

The David Sutton Memorial Tour aka "The Beach Trip"

General Info:

The David Sutton Memorial Tour (DSMT) is the Greenville Spinner's annual four (4) day ride across the state. The ride begins on a Wednesday, and we arrive at a coastal destination on Saturday, returning via a hired chartered bus on Sunday. Historically the event takes place between late April to mid May. Registration space is limited due to hotel accommodations, but 75-100 riders usually ride each year on the DSMT.

Upon registering and paying your tour registration fee, you will be emailed a hotel listing, with phone numbers and the negotiated hotel rates. We ask that you register **first** so those who have paid the registration fees are guaranteed their rooms. There is a time limit on the discounted hotel rate contracts, so registering early is always best.

Your tour entry fee includes all the logistics, shirt, sag support, often a meal/banquet one night, and some door prizes.... **Each rider is in charge of his or her meals and of making their own hotel reservations (Please note camping is not supported on this tour).** Usually a budget of \$450-\$550 is sufficient to cover total tour expenses (assuming double room occupancy/splitting the hotel cost). If you know you want/need a roommate, please advise the director with your registration application and they will do their best to accommodate your request.

Tour mileage fluctuates each year due to varying routes and final coastal destination. It's usually between 290-325 miles total over the 4 days. Historically the 3rd day is the longest and is usually around 95-105 miles. Other days vary from 55 miles to 85 miles. Each rider should be capable of handling such mileage and should be fully self-sufficient each day on the ride. Coastal destinations we often visit and have found safe routes into are, Beaufort, SC; Georgetown, SC; and Savannah, Ga.

The goal is to have 4-SAG support volunteers each year, 3 who drive/position themselves along the route with food and drink and one volunteer who drives the truck delivering our luggage to the hotel each day. **SAG SUPPORT IS KEY** to this tour and is the **MAIN INGREDIENT THAT MAKES THE DSMT A SUCCESS EVERY YEAR.** If you know of someone who would be willing to SAG, please contact the DSMT Director during the current year's ride. (Hotel and fuel costs are covered, and a small stipend for meals is given to each SAG volunteer.)

Your job as a rider/participant is to make sure you load your luggage in the truck by 9AM each morning, get on your bike and ride to the next town, eat, sleep, repeat....

For two decades or more, the tour has always started from the Ingles grocery store in Moonville, SC (7616 Augusta Rd. Piedmont, SC). Their support has been one of the many factors in the success of the cross state tour. Your patronage to Ingles for any last minute supplies would be appreciated. Also, for those having to leave a car in the parking lot, it's crucial to comply with Ingles' request as to where to park. Detailed information will be emailed to participants about a week before the ride begins.

Each rider will be given a tour packet with commemorative shirt and cue sheets and general information at registration on the morning the tour begins. There is NO mass start any day of the tour. Riders often start in groups of 2 to 15 with each finding others who ride at a similar pace.

Families often come down and join riders upon arriving at the coastal destination, and they are always welcome. For riders needing transportation back to the upstate on Sunday, a bus ticket can be purchased when you register for the tour, (or later if there is a seat still available) for a ride

back to Moonville, SC on a chartered bus we hire. For those riding the bus, their bikes are transported back to Moonville on the SAG truck.

It's a great little vacation and a good time on two wheels. Folks from all over the country, and even some Canadians, have joined us over the years. We have some participants who have ridden the tour for thirty or more years. Here's hoping you will become a regular rider on the DSMT, where each year promises to be a new adventure.

History- who was David Sutton:

The first cross state tour took place in 1980 with +/- 4 riders. The first several tours were a true cross state tour for they would start closer to the NC border and ride in two days, unsupported, to North Myrtle Beach. By the fourth tour, it was decided that two days on fully loaded bikes was a bit too hard, and they started a three-day tour riding to Augusta or Aiken on the first day. Around the 9th year, a 4-day option was introduced riding to Hickory Knob State Park (McCormick, SC) on the first day. This 4-day tour has become the format that we are still using today.

At first it was mostly a loose network of club friends setting off for an adventure. It's always been said, "If you discover you have a tail wind, then you have probably made a wrong turn". They also tell us that in the old days, it was uphill all the way to the coast....

David Sutton was one of the riders and a driving force behind the first few cross state tours. He was an avid cyclist and a gentle giant, as recalled by friends. At 6'-5" and close to 300 pounds before he took up cycling, he was easily the biggest cyclist on most rides. David organized some of the early cross state tours and as legend has it, he would usually add panniers to his bike and carry down the tools and spare parts for all the other riders.

Tragically, David Sutton was struck and killed by a car in 1986 while cycling to join a weekly group ride. Through the memories of his friends, and the Greenville Spinners Bicycle Club's annual cross state tour, we get on our bikes and head east each Spring to honor what David Sutton did for our club and to carry on a tradition he helped begin.



David Sutton