



Club Meetings:

Club meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 at the flagship REI downtown. We are in the small meeting room on the third floor. All club members are welcome. Thanks to REI for providing us this space!

RMCC Online:

To get up-to-the-minute information or to renew your membership, head out to the RMCC website at: www.rmccrides.com

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Many of our sponsors provide discounts to club members!

Results: PBP 2007: Wettest PBP since 1956?

by John Lee Ellis and Mark Michel

The Rocky Mountain Cycling Club had 22 riders who went to Europe to participate in Paris-Brest-Paris this year. For those who are new to the club, PBP is the most famous brevet in the world, which has been run since 1891 and happens only once every four years. There were 5300 riders from around the world participating in the 1200km event. Riders had up to 90 hours to complete the course.

In order to participate in the event, riders have to complete a brevet series, consisting of rides of 200K, 300K, 400K and 600K, a feat in itself.

If riding 750 miles in four days wasn't difficult enough, weather conditions this year were challenging, termed by organizers as the "worst in fifty years." It rained day and night, northerly crosswinds also assaulted the riders much of the time, and temperatures were generally in the 50s and 60s—not summertime riding weather! The rains ended after the event was complete, of course.

Because of the difficult conditions, the overall dropout rate was 34 percent, three times the average.

Of the RMCC's 22 starters, 14 finished. This was a lower success rate than in earlier years, but as of this writing we know of only one weather-related dropout (flooded bottom bracket).

Overall the riders did a great job in trying conditions, and it is rumored that most of them had moments of fun and enjoyment along the route, and everyone could be inspired, as always, by this great event, the volunteers, and the citizenry lining the route.

Watch for rider stories in next month's Chain Chatter and on the website. Congratulations to all who participated in the event!

Please note that times listed below are preliminary, as we could not ascertain rider start times with precision as of this writing.

Rider	Group	Time
Abernathy, Stacy	90h	DNF
Banks, Debra	90h	89h49m
Barday, Bob	90h	89h46m
Cooper, Lara	84h	81h18m
Crossland, Ann	80h	DNF
Dodge, Tim	80h	66h20m
Ellis, John Lee	90h	81h53m
Farnsworth, Rex	90h	82h12m
Flanigan, John	80h	72h34m

Bicycle Colorado Update

by Mark Michel

Many of you are aware that the state legislature approved the creation of "Share the Road" license plates this past legislative session. Governor Ritter signed the bill at the Elephant Rock ride back in June.

If you are like me, you may have thought, "I'll have to look into getting one of those when they actually come out." Well, it's a little more complicated than that. State rules require 3000 of the plates to be pre-ordered for them to go into circulation.

To get the plate, there are a couple of steps. First, go out to www.bicyclecolo.org and click on the link to pre-order your plate. To order, you need to make a \$25 tax-deductible contribution to the Share the Road Education Fund. You will then be mailed an approval certificate late in the year which you can then take to your county clerk to get your new and improved plates. Do note that the special plates do cost a little more than your regular ones.

The Share the Road Education Fund is actually administered by Bicycle Colorado, so you don't have to worry that your twenty-five bucks will get mixed into the state's chip-and-seal fund. Instead, the money will be used to educate motorists and cyclists how to safely share the road, to provide guidance to cyclists who are injured in crashes, and to conduct outreach with law enforcement agencies to educate them about the rights and responsibilities that riders and drivers have.

So, order yours today—don't be the only person to show up a next year's rides without one!

PBP results cont.

Rider	Group	Time
Fox, Mike	90h	DNF
Fulton, Mike	80h	DNF
Henderson, Charlie	90h	DNF
Jilka, Mark	84h	DNF
Knoblauch, Tom	80h	65h52m
Koenig, Gary	90h	79h44m
Leinhart, Larry	84h	80h46m
Loflin, Sandra	90h	89h30m
Mangin, L John	90h	87h12m
Shenk, Catherine	84h	76h51m
Tankovich, Bill	90h	DNF
Werner, Glen	90h	86h15m
Wiss, Dick	90h	DNF



Results: July 28th Black Forest 200K: Mildest Black Forest 200K Yet!

by John Lee Ellis

Of 19 starters, 18 finished the only exception occasioned by a mechanical problem. Despite at times very ominous looking dark areas of sky, riders stayed dry rather than drenched and temps were moderate for late July. Thanks go to Paul Brown, the husband of rider Ronalee Foss, who provided ice and cold water to everyone at the checkpoints, while supporting his wife.

Special thanks to Tom Foss for leading this one.

