



Between Controls | Randonneurs USA

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RESULTS

LOGIN TO RUSA

MAGAZINE

RANDONNEURING MOMENTS: A FIRST BREVET

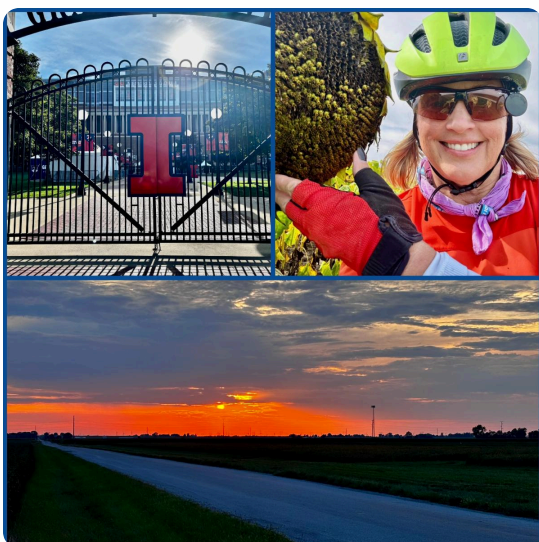


Photo Credit: Carrie Halle (#18957)
Location: Champaign, Illinois
Details: Driftless Randonneur Carrie Halle (#18957) on her first brevet with the Chicago Randonneurs. She completed the Amish FuDog 200k brevet on August 29, 2026.

I was excited to participate in my first brevet with the Chicago Randonneurs—a 200K.

The course began on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus in the early morning, where joggers and street sweepers were cleaning up what must have been an exciting Friday night as students returned for the fall semester.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOU SURVEY

We have a short, 8 question maximum, survey on how you engage with your club and RUSA digitally. This includes email, social media and websites. We'd appreciate you taking a few minutes today to provide us some input. It will be shared with all clubs and the RUSA team for use in planning.

[DIGITAL SURVEY](#)

GIVING BACK: ONE RIDE AT A TIME



Randonneuring teaches you that a bike can take you further than you may have thought possible. For Ted

My first control was Casey's in Philo, where I met Wayne, who was in the middle of his 600K. Kandace, the friendly store manager, gave us free coffee and donuts and reported that a large group of cyclists had come through a few hours earlier—and slept on the sidewalk outside the store.

That was my introduction to randonneuring.

The urban landscape quickly disappeared as I headed south into Illinois Amish country through Arcola, Arthur and Atwood. Beautifully kept farms and homes, meadows filled with horses and meticulously tended gardens made it feel as though I had ridden into another time. It brought back memories of wonderful afternoons spent on my grandmother's front porch sipping lemonade.

I passed at least ten horse-drawn buggies, and nearly every encounter brought smiles, waves or a friendly tip of the hat from the drivers and passengers. After dodging enough **road apples** along the shoulder, I began interpreting those hat tips as a polite Amish way of saying, "Sorry about the road hazards."

I stopped in Arcola for a quick sandwich and control verification at a small place staffed by hardworking Amish women, with their children playing in a room just off the kitchen.

As I rounded the southernmost part of the route, I picked up a glorious 6–8

Fay, a decade-long RUSA member, it's also taught him that a bike can bring someone else's world open for the first time. Through Out Our Front Door (**OOFD**), Ted volunteers on adaptive ride days, where a fleet of specialized bikes and volunteers give kids and adults with disabilities the chance to ride. These are often at schools and parks in partnership with organizations like **KEEN Chicago**.

No brevet cards, no controls. It is often 1/2 mile or so, 20-30 times. It does provide the experience that most of us get on two wheels. Wind in your face, the feel of rolling along on your own power, and being part of the group cycling.

This is the first in a semi-regular series spotlighting how randonneurs give back in their communities. If you've got a story — volunteering, mentoring, trail work, whatever it is — we want to hear about it for a future issue.

RANDONNEURING MOMENTS



Photo Credit: Joe Edwards (#6379)
Location: Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Illinois
Details: Audax Kansas City Regional Brevet Administrator Spencer Klaassen (#1989) heading into downtown Chicago on the Lakefront Path at the finish of the Audax Club Parisien Chicago-Dunelands-Chicago 300k on 6/27/26.

mph tailwind that pushed me toward Allerton Park, the former estate of Chicago industrialist Robert Allerton and now part of the University of Illinois. Allerton had special meaning for me: my niece will be getting married there in less than three weeks. I rode through the grounds, past the Sunken Garden and out to the Sun Singer, knowing that the next time I'm standing in that exact spot, the circumstances will be very different. I'll trade my sweaty spandex bibs, cycling shoes and helmet for a formal black gown and heels—and instead of watching the miles tick by on my Garmin, I'll be watching my niece get married.

Two very different journeys bringing me to the same place just a few weeks apart.

Next came a stretch of road reportedly traveled frequently by Abraham Lincoln. My mind wandered to Honest Abe, who has always been my favorite president, and what this countryside might have looked like when he traveled through it.

By then, the sun was dropping toward the horizon, and I started doing the mental math: miles remaining, daylight remaining, brevet cutoff. I wondered whether I would make it back in time and before dark.

Behind me, though, the sky was turning brilliant shades of orange and pink. Even with the clock ticking, I couldn't resist turning around a few times to take it in.

COMING OCTOBER 1ST: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR RUSA 2026 ELECTIONS

Nominate yourself or a friend!

Give back to Randonneurs USA to help guide and plan our rando future.

Four positions on the Board of Directors will become available at the end of 2026. Three regular board positions and the RBA Liaison.

Stay tuned for more details in a special "Call for Nominations Edition" of this Between Controls email coming your way on October 1.

2027 AMERICAN RANDONNEUR CALENDAR/RIDE PLANNER COMING TO OUR STORE SOON!

Thanks to everyone who submitted a photo to the first annual *American Randonneur* cover contest.

Keep an eye on your mailbox for the fall issue—featuring the winning cover photo and the 11 runners-up—and watch for the 2027 calendar, created with the top 12 entries, available in the RUSA store soon.

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](#)

Eventually, after **125 miles**, I rolled back into Champaign and reunited with my car at Denny's.

My first brevet was complete.

First brevet. First 200K. 125 miles solo—and a completely different way to experience a day on a bicycle.



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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.



Randonneurs USA | 47 Wood Ave. STE 2 | Barrington, RI 02806 US

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