

Record-Journal

Brothers biking 15,000 miles for mom, cancer cure

Pair passed through
Ferndale Saturday

Calvin Bratt
for the RecordJournal

A jaunt down Portal Way maybe can't compare to outracing a grizzly in Alaska, but every mile counts for Mike and John Logsdon in their riding campaign across two continents — for a heartfelt cause.

The brothers rolled through Ferndale Saturday on their 120-mile leg from Vancouver, B.C., through Bellingham, and on to south Seattle on Sunday.

John, 26, and Mike, 24, started out July 26 in frigid winds on the oil fields of far northern Alaska, and their destination is the southernmost tip of Argentina. They've allowed themselves 10 months to make the 15,000-mile trek that they've termed "Jean's Journey."

Their mother, Jean Logsdon,

died of a brain tumor in 1996 and this effort is for her. Along the route, in addition to the physical exertion, the brothers are talking to anyone willing to listen and urging donations to the National Brain Tumor Foundation.

"We always wanted to do something to honor our mother's memory and raise funds for the foundation," said Mike Logsdon from Seattle Monday, during a day off the road.

The two had each done a biking expedition before — John across the United States and Mike around Ireland — but never one together or this ambitious.

Physically, Mike said, they're doing pretty well as they try to average 70 to 80 miles per day. Their progress depends much on terrain and weather.

It didn't start so well. They had spent so much time planning

the logistics of the trip that they shortchanged their physical training, Mike admitted.

Nor did they expect to be pedaling suddenly to save their skins. Just one

MORE INFO
Donations: www.justgiving.com/pdp/jeansjourney, or by check to: National Brain Tumor Foundation, 22 Battery Street, Suite 612, San Francisco, CA 94111-5520.

got as close as 100 yards as it alternately stopped to sniff for their scent and then charge a bit more, he said.

The first 500 miles were all on gravel road, so they didn't make good speed. Worse, John Logsdon sustained a knee injury, so the brothers had to halt for two weeks in Fairbanks for physical therapy and healing.

They've become intimately familiar with the ribbons of highway stretching out before them —

and their names: Dalton, Alaska, Cassiar and Yellowhead. They picked up highway 99 in lower British Columbia and now they take side roads meandering along the Interstate 5 corridor.

As often as they can, they talk to people, including reporters, and they're encouraged by the response.

"We have literally met hundreds of people who have been affected directly or indirectly through family and friends by brain tumors," Mike Logsdon said.

Donations may be made on the website www.justgiving.com/pdp/jeansjourney. All gifts go entirely and directly to the National Brain Tumor Foundation.

Their trip is fully self-supplied, with help for the food, clothing, bikes and camping gear from Cannondale, Cliff Bar and Mountain Hardware.

BIKE RIDE: Brothers going from Alaska to Argentina

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They mostly camp each night, but of course eagerly stay with friends or in motels when they get the chance.

They will stay longer in any spot – “as long as it takes to get the job done” – and lengthen their trip if necessary to spread the word about battling brain cancer, he said.

Mike left a job with an environmental group in Atlanta, while John works for the United Nations in Mongolia and Nepal. Their family home was San Francisco. Neither has been in South America before.

Interestingly, the Logsdon

brothers have encountered another pair of fellows on the same route as themselves, Alaska to Argentina, only doing it for a diabetes charity.

“It’s a lot of fun. We connect up with them and ride with them now and then, compare stories,” Mike said.

Stories and progress updates from along Jean’s Journey may be posted on the link named either <racinahead> or <spinningsouthward> off the <braintumor.org> Web site.

The brothers had a Webmaster all set up and arranged, but unexpectedly lost him to a job offer.