

# VICKI MARUGG

*With knowledge gained from the ground up, this life member can do it all*

*by Dan Schwartzman*

When Viki Marugg first got into cycle touring back in 1980, she couldn't find a bike to fit her, so she decided to make her own. The Californian bought a copy of Eugene A. Sloane's *Bicycle Maintenance Book*, cruised over to Palo Alto Bicycles, and bought the smallest frame Trek offered and all the components that she had just read about. Four days later, Marugg had a beautiful bicycle built from scratch.

"It was still a little too stretched out for me, but I learned a bicycle from the ground up," Marugg said. "With that knowledge, one has the freedom to go anywhere."

A graphic designer, artist, and photographer, Marugg has long regarded the bicycle with admiration — both for its functionality and its aesthetic appeal. Marugg vividly remembers her first pangs of "bicycle envy" at the age of three, when she was riding on a tricycle. A few years later, Marugg received her first two-wheeler ("a gift from Santa") in 1955, while living in Japan.

"I was in love from first sight," Marugg said. "My brother and I would ride late into the evening and would often cruise outside the Lockheed Compound to explore the nearby train yard." (Marugg's step-



father was Vice President of Lockheed International and in charge of operations in Japan during the Korean War.)

Over the years, Marugg's passion for cycling has remained a constant, and has propelled her to many adventures whether commuting 14 miles daily, riding centuries on the weekends, touring, or planning organized rides.

During the 1980s, when Marugg organized her first tours, long cycling treks

were already part of her daily routine.

"Now I find it hard to believe I rode as much as I did," said Marugg, recalling when she joined a square dancing club in San Jose while she was living in Menlo Park, about 20 miles northwest of the city. "Friday evenings the club would meet from 7:00 until 10:00 PM. I would commute to work, change clothes there, pedal to San Jose, square dance for two hours, and pedal home by midnight. Ahhh, youth!"

Marugg said back then bicycle touring required more planning and routes had to be given consideration before hitting the road.

"I used the library," she said, adding that Google did not yet exist. "I researched it and drew the maps and organized a SAG crew. We had five riders and seven SAG crew members. What luxury!"

Her first three tours included a ride around the island of Maui, a jaunt from San Francisco to Los Angeles along the coast, and a five-day trek throughout parts of Arizona and California. For her, bicycle travel evokes a powerful feeling.

"I like the pace. It's perfect. The

continued on page 46

## Life Membership

*A lifetime of benefits, long-term support for bicycle travel.*

Following is a list of cyclists who have made the commitment of Life Membership to Adventure Cycling over the past six months. Funds from Life Membership are put into a special account to provide long-term support to the organization. In the past, these funds have helped us purchase our headquarters building, saving us thousands of dollars in interest payments. We then put the savings toward route creation and reaching out to current and future cyclists.

If bicycle travel is important part of your life, please consider making a life-time commitment by joining as an Adventure Cycling Life Member. To find out more, visit [www.adventurecycling.org/membership](http://www.adventurecycling.org/membership) or give Membership Director Julie Huck a call at (800) 755-2453 x 214.

Thanks to these new life members who signed up mid-March 2011 through July:

- Kevin Anglin, Osteen, FL
- Dick Combs, Bartow, FL
- Andrea Commaker, State College, PA
- Pamela Fischer & Scott Spaulding, New Gloucester, ME

- Liam Healy, Washington, DC
- Bradley Herman, APO, Korea
- Betsy Hunter Family, Seattle, WA
- Elizabeth Labadie, Seattle, WA
- Veronica Massey Family, Tampa, FL
- Kathleen McHugh & Ernest Cole, Los Osos, CA
- David Miller, Santa Clarita, CA
- Timothy S. Smith, Foster City, CA
- M. P. J. Squier, Santa Barbara, CA
- Gregory & Leslie Stone, Red Bluff, CA
- Ray Swartz, San Francisco, CA
- Steve Tolle, Fernandina Beach, FL
- Richard J. Voss, Minneapolis, MN

be wondering where you're supposed to put your tool kit if your saddle bag is full of water. It wouldn't make much sense to take the water off your back if you're just going to transfer your tools over to your jersey pockets, and Showers Pass is on top of this. In a wedge shaped space underneath the water reservoir, there is a compartment plenty large to house a multitool, tube, patch kit, and tire irons. With a durable build, and thoughtful design, this is ideal for long stretches between watering holes.

