

Massachusetts-Connecticut-NewYork- NewJersey



DAY 58 Ayer Massachusetts to Sutton Falls CG {West Sutton}

Tuesday September 15/09

D74.63km A14.47 M44.23 PT5h TT6.5 h OD 3939km

The motel was fine as we are off the Interstate roads there are no Best Westerns, etc in these small towns... Lucky to have a motel at all. We headed off on roads that are as if traveling on a stack of cupcakes... up one side across the top and down the other side... Not terrible grades but a couple of <5kph... only one trucker in too big a hurry to pass and near to hitting an on coming car. Lots of apple orchards... not very well tended... grass long, trees overgrown and the apples small as not thinned. Lots of farm stands selling apples, veggies, etc. Big Trees. No shoulder mostly with minimal traffic. ++ nut trees... I think Oak trees so nuts inedible. Nuts falling with the wind and squirrels... need a helmet just to keep the nuts off. ++motorcycles and fast cars. Ate at a private coffee/donut/sandwich shop... very good and very busy... yummy smoothie. We left at 8am and into camp by 1430 so not slugs. Should have realized how hilly it was to be today by the road names.... Wattaquodock HILL rd, SawyerHILL rd, Putnam HILL rd etc.... Planned to eat supper at the Restaurant at Putnam Hill, but GONE. Tried to go to the grocery in West Sutton, but there is not one... only houses, no amenities.... CG \$30 with quarter showers that were dirty with spider webs and bugs that like the lights... Had not been cleaned recently. We were the only ones in camp... lots of permanents... yearlys... very quiet except Ken was kept awake by the Crickets?



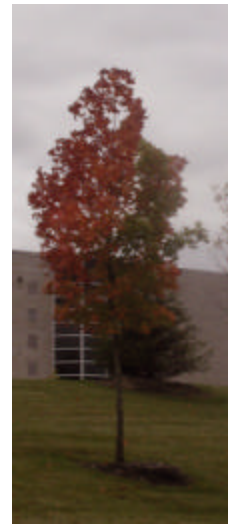
Good parts of the day... still some pretty wild flowers, trees are turning red, weather is still warm, I'm alive!

DAY 59 Sutton Falls CG {West Sutton} Mass to Del Aire CG Connecticut

Wednesday September 16/09

D76.49km A14.24 M50.61 PT5h22 TT6 h OD 4016km

What a day today was... up up and down down... some really nice ones as you can see the max was over 50kph.



We headed off on Adventure cycle route . Got a surprise in Dudley was a beautiful campus.. Nichols college, all brick buildings with lots of green space between but no students to be seen at 0930. No restaurants for miles and miles, entered Connecticut at Quinebaug north of Woodstock... still no services.... Continued on over the rivers, thru the woods and up the hills we went.... Until 58km we found Stafford Springs a really neat town nestled at the bottom of a huge hill.... A really nice pub/restaurant Zona's... the best home made veggie burgers.... Yumm... we sat there quite a while just resting and debating what to do as no accommodation in town, so hit the grocery store and the waitress suggested we take 190 and 30 instead of 140 which would be more hills... she drew us a map to the campsite via that route, but locals never know the names of roads and there were no signs so we put on an extra 5k going around in circles... got to the CG before the rain... which hasn't happened as yet{2030}.

Interesting family in CG here moved from Oregon... came to visit the husbands Mom who is in a nursing home... they have 3 children {7, 10, 13 maybe} all not in school... Mom says they are home schooling them ... I don't think much is being done , they are living in a tent, Homeless as she says.. the Lord will provide.... Makes you wonder how many kids are slipping thru the cracks like this... who is accountable... Mom's a bit of a nut and Dad isn't any better and they don't talk to each other except thru the kids... he said they lived outside Pleublo Colorado {we were there last yr} very poor area... they lived on the cycle route and he said they fed many a cyclist... they have very little, but he offered to make us supper! They said the CG is letting them stay for 3 nights and then they must move on... south to warmer weather... sad in some ways, but in others they are really seeing their county. Not many kids can say they traveled their entire county. Our Quinn is starting Nursery School next week!

Cooling off, but the black flies must be immune to the cold!

Looking at the rest of the trip... 5 days of cycling left... went by way too fast! Over the 4000km mark.



I love the woodwork .

