

## **THE WINE GLASS**

# *A Guide to the 2017 HBC New York Finger Lakes Trip*

### **The Finger Lakes Trip:**

The Finger Lakes Tour is turning into one of the highlights of the HBC. Each year is a little different as you explore the variety of rides and activities the area has to offer. The trips started when Marilyn Chastek, who once lived in the Rochester area, which is in the western part of Finger Lakes Region, wanted to share the beauty and great riding available in the area. In 2003 she began organizing trips for small groups to the Finger Lakes. They were such a success that she opened the trips up to all HBC members in 2008. There are more than 100 wineries located in the Finger Lakes Region, and as you tour the Finger Lakes you will find each of the lakes is unique and is named with a Native American word. Seneca Lake (place of the stone) is the deepest and widest of the Finger Lakes. It is 632 feet deep and its maximum width is 3 miles. Compare that to the lake in our Pinchot Park, which is 15 feet deep. For more go to [www.fingerlakes.org](http://www.fingerlakes.org) Use this newsletter as a guide when planning your trip.

**Contact:** Marilyn Chastek 717-798-4537 [mchastek2009@gmail.com](mailto:mchastek2009@gmail.com)

### **Date:**

This year's tour will take place Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup> – Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fees and Refunds:**

The cost of \$148.50 per HBC member covers 3 nights lodging (Thurs, Fri. & Sat.), 3 continental breakfasts, 3 evening socials, bed linens, a pillow and a towel. Anyone cancelling prior to May 20 will receive a full refund. Partial refunds **MAY** be given for cancellations received after May 20<sup>th</sup> if possible. A \$25 per person key deposit is due upon check-in. Please bring a check payable Harrisburg Bicycle Club. Additional nights may be available for \$37.50 per person per night. Contact Marilyn if interested.

### **Accommodations – the O'Dells:**

The O'Dell townhouses at Hobart-William Smith Colleges in Geneva are on the northern end of Seneca Lake. The townhouses and the barn sit around a pond, with a walking path along the pond's edge connecting them. All townhouses have 3 single bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, with a second bathroom downstairs. The 4 bedroom townhouses have an additional single bedroom downstairs, and the 5 bedroom townhouses have 2 additional bedrooms downstairs. It is possible, but not easy to move 2 single beds into one bedroom. If you do move the furniture make sure to return it to where you found it before departure. Each townhouse has the necessary college-dorm type bedroom furniture. There is also a small furnished living area and kitchen with a refrigerator and stove. Some rooms have microwaves. Please note that there is no coffeemaker, no cooking utensils, plates, flatware, cups or equipment in the kitchen. Wireless and wired connections are operational. *Room assignments will be sent via email by the end of May.*

### **The Barn:**

The red barn on the other side of the pond is really a recreation center with tables and lounge furniture. Our breakfasts and evening socials will take place there. Each morning at breakfast there will be a short meeting at 7:45 am to discuss plans for the day, get the weather forecast, announce ride leaders, and to exchange ideas and recommendations. All rides with leaders for that day will be posted on a whiteboard, so if you come after 7:45 a.m., you'll still be able to get that information. Please wear your nametags (provided) to all activities in the barn.

### **Breakfast and Meals:**

HWS is providing a continental breakfast in the barn for us each morning. The barn will be open and breakfast will be available between 7– 9 AM Friday – Sunday. The items will include: coffee, tea, orange and cranberry juice, 2% and fat-free milk, whole fresh fruit - apples, grapes and bananas, granola, raisin bran and yogurt, assorted bagels with cream cheese, peanut butter and jelly. Those who need additional protein may want to consider bringing your own hard-boiled eggs or other protein sources. You will be on your own for dinner and lunch. There are plenty of restaurants within 2 miles, and a Wegmans close by at 300 Hamilton St. in Geneva if you need to buy provisions. There is a deposit on cans and bottles in NY, so remember to return them to the store to receive your deposit back.

### **Evening Socials:**

Evening socials will take place in the barn from 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. Thursday will feature light munchies (BYOB) and Friday night is our ice cream social with ice cream and various toppings provided. Saturday night is our wine and cheese social with cheese, crackers and other snacks provided. BYOB and wine glasses. This year we have people coming from Virginia, West Virginia, Baltimore, Ohio and various parts of PA, including Lancaster and Pittsburgh. Be sure to mingle and get to know people besides the ones you came with. That's what makes this trip truly memorable.

