Between Controls | Randonneurs USA

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RANDONNEURING MOMENTS: WHEN A PERM HITS THE SPOT



Photo Credit: George Swain (#4232)
Location: Catskill Mountains, NY
Details: George's selfie while riding the Catskill Climbfest Permanent.

Sometimes the best thing to do is to NOT ride a brevet. Although I was scheduled to ride the **PA Randonneurs Hex Country 400K** this weekend, I knew I didn't have the training in my legs and body to make anything but a mess of it, so I decided to clip in and enjoy one of my all-time favorite permanent routes instead: the **Catskill Climbfest 200K**. I love riding brevets for the sense of community and the excitement of shared experience, but I am also very grateful for the RUSA permanents

CLUB NEWS - NEW YORK CITY RANDONNEURS

The current Long Island Randonneurs club is changing their name, and will be changing their website, to New York City Randonneurs. The updated name reflects the increased support of the greater New York City metropolitan area of the club.

NEW YORK RANDONNEURS

RANDONNEURING MOMENTS: A VIEW FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO RANDONNEURS



Photo Credit: Victoria Norman (#16968)
Location: Golden State Bridge, California
Details: San Francisco Randonneurs Women's Populaire on 3/8/26.

CANDIDATES & ELECTION UPDATES

Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate candidates for our upcoming election.

program, which provides randonneurs the flexibility to customize our adventures to fit busy schedules.

This was to be the 24th time I've ridden the Catskill Climbfest after submitting it to RUSA in 2008, in the early years of the permanents program. This route is a favorite for several reasons: low-traffic roads through state forest preserves, two epic climbs that test a rider's fitness and determination, flowing descents, long hidden valleys, and charming historic villages.

This is Rip Van Winkle country - the setting of Washington Irving's famous short story about a particular farmer from a remote mountain village who becomes lost in time.

While definitely a hilly route at 8100 ft., the Climbfest serves up the climbing in a few large portions rather than uniformly along the full course. In the first section, riders leave the funky village of Rosendale (known locally as the People's Republic of Rosendale) behind to climb to the remarkable Ashokan Reservoir, which affords breathtaking views of the Catskill Mountains and is part of a network of 19 reservoirs that were created to provide drinking water to New York City.

Each half of the course has one significant climb, with the first along the historic Kaaterskill Clove (clove is the Dutch word for mountain pass), a favorite of Hudson River School painters. The Kaaterskill Falls appear on the right side of the road halfway

The following members have currently accepted their nomination and will be slated on the ballot.

Regular Board Positions
Deb Banks (#4405)
John Hugo Ellis (#18381)
Jonas Nygard (#6335)
Joseph Ray (#10408)
Kevin Williams (#13395)

Regional Brevet Administrator (RBA-L) Liaison
Wei Sun (#9917): by process of acclamation

As candidates complete their interviews, we will be sharing them.

On November 1st, you will be receiving an email to vote ***from Election Buddy directly.***

- Elections open from November 1st through November 30th.
- The email that you will receive: From: Randonneurs USA <**invit...@mail.electionbuddy.com**>
- The content of the email will look like this for reference (*NOTE: 2026 ballot as an example*)

up the climb, and if the waters are high in the rainy season, they provide an excuse to stop for a photo, but as it was relatively dry yesterday, I decided to push straight on to the top, where the first control is conveniently located at a Stewart's Shop, which is a local convenience store chain known for its fine ice cream and clean bathrooms.

After leaving the first control behind, riders spin through the colorful resort town of Tannersville at the base of the Hunter Mountain ski area, and then, after one more short climb, to the top of Devil's Tombstone, where a long and gradual 12-mile descent into the lovely village of Phoenicia makes up for recent pain and suffering. The next eight miles, along a busy state road with large shoulders, connecting the two large forest preserves, are relatively flat and pass quickly. The next climb into the heart of the Catskills begins gradually but soon picks up as riders pass the trailheads of several important Catskills peaks, including Slide Mountain, the tallest.

The pain soon fades, though, as riders enjoy the long and gradual descent through peaceful Frost Valley, home to a thriving trout stream and a vibrant YMCA camp.

The last thirty miles of the route are some of the most special, passing through the Peekamouse State Forest Preserve, which feels positively primordial with its sharp cliffs, teaming waterfalls, meandering river, and rich verdant forest. The valley rises only gradually, and riders

Vote now: Randonneurs USA - 2026 RUSA Board of Directors Election

XXXXX

You are invited to vote in the Randonneurs USA - 2026 RUSA Board of Directors Election.

The voting deadline is Nov 30 2025 11:45pm Eastern Time (US & Canada).

We are using an online election system to tabulate the vote. You have been assigned a unique access key which can only be used to vote once and your voting choices will remain anonymous. Do not forward this email. Do not reply to this email to vote, as your vote will not be registered.

If you have questions or want to be removed from notifications regarding this vote, please email Randonneurs USA at election@rusa.org.

Remember, once you submit your vote, it cannot be changed.

To vote, visit:

https://secure.electionbuddy.com/BFBW-5FL4-YGSS-SVLK/

Or copy and paste the link into your web browser.

