

## NYCC Archives – December 2011

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### November/December “President’s Message”



By Ellen Jaffe

Fellow Members,

With elections behind us, we’re coming into transition time for the NYCC Board of Directors.

Who knew a year could go so fast?!

I want to express my own gratitude and appreciation to this year’s Board for helping make our 75th year an intensely productive one.

At year’s end, we’ll be losing Board members Harry Woods, Nicole Snow, Bill Laffey, Brigitte Padewski, Jen Rudin, Derek Chu, and Jennell Francis. Thanks to all of you for all you’ve contributed to infuse this Club with vitality.

Coming onto the Board in 2012, we are very lucky to have the competent likes of Eden Weiss, Laurie Chittenden and Mindy Kaufman, respectively stepping into the Directors’ chairs of Programs, Events, and Membership.

And three remarkably able Club members (including one past president) . . . all seasoned leaders . . . have stepped up to take on the key Ride Coordinator roles . . . auguring well for our 2012 rides program. At our January Board meeting, we will nominate and vote in Kate Mostkoff as C-Rides Coordinator, Carol Waaser as B-Rides Coordinator and Bob Ross as A-Rides Coordinator.

Staying on are Board members Adrienne Browning, VP Rides; Arden Rodgers, Treasurer; Morene Bangel, Secretary; Eunice Martinez, Content Editor; Darren Ortsman, Webmaster; Grace Lichtenstein, PR Director; and myself.

This much continuity with so many can-do, dedicated members means a powerhouse NYCC Board going into our 76th year.

But that doesn't mean we won't need loads of help!

The sheer breadth of our rides, events, programs, and communications requires the volunteer help of our members on an ongoing basis.

And when members step up and pitch in . . . then our Club hums.

Here's the evidence . . . a review of the year, powered by NYCC volunteers.

### **In 2011**

- We celebrated our 75th anniversary with 300 members (then and now) riding and partying together – thanks Christy Guzzel and Jody Saylor and the Gala Committee. Thank you Mike Samuel, for the wonderful calendar
- Reviewed 36 years of over 400 bulletins, collecting key dates and facts, producing a knock-out history timeline poster – thanks to the Archive Committee, Carol Kiol and Irasema Rivera (. . . and yes, you can still get a copy of that poster at Club meetings)
- Produced NYCC 75th anniversary video interviews for the archives – thanks to Paula Froke and Carol Waaser
- Worked relentlessly on communications; on a redesigned eWeekly and on improved website functionality, expanded content and aesthetics – thank you Darren Ortsman, Eunice Martinez, Cathline Marshall, and Maggie Nguyen
- Benefitted from scrupulous financial oversight - thank you Arden Rodgers
- Archived scrupulous monthly Board meeting minutes and a monthly compilation of all Club activities and communications – thanks Morene Bangel and Eunice Martinez
- Staged a remarkable SIG and STS, thanks to all our SIG and STS leaders and particularly to our SIG and STS chieftains who devote enormous amounts of organizational effort to what has become a nationally known and respected program – thanks Sarah Tombaugh, Mitch Rubenstein, George Arcarola, Wayne Wright, Paul Hofherr, Gary McGraine, Kate Mostkoff, Dave Sabbarese, Victor Baruh and Gerald Seppey
- Pulled off a Kids Ride Club Benefit, a Tour de France evening, a Volunteer Soiree with record attendance, our Ice Cream Social, a half-dozen partner workshops with the likes of EMS and Bike Habitat, and Social Saturday meet-ups, with our Holiday Party still to come – thank you Brigitte Padewski, our Events Chair

- Found fresh venues for well-attended Newcomers (Goswick Pavilion) and All-Class Rides (Oakland Beach), a super 9W Cleanup Ride, and a Connecticut Shoreline Ride with 150 riders – thanks to Bill Laffey and Deborah Cox and Gary McGraime and Hank Schiffman, and to our VP of Rides Adrienne Browning and Ride Coordinators, and to Brigitte and our teams of event volunteers.
- Filled the ride calendar year-round, thanks to our ride leaders, our Ride Coordinators, Harry, Nicole, Bill, and Adrienne, our VP of Rides
- Launched a Ride Leader Training initiative – thanks to Linda Wintner and Paul Hofherr and the Ride Leader Training Committee
- Had a fantastic, well-attended Berkshires Weekend – thanks Reyna Franco and Tom Laskey
- And a superbly run July 4th West Point weekend – thanks to Lucia Deng
- Showed the Club off at Summer Streets – thanks Grace Lichtenstein and our Summer Streets volunteers
- Contributed to Bike Month in May with a well-attended Social Sunday's series – thanks Adrienne, for organizing and the Weissmans for a terrific idea
- Jumped headlong into advocacy efforts, driven not only by police ticketing but by the realization that our participation in advocacy and outreach is mandatory if we want a seat at the decision-making table – thank you Carol Wasser, Harry Woods, Grace Lichtenstein for all the meetings attended, the letters written, the petitions collected
- Staged a jersey design contest whose winning design was rendered into a line of 75th anniversary NYCC gear – thanks to our talented designer, Rolando Felix
- Opened the first NYCC Online Store
- Answered the non-stop, emailed questions of a record membership – thanks to Jennell Francis
- Witnessed attendance and interest in our energized monthly meetings accelerate, with a number of standing-room-only crowds – thank you to our Programs Chair Jen Rudin
- Watched our Escape New York Chair Beth Bryson and her committee raise the bar higher still, with a generous and welcoming event like no other on the metro ride calendar – thanks to Beth, the ENY Committee and the nearly 200 member volunteers who made it happen



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The whirlwind of the past year makes it clearer than ever that volunteers are the heartbeat of the New York Cycle Club.

