

BAC MONTHLY UPDATE

January 2025



Bhutan - The Last Buddhist Kingdom (2024) Whitewater rafting the glacier water on the Pho Chu River, Punakha, Bhutan, Ride co-ordinator Pamela Kelly. Photo submitted by Pamela Kelly.

Hello BAC Members,

Welcome to the January 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 January 2025

Happy New Year BAC Members! It's hard to believe another year has gone by and in reflection, BAC ride leaders offered another great year of not-for-profit cycle touring with the motto of Friends Leading Friends. 2024 included forty tours: 15 domestic and 25 international, led with great success! Currently, fifty tours have been approved for 2025: 27 domestic and 23 international. 2025 is slated to be a fantastic year of BAC cycling! As we enter into 2025, the Ride Leaders Training and Development Committee is offering the Ride Leader Training Seminar beginning February 4th (see details below). If you are interested in leading a tour(s) in the future, late 2025 or 2026, this training will get you motivated and will help you start your tour planning and proposal.

A couple of other items as we enter the new year:

- Travel to Europe in 2025: Be sure to read the article below regarding Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) and European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS)
- January 10-February 10: BAC Election Voting (more information below). Please vote!
- February 16 is the BAC Annual Meeting via Zoom (more information will be shared in the February Monthly Update). Mark your calendar.

On behalf of the BAC Board of Directors, thank you for supporting our club and we hope your New Year's resolution(s) includes more cycling with BAC!

Keep pedaling,
Barb

BAC BOARD ELECTIONS 2025

Our next BAC Board election will be January 10-February 10, 2025. We will be sending you an email with a link and instructions to vote on January 10th 2025.

The board has nominated Jim McKinley, Carolyn Davidson, Barb Rudolph and Kate Faulkner to three-year terms. This will allow Barb and Kate to continue on the board after their current term ends in February 2025.

Biographical information is provided for each of the candidates below. Candidates may also be nominated for election to the Board through petition by 2% of the membership up until January 9th, 2025. Proxies will be solicited from January 10-Feb 10, 2025 for candidates nominated by the Board and those nominated by the membership. The proxies cast will be exercised by the Board Chair at the Annual General Meeting Feb. 16, 2025 following the direction provided.

Jim McKinley: I've been a more or less devoted cyclist for 30 years. Initially, it was just to get away from work with the combination of exercise and relaxation that bicycling provides. Later, I started multi-day trips – my first 'tour' was a north-to-south fiasco across Arizona. I've ridden by myself and with friends on self-organized and club-sponsored tours, on tours offered by commercial operators, and on a number of Adventure Cycling Association tours. It was a lucky day when I discovered BAC, with its far flung and interesting rides, and no tents. Since 2017 I've taken 20 BAC rides. My wife, Susan, joined in 2022 and we've taken 11 rides together. I took the ride leader's course, and am in the process of organizing my first BAC ride as a Ride Leader.

I have some experience that I think can be applied as a Board member. Before retiring, I was a research scientist, which involved writing proposals and manuscripts, and juggling and managing projects, including staffing, conducting research, and budgeting. I'm a decent bicycle mechanic. I don't think the club needs to be shaken up or reorganized; my objective for serving on the Board would be to contribute to keeping the club a thriving source of enjoyable, fulfilling bike rides for its members. I would help to do the work that makes the club operate smoothly: participate in managing the club, review and approve ride proposals, and maintain an open,

efficient, and friendly relationship with club members. I would like to see the number of offered rides increased, so that ride choice increases, and so that there are enough places available to accommodate as many members as possible.

Carolyn Davidson: I have been an avid cyclist for 48 years doing recreational rides, independent touring, a stint of triathlons, and at least a couple dozen tours with a variety of tour companies. A couple high points include two 17-day rides that averaged more than 100 miles a day: One from Portland ME to Atlanta GA and the other from Albuquerque NM to Kalispell, MT. I've also done self-supported touring in my younger days! I completed my first tour with BAC around 2002. The tour started/ended in Toulouse France and did a loop through the Pyrenees. I loved everything about the ride, the leaders, the other riders, and the amazing scenery. Since that time I've done a total of 4 tours with BAC and have more planned for the future. I love the idea of BAC being a non-profit so it can keep costs down and provide the opportunity for dedicated cyclists to visit amazing places and not "break the bank." All the tour leaders and people I've ridden with have been wonderful and it's time for me to give back to this impressive organization.

