

BAC MONTHLY UPDATE

March 2025



New Zealand East Coast South Island (2025) Patricia Olson, Roy Zagieboylo, Susan Lowery and Tennis Olson along the coast near Brighton, NZ. Ride Coordinator Grant McAlister. Photo by Grant McAlister.

Hello BAC Members,

Welcome to the March 2025 BAC Monthly Update. On the first business day of each month, we'll be sending you the latest BAC news.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR Barb Rudolph March 2025

Usually we celebrate “giving thanks” in November but this year, we declare March as the official “BAC Give Thanks to New Ride Leaders” month. In 2024, 10 people who had never been a part of a BAC leadership team took the plunge. Thank you for your time, your hard work, your kindness and creativity. Thank you for helping to lead your friends on some amazing BAC tours.

Gordon Jones co-directed his first BAC tour with experienced ride leader, **Joan Bricker**. Together they took riders into the Canadian Rockies for a two-week adventure with majestic views, abundant wildlife and spectacular hikes. **Fred Hughes** also earned his stripes on this tour as a first-time driver.

Meanwhile on the other side of the continent, **Tim Presar**, also a first-time driver, got behind the wheel for **Albert Balingit and Jacqui Duerr's** tour in and around Cape Cod taking in the pristine beaches, captivating history, and old-fashioned charm.

Just a short time later, **Robert Becker**, first-time co-director for the Appalachian Blue Ridge tour with **Julie Leever**, learned how to manage a BAC tour in a weather disaster as Hurricane Helene barreled into North Carolina. After just 2 days of riding, Robert and Julie successfully rescued everyone, secured them safely in a hotel (without power or water!) and shuttled them and their bikes out of the flooded area.

Overseas, **James Brennerman** and **Susi Vogler**, first-time drivers, tackled the European roads with **Randy and Lucy Glover**. James was a first-time driver from the Julian Alps, through the Triglav National Park and on to the Adriatic coast on the Slovenia's Heart tour. Susi was a first-time driver on the Eastern Swiss Lakes tour that took riders through Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein.

Pamela Kelly, an experienced bicycle tour leader outside of the BAC, coordinated her first two BAC tours in Turkey (BikeHike Turkey-Aegean Coast from Istanbul to Cappadocia) and Bhutan (Bhutan - The Last Buddhist Kingdom). Riders explored the rich history and unique geography of Turkey (Fairy Chimney houses and an underground city hewn from the rock!) and the rugged and breathtaking natural beauty rivalled only by the deep spirituality of Bhutan.

Graeme Thomson co-directed his first tour with **Sue Bunten** on the Seine a Velo and Hidden Normandy tour. Graeme and Sue helped riders experience the thrill of cycling through central Paris and along the Seine River west through cities and villages concluding at the Normandy beaches and the D-Day landing sites.

Steve Saxe had the unique experience of co-directing and then immediately after, directing his first two tours on the Chateaux of the Loire Valley, sections 1 & 2 tours. As director on section 1, **Bridgette Deshields Martinez** inspired the confidence in her co-director Steve to direct section 2 along with **Kim Kasabali**. Together, Steve, Bridgette and Kim guided riders through this UNESCO World Heritage area. *The châteaux, towns and villages, the river and its culture, winegrowing, and gastronomy all fit perfectly into this magnificent landscape, that of Europe's last untamed river.*

Peter Kepfer, a first-time driver, joined the leadership team for section 2.

Again, thank you first time Ride Leadership team members. And thank you everyone who directed, co-directed, coordinated or drove for a BAC tour in 2024. Friends leading friends; that's what it's all about.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new BAC Members who have joined us in Feb 2025. If they live near you give them a call.

Nancy Andrade, Kapaa, HI
Karin Nyrop, Port Ludlow, WA
Glenn Pierson, East Hanover, NJ
Maggie Wang, Emeryville, CA, 94608, CA
Jay Tomas, Petaluma, CA
Charles Folsom, Herndon, VA
Andrea Friedlander, Boulder, CO
Alvaro Taveira, Whitewater, WI
Paul Chapman, Windsor, CT
Barbara Lambitz, Sterling Heights, MI
Fran Maddock, Oxford, MI

Denise and John Ford, Ashland, OR
Annie Stout, Forest Grove, OR
James Carpenter, Peachland, BC

Foreign Accident Insurance

The following information was recently shared with ride leaders for input. We are now presenting this to the general membership for feedback / suggestions.

