

NYCC Archives – October 2011



October “President’s Message”



By Ellen Jaffe

Fellow Members,

Rain reports notwithstanding, the morning of September 24 dawned mild and dry for the start of the 17th Annual Escape New York at Sakura Park where coffee, muffins and gargantuan gourmet scones from City Bakery launched everyone into a fabulous day.

It was the culmination of one year of work for Beth Bryson, ENY Director, and the ENY committee, who, with the help of 180 enthusiastic member volunteers, made so many moving parts run beautifully, raising the bar higher still.



Photo: Nic Lawson

We have two big events that trumpet who we are as a Club: the SIGs and Escape New York.

This astounding day made the Club sparkle as a welcoming, generous, vital, open and unbelievably fun place to be.

Here's a small sample of feedback forwarded by Beth:

- NYCC is AWESOME!!!! I only joined a month ago, and I have already fallen in love with this Club. It is organized, positive, supportive, and open to all levels! (you knew this already though)

And doing Escape NY was a huge catapult into my love of NYCC, by how not only everything was so clear and well-supported, but also how it was run by cycling volunteers. Everyone helping on the route and rest stops understood the cycling mentality and therefore really ran it all so wonderfully.

AND everyone was just so darn friendly, I'm just so pleased. (And the food ROCKED!) Thanks again for such a wonderful day!

-- Alicia

- From the singing ladies at the Piermont rest stop to the fellow who changed my tire for me back at Sakura Park, everyone who represented your Club was friendly and helpful. My 4th time on the ride and won't be my last. A pleasure.

-- Don Karlewicz

- What a brilliant day! The route was fantastic as was the support and catering on the day. I have never been to an event so well catered. I will definitely recommend this event to anyone and everyone!!

-- Emma Gaul



- Fantastically organized -- the rest stops were incredible. Thanks so much for organizing this event. I'll definitely be back next year and most likely will even join your Club next cycling season. Thanks again.

-- Jackie Ciringione

So, kudos and appreciation to Beth and the able ENY Committee of John Kalish, Liane Montesa, Claudia Kulesh, Kate Mostkoff, Fred Leffel, Soody Nelson, Alan Resnick, Alisa Judy, Mae Pan and Zhanna Povaliaev, who with the help of exuberant member volunteers, pulled off this collective labor of love.



Speaking of joining NYCC, we have many new members this year who have expressed interest in ride leader training.

And it was great to see these new faces as well as curious long-time leaders, at the Ride Leader Training launch class on September 26.

More such classes will follow, with the committee, headed by Linda Wintner and Paul Hofherr, working to refine it to NYCC needs.

The goal: to educate, motivate our leader pool -- new leaders and seasoned pros -- with a relevant, effective leader training program encouraging a standard for safety, pace, and communication -- the ingredients that combine to create a well-led ride.

We hope this confidence, skill-building program will contribute to consistently filling out our ride calendar with weekend offerings for all levels.

* * *

Incentive Points Program



NYCC has long had a wonderful program of rewarding ride leaders with Club gear.

At this time, we think it's past due that the a number of other substantial member contributions are rewarded as well.

For that reason, we are initiating NYCC's own Gear Incentive Points System.

Organize the Newcomers Ride or the All-Class Ride, run West Point, design an original cue sheet, conceive and execute an off-bike event -- these are just some of the things you can do to score points towards swell Club gear!

Look for details soon on the website.

* * *

Speaking of volunteers, our able Treasurer Arden Rodgers is in search of a very particular one with CPA skills.

Specifically, Arden would like to consult with a CPA who has expertise in EO 501(c)(7) taxation rules, regs, and audits.

If this is your specialty, or if you know of someone to recommend, please contact Arden at treasurer@nycc.org.

* * *

In the meantime, hope to see you on our 9W Cleanup Ride, a Fall Foliage Tour or the Connecticut Shoreline Ride on October 23 aka Pepe's Pizza Ride!

Here's to some beautiful autumn miles...

Ellen



From the Archive: NYCC Elections, 1978

**NEW YORK
CYCLE CLUB INC.**
JAN. 1978

While the election results were compiled, entertainment was provided by Ed Flowers, who played the flute, Ethel Robertson, who sang and played the kazoo, and Lorraine Gewirtz who performed a strip tease act.



NOVEMBER 8 CLUB MEETING

Hear wondrous tales at Annie Moore's on November 8, from three NYCC member cyclists who, in 2011, variously cycled the thin air of the Himalayas, ventured, often under extreme circumstance, up, across, and down the continent on a folding bike, who rode the grueling Paris Brest Paris over four days and three nights!