My background is grounded in 25+ years of pragmatic experience as a successful business leader overseeing complex budgets and capital projects, diverse industry experience, and expertise in organization development including designing leadership programs for a number of Fortune 500 companies. My focus has been on developing leaders and building their capabilities as they deepen knowledge about themselves and create high performing teams and results. My leadership experience comes from managing teams and large functions in a range of environments. I have worked and coached in a number of industries including startups, technology, retail, finance, health care, biopharmaceutical, public-sector, education and non-profit. I have managed through mergers and acquisitions, fast paced hiring, as well as layoffs. I have guided many teams and organizations through many changes. I am currently moving toward retirement as an executive coach and planning on exploring many more countries by bicycle.

Barb Rudolph: Glenn and I have been BAC members since 2016 and have participated on and led several tours. I am completing my third year on the BAC Board and look forward to continuing my service. Currently, I am the Board Chairman. BAC's philosophy of "Friends Leading Friends" on not-for-profit bicycle tours, feeds my passion for cycling and travel. As a board member, I am committed to supporting BAC's mission and ensuring our membership has quality tours to choose from, led by outstanding, passionate, ride leaders who volunteer their time, energy and passion for cycling and travel. I am committed to upholding the club Bylaws and Governing Policies.

My 30 year working career was devoted to public education as a teacher and school principal. I enjoy working with people who are passionate and devoted to continuous improvement. BAC is an amazing club and I want to see it continue to thrive.

Kate Faulkner: My first bicycle tour with BAC was in 2001. This tour, and subsequent BAC tours in Europe, New Zealand, British Isles, Canada, and the U.S., have been wonderful experiences. My husband, Bill, and I value the many people we have met through BAC. I am passionate about the potential for bicycles to improve people's physical and mental health. I retired from the National Park Service in 2016, following a 35 year career as a biologist and

manager. Retirement has allowed me to dedicate more time to advocate locally for infrastructure and regulations that enhance the safety of bicyclists.

I began serving on the BAC Board in 2022. My primary focus during the last three years has been updating policies to guide ride leaders in the development, implementation, and accounting of bike tours. This has involved collaboration with ride leaders as well as other board members. I hope to continue to support and enhance BAC as it provides opportunities for members to explore the world, and their backyard, by bicycle.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new BAC Members who have joined us in Dec 2024. If they live near you give them a call.

Patty Waters, Bend, OR
Paul Banken, Denver, CO
Sheldon Rothenberg, Oakland, CA
Sue McGlennon, Menlo Park, CA
Karen Bolton, Newbury, MA
Te-Yuan Huang, San Francisco, CA
Brian Smith, Woodinville, WA
Frances Gawel, Long Beach, CA
Jill Cordova, Grand Junction, CO
John Lankes, San Luis Obispo, CA
Joelle Davidson, Richmond, CA
Shauna Bocksch, Frisco, CO
Kim Moyano, Auburn, CA
Dan and Kenya Hedges, Aurora, CO
Keith Kostek, Penticton, BC
Laura Milner, San Francisco, CA

RIDE LEADER SEMINAR

Sign Up Now to Learn How to Become a BAC Ride Leader Four-Part Online Ride Leader Seminar to be Offered in February

If you've ever wanted to become one of the "Friends Leading Friends on Rides," which is the motto of the BAC, then sign up now for the 2025 Online Ride Leader Seminar. The Zoom-based seminar begins February 4 and was developed by the Ride Leader Training and Development Committee to make it easy to learn how to be a BAC ride leader. It consists of four, 2.5 hour online sessions that cover all of the support the BAC provides for its ride leaders. The training is only offered once every year or two so sign up now if you'd like to connect BAC members socially by offering a member-led, quality, affordable bicycle tour.

