



September 2010 Bulletin

"Prez Sez" by Derek Chu, NYCC President

[NYCC News](#)

[Join the club](#)

[NYCC Events](#)

[Bulletin](#)

[Escape New York](#)

[NYCC Stuff](#)

[Contact us](#)

[Archive](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Sitemap](#)

-- [Who Are Your BFFs? \(Bike Friends Forever\)](#)

-- [September 25: Make New Cycling Memories and BFFs at Escape New York](#)

-- [Making BFFs at Summer Streets 2010](#)

-- [Annual Newcomers Ride](#)

-- [Revised NYCC Website: Delayed](#)

-- [Candidates for Election 2011 NYCC Board of Directors](#)

-- [Volunteer to Help Your NYCC BFFs](#)

Submit!

Have you a hankering to express yourself in prose? Do you have a wealth of information to share with the NYCC membership? Have you just returned from some far-flung spot and wish to tell everyone about it? Submit! Submit!

September Bulletin Announcement

1. NYCC Special Event: Election of 2011 NYCC Board of Directors

"Prez Sez" September 2010

By **Derek Chu**, NYCC President

WHO ARE YOUR BFFs? (BIKE FRIENDS FOREVER)

Ilsa: I can't fight it anymore. I ran away from you once. I can't do it again. Oh, I don't know what's right any longer. You have to think for both of us. For all of us.

Rick: All right, I will. Here's looking at you, kid.

Ilsa: [*smiles*] I wish I didn't love you so much.

-- "Casablanca," (1942)



Who do you love? Who are your "BFFs" -- Bike Friends Forever? Is it your significant other? Are your BFFs your friends from the NYCC SIGs? Do you spend more time on the weekend with your BFF than your non-cycling friends? Do you negotiate for weekend cycling with your significant other? My BFFs are the ones I met while cycling with NYCC on "B" Club rides over the past five years. Play it again, Sam.

Having just returned from a fabulous Club ride on River Road (aka Henry Hudson Drive), Route 9W, and Clausland Road, I was reminded how much fun cycling can be with a group of strangers on a fabulous early autumn September day. The camaraderie, the social interaction, the teamwork of pacelining, and the quick friendships are why I cycle and why I lead Club rides.

SEPTEMBER 25 -- MAKE NEW CYCLING MEMORIES AND BFFs AT ESCAPE NEW YORK

"I don't believe in the Republican party or the Democratic party. I just believe in parties."

-- Samantha (Kim Cattrall), "Sex and the City"



Thanks to the hard work of Board member and Escape New York Event Director Ellen Jaffe and the ENY Committee, the Club's signature cycling event and super-fun party draws near. On September 25th, over 1,500 cyclists will "escape" from the City. Have you **registered** to ride?

Close to 200 Club members are needed as volunteers to run this event. In 2009, I helped the morning "Welcome" and traffic team at Sakura Park. I made sure that folks got directions, distributed cue sheets, but more importantly, I motivated cyclists to take free samples of Boudreaux's Butt Paste and Hammer Nutrition Gel shots.

The key aspect of my volunteer duty was to ensure that grumpy, drowsy, early-morning cyclists did not get confused: "Take some free gel shots and butt paste. DON'T EAT THE BUTT PASTE!" I was very effective and I felt I saved some lives that day and made some new BFFs. And now I'm Club President! Good times.

MAKING BFFs AT SUMMER STREETS 2010

[*preparing to dynamite the gopher tunnel*] "In the immortal words of Jean Paul Sartre, 'Au revoir, gopher'."

-- Carl Spackler (Bill Murray), "Caddyshack"
(1980)



For the third consecutive summer, the New York City Department of Transportation held "Summer Streets," temporarily closing Park Avenue and connecting streets from the Brooklyn Bridge to Central Park to motor vehicles. Park Avenue was delectably opened to people and cyclists on three consecutive Saturdays in August (August 7, 14, and 21).

NYCC was fortunate to have enthusiastic Executive Board member and V.P. of Public Relations Grace Lichtenstein volunteer to organize and set up a table at Summer Streets to highlight and market NYCC's allure and make some new NYCC BFFs.

