HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Goodbye and good Huck

Last month, we published a story on the 150th birthday of the Pickwick Bicycle Club. To me, the story painted a picture of a group grasping at past glories awheel. Frankly, I thought that while Pickwick’s history is worthy of celebration, there was a sense of, well, silliness about the present-day members. Reading the story, I felt it highlighted that ridiculousness and presented their continued prohibition of female members as exactly that. Well, I heard from readers who did not get the same feeling at all, and upon further consideration I regret the implication that we wanted to elevate the club’s current policy. A historical topic indeed, the club’s stance deserves to be relegated to the past.

A global pandemic is an odd moment in which to celebrate retirement, but that’s just what we’ll be doing for our beloved colleague Julie Huck, who retired last month after almost 35 years at Adventure Cycling.

We’ll be writing more about Julie in a future issue and hosting a fitting farewell for her here in Missoula as coronavirus restrictions loosen, but I’d be remiss not to mark the occasion here. As Membership Director for more than 30 years, Julie probably has met more of you than any other single staffer, executive directors included (she was one of those once too, serving for a year).

I hope you were fortunate enough to meet Julie — her coworkers really lucked out to have a chance to work with her daily. So did the cycling community here in Missoula, in which Julie is perhaps the most familiar face, not least for having hosted the Montana Dirt Girls weekly women’s mountain bike rides for two decades. If you missed out, keep your eyes peeled on the roads and trails of America. I suspect in retirement Julie will only be on the bike more, if that’s possible.

A consummate pro, knowledgeable without being a know-it-all, always friendly but never a pushover, a hard worker and a hard rider. We’ll miss the hell out of her, but I think I speak for 42 staffers here in Missoula and thousands (tens of thousands?) of members who met her along the way in saying: when I grow up, I want to be Julie Huck.

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