

NYCC Archives – July 2011



July “President’s Message”



By Ellen Jaffe

Friends, Fellow Members,

Six months down, six to go and what a time it’s been.

SRO club meetings, oversubscribed SIG and STS, our first online store (200+ pieces sold), the Crosby Hotel benefit evening for the Kids Ride Club (sold out), our much improved website, the Bulletin Archive Team at work outlining our past, our Newcomers Ride on June 12 with a sea of new faces, Berkshires Weekend, July 4th at West Point, the 75th Gala Committee at work (sold out and a mere two weeks away), the Escape New York Committee deep into planning, NYCC membership at 2,050 and likely headed for record territory this year. And all this against the backdrop of an NYPD enforcement initiative which became, in certain ways, a triumph for our club, if a painful one. Not because we reached fair resolution about Central Park, but because our members mobilized around a serious problem, not as complainers, but as doers.

* * *

The rest of the year . . . well, one thing is for sure . . . sheer joy is coming our way with the Gala on July 16th. Christy and Jody have worked very hard to gather the Club’s biggest contributors over the decades, wherever they live now. Because of their efforts and those of the Gala Committee, Club legends are going to rock Rebar on July 16.

* * *

And there will be no slacking off for the rest of the summer . . . Brigitte will not let us. (That's Brigitte Padewski, NYCC Special Events Director).

We've got a great Club meeting on July 12 when Paul Levine, generous gala donor of a \$7,500 custom Serotta, will discuss bike fit. Then, there is our Tour de France evening on July 21, a Brooklyn Cyclones game on August 4, an August 14 All-Class Ride overlooking a glorious Long Island Sound Beach in Rye, an August Ice Cream Social, and several partner events with EMS and Bike Habitat along the way, not to mention Escape New York, on September 24.

Recently, I heard someone ask: "What's the point of Escape New York?" It gave pause to consider that, though it raises money for good causes, Escape New York is not about raising money; that it is more an opportunity we grab with pleasure, to show off this enduring and beloved Club, a club that has always been a proxy for its members substantial collective energy and love of cycling.

So, volunteer.

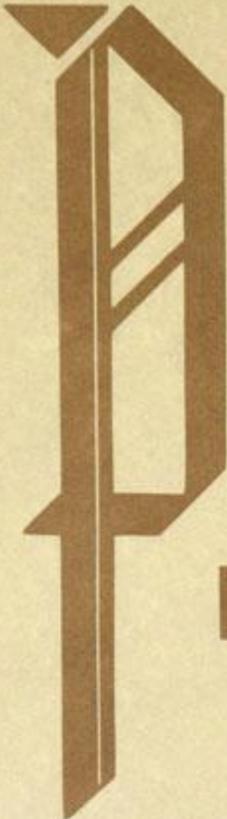
Do some terrific things for our club this 75th year.

See you on the road.

Ellen



On NYCC's 75th anniversary, we proudly received a Proclamation from the Council of the City of New York in honor of our outstanding service and contribution to the community. What an important and fantastic way to be recognized by our community!



THE COUNCIL



CITY OF NEW YORK



Proclamation

Whereas: *New York Cycle Club, founded in 1936, is our city's oldest and largest non-racing, recreational cycling club. This venerable city institution offers everyone a valuable community of riding fellowship, fun and great opportunities to volunteer; and*

WHEREAS: *Today, New York Cycle Club (NYCC) continues to grow with more than 2,200 members strong. This vibrant community includes bicycle enthusiasts of all backgrounds and pace levels united in their passion for two-wheels. Members have access to well-planned, member-led rides throughout the year, a nationally recognized spring training program, monthly meetings featuring cycling industry experts, a full calendar of special events for both novice and experienced cyclists, and much more. Whether they join to get in shape, make new friends or explore the most beautiful routes in the tri-state area, they have inspired countless other New Yorkers with their infectious enthusiasm; and*

WHEREAS: *Although the organization is both recreational and educational for its members, NYCC has also had a profound impact in the community at large. Through annual fundraising efforts, NYCC has provided great financial support to other important city non-profit organizations, including Recycle-A-Bicycle and Transportation Alternatives. Transportation Alternatives advocates for bicycling, walking and public transit; for safer, calmer neighborhood streets and car-free parks in New York City. Recycle-A-Bicycle is a community-based non-profit organization that provides educational/job training programs and encourages environmental stewardship and everyday bicycle use. Many NYCC members have also participated in the Kid's Ride Club, a program that gets young disadvantaged kids off the street corners and on a bike toward healthier lives. This year, NYCC plans to expand its fundraising efforts to include Safe Streets Fund, a New York City-based non-profit dedicated to reducing traffic-related injuries and fatalities; and*

WHEREAS: *After seventy-five years, NYCC continues to grow thanks to the leadership of its President Ellen Jaffe, dedicated board members, and all of its tireless volunteers. Working together, NYCC members encourage all area cyclists to ride safe, have fun, get strong and fortify our community. Today, as an ever-increasing number of New Yorkers discover the joy of cycling, the organization also plays an instrumental role in fostering a culture of respect among the cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers—everyone who shares our city streets; and*

WHEREAS: *NYCC has truly distinguished itself in its service and it is worthy of the esteem of all New Yorkers; now, therefore*

BE IT KNOWN: *That the Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the members of*

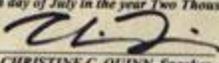
New York Cycle Club

on the occasion of their

75th Anniversary

for their outstanding service and contributions to the community.

Signed this 16th day of July in the year Two Thousand and Eleven.



CHRISTINE C. QUINN, Speaker
For the Entire Council



NYCC Photos of the Week



The inaugural VCR (Vintage Classic Retro) ride pedaled its way to Piermont. In addition to old steel frames, circa pre-1990, riders showed up with vintage wool jerseys, leather shoes and a "hairnet" style helmet. Five of the six saddles were Brooks saddles.

(l. to r.): PatrickT, TonyM, MaggieN, RogerB, PeterS, SteveK



During the program at NYCC's 75th Anniversary Gala, Christy Guzzetta addressed a rapt audience.