Alluring places, hardship and kindnesses on the road, illumination, perseverance, wonder, accomplishment!

An evening of the best that travel is with Dolores McKeough, Dan Aaron and Fred Harris.



Dan at the PBP finish line, Dolores at Hoosier Pass, Colorado, Fred on the road to Lhasa

Date: Tuesday, November 8

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Place: Annie Moore's Bar & Restaurant (downstairs)

Address: 50 East 43rd Street (1/2 block east of Madison Ave)

Buffet Dinner: 6:45pm - 7:30pm, \$20 per person

Program: 7:30pm - 9:00pm

If you are having dinner, kindly RSVP to programs@nycc.org



SAVE THE DATE!

The NYCC Holiday Party!

When: Monday evening, December 12

Where: Superfine, DUMBO, 126 Front Street, Brooklyn, at Pearl Street

Details coming soon!



NYCC 75th Anniversary Video

As part of the Club's 75th Anniversary Gala this summer, Ellen Jaffe and Christy Guzzetta asked Paula Froke to join with Carol Waaser in doing video interviews of some long-time Club members.

The seven-part 75th Anniversary video features interviews with Michael Allison, Herb Dershowitz, Ed Fishkin, Christy Guzzetta, George Kaplan, Tony Mantione, Gary McGraime, Mike Samuel, Jody Saylor, Jeff Vogel, and Marty Wolf. There also are still photos from the recent and more distant past.

This video captures the history of the Club as seen through the eyes of these amazing members.

Thanks to all of the interviewees for their time and enthusiasm for this project, and to Carol and Jody for doing the interviews themselves. Thanks also to all who supplied still photos.

NYCC extends a special thanks to Paula for giving the Club a wonderful segment of our history to keep forever!

View the [NYCC 75th Anniversary Video](http://nycc.org/message-board/nycc-75th-anniversary-video-interviews/53935). (<http://nycc.org/message-board/nycc-75th-anniversary-video-interviews/53935>)

NYCC GEAR AVAILABLE AT FALL CLUB MEETINGS!



We have the following inventory in stock and available at Club meetings:

Jerseys (\$65) : Men S, L and Women M, L

Shorts (\$70) : Men M, L and Women S, M, L, XL

Jackets (\$90) : Unisex S, L

Socks (\$10) : S/M and L/XL

Water bottles (\$6)

NYCC Photos of the Week

9W Cleanup Ride – A Success!

On Sunday, October 16, our own Adopt-A-Highway mile-long stretch of 9W was cleaned up by more than 60 NYCC volunteers. That many hands made trash pick up fast work, after which everyone retired to the 9W market for coffee and fabulous homemade blondies.



2011 Seagull Century - A Tasty Ending!

On Saturday, October 15, Board members Jennell Francis and Eunice Martinez rode the [Seagull Century](#) in Salisbury, Maryland, with more than 7,950 cyclists. After riding through howling winds and beautiful country roads, they sat down and enjoyed a well-earned, delicious Maryland crab fest.



High Spirits Trump High Winds!

Atop the Croton Dam after not riding with the Club from Woodlawn are Daria Aumand, Silke Baltruschat, Galina Mironyuk, Geraldine Estrada, Andy Liefer, Alexa Wilson, a few others, and Fred Harris, who did not lead the B-15 riders (all but the four on the right whose poor navigation and fast riding allowed us all to reach Peekskill together).



Connecticut Shoreline Ride

A record NYCC crowd of 150 packed the train to New Haven for a glorious day of shoreline riding – naturally with Pepe's on the return.



BIKES! BIKES! BIKES!

Ever wonder how to position your bike on a Metro-North train? NYCC cyclists found a number of ways on the Connecticut Shoreline Ride!

Photo: Alicia Rau



NYCC Fall Foliage Ride #2

On Saturday morning, dozens of NYCCers swarmed the White Plains train station, departing in impressive, orderly waves. Cathy Martone and David Hallerman, loyal longtime Club members, pulled their B-15ers over hill and dale for a steady 40 miles in perfect fall weather -- warm sun, cool shade, light wind. The group enjoyed leisurely breaks on the green at Bedford Village and at the Croton Falls train station, and met up with other genial NYCCers en route. *Quel succès!*

Photos: Carol Wood





Nominations for the 2012 NYCC Board of Directors are closed.

