

### T-RAD Day 3 – Littleton to Barr Lake and Return June 13, 2020

The ride today for Ken was pretty emotional. The training ride on what I call Black Tuesday was in conjunction with leisurely conducted picture taking with Teddy and Freddy. So every time we passed one of the picture sites, a little wave of sadness washed over me. For the first time this year, the river was up and running. The river was so low the last time we were out that I was thinking of trying to have Teddy and Freddy on a rock in the middle. However, the river water guys opened the gates at Chatfield, and the river was running. So we started at the rapids running site – the Mary Carter Greenway Park/Peter Norwood Golf Instruction and Golf Course off of W Oxford Ave. Teddy and Freddy saw one of the rapid's sluices.



They decided to get a real close up of the rapid's sluice.





After they got back up on the bike path in the sluice overlook parking area, they noticed the Thistles with their appealingly beautiful blooms.



They then went past the Southwest Generation power plant, and Freddy saw that a car was about to go through the gate. He wanted to ask the driver if he and Teddy could have a photo op on the big piston steam engine, but could not react quickly enough to be able to gain access.

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They then eased on up to the Grant Frontier Park, where they sidled up to a hitching post. Teddy tried to be responsible and use his cape as a mask, but it would not stay put. Notice the (red) “saddlebag”, tossed there by Freddie as he disembarked from his ride. Teddy is already on his way to find some sarsaparilla. “Where are the reins to loop over the post so the ride won’t wander away?” – Freddie wondered.





T-RAD Day 3 – Littleton to Barr Lake and Return June 13, 2020

The hitching post was next to the Conestoga wagon. First check out the rear wheel,



then the driver's seat.



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When getting back to the hitching post, they encountered a frontier artifact. Teddy said “Sock it to me”





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At the north end of the Frontier Park, there is a tree sculpture in an area that also has tree stump and log furniture. Teddy and Freddy checked out the sculpture,





and the tree couch,



and the wooden steps cut directly into the log.





### T-RAD Day 3 – Littleton to Barr Lake and Return June 13, 2020

They then travelled north on the Mary Carter Greenway trail to Johnson Habitat Park. At the curve in the trail at W Exposition Ave and S Jason St, they discovered an advanced mode of transportation, and just had to experience sitting in the cockpit.



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Assembling themselves again, they proceeded north on what was now the Platte River Trail past LifeScape Associates (where Teddy wanted to see if they had a course in Spiritual Development to improve his lifescape). Passing up that photo op – maybe on the return going south - they next stopped at the Denver Animal Shelter, where there is a Big Silver Dog. First they sat on the front paw, discovering that the dog's skin was made up of stainless steel dog tags.





The dog is big.



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They found out the dog's name and who designed and built the sculpture.





The shelter is located at 1241 W Bayaud Ave.



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They then travelled north to discover Elitch Gardens Amusement Park and a big Roller coaster. They hung around and watched for any coaster rides, but found out that the park was closed.





There was a second coaster on the north end of the park.



It was between that point and REI that Freddy bailed out of the backpack because the bear and the horse were not strapped in for the short ride to REI. So this is the last picture in the current epoch of the two pals together. We had stopped at REI for a rest and some liquids; as we started to pack up to return home, Ken stopped, turned toward Teddy and me, and said, “Where is Freddie?” The world stopped. After an hour and a half of searching brush, weeds, river banks, streets – asking anyone who would take a minute to talk with us, we had to face the truth: Freddie was not to be found. We turned toward home with heavy hearts.

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Now for the Actual Ride on Day 3.

As we passed each of the photo locations on Day 3, the grief was acute. On the Day 3 ride, we did not make any of these stops. We met Jeff and Cathy at the Carson Nature Center near Aspen Grove, and pedaled straight up to REI. We re-checked the trail from the place where the backpack was hung up on the pole to the bridge across the Platte at Confluence Park and on to REI.

We took on liquid and did a photo op of the two-legged's,



From REI, we headed north toward Engineer Lake, about 7 miles away. For the entire ride from the start until we got back to REI on the return leg, Teddy did not get out of the backpack to do any photo ops.