The seminar will be held from 7-9:30 PM EST (4-6:30 PM PST) on:
Tuesday, February 4

Thursday, February 6
Tuesday, February 11
Thursday, February 13

The seminar features:

- On-line classes via Zoom
- Frequent knowledge checks with quizzes and activities
- Between training sessions, there will be projects to complete that are specific to planning a tour you want to lead

Experienced presenters (ride leaders and board members) will provide the tools you need to lead a successful BAC ride in the USA and international locations. We will cover how to lead all types of rides including roaming, semi-roaming, and fixed base. You will learn all aspects of leading rides from developing, budgeting and planning, to leading the ride and finalizing all paperwork. Each seminar participant will learn how to access the BAC resources needed to propose and manage tours.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: This seminar is for BAC members who are interested in leading a ride for the first time. It is also helpful for those who have previously led BAC rides and want more training. **To attend, you must be a BAC member and have participated in at least one BAC tour by the day of the first training session.**

REGISTRATION: To submit a request to join this training event, go to [NEED LINK HERE](#). Then click on the button displayed above the Ride Description to request to register. When you are accepted, the Ride Leader will move you from the Waitlist to the Pending List. At that time, you will receive an email notification to login to the BAC website to sign the release of liability form and pay the \$50 BAC ride registration fee. As soon as your payment has been processed, your name(s) will be added to the Participant List. To contact the Ride Director, click the name at the top of the page. A link will be sent with instructions on how to access the Seminar prior to the first session. The \$50 ride registration fee will be reimbursed for participants who complete all four training sessions.

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.

- **Norway- Western Fjords by Bike and Boat** Aug 9-16, 2025 Ride Coordinator: Pam Kelly in Conjunction with We Adventure Ltd. Start Location: Alesund, Norway (AES) Finish Location: Alesund, Norway (AES) Ride Rating: 3C
- **Colorado Historic Roaring Fork Valley 2025** Aug 11-21, 2025. Ride Directors: Mark Janer & Christine Bartlett. Start Location: Glenwood Springs, CO. Finish Location: Glenwood Spring, CO. Ride Rating: 2A!

- **Wisconsin's Door County** Sept. 2-11, 2025 Ride Directors: Frank Hanson & Linda Kimball. Start Location: Green Bay, WI. Finish Location: Green Bay, WI. Ride Rating: 1B
- **Bhutan - The last Buddhist Kingdom** Nov 9-19, 2025. Ride Coordinator: Pam Kelly in Conjunction with We Adventure Ltd. Start Location: Bangkok, Thailand. Finish Location: Paro, Bhutan. Ride Rating: 4B
- **Ride With The Gods - A Greek Odyssey** May 16-June 1, 2026. Ride Coordinator: Warner Griswold in conjunction with Greek Cycle Holidays. Start Location: Athens Finish Location: Thessaloniki. Ride Rating: 3B!

WHAT'S UP WITH TRAVEL to EUROPE 2025

You may or may not have heard about changes to what in the past has been “visa-free” travel to Europe. Although a visa will not be a requirement, travelers from the U.S., Canada and elsewhere will see additional requirements for entry to the EU and UK (considered a visa waiver). Here is an article that explains it pretty well, but more information is below as well.

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20241211-the-big-changes-coming-to-uk-and-european-travel-in-2025>

Many travelers around the world have had to do something similar for entry to the U.S. or Canada for years, but many of us have been privileged in not having this requirement for Europe. Why the change? The new systems are intended to create a more streamlined entry system by confirming traveler eligibility to enter. In addition, biographic, biometric and contact details will be collected during the application process to increase security by better tracking traveler movements. Although it is meant to streamline the entry process, expect some hiccups during the initial roll-out and possibly delays at airports.

UK ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORISATION (ETA)

From 8 January 2025, visitors from the U.S., Canada and other non-European will be required to obtain an [Electronic Travel Authorisation](#) (ETA) to enter the country. Note that this also applies if you have a layover, even if you will never leave the airport

To receive an ETA, travelers must fill out an [online form](#) (or use the phone App) and pay a £10 fee (approximately \$12.75). Applicants should hear back in a few hours, but in some cases, a decision may take up to three business days. The authorization is valid for multiple entries to the UK for stays of up to six months and is good for a two-year period or until the traveler’s passport expires – whichever comes first.