The election will take place as follows: on Tuesday, October 25th, the polls will open on the Club website. Members will log in and follow the instructions on the homepage directing them to the "polling place."

Once there, members will be able to cast a ballot for each office, as well as any proposals placed before the membership. This year, the entire process will be done on our website. Each member will only be able to vote once. The polls will close at noon on Tuesday, November 8th.

Any member who wishes to vote in person, can do so at the November Club meeting at Annie Moore's on Tuesday evening. Voting will take place by paper ballot, from 6:30pm until 8:00pm. No ballots will be taken after 8:00pm. No one who voted online will be able to vote at the meeting. No proxies.

The electronic ballots and the paper ballots from the Club meeting will be compiled by a three-member panel of disinterested members, each of whom has been a Club member for several years. No person who is a candidate for office is serving on this committee.

When the ballots have been counted, the results shall be announced to the membership by the panel. This will take place at or near the end of the meeting. Voting records may be examined by any member prior to destruction at the end of the meeting.

If you have questions, feel free to contact our Election Director George Arcarola via email, george.arcarola@gmail.com.

Nominations 2012:

President – **Ellen Jaffe**

Vice President of Programs - **Eden Weiss**

Vice President of Rides – **Adrienne Browning**

Secretary – **Morene Bangel**

Treasurer – **Arden Rodgers**

Content Editor – **Eunice Martinez**

P.R. Director – **Grace Lichtenstein**

Webmaster – **Darren Ortsman**

Membership Director - **Mindy Kaufman**

Special Events Director - **Laurie Chittenden**

A-Rides Coordinator – **Harry Woods**

B-Rides Coordinator

C-Rides Coordinator

Escape New York Director – **Beth Bryson**

The Candidates Statements

Before you vote for a candidate, find out what each nominee for the Board of Directors has to say about running for their position.

Read the Candidates Statements.

NYCC Nominations 2012: Candidate Statements

President: incumbent and nominee – Ellen Jaffe

2011 was all about NYCC community.

The focus was on celebrating our 75th, on energizing NYCC with fresh events and programs and outreach to advocate for cyclists and strengthen relationships beneficial to our club and to our city.

In 2012 we need every members help to continue on this path.

NYCC is no small organization anymore.

The many critical parts involved in keeping our website, rides, events, programs, advocacy, outreach all vital require not only that many participate in the workings but that we do it in an integral way.

Not just ideas but member participation will be a necessity going forward. This will be a driving goal across all aspects of club life in 2012 if I am reelected.

Vice President of Programs: nominee – Eden Weiss

I am seeking the position of NYCC V.P. of Programs for 2012 for a number of reasons. Quite simply and most significantly, I have a desire to bring interesting, informative and cutting-edge cycling-specific programs to our monthly meetings. As avid and passionate cyclists, we need to be aware of the ever-changing events and developments that affect our riding and the cycling community (*e.g.*, technical bike/training improvements, changes/attitudes in the cycling political climate, coordination and collaboration with other cycling stakeholders, etc.). I want to bring a wide variety of topics, with talented speakers, to our programs, so that our members really look forward to not only attending the meetings, but also come with a desire to participate in lively topical discussions.

Who am I? With regard to my NYCC participation, I have been an enthusiastic and active member of NYCC since 2002, having proudly graduated the B SIG in 2003. In about 2004-5, I brought to fruition an idea of our dearly departed president, Stan Oldak, to have each monthly meeting sponsored by a different bike shop. After numerous discussions with the bike shop owners/managers throughout the metropolitan area, they warmed to the idea and donated free cycling merchandise, which was raffled off during each meeting (you had to attend to win). They brought a few cutting edge bikes (eye candy) for our members' scrutinizing and relished the opportunity to briefly inform our attendees why we should frequent their shop. I worked very closely with Hal Eskenazi, the V.P. of Programs, throughout the year, to make this addition to the meetings a success.

In the year prior to Ellen Jaffe taking over the reins of ENY, along with my wife, Valli, I was an active member of the ENY planning committee. Under the excellent leadership of Bill Laffey, ENY Committee Chairperson, we undertook the important responsibility of seeking sponsorships. We raised over \$19,000 in sponsorship donations of merchandise and services for the ENY participants. In addition, throughout my nine years with the NYCC, working "behind the scenes," in collaboration with former V.P.s of Programs, I have been involved with bringing noteworthy speakers to our monthly meetings.

Summarily, I look forward to cooperatively collaborating with the other Board members in planning exciting and interesting cycling-related programs for our members.