The Board of Directors and I wish to thank the following Club members for volunteering a few hours of their time during Summer Streets to talk to the public about NYCC's many charms:

Dana Gordon * Alisa Judy * Richard Kaufman
Jen Landolt * Claire Mordas

Here's looking at you, folks! THANK YOU for giving back to NYCC.

ANNUAL NEWCOMERS RIDE



On August 14th, NYCC held the annual Newcomers Ride to Pascack Brook County Park in Westwood, NJ. Over 120 cyclists partook in the ride and enjoyed a picnic lunch under the park's stately trees.

THANK YOU to all the volunteer ride leaders who safely corralled groups on a ride through the suburbs of Bergen County.

REVAMPED NYCC WEBSITE: DELAYED



The revamped NYCC website is delayed due to technical difficulties and is expected to be released to the public in October. The current NYCC site that was built and evolved over eight years by Club member and technical guru Peter O'Reilly has been in development since June by outside contractors to NYCC – Studio K&M and Door 3 Business Applications.

Important Next Steps on Journey to a New Website

Software development can be tricky and the NYCC Rides and RSVP Rides systems involve some very intricate processes and workflows. From a project management perspective, members of the NYCC Board of Directors and our crack web team must complete several

important next steps before any software "go-live" release, including:

- Technical testing of workflows, processes, security, and logic of the entire website
- Insertion of all content, including current from the existing website plus updated text, pictures, PDF files, video, etc.
- Transfer of data from the existing website to the new site – historical membership data, ride listings, historical Message Board forum messages, NYCC archives of photos, and NYCC archives of Club Newsletter "Bulletins" since 1980.
- Full User Acceptance Testing (UAT) – UAT to identify any bugs or tweaks in the system to be conducted by various executive Board and key Club members of their respective subject matters:
 - Rides Submission, Listing and RSVP systems – Rides Coordinators and past Board members
 - eCommerce – Treasurer
 - Membership and User Profiles – Membership Director
 - Cue Sheet Library – Cue sheet librarian
 - Message Board forum – Various testers

Functionality of New Website – Building on NYCC's Current Best Practices

As highlighted in previous 2010 editions of my "Prez Sez" column, the features of the new website will continue to follow current NYCC best practice and tradition from the existing site, including:

1. **Design** – New layout, design, user interface and navigation (the NYCC logo remains unchanged)
2. **Pictures** – Inclusion of Club event and ride photos plus dynamic NYCC cycling photos by professional photographer and Club member Chris Lee
3. **Legal Language** – Updated legal "Terms of Use" and "Privacy" language for the website and Message Board, respectively, as suggested to the NYCC Executive Board by our external legal counsel
4. **Member Profiles** – Each member will have their own secure and private customizable user profile listing Rides Joined, Rides Led and Emergency Contact information
5. **Message Board (MB)** – Only registered users may post to the MB. These registered users may be members or non-members.
 - **E-mail Validation** – All users who wish to post to the MB must register using a valid email address. Email addresses will be validated and confirmed by the website software (*i.e.*, a confirmation email will be sent to the registered email address and the user must confirm registration to the NYCC MB from that email account before his/her MB account can be activated)
 - **Non-members** – Non-members may read all posts to the MB but must register with a verified and valid email address in order to post. Non-members may use a pseudonym when posting

