



## CHARTING THE COURSE

### Choose your own navigational aid



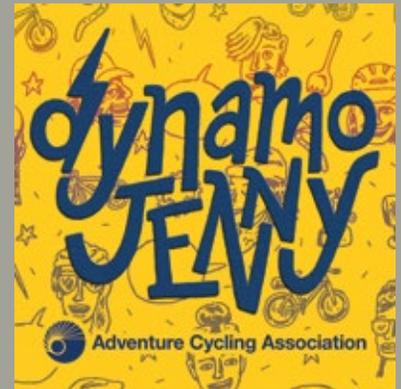
→ I'm slightly embarrassed to admit I cried when my parents gave me a GPS for Christmas, back around 2008. Contrary to family legend, I didn't cry because I was mad at them for the gift; I was mad at myself for having no use for such a thoughtful gift. My walls were lined with maps back then — city maps with highlighted bike routes and streets, park maps with favorite trails and their connectors, enormous state and country maps taped together and spanning the whole room as I charted my next adventure. I liked the puzzle, problem solving, the forensics and intuition that comes with navigation, and I was worried that a GPS would rob me of all that. After years of wandering with little plan past my intuition and internal compass, I had finally accepted the benefits of a route, structure, and general cognitive reasoning outside brute resourcefulness. But a GPS? That felt like too much. Too fancy.

Of course, the technology is ubiquitous now. I'm still wary of it. I brought a cycling computer on a 12-mile hike recently only to use it as a map as I navigated the new-to-me trail network. On my Great Divide trip (touched upon in this issue), one companion brought a GPS with the race route files while the other brought the official Adventure Cycling maps; I brought the guidebook that waxed poetic about what may be seen at this or that spot, with a general idea of when to turn.

While there's still something to be gained from getting lost (within reason), or from setting out with no charted course to explore the rideable world, I now rely heavily on maps and even often on a GPS — with no tears shed. This issue celebrates the routes that make Adventure Cycling so great, as well as a tangential adventure that's been retroactively mapped out by one of our cartographers. I hope you enjoy these traveling tales and are able to get lost in them even as you follow along on the routes. Even better, I hope these stories inspire you to try one of our tours yourself, either with us, a friend, or a companion you connect with from the back of this magazine. We have digital routes available, but if a GPS still brings you to tears, you can also go the analog route and snag a selection of maps.

#### Carolyn Whelan

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



#### SEASON 2 MINI-EPIISODE OUT NOW!

Find out what we're up to with Season 2 of Adventure Cycling's Dynamo Jenny the Podcast. The mini-episode is a sneak peek into the what and who of Season 2 and has a call to action for listeners like you. Check it out! [adventurecycling.org/podcast](http://adventurecycling.org/podcast)

#### PODCAST HELP WANTED

Help us make Season 2 the best yet! We want to hear from you about how your life changed in the last year. Big or small, permanent or impermanent. Call in and leave us your story in our voicemail: 406.532.2772. If it fits well within an episode, we'll use your story in Season 2.



#### HIT US WITH YOUR BEST SHOT

It's time for Adventure Cycling's annual Bicycle Travel Photo Contest and we're looking for your best images. Learn more at [adventurecycling.org/photocontest](http://adventurecycling.org/photocontest).