We stayed on the Platte River Trail all the way up to 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue where we exited the trail for a side trip. We went east on 88<sup>th</sup> to Dahlia St and travelled south to get to the Broken Shovels Farm Sanctuary. The Sanctuary had horses, cows, sheep goats, lamas, and two turkeys with attitude – Claude and Celia.





Celia was making sure that we knew who was boss as she positively vibrated her fanned tail feathers while issuing directives to all in attendance.

We unwound the side trip, getting back on the trail. We rode up to 120<sup>th</sup> Parkway and turned east toward Barr Lake. We stopped at a Conoco – R & B Food & Gas, which had a car wash, the R&B Food convenience store, a liquor store and TailFeathers Bar. We were some 3.2 miles from the Nature Center at Barr Lake. The weather forecast for the day called for rain beginning at 3:00 pm. After some discussion, a consensus was reached that we should start the trip back in order to avoid getting soaked. So we did not make it to Barr Lake that day.



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The trip back was smooth and fast. We did stop again at the same picnic table as last week, the one next to the access bridge to Riverside Cemetery (one of the very first community cemeteries in Denver, and read up on the cemetery and on Burlington Ditch using the information signs. After hydrating and getting an energy bar, we headed back to REI.

We were cruising at just over the trail speed limit (15 mph) close to REI when Ken slammed on the brakes calling “Stopping” to warn Jeff and Cathy who were following. Ken had caught sight of Freddy’s helmet lying on the bike path! Jeff and Cathy pitched in to help with an area search, to no avail. The thinking (and Ken’s hope) is that someone has found Freddy, and has been carrying him with them as they travel the trails, looking for the Blue Tandem so that they can return Freddy to the guys that dropped him.

When we got to REI, finally Teddy got out of the backpack for a photo op with the team who had shown their true value in looking for Freddy.



We hydrated again, and headed the 13 miles back to Littleton center, 16 miles to Carson Center. We split up, Jeff and Cathy being interested in avoiding the weather. Ken and Judith and Teddy did go to Inside Scoop for a single and a double cup, and then on to home.

Teddy worked to create a photo where he is staring at Freddy's Helmet to help create a NEARLY LOST poster, since we want to believe that Freddy is alive and wondering around with caring strangers looking for the Blue Tandem.



The 2 legged's will now post a LOST poster for Freddy, and a NEARLY LOST poster in the REI area in the hopes that the person that had been caring for Freddy will give us a call and allow us to re-unite. This was done Saturday June 20 around Noon.

Teddy has also called in Freddy's Herd – clockwise from the left is Jack, Outlaw, Tola, Venus, and Blackjack.. Missing from the herd were Dallas, Butterscotch, Capitan, Diego, Piper Pony, Star, Scout, and Sprite Pony, all of whom could not make flight arrangements on such short

notice. This portion of the herd will deploy as necessary to help find Freddy and fill in until his return and keep the rest of the herd up to date.



The mileage for the trip on the tandem day was 65.79 miles. The weather was exceptional, the fellow riders were delightful, and we did not get rained on.

Will keep you posted about any response to the posters.

Teddy, Freddy, The Herd, Judith and Ken

Note: In the intervening days since Freddie was separated from his buddy (Teddy), the two-leggeds have received an amazing number of notes of concern and condolence from the two little furry fellows' large fan club. We appreciate all of the concern and well wishes – Freddie's entry into [first] the PFP RAGBRAI team in 2019 and [second] the T-RAD team in 2020, brought with it a whole new dimension to the long rides of these wonderful cycling days. While the increasing time since Freddie disappeared is probably not a good omen, we continue to be hopeful that Freddie may yet manage to make his way back to our little traveling band of wanderers.

Thank you for your wonderful support. Freddie stood tall for the cause, always ready to assist in explaining his and Teddy's roles in helping raise funding to assist both DPF and PFP continue the extremely important work they are doing daily on behalf of the Parkinson's community.