

WayPoints

RIDE HISTORY

Penn Trails is offering bike tours to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. The rides feature stops at a variety of cultural and historic sites and the offerings are as follows:

■ **Stuart's Raid Into Pennsylvania Bike Tour, June 16-19** – A guided three-day tour is a unique blend of recreation and history which follows the route of Confederate General Jeb Stuart's southern cavalry on their hard-riding, controversial raid into central Pennsylvania during the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign.

■ **South Mountain and the Fight at Monterey Pass, July 1-3** – The South Mountain region of Pennsylvania and Maryland experienced numerous military engagements, most famously the Battle of Gettysburg.

■ **The Abolitionist Movement & Underground Railroad in South Central Pennsylvania, May 27-30** – Three days of riding, over approximately 70 miles, as we journey through the northern end of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

■ **March to Destiny, June 24-26** – Visit the John Brown House in Chambersburg, then travel from Chambersburg to Shippensburg on Saturday morning, arriving for the afternoon and evening of historical events and reenactments.

For more information about these rides, visit www.civilwarbiketours.com or call (717) 486-4455.



Riders head up the rough stuff on the Canadian Great Divide.

EMBRACING A WILD FLATHEAD

The tables turn and the route follows the race

The Canada section of Adventure Cycling's Great Divide Mountain Bike Route now encompasses 114 miles of wild-country riding through British Columbia's Flathead and Wigwam river valleys. "The Flathead is the last major valley in southern Canada to be completely uninhabited," said routes and mapping director Carla Majernik. "The new routing fits perfectly with the spirit of the rest of the route – challenging and remote."

Majernik explained that the new routing begins in Sparwood, British Columbia, and heads southeast through the Canadian Rockies into the Upper Flathead Valley, before looping northwest to the Wigwam River and back south toward the U.S. border.

The change increases the Great Divide Canada route's length by 39 miles (the original routing south of Sparwood has been retained as an alternate).

Tour Divide race organizer and repeat winner Matthew Lee originally proposed and researched the route change, piecing together dirt roads and game trails to bring the Canadian leg of the race through the Flathead Valley. "Tour Divide racers are truly champions for the Great Divide Route and for bicycle travel," Lee said. "Their hope is to inspire others to ride part, or all of it, at their own pace and experience the jaw-dropping natural beauty this route has to offer."

"The Wildsight and the Flathead Wild campaign team are excited about the re-route of the Great Divide," said

Casey Brennan, Southern Rockies program manager for Wildsight, an organization working to maintain biodiversity and healthy human communities in Canada's Columbia and Rocky Mountains ecoregions. The goal of the Flathead Wild campaign is to extend Waterton Lakes National Park into the southern third of British Columbia's Flathead watershed and establish a formal wildlife management area to provide connectivity north to Banff National Park. "These are important and spectacular trans-boundary watersheds that will provide travelers with an unparalleled wilderness experience."

For more information, visit www.tourdivide.org, www.flathead.ca, and www.wildsight.ca.

BE A PART OF IT

Join a campaign to spur the development of U.S. bicycle routes

Adventure Cycling membership and marketing assistant Amy Corbin reports that during the month of May – National Bike Month – we'll again be promoting the campaign *Build It. Bike It. Be A Part Of It*. The campaign is a fundraiser for the U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBRS) and "will help leverage funds for continued support of state efforts to select and designate routes for the USBRS," Amy says. "This year we are also partnering with seven states (Arkansas, New Mexico, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington) that are currently in the implementation phase. These states will receive a percentage of the dollars raised through their state's efforts."

The USBRS is a long-range project similar to national and international cycling systems evolving in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Adventure Cycling is now working with dozens of state agencies,



national and local non-profits, volunteers, U.S. Congress, and AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) to grow the vision into reality. To date, 30 states are actively working to implement U.S. Bike Routes.

This year's *Build It. Bike It. Be A Part Of It* campaign has also garnered support from several cycling-related businesses, and core supporters have signed up to raise funds. To learn more or to donate, visit www.adventurecycling.org/beapartofit.

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In other news, Amy reports that the Annual Membership Survey, which was live on the Internet for the month of February, attracted more than 4,000 responding members. As in years past, results from the survey will provide us with valuable program feedback and help to inform our strategic plans while aiding us in setting priorities for projects. You can see a summary of this year's results at www.adventurecycling.org/membership/annualsurvey.cfm.

MALAYSIAN FINDS ADVENTURE IN THE U.S.

Most Americans tend to think that other countries are more exotic and offer a greater degree of adventure than our own, and it's no doubt partially true.

So Waypoints was a bit surprised to run across an online story in *The Star* ("Malaysia's most widely read English-language daily") about a man from Nibong Tebal – situated in Seberang Perai on the mainland side of Penang, Malaysia (if that helps any).

"After 'conquering' parts of the United States on a solo cycling tour," the piece begins, "grandfather David Munusamy Reddie now feels like a full-fledged professional bicycle tourist. The 59-year old retired Tenaga Nasional Berhad technician ... said his 130-day cycling trip covering 4,220 miles (6,800 kilometers) through 15 states was both challenging and exciting." In fact, Reddie told reporter Derrick Vinesh that none of his previous bicycle trips to Europe, China, India, Indonesia, or Southeast Asia was as adventurous as his solo ride across the U.S., which took place from August 30, 2010, to January 8, 2011.

Among Reddie's trials: a pack of coyotes circling and pawing at his tent while he was camped at a rest area in Texas ("I shivered in fear," he told Vinesh, "but remained calm and prayed before dozing off from exhaustion"); surviving a mini-tornado in Arkansas; and a frightening brush with an adult alligator in Louisiana.

Reddie spent most nights in the woods, under bridges, at rest areas, in church compounds, or in the occasional motel. But he also told *The Star* that he met many caring and loving families and individuals who opened up their homes, offered warm meals, and gave him free transportation to nearby destinations.

SHELDON'S SITE LIVES ON!

Keeping one of the great bicycle websites flourishing

Many longtime *Adventure Cyclist* readers will fondly recall Sheldon Brown's "Mechanical Advantage" column that ran in the magazine from 1997 through 2007. Sadly, we lost Sheldon in 2008 – but, thanks to his widow, Harriet Fell, and his friend and associate, John S. Allen, Sheldon's incredibly info-packed website survives and thrives.

Fell is a professor of computer science at Northeastern University in Boston where her research focuses on designing and developing software to aid people with disabilities. She's also an avid cyclist who, among other things, in 1975 completed the 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) Paris-Brest-Paris brevet, in a time of 88 hours



Sheldon Brown

and 40 minutes.

Webmaster Allen is an MIT-trained electrical engineer who sees to updating the content on Sheldon's site. He boasts an ultra-impressive

resume of bicycling-related accomplishments, including long affiliations with both Adventure Cycling and the League of American Bicyclists, authoring *The Complete Book of Bicycle Commuting* and *Bicycling Street Smarts*, and co-authoring the oft-revised *Sutherland's Handbook for Bicycle Mechanics* ("the bicycle industry's parts interchangeability bible").

These brief introductions scarcely scratch the surface of Allen's and Fell's qualifications. Suffice it to say that they are the man and woman for the job of ensuring that Sheldon's site (<http://sheldonbrown.com>) maintains its integrity and devoted following.