Vice President of Rides: incumbent and nominee – Adrienne Browning

I've been a Club member since 2004, and a SIG leader since 2006. I'm an avid cyclist and have volunteered for many NYCC activities. I was A-Ride Coordinator two years ago and V.P. of Rides this past year.

Secretary: incumbent and nominee – Morene Bangel

I have been a Club member since 2005, when I rode my first century (ENY of course!) and was instantly hooked on cycling. I took the A19 SIG the following spring, and was a leader the following three SIG seasons. I led the B18 SIG the next two seasons and was elected to the NYCC Board last year. I brought my professional skills as a court reporter for 35+ years to the board as secretary, though the minutes are not verbatim (they would go on forever if they were!). I hope to serve the board in the position of secretary for the upcoming year.

Treasurer: incumbent and nominee – Arden Rodgers

In the spring of 2010, when the Treasurer position became open mid-term, I volunteered to fill the vacancy. I was then elected for the 2011 treasurer position and am now running for my second full term as Club treasurer.

I am a relatively new member to the Club having moved from Boston less than three years ago. I completed the A-SIG classic, which was a great experience. I ride a bright steel Independent Fabrication road bike, which I love.

When I am not on the bike, I am the manager of Arbus Capital Management, LLC (www.arbuscm.com) an independent, fee-only registered investment advisor providing investment advice and management services to individuals.

During the past year as Club Treasurer I worked to keep the Club's finances running smoothly. This included the accurate tracking and timely payment of 219 separate accounts payable items from vendors, organizations, professionals, and volunteers who submitted expenses for reimbursements. I worked to keep our costs contained, submitted detailed financial statements to the board every month, and worked with our accountant to file our 990 Tax form on time.

If elected treasurer, I will continue to automate and organized the Club's accounting system while tracking and paying our approved expenditures on time. My goal continues to be to simplify the Club's financial procedures to reduce the amount of time and effort required by future treasurers while complying with all 501(c)(7) rules and regulations. I will strive to keep the Club on a firm financial footing during the coming year.

Content Editor: incumbent and nominee – Eunice Martinez

I have served in this position for one and a half years. During that time, I helped with the revamp of NYCC's main official forms of communication – the website and the eWeekly. I also helped change the form of the monthly electronic Bulletin to a monthly document that compiles all of the Club's events, member submissions and photos, providing a real feel for the Club's goings-on during any given month. If reelected, in the coming year, I would like to work with the Club president to further refine our use of NYCC's website and eWeekly to continue to improve our communications with the Club membership and the cycling community at large.

P.R. Director: incumbent and nominee – Grace Lichtenstein

For the past three years, I have served as the NYCC P.R. Director. My background is from both sides of the P.R. fence: I am a former *New York Times* reporter and frequent freelance writer on cycling, and the current communications officer of a national antipoverty nonprofit (Single Stop USA).

I have worked well with three different presidents of the Club and advised them on professional P.R. responses when asked. I have attended at least six different community board meetings and other public meetings on behalf of the Club this year in our expanded cycling advocacy effort, and hope to continue in advocacy efforts.

I have helped other Club members develop and staff our presence at Summer Streets three Saturdays in August in 2010 and 2011 and have been an ENY membership table volunteer. I have promptly answered

requests from the media on the Club's behalf, publicized Club events, both on our own website and others, and written articles when needed for the eWeekly.

I also have developed good professional relationships with P.R. directors of other local clubs, as well as with reporters who regularly cover cycling in the local media.

I look forward to one final one-year term in this position in 2012.

Webmaster: incumbent and nominee – Darren Ortsman

NYCC.org is an important interaction point for the NYCC community. My goal is create a website that is a point of pride for NYCC community. The website should help increase membership, ridership and volunteerism. Everything I do will be aimed at those goals.

Membership Director: nominee – Mindy Kaufman

I am running for position of Membership Director of the NYCC because I would like to give back to the Club for all that it has given me. For years I have benefitted and enjoyed cycling with NYCC, and I would like to help by being involved on the Board.

I've been a member for approximately 18 years, long enough to have met and cycled with many great members of our Club, past and present. I love cycling, and through NYCC, have been able to go to great destinations, learn riding skills, make friends, and enjoy the beauty and perfection of cycling.

In my professional life, I play Solo piccolo and flute with the New York Philharmonic, and have been a member since I was 22. I was previously on the Board of the New York Flute Club as Membership Secretary, making sure the database was up to date and fielding questions from prospective members.

