

No. **5358**

Bows Bros on Blackborows

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALLY MABRY STORY BY GAGE POORE

→ CLINTON BOWS DESCRIBED HIS BICYCLE TOUR WITH HIS BROTHER MARK AS “MAKING THE ‘OLD MAN’ chase me.” Clinton, 57, and Mark, 61, from Daytona Beach, Florida, ended their journey from Minneapolis, Minnesota, at the Adventure Cycling headquarters in Missoula, Montana, on July 5, 2022.

Their bicycle travel together started in December 2021, in Florida. As Mark wrote, “I toured with my girlfriend, Dianne Ferry Daniels, heading south [from Daytona Beach] toward the Keys. We met up with Clinton and covered a few hundred miles together before splitting up in Miami. Dianne and I rode 1,100 miles, then I toured another 600 through the Panhandle before going back to Daytona.” After that, Mark and Clinton rented a van and drove to Minneapolis. The brothers rode west, stopping in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to meet and stay with Tina and Joe Stiller, the owners of BarYak bikepacking gear. After that, they headed south to the Cowboy Trail in Nebraska, through the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, and riding the Mickelson Trail back in South Dakota. From there they traveled through Sheridan, Wyoming, through the Big Horn National Forest to Lovell before making their way to Billings, Montana. They found transportation to Whitefish, Montana, to start southbound on the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route. “But the story isn’t so much the tour,” Mark wrote, “as [it is] Clint’s medical condition he works to overcome.”

“In 2013, I had a triple bypass and a pacemaker installed due to seven blockages and third-degree heart block,” Clinton wrote. Mark encouraged Clinton to start cycling, and Clinton eventually completed his first bicycle tour in 2014. “He pushes like no one I know,” Mark wrote. “He met his match on the Great Divide where we had to reroute.” Mark acknowledged that it also could have had something to do with the fact that they were both riding 100-pound loaded Salsa Blackborows. “Even though my medical condition continues to increase my limitations,” Clinton wrote, “I feel cycling and touring keeps me able to reach my full abilities. I could not do this without the help and encouragement of Mark. Don’t let your limitations define you.”

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