Oh What a Night. The 75th Anniversary Gala Committee celebrates a mission accomplished.

(l. to r.) Christy Guzzetta, Brigitte Padewski, Jody Sayler, Wayne Wright, Susan Niederman, Paul Hofherr, Geo Carl Kaplan, Nicole Snow, George Arcarola, Harry Woods, Maggie Nguyen

Photo: Bob Cowin

Ride Leader Swag

So you put in real Ride Leader sweat in 2010 and you've earned NYCC swag. Find out what you earned, and where and when you can get what's coming to you!

We've got beautiful new NYCC socks and water bottles to give out to the deserving ride leaders of 2010.

Your swag can be picked up at Club meetings, including the next meeting about bike fit on July 12.

The formula:

Lead 3-5 rides = NYCC water bottle

Lead 6-11 rides = NYCC socks

Lead 12+ = NYCC ride leader jersey

Water Bottle	Socks	Socks
Abe Marcus Arvi Sreenivasan	Alan Resnick Albert Taylor	Ken Scher Kerith Gardner
Bob Cowin	Alfredo Garcia	Kevin Gately
Chris Hartman Dennis Griffin	Alisa Judy Andi Cortes-Comerer	Kim Jenkins Lauren Gilker
Ellen Borowka Glen Gordon	Angel Rivera AnnMarie Ficuciello	Laurie Malkof Lisa Helburn
Irv Schachter Jeanine Hartnet	Aparna Kane Audry Brahms	Lisa Mazzola Liz Greenstein
Jeff "El Jefe" Vogel	Basil Ashmore	Liz Kelly
Jeff Terosky Jessica Schpero Joe Pedata Joel Anderson	Betsy Hafkin Bob Mirell Bradley Klein Brian Sullivan	Lucia Deng Lynda Logan Mae Pan Marjorie Kim
John Greenwood John Viesta Kevin Broomell Marcy Bloomstein	Carol Casalino Cathline Marshall Charles Radcliffe Charlie Collins	Mark Hugel Mark Israel Mark Loftis Martha Leighton
Michael Allison Nick Lawson Ron Gentile	Chris Nolter Chris Shea Christine Xenakis	Matthew Hiller Micah Ilowit Michael Kreitman
Scott Safier Terry Leaves	Christopher Hartmann Christopher Ziemer Christy Guzzetta	Michael Weitzman Mike Donikian Mitch Levine
	Claudia Doege Claudia Kulesh	Mitch Rubenstein MJ Durkee
	Claudine Kipp	Monica Miller
	Cyna Alderman	Mordecai Silver

Dan Castro	Morene Bangel
Dan De Luna	Neil Botwinoff
Dave Schlichting	Nicole Snow
David Sabbarese	Oriel Mor
Diane Smykowski	Pam Gheysen
Dottie Castille	Pat Kilroy
Elenita Fabre	Pat Mullen
Eric Rayvid	Patrick Chin-Hong
Erica Jacobs	Patrick Tomeny
Erica Smolowitz	Paul Hofherr
Ernie Paredes	Paul Trowbridge
Eva Wirth	Paula Froke
Felica Ennis	Raoul Edwards
Fred Harris	Robert Dinkelman
Freda Ready	Rod Ciardullo
Gail Siegal	Ron Roth
Gary McGraime	Russ Bogin
Gerald Seppay	Sally Lloyd-Jones
Gerry Villeneuve	Scott Wasserman
Gil Yang	Sosi Ermarkaryan
Greg Lowdermilk	Stephanie Gross
Hank Schiffman	Steven Britt
Harvey Minsky	Sylvia Mueller
Jean-Paul van den Berg	Tamara Lipshie
Jesse Brown	Todd Brilliant
Jim Finder	Tom Denham
Jim Furst	Tom Laskey
Jim Kelly	Trudy Hutter
Jim Reaven	True Sims
Jimmie Dudo Galante	Valli McRoberts
Joe Casalino	Victor Baruh
Joe Hunt	
Joe Irizarry	
John Humenik	
John Kalish	
John Pinto	



Watch Le Tour de France, July 21

Join your fellow NYCCers and watch Stage 18: Pinerolo > Galibier Serre-Chevalier, High Mountains of the Tour de France at Blondies Sports!

Date: Thursday, July 21

Time: 7:00pm

Where: [Blondies Sports](#), 212 West 79th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam



Social Hour Saturdays at Hudson Beach Café

We are continuing our social hour Saturdays! Stop by on your way home from your ride and mingle with your fellow NYCC members. The social hours are at P.D. O'Hurley's, Hudson Beach Cafe on the first Saturdays for the months below.

Date: Saturday, August 6, September 3 and October 1

Time: 2:00pm -5:00pm

Where: P.D. O'Hurley's Hudson Beach Cafe, at West 105th Street and Riverside Park; enter at 103rd and Riverside Drive and walk down a winding leafy path to the concrete patio, where rows of café tables surround a makeshift bar



NYCC Ice Cream Social, August 9

NYCC is continuing the tradition of replacing our August Club meeting with a very cool ice cream social in Central Park. Join us at Knish Nosh’s beautiful pond-side seating area held exclusively for NYCC members and have a delicious dish of ice cream – compliments of NYCC!

Knish Nosh Café also sells an assortment of foods in case you want to buy dinner before your dessert.

This is a weather-sensitive event. Please watch the NYCC Message Board the morning of August 9th for any updates.

You **must** RSVP for this event. Send email to events@nycc.org. Be sure to include your **full name** in your RSVP email.

Date: Tuesday, August 9th

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Where: Knish Nosh Café at the Central Park Sailboat Pond adjacent to the Model Boat House, 73rd Street and Fifth Avenue. Knish Nosh Café is located immediately down the hill upon entering the park at 73rd and Fifth.



Cheer on the Brooklyn Cyclones as they face off with the Williamsport Crosscutters! It's Brooklyn vs. Philadelphia and you get a free cap, need we say more?