All of us make NYCC the exciting, rich, multi-layered community that it is.

To sustain it means we all need to contribute to this collective labor of love called NYCC.

If you value what you get from the Club, tell us what part you will play in 2012.

There are so many possibilities!

Check it out . . . [Volunteering at NYCC](#)

And let me know what fits . . . [president@nycc.org](mailto:president@nycc.org)

See you at the Holiday Party.

Ellen



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## Two Resolutions Passed by Landslides!

### Resolution 1

**Passed** : yes: 343 / no: 58

There will be one single level of NYCC membership as of midnight, December 31, 2011. Those registered presently as couples will renew at the regular member level upon expiration of their present term of membership after December 31, 2011.

### Resolution 2

**Passed** : yes: 315 / no: 87

NYCC membership will be \$30 per year as of midnight December 31, 2011.

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The ballot winners for the **2012 Board of Directors** are:

President – **Ellen Jaffe**

Vice President of Programs – **Eden Weiss**

Vice President of Rides – **Adrienne Browning**

Secretary – **Morene Bangel**

Treasurer – **Arden Rodgers**

Content Editor – **Eunice Martinez**

Public Relations Director – **Grace Lichtenstein**

Webmaster – **Darren Ortsman**

Membership Director – **Mindy Kaufman**

Special Events Director – **Laurie Chittenden**

Escape New York Director – **Beth Bryson**

#### **NYCC Ride Coordinator Positions**

Three able, experienced New York Cycle Club members (one a past president) have stepped forward to take on these key Board roles in 2012. They will be nominated and voted in at the January Board meeting.

A-Rides Coordinator – **Bob Ross**

B-Rides Coordinator – **Carol Waaser**

C-Rides Coordinator – **Kate Mostkoff**

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## Volunteering at New York Cycle Club

We have no paid staff at New York Cycle Club, yet our Club bursts with vitality. NYCC is a high-functioning engine with year-round offerings of rides, events, monthly programs, the SIG, ENY and the camaraderie of like-minded members who have found each other through their love of cycling.

If you, as an NYCC member, value what you get from the Club, then it is critical to remember that all of this happens solely from our collective efforts.

The point is... *all of us* make NYCC the rich community that it is.

To sustain it means we all need to *contribute* to this collective labor of love called NYCC.

There are so many possibilities!

### Here is what you can do in 2012:

- *Lead rides* if you are already a confident ride leader
- Take ride leader training and *become a ride leader*
- *Lead C rides* for our newer members even if you're a faster rider
- Become our *Merchandise Manager* and use your marketing skills and imagination to build sales
- Become our *Incentives Coordinator* and track volunteer efforts and awards of Club gear

- *Take charge* of our "Discounts to Members" page and develop new relationships to benefit members
- *Coordinate* our All-Class Ride
- *Coordinate* our Newcomers Ride
- *Promote* the Club at Summer Streets
- *Develop* your own program of interest for members at a venue you arrange
- Do you know Drupal? Are you a programmer? *Work with* our webmaster to refine the website

We love suggestions if they are accompanied by follow-through!

Remember there is no paid staff. It is only all of us who make things happen.

More of us pitching in to make NYCC a hive of activity equals a stronger, more vital NYCC.

In 2012 we are not going to lose sight of this fundamental fact.

**For volunteer opportunities, contact:**

General questions: [president@nycc.org](mailto:president@nycc.org)

Ride Leading: [vp-rides@nycc.org](mailto:vp-rides@nycc.org)

ENY Volunteer: [enyinfo@nycc.org](mailto:enyinfo@nycc.org)

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It was lunch break on a frigid winter ride to Saddle River in 1986, that designer, illustrator and NYCC member Michael Samuel found himself scribbling his feelings onto a napkin ... of a ride so snowy only helmets protruded.

That sketch turned into the February 1990 NYCC bulletin cover.

The rest is history – an unbroken string of 82 charming and delightful Michael Samuel NYCC bulletin covers through 1996.

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## 'Twas the Ride Before Christmas

*'Twas the day before Christmas and up Riverside Drive*

*We all felt quite guilty however we tried*

*To think of the muffin we'd have at the Spoon*

*And block out the promise to be home by noon.*

*The sky was steel grey as we crossed into Bergen*

*To look at the paceline, well, you might call it hurtin'*

*We should have been home or at least been out shopping*

*Attention did wander, no, we would not be stopping.*

*When north on 9W the sky made a shift!  
And out of the grey on the shoulder ....St Nick!  
The reindeer looked pooped as he waved us all over  
"I'm very concerned, we've never gone slower!"*

*Then he had what some call, a moment confusian,  
"My reindeer will rest, you'll be the solution!"  
While we did not quite get the physics involved,  
Nic assured us bikes flying had all been resolved.*

*We still had some doubts as he hitched up our rides,  
But quite soon thereafter we launched into the sky.  
And, so it did pass on that Christmas Eve day  
New York toys were delivered by peleton-pulled sleigh.*

*....with apologies to the original C Moore*

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