



BIKE SNOB ABROAD

EBEN WEISS' popular blog, bikesnobnyc.blogspot.com, is my go-to blog for "work-related" slacking off. Weiss' sarcastic, unapologetic commentary of cycling

of self-deprecation when making fun of other cyclists. Signing most of his posts, "Wildcat Rock Machine" and calling forth the spirit of "the Almighty Lobster" in moments of existential terror, Weiss is seemingly incapable of taking himself seriously and beckons you to join him aboard "the Flotilla of Smugness" in his latest masterpiece, *Bike Snob Abroad: Strange Customs, Incredible Fiets, and the Quest for Cycling Paradise*. On the heels of National Bike Month and the U.S. Bicycle Route System campaign, *Bike Snob Abroad* is an enjoyable read on Europe's bicycle infrastructure, controversial bike lanes in metro areas, and the bicycle as a mode of transport and travel in the U.S. Website: chroniclebooks.com/a-bike-snob-abroad.html.

culture can be painful to read because shaking with silent laughter at your desk gives you a side-cramp and because his ridiculous, mock-high-brow criticisms cut deep, leaving no cyclist — self-described or not — unscathed. Although Weiss' diatribes often shoot to kill, he never forgets the importance

CYCLING IN NORTHERN FRANCE

RICHARD PEACE and Andrew Stevenson have created a bike traveler's gem. *Cycling in Northern France: Cycle Routes North of the Loire* is a handsome, durable, comprehensive guide

with information and maps for over 5,000 kilometers of routes. The book includes a waterproof map scaled to 1:200,000, which shows roads in better detail than a standard

road map, making it perfect for bicycle tourists. The book includes detailed cutouts of urban areas, ride notes with directions, elevation profiles, cycle-friendly accommodation

details, and area sites. Organized into eight different regions, *Cycling in Northern France* is a great resource and can be purchased from various online sites for around \$20.



THE UNAUTHORIZED BROMPTON TOURING GUIDE

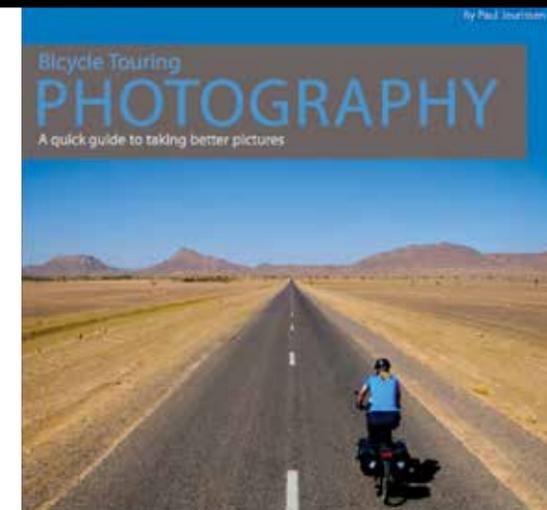
Foldable bicycles work well for travel

RUSS ROCA AND LAURA CRAWFORD of Path Less Pedaled have been churning out bicycle-travel inspiration for years, and they are honest and knowledgeable in the feedback and advice they share with readers. The same is true of their latest e-book, which explores the utility of Brompton foldable bikes as vehicles for multi-modal touring. Brompton bikes, as they point out, are not designed to withstand the sorts of punishment that they have subjected them to, hence "unauthorized." Along with helpful packing lists, instructional videos, and zombie-apocalypse drawings, this book provides exhaustive technical details to show you exactly how a Brompton bike can become a staple of bicycle touring. *The Unauthorized Brompton Touring Guide* is \$20 and can be purchased directly from pathlesspedaled.com.