Date: Thursday, August 4

Time: 7:00pm

Where: MCU Park, 1903 Surf Avenue, Brooklyn (located just steps from Coney Island's famed boardwalk, under the majestic Parachute Jump), [Directions](#)

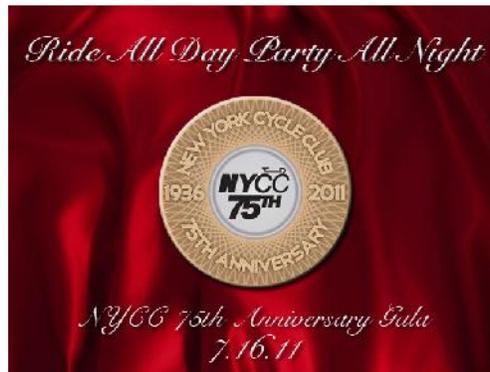
Price: \$13 per ticket (includes a voucher for a free cap)

Giveaway Night: First 3,000 fans receive a Cyclones Jersey!

Tickets are limited to 19 attendees.

Please use PayPal to purchase your ticket - [Order now!](#)

For those attending, event details will be emailed a week prior to the game.



NYCC 75th Anniversary Gala

RIDE ALL DAY

To celebrate our diamond anniversary, 14 Club leaders will lead us on 14 very special rides to Nyack or Piermont. [Public transportation](#) by bus is available for those who choose not to ride.

When: Saturday July 16, 8:30am (get there earlier to schmooze)

Where: [Sakura Park](#), 122 Street / Riverside Drive (except C-12 ride)

You don't have to be registered for the party to ride; everyone is invited. Wear the oldest NYCC jersey you have!

RIDES DESCRIPTIONS

C12: Piermont Ramble

Leader: Susan Niederman, SusanN@nyc.rr.com

Co-leader: Eunice Martinez

Distance: 35 miles

Start Local: NW Corner of Ft. Washington & 177 Street

Description: In keeping with our Gala Day theme, please join us for a ride that honors NYCC's past, present, and future. We'll head out of the city along familiar roads common to many Club rides in the present, discover a few newly explored byways of the future, and rediscover a quiet, meandering stretch of road that was known to generations of NYCC riders in the past. Our gentle speed and mostly flat terrain will provide an opportunity to bring together former members, current members, and those new to NYCC.

C13: 75km to Piermont and Back

Leader: Deb Cox, debcoxnyc@gmail.com

Co-leader: Chris Nolter, Claudia Kulesh, Olive Blessing, Nick Watkins

Distance: 45 miles

Description: That's a kilometer for every year since NYCC set up shop. Do the math yourself (<http://www.metric-conversions.org/length/miles-to-kilometers.htm>) or take our word that it works out to about 45 classic NYCC miles. Even if you've done some C rides with the club, you might not know that Piermont actually has a pier that extends out into the Hudson. Our sources (we know a few crusty, long-time club members) tell us that in years past, it was common for NYCC riders to grab lunch in town then ride out to the end of the pier to enjoy it. Reviving this old tradition seems perfect for an NYCC 75th anniversary ride. We'll pass through Rockleigh and Old Tappan and try to entertain you with a little historic trivia. Don't worry! There's no test later. All you have to do is enjoy the ride and chill in the summer breeze at the end of the pier. Then brag to your friends that you rode 75,000 meters!

C14: Red Riding Jerseys: Over the River and Through the Woods

Leader: An Nguyen, amn.nyc@gmail.com

Co-leader: TBD

Distance: 47 miles

Description: Under the guidance of our fearless C-SIG leaders Gary and Gerry, we'll head over the GWB, then take Piermont Rd to get to Rockleigh Rd. Then we'll head over to Tallman for a leisurely ride through the woods on the trail path bringing us to Piermont. River Rd will bring us to Nyack. On the way back, we'll give a chance for the riders to take on the hills of 9W. Specifics are online at <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/40127592>

B15: Shades of Irv Weissman

Leader: Linda Wintner, lwintner@metliffe.com

Co-leader: Alicia Principe

Distance: 43 miles

Description: Let's celebrate the Club's 75th year by doing a mostly shady ride to Piermont and, if time permits, on to Nyack. (We want to have time to get ready for the party, don't we?) We'll honor Irv Weissman, one of the most impactful members of the NYCC and a founder of both the B and C SIGs, by using (shady) pieces of his various beautiful routes through NY/NJ, with some new tweaks thrown in that didn't exist in Irv's time. And, we'll try to share some funny stories along the way about Irv and how the Club has changed over the years (and, no, neither leader is 75+, so the stories will be of more recent vintage).

B16: The Absolutely No 9W Nyack Ride

Leader: Carol Waaser, bikerc@verizon.net

Co-Leader: Elyse Rothenberg, Andre Hunter

Distance: 57 miles

Description: 60 miles. We'll take quiet suburban roads and even a couple of miles of bike path. You'll think this is the easy route to Nyack, until we climb Bradley and Park, then circle down to Nyack. If the group is small enough, we'll stop at Didier Dumas for lunch (YUM, need I say more?). Other lunch options available if the group is larger. Back thru Piermont, then onto more suburban roads as we head home. Group vote as to Churchill or Walnut up the hill.

B17: The Schmo Ride

Leader: The Three Schmos, josh@joshkeller.com

Distance: 55 miles

Description: What makes this ride legendary? We don't need 150 words to explain it. It's a Schmo ride. There you have it, 4 words.

B18: Pre-Nuptial Agreement Redux

Leader: Steve Britt (aka Buzz), nycyclist@nyc.rr.com

Co-leader: Amy Hanowitz-Britt

Distance: 53 miles

Description: Here's the original 1995 post from this couple who met while riding in the NYCC.

Leaders: Bride & Groom?

He wants to go fast, she wants to schmooze. Can these two agree on their wedding day? Come to find out and help them celebrate and see if they can agree on a destination. This will be the first time since that day that we will attempt to co-lead a ride. Since the original ride didn't go to Nyack, see if we can agree on how to get there? Even better, how many of the original riders will show up? This will be a 'back-door' ride to Nyack. No, we're not using Clausland or Bradley. Also offering a new assault (at least to the leaders) of the Palisades.