### **Dinner at Belhurst Castle**

Fifty of us will enjoy a group dinner in Edgar's Restaurant at Belhurst Castle on Friday night, a truly unique establishment overlooking Seneca Lake. Your dinner ticket will be in your name badge. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., but go earlier to enjoy a walk around the beautiful grounds and enjoy a wine tasting in the gift shop. Didn't sign up for the group dinner? You can still go to Belhurst on your own and dine in Edgars in the historic part of the castle (reservations needed), or in Stonecutters Lounge, in the modern section. Belhurst is about 2 miles south of the college on Route 14. <https://www.belhurst.com> Shorts and t-shirts are fine for Stonecutters, but I recommend wearing business casual or better for dinner at Edgars.

### **Help Needed**

**Socials:** Volunteers would be responsible for setting out the food at one social and cleaning up afterwards. All supplies and food items are provided. Set-up and clean-up should take no more than 15 minutes each. I thank Doug and Jean Silvis for taking responsibility for the Thursday night social. Can YOU help with Friday or Saturday night?

**Ride Leaders:** Volunteers are needed to lead rides during the weekend, beginning on Thursday evening. Leaders select the ride they want to lead and announce the ride, distance and pace each day at breakfast, inviting others to ride along with them.

**Registration:** Helpers are also needed to assist with check-out on Sunday morning.

If you can assist with any of these duties, please let Marilyn know. [Mchastek2009@gmail.com](mailto:Mchastek2009@gmail.com) 717-798-4537

### **What to Bring:**

- Your bike - If you plan on visiting attractions while cycling, touring bikes and shoes you can walk in work out the best.
- Helmet (required), spare tube, tire pump and necessary bike repair kits and tools.
- A fan, especially if you are in a non-AC unit
- Hangers, if you plan to use the closet in your room.
- A \$25 key deposit check **PER PERSON**, payable to HBC.
- A rack and pannier on your bike is helpful in carrying any wine or goodies you collect along the way. (Bring bubble wrap or something similar to protect the wine bottles).
- Any cooking utensils, plates, flatware, cups, kitchen towel, paper towels, soap and any other equipment you may need for the kitchen (none are provided by the college) plus a wineglass and corkscrew.
- Snacks, including extra protein sources for breakfast for those who want it.
- Swim suit & beach towel if desired. There is a water playground and beach at Seneca Lake State Park in Geneva.
- Bring trash bags for your garbage, if you expect to be cooking in the room. Small wastebaskets are provided.
- Personal care items, soap and an extra towel. Only one bath towel is provided per person.
- A good map of the Finger Lakes area (AAA has free ones for members) and a camera to capture your weekend are recommended.
- A folding chair is a good idea if you like to hang out around by the pond near our housing "pod", for watching the boats on Seneca Lake, or for catching some sun out on the patio that each townhouse has.

### **Arrival & Room Key:**

Plan to arrive in Geneva between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Thursday. You will get your room keys in Unit 39, which is straight ahead of you when you pull into the parking lot. There will be an HBC sign in the window.

**Remember to bring a \$25 check per person (no cash) made out to HBC for your townhouse key.** Checks

will be returned when the keys are turned in. If you are unable to arrive during those hours please arrange for someone to pick your key up and hand in your deposit for you. You will also receive the HBC weekend agenda, ride descriptions, area maps, and a goodie bag full of literature about things to do in the Geneva area, compliments of The Geneva Chamber of Commerce.