RUSA#	Time	Rider
2854	6:17	Kraychy, Jim
	6:17	Kalisch, Tim
2844	6:17	Dodge, Tim
3555	6:48	Knoblauch, Tom
	7:02	Shannon, Kelly
	7:02	Rosenthal, Harris
2993	7:58	Wiss, Dick
2129	8:08	Myers, Brent
2145	8:08	Long, Beth
	8:58	Pflug, Sandy
	9:11	Newton, Gerry
	9:11	Parry, Diana
	9:14	Stanford, David *
2032	9:15	Foss, Tom
908	9:35	Fox, Mike
3147	9:40	Foss, Ronalee
	11:01	Saranson, Jay *
4563	11:01	Steenburg, Pat *

Results: August 4th Black Forest 300K: Latest Black Forest 300K Yet!

by John Lee Ellis

Of 10 starters, some encountered more showers and more hours of showers than others - Ronalee Foss clocked in with seven hours of rain, for example. This substitute for Denver-Aspen (because of road construction on US-285) risked being wetter than the May edition because of monsoons, and folks weren't disappointed!

Special thanks to Dan Shields for leading this one.

RUSA#	Time	Rider
3555	10:22	Knoblauch, Tom
1060	12:16	Grealish, Chris
471	12:16	Fulton, Mike
3589	12:25	Nansel, Alan
4405	13:20	Banks, Debra
4257	13:20	Cooper, Lara
2936	14:38	Tankovich, Bill
1936	14:38	Abernathy, Stacy
908	14:39	Fox, Mike
3147	15:40	Foss, Ronalee

Book Review: *Cycling's Great Misadventures* Edited by Erich Schweikher

Reviewed by Mark Michel

This book opens with a quotation by Jack London stating how his afternoon rides make life worth living, "ripping and tearing through the streets and roads, over railroad tracks and bridges, threading crowds, avoiding collisions, at twenty miles or more an hour, and wondering all the time when you're going to smash up." To him, the best part was that tomorrow he could do it all again.

What follows is a highly diverse collection of stories that might lead people not to do it again. The stories cover topics ranging from cross-country tours to racing to bicycle-related historical events. Plus there is the obligatory "Bike Crash Photo Gallery."

Some of these are the types of stories you would expect to read in such a volume, such as the friends who decided to ride from Wisconsin to Seattle, and then quit in North Dakota and jumped on a train instead (Ever notice how many cross-country bike trip stories end in North Dakota!). Of course, these guys weren't your stereotypical cycling types, as they were smokers!

There is a separate section devoted to animal encounters. One of the more amusing is about "Rambo." This is the story of a dog who would always take after a particular rider, "Phil" who always drifted off the back of a group ride on a long hill. Rambo would catch Phil, then "bite down hard on Phil's ankle and hold on for dear life as its head rotated in sync with the

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Weekly Ride Update

In addition to our premier schedule of weekend rides, the RMCC also conducts weekly rides during the summer months. With daylight savings time being extended this year, the definition of "summer" can vary, so these rides will be discontinued at varying times.

The Tuesday Night Hill Climb meets 6:00 at our regular Golden start point and does Lookout Mountain. This ride will continue until the end of September.

The Wednesday Night Handlebar & Grill ride meets at 5:30 at South High School and does varying routes. This ride will continue until the time change at the end of October.

The Thursday Night Erie ride is on Thursdays and starts and Meadow Sweet Park in Erie. By the time this hits your mailbox, this ride may have been completed for the year. Be sure to check the website for the latest before heading to this ride.



Upcoming Club Rides. Please Contact Jim Kraychy at 303-264-9090 to start a ride.

Date	Start	Description	Miles	Starter
Saturday 9/8 8:45	Granby	Granby, Willow Creek Pass, Rand and return	46/98	Brad Towne 303-507-7833 btowne@kpmg.com
Sunday 9/9 8:45	Boulder	Boulder, Lee Hill, Ward, Lefthand Canyon, Stagecoach	49/62	Dan Shields 303-429-7437
Saturday 9/15 8:45	Copper Mountain	Copper Triangle – Copper Mtn., Leadville, Minturn, Vail loop	64/78	Mark Michel: 303-738-1958 michel95@comcast.net
Sunday 9/16 8:45	Littleton	Deer Creek, Pleasant Park, City View, Deer Creek, Chatfield	55	Dan Shields 303-429-7437
Saturday 9/22 8:45	Golden	Golden, Idaho Springs, Echo Lake, Bergen Park	48/70	Volunteer Needed
Sunday 9/23 8:45	Northglenn	Brighton, Ft. Lupton, Keesburg Loop	43/82	Dan Shields 303-429-7437
Saturday 9/29 8:45	Golden	Red Rocks, Evergreen, Upper Bear Creek/ Stagecoach, Bergen Park Loop	48/54	Dan Shields 303-429-7437
Sunday 9/30 8:45	Monument	Rollercaster, Higby, Air Force Academy Picture ID required to enter AFA!!	35/55	Tom Dubel 719-491-6189 tdubel@rapxpress.com
Saturday 10/6 9:45	Lyons	St. Vrain Cayon, Ward, Lefthand Loop	47	Volunteer Needed
Sunday 10/7 9:45	Boulder	Hygiene, Lyons, Apple Valley	55/80	Volunteer Needed
Saturday 10/13 9:45	Exit 255	Boedecker Lake, Stove Praire, Rist Canyon Loop	38/85	Volunteer Needed
Sunday 10/14 9:45	Aurora	Bennett, 88 th Avenue, Strasburg & return	43/71	Cary Stewart: 717-207-4380 pfwaterdude@yahoo.com
Saturday 10/20 9:45	Littleton	Deer Creek, Parmalee Gulch, Evegreen, High Drive & return	33/49	Volunteer Needed
Sunday 10/21 9:45	Northglenn	Dacono, Ft. Lupton, Hudson, Barr Lake Loop	45/62	Volunteer Needed