The qualities which I can bring to NYCC Membership Director are that I am organized and energetic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Special Events Director: nominee – Laurie Chittenden

A member of NYCC since 2009, I learned to ride on a red Schwinn with training wheels (alas sans banana seat!). Long weekend rides with NYCC provided the training for a 2009 trip on which I cycled over 300 miles across Ireland to raise money for God's Love We Deliver; since then I can usually be found on an NYCC B ride most weekends. The bike has changed, but not my love of cycling. I look forward to organizing the Club's traditional favorite social activities while drawing on my love of the outdoors, travel, books, cinema, food and wine to introduce some new social activities in the upcoming year.

Escape New York Director: incumbent and nominee – Beth Bryson

To me, Escape New York is about community.

It's about the Club coming together as a community, working towards a common goal. It's about the larger NYC cycling community, coming together to celebrate their mutual love of riding – be they beginners on their first trip across the GWB, bike commuters looking for the adventure of riding without taxicabs or CRCA racers on a recovery ride.

And it's about building and expanding all of these communities with generous hospitality – and the wonderful spirit that is NYCC.

It would be my privilege to be the ENY Ride Director again this coming year.

A-Rides Coordinator: incumbent and nominee – Harry Woods

B-Rides Coordinator

C-Rides Coordinator



BE SURE TO VOTE!

VOTING BEGINS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25!

Two important resolutions need your vote!

Resolution 1: There will be one single level of NYCC membership as of midnight, December 31, 2011. Those registered presently as couples will renew at the regular member level upon expiration of their present term of membership after December 31, 2011.

Resolution 2: NYCC membership will be \$30 per year as of midnight December 31, 2011.

New York Cycle Club

Letter to Members from Ellen Jaffe

November 19, 2011

Fellow NYCC Members,

Over the past year as president I have worked to meet my promise of transparency.

I'm writing to you in that spirit, to let you know about two resolutions to be put forth by the Board that will require a member-wide vote in the coming weeks.

The resolutions are inter-related and seek to ensure a solid future for NYCC.

These resolutions did not come lightly.

We have considered the perspectives of our members, in addition to taking a hard look at the balance sheet. With these factors in mind, we think these resolutions are in NYCC's best interest, for now, and most importantly, for the future.

The Board and I understand the demands made on everyone's pocketbooks, and that any increase in dues must be fully explained. For that reason I'd like to open up the discussion now, before the formal vote, to address your questions and hopefully garner your support.

I ask you to carefully consider the reasons for these resolutions and join me and the Board in taking a long view of NYCC.

New York Cycle Club is 2,225 members strong right now.

The vitality of the Club is reflected in substantial member growth and that shows no sign of letting up.

These functions are elemental to sustaining the present level of Club operation, of Club offerings and to adding future value to Club membership:

- **Our Website.** It has evolved substantially over the past year and is the crucial touchstone for member information and conversation. Continued development is a necessity, to ease the daunting workload on key volunteers, to offer more efficient online tools to these volunteers, as well as to our members.

- **Our Events and Programs.** We have hosted numerous events and programs this year with record-breaking attendance; consistently raising the bar in venue, food, program.

Providing a consistently high level of attractive offerings plays no small part in an energized, enthusiastic membership. For example, the All-Class Ride destination of Oakland Beach or the Newcomers Ride to Goswick Pavilion, bringing freshness and quality to these events. To sustain such quality in our offerings, for a membership that more broadly participates in club activities, to add events for members, will only be possible with additional income.

- **Our Recognition Schedule.** This year the club awarded a record 62 ride leader jerseys, numerous pairs of socks and dozens of water bottles to members who have lead rides.

It is long past due that the Club reward those members who have given time to the Club off the bike. That would be such jobs as West Point Chair, All-Class organizer, Newcomer Organizer ... and many many more volunteer duties, right down to designing a new cue sheet for the Ride Library. This incentive system awards points that are exchangeable for Club gear. It is one way to make sure all important volunteer efforts in the Club are recognized.

- **Our SIG Program.** Our SIG program only grows in popularity and demand. We would like to see the Club give some financial support to the SIG leader meetings.
- **Our Ride Leader Training.** The Club will support the further development of an effective Ride Leader Training program, refined to NYCC needs, as an important tool to expand our ride leader pool.
- **Advocacy.** We've participated broadly as cycling advocates and see that as a critical role going forward. For instance, NYCC representation at LAB's National Bike Summit is no longer optional.
- **NYCC merchandise.** We opened an online store and see benefit and an audience to expand NYCC merchandise.
- **Outreach.** We've looked for places to show off who we are to a broader audience such as at Summer Streets and with our popular Social Sunday for Bike Month rides.
- **Other Important Initiatives.** We've gone further with fundraising this year, stretching our muscles with a special benefit for the Kid's Ride Club, thereby gaining goodwill,

staging a fun event for members, finding a visible way for the Club to be involved in community. We will do it again.

