

# Capt. Kirk Ride - 62 miles or 0.0000000001057 light years



This is a ride started by the MelonHeads several years ago; but it did not get its name until after the first ride. We had established the route and when we showed up in Riverside to begin the ride, we found out Riverside was having a Star Trek Convention. It seems that James T. Kirk, captain of the Starship Enterprise, will be born in Riverside...in the year 2233. Little did we know!

As we left town we became entangled in the parade route and dressed in our MelonHead outfits, the judges thought we were part of the parade and awarded us second place for the best costumes. I don't recall pink and green uniforms in any of the TV show, but I could be wrong.

**Anyway, on to the the ride:** Begin in Riverside and park your cars at the park or the grade school as you enter the town. Head west on Hwy 22 towards Kalona. This can be a busy stretch as Kalona is a mecca for shoppers. You might want to stop and buy a quilt or other items.

From Kalona stay on Hwy 22 until you come to Wellman. The downtown of Wellman is not on the highway. Signs will point you south and it is a nice downhill ride into town. Exit Wellman to the south on W38. It is a gentle climb out of town.

Continue about 6 miles to G26 and turn right heading towards Keota. There is a jog just before town.

Coming back from Keota you have two options. One is to take the Keo-Wash trail through the town of West Chester (see green line on map). The trail is not well maintained and when we took it was very soggy from a previous day's storm. We abandoned it at West Chester and got back on the main route, as shown.

The better way is to head out of Keota, going west until you get to W15 and turn left. Continue for about 5 miles until you come to Tallyrand (the infamous party spot on RAGBRAI). You never know if the bar is open or closed here, so plan on the worst. From Tallyrand, head back east to Washington. it is a long 15 mile stretch.

Depart Washington by heading east from the downtown until you spot W66 and turn left. This route is fairly flat and winding back to Riverside.

At Riverside you might want to stop for a cold one at the Ice House. If you have lots of money, stop at the Riverside Casino. One of the MelonHeads works there. TIP WELL!