BICYCLE TOURING PHOTOGRAPHY

Great advice for shutterbugs

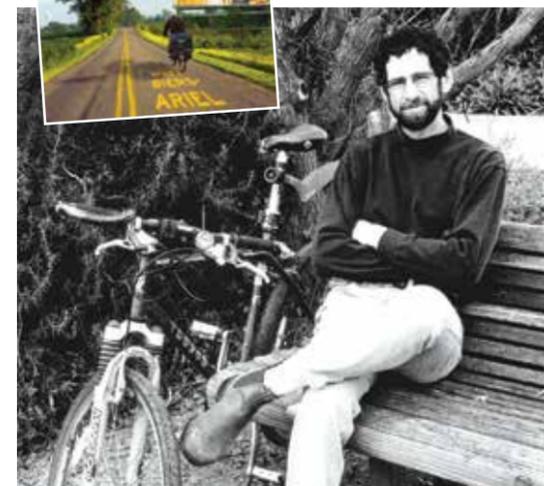
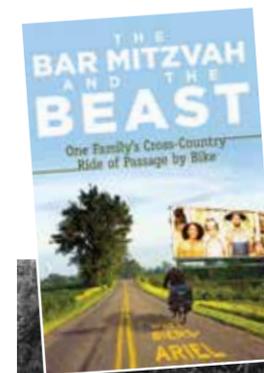
Bicycle Touring PHOTOGRAPHY: A quick guide to taking better pictures sums this e-book up pretty well. Paul Jeurissen is a veteran *Adventure Cyclist* contributor and guest blogger whose cover shot for the February 2009 feature "Woman in Red" made me pick up *Adventure Cyclist* from the floor of a friend's bathroom and "borrow" it, and from thence, my love of bicycle touring was born. Jeurissen's e-book, which is downloadable in PDF form, can be read from desktop computers, laptops, and on many mobile devices. The best part: It's free! Part one of this e-book offers ideas for bicycle-tourists-turned-amateur photographers on how to improve their bicycle-touring pictures. Part two deals with photo copyright and model-release information,



as well as guides for submitting your images to magazines and companies. Ahem. Let's see those photos, everyone! "Hopefully, this guide will inspire bicycle travelers to capture what they experienced on the road," said Paul. To download a copy of Paul Jeurissen's e-book, visit his blog, bicyclingaroundtheworld.nl/bicycle-photography-e-book.

THE BAR MITZVAH AND THE BEAST

WHEN Matt Biers-Ariel's son, Yonah, refused to have a bar mitzvah as he approached the age 13, Matt and his family explored ways to celebrate his coming-of-age less traditionally. "His alternative rite of passage was riding a bicycle from San Francisco to Washington, DC, to deliver a global-warming petition to Congress," said Matt. "And he brought



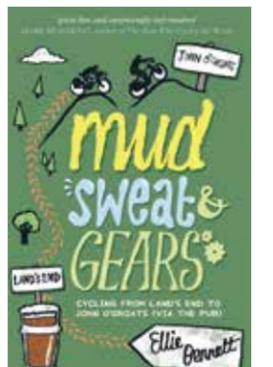
Author Matt Biers-Ariel

his mother, father, and younger brother along." *The Bar Mitzvah and the Beast: One Family's Cross-Country Ride of Passage by Bike*

chronicles the family's 3,804-mile journey by bicycle from the Pacific Ocean to Washington, DC. Strengthening the bond between a spiritual, nature-loving father and his ambivalent, computer-gaming son, this memoir is thoughtful, funny, and enlightening. It resists tradition; and in doing so, begins its own. Matt Biers-Ariel teaches English at Winters High School just west of Davis, California, and commutes 6,000 miles a year on his 1991 Giant Cadex. Order here: mountaineersbooks.org/The-Bar-Mitzvah-and-the-Beast-P950.aspx.

MUD, SWEAT, & GEARS

PART MEMOIR, part travelogue, Ellie Bennett's *Mud Sweat, & Gears* takes readers on a scenic cycling trip through the roads of Britain. The gist of it is, Ellie's friend suggests a bike trip from one end of Great Britain to the other, an infamous pilgrimage from Land's End to John O'Groats, and she writes him off as insane. But as her 50th birthday approaches, she's feeling feisty, so she agrees to



the challenge. Queue a heartwarming, hilarious adventure as the pair cycle Great Britain from north to south. Bennett's book will set you back \$13, but it's worth it and it truly is a fun read. Beware, though, it's best paired with a lawn chair, long hours in repose, and a brewsky. Find out more at mudsweatgears.com.