This is some of what we've offered.

And all for the price of a sandwich and a latte.

It is time we valued membership properly.

The \$22 we currently charge does not cover expenses ... and even less what we project going forward.

The cost of most everything has increased in recent years, including increases in insurance, events, website hosting and development, Club incentives, and fixed administrative costs.

The \$30 annual membership fee we recommend will meet these present costs.

Additionally we are recommending there be one single level of membership.

We suggest eliminating the "couples membership" level; a level borne when newsletters were printed and mailed, saving NYCC the postage when sending to a single household. Since the rationale for that membership level no longer exists, it is only fair to have equal fees for all members. Further, the Club does not need the administrative burden of processing and maintaining two membership lists.

Therefore, in the next two weeks, we are putting forth the following two resolutions for a membership-wide vote.

Resolution 1:

There will be one single level of NYCC membership as of midnight, December 31, 2011. Those registered presently as couples will renew at the regular member level upon expiration of their present term of membership after December 31, 2011.

Resolution 2:

NYCC membership will be \$ 30 per year as of midnight December 31, 2011.

I hope I've told the story well enough to describe the value we want to continue to build at NYCC and the reasons we must raise dues to enable this future.

I urge you to think about what the additional \$8 buys for you and what, collectively, it will mean for the Club.

I invite and encourage your responses, reactions, and replies.

Ellen

president@nycc.org

NYCC Members Corner

Cycling in all the States and Territories of Australia



By Jay Jacobson, NYCC Member since 1992

After having cycled in all the U.S. states and Canadian provinces, my next logical goal was to have cycled in all of Australia's states. I never thought about it until after my first two expeditions down there (1992 and 2004), but sometime after 2004 I realized that I needed only one more state (Victoria) and I "knocked it off" on my most recent trip down under in 2009.

In 1992 (the year I joined the NYCC), I was already into biking but I did not plan to bike in two stops, Sydney (New South Wales) and Melbourne (Victoria) although the plan was to return to Sydney on the way home at which there was time open for cycling. Instead, at these two destinations my wife, Joan, and I did the usual tourist things using busses, taxis and a rented car. Using the rented car in Melbourne, I got my introduction to driving on the left in a major city. Driving around rotaries (traffic circles) was especially challenging for me. While driving on the legendary Great Ocean Road (2 days) between Melbourne and Adelaide, I fell asleep at the wheel for the only time in my life. I quickly woke up and an accident was averted. Making left turns off of Melbourne's main drag (Collins St) involved getting into the extreme right lane and entering a loop which crossed the main lanes.

According to Lonely Planet's "Cycling Australia," the Australian Capital Territory (Canberra) has Australia's best bike path network. Many roads leading to the surrounding areas are quiet and the scenery is stunning. Canberra is a planned city and relatively young—it didn't really exist until the early 1900s.

We spent a couple of days on "Australia's Galapagos Island," Kangaroo Island. One evening, we had a guided walk along the beach to watch the movement of numerous penguins. It turned out that the guide's daughter was the concierge of our hotel at our next destination, Adelaide, and he called her to arrange for a bike for me there. Little did I know at that time that I was to return to and bike on that island 17 years later!

Adelaide, South Australia's major city, is the equivalent of Austin, Texas, which the capital of our state in the same geographic position. I had a serious destination decision to make: I could do the 70-mile round-trip ride to the world-class Barossa wine-producing area or a more relaxed tour of the "S.A. Riviera." I opted for the shore route and cycled on well-marked bike trails from Adelaide towards the beaches and the main oceanfront palindromic town of Glenelg. Lunch fare was the typical Aussie "fish & chips" wrapped in an old newspaper.

We travelled from Adelaide to Alice Springs, Northern Territories, on the luxury Ghan train. From there we were planning to visit world-famous Ayers Rock, Western Australia's major city of Perth and a second stay in Sydney en route home. At 4:00am, we received a telephone call from Boston that our daughter Mindy was in emergency surgery there and we quickly decided to immediately return to visit her. I remember one woman at the airport saying, "The rock will still be there when you return to Australia." We arrived in Boston at the end of a grueling trip (Alice Springs-Melbourne-Auckland-Los Angeles-Boston with no layovers). In a few days my daughter was OK and I started thinking of returning to Australia at some future time to continue our abruptly interrupted itinerary.

