

December 1996 Odyssey 2000[®] Rider Memo

Date: December 12, 1996
To: Odyssey 2000[®] Registered Riders
From: Tim Kneeland & Associates, Inc.
Re: Update on Odyssey 2000[®]

Happy holidays

From all of us at TK&A, we wish each of you a prosperous holiday season, and a new year filled with 3000 miles of enjoyable cycling.

Odyssey facts

- As of today, we have 333 folks registered, 63 more than we had when we wrote the June 10, 1996 Memo.
- A total of 58 registered riders have dropped from Odyssey so far. The reasons, of course, are as varied as the reasons for signing up. Many have cited finances, time conflicts, careers or a desire to pursue other activities.
- We're up to 52 couples and have 5 more men than women registered.
- The average 1/1/2000 age remains 48.
- We have 33 states, one US possession (Washington, DC) and 8 countries (US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Wales) represented on Odyssey 2000[®]. We will continue to accept international registrations (residents of other countries living in those countries) for a few months. Registration for Canadians will close with registrations for the USA.

How many are we going to register?

A very good question. Our goal is to take at least 250 riders on Odyssey 2000[®]. To-date, we have had a total of 390 people register since Dec., 1993. Odyssey's cancellation rate is understandably going to be higher than "normal" since it is still three years out and carries a strong financial and time commitment. Using our best calculations, we have decided to continue accepting Odyssey registrations until we reach about 375 on the active roster.

When will registration close?

We are estimating Jan., 1997. When all is said and done with the January annual payments, we will have a much better feel for the expected attrition between now and 2000.

Will these folks be guaranteed a spot on Odyssey?

Yes. If we accept a person's registration and deposit, we will guarantee them a space on Odyssey 2000[®].

Will we go with more than 250?

Yes. If we over estimate the expected attrition rate and end up with, say, 275, we will go with the 275. Having more than 250 is better for Odyssey than having fewer than 250 people.

Will there also be a waiting list?

Yes. After the registration for Odyssey officially closes, we will allow interested potential Odyssey 2000[®] riders to be placed on a first-come first-served waiting list. There will be a small fee for reserving a wait-listed spot and an annual fee to maintain it.

Will there be another Odyssey?

Karen-Ann and I have discussed this many times. Though the cost will undoubtedly increase, we are seriously considering producing Odyssey 2003[®] and Odyssey 2006[®]. Though not inaugural and millennium rides, they will be similar to Odyssey 2000[®] in most regards.

We believe the Odyssey 2000[®] group will clearly be the lucky ones. There will only be one millennium in our lifetime and only a small group of 284 riders and staff will be participating in Odyssey 2000[®]. And, from all the feedback we've received, Odyssey has the potential to be among the very best of all the millennium events produced worldwide.

Yearly payments due in January

Please remember in January (postmarked on or before February 1, 1997) you are required to make your yearly Odyssey 2000[®] payment. Here are the specifics based on the year you registered:

<u>Reg. Year</u>	<u>Full Cost</u>	<u>Discount</u>	<u>Your Cost</u>	<u>Yearly Payment Due</u>
1993	\$36,000	\$7,000	\$29,000	\$1,100
1994	\$36,000	\$6,000	\$30,000	\$1,375
1995	\$36,000	\$5,000	\$31,000	\$1,833
1996	\$36,000	\$4,000	\$32,000	\$2,750

One of the conditions for the discount you received, of course, is that you make your payments on time for the full amount due.

Please review your "*Fees and Payments for Odyssey 2000[®]*" for all the specific information. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us a 1-800-433-0528.

What happens if I'm late?

This year, as in the past, we are offering a one month grace period for a additional cost of \$250. This is equal to forfeiting 1/4 of one year's equivalent discount. So, if you can't make your payment in January but can between Feb. 2 to Feb. 28, simply add \$250 to your payment, i.e. your \$1833 payment becomes \$2083.

What happens if I can't make my payment in January? Or at all?

