

Kathy's Watch Hill Ride

NOTE: This Ride Description and its corresponding Route Sheet may not have been checked for accuracy by the www.ctbikeroutes.org team

Total Distance: **42.6 miles**

Elevation Gain: **1716 feet**

Degree of Difficulty Index: **1716 ft / 42.6 mi = 40.28 ft/mi** Terrain: **Rolling**

Killer Hills: **One respectable hill ½ mile on Pequot Trail on the way out.**

Geographical Region: **Southeast Connecticut**

Starting Location (city/town): **Ledyard**

Starting Location (detailed directions to): **At the intersection of Routes 214 and 117 in Ledyard; park in the post office parking area**

Ride Description: **This is my favorite local ride! It features easy riding on shady back roads, although there are some sunny stretches that can be blistering on a hot day. You can run into some beach traffic on the Westerly-Watch Hill section of the ride and on Route 1, but you'll also catch a sea breeze. Stop at the Watch Hill beach—easy if you don't have a car to park—for a swim, then head to the Olympia Tea Room for clam chowder, lime rickeys and the world's best lobster rolls.**

Facilities and *Points of Interest*:

Mile	Facilities - <i>Points of Interest</i>
6.7	<i>At the top of Pequot Hill there's a pretty stone wall and shady tree—watch out for poison ivy! You will begin to smell the salt air as you head down the next stretch of road.</i>
17.3	<i>When you arrive at the Avondale island, take a 2 minute detour to see the Perennial Garden. Bear left, continuing about 0.1 mi. On your left, you'll see the garden (apparently the work of a private home owner). It's well maintained and shows different colors throughout the year. When you're done, head back the way you came to the island, and continue your ride.</i>
19.8	<i>You are riding the wrong way on a narrow one-way street. CAUTION!</i>
19.9	<i>This is a beautiful beach with a lifeguard, no parking, no facilities, and no waves—just swimming.</i>
20.7	<i>The Olympia Tea Room is in downtown Watch Hill, on your right. You can sit outside!</i>
32.5	<i>On your return trip, Al Harvey Road, with its stone walls and horse farms is among the most scenic of any we have traveled.</i>

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Ride description: **Wu-New036**

Route sheet: **RS-New036**

Ride submitted by: **Kathy Eldergill, 9/4/06 (updated 10/29/06)**