

Hundreds of cyclists take part in 49th DALMAC



ANTRIM COUNTY, Mich. (WPBN/WGTU) -- The Cowbell rang and there were cheers Friday as hundreds of cyclists taking part in the 49th annual [Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw \(DALMAC\)](#) bicycle tour arrived at Elk Rapids High School.

About 460 cyclists pitched their tents at set up camp at the high school for the night.

Pete Zipple was one of them.

“I wanted to quit a couple of times but I never quit,” said Zipple. “We got all the way up to the bridge crossing and it started raining so we didn’t get to cross the bridge. So I had to do it next year.”

Pete Zipple reminisced about his first year riding his bicycle in the DALMAC 20 years ago and he’s been back every year since.

The route is what keeps him coming back.

“It’s gorgeous, especially this part of Michigan, the west side. Especially the tunnel of trees looking out over Lake Michigan, it’s gorgeous,” said Zipple.

Zipple along with hundreds of other cyclists start in Lansing and ride to Vestaberg, McBain, Elk Rapids, Petoskey, and Mackinaw City over the course of five days.

Zipple says the feeling of accomplishment when he gets to Mackinaw City has kept him coming back year after year.

“A lot of it’s up here. You just gotta say to yourself I’m not gonna quit. You keep going. You may not be the fastest biker in the world but you’ll still get there,” said Zipple.

Steven Leiby, the director for the DALMAC says most of the cyclists have taken part in the event before and it’s a bike ride that fosters connections.

“It’s a fun way to see Michigan, especially if you’re riding with friends,” said Leiby. “There’s a lot of comradely on the ride.”

As for Pete Zipple, he’s already thinking about next year.

“21 years. I can’t quit now. I’ve got too many friends on the ride,” said Zipple.

The cyclists head to Petoskey Saturday and finish in Mackinaw City on Sunday.

You can find out more about the [DALMAC on their website](#).