Unfortunately, you will lose your spot on Odyssey 2000[®]. It simply isn't fair for TK&A to financially subsidize a rider, especially considering that most Odyssey cyclists are not independently wealthy and are sacrificing a good deal to meet their financial obligations. It is very important to arrange your financial life to enable you to make all your yearly payments in a timely manner.

Can I pay my payment early?

Yes. If it is beneficial to you, please feel free to make your payment in December.

Final 1999 final payment

TK&A has a strong desire to avoid any surprises in 1999 from folks who are unable to participate in Odyssey because they can't make their final payment. We are sure most people can appreciate the financial impact a quarter million dollar shortfall would have on Odyssey. Though Odyssey would run without a hitch, it is a substantial amount of money for TK&A to lose.

If for some reason you feel you won't be able to make your 1999 payment, please let us know as soon as possible. We really appreciate everyone's cooperation in this very sensitive area.

Keep us informed

Please let us know if you are going to or think you might cancel. If you are due a refund, drop us a note or email your intentions. If you are uncertain about your ability to continue, please let us know. After all, we might have an idea or two for you to consider.

TK&A events and flyers

Enclosed is information on TK&A's upcoming events.

1. **Wheeling Hawaii I™** (April 6 to 12). Guaranteed to be a cure for cabin fever caused by the long winter gray months. Circumnavigate 256 miles on the "Big Island" of Hawaii. Cycle, swim, snorkel, hike, explore and enjoy 7 care-free sunny days of paradise.

2. **Coast to Coast Bicycle Classic™** (June 16 to August 2). The Coast to Coast Bicycle Classic™ is a "cyclist's dream." Since 1987, over 1100 individuals have made their dream of crossing America a reality with TK&A. After 3 mountain ranges, 12 states, 3450 miles, 48 days, dozens of new friends and countless adventures, the CTC will be remembered as one of the most powerful experiences of your life. You will have earned braggin' rights and the best level of fitness you have ever achieved.
3. **Courage Classic™** (August 23 to 25). This is the fundraising ride to do. Enjoy *Washington State's Best Weekend Ride Ever...Guaranteed!* and have the time of your life. In three days, pedal 172 miles over 3 central Cascade Mountain passes; enjoy 7 huge, delicious meals; 9 fully stocked rider service centers; the very pleasant company of 450 fellow cyclists; and know that you helped curb the devastating effects of child sexual assault. The Courage Classic is a special event fundraiser of Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma, WA.
4. **Wheeling Washington IV™** (September 7 to 13). A repeat of our very popular WWIII™, our most popular Wheeling Washington ever. This incredibly beautiful international route begins in Seattle and finishes in Long Beach, WA., with overnights in Pt. Townsend, Orcas Island, Victoria (CANADA), Forks, Lake Quinault and Westport. A great way to see the best Washington state has to offer.
5. **Southern Cross Bicycle Classic™** (April 20 to June 6, 1998). Many feel this is the best route for crossing America. The terrain, vegetation, topography, weather, services, people and cultures vary from day to day. After 48 days, 3195 miles of exciting pedaling, 8 states, spectacular scenery, a great tan, braggin' rights, and scores of unforgettable adventures, Southern Cross cyclists arrive for a victory celebration at Walt Disney World Resort.

TK&A's web page

We will be updating our web page very soon. Don't forget to look at <http://www.kneeland.com/timtka/> or <http://odyssey200otka.com/timtka/>.

1997 calendar

Check your mailboxes in early January for our brand new brochure and 1997 calendar. Hope you'll like it as much as we do. Please ask any friends who would like a copy to give us a call. If you'd like to drop a few at your club or bike shop, please let us know.

Summer of 96 Odyssey travels

Last July, Karen-Ann and I spent 3-1/2 weeks scouting out potential Odyssey routes in Europe. We had an extremely successful journey, covering more than 5,000 miles through 10 different countries. As we traveled, we documented nearly every turn made on our trusty Mac laptop. Some of this work will end being published as DRGs (Daily Route Guides) and used during Odyssey.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has a population about 1/3 of the US and is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Great Britain refers to the island containing England, Wales and Scotland. Ireland is an entirely separate nation, gaining independence in 1922.

