Below is a short description for the Courage Classic Committee.  Those of you how are on this distribution list that have personal knowledge going back beyond my years and or recollection are very welcome to add information and/or errata.

*The Courage Classic was created 25 years ago by Lakewood Rotary and Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital.  It is a 3 day / 2 night bicycle ride over 3 mountain passes.  The first day goes from North Bend over Snoqualmie Pass to Cle Elum.  Day two goes over Blewett Pass and ends in Leavenworth.  The third and final day goes over Stevens Pass and ends in Skykomish. The rest stops / refreshment breaks along the way are operated by 11 Pierce County Rotary Clubs.*

*Lakewood runs the Nason Creek rest stop with the help of Clover Park and Tacoma South Rotary’s.  The Nason Creek rest stop is westbound out on Hwy 2, about 18 miles out of Leavenworth.  The site is an official highway rest area.  Traditionally, we have served root beer floats, trail mix, fresh fruit and sports drinks.  Kara Faubian from Clover Park brings out about a dozen massage therapists to work on the riders and Judy Jones from Tacoma South provides entertainment in the form of a hula hoop contest.  Richard Simmons had been the “anchor” for our Lakewood team with his historical knowledge and his role of getting a freezer full of ice cream to the site.  About 10 Lakewood volunteers are needed each year.*

*The Courage Classic generated funds for the Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital’s Child Abuse Intervention Department (formerly the Child Sexual Abuse Clinic).  I need to get at “Total Raised” for the Courage Classic.  2015 is the 24th running (given that one year was cancelled due to forest fires) of the Courage Classic.  Historic number of riders has ranged between 400 to 550 riders.  Annual fund raising in recent years has been in the $400,000-500,000 range, and that does not include sponsorship support from Alaska Airlines and other corporate donors that is used to offset operating expenses.*