

NYCC Archives – November 2011



November/December “President’s Message”



By Ellen Jaffe

Fellow Members,

With elections behind us, we’re coming into transition time for the NYCC Board of Directors.

Who knew a year could go so fast?!

I want to express my own gratitude and appreciation to this year’s Board for helping make our 75th year an intensely productive one.

At year’s end, we’ll be losing Board members Harry Woods, Nicole Snow, Bill Laffey, Brigitte Padewski, Jen Rudin, Derek Chu, and Jennell Francis. Thanks to all of you for all you’ve contributed to infuse this Club with vitality.

Coming onto the Board in 2012, we are very lucky to have the competent likes of Eden Weiss, Laurie Chittenden and Mindy Kaufman, respectively stepping into the Directors’ chairs of Programs, Events, and Membership.

And three remarkably able Club members (including one past president) . . . all seasoned leaders . . . have stepped up to take on the key Ride Coordinator roles . . . auguring well for our 2012 rides program. At our January Board meeting, we will nominate and vote in Kate Mostkoff as C-Rides Coordinator, Carol Waaser as B-Rides Coordinator and Bob Ross as A-Rides Coordinator.

Staying on are Board members Adrienne Browning, VP Rides; Arden Rodgers, Treasurer; Morene Bangel, Secretary; Eunice Martinez, Content Editor; Darren Ortsman, Webmaster; Grace Lichtenstein, PR Director; and myself.

This much continuity with so many can-do, dedicated members means a powerhouse NYCC Board going into our 76th year.

But that doesn't mean we won't need loads of help!

The sheer breadth of our rides, events, programs, and communications requires the volunteer help of our members on an ongoing basis.

And when members step up and pitch in . . . then our Club hums.

Here's the evidence . . . a review of the year, powered by NYCC volunteers.

In 2011

- We celebrated our 75th anniversary with 300 members (then and now) riding and partying together – thanks Christy Guzzetta and Jody Saylor and the Gala Committee. Thank you Mike Samuel, for the wonderful calendar
- Reviewed 36 years of over 400 bulletins, collecting key dates and facts, producing a knock-out history timeline poster – thanks to the Archive Committee, Carol Krol and Irasema Rivera (. . . and yes, you can still get a copy of that poster at Club meetings)
- Produced NYCC 75th anniversary video interviews for the archives – thanks to Paula Froke and Carol Waaser
- Worked relentlessly on communications; on a redesigned eWeekly and on improved website functionality, expanded content and aesthetics – thank you Darren Ortsman, Eunice Martinez, Cathline Marshall, and Maggie Nguyen
- Benefitted from scrupulous financial oversight - thank you Arden Rodgers
- Archived scrupulous monthly Board meeting minutes and a monthly compilation of all Club activities and communications – thanks Morene Bangel and Eunice Martinez
- Staged a remarkable SIG and STS, thanks to all our SIG and STS leaders and particularly to our SIG and STS chieftains who devote enormous amounts of organizational effort to what has become a nationally known and respected program – thanks Sarah Tombaugh, Mitch Rubenstein, George Arcarola, Wayne Wright, Paul Hofherr, Gary McGraine, Kate Mostkoff, Dave Sabbarese, Victor Baruh and Gerald Seppey
- Pulled off a Kids Ride Club Benefit, a Tour de France evening, a Volunteer Soiree with record attendance, our Ice Cream Social, a half-dozen partner workshops with the likes of EMS and Bike Habitat, and Social Saturday meet-ups, with our Holiday Party still to come – thank you Brigitte Padewski, our Events Chair