B18: Carbon-Free Ride: Vintage Bikes

Leader: Damon Strub, damon@nomadarchitecture.com

Co-leader: Erica Jacobs

Distance: 55 miles

Description: A vintage bike, 55-mile ride in honor of 75 years of club cycling. Time to leave that 15 lb. Orbea in the garage and dust off the old steel bike for a taste of what it was like back in the old days. We'll take the classic ride up river road and 9W – but with a few unusual diversions; the hard pack path through Tallman

park, Ludlow lane, the bike path off Oaktree road, then up Bradley hill to Nyack. My wife Sarah and I will ride a couple of my vintage Raleigh road bikes. You're welcome to join us even if you don't have a vintage bike.

A17: "A" is for Legends

Leader: Debbie Rothschild, deroth@mindspring.com

Co-leader: Barbara Spandorf

Distance: 65 miles

Description: A 17 Bradley-Tweed-Rockland Lake-Nyack. 65 miles. We will ride 40 miles with several climbs, non-stop to lunch in Nyack, then take a usual way home, all at a speed the "elderly" and disabled can keep. Some of our most traveled, beloved roads, reminding people that our legends established a ride classification that makes sense and describes a ride as well as can be: a letter to designate style and a number for speed. Younger and able-bodied riders who enjoy "A" style, are comfortable in a paceline, but have no need for speed are welcome to join.

A19: Trouble Maker's Tour

Leader: Bob Ross, bob.ross@verizon.net

Co-leader: Betsy Hafkin

Distance: 65 miles

Description: I spent my formative years in Rockland Country, riding my bike on many of the very same roads that the NYCC now frequents. And so in honor of the Club's 75th Anniversary, I submit a nostalgic 55-mile ride past locations in Rockland County where I got into trouble as a teenager. Highlights include:

- Through the overpass on Sickletown Road where at age 13 Billy Rich attempted to teach me how to rappel.
- Past the stables on Town Line Road from where I stole horse manure.
- Past the house on East Street where I grew up and caused no end to my parents' chagrin.
- Past Lisa Lukasiewicz's house on Rose Road, where law enforcement broke up a cast party at age 15
- A descent on Foxwood Road past Karl Wanaselja's house, where my mind was first blown upon hearing the phrase "Mom, can we borrow your bong?"
- Quick drive-by of the junior high school, where I earned a week's detention for stuffing 147 forks into a radiator.
- A swing up the west side of Lake DeForest past Nicky Mills' house, where during a July 4th party my band's fog machine & strobe light simultaneously malfunctioned catastrophically, requiring a visit by police, fire department, & ambulances.
- Sown the east side of Lake DeForest behind the Rockland Country Day School, where apparently all my bandmates learned to become troublemaker enablers
- Climb up Crusher, Storm, & Christian Herald... just because
- Winding up in Nyack, where I attended the midnight screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show every Saturday for an entire summer.
- OPTION: a brief detour to the parking lot of Clarkstown High School South, where I learned to drive at 16 and 6 months later tried to demonstrate that it was possible to drive safely with a paper bag over your head.

My wife will co-lead for to ensure that I don't get into any further trouble.

A19: I Remember My First Bradley Tweed

Leader: Ron Torok, ron.torok@baml.com

Co-leader: Alan West

Distance: 60 miles

Description: In the spirit of the Club's 75th anniversary, this ride will follow an NYCC classic route. Many of us first dared venture away from River Road and 9W via the hills of Bradley and Tweed. This route continues to be a staple and is worthy of recognition on this important day. Across its 60 miles and 2,100 ft. of climbing, the ride captures much of what our local cycling has to offer – scenic views, challenging climbs, wide paceline-worthy straights and a touch of Revolutionary and Cold War history.

A20: Miles of Memories, A Lifetime of Friendships

Leader: Felicia Ennis, fsenyc@yahoo.com

Co-leaders: Michael Weitzman, Ellen Borowka, Nicole Snow, Victoria Ross

Distance: 65 miles

Description: This ride is all about celebrating the friendships - saddle tested and broken in, on and off the bike. A bunch of us met in the C Sig and graduated up through the A Sig, thanks to some great leaders who never let us forget that NYCC is about smooth, solid, safe riding. Come join us as we pay it forward, and forget the d@#! cue sheet because we all know this classic ride. We'll undulate over River Road, north on 9W, up Bradley/Tweed and into Nyack for lunch. We'll head back through Piermont and either take the scenic route along 501 to Churchill or south on 9W to the bridge. We'll be home in plenty of time to clean up nice for the big party!

A20: The Original Knot

Leader: Timothy McCarthy, timothy@cleanhands.net

Co-leader: Russ Bogin, Brian Sullivan

Description: What better way to get to Nyack than The Knot? Especially on the day celebrating the NYCC 75th Anniversary? We will make some modifications to the original route to suit the needs of the day, but stick to the general mandate of approaching the intersection of Tweed Blvd and Clausland Mountain Rd from

every direction. Plenty of climbing here. PLEASE NOTE: This ride will have a casual pace. We don't care who gets to the top first. In fact, we will curse those who seek to race to the top. We intend to stick together and work cooperatively. Bring your climbing gears and use them! Consider this a celebratory ride, with character.

A21: 75 and Climbing

Leader: Gun Keresteci, gun@keresteci.net

Co-leaders: Emily Maynard, Alan LaBate

Distance: 103 miles

Description: A fun century ride that will hail past Nyack at mile 75 with 7500 ft of climbing. Stop at Tiorati Beach for a quick swim after climbing Little Tor and Gate Hill. Seven Lakes to Perkins for a photo opportunity on top of Bear Mountain. Stop in Nyack for a late lunch and take River Road home to avoid getting scorched on 9W.

PARTY ALL NIGHT



That evening, we're taking over [reBar](#), a fantastic party space in DUMBO.

We'll honor the legends of the Club – past, present and future.

We'll eat, drink and dance until we drop, and raffle amazing prizes like a [VBT](#) cycling trip to Tuscany and a one-of-a-kind custom Serotta bicycle from [Signature Cycles](#). *You must be present at the drawing to win.*

When: July 16, 7:00pm

Where: reBar, [147 Front Street, Brooklyn](#)

Dress code: Anything goes, but the word is, people are dressing up.