Our foreign accident insurer will increase our annual premium from \$19,813 to \$40,879 on 4/17/2025, based on our claim history. Although we only have one or two claims per year, there was a major claim in 2023 and another in 2024. These required hospitalization in a foreign country followed by emergency repatriation to the US. The data below shows that our insurer has paid out more in claims than we've paid in premiums in the last two years, a reversal from our prior years' experience.

Our options to avoid this are very limited. In the past our agent has shopped for a cheaper insurer. No other insurers were willing to bid at all, let alone at a lower premium. Given our claim history, it's even less likely now that we'd get a better offer from another insurer. It's unlikely that increasing our \$1,000 deductible would make much of a difference, given the size of our claims.

We'd like to make the BAC membership aware and solicit your thoughts. Some options might include:

Cancel BAC insurance and encourage participants to insure themselves. Many already double up and buy their own insurance. However, it's our understanding that leaders value BAC insurance and the emergency assistance service, because it takes worry off of them.

Increase the overseas ride fee to cover the increase. At this new premium the estimated cost per overseas rider will be \$76, an increase of \$39. This covers them for as many tours as they take in a year. We would make participants aware that BAC insurance is still a bargain compared to individual policies.

Increase the ride fee retroactively. Increasing the fee for new registrants won't help much until 2026 because most fees on 2025 rides are already collected. We may want to make an assessment on 2025 rides to match the premium increase with the participants who will benefit from the insurance.

Increase the membership renewal fee. Renewals are currently priced at \$10 less than new memberships. Equalizing them would generate about \$15K/year. This would affect the entire membership, not just those on overseas tours.

Please send ideas or suggestions to Glenn Rudolph at gerudolph@gmail.com by March 7, 2025. Let us know what you think. All ideas are welcome.

Reorder of most recent BAC Jersey Design

The Primal Online Store is Open Once Again! Order Your BAC Jersey NOW by Clicking the Link Below. Matching **SUN SLEEVES** and **Thermal Arm Warmers** are also available for order

Jersey Cost: \$55 plus \$15 for shipping in USA, \$35 for shipping to Canada)

Sun Sleeves: \$26 (unisex sizing)

Thermal Arm Warmers: \$31 (unisex sizing)

Online Store is Open: March 1 - March 17, 2025

Targeted Shipping Date: May 16, 2025

To Order Your Jersey click this link: <https://via.primalcustom.com/collections/ts-11612>

Product Features

Men's Sport Cut	Women's Sport Cut
Elastic Option - Sleeve: Sleeve - Elastic	Elastic Option - Sleeve: Sleeve - None
Elastic Option - Waist: Elastic	Elastic Option - Waist: None (no elastic at the hem)
Fabric Option: SpeedPro	Fabric Option: SpeedPro
Pocket Option: 3 Rear Straight Pockets	Pocket Option: 3 Rear Straight Pockets
Stitch Option: Traditional Stitch	Stitch Option: Traditional Stitch
Zipper Option: YKK Full Hidden	Zipper Option: YKK Full Hidden





Questions: Call Barb Rudolph at 214-497-4233 or reference the Primal Customer Service page at: <https://www.primalwear.com/pages/customer-service-page>

TOURS

New Rides Posted. You can now sign-up for the following rides approved recently and announced in “New Ride Previews” on the BAC website homepage.

- **Florida's Suncoast Nature Coast Defrost Tour 2026** Feb 1-14, 2026. Ride Directors: Roy & Kristi Brubaker. Start Location: Tampa, FL. Finish Location: Tampa, FL. Ride Rating: 1B!
- **Bolandcycletour, Western Cape, South Africa** Feb 16-Mar 9, 2026. Ride Coordinator: Cathy Hediger in conjunction with CycloTourism. Start Location: Stellenbosch, SA. Finish Location: Capetown, SA. Ride Rating: 2B!
- **Netherlands, Belgium, & Germany: Cycling Through Time** Sept 2-14, 2026. Ride Directors: Joan Feerick and Margaret Slack. Start Location: Maastricht, NL. Finish Location: Maastricht, NL. Ride Rating: 2B.
- **Best of Bend, Breweries Bicycling in Central Oregon** Sept 7-19, 2026 Ride Directors: Carolyn Laird and Albert Meerscheidt. Start Location: Redmond, OR. Finish Location: Redmond, OR. Ride Rating: 2B.
- **French Pyrenees Foothills: Atlantic to Mediterranean** Sept 15-30, 2026. Ride Directors: Randy & Lucy Glover. Start Location: Biarritz, France. Finish Location: Collioure, France. Ride Rating: 2B!

