

We did it! With your contributions, I was the top fund-raiser of 2003, with \$10,570 raised. The MS chapter gives out bib numbers in order of money raised the previous year. So, I had bib number 1 this year. I received numerous comments from MS staff, board members, volunteers, and people on the road. A few examples:

- Number one? Right on, dude.
- How much did you raise to get number 1? My answer: over ten thousand dollars through the contributions of many family, friends, and co-workers
- Thank you so much for your support (from Julie Thomas, the president of the Northern California MS chapter).

This year, your contributions and matching funds totalled \$13,600. That put me in the category of one of the top fund-raisers for 2004 in Northern California and the country. I want to thank all of the people who made contributions, as well as matching funds from Adobe for employee contributions.



This year was a family affair. Ann volunteered on Friday evening and at a rest stop at 70 miles on Saturday. Her major discovery of the day was that it was long hard work, but the riders passing through showed their appreciation.

I accomplished my goal of riding 215 miles over two days. This ride could not have been more different than the preceding year. Last year, Saturday was 104 degrees in the shade. This year, the high temperature was in the mid-70s. Last year the air was still. This year, there were winds of 20+ miles per hour for most of the afternoon on both days, and they always seemed to be headwinds. The great debate of the day was "which was worse... Last year's heat or these winds?" After much debate, people

settled on last year's heat being worse, but it was a close race.

Sunday was its own unique experience. The original weather forecast had said showers, and then backed off to "partly cloudy." They were wrong. When I walked out of my motel room at the Sandman Inn at 6:15, there were a few drops of rain coming down. By the time my bagel was toasted, the rain was coming down by the buckets. It finally let up around 7:15. But, by this time, many people decided that this was not their day for riding (they had brought no rain gear, because we all know that it doesn't start raining again in California until November). After an hour and a half of light rain and wet roads, the day turned out to be quite delightful (partly cloudy, not too hot, gentle breezes). The winds did pick up to around 15 later in the afternoon. The vineyards were beautiful, and the grapes were still maturing on the vine. As the day wore on, the winds picked up, but was a great day for riding.



I recognized some of the people from last year (the person with MS who did the ride on the back of a tandem, with her crutches strapped to a rack on the bike). One interesting person was the rider in the blue jersey on the left. He had the phrase "MS Sucks" tattooed on his left calf. When I talked to him at a rest stop, he told me that he was just diagnosed with MS in the past year (he had run into a tree while biking; his explanation was "I started having double vision, saw two trees and picked the wrong one to avoid."). He had a great attitude; "No, my life has not ended. Treatments are becoming quite advanced, and I still do these rides because I can. I will be getting a new tattoo on the right leg, which will be "Life is Good.""

As opposed to last year, I had little soreness afterwards. The picture on the right is me, in the jersey for major fund-raisers, with my folding BikeFriday, at the end of the ride. That was a good thing, since one week later I did a 420 mile bike ride on route 50 across northern Nevada, called OATBRAN. More pictures are also on my web site.

Team Adobe had its kickoff year, and we have lots of room to grow. There were two people on the team - Don Cutbirth and me. Some teams, such as Citibank and Tivo, had 49 and 20 members respectively, doing anywhere from 50 miles one day to 100 miles each day. There were 48 teams, and over \$470,000 of the \$765,000 total was raised by teams. There were a total of 1,114 riders.

You can see more pictures at <http://www.pagerforever.com/ms>

Thank you again for your support.



Charles Mypre



2004 MS Waves to Wine

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Charles Myers
121 Albert Court
Los Gatos, CA 95032