- Found fresh venues for well-attended Newcomers (Goswick Pavilion) and All-Class Rides (Oakland Beach), a super 9W Cleanup Ride, and a Connecticut Shoreline Ride with 150 riders – thanks to Bill Laffey and Deborah Cox and Gary McGraime and Hank Schiffman, and to our VP of Rides Adrienne Browning and Ride Coordinators, and to Brigitte and our teams of event volunteers.
- Filled the ride calendar year-round, thanks to our ride leaders, our Ride Coordinators, Harry, Nicole, Bill, and Adrienne, our VP of Rides
- Launched a Ride Leader Training initiative – thanks to Linda Wintner and Paul Hofherr and the Ride Leader Training Committee
- Had a fantastic, well-attended Berkshires Weekend – thanks Reyna Franco and Tom Laskey
- And a superbly run July 4th West Point weekend – thanks to Lucia Deng
- Showed the Club off at Summer Streets – thanks Grace Lichtenstein and our Summer Streets volunteers
- Contributed to Bike Month in May with a well-attended Social Sunday's series – thanks Adrienne, for organizing and the Weissmans for a terrific idea
- Jumped headlong into advocacy efforts, driven not only by police ticketing but by the realization that our participation in advocacy and outreach is mandatory if we want a seat at the decision-making table – thank you Carol Wasser, Harry Woods, Grace Lichtenstein for all the meetings attended, the letters written, the petitions collected
- Staged a jersey design contest whose winning design was rendered into a line of 75th anniversary NYCC gear – thanks to our talented designer, Rolando Felix
- Opened the first NYCC Online Store
- Answered the non-stop, emailed questions of a record membership – thanks to Jennell Francis
- Witnessed attendance and interest in our energized monthly meetings accelerate, with a number of standing-room-only crowds – thank you to our Programs Chair Jen Rudin
- Watched our Escape New York Chair Beth Bryson and her committee raise the bar higher still, with a generous and welcoming event like no other on the metro ride calendar – thanks to Beth, the ENY Committee and the nearly 200 member volunteers who made it happen



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The whirlwind of the past year makes it clearer than ever that volunteers are the heartbeat of the New York Cycle Club.

All of us make NYCC the exciting, rich, multi-layered community that it is.

To sustain it means we all need to contribute to this collective labor of love called NYCC.

If you value what you get from the Club, tell us what part you will play in 2012.

There are so many possibilities!

Check it out . . . [Volunteering at NYCC](#)

And let me know what fits . . . president@nycc.org

See you at the Holiday Party.

Ellen



Two Resolutions Passed by Landslides!

Resolution 1

Passed : yes: 343 / no: 58

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

Passed : yes: 315 / no: 87

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

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The ballot winners for the **2012 Board of Directors** are:

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**

Public Relations Director – **Grace Lichtenstein**

Webmaster – **Darren Ortsman**

Membership Director – **Mindy Kaufman**

Special Events Director – **Laurie Chittenden**

Escape New York Director – **Beth Bryson**

NYCC Ride Coordinator Positions

Three able, experienced New York Cycle Club members (one a past president) have stepped forward to take on these key Board roles in 2012. They will be nominated and voted in at the January Board meeting.

A-Rides Coordinator – **Bob Ross**

B-Rides Coordinator – **Carol Waaser**

C-Rides Coordinator – **Kate Mostkoff**



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



Let's Party!

Bring your holiday spirit and be ready to party at Superfine in DUMBO on Monday evening, December 12!

We're featuring brick-oven pizza, salads and dessert from Il Porto and music by the Fabulous Tres Amigos!

Date: Monday, December 12

Place: Superfine, DUMBO

Address: 126 Front Street, Brooklyn, NY

Subway: F Train to York Street Station (first stop in Brooklyn)

Location: [Link to Map and Driving Directions](#)

Time: 6:30pm - 10:00pm

Admission: \$25, cash bar

[Sign up now for the holiday party!](#)



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 Sayler, 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's 5th Annual Night of Ice Skating

Join NYCC for our 5th Annual Night of Ice Skating! Come out and show off your double salchow or triple lutz jumps.

You don't skate? Come out anyway to watch and socialize. There will be a Christmas tree and sidewalk vendors. We may have hot chocolate and do more socializing afterwards.

This is a friends-and-family-friendly event. Bring whomever you like. No RSVPs necessary.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Place: [The Pond at Bryant Park](#) between 41st and 42nd Street at Sixth Avenue

Questions? Feel free to contact your hosts of the ice-skating ring: Maggie Nguyen at mnguyen_va@yahoo.com, 212 729 7298 or Peter Morales at pmorales@pipeline.com, 917 626 5583. Please check the Message Board the day of the event to find out what Peter and Maggie will be wearing so you can find them at the rink.