It was 12 years later in 2004 that I returned alone to finish the earlier itinerary and to do a bike tour in Tasmania. New Zealand Pedaltours runs excellent tours in Tasmania, Victoria, and Queensland. I took the 9-day tour of Tasmania's West Coast (Launcester to Hobart). We cycled through Sheffield, Cradle Mountain, Tullah, Lake St. Clair National Park and Strahan. We saw uniquely Australian animals such as wallabies and wombats. The terrain is moderately hilly. This tour now costs US\$3,700. NYCC member Maggie Schwarz also enjoyed Pedaltours programs in Tasmania and Victoria. The region was quiet and beautiful but I felt that the New Zealand's South Island was a bit more exquisite.

I then flew to Ayers Rock, Northern Territories (indeed it was still there). The area was hot—it was their midsummer. There were plenty of insects. I could see why it is said that the Australian national salute is fanning or waving the insects away! It was quite windy—therefore visitors were banned from climbing on the rock. I recalled seeing a group of bikes at the hotel and arranged to rent one of them. I took the bike out to the rock and rode around it. I was able to stop frequently and view it from all sides and at all angles—it was spectacular!

Perth is Australia's equivalent of San Diego. Both cities are located near the southwest corner of their country and state and can boast of having plenty of sunshine. Around Perth, the major city of Western Australia, everyone who wasn't on a yacht was on a bicycle! I arrived in Perth with seven whole days with no planned schedule structure. Fortunately, the hotel had reasonably good bikes made available to its guests. I arranged two full-day non-biking events, bus tour to W.A.'s prime wine area, Margaret River and a boat cruise from Perth with hourly wine tastings. I had a chance to meet fellow tourists from all over Australia and the world on both of these days.

Another sunny day took me on a full-day excursion by a short boat ride to 5 X 11 km Rottneest Island. The sandy carless island is interlaced with bike trails. I checked out several nice beaches as I tooted around the island. One building housed several thousand bikes—the most I have seen under one roof. As I recall, since I apparently looked to be competent with bikes, the bike rental woman gave me a task regarding all of her rented bikes around the island but I cannot recall specifically what my duties were. However, I recall talking to many of the other cyclists.

I saw dozen of quokkas, (an indescribable animal indigenous to "Rotto" but apparently not seen anywhere else in the world).

One of my goals was to be photographed with kangaroos. A guidebook said that in a park near one of Perth's bridges, the "roos" were fed at 7:00am daily. I rode out there early one morning and found no traces of them and a few denizens said they had never seen them. Just as I was ready to give up and leave the park I noticed a park ranger vehicle and asked the driver about the feeding. She said, "Follow me!" We spent about a half hour feeding them and chatting. It blew her mind that someone from 10,000+ miles away had come to her park to feed her roos. She took several good photos of me, my bike and her charges.

Another glorious day was spent cycling 20 kms. along Perth's beaches (1 nude) to Freemantle, the yachting center and site of the America's Cup. Had a nice seafood lunch and purchased an Australia bike jersey there. The area's famous "Freemantle Doctor," a perpetual strong wind, slowed down my forward progress.

The last day in Perth was spent on a list of chores and preparing for a cross-Australia epic train journey to start the next morning. After riding on an urban trail to an upscale district called Subiaco for breakfast, I got a haircut (the trip was a month duration!), had my camera repaired and my clothes cleaned. I also rode out to the train station where I was to catch the Indian Express train back to Sydney to confirm my arrangements. As I sipped the obligatory drink at the bar atop Perth's tallest building, I reflected on how I had seen all of it and could navigate most of its areas and environs. Near the end of week on a tour bus I had to (and was able to!) direct the bus driver through Perth's streets! I don't recall seeing a single cloud during my week in this remote but lovely area of the world.

The 3-½-day train ride was laidback, relaxing and very social—it was actually a party train. It gave the passengers some insight and feeling as to the vastness and remoteness of the country's interior. I thought about my friends, a Colorado couple who cycled, unsupported, the thousands of miles from Perth to Sydney. I imagined the isolation they must have felt, the heat, dryness, insects and the few miserable "roadhouses" (inns) every 75 miles or so along the way. Just carrying water must have been an enormous challenge! The flat stretch on the Nullarbor Plain (no trees!) is the longest railway in the world without a turn. In Sydney (New South Wales), I did a ride through the country's largest city.

