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'burg Blogs : 2012 : 06 : 29 : Geographic Ambitions

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'burg Blogs »

Geographic Ambitions

Posted [June 29, 2012](#) at 10:05 am by [Zach Westmark '12](#)



Tentative Route via Adventure Cycling Route Network

After graduation, I will be spending some time job seeking in the NW United States. I'd like to seek some adventure before settling in, so I hope to get there on my **bicycle**. If finances do not work out, I may wind up flying out there and taking a shorter bicycle tour; perhaps along the Pacific Coast route.

Why?

Let's just say: riding a motorcycle from FL to Washington State is a real teaser.



Camp in Deer Lodge, MT

USF St. Petersburg equipped me with a priceless quiver of knowledge and experiences. Traveling on a bicycle will afford plenty of time to observe and ponder this country's spectacular hodgepodge of geographical phenomena and reflect on how they are related to concepts learned in the classroom. By blogging about it on the USFSP Web site, I hope to inspire current and prospective students to take genuine interest in the material they are learning.

Okay, the priceless quiver of knowledge did involve a price. My budget for this adventure is on the very cusp of insufficient. I seek to show that frugality can be quite fun and in the end, it may cost an arm and both of my legs. I hope you love bad jokes and puns.

Along the way, I hope to stop and meet:

- Graduates of USF St. Petersburg or USF Tampa
- Businesses, government, or any other organization with unique sustainability operations. I am especially interested in social sustainability. E.G. Bicycles for the disadvantaged, novel methods to increase bicycle ridership (can be technology like mobile apps,) community gardens, recycling campaigns, etc.
- Organizations that provide bicycling or community gardens to the disabled.
- Anyone else who pulls awesome stunts like: bike commutes long distances to work, [make artwork or useful items from garbage](#), rock climb, play banjo, play a banjo constructed from garbage, clog, swim in the Arctic, etc.

The Tentative Route

1: FL Heartland: September or October: St. Petersburg, FL > St. Augustine, FL. Just to get “in the mood.”

2: Through the Desert: The Northern Tier and Trans-America [Adventure Cycling](#) Routes are not recommended for Winter riding, so I either need to wait until next Spring or take the Southern Tier. I don't think I can wait until next Spring.

3. One good reason to ride the Southern Tier: A few years back, I picked up a gizmo designed to tote a surfboard on mopeds/motorcycles. It is one of my favorite gadgets. The same company also makes a version for bicycles that attaches to the seat post. How cool would it be to ride up the Pacific Coast Trail from San Diego to San Francisco and surf all of the great spots along the way?

About the blogger



Zachary Westmark is a USFSP graduate who loves puns. His last name affords a convenient connotation: his blog captures his attempt to migrate to the West coast of the USA while exploring culture, frugality, geography, physical exertion and sustainability - via long distance bicycle trek (peppered with other random tidbits).