Beginning on 2 April 2025, EU nationals will also be required to obtain an ETA before entering the UK. (Citizens of the UK, Ireland and those with valid UK visas will be exempt.)

So if you have travel to or through the UK in 2025, best to start thinking about applying for ETA now or at least a few weeks before travel, just to make sure you get through the process.

EU EUROPEAN TRAVEL INFORMATION AND AUTHORIZATION SYSTEM (ETIAS) TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

ETIAS stands for the [European Travel Information and Authorization System](#) (ETIAS) and is being implemented for similar reasons as the ETA. It will be required for visitors from around 60 nations, including the U.S., Canada, the UK, and other non-EU citizens to [Schengen countries](#) that are visa-exempt now. It has been in the works for almost a decade and the roll-out date has again been delayed.

ETIAS will not be implemented until about [6 months after](#) the EU completes its [Entry/Exit System](#) (EES), an automated IT system for registering non-EU nationals. The EES is anticipated to be functional sometime in 2025, but that is also uncertain. The ETIAS process will require short-term travelers [to apply online](#), pay a small fee (€7 – roughly \$7.40) and then wait up to 96 hours for applications to be approved. The authorization is good for a three-year period or until the traveler's passport expires – whichever comes first. Unlike the ETA, ETIAS will not be required for a layover as long as you remain within the airport's international transit area and do not leave to enter the country itself.

For all of these programs, airlines will be required to notify passengers of requirements in enough time in advance of their flights to complete the process. BAC will continue to update members as the things change.

RIDES WITH SPACE AVAILABLE

- Hawaii 2025 – Circumnavigating the Big Island Jan 10, 2025 - Jan 22, 2025 2B
- 2025 On-line Ride Leader Seminar Feb 4, 2025 - Feb 13, 2025 1A
- 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 male to share a room](#)
- Camino del Norte 2025 Jun 23, 2025 - Jul 9, 2025 3B
- Lake Michigan Ramble Sep 7, 2025 - Sep 21, 2025 2B [Space for male to share a room](#)
- The Sunny Side of the Alps Sep 9, 2025 - Sep 25, 2025 3B [Space for male to share a room and Space for a female to share a room](#)
- Virginia Horse Country, Mountains Valleys 2025 Sep 30, 2025 - Oct 13, 2025 3B [Space for female to share a room](#)
- 2025 Southern Portugal Oct 4, 2025 - Oct 20, 2025 3B [Space for one or two or for a couple.](#)
- Adirondacks 2025 Oct 10, 2025 - Oct 21, 2025 3B [Space for female to share a room](#)
- 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 male to share a room and Space for a female to share a room](#)
- Morocco 2025 A Nomads Journey Oct 18, 2025 - Nov 1, 2025 3B
- The Lakes and Volcanoes of Chile. Dec 4, 2025 - Dec 15, 2025 4C

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.

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

Lake Michigan Ramble Sep 7, 2025 - Sep 21, 2025 2B [Space for male 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 a male to share a room and for a female to share a room](#) Contact leader Warner Griswold jwarner-griswold@att.net

2025 Southern Portugal Oct 4, 2025 - Oct 20, 2025 3B [Space for one or two or for a couple](#). Contact leader Sue Bunten sue@bunten.ca

Virginia Horse Country, Mountains Valleys 2025 Sep 30, 2025 - Oct 13, 2025 3B [Space for female to share a room](#) Contact leader Cathy Bradley cathybradley54@gmail.com

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.

FOR SALE: 50 cm Miyata 21 speed Steel road bike, S&S couplings. Used by 5'0" woman around the world, reduced to \$600. See at Craigslist Richmond VA or email pullen_39@yahoo.com, or call/text (804)349-4140

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 2024 – **use discount code bacrocks2024**. 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 the enhanced features on all your rides.