

— 2008 AMERICAN RANDONNEUR AWARD —

TX RBA Dan Driscoll Honored For Passion, Club Leadership

BY PAM WRIGHT

Dan, The Goal Maker... Dan, The Danimal... Dan, The RBA... Dan, The Shoeless... Dan, The Puller... Dan, The bleep-bleep!... Dan...The Passionate

Yep, I'm biased about Dan Driscoll, this year's recipient of the American Randonneur Award. I'll admit that freely! Though it's easy to write about Dan's prowess on the bike, it's hard to have a better description of Dan's behind-the-scenes efforts than the actual description for this award itself.

RUSA describes this award as follows: "This person is to be recognized for having gone above and beyond the call of duty to help our niche of cycling grow. It can be a RBA who has dramatically increased brevet participation, a hard-working RUSA volunteer, or someone who has helped randonneuring flourish by a selfless act, good sportsmanship, camaraderie, or by being a good samaritan."

So, that led me to a few questions.

How do you grow the 2nd largest RUSA club? In a sport where the large majori-

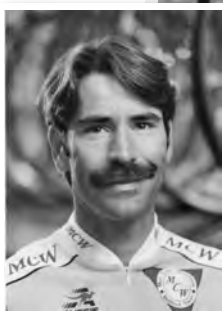
ty of participants are men, how is it that almost one-half of the riders on your events are women? How do you inspire people to ride more than they think humanly possible? How do you convince people to knowingly look forward to riding uphill...into a headwind...over chip and seal roads...while it's raining, cold and dark for 200Km at a time? How do you inspire almost every Lone Star member to actively participate in the coordination of the most brevets and permanents ridden each year in RUSA?

The answer is Passion...and the name is Dan Driscoll.

Stories create themselves when it comes to Dan and his passion for randonneuring. His personal skill on the bike is pretty much taken for granted by most, but few know the hours spent every day painstakingly answering each and every e-mail...some from LSR members, some from new people looking for a way to get started. All receiving unwavering



Photo from LSR Web site.



attention.

In addition to once serving on RUSA's board and in other national capacities, Dan is the RBA for Lone Star Randonneurs. Lone Star Randonneurs is not just a club for Dan, it's a way of life. A life built on camaraderie, mentoring and challenge. There truly is no more sincere randonneur -- one committed to every rider finishing the ride, every rider achieving their own personal goals and every rider giving back something to another randonneur.

Who else can convince people from 5 states to ride a 200k on New Year's Day?

And after talking with Dan, I'd bet every person actually thought it was their own idea!

I challenge any of you to mention a daydream or a possibility to Dan and not find yourself fulfilling it! For those few who don't know Dan, his sheer strength of will makes every goal reasonable, every challenge logical and achievable.

Dan makes everything sound so normal you actually think you CAN ride a 200k, 300k, 400k, 600k...oh and why not do that 4, 5, or 7 times this year. Why not? After all, you're just out riding with your buddies. What else are you going to do....watch TV?