Letter *from the* Director

SPRING FORWARD

An Adventure Cycling leader's inspiring (and diagonal) cross-continent tour

Wally Werner, after a tour to visit his mom in the Chicago area.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALLY WERNER

DURING MY TIME at Adventure Cycling, we have nearly doubled our staff (now at 36 talented folks), but we couldn't do all we do without our extraordinary volunteers. That includes our Board of Directors, and especially Board President Wally Werner. Not only does Wally provide excellent leadership on the Board, he is one of our most popular tour leaders. Wally also provides us with essential technical help on our website.

Beyond these attributes, Wally bikes the talk. This year, he has set himself an ambitious adventure, riding self-contained from Key West, Florida, to Anchorage, Alaska. He started on March 20, riding Adventure Cycling's Atlantic Coast Route to St. Augustine, Florida, then turning left on the Southern Tier to Tallahassee. Next, he will angle west to Oklahoma City, where he will stop and fly to Missoula for our May Board meeting. Then he'll fly back to Oklahoma and ride to Missoula, where he will lead our epic North Star tour to Anchorage. Wally is an amazing guy and we're lucky to have him serving Adventure Cycling in so many ways. You can track his journey at **keystoalaska.com**.

Meanwhile at Adventure Cycling HQ, spring has blossomed. Our tours are filling at a record rate and we have nearly sold out the first printing of the Idaho Hot Springs Mountain Bike Route maps. We've had fantastic gatherings with members in New York City and Montana, with more to come in Tennessee. Our staffer Mac McCoy is continuing his book tour — in the Northwest and Colorado's Front Range — to promote the new, fully updated *Cycling the Great Divide* guidebook.

I wrote in last month's column that I fractured my leg; now I'm back on my feet — and in the saddle — after eight weeks of mending. At the National Bike Summit, I enjoyed a celebratory dinner with Gary Fisher, the legendary bike designer, and Tania Lo and Mia Kohout, the brains behind *Momentum Magazine*. After dinner, late in the quiet Washington, DC, night, I pedaled a couple of miles to my friend Mike's home on a Capital Bike Share bike. It may not have been Key West to Anchorage, but it was almost as exhilarating. And it puts me on track to do several big rides this summer, including a favorite, the 130-mile Ride Around the Pioneers in One Day (RATPOD), with two of my wonderful daughters.

Thanks for all your good wishes on my rehab, and I hope your spring has sprung in the most velo-friendly ways.

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MISSION
Adventure Cycling Association inspires and empowers people to travel by bicycle.

AREAS OF FOCUS
Provide the premier tools and inspiration for people to travel by bicycle. Expand and integrate bike travel networks for North America. Create the best possible conditions for bicycle travel.

HOW TO REACH US
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