DAY 60 Del Aire CG to Pleasant Valley Connecticut

American Legion Forest CG

Thursday September 17/09

D70.42km A14.33 M47.05 PT5h TT8h OD 4086km

Oh man what a night! I can't hardly put it into words.... Religion can really be a mistake for some people. She did something to tick him off or he just went off and he wouldn't let her into the van until she walked... in the pitch dark around the CG 5 times for her sins.... He kept berating the children and warning them if they let her in the van they could not go visit someone.... His brother? This went on until 2330 when I had finally had it and yelled out.."Can we go to sleep now?" suddenly silence and the yelling and lecturing stopped and we slept. This woman was incredible... did as we all would have... apologized for him, but when I told her not to do that I got the lecture on God's will. The world is made up of all kinds, but she thinks keeping those girls 24 x 7 by that man with no friends or other adult input is the way to do it.... I would have dumped him long ago... she is the classic abused woman. Felt we should help her, but she didn't think she was having any troubles. Would be interesting to know what these 3 girls end up doing in their lives. I felt bad for a elderly man in a site across the way from them as he yell "shut-up" at one point with no effect about 10pm.... We were not wanting to interfer as you don't know what the guy might do...

Anyways tried to help her to no avail so we headed off [5C = 40F] to Ellington and East Windsor. Usual pancake stop and off again warming up rapidly to 20C. Was a great ride thru fields of corn, tobacco, veggies... mostly flattish valley to Granby then the hills started. It was cloudy most of the day and we thought we could go to a motel, but none on our route... tried to phone the Country 44 Motel by Pleasant Valley, but no answer... up up up out of Granby to 219 then a awesome down down down into Pleasant Valley. The day was long mostly because we stopped for almost 2 hours in Granby and lucky thing as we found out no groceries in Pleasant Valley, so shopped for food and were off.



Tobacco field with drying tobacco in a interesting shed that every second board opens up for air.

This CG is a government forest site with showers and flush toilets. She gave us a site with a shelter so we put the tent up inside it.. maybe no dew tomorrow. There is a momma bear and 2 cubs that have been in the dumpster area, so we put our food up a tree, not high enough for my liking, but better than in the tent... why don't they make an effort to have a bear pole or some safe site for us. Lots of people in tents. This CG if full every weekend all summer. Feels like camping with no permanents. Wonderful. [\$21]



We are 3 days ahead and so we decided we would look into going south at Poughkeepsie to where the Jurscke [original Yerex's] who came to New Amsterdam lived in Tarrytown and North Castle , NY. Will decide for sure in the next couple of days.

DAY 61 Pleasant Valley to Amenia NY

Friday September 18/09

D71.98km A14.68 M45.12 PT5h TT8h OD 4158km

Well had a great night in a shelter at the State Park with no dew in the morning... 5C so almost frost! Never saw the Momma + cubs. We were toasty warm overnight, but it was really difficult to get Ken up and going at that temp. In tent it was at least 10 degrees higher. Off by 8:30 with difficulty taking off my toque! <10kph hill right off the bat... Ripley Hill.. should have known. That got rid of the cold hands!



Hwy 44 great shoulder mostly with great downhills after climbing to 1040ft. Acreages all along the route... "Our home in the Hamptons" Stopped in Norfolk at a Hot Dog stand in a yard... we bought pop and had our own picnic lunch... Population 1600 but in summer she said up to 7000 so lots of summer homes. 8% grind up and out of town... Entered NY to Millerton and decided to take a Rail-Trail that is paved to Amenia 10miles by road 8by trail and FLAT! We are going to head off route and go see Tarrytown and the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery where Johannes Jurckse is supposedly. We are getting good at changing the route... will see if we are happy with our changes after tomorrows route on hwy 22 straight for NY city!



Trail

Now if that isn't a stupid thing.... Covered a cell tower with fake tree limbs to think it would blend in? Incredible!

Trees are changing more each day... really helps to wear tinted sunglasses to make the colors even brighter! Once again no choice in motels so The Willow is our only choice which is a little old and over priced \$78.... No TUB! But it won't be so hard to get up and go tomorrow.





DAY 62 Amenia NY to Armonk

Saturday September 19/09

D 104.81km A14.74 M 44.67 PT7h TT10h OD 4263km

Sun rise 6:41 set 6:45.... Not leaving much time to cycle over 100km if leave at 8am. Decided as it was COOL again overnight and we are headed into the suburbs of New York city that hotels are in order for the last week. The Taconic Pkwy #44 is thru the Valley and we took #22 which stayed along the hills so a difficult day. It had a shoulder in the morning and if you follow the 22 signs it is easier than the road names as a lot have no signage as it twists and turns thru the villages. Going along past acreage after acreage... not what we think of as an acreage... more estates with stone fences and gates and winding drives to large homes. This is a very affluent area. Got up to 74F during the day which was hot enough in the hills. Headed for Armonk which is North Castle we thought.... As it turns out the town of North Castle really is the affluent area of the country side and they share a city hall with Armonk, but there apparently really is no "main street" any longer of North Castle. The La Quinta Hotel [\$99] is in a business park so no restaurants near by nor stores. We had stopped for some provisions in a spot along the way and we were so tired that by 1930 I was falling asleep and dreaming of flat roads! We have no address for the Isaac "Yerex" relative who farmed here prior the American Revolution so just looking at the country side. Apparently west of there is more flat lands, but they have built hydro dams and flooded a lot of farm land so who knows where it might be.



