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REGION HIGHLIGHT: MINNESOTA RANDONNEURS

With steady growth over the past decade, the Minnesota Randonneurs vow to “Ride Far With Friends” – and follow through regardless of temperature. Hosting 40+ events a year, the group formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2019, with a board of directors who focus on recruitment, safety, and camaraderie. Members regularly put their brevet experience to good use, tackling races from Trans Am and North Cape 4000 to events like Tuscobia Winter Ultra and, of course, Paris-Brest-Paris. The Minnesota Randonneurs was formed pre-Randonneurs USA, back in 1991.

In this **NEW** quarterly highlight of a region, you will learn about their history, some of their proud accomplishments, growth strategies and the Top 5 Reasons to ride with them.

Randonneurs USA would also like to extend our gratitude to Rob Welsh (#3737), Regional Brevet Administrator of Minnesota Randonneurs for his leadership and vision in his tenure from 2010 through 2023. Rob exemplifies riding far with friends and has built the community to allow so many others to do the same.

MINNESOTA RANDONNEURS



Photo Credit: Rob Welsh (#3737)

Minnesota Randonneur members participating in the 2023 Paris-Brest-Paris include: Craig Aamodt, Cottonwood, Minn.; Chris Carlson, Minneapolis; Dan Diehn, Black River Falls, Wisc.; Tim Donahoe, Minneapolis; Tom Garry, St. Paul; Jason Hartfield, Minneapolis; Brian Lewis-Jones, Minneapolis; Aaron Milbank, Eagan, Minn.; Phil Moen, Eden Prairie, Minn.; Keith Morical, Minnetrista, Minn.; Michael Mullery, Rosemount, Minn.; Jonas Nygard, Minneapolis; Steve Polyak, Coralville, Iowa; Rob Welsh, Apple Valley, Minn.; and Andy Williams, Eau Claire, Wisc.



Photo Credit Kate Ankofsky (#13007)

Winter brevet photo: Hall Sanders, Ian Buck, John Murphy, Keith Larson, Keith Morical, Norman Ehrentreich, Kate Ankofski, Mike Campbell, Justin Tan

WINTER BIKEPACKING GEAR

In March 2023, Joffrey Maluski rode across Iceland. Two factors made this trip especially challenging: Joffrey chose to ride the more-rugged highland route and chose to do so during the brutal winter season. Pedaling against tent-ripping winds and temperatures far below 0, he completed the grueling ride in 28 days.

You can learn about his full winter bikepacking gear list + experience in this article from 45NRTH.

WINTER BIKEPACKING GEAR

AMERICAN RANDONNEUR AWARD: TIM SULLIVAN



The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that they have awarded the 2023

GRAVEL PERMANENT LAUNCH FEBRUARY 1st

Unpaved roads open up 1000s of miles of riding options. Let's explore - Rando-style!

Starting February 1st, 2024, you will get credit for kilometers of gravel completed and extra time to complete the permanent based on the unpaved kilometers (one minute for each kilometer of unpaved surface.) **Gravel guidelines** are available to answer additional questions or things you may need clarified as a rider and/or route developer.

The sooner riders submit routes, the more routes are available to earn unpaved distance credit and future cool trinkets.

GRAVEL PERMANENT PROGRAM

Gravel program [details](#)

Questions, contact the [Gravel Committee](#)

FUEL YOUR RANDONNEURING WANDERLUST

Access the [2024 calendar](#) and adventures available to you.

Types of [events](#)

**BEHIND THE SCENES:
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
2023 GOALS
MISSION/VALUES/PRINCIPLES**

American Randonneur Award to Tim Sullivan (#28). Tim has been volunteering since our earliest days and started randonneuring in 1994 with Boston Montreal Boston (BMB). He has served on the Board many years and has also provided us with key legal counsel on various matters that have helped us become a successful sporting organization.

Upon receiving the award, Tim shared: *"Thank you to the Board for the American Randonneur Award. I feel honored to join a list of prior recipients who I have always respected for the work on behalf of RUSA. Volunteering for RUSA has always been a pleasure because of the camaraderie of our sport. Be it from volunteering at a local brevet, assisting RBAs, or working on the Board. It is one of the things that makes our niche aspect of bicycling unique and what I have enjoyed for the past 30 years. Volunteering for RUSA has never felt like work."*

Additional details will be in the next issue of our American Randonneur magazine.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Board has chosen the 2024 officers:

- President: Dave Thompson
- Vice President: Dawn Piech
- Secretary: Gardner Duvall

The remaining Board Members are:

- RBA-L (Regional Brevet Administrator-Liaison): Rob Hawks
- Bill Bryant
- Charlie Martin
- Vincent (Vinny) Muoneke

The 2024 Treasurer is Lois Springsteen. This position is *non-elected as part of a 2022 constitution change.*

Interested in understanding what's going on behind the scenes and where we are headed?

- Archived board of directors meeting [minutes](#)
- 2023 [goal](#) review
- Mission, values and organizational [principles](#)

RANDONNEURING MOMENTS: A VIEW FROM CALIFORNIA...



Rob Hawks (#2515)

Details: Finish control for team Hell O Kitty Kats at the San Francisco Randonneurs Dart Populaire on 11-18-23

From left to right: Huy Nguyen (#15237), Kitty Goursolle (#3301), Sandra Myers (#10494), Pierre Moreels (#1975), Tom Vu (#10325)

REMINDER: RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew now to stay connected!

[RENEW MEMBERSHIP](#)

BECOME A PROUTY ULTIMATE

The annual 2-day Prouty Ultimate is an unparalleled ride experience: two days of scenic and fully supported riding up to 200 miles through the beautiful New England countryside, complimentary lodging, meals, beer garden and camaraderie. Raise funds and awareness for life-saving research and critical patient and family support services at Dartmouth Cancer Center. **Register today at [TheProuty.org](#).**



*Note, this is in addition to the fundraising minimums (\$2,500 for Ultimates, \$1,750 for Ultimate Newbies).

Randonneurs USA's mission is to promote non-competitive, long-distance cycling and serve as the sanctioning body for randonneuring events in the United States.

Randonneurs USA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.



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