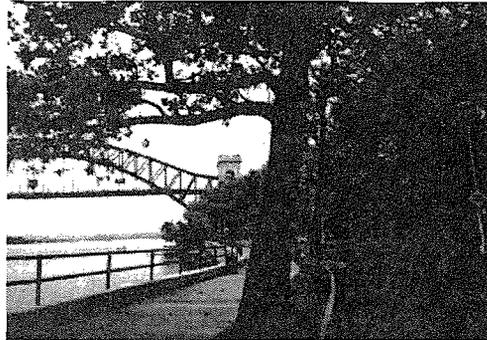


# EAST RIVER ROUST-A-BOUT

by Clarence Eckerson, Jr.

If you haven't contemplated any of our joyrides, this quirky adventure may be the one you've been waiting for. This leisurely ride explores the East River from a number of perspectives, takes you over three bridges, on to two islands, and even includes a short elevator trip! And at just under 20 miles, cyclists of any fitness level can easily manage it.

The highlights include a loop around Roosevelt Island, which has a magnificent community garden, an old lighthouse at its north end, and breathtaking views of the Manhattan skyline. But the real treat is a visit to Socrates Sculpture Park along the Queens waterfront. Here you'll see some of the most unorthodox and humorous art in the country. After you've visited once, you'll make multiple returns to share the experience with friends.



The bucolic view from Shore Blvd., along Astoria Park (check out the speed humps!)

**START:** Central Park/5th Avenue. Head east on 62nd Street.

0.8 R [Right] on York Avenue.

0.9 R on 59th Street. Look for signage at 1.1 miles directing cyclists to the entrance to the Queensboro Bridge Bike Path.

2.6 R on 27th Street.

2.7 R on 43rd Street.

3.3 R on Vernon.

4.0 L [Left] on 36th Avenue. Continue over bridge.

4.3 Look for "Ped/Bike Elevator to Roosevelt Island" signs. Take it to the Concourse level and exit doors to your left. Follow roads and pathways north and complete an entire circuit of the island (4 miles). After your loop, return via the bridge.

8.6 L back on Vernon.

**TO SEE:** Socrates Sculpture Park (at 9.2 miles, on the left just past Costco.)

9.7 Veer R on to Main Avenue.

9.9 L on 12th Street. Becomes Shore Boulevard at Astoria Park.

**TO DO:** Astoria Park has one of the nicest swimming pools in the city. Just remember to bring a bathing suit (no biking shorts allowed) and a lock for your valuables (duffel bags are not allowed in the pool area.)

10.8 R on Ditmars.

11.2 R on Crescent St.

11.7 L on Hoyt. Stairs to the Triboro Bridge are on your left.

13.8 Immediate R upon descending ramp to Randall's Island. Follow perimeter of the fence surrounding Golf Driving range. Continue under bridge, then look for "Pedestrian Walkway" signs near flags at 14.4 miles. Take to Manhattan.

15.0 L on 2nd Avenue. (Heavy traffic for six blocks!)

15.4 L on 120nd Street.

15.8 Use footbridge to cross FDR and continue south for four miles on East River esplanade to 60th Street.

**NOTE:** Walk your bike through Carl Shurtz Park (only about 2 blocks.) This is the Mayor's backyard, so be civil and observe the posted courtesies to other park users.

**Editor's Note:** QBB Access & entrance will likely be altered; see Cycling News in this issue.