



FORGING AHEAD WHILE LOOKING BACK

Where the past and present merge



→ I KNOW you'll be reading this at the beginning of August, so it will seem to you that summer is already at its midway point — you may even sense a bit of autumn in the air on certain mornings, depending on where you live, of course — but for us here in Missoula as I write this, it's the beginning of July and it seems like summer is finally

getting started. We'll soon experience a stretch of mid-90-degree days and the sky will be azure for so many days in a row that we'll actually begin hoping for cloud cover just to break up the monotony. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

The issue you're reading is, for us, the seventh we'll have produced in seven months. For those of you who read our masthead, you will have noticed that a new name appeared at the bottom of this page starting with the March issue. Alex Strickland joined our Publications staff in February in a dual role as Managing Editor of *Adventure Cyclist* and Assistant Publications Director. His first official task was to proofread the March issue, the second in that string of seven, and from that moment he has been invaluable to the process of publishing *Adventure Cyclist*. Quite frankly, I may have gone stark raving mad had he not joined our staff when he did, and I know my partner in producing *Adventure Cyclist*, Co-Founder and Art Director of Adventure Cycling, Greg Siple, feels the same way. So now that we're into

combined-month issues, it's time to get out on our bikes and enjoy those blue skies and hot temperatures while they last. But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

So what is ahead? Well, more of everything. *Cyclosource* and the *Adventure Cycling Tours* catalog will feature more pages (and more products) than ever, and so will *Adventure Cyclist*. According to our strategic plan, which covers the years 2012 through 2016, we'll publish six 68-page issues in 2015 followed by the 2016 volume, which is scheduled to be comprised of nine 68-page issues. A tall order indeed. During that time, we'll expand the content we offer on the *Adventure Cyclist* web pages, we'll develop a digital version of the magazine that will better serve our content and its readers, and we'll recognize Adventure Cycling Association's 40th birthday in various ways (see Letter from the Director on page 6).

Also in 2015, Adventure Cycling will unveil its newest route, Bicycle Route 66. On pages 10 through 17, you can read a preview of what's in store as Nathan Ward and his wife Andrea travel along a good portion of the New Mexico section this new bike route.

So, as we prepare to celebrate our past, there's a lot to look forward to, and while you do, I hope you're having a great summer and are getting out on your bicycles as often as possible. Enjoy!

Michael Deme

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