.

See Sports for additional RAGBRAI coverage.

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For a video from last year's RAGBRAI



About Elizabeth Nida Obert
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I had never seen a dance party in a cornfield. Then again, I'd never ridden RAGBRAI. My husband has ridden for years and finally enticed me — through promises of abundant food stops along the way — to ride with him for one day last year. I knew I could handle a 40-mile ride, and it was a good compromise after all my years of resistance. Dare I say I'd do it again?

Photographer's tip: Making good images while riding RAGBRAI requires the proper storage unit on your bike. I purchased and used a rack and bag, which I have found beneficial on several bike rides since. And what better time to experiment with GoPro video capture? Adhered the small camera body to my handlebars and periodically recorded my journey on wheels through Iowa.



A midday snooze is in order for two riders.



Dance party in the cornfield? Why not? It's RAGBRAI.



Nathan Bigelow, of Decorah, Iowa, and Caitlyn Burke, of Rochester, refuel with refreshments in Mason City, Iowa.



Colorful tents and laundry decorate the landscape in Forest City, Iowa, as Dorian Jon, of Monterey, Calif., made herself at home at her campsite after a bike ride during RAGBRAI last year.

Send us your photos

For the monthly pages of reader-contributed photos, we are planning these themes:

July 6: Eagles

July 18: Celebrate America, due July 10

Aug. 22: Water, due Aug. 14

Sept. 19: Insects, due Sept. 11

Send high-resolution photos by email to images@postbulletin.com. Must include caption information, your name and contact information.

About this page

Camera Work is a weekly page of photography, most often by Post-Bulletin photojournalists. Each week we pick a fresh theme, and once a month, we feature outstanding work submitted by readers.