Northglenn The Wagon Road Park & Ride at 120th and Huron (just west of I-25)

Boulder The East Boulder Community Center on 55th just east of the US 36/South Boulder Road exit. 5660 Sioux Dr.
Note: Use the “additional” lot to the west of the main building.

Golden The parking lot at the east end of Parfet Park (10th & Washington) in Golden

Aurora The NW corner of the Wal*Mart parking lot just north of I-70 and Tower Road.

Lyons The Park-n-ride at the corner of 4th and Broadway in Lyons, just west of the visitors' center.

Littleton The northwest corner Park-n-Ride at the northwest corner of Santa Fe and Mineral.

Granby The Windy Gap Wildlife Viewing Area at US Highway 40 and State Highway 125 two miles west of Granby.

Copper Mtn. The trailhead and bike path parking lot on the southeast corner of I-70 and Hwy. 91 in Copper Mountain

Monument Lewis Palmer High School. 1.5 miles south of I-25 exit 161 interchange on the east side of the highway.

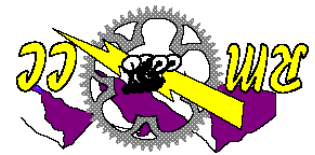
Exit 255 Parking lot at the SW corner of the I-25/Exit 255 interchange, 42 miles north of Denver.

Upcoming Brevets/Populaires:

September 22nd 200K: Meets at our regular Exit 243 start point. Horsetooth plus Stove Prairie. Sign-in 7AM; depart 8AM

October 7th Populaire: Run in conjunction with the regular club ride out of Boulder. See above for details.

Rocky Mountain Cycling Club
P.O. Box 201
Wheat Ridge, CO 80034



Misadventures, from Page 2

motion of Phil's legs. In response, Phil would deliver a series of whacks to Rambo's skull with his chrome Silca pump. Each attack resulted in a broken pump, but every Sunday Phil would show up for the group ride with a brand new Silca."

Phil eventually got faster and no longer drifted off the back of the group. The dog, instead of taking off after the new slowest rider, lost interest. His interest was regained when Phil got must faster and instead went off the front. Things ultimately would not work out favorably either for Phil or the dog.

In some cases, the riders do overcome the adversity. My favorite story is about three friends who were crossing the country north to south along the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. The story focuses on their ride across Wyoming's Great Basin, "a 134 mile stretch of desolation without trees, drinkable water, or resources of any kind." Early in the story, the writer contrasts riders who pack everything they could possibly need in their panniers or trailers with his more economical approach.

As you can guess, his approach didn't work out well for this section of the tour. One rider became sick and they all got

dehydrated. The description of their ride is vivid and very well written. They do triumph and complete the ride.

Not all of the stories are about rides per se. One talks about an attempt by an army officer in the 1890's to create a bicycle corps to possibly replace the cavalry. Another is a fictional account of a company, Profitsoft, who decided to outsource their cycling team to India.

On the whole, the book was less amusing than I was expecting. I judged from the picture on the cover of an overturned mountain bike with a taco'd wheel that it would be a laugh a minute. I also had in mind Bob Roll's books, or even how much RMCC riders like Mike Fulton or Bob Fournery have had me laughing with their stories. While many parts of this book are such, many of the stories were more depressing than funny. One is by a cross-country tour leader who had riders killed by vehicle collisions on consecutive tours.

In the end, it seems that the real point of the book is neither to merely entertain or depress. Rather, it examines our psychology as cyclists to see what makes us distinct as people. While the editor comes to several conclusions, the most important was that "...while the riders don't accomplish what they intended, they are nonetheless engaged in an internal battle between their body's capabilities and their mind's expectations. This nonstop war of self-improvement is a tendency... which extends to the broader scope of cyclists' lives."

In the end, while this book was different from what I expected, I found reading it to be very much worth the time. I would recommend it to anyone who not only like to ride but likes to read about riding as well.

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