Our first stop after leaving Gatwick Airport (south of London) was in Manchester, England, to spend the night with a vet of our 1995 Coast to Coast Bicycle Classic™. Two other vets and their wives joined us for dinner...it was super evening.

While in Europe, we had hoped to checkout coastal routes in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Two weeks before we arrived, however, the IRA (Irish Republican Army) set off a bomb in Manchester, breaking a very hopeful truce. To mitigate our obvious concerns, folks in England continually reassured us that Northern Ireland was a safe place to visit and tourists were never targets of terrorism. Well, as the week continued, tensions grew in Belfast and a bomb finally exploded, creating significant turmoil. Needless to say, Karen-Ann and I decided to postpone our visit to give Northern Ireland and England additional time to iron out their differences.

Terrorism

Terrorism has surfaced in discussions at TK&A several times. Obviously, we will use reasonable measures (we are not planning to use guards or the military for security) to avoid becoming targets of terrorist activities. If a country appears too risky for travel we will try to avoid it. If the political climate deteriorates in one of Odyssey's scheduled countries, we will try to bypass it and spend the time in a more politically stable area.

As you are well aware, no one can guarantee an individual's safe passage to the local grocery store, let alone on a 20,000 mile bike trip around the world. Adventure travel has its risks. Odyssey is no exception.

dealing with the unknown-weather, terrain, cultures, beliefs, languages, dress, attitudes, unusual circumstances and variety of people.

England

We had great meetings with the CTC (Cycle Touring Club), John Potter of Bike Events in Bath, and others knowledgeable about cycling in Britain. Each offered their full support and the cooperation of their respective organizations. We also made excellent contacts at Greenwich (home of the Prime Meridian, Greenwich Mean Time and a focal point for millennium activities) in London. We believe Odyssey has a good chance of becoming part of their official millennium celebrations. We are planning 3 or 4 days off in London to take advantage of this phenomenal area.

The route we explored extends from Dover to Wales, including visits to Canterbury, London (Greenwich), Godalming (CTC headquarters), Salisbury, Stonehenge, Bath Upon Avon and Bristol. The people we met were very friendly and always hospitable.

The UK has an extremely active cycling community, yet doesn't have an abundance of bicycle lanes or routes. The roads in England vary from freeways (M roads) to narrow, one lane paved paths connecting farms and villages. We hope to include many miles of these tiny lanes on Odyssey. Overall, the English countryside we explored is flat to moderately hilly through lots gorgeous farmlands and picturesque villages.

Wales

We drove 260 miles in Wales, from the Severn River to Hollyhead, the main ferry terminal to Dublin, Ireland. The Welsh are friendly people and inhabit a remote, sparsely populated country. The terrain is memorable and quite challenging. Triple crank country, for sure. Narrow roads with some steep climbs and exhilarating descents are quite common throughout Wales.

Don't count on pronouncing city names based on your understanding of English. There are simply too many pronunciation mysteries to venture a proper guess.

Scotland

Since we chose to delay our visit to Ireland, we drove 360 miles on major thoroughfares from Hollyhead to Stanraer, Scotland, the main ferry terminal servicing Larne, Northern Ireland. From Stanraer, we drove up the coast then cut across the country to Edinburgh via Motherwell. Edinburgh is a wonderful city, worth an extra layover day or two for exploration.

From Edinburgh, we documented a 142 mile route to Newcastle, where we caught a 15 hour ferry to the Continent, landing in the Netherlands.

Netherlands

Commonly referred to as Holland (not technically correct, however), the Netherlands is a unique country with over half of its land below sea level. It has a population just over 15 million nestled in a country smaller than Vermont and New Hampshire combined. Its very dense population has made cycling and cycling facilities an extremely important part of its transportation system. In fact, you can find a connection of detached bike paths and signed bike routes between any two points in the Netherlands. Many intersections include regular street signs and a smaller set of bike route directional signs. Cycling is an integral part of nearly everyone's life in the Netherlands.