Onto Queensland! I rode through Brisbane, the state's major city with an outstanding waterfront. The next day, I took a ferry to South Stradbroke Island for a day of cycling there. Several days in Noosa were spent on a four-wheel drive to the sand island—Fraser Island and hanging out at the hotel's pool and beach. The thin-as-a-rail triathalonning concierge rented me a nice bike and suggested several routes. At her suggestion, I cycled out to Eumondi for their huge Saturday crafts and antiques fair. Several times along the road, I noticed cars parked for no apparent reason. Slowing down to find out, I discovered that koala bears were observed in the eucalyptus trees and the drivers and passengers were trying to get a glimpse.

On the nonstop flight from Brisbane to Los Angeles, I realized that I had cycled in all of Australia's states and territories except Victoria (Melbourne). Although I had been in Melbourne twice before thinking about the goal of cycling in all the states, I never got on a bike there.

Fast forward to 2009. The travel arm of Trek Bicycles had established bicycle tours in South Australia. It included cycling around Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, and the Barossa wine area. In checking the air routing, I discovered that there were still no nonstop flights to Adelaide from the U.S. United flew to Melbourne and I would change to Adelaide but I could stay over in Melbourne for a few days and CYCLE IN VICTORIA!!, then I would have cycled in all the states and territories.

On January 29, I arrived in Adelaide to a brutal heat wave which was covering the whole Southern part of the continent with temperatures up to 115F. Victoria was having extensive forest fires. The riding was mostly in shady areas and there was somewhat of a breeze which made it bearable. I stopped frequently for ice. When we got near the coast and in Kangaroo Island, it had cooled off somewhat. By this point I was getting used to cycling on the left side of the roads (I had done this before in New Zealand, South Africa and some Asian and Caribbean countries). However, maneuvers such as right turns were still difficult. I had to adjust my helmet mirror and turn my head each time I wanted a backward look—left drive mirrors are not available. NYCC member Grace Pineda was also in our group. The trip now costs about US\$5,000 and no longer includes Kangaroo Island.

I flew to Melbourne, which is definitely a world-class city, culinary, biking and otherwise. The bike rental shop also ran a two-wheel tour of Melbourne's ethnic neighborhoods. What better way to complete my collection of all the Australian states? This tour included hourly stops at markets in each neighborhood. At the conclusion of the tour I was stuffed to the point I had to abandon my dinner plans. The last day I rode solo on paved urban paths towards to the seaport and the town of St. Kilda's (a bit like Piermont!).

I have yet to meet another American or Australian cyclist who has cycled in all of the states down under!

Escape New York 2011 in Photos



The morning of September 24 dawned mild and dry at Sakura Park, where coffee, muffins and gargantuan gourmet scones from City Bakery launched the 17th Annual Escape New York.

It was the culmination of one year of work for ENY Director Beth Bryson and the ENY Committee, who, with the help of 180 enthusiastic member volunteers, made so many moving parts run smoothly and look easy, raising the ENY bar higher still.

From the mountain of rider feedback, NYCC *sparkled* under the spotlight:

- NYCC is AWESOME!!!! I only joined a month ago, and I have already fallen in love with this club. It is organized, positive, supportive, and open to all levels! (You knew this already though.)

And doing Escape NY was a huge catapult into my love of NYCC, by how not only everything was so clear and well-supported, but also how it was run by cycling volunteers. Everyone helping on the route and rest stops understood the cycling mentality and therefore really ran it all so wonderfully.

AND everyone was just so darn friendly, I'm just so pleased. (And the food ROCKED!) Thanks again for such a wonderful day!

-- Alicia

- From the singing ladies at the Piermont rest stop to the fellow who changed my tire for me back at Sakura Park, everyone who represented your club was friendly and helpful. My 4th time on the ride and won't be my last. A pleasure.

-- Don Karlewicz

- What a brilliant day! The route was fantastic as was the support and catering on the day. I have never been to an event so well catered. I will definitely recommend this event to anyone and everyone!!

-- Emma Gaul

- Fantastically organized -- the rest stops were incredible. Thanks so much for organizing this event. I'll definitely be back next year and most likely will even join your club next cycling season. Thanks again.

-- Jackie Ciringione

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Escape New York 2011 Photos by Nic Lawson, Fred Leffel, Harv Bedi, Claudia Kulesh, Angelica Ocasio, Pasqualina Azzarello Brown, Ellen Jaffe.















