

I'd like to comment about this year's new courses for the Great Maine Getaway. I have not ridden it but have seen the proposal for the various days' courses and am very pleased with the fact that the elevation gain is much less hilly as compared to our past years' rides and that a good section of the rides highlight some beautiful coastal views.

This can only encourage newer riders and those of less experience to try our ride. These factors should definitely be promoted and not hidden. After all, if we get more riders, this will raise more money for multiple sclerosis. I do believe this is the main reason we're doing the ride.

Roy D. Willey
MS cyclist for 28 years and counting.

Personally, the various routes for this year's MS Bike event at UNE are especially exciting. My younger sister was diagnosed with MS in 2008, which quickly motivated me to do my first MS Bike event for her in 2009. When I was diagnosed with MS in 2010, I promised to do all I could to accelerate my fundraising for an MS cure and became involved in several MS events. This will be my **5th** MS Bike ride!

Here is the exciting part for me....there will be a 25-mile ride on both days of the event. **Why is this so exciting?** The shorter distance rides will hopefully encourage beginner cyclists as well as young people and adults who never imagined they could bike 25-miles to be a part of the Great Maine Getaway. Equally important, the 25-mile rides will provide the opportunity for those struggling with MS and other disabilities to ride as well...we all have to move, move, move! **Why are we looking for new riders?** If we are going to find a cure for MS in my lifetime, we need to increase our participation with the inspiration to raise funds for much needed MS research. **Why should you join our quest?** We want you to be a part of a fun weekend, with great people, fabulous food, at a beautiful coastal venue, and to help us complete our mission to cure MS.

Donna McGrew
Captain
Cycling Friends Bike Team