People who have arranged for early arrival on June 6 & 7 can pick up their keys and materials between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please contact Marilyn if alternate arrangements are necessary. 717-798-4537  
[mchastek2009@gmail.com](mailto:mchastek2009@gmail.com)

### **Departure:**

**You must be checked out of the townhouses by noon on Sunday.** You must return your key to get your \$25 key deposit check back. Check out and key return will take place in Unit 39 on Sunday from 7 – 7:30 AM and again from 11 AM – noon. (Additional check in times will be offered if someone volunteers to help with check-out) If you are unable to make either of these times please arrange for someone else to turn your key in and pick up your deposit check. Remember to replace any furniture you have moved, take out your trash, turn off the AC, close all windows and lock doors. There is a deposit on cans and bottles in NY, so remember to return them to the store to receive your deposit back. \* *In the event that there is a volunteer to handle the key return from 7:30 AM – 11 AM, it will be announced during the breakfast and evening socials.* Are you willing to volunteer to help with the key return? Please let Marilyn know. [Mchastek2009@gmail.com](mailto:Mchastek2009@gmail.com) 717-798-4537

### **Rides:**

There are maps and cue sheets for about 40 different rides. There will be group rides on Friday and Saturday with designated ride leaders and some shorter group rides on Sunday morning. There may be some on Thursday evening as well if someone volunteers to lead. You can choose to ride with a designated group leader or head out on the route of your choice. Groups should be no larger than about 10-15 riders because restaurants and wineries prefer advance notice when bringing a group of 15 or more. The only restriction is that you not ride alone, since **no sag will be available**. Also, if you plan to ride on a designated group ride, you should be capable of doing the stated pace for the distance of the route.

- *Note on rides going to Seneca Falls – Visitors to the village of Seneca Falls can no longer see any falls. The river was partially canalized for navigation in 1818, and connected the Cayuga and Seneca lakes with the Erie Canal in 1828. In 1915, The New York State Barge Canal project widened the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, completing Locks 2 and 3 and flooding the area once known as “The Flats” creating Van Cleef Lake. Locks 2 and 3 are combined forming an impressive 49 feet of lift over what was once the Seneca Falls. If you are lucky, you’ll see the locks in operation. There is also an operating lock in Waterloo.*

### **Maps and Cue sheets:**

Cue sheet and map packets for routes ranging from 15 - 100 miles will be given out upon check-in. Some of these routes with GPS maps and cue sheets are also online on the HBC website, under the cue sheet section.

Off-road trails: The historic Erie Canal Trail is an option for those who prefer off-road riding, but there is no map of the trail to include in your packet. The closest access point to a continuous completed section of the trail that I know of is in Newark, about 20 miles north from Geneva. The trail is well-packed stone dust and runs for about 100 miles west. More info can be found at <http://www.ptny.org/canalway/index.shtml> The Catherine Valley Trail is about 10 miles long and runs from Watkins Glen to Millport. Click on this link for details <http://fingerlakesum.wordpress.com/2012/05/13/catherine-valley-trail-bike-from-watkins-glen-to-horseheads/> Maps for the Keuka Outlet Trail, Ontario Pathways Trail and the Cayuga-Seneca Trail will be available.

### **HBC members recommend:**

- **Geneva Bicycling Center:** <http://www.genevabikes.com/>  
There is a fine bike shop in downtown Geneva. It's the Geneva Bicycling Center and the address is 489 Exchange Street. It's worth a stop. They are open Mon., Tues., Thurs, & Fri. 10:00 am to 5:00 p.m. and Sat. from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- **The Sprayground;** <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=97>  
This is a beach and water playground at Seneca Lake State Park. Stop by on the way back from a hot