The party is sold out.

WIN AN INCREDIBLY RARE SEROTTA BICYCLE



To honor our anniversary, [Signature Cycles](#) is making a very significant contribution to the fun.

They're giving us an extremely rare, limited edition Serotta [Colorado VentiCinque](#) for our drawing.

One lucky ticket holder will win one of only 25 of these absolutely iconic bicycles.

Handmade with a new state-of-the-art Columbus steel tubing, signed by Ben Serotta, and custom fit by Signature Cycles, this is a magnificent prize.

SOMEONE'S GOING TO ITALY



Who wants to go to Italy with their bicycle? Eat the best food, drink the best wine, and ride the best roads on the planet.

Just buying a ticket enters you into a drawing to win a cycling trip, airfare included, in the cradle of the Renaissance.

[VBT](#) is so awesome and so excited about our Anniversary, they've donated this once-in-a-lifetime tour in honor of all the legends of the Club. There will be more prizes, so stay tuned.

COME HUNGRY



reBar is planning a very special menu for our 75th Anniversary celebration.

There will be stations where you can enjoy their finest – hamburger sliders, mac & cheese, smoked salmon, shrimp tacos, steak/chicken/veggie skewers and more – all over the place, at your own speed.

Time Out New York calls the place "a shrine to the art of eating and drinking." Of course after that, we'll clear the floor, turn up the system and dance.

ARE YOU A LEGEND OF THE PAST, PRESENT OR FUTURE?



The heart of the evening will be a celebration of the Legends of the Club.

Famous (and infamous) NYCC Club members from yesteryear are coming from all over the world to meet you, the Legends of the present and future.

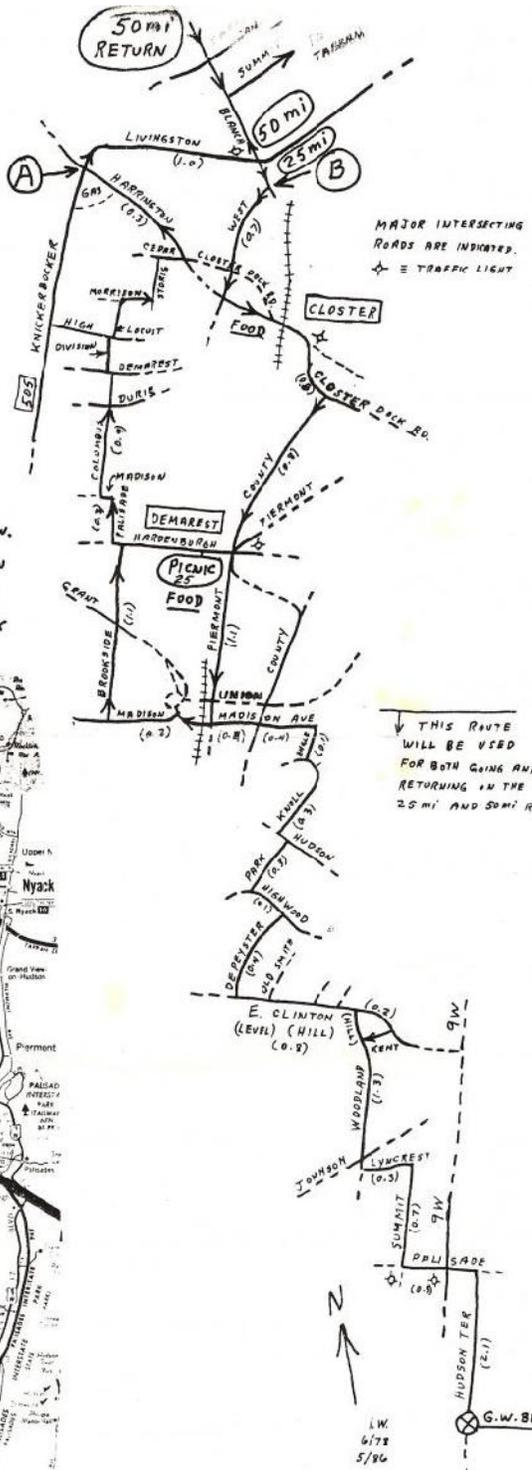
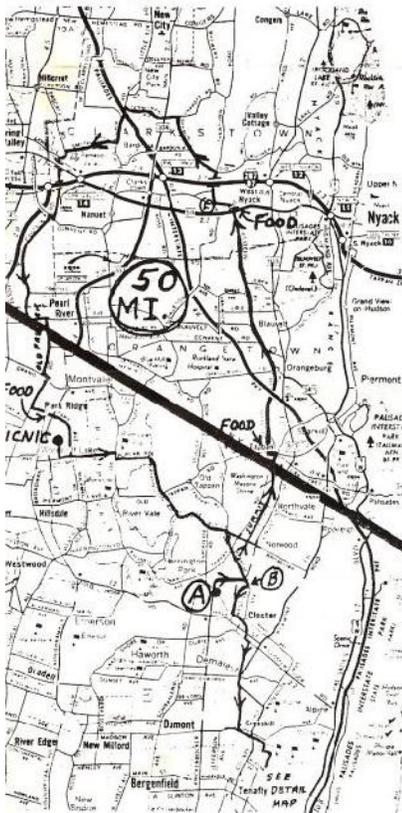
We'll celebrate the people and stories that have made our Club what it is today, and what it will be tomorrow.

RIDE DOWN MEMORY LANE

NYCC
25 & 50 Miles

25 mi RIDE
GOES TO (A) THEN (B)
AND EATS AT (PICNIC)
RETURN TO G.W. BR. VIA
PIERMONT AND MADISON AVE.
(RETRACE THE MORNING ROUTE
FROM MADISON AVE. BACK TO G.W.)

50 mi. RIDE
PROCEED TO (A), THEN
TO BLANCH. STOPLIGHT.
TAKE LEFT TO SUMMIT.
FOLLOW ROUTE AS SHOWN BELOW.
WHEN THE LOOP IS FINISHED YOU
WILL BE AT (B). FOLLOW THE
DETAILED MAP, AT RIGHT, BACK
TO G.W. BR.



