CYCLISTS' TRAVEL GUIDE

Buyer's Guide is Back



→ IN 2013, as many of you may remember (and for the first time since 1996), we did not publish a Touring Bike Buyer's Guide (TBBG) as a feature article in our yearly editorial volume. Because it had been a mainstay of our Cyclists' Travel Guide since its inception, I remember not being very happy about making that decision, but more important,

I thought it was a such a unique service to *Adventure Cyclist* readers, something they couldn't get anywhere else, that not publishing it was somehow failing in our mission. I still feel that way.

On the other hand, publishing something just because we'd always done so, regardless of its quality or whether it served its purpose well, didn't seem like the right thing to do either. Looking back, I think I made the right decision, although at the time some people were worried that if we didn't publish the TBBG, that would be the end of it. The idea that once momentum is lost on such a long-term project, it's lost for good is a mantra to some, but I wasn't willing to let the concept die. I just needed to find the right person to bring it back to life.

Adventure Cyclist has been extremely lucky in the past to have had terrific people write about the technical side of bicycles in an enjoyable and informative manner. Both Sheldon Brown and John Schubert remain, for me, the pinnacle of that combination of skills. Replacing their one- of-a-kind voices has been a difficult task.

In Nick Legan, I think we've found someone who has that

skillset. He is a former professional race-team mechanic, has served as the Tech Team manager at *VeloNews*, and is one of Blackburn's original Rangers (**blackburndesign.com/outthere/beablackburnranger**). You'll be reading more from Nick in upcoming issues, particularly as a participant in our Road Test column. Soon after arranging road tests with Nick, I began discussing the TBBG with him. As with many a Hollywood remake, I told Nick that the TBBG was in need of a reboot, and I was happy that he seemed to relish the idea. We think he's done a bang-up job and we're looking forward to continuing this collaboration in the future.

And there are some other very informative articles in this Cyclists' Travel Guide. Merrill Callaway applies his engineering background to bike touring preparation and we're including two touring bike road tests — Patrick O'Grady opines on the Cinelli Bootleg Hobo and, specifically for women, Jill Janov covers Heart of Steel's Coto Doñana Tour. And for the gizmo lover, Josh Tack reveals the usefulness of Garmin's latest touring-specific devices. Finally, Team Solidream takes us along on their extraordinary three-year journey around the world, sharing with our readers what they learned while undertaking such an extensive endeavor.

Well, it's not quite finally because we're also publishing some extensive online-only content: Charlie Otto extols the virtues of the iPad Mini for touring purposes; Nick Carmen discusses fat bikes for the bike traveler, and we share another batch of excellent photos from Team Solidream. Enjoy!

Michael Deme

Editor-in-Chief, *Adventure Cyclist* editor@adventurecycling.org



APRIL 2014 Volume 41 Number 3

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Michael Deme editor@adventurecycling.org

MANAGING EDITOR

astrickland@adventurecycling.org

ART DIRECTOR

Greg Siple gsiple@adventurecycling.org

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dan D'Ambrosio Patrick O'Grady Willie Weir Jan Heine June Siple Josh Tack

COPY EDITOR

Phyllis Picklesimer

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Rick Bruner (509) 493.4930 advertising@adventurecycling.org

DESIGN

IridiumGroup 72 Madison Ave. New York, NY 10016

ADVENTURECYCLING.ORG