- **Cayuga Lake Creamery:** <http://www.cayugalakecreamery.com>  
The creamery is located at 8421 Rt. 89 in Interlaken and uses local wines, beers, fruit and chocolate in their ice cream. They were chosen by USA Today as the New York selection for The USA's best ice cream. 607-532-9492 It's a small shop, so keep that in mind if your group is large.
- **The Spotted Duck Creamery** on Route 54 between Penn Yan and Dresden. Ice cream and custard made from duck eggs! Very rich and creamy. <http://www.spottedduckcreamery.com>
- **Taughannock Falls State Park:** This park features the tallest waterfall in New York State (higher than Niagara!) and beautiful lake views. You can take the easy  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile walk to the base of the falls or just go to the overlook. There are longer hiking trails that take you around the rim of the gorge. You can even hang out at the beach! It's pretty close to the Cayuga Lake creamery. There is a parking fee at the entrance off Route 89 but no fee at the overlook. <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/62/details.aspx>
- **Belhurst Castle Wine Pairings:** <http://www.belhurst.com/>  
Truly a unique experience, our Specialty Wine Pairings give you personalized attention from our Wine Expert as you are guided through Chef-created gourmet dishes paired with our award winning wines! Advanced Reservations Required. Please Call 315-781-0201 ext. 8 to book your Specialty Pairing.
- **Ride to Cayuga Lake/Seneca Falls:** *In all honesty, the two longer Cayuga Lake/Seneca Falls rides are the best of the bunch as far as scenery and attractions are concerned. The ride around Keuka Lake comes in a very close second. – Marilyn Chastek*
- **Keuka Lake rides:** Many great options are offered for riding around this beautiful lake and visiting the lovely village of Hammondsport.
- **Lunch at the Thirsty Owl Winery Bistro:**  
You'll find good food and a very nice deck in the back with a beautiful view for a relaxing lunch. You'll pass this winery on the 57 mile Long Loop Between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes route.
- **Lunch near Seneca Falls** Wolffy's is right on Cayuga Lake and has a great deck where you can enjoy a casual, relaxed meal. The Downtown Deli is in Seneca Falls and features some sandwiches named after characters in "It a Wonderful Life". It offers quick service and good food. Both these restaurants are on the two longer Seneca/Cayuga Lake/Seneca Falls rides.  
[https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g60997-Seneca\\_Falls\\_Finger\\_Lakes\\_New\\_York.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g60997-Seneca_Falls_Finger_Lakes_New_York.html)

#### **Directions:**

The trip should take about 4.5 hours from Harrisburg to Geneva. According to Mapquest, the trip is 218 miles.

- Go north on Route 15 for about 160 miles. This will take you into New York near the Painted Post exit. You'll go through Williamsport and Mansfield along the way. (Hint: A good bathroom and gas stop is the Sheetz at the Maynard Street exit, just as you are leaving Williamsport). Can't wait that long? Try the Sheetz, in Shamokin Dam or Lewisburg.
- When you get near Painted Post, merge onto I-86 East/NY 17/Southern Tier Expressway toward Elmira/Corning.
- After about 3 miles on I-86 East/NY 17/Southern Tier Expressway, take the Watkins Glen/Corning Museum of Glass exit.
- Turn left onto Route 414 North toward Watkins Glen.
- After about 20 miles on Route 414, you'll enter Watkins Glen and merge with Route 14.
- Stay on 14 North for about 35 miles until you reach Geneva. You'll be traveling up the west side of Seneca Lake the whole way and will pass 19+ wineries and several breweries. You'll also catch some scenic views of Seneca Lake. You'll reach Hobart/William Smith College and St. Clair Street shortly after entering Geneva. Turn left onto St. Clair and go about a mile until you pass a red barn on your right (this is The Barn where we'll have breakfast each morning) and turn right after passing the pond into the O'Dell Village parking lot.

#### **Things to do along the way and while in town:**

- **Bike** – If time allows, you might consider riding one of the two Interlaken Express routes that begin at Wagner Winery & Brewery or catch the Catherine Trail in Watkins Glen. Have lunch at Wagner's Ginny Lee Café before starting out. Cue sheets for most of the Finger Lakes rides can be found on the HBC website in the cue sheet section.
- **Corning Museum of Glass** <http://www.cmog.org> This world famous museum is well worth seeing, especially on a rainy day when you don't want to be doing outdoor stuff. Figure on 2 hours minimum

