

2016 American Randonneur Award

BRUCE BERG

BY ROB HAWKS

In Northern California there is a robust ultra-cycling community of which randonneuring is a large part. The joke around here is that the club centuries and double century rides are really just the prelude to randonneuring. More than one rider has begun testing their limits doing club rides working up to 100 miles, then joining others on club-hosted double centuries and finally found themselves in the middle of the night miles from the lights of towns riding toward the finish of a 600K. A number of these riders, too, have had the good fortune to have been riding those events alongside Bruce Berg (RUSA #1349) who has been a fixture in Northern California ultra-cycling for at least twenty years.

Those of us hooked on riding brevets no doubt have become so hooked because of the camaraderie and support we find in our community. Those of us that attempt to manage and run clubs that host these events can only do so because of the solid foundation of support we get from the volunteers who pitch in and make things work. The description of the qualities RUSA looks for in candidates for the American Randonneur Award mentions the word 'growth' in regard to our niche in the cycling world, and there are a number of ways someone can foster the growth of our sport: supporting and encouraging riders new to randonneuring, helping local clubs flourish so that there are clubs to host brevets, and

On CA 1, Day 2,
California Central Coast 1000km, 2010.
—PHOTO ROB HAWKS



pitching in on those rides to make them happen. The randonneuring community in Northern California has had the good fortune to have Bruce be involved in every aspect that nurtures the growth of our sport.

Bruce began riding brevets in the early years of RUSA, and has been a two-time finisher at PBP (2003 and 2007), as well as a rider of domestic 1000K and 1200K events. Locally, Bruce is a member of the California Triple Crown Hall of Fame for having ridden over fifty organized double century events. Bruce has also been a prominent volunteer on long distance events supporting the Davis Gold Rush Randonnee (Davis Region), The

Califorina Central Coast Randonnee (Santa Cruz Region), and the Golden Gate 1000K (San Francisco Region) several times. Though Bruce is no longer able to ride brevets, he continues to support the San Francisco Randonneurs, often volunteering for the tasks least likely to get volunteers.

I was lucky to have Bruce as a randonneuring mentor and his unwavering support as the RBA in the San Francisco Region at a time when the region grew from a few dozen RUSA members to a region that annually exceeds three hundred RUSA members. For all you have done for Randonneuring and RUSA, thank you Bruce! 🚴