General Admission: FREE

Skate Rentals: \$14 (you can bring your own skates and skate for free)

Lockers: FREE (you can bring your own padlock and use the lockers for free)

Locks: \$9 if you do not have a lock

Bag Check: \$7-10



NYCC Hiking/Snowshoeing SIG

Now in its 10th year, Ken and Marilyn Weissman's Sunday series begins in January, runs through March and ranges from 3-8 miles depending on snow cover.

Start is generally 8:30AM with return to the city by 4:30 to 5PM, after the traditional stop for coffee and donuts at DePiero's Farm in Montvale.

Seats are limited by available cars.

For more info, email: nyccmultisport@gmail.com

Rally for Traffic Justice This Wednesday: **We Need YOU There**

On November 30, Transportation Alternatives, Public Advocate Bill de Blasio and the friends and families of victims of traffic violence are rallying at 1 Police Plaza to deliver thousands of letters to Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.

It is important for us to swell the numbers and show the NYPD there must be consequences for recklessness behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. If you have been following the case of Maxim Vickers, longtime NYCC member, you know that even in the case of a cyclist fatality, drivers are given little more than a slap on the wrist, no matter that their negligence was to blame.

It is the collective effort of our members who can help make change here. And change here will, in the future, affect the respect given cyclists on the road.

Therefore it is important that you put on your NYCC colors and add your presence and voice this Wednesday morning to help make visible a glaring lapse in our justice system.

For more information, visit Transportation Alternatives' [Take Action: Stop Dangerous Driving](#).

Date: Wednesday, November 30

Time: 8:30am

Place: 1 Police Plaza



RALLY FOR TRAFFIC JUSTICE

Thanks to Carol, Richard, Rod, Peter, Rob and all our members who showed up at Police Plaza to lobby for traffic justice alongside Transportation Alternatives.

Erika Lefevre, mother of Mathieu Lefevre, killed in a hit and run while riding his bike in Brooklyn on October 18, spoke of her son's death and the shocking absence of help from the NYPD in obtaining information, not to mention charges against the driver of the truck that killed him and left the scene.

No hit and run charges were filed, nor even a charge of failure to exercise due care.

We are looking for opportunity to work with TA, to raise our voices and get this shortfall in the justice system the visibility it must have so we can begin to move the needle of NYPD attitude and response.

Though we are a bike club and not an advocacy organization, we see a shift here as a necessity -- fundamental to cyclist safety and respect on the road.

Ellen Jaffe
NYCC President

THE PUTNAM RAIL TRAIL RENOVATIONS

The Board believes and we hope members agree that the proposed Putnam Rail Trail renovations will be a plus for cyclists and for the community in general. On September 27 we sent letters to Bronx Borough President Diaz and nine other officials involved in the decision making...

Dear Borough President Diaz,

New York Cycle Club, 2,400 strong and the city's largest member bicycling organization, supports the Putnam Trail renovations, which will include the paving and extension of the trail through Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx.

We believe the completion of the Bronx section of this trail will be a valuable asset to Bronx residents and all New Yorkers; connecting Westchester to the Bronx with a continuous, paved trail enabling best pedestrian and bicycle use.

We believe the alternate proposal, a narrower trail of crushed limestone, is of limited use. Furthermore, millions of dollars of Federal funding for this project are contingent on meeting Federal guidelines for a multi-use/ADA trail.

In a city with the density of population of NYC, park use must address all citizens and not just a minority of runners. The Parks and Rec plan accommodates all types of users and we are all for it.

We ask that you encourage NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to commence work on the Bronx section of the Putnam trail.

With regards,
Ellen Jaffe
President, New York Cycle Club



We need your Emergency Contact and phone number!

It is critical that each member provide NYCC with an emergency contact name and phone number.

Check your NYCC account profile and make sure that we have one for you.

If we should ever need it, you want to be sure we have it.

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 is 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 Rottnest 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!