-Josh Tack



### Pacific Outdoor Equipment LTW Small Bike Pannier

(\$150/set, [pacoutdoor.com/bike-gear/view/ltw-small-pannier](http://pacoutdoor.com/bike-gear/view/ltw-small-pannier), 406-586-5258)

Also perfect for the quick overnighiter or ultralight tour, the LTW small panniers are a lightweight solution for those who like to carry gear the traditional way. The waterproof roll-top panniers weigh just 18 ounces each, offer an internal volume of 19 quarts (18 liters), and are made of 50 denier Diamond Ripstop recycled P.E.T. fabric.

The attachment hardware consists of an auto adjustable bottom connector and two top clamp connectors that shut to prevent the pannier

from popping off while riding on rocky terrain. The top connectors are also adjustable so they can accommodate many standard racks, but you'll need to keep a Phillips head screwdriver handy.

The main body of the LTW small pannier is simply a roll-top dry bag — there are no pockets, and the backside offers two stiffeners at the top

and bottom. This leaves the middle of the bag with no stiffener but, because the bag is so light, I didn't find this to be a problem on short trips. If you want to travel light and use quality, simple panniers, the LTW small pannier could be a good fit for you.

### Park PRS-25

(\$245, [parktool.com/product/team-issue-repair-stand-prs-25](http://parktool.com/product/team-issue-repair-stand-prs-25), 651-777-6868)

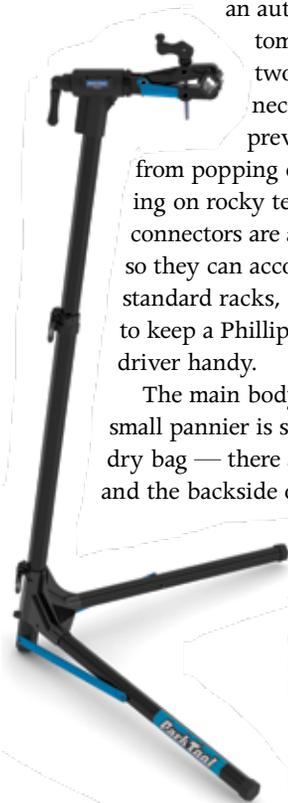
I was recently looking for a new repair stand and my chief concern was portability. I don't always work on my bike in the same place; sometimes I'm upstairs in the kitchen, other times I'm in the garage or the basement, so I wanted a stand I could eas-

ily carry and move around that wouldn't always be knocking into doorways and other pesky objects, like a refrigerator. In the PRS-25, I've found the stand for me.

The PRS-25 weighs just 13 pounds and, while folded, measures 47" high. In this state, the professional macro-adjust clamp is stored upright between the clamp bracket and leg brace, and the legs are folded together. To employ the stand, you loosen the top quick release and remove the clamp, then install it by cranking it into the bracket. You then release a second quick release and push the legs apart a bit. After that you push down on the leg bracket and the legs unfold easily.

The PRS-25's clamp is extremely adjustable, able to clamp vertically onto your seat tube or horizontally on to your cross tube, and it can be adjusted up to 60" high.

There are some nice options available from Park Tool that make using the PRS-25 even better: the 106 work tray, the TS-25 wheel-truing mechanism, and the PTH-1 paper towel holder, which doubles as a wheel hanger. All together, the PRS-25 package makes working on your bike a snap. For a preview, check out their demonstration video online. **AC**



pace varies according to how you feel. Anywhere from 7 to 25 MPH. The speed is enough to get you there — even hefty distances — and slow enough to experience the journey through all your senses."

One cycling event that Marugg took particular pride in was the Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon, which took place from 1980 through 1995. The six-day, 350-mile annual ride raised money to help protect the lake from being drained by the people of Los Angeles and was ultimately successful in achieving its aim. Marugg said it was her first bike ride used to earn money for a good cause. Along for the ride was Jim Sayer, now Adventure Cycling's Executive Director.

Cycling itself has remained a good cause to Marugg, who later joined Adventure Cycling Association as a Life Member in 1983.

A cyclist for 54 years, the love of riding influenced Marugg profoundly in many ways. Politically, she has been a Green Party Member since its founding. Environmentally, she defines herself as a lifelong ecologist. Physically, cycling was a large part of her life when she faced a bout with breast cancer while she was training for the Adventure Cycling's Leadership Training Course.

Marugg dreams one day of setting out on a 10-year tour around the U.S. But, no matter how close to home or far afoot, cycling remains a journey for Marugg.

"The whole point of cycling is that every ride can become an adventure, even if it's just to work. It's just about getting in the saddle and doing it; chances are you'll run, smack-dab, into an adventure each time you hop on the saddle." **AC**

*Dan Schwartzman is a Bikram Yoga instructor and avid bicycle tourist. He is currently planning a tour of the West Coast and will be teaching yoga along the way.*