As we embark on a wonderful weekend celebrating 75 years of the New York Cycle Club's history, let's take a look back at some of the highlights.

Rides usually started and ended at "the hill." The hill was just across from the Boathouse where we meet for rides today. On the hill was a tree, which provided shade for riders. Today, once we return across the GW Bridge, riders just scatter and make their own way home. Back in the day, rides all ended back at the hill, where everyone caught up with each other's lives and rides. See, back then, the Internet didn't exist yet, so if you wanted to talk to someone, you had to actually see them, face to face. There would sometimes be 50+ cyclists sitting on the hill between 2:00-4:00pm, trading gossip from their various rides. Tourists would stop and take photos of the colorful sight.

Perched on the hill, was a fella named Lou S. Pokes. Lou was always there to catch up on the gossip. And gossip he did. He used to just sit there and eavesdrop on other people's conversations and even went on rides he had little interest in, just to get the dirt. Lou had his own edgy gossip column in the monthly paper bulletin in the 1990s where he wrote about everyday happenings like wedding and birth announcements, ride summaries and who's dating who. He had a unique way of just sliding it in, like "Madge and Hank's (yes) Dam(n) Bike Ride was a success with over 20 riders enjoying a scenic route which included the Croton Dam." Lou was even threatened with lawsuits twice. One of the parties actually went so far as to contact four different lawyers, one of whom is still a good friend of Lou. The Club has been endlessly trying to replace him since his retirement in 1998, but Lou is a legend.

Unfortunately, the tree that provided shade for the cyclists was struck by lightning and the Parks department cut it down. With no shade on the hill, it lost much of its appeal. "Sitting on the hill" was no more. Some people began a tradition of sitting on "the benches" (just north of Tavern on the Green) but that didn't last long.

You heard of the guy who started the SIG to catch the eye of the most beautiful woman in the Club, right? How can you not have heard this story? He tells you every opportunity he gets. So Christy Guzzetta had a thing for a pretty red-head, Jody Sayler. Jody had just come off an injury and wanted to learn how to ride stronger. So Christy came up with a wild story that there's this training group that goes out every weekend to learn various skills while increasing the speed and distance. Naive, Jody agreed. Holy cr4p. Now Christy had to actually come up with this training program. So he recruited his friends to help lead the first SIG. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the SIG. This year also marks the 20th wedding anniversary of Christy and Jody (yes!).

So this same troublemaker decided one day that he wanted to lead a Nude Beach ride to Sandy Hook. This required going over the Goethals Bridge. There's no non-car traffic across this bridge. He calls up the NYPD and asks what it takes to cross the bridge by bike. It goes nowhere. Being the smooth talking salesman that he is, he asks, "What if the Mayor wanted to get across the bridge by bike?" "Oh, please hold." This goes on for a bit until he actually secures a police escort to let a handful of cyclists ride over the bridge! At the beach, Hell's Angels were waiting for a guy named "Christy." These Hell's Angels had heard that a group of bikers were coming to the beach. When asked, "Who's Christy?", the legend replied, "Who wants to know?" Obviously, when the Hell's Angels figured out the bikers that were coming to the beach were a bunch of Lycra-clad exercise buffs on ten speeds, everyone got a good laugh. They even invited the cyclists to play in the naked volleyball game.

Moving on. Talk about a sight to be seen. Way before the great debate in the 1990s connecting cycling and male impotence, there was a gentleman who rode without a saddle! Al Boland simply didn't have a saddle or seat post on his bike. And you thought your saddle was uncomfortable.

Did you ever wonder where the term "Schwebber" came from? Ed Schwebber, circa 1980s, used to get the worst grease chain marks on his calf. Members started teasing each other by saying things like "stop pulling a Schwebber" when grease marks would appear on each others' calves. Today, this term is part of our vernacular.

Something we take for granted is how easy it is to learn pancelining during the SIG season. During the monthly meetings at the beginning of the cycling season in the 1980s, a president named Chris Mailing would use an overhead projector to show two lines of riders as seen from top, wheel on wheel. He moved these cut-out figures to show how the first two riders would pull off the front and slip back to the end. He also warned how important it was to catch on to that last wheel or be lost! Good luck – hope you have a map!

Speaking of maps, did you know back in the day, cue sheets didn't exist? Cue sheets were photocopies of maps, highlighted with a yellow marker. Who do we have to thank for the first cue sheet? Thank you! And until someone discovered the gentle grade of Walnut, everybody went up one hill. There weren't 7 Deadly Hills to choose from to get back to the city; you had the most direct East Palisades and you liked it.

Probably one of the greatest outcomes of NYCC is the creation of the "Escape from New York" century. In late 1993, a group of NYCC friends, who had car-topped to many other clubs' centuries, wondered why we didn't have our own club century. To make sure it happened, they (Jane Kenyon, Larry Ksiez, Mitch Yarvin, Reyna Franco, and Steven Britt) ran for and held, Board positions for 1994. At Mary Ann's Mexican restaurant on 8th Avenue, Steven Britt, George Kaplan, Mitch Yarvin and Jane Kenyon met to begin the overwhelming organizational effort that would enlist many NYCC members. Committees were formed that worked very hard developing the event from scratch. The first Club century, on September 23, 1995, had just over 300 riders and went to Bear Mountain. Since the inaugural year, in fear of copyright conflicts with the movie, the Club has changed the ride name to Escape New York, moved the century destination to Rockland Lake and increased headcount to the 1,000s.

The Club has evolved through the years. We have all the past leaders to thank who made the Club what it is today - organization, routes, skills. What will the 100th anniversary Gala Committee be writing about us 25 years from now?

Members Corner

Humbled By the Hills of the New Gran Fondo



By **Susi Wunsch**, Publisher of the City Cycling Blog (<http://www.velojoy.com>), NYCC member

On Mother's Day, I traded my urban helmet for my Giro, and rode in the big new cycling event that you may have heard about, the [Gran Fondo New York](#), which started on the lower level of the Manhattan side of the George Washington Bridge and proceeded up Route 9W through Rockland County to Bear Mountain and back.