- **Market Street Shops and Restaurants, Corning** A collection of unique shops and restaurants
- **Watkins Glen State Park, Watkins Glen** <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/info.asp?parkID=105>  
This is a very impressive gorge that you can walk through while enjoying all the rock formations and waterfalls created by the creek that runs through it. It takes 1-2 hours to get to the top and back, depending on how many times you stop and say “Wow!” There are a gazillion stairs to climb to get to the high end of trail, so you can count this as a workout. This is definitely a “must do” if you have the time and the weather is dry. *Cheapskates hint: Park on a side street to avoid the \$8 parking fee to use the park’s lot.*
- **Watkins Glen International Racetrack** <http://www.theglen.com/Plan-Your-Visit/Drive-The-Glen.aspx>  
NASCAR isn’t racing here the weekend we’ll be in town, but that means you can race your own car on Thunder Road for only \$25!
- **Shops and restaurants in Watkins Glen.** There’s an outfitter with bike stuff, Famous Brands clothing store, ice cream shops, a brew pub AND a WalMart! Whoop hoo! What more could you ask for?
- **Seneca Harbor Wine Center, Watkins Glen** <http://www.senecaharborwine.com> The only reason I am mentioning this particular wine store is it is in a cool building and is run by Pleasant Valley Winery. That means you can purchase Chocolate Lab wine and Great Western Champagne without having to drive all the way to Hammondsport.
- **Captain Bill’s, Watkins Glen** – Harbor & lake cruises plus a gift shop. A nice harbor side restaurant, Seneca Harbor Station, is right next door. <http://www.senecaharborstation.com>
- **Seneca Harbor Pier** – Just before you head up the hill out of Watkins Glen toward Geneva, you’ll see Seneca Harbor and waterfront on your right. Walk way out to the end of the pier to get the bird’s eye view of Seneca Lake, the deepest of the Finger Lakes.
- **True Love Schooner** – Sail on the same ship used in the 1956 movie, *High Society*, featuring Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly. It sails from Seneca Harbor pier. <http://www.schoonerexcursions.com>
- **Seneca Lake Wine and Finger Lakes Beer Trail** <http://senecalakewine.com>  
You’ll pass 20+ different wineries between Watkins Glen and Geneva, each with their own personality and unique products. Many have tremendous views of Seneca Lake. Real wine lovers can visit the wineries on the west shore of the lake on the way to Geneva and then catch the 16+ wineries on the east side of the lake on their return trip. A designated driver would be a *REALLY* good idea for those planning to attempt this feat. Most wineries charge a minimal fee for tastings. After Memorial Day, most wineries are open Mon- Sat. 10-5 and Sunday 12:00 noon to 5. Some open a little earlier or stay open a bit later. Check their websites for hours. The weekend we are in town, the Seneca Wine Trail is having it’s “Smokin’ Summer Kick-off” where you get wine and food pairings at many participating wineries for \$40pp. Each lake has it’s own wine trail, and many have added beer and cheese trails, too. There are now over 100 places to sample local craft brews.  
<http://fingerlakesbeertrail.com/content/>
- **Ithaca, NY** Ithaca is about a 20 minute drive east of Watkins Glen and about an hour from Geneva. Attractions include lots of waterfalls, Cornell and Ithaca Colleges, the Downtown Commons and some unique museums. <http://www.visitithaca.com/top-attractions.html>
- For additional things to do in the **Corning, Horseheads, and Elmira** area, go to <http://www.frommers.com/destinations/corning-and-elmira/attractions/overview> You’ll find info about the Soaring Museum & glider rides, Mark Twain’s Study, the National Warplane Museum, Elmira College and the Elmira Trolley Car. Elmira and Horseheads are a bit out of the way, but might be worth the detour, if you have time. Horseheads is about 16 miles east of Corning and Elmira is about 8 miles east of Horseheads.
- **Eat like the locals.** Almost every restaurant has a Friday Night Fish Fry. And try a “white hot.” These are hot dogs made with pork and veal. They are not spicy “hot”. Closer to Syracuse, they are called Coneys. You might even have to opportunity to get salt potatoes with your meal. These are small red potatoes cooked in very salty water, which leaves a white coating on the red skins. Yummy with butter. None of these are health foods, by the way.
- **Keuka Arts Festival** – This big event will held in Penn Yan on Saturday and Sunday, June 10 & 11. <http://www.keukaartsfestival.com>
- **Finger Lakes events**, including jazz concerts at Hobart-Williams Smith and a Plein Air art event in Canandaigua.  
<http://www.visitfingerlakes.com/events/?startDate=06%2F06%2F2017&endDate=06%2F11%2F2017&categories%5B0%5D=0>

- On the way home, check out the **Pennsylvania Visitors Center**, just north of Mansfield. It's a lovely building right off Route 15 and offers an impressive view of the village of Tioga, the dam and the reservoir. It has lots of restrooms and vending machines, and tourist info, too.