RIDES WITH SPACE AVAILABLE

- Solvang in Spring 2025 Apr 6, 2025 - Apr 12, 2025 2B
- CA Central Coast and Wine Country May 8, 2025 - May 22, 2025 2B [Space for a couple or solo supplement and for a female willing to share a room](#)
- Cycling in Paradise: Muensterland Germany & Hanseatic NL May 14-26, 2025 1B

- Wild Drome Provencale, Baronnies and Ardeche May 23, 2025 - Jun 7, 2025 3C
- OTET - Cincinnati to Cleveland, Ohio May 27, 2025 - Jun 5, 2025 1B [Space for female to share a room and also space for male to share a room](#)
- Norway- Western Fjords by Bike and Boat Aug 9, 2025 - Aug 16, 2025 3C [Space for male to share a room](#)
- Wisconsin's Door County Sep 2, 2025 - Sep 11, 2025 1B
- Lake Michigan Ramble Sep 7, 2025 - Sep 21, 2025 2B [Space for female to share a room](#)
- The Sunny Side of the Alps Sep 9 - Sep 25, 2025 3B [Space for male to share a room](#)
- Virginia Horse Country, Mountains Valleys 2025 Sep 30, 2025 - Oct 13, 2025 3B
- Adirondacks 2025 Oct 10, 2025 - Oct 21, 2025 3B
- Southern California bike the Coast and coastal Hills Oct 10, 2025 - Oct 17, 2025 2B [Space for male to share a room](#)
- Washington DC–Museums & Monuments, Madness and Mayhem Oct 13-21, 2025 1A [Space for female to share a room and also space for male to share a room](#)
- Morocco 2025 A Nomads Journey Oct 18, 2025 - Nov 1, 2025 3B
- Bhutan - The last Buddhist Kingdom Nov 9, 2025 - Nov 19, 2025 4B
- The Lakes and Volcanoes of Chile Dec 4, 2025 - Dec 15, 2025 4C [Space for male to share a room](#)
- White Villages of Andalusia 2026 Apr 17, 2026 - May 3, 2026 3B [Space for male to share a room](#)
- Ride With The Gods - A Greek Odyssey May 16, 2026 - Jun 1, 2026 3B
- Historic Croatia Island Tour Jun 6, 2026 - Jun 25, 2026 3B
- The “Other” Netherlands: Cycling North Brabant Fri Aug 18, 2026 - Aug 30, 2026 1B
- 2026 Innsbruck to Venice Bike & Hike Sep 11, 2026 - Sep 27, 2026 2B [Space for male to share a room](#)

NEW RIDE LEADER

Cathy Hediger (Bolandcycletour, Western Cape, South Africa Feb 16-Mar 9, 2026)

I've always enjoyed traveling but after I joined BAC in 2022 for a tour in Northern Spain because a friend was looking for someone to share a room with, I discovered a passion for bike touring. Each year since then I have signed up for a local or international tour. I recently retired from a career in the technology field and now have the time for more than just one tour per year so have several planned for 2025.

I organized the Bolandcycletour, Western Cape, South Africa tour (2026) so that I could share the beauty and variety of the country where I lived for half my life. From two oceans to mountain passes to a safari and the Cape winelands, capped off by participation in the epic one day event, the Cape Town Cycle Tour, the BAC tour offers jaw dropping scenery and an unforgettable experience almost halfway around the world.

I live outside of Seattle in the Pacific Northwest so a trip to sunny South Africa at the tail end of their summer is particularly appealing. Please consider joining me in February 2026.

SINGLES LOOKING FOR ROOMATES

Members, if you are signed up or trying to get on a bike tour and you are looking for a roommate, you can send in a note to me at the office and let me know and I will include your request in this section of the newsletter each month.

