



Nard Claar and Sheary Clough Suiter

BY APRIL CYPHER



Experts in the art of bicycle travel

→ WHEN NARD CLAAR and Sheary Clough Suiter aren't painting in their shared studio in Colorado Springs, Colorado, they're likely traveling the world by bike. The couple met 10 years ago at an art seminar in Taos, New Mexico, but at the time Sheary was living in Alaska and Nard in Colorado. "We kept in touch even though it is a long way for a date when you are 3,500 miles apart," said Nard.

But the spark was undeniable, and their first date was a bike ride around Anchorage. Four years and thousands of frequent-flier miles later, Nard convinced Sheary to join him permanently in Colorado Springs.

"I knew it would be a lifelong love affair with both the man and the Surly Long Haul Trucker he had built for me so we could tour together," said Sheary.

After Sheary moved to Colorado, Nard gifted her with a Lifetime Membership to Adventure Cycling for her 60th birthday.

"We all spend money based on our priorities and interests," said Nard, a Life Member who has supported the organization for over 20 years. "Self-propelled travel was always part of my life — hiking, skiing, and biking. As a child, my parents operated a business so they bought me a bike, gave me a house key, and told me to get on with my life. A bike was freedom and made me smile — it still does. I went everywhere on my bike and explored my world."

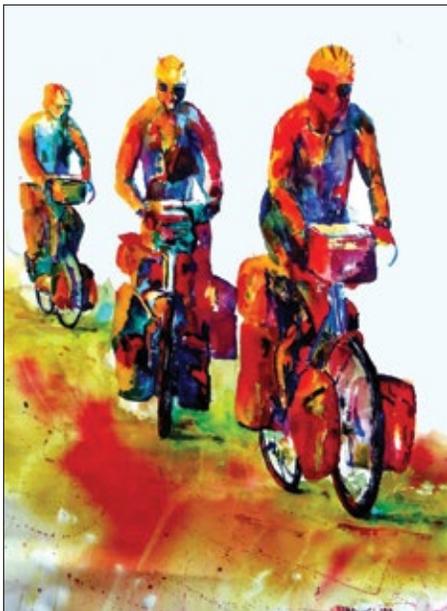
Now Nard and Sheary make it possible for others to experience the freedom that bike travel brings.

"Reaching out to help others, that's what humans do to make the world

"REACHING OUT TO HELP OTHERS, THAT'S WHAT HUMANS DO TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER."



PHOTOS COURTESY NARD CLAAR AND SHEARY CLOUGH SUITER



Nard Claar's mixed-media wall hanging of the above painting greets visitors to the second floor of Adventure Cycling's offices. See more of his work at nardclaar.com.

better," said Nard. As part of Adventure Cycling's Holiday Trailblazers, Nard and Sheary encourage others to support

the organization by matching their donations. Much of the organization's work depends on these end-of-year gifts.

When Nard traveled through Missoula in 2012, Adventure Cycling headquarters was adding a second story to the west wing. Nard knew the new wing needed a piece of art and he had just the piece rolled up in the back of his car. Now his large-scale, mixed-media painting of traveling cyclists graces the sunlit stairwell. He also donated images of his cycling-specific painting for a series of notecards featured in the Cyclosource catalog.

Cycling and art have always gone hand in hand for Nard. "It's in his DNA," said Sheary. Now painting and cycling are a way of life for Sheary too. "Our tours shape the course of life from year to year," she said. "This is a brilliant approach to living life in our golden years." **AC**

April Cypher is Adventure Cycling's Development Coordinator.

HOLIDAY TRAILBLAZER

The Holiday Trailblazers are a leading group of generous Adventure Cycling members who pool their donations together for Adventure Cycling's year-end fundraising campaign, which directly supports our mission, advocacy efforts, and programs. The match fund is used to catalyze additional donations from members who have the opportunity to double the impact of their support by participating. Adventure Cycling's year-end fundraising campaign kicks off in November and will run through December 31. Thanks to the generosity of the Holiday Trailblazers and all the donors who make it possible for more people to experience the magic of bike travel!

Please visit adventurecycling.org/holidaycampaign to support Adventure Cycling's mission and to take advantage of the matching funds. Would you like to be a Holiday Trailblazer? Please call Annette Stahelin at 406.532.2775.

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