- **Members** – Members may post using pseudonyms
 - **Pseudonyms** – Users will be able to continue using pseudonyms but the Webmaster will have the ability to view the poster's email and Internet Protocol (IP) address
 - **Moderator** – As with the current MB, an anonymous Moderator (whose identity is known only to Executive Board Members) will continue to independently review and moderate MB postings – based on guidelines from the Board of Directors.
 - **Profanity Filter** – A standard profanity filter will be used to screen for inappropriate language
 - **Terms of Use** – Upon registration, all users must check-off a box signifying acceptance of and adherence to the "NYCC Message Board Terms of Use"
6. **Membership Year** – All memberships will now run for a rolling 12-month period from date of joining (vs. past method of common mass membership expiration on March 31 each year). For example, if Jane Doe joins NYCC on October 10, 2010, her membership will expire on October 9, 2011. The Club election on November 9 will ask membership to approve an update of NYCC Bylaws to reflect this change.
 7. **Members Password** – Passwords for "Members Only" sections of the website will no longer be defined and created by the NYCC Board. In the future, the password will be user-created and user-defined.
 8. **Rides Library** – The current "Rides Library" will be renamed "Cue Sheet Library" and will continue to be unprotected by password and available to the general public.
 9. **Cue Sheet Library** – Files of all types (.GPX, .XLS, .DOC, .PDF, etc.), may continue to be sent to the Cue Sheet Librarian, Hank Schiffman, for inclusion in the library.
 10. **PayPal** – PayPal will be used as NYCC's primary method of e-commerce transactions for membership, Berkshires and West Point event registrations, and club jerseys/swag. ("Escape New York" will continue to use Active.com for event registration).
 - **active.com fees:** 6.75% + \$1.25 per registration
 - **PayPal fees:** 2.9% + 30¢ per transaction
 11. **Updated Ride Sign-In/Liability Release Form** – Based on the advice of legal counsel, the Board of Directors refreshed the NYCC sign-in form required to be used on all Club rides. The form may be found [here](#).
 12. **Ride Submission System** – Ride leaders will use the same flexible functionality and process as the current website to submit rides. Leaders may limit the number of riders allowed per ride.
 13. **Cyclist RSVP System** – Inspired by the Westchester Cycle Club's system, NYCC.org 2.0 will have an RSVP system whereby cyclists may reserve a spot for a ride or cycling event in advance. Cyclists may continue to show up to rides without prior RSVPs.

14. **Pre-Populated Ride Sign-In/Liability Release Forms** – Ride leaders will be able to print out a pre-populated sign-in form (with names and Emergency Contact information of cyclists who have RSVPed) the evening before or morning of their ride.

What Should Members Expect of the New Website?

While this all sounds exciting, we are aware the NYCC membership can be very demanding and critical. So we ask your patience and that you scale down your expectations – we want to explicitly underpromise and overdeliver on this new website. NYCC is a non-profit, managed and organized by unpaid volunteers, and as such the website cannot be as sophisticated and “slick” as a \$250,000 corporate website.

That being said, we believe that NYCC.org 2.0 will be fabulous and a site worthy of a Club with 75 years of history (recall that NYCC’s “Diamond Jubilee” or 75th Anniversary is in 2011)!

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION 2011 NYCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“You don’t understand! I coulda had class. I coulda been a contender. I could’ve been somebody, instead of a bum, which is what I am.”

-- Marlon Brando, “On the Waterfront” (1954)



It is that time of year again when November elections consume not only all Americans but also all of NYCC! Can you be a contender and be a leader of your bike club? Do you have the gumption to stand for election and join the 2011 NYCC Board of Directors?

While many incumbent members of the 2010 Executive Board will stand for re-election, new nominations for candidates are being accepted beginning on September 14th and ending on October 12th.

More information about the 2011 Club elections appears in the NYCC Events section of the website, within the “eWeekly” email blast to all members, and in a separate article in this Bulletin.

VOLUNTEER TO HELP YOUR NYCC BFFs

"Is it safe?"

– Dr. Szell (Laurence Olivier), "Marathon Man" (1976)

Is it safe to volunteer and give back to your Club? Why, of course!
We need your help to keep the wheels of NYCC rolling. Please open
your mouth (Ooh! Dentist Laurence Olivier was E-V-I-L!), raise your
hand, and contact us by email at president@nycc.org.

NYCC SPECIAL EVENT

Election of 2011 NYCC Board of Directors

Nominations for the 2011 NYCC Board of Directors are now open.
The members of the NYCC Board meet once a month to conduct the
Club's business. Board terms run from January 1st to December
31st.

Candidates for Office: Any member may hold any elective office,
except that candidates for President and Vice Presidential offices
must be members for at least one year before taking office.

Election of Officers: Nominations will be solicited from the floor of the
Club meetings held in September and October. Nominations close at
the end of the October Club meeting.

Emailed nominations may also be submitted and seconded directly to
the Club's president before the October Club meeting. Send your
email to NYCC President Derek Chu with a copy to NYCC Membership
Director Crystiina Avram (president@nycc.org,
membership@nycc.org).

All nominations are subject to seconding and to the nominee's
acceptance.

The newly elected 2011 NYCC Board of Directors will be announced
at the November Club meeting.

To view descriptions of the Board positions up for election and
current and past Board members for each position, please [click
here](#).

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