Leaders, if you have someone on your ride looking for a roommate drop me a note to include here.

If a roommate has been found, let me know so the notice can be removed.

Note to get it in the monthly update I will need to receive the notice prior to the first business day of each month.

CA Central Coast and Wine Country May 8, 2025 - May 22, 2025 2B [Space for a couple or solo supplement and for a female willing to share a room](#) Contact ride leader Roy Brubaker royrbu@gmail.com

OTET - Cincinnati to Cleveland, Ohio May 27, 2025 - Jun 5, 2025 1B [Both space for female and male to share a room.](#) Contact leader Robyn Saur robynlee4@aol.com

Norway- Western Fjords by Bike and Boat Aug 9-16, 2025 3C [Space for male to share a room](#) Contact leader Pam Kelly pskcnm@yahoo.com

Lake Michigan Ramble Sep 7 - 21, 2025 2B [Space for female to share a room](#) Contact leader Catherine Bradley cathybradley54@gmail.com

The Sunny Side of the Alps Sep 9, 2025 - Sep 25, 2025 3B [Space for male to share a room](#) Contact leader Warner Griswold jwarner-griswold@att.net

Southern California bike the Coast and coastal Hills Oct 10-17, 2025 2B [Space for male to share a room](#) Contact leader Carolyn Laird tennismom1@charter.net

Washington DC–Museums & Monuments, Madness and Mayhem Oct 13-21, 2025 1A [Space for both female to share a room and for a male to share a room](#) Contact leader Christopher Leach cleachva@gmail.com

The Lakes and Volcanoes of Chile Dec 4-15, 2025 4C [Space for male to share a room](#) Contact ride leader Glenn Rudolph Gerudolph@gmail.com

White Villages of Andalusia 2026 Apr 17, 2026 - May 3, 2026 3B [Space for male to share a room](#) Contact ride leader Ron Scheiblauber ron1cycle@gmail.com

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

China – Yunnan Province – Kunming. Ride leader Warner Griswold unexpectedly was invited by C J Wang and the Cycling Cultural Exchange Bike club to participate on this ride. I wish to share my love of riding in Southern China with BAC members. Potential Ride Difficulty 3B – The hotels average 4 stars, all meals are included. The ride is a self-lead ride but fully

supported. 15 days 14 nights starting and ending in Kunming. Experience the magnificent Chinese bike trails like you've never seen or ridden on before. Absorb and experience the Chinese Culture - March 2026.

LOOKING FOR RIDERS WHO SPEAK CHINESE and ENGLISH!

Contact Warner Griswold at jwarner-griswold@att.net

BAC MEMBERSHIP TOTALS OVER THE YEARS

During our recent AGM meeting in February a member asked about our membership totals over the years. Here is a glimpse below. Note that for 2025 it is only through February, so I believe we will exceed 2024 membership totals by the end of 2025 and be back on the rise again after the membership drops due to covid. Nancy Bohnett

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Members</u>
2009 Aug	1806
2010 Nov	1920
2011 Nov	1931
2012 Nov	2024
2013 Oct	2124
2014 Sept	2192
2015 Oct	2264
2016 Oct	2322
2017 Oct	2393
2018 Oct	2432
2019 Oct	2404
2020 May	2165
2021 Dec	1927
2022 Oct	1970
2023 Nov	1891
2024 Oct	1840
2025 Feb	1822

MEMBERS CORNER

BAC Embroidered Apparel



LL Bean is set up to embroidery the BAC Logo on apparel!
The BAC Logo design # is: **360687**. Use this number when placing an order with LL Bean if you would like your item embroidered.

RIDE with GPS (RWGPS) club discount for BAC members extended! The 20% discount for BAC members on paid RWGPS memberships has been extended through the end of

2025 – **use discount code bacrocks2025**. RWGPS has 3 levels of membership: free, basic (\$50 per year), and premium (\$80 per year). Their website (<https://ridewithgps.com/help/compare-plans>) compares the three levels of membership and provides explanations of the features included in each. BAC members with FREE RWGPS membership, while on a BAC tour, enjoy the enhanced features of subscription RWGPS membership. Purchasing a personal subscription will provide enhanced features on all your rides.