Another Ski Hill



Proof that there is North Castle Town since 1736

DAY 63 Armonk to Elmsford NY

Sunday September 20/09

D36.55km A12.54 M 37.91 PT2h 54 T all day see sights OD 4300km

Set off from the hotel after waffle breakfast at 5C !!! and the sun had been up for a couple of hours! Fall is in the air! Our destination today was to go to the Old Dutch Church and cemetery at Sleepy Hollow where Isaac Yerex's father is supposedly buried. The route we took was on hwy 22 again for short ride and 120 to Bear Ridge [Hill] then Broadway to Bedford to Sleepy Hollow.... Not a flat country, but not too far.



Revolutionary War Veteran

1724 - 1798



At the top is a Soul effigy

In Memory of

John Yurks

Who died October 3, 1798

In the 74th Year

Of his age.

Reader behold as you pass by

As you are now so once was I

As I am now so you must be

Prepare for death & follow me

We had seen on the internet the location of “John Yurks” grave who was a veteran of the American army and was born we think Johannes Jurchske , died March 3, 1798, brother to Isaac I who moved to Canada as a “Empire Loyalist”. This is not on the family information. The family info states that his father , with the same name, is buried here, which still might be the case. They had a practise of burning the grave yards in the 1600 and if they had a wooden marker it was lost and the same for some of the stones. I have a article written in 1926 that was to document all those known to be buried here... he is mentioned as the father of “JohnYurks”, but not that they know he is buried here.

John’s wife Susanna is beside him:

In Memory of Susanna the Widow of John Yurks. She died October 1, 1806.
In the 80th year of her Age.

Time was she liv’d

And time shall be,

When others thus may stand,

And look at thee.

We took a tour which was interesting in that the guide{William Lent} has lived here all his life and has seen many changes in the area. Apparently there is a rift between the Nonsectarian burying grounds of Sleepy Hollow [1849: www.sleepyhollowcemetery.org 914-631-0081]and this 3 acre piece owned by the Dutch Reformed Church of Tarrytowns [914-631-4497 www.rctodc.org . This area was owned in the 1700 by a man Frederick Philipse, a Dutch carpenter, who purchased the Pocantico River Valley from the Indians in 1680 {Manhattan to the Croton River and



Hudson to Bronx River} and became the wealthiest man of his time. When New Netherlands transformed to New York, Philipse swore allegiance to the British crown and established the Upper Mills as a depot for shipping and a huge farming area. The church was built in 1685, but it is thought that burials started in 1645 in this area. During the American Revolution his grandson sided with the British and fled to England. His holdings were confiscated and sold mostly to former tenants. The church was sold to the congregation. There are many grave stones written on in Dutch. There is a lot more to note, but I will include it later. The stones were really interesting and I bought a book that is about them. The writer of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" wrote his story based on people in this cemetery and he is himself buried here. We should have read the book before as a lot of the stuff in the tour was to do with that and not what we were really interested in.

The church is interesting in itself. It is the Oldest standing Church in New York. It has there is a crypt underneath the Alter that hold about 20 persons including the original Philipse and 2 wives, 2 unmarried sons and children. It has been opened several times the last time when the roof leaked and work on the rotting floors had to be done. Mr Lent [guide] went in a took photos which he has not shared with anyone as he would like credit for his information gleaned over the years. I think he would like to do a book and he has a lot of animosity towards ie Readers Digest who want to write a story from his info, but no pay him I suppose. Anyways the church is a stone structure with a wooden roof that looks from the inside like a upside down boat. There were 7 windows and a door making 8 entrances.... He repeated this several times... must ask Margaret if there is any significant to that. The windows are clear glass and can be opened wide for ventilation. He did relate the structure to things in the Bible and also changes ie the choir loft being removed that is spoken of in the "story" He did say that a lot of what Disney did was changes to the original story and that the writer used sometimes 2 persons to make one character.



The stones are interesting as they vary from ornate to plain rocks. There was one fellow that did all the "script" on the stones and he must have been very talented to make such intricate marks with a chisel and hammer and not chip off pieces. The oldest stones are sandstone and they are the hardest to preserve. There is a special stick by all the stones with Dutch writings and then by the ones who were Veterans of the American Revolution. There is a flag and a marker beside John Yurks stone. This must have made a rift in their family with one brother a British supporter and one an American. If some family still want to bury a member here they have to have the grave hand dug, probed and x-rayed to see if there is any remains in that spot already. It is very costly so there are very few newer stones.