What's a Gran Fondo? It's an inclusive, Italian-style cycling race in which the winners are determined not by their aggregate times on the route, but by their performance on a series of strenuous hill climbs. The word means "long distance" or "great endurance" and, after my humbling outing on two of the marquee climbs, I can vouch for that translation.

Traditionally popular in Italy, these events are springing up all over the U.S. Fortune certainly smiled on New York City's inaugural version: The weather was perfect and the course – including River Road along the Palisades with its breath-taking views of the Hudson, the bucolic villages of Piermont and Nyack, and Bear Mountain – was picturesque in its springtime prime. It looks like the organizers have a hit on their hands with what the *Wall Street Journal* called "an up-and-coming race." Next year's race has been set for May 20, 2012.

Kicking the Tires on Racing

The reason that I entered was to see what participating in a race might be like –I say *might be*, because there are two divisions, the competitive and the non-competitive.

The Gran Fondo is a 100-mile race with four timed climbs, big prizes (moola and merchandise), a podium ceremony and an opportunity to qualify for the UCI Amateur World Championship. The division that I rode in is called the Medio Fondo. It's a non-competitive, 66-mile event with two timed hill-climbs, and results posted online in alphabetical order.

We Medio participants rode out to the Congers, New York area, and then turned around, while the Gran Fondo riders jetted off to quad-burning exertion and glory on Bear Mountain.

I started out with a team that had been kind enough to include me in some of their weekend training rides and which finished the Gran Fondo in the top five. (Congrats guys and Jamie. You are truly awesome!) However, my ride back to the finish line near the base of the George Washington Bridge turned out to be surprisingly solitary, because there were fewer takers for the Medio than I might have expected.

Hincapie Was in the House

One of the race organizers told me later that 95 percent of the more than 2,000 entrants, which reportedly included riders from 57 countries, came to race the 100 miles. In Italy, she said, the Medio is a competitive race and typically draws a larger crowd than the Gran Fondo itself. But here in New York, the Medio is considered a touring event. It gives recreational cyclists a chance to share the road with the racers (including George Hincapie, the pro who rode with Lance Armstrong in all seven of his Tour de France victories), and it rounds out entry sales.

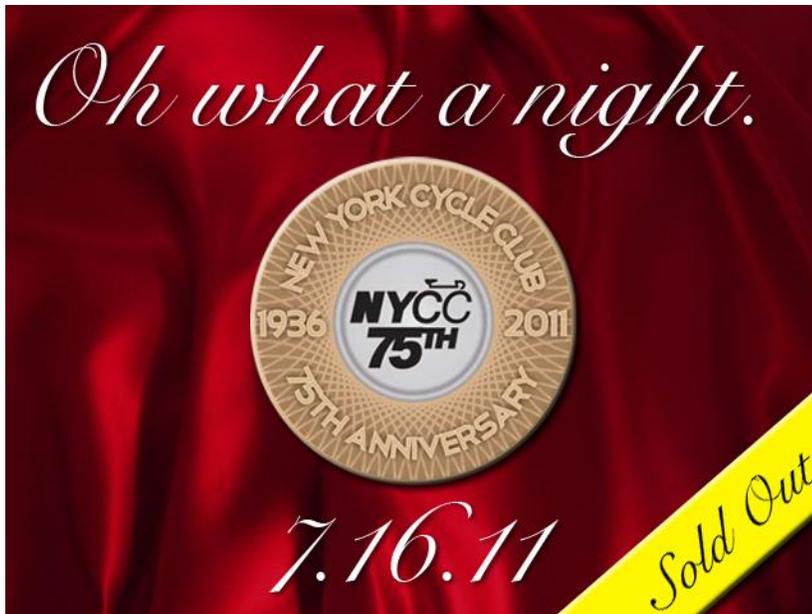
I guess I chose to look at it a different way, though. To me, the Medio was the equivalent of Gran Fondo Lite. It was a chance to try it on for size and to see if riding the full race is something to which I might aspire next year. I've ridden century rides, mostly for charity and on flat terrain, but this event put me in a starting corral, had me negotiating a tight downhill from the bridge and gave me a taste of steeper climbs than what I'm used to.

A Novice's Mistakes

Sure I made silly newbie errors. Example: As I approached the first climb at mile 35 called *Colle della Punta Rocciosa* (which translates, I think, roughly into "Bad-Ass Hill that Will Make You Wish You Had Trained Harder") I heard shouts of "Go! Go!" So I hit the gas only to discover that the first timing mat was still many meters in the distance. Consequently, I burned up a bunch of energy too early and struggled to the top.

I came away from that and other experiences on this outing with 1) a deeper respect than ever for the mind-bending strength that elite cyclists possess, and 2) a hunger to improve my technical skills and training for a try at the 100-mile race next year.

Ultimately, while the Medio was a great experience, it was a bit like eating reduced-calorie ice-cream – tasty, but not as satisfying as the full-fat version.



To celebrate NYCC's diamond anniversary year, you're invited to a very special event.

It will be a day of riding and a night of partying like none the club has ever known -- a *Gala*, filled with entertainment, history, friends and fun.

Come honor the legends of the Club, past, present and future. Come hungry. And get ready to dance.

When: Saturday, July 16

Rides: 9:00 am @ the Central Park Boathouse

Party: 7:00 pm @ reBar, 147 Front Street, Brooklyn

The Gala is currently sold out! Watch the Message Board for the announcement of possible additional ticket sales!

2010 Ride Leader Jersey Distribution



We will begin distribution of the Ride Leader jerseys (58 people qualified by leading 12+ rides in 2010) at the NYCC Club meeting on Tuesday night, June 14.

Even if you don't intend to stay for the meeting (C-SIG and A-SIG graduation), please stop by Annie Moore's any time after 6:30pm to pick up your jersey.

Also, we will be giving out the water bottles to the 46 people who led 3+ rides. Socks are still two weeks away from delivery -- we will hand those out at the July meeting.

Jerseys can also be picked up from Adrienne Browning at her apartment (Upper West Side) most nights (or they can be left with the doorman). Please email Adrienne at adrienne.browning@db.com to make these arrangements.



