



At age 68, Jeanne Powers of Haslett, Mich., is riding from Los Angeles to Boston in hopes of raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Powers has finished a marathon and many 5K and 10K races, as well as two sprint triathlons, but she said bicycling is her first love. "I've done a number of bicycle tours, including the Great Mississippi Ride in 2008 and the Ride around Lake Michigan in 2001," she said. She admits, however, her latest conquest will be a "big challenge." Courtesy photo

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times The winds of Wednesday had eased slightly by Thursday, and with that gradual deduction in speed, a group of cyclists made their way into Liberal. Among the group from CrossRoads Cycling Adventures was a 68-year-old Michigan rider making her way from California to Massachusetts as part of a 3,400-mile trek to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis and money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Jeanne Powers left Los Angeles on May 12, and she plans to arrive in Boston on June 28. She said while many of her fellow riders are also fundraising, all such efforts are made by each individual on their own part.

"It's a commercial tour," she said. "You sign up for it. You pay for it. If you want to do fundraising on the side, you do."



What is cystic fibrosis?

Cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States and 70,000 worldwide. A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

In the 1950s, few children with cystic fibrosis lived to attend elementary school. Today, advances in research and medical treatments have further enhanced and extended life for children and adults with CF. Many people with the disease can now expect to live into their 30s, 40s and beyond.

Source – www.jpssideforcf.com