We drove to Groningen to begin documenting a likely Odyssey 2000[®] route from Delfzijl to Belgium along the North Sea. This coastal route covers 367 miles and goes through the heart of their very sophisticated dike/levee system. You can expect the flattest cycling the world has to offer.

Belgium

Karen-Ann and I documented a 252 mile route starting along the coast, then heading cross-country to Luxembourg via Brussels. Belgium is about 1-1/2 times the size of Massachusetts and supports a population of 10,000,000 people, 4 million more than Massachusetts.

Belgium is a beautiful country, flat in the west and rolling hills in the east. The northern (Flemish) people speak English and are easy to communicate with. The people in the south seem to prefer to speak french. Belgium doesn't share the same level of bike facilities as the Netherlands, but evidence of cycling friendliness is found throughout the country, as well as much of Europe.

Luxembourg

This is the third country of the Benelux nations, along with the Netherlands and Belgium. These three nations formed an economic and social alliance called the Benelux after World War II, the forerunner of the European Community.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a little smaller than Rhode Island, with less than 400,000 residents. It's a beautiful country with plenty of rolling hills and tree cover. We drove 72 miles and will probably use at least half the route we documented.

Germany

Germany is one of the world's great economic powers. It has a population of 80 million people concentrated into an area 20,000 square miles smaller than California. The landscape is varied and beautiful.

From Luxembourg, we designed a route to Darmstadt, just south of Frankfurt. Then we made our way down the Rhine River, through the Gates of Deutches Strasse, Germany's famous wine country. The route crossed the French border several times. By the time we reached Switzerland, we had logged 221 miles in Germany.

Switzerland

What a great country. Switzerland has nearly 7,000,000 people in an area the size of Ohio. Its natural beauty is legendary. Its terrain is quite varied, though quite topographic. Switzerland is made up of huge lakes, manicured farm lands, rolling hills, Sub-Alps and, of course, the Alps. Magnificent!

Our travels took us to Bern, Geneva, through the Alps at Grimselpass (2165 meters/6712 feet) and into the famous city of Zürich. We drove a total of 532 miles to the Austrian border. We met a number of cyclists crossing the Alps on weekend outings, just pedaling to the summits for exercise, enjoyment, views and braggin' rights. Much of what we saw will be included in Odyssey's route.

Karen-Ann and I had the good fortune of spending some quality time with all three of our Swiss Odyssey 2000® registrants.

Liechtenstein

Sixty-two square miles and 30,000 people make up this Principality, one of the smallest and richest countries in the world. We traversed this beautiful countryside a grand total of 8 miles to the Austrian border. Liechtenstein is in an ideal setting, with mountains everywhere.

Austria

The beauty of Austria was made even more famous by the Sound of Music, and we anticipate quite a lot of singing from our group. About 8 million live in an area the size of Utah.

Because time was running short, we limited our easterly travels to Innsbruck before heading north to Munich, Germany. It was a gorgeous 150 mile drive.

Return to England

We spent the night in Munich and then drove to Calais, France to catch the ferry back to Dover. The return drive of 840 miles included 615 miles on France's very expensive tollways (around \$150). The ride, though long, was very scenic, crossing mostly agricultural areas.

Crossing borders

The formation of the European Community (EC) has had a dramatic affect on travel between EC countries. Today, crossing from one European country to the next is almost seamless, except for the former Soviet Block Nations. We didn't need any visas for this trip, and our passports were only checked when we arrived in England, when we crossed the English Channel to the Netherlands, once in Germany, at the Swiss border (mostly to check that we had purchased a freeway access tax sticker), when we returned to England, and in Detroit, USA. There was still plenty of evidence of a much more restricted past, however; many empty old border crossing booths.

We're off

Karen-Ann and I are leaving for Hawaii tomorrow to do some logistical work on Wheeling Hawaii I™. On Sunday, it's off to Australia to document our route from Canberra to Sydney for our visit to the Olympics. Then we fly to the Great Barrier Reef to design the route from Cairnes to Townsville.

Questions?

As always, please feel free to call TK&A at 1-800-422-0528 or (206) 222-4102 with any questions, ideas or