We headed off from there to another La Quinta [\$109] in Elmsford... up over another big hill. It is really interesting there are a huge number of expensive hotels in this area...?why There are many touristy things to do like visit the Philipse Manor, some museums, and just the Hudson River is pretty impressive in itself. We washed our clothes at a laundry and this showed us the huge gap in haves and have-nots.



church key

DAY 64 Elmsford NY to Newark, New Jersey

Monday September 21/09

D 24.34km A9.62 M 35.47 PT2h31 TT7h OD 4324km

Where do we start remembering today.... We left the hotel in Elmsford and headed to Tarrytown for a look around . We went to the chamber of Commerce, but the oldest in town building is from 1885, probably the Music Hall.



Then off on Hwy 9 to Dobbs Ferry [20km 1h46 11/35.47] to a old cemetery there.... We stopped here on suggestion off a fellow from Sleepy Hollow Cemetery as Johannes Jurckse born ~1653 is noted as died here in 1701, but no cemetery noted. The stones are not very legible and the cemetery is in disrepair. The church next door is Lutheran and a newer church that is not affiliated with this cemetery. We went to the town hall and they suggested the Historical society. The Historical society was not open so will have to do some research to see if any records for that cemetery as no church left. [#13 Elm St , Yellow house, Historical Society, Dobbs Ferry, NY]



Headed off for the train and the adventure got a little more exciting. The train runs all the along the Hudson river.

We took the Metro North Hudson line train[\$7.50 ea cheap] from Dobbs ferry to Grand Central Station [had to stand and hold our bikes as didn't get on a wheelchair access!] where we road out on the street with the yellow cabs, trucks, people and bikes all the way to Penn Station... now that was exciting at noon time. [Parc Ave to 7th= 4 long blocks on 42st, then 10 blocks on 7th to 32st] The cabs honk if you leave 2 feet in front of you ... they don't want anyone else to cut in! The cyclists just wiggle woggle thru the cabs and trucks and buses . They were all going about 10kmph so not too bad until a fire truck and police wanted to get down the totally jammed road. We were a topic of conversation for many a pedestrian.. they gave us lots of room!





The station is w/c accessible via elevators going only one level at a time. You buy your ticket [\$5.50 to Newark station] and then when the train comes in it posts the track to go to... you have about 10 minutes to take several elevators to get to the track you need... with a loaded bike not so easy as we need 2 elevators! Got to track 13 and loaded with about 2 minutes to spare.... At least there is a place with flip seats to secure the bikes for the ride to Newark Airport train station...





Ken had googled to get to the street and to the Days INN... not so fast there is no street access... we were in the middle of numerous train tracks... something to do with airport security? So you would have to take the skytrain to a station over the road, for \$10 each just to get to a road or we should have stayed on to Elizabeth station and road back. Finally a fellow took pity on us... Lewie.... Told us to go to the end of the platform with track 5.... Go down a set of stairs to the track and jump the track with a loaded bike! and walk along the track about 100yards to a street access.... Well if I don't have a flat from that route... which was a "no access to the stairs" and a gate which looked locked wasn't.... incredible.... Not over yet... we cycled to the overpass he suggested, which was closed ,well to cars.... Thru the guard rails and over that to the Days Inn....

Interesting end to the day.

Oh could that be beat? We asked at the desk for a grocery, pub or somewhere to go in this mega road area... answer no places [restaurant in hotel] so us being us we went off walking back over the closed overpass as there was a golf course and park there... asked some housekeeping girls who only spoke Spanish or something... anyways found a nice little deli that made a great sub sand and a Dollar store with a security guard! And a liquor store who supplies 2 plastic glasses with your bottle of rum! I guess that's so we can sit in the park! Not a "nice" part of town after dark I am sure as the characters arriving around the stores at 5:30pm are looking a little shifty. Enjoyed the evening watching "Bones" and just relaxing in a king size bed about 2 feet on all sides bigger than our tent!

Anyways will take tomorrow off really and not even go into NY... just vegg.... Catch up on the news and then Wednesday take a bus or train in for a wander around if we can find the way.



Finally the Days Inn Newark

DAY 65 Newark, New Jersey

Tuesday September 22/09

D “0”k by bike ++ by foot OD 4324km



There is the airport just across the 5 freeways. Slept late.... 0630 just getting light and that is the time we must leave for the airport of Friday morning.. I can see the terminal we will need to be at. It is a busy drive.. the free shuttle can't take our bikes so... off we will go. Ken went to buy some boxes for our panniers at a rent a truck place. I am spending the morning updating the log and photos. Lazy day but hard to sit around and not cycle.

DAY 66 Newark, New Jersey

Wednesday September 23/09

To New York

DAY 67 Newark, New Jersey

Thursday September 24/09

DAY 68 Newark, New Jersey

Friday September 25/09

To airport at