At NYCC's July 12 Club meeting, Paul Levine, founder of Signature Cycles, will present a hands-on bicycle fitting demonstration. It will be an interactive presentation with Q&A encouraged during the demonstration.

Paul Levine has over 13 years of experience in the retail and education segments of the cycling industry. From 2001 to 2006, Paul's fitting processes were pioneered, developed and instructed at the Institute of Professional Bike Fitting, training over 500 dealers worldwide in the art and science of professional bike fitting.

Paul was the winner of the 2008 inaugural *Bicycling* magazine's "Excellence in Applied Science Award" recognizing bicycle industry retailers and innovators who provide exceptional service and education in the area of integrating the human machine with the quintessential human-invented machine: the bicycle.

In 1999, he became the founder of [Signature Cycles](http://SignatureCycles.com), with locations in Manhattan, N.Y., Central Valley, N.Y. and Greenwich Connecticut. Signature Cycles is now the world's premier custom bicycle business.

Date: Tuesday, July 12

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

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

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

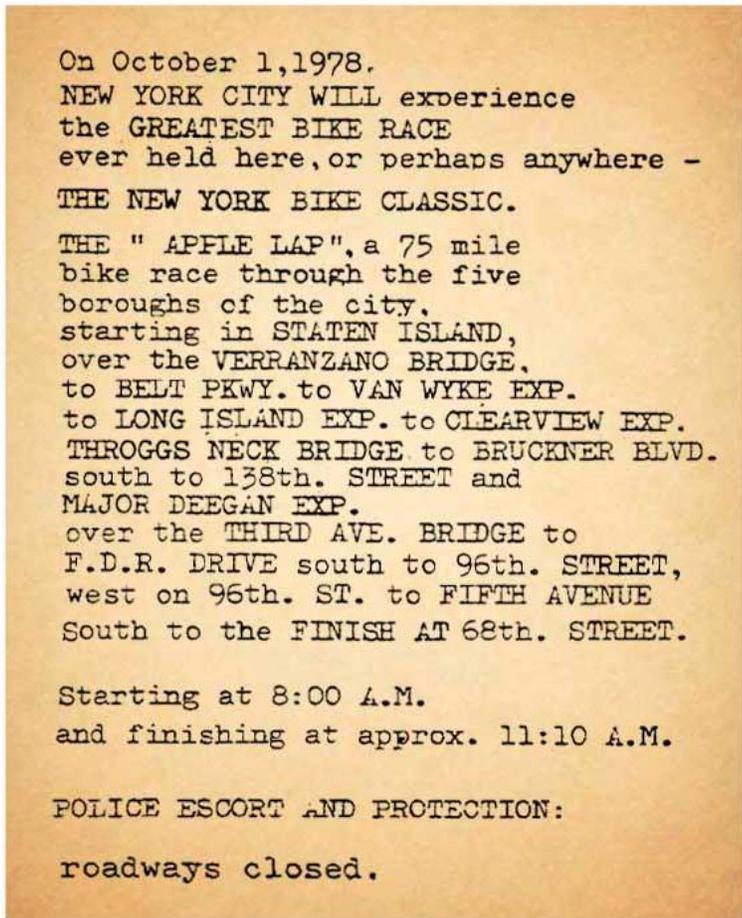
Buffet Dinner: 6:45pm - 7:30pm, \$20 per person

Program: 7:30pm - 9:00pm

If you are having dinner, [kindly RSVP](#) to programs@nycc.org

Past NYCC Bulletin Snippets

1978 New York Bike Classic



On October 1, 1978.
NEW YORK CITY WILL experience
the GREATEST BIKE RACE
ever held here, or perhaps anywhere -
THE NEW YORK BIKE CLASSIC.
THE " APPLE LAP", a 75 mile
bike race through the five
boroughs of the city,
starting in STATEN ISLAND,
over the VERRANZANO BRIDGE,
to BELT PKWY. to VAN WYKE EXP.
to LONG ISLAND EXP. to CLEARVIEW EXP.
THROGGS NECK BRIDGE to BRUCKNER BLVD.
south to 138th. STREET and
MAJOR DEEGAN EXP.
over the THIRD AVE. BRIDGE to
F.D.R. DRIVE south to 96th. STREET,
west on 96th. ST. to FIFTH AVENUE
South to the FINISH AT 68th. STREET.

Starting at 8:00 A.M.
and finishing at approx. 11:10 A.M.

POLICE ESCORT AND PROTECTION:

roadways closed.

NYCC Then...

NYCC has 140 members. Among club assets: typewriter, silk screen, heat transfer inventory.

1980

The future of the annual ride, "In search of the Nude Beach" is threatened by "Operation Shorebird", a proposal of the National Park Service at Sandy Hook that seeks to criminalize skinny-dipping.

1995



Memorial Day '85: Marathon Marvel

The NYCC riders gave a good account of themselves in the recent 24-hour marathon in Central Park during the Memorial Day Weekend. Lin Ehrlich placed second, and Arlene Brimer placed third in the Women's Division. During the 24-hour period, both Lin and Arlene rode 272.95 miles each....

In the Men's Division, Ken Sloan placed first and Alex Bekkerman placed third. Each of them rode an unbelievable 442.90 miles during the 24 hours....

The top three competitors never got off their bikes during the 24-hour period. Their diets, at least for Ken, consisted of bran muffins, cheese or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, whole wheat brownies and a variety of fruits, mostly bananas and orange slices.

Top 10 Reason to Join

What??? You still haven't decided whether or not to join the SIG? Last month's Top Ten reasons weren't enough? Just read this list of past accomplishments. SIG graduates have:

- ☐ won the rainbow jersey of the World Champion.
- ☐ placed in major national and regional races.
- ☐ attended cycling camp at the Olympic Training Center.
- ☐ won their age-group in triathlons and duathlons.
- ☐ completed the 750-mile Boston-Montreal-Boston tour.
- ☐ cycled across America.
- ☐ frolicked in the sand on the Nude Beach ride.
- ☐ gotten married and had children.
- ☐ never been seen on a bicycle since.

NYCC Bulletin, 1994
