

2011 American Randonneur Award Recipient... Mike Dayton



Mike Dayton at Paris-Brest-Paris in Villaines-la-Juhel.
Photo courtesy of John Ende.

Once a year, the RUSA Board of Directors and the RUSA Awards Committee present an award to a member of the organization who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to randonneuring in the United States.

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 an 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.

RUSA wishes to recognize that special volunteer and inspire others to do the same. It is the only award we have that names a single winner; all other awards can be earned each season by any of our members who qualify.

The RUSA Board awards the American Randonneur Award from nominations provided by any current RUSA member. This person must be a current RUSA member. Please note that the Board has decided to exempt itself from any active nominations for this award in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest.

If an American Randonneur Award nomination comes in for a sitting Board member, it is held over until that person's term of office has ended and then placed among the next batch of nominees.

You may nominate a member by email. To make a nomination by email, send your name and your RUSA membership number with your nominee's name and RUSA membership number to: Johnny Bertrand.

Or fill out the candidate submission form presented on our awards page (and mail it to the address on the form by December 15th).

The previous recipients of the American Randonneur Award were:

Johnny Bertrand (2001)
David Buzzee (2002)
Jennifer Wise (2003)
James Kuehn (2004)
Daryn Dodge (2005)
Bill Bryant (2006)
Robert Fry (2007)
Dan Driscoll (2008)
Mark Thomas (2009)
Don Hamilton (2010)

This year's American Randonneur Award has been presented to Mike Dayton. Mike Dayton, Esq., publisher, editor, journalist, bon vivant, flâneur. Mike has been awarded the 2011 American Randonneur award for his tireless efforts on our behalf, including his outstanding eight-year service as editor and publisher of *American Randonneur*, his update of the RUSA Handbook and other RUSA publications since 2004, and his recent interim service on the RUSA Board.

Jennifer Wise, RUSA #1, provided this appreciation.

Trick or Treat?

By Jennifer Wise

Mike Dayton called on Halloween night, 2003. In his low-key, easy-going style, he earnestly offered to take over the job of RUSA newsletter editor. I was caught off-guard. "Seriously? What prompted this?" I asked. "You helped my good friend, Adrian Hands, change his PBP start time," he said. "If you hadn't done that, he would not have finished officially."

Adrian had been assigned to the 80-hour start. He needed to be in the 90-hour start. I immediately contacted the ACP and pleaded that they bend the "you can't change your PBP start time" rule and fix this error. They did. Adrian went on to finish PBP in 88 hours 55 minutes. Mike claimed that this one gesture, was "above and beyond" the call of duty.

RUSA was looking for a newsletter editor, it seemed to Mike, to be a good way to repay the favor. Mike took over the job, from me, in February 2004 and stayed at the helm until December 2011.

He took a nice little newsletter and turned it into a high-quality publication. He improved the editorial content, increased the advertising revenue, printed it on good paper stock, added color covers and produced a classy quarterly magazine. Mike collected data for the annual RUSA Results Issue, updated and reissued the RUSA Handbook and also published a few of special PBP issues.

As editor-in-chief, his discretion when selecting material has been spot on. Each newsletter has had a balanced amount of educational and entertaining articles. Each issue was better than the one before. How did he do it? The true heart and soul of the organization is now represented in the pages of our enjoyable magazine. Mike has singlehandedly raised the bar, tastefully and effortlessly.

American Randonneur has matured under his supervision and each issue is a collector's item. Thank you Mike, for a good trick and a great treat.

Congratulations, Mike!