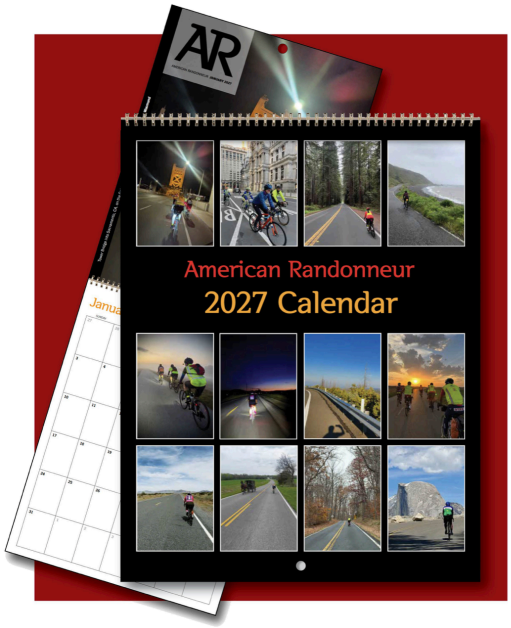
You can also visit https://secure.electionbuddy.com/ballot/ and enter **"BFBW-5FL4-YGSS-SVLK"**

Unsubscribe from any further emails about this election.

ElectionBuddy
Powered by ElectionBuddy Inc.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

NEW STORE ITEM: AMERICAN RANDONNEUR 2027 WALL CALENDAR



Give someone you love a great way of keeping track of your brevet

are again rewarded with another glorious descent en route to civilization.

I enjoyed this route yesterday, as I have so many times before, because it lets me fully disconnect from the world, a bit like Rip Van Winkle, perhaps. The roads are quiet, and there is no cell service for over half of the route. Whether solo or in a group, this permanent always feels like an adventure to a distant land, one I am fortunate to live nearby.

Seasons change quickly in the mountains. I saw a few flaming red, orange, and yellow maples yesterday, but the glorious fall foliage will come and go over the next several weeks, so interested randonneurs should act quickly. While this permanent is open year-round, the most glorious and colorful display will surely be gone by mid-October.



REGION HIGHLIGHT: FINGER LAKES RANDONNEURS CENTRAL/WESTERN NEW YORK

weekends!

For a limited time, *American Randonneur* 2027 Wall Calendars are available in the our Store's Department of Miscellaneous for pre-order—with delivery in time for the holidays.

BECAUSE THE CALENDAR SAYS SO...fill in the important dates so everybody in your household can see...

- Family Events
- Date Nights
- Work Commitments
- Randonneurs USA events

Order yours today! Maybe consider buying one for your favorite cycling friend or two to thank them for sharing some great rando memories along the road or gravel.

VIEW / ORDER

ROULEUR AND BREVET WEEKS: COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Mon Nov 9, 2026 - Fri Nov 13, 2026	Carmel Rouleur Week
Mon Nov 9, 2026 - Sun Nov 15, 2026	Phoenix Brevet Week

What is a Rouleur? **click here**

Carmel Rouleur Week: **click here**

Phoenix Brevet Week: **click here**

NEW COLORS: KIT & REFLECTIVE VESTS

The store to order kits and reflective vests is now open, produced by Voler.



Letchworth State Park
Several brevets



The Central/Western New York region, currently operating under the Finger Lakes Randonneurs, covers a large and varied part of New York state, stretching from Niagara Falls east toward the Thousand Islands and Tug Hill Plateau, and south through the Finger Lakes to the Pennsylvania border.

The Central/Western New York region dates to 2002, when Jenn Barber became its first Regional Brevet Administrator (RBA). That history can still be seen in the route catalog: many of our brevet route numbers are in the low double digits. Pete Dusel (#25) took over as RBA in November 2008 and continues in that role today.

KITS: Two new colors added to the mix to include green, yellow as well as the traditional blue and pink. Window closes 11/1/26, ships 12/11/26.

REFLECTIVE WIND VESTS: Race Cut, window closes 11/8/26 and ships before the end of the year.

Contact Voler directly for sizing questions.



VIEW / SHOP KITS



VIEW / SHOP REFLECTIVE VESTS

2027 AUDAX CLUB PARISIEN (ACP) CALENDAR NOW LIVE

Our Audax Club Parisien (ACP) 2027 calendar has been approved. You can check out that calendar as well as what regions are offering in 2027.

Pete shared, "our rides tend to reflect the landscape in which we live: lakes and rivers, waterfalls and wetlands, vineyards and orchards, old canal towns, rural roads, and more hills than the maps sometimes seem to promise."

For the past several seasons, they have offered two complementary series. One is based in Ontario, New York, on the shore of Lake Ontario; the other is based around Ithaca and the Finger Lakes and is organized by members Jim Bondra (#5452) and Sean Keesler (#13245).

Learn more about this region with the click on the button:

REGION HIGHLIGHT

Remember, non-ACP events (Rouleur, team events, non-ACP calendared events, etc...) can be added to the calendar 1-2 weeks prior to being held by the Regional Brevet Administrator (RBA). So check back often.

Feel free to reach out to the respective RBA and **region** for more details and their 2027 plans.

CALENDAR

BEHIND THE SCENES

Interested in understanding what's going on behind the scenes and where we are headed?

Board of directors meeting **minutes**

2026 strategic **goals**

Mission, organizational objectives & value **principles**

Event Search | Permanent Search | Awards

Randonneurs USA's mission is to promote non-competitive, long-distance cycling and serve as the sanctioning body for randonneuring events in the United States.

Randonneurs USA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

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