

The American Randonneur Award Recipient: Crista Borrás

by Bill Beck

Once a year, the prestigious American Randonneur Award is presented to a RUSA member who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to randonneuring in the United States. It may be an RBA who has dramatically increased brevet participation; a hard-working RUSA volunteer; or someone who has helped randonneuring flourish by a selfless act, good sportsmanship, camaraderie, or being a good Samaritan. The RUSA Board is proud to present the 2012 American Randonneur Award to Crista Borrás.



2012 Award recipient Crista Borrás

Most RUSA members probably best know Crista as the “permanista” who reviews and approves new permanent routes, administers the existing program of over 1800 routes, and occasionally has to ride herd on the freewheeling permanents email list. Crista’s tireless work in this area has helped continue the explosive growth of one of RUSA’s most popular programs.

But riders outside the DC area may not know that Crista is also member #1 of DC Randonneurs and that her overflowing enthusiasm is one of the main reasons for the success of the local program. Lynn Kristianson first saw Crista stoking a tandem with a Snoopy-as-the-Red Barron doghouse attached to her chain stay at a local “A-ride” full of serious cyclists and wondered “Who are these people?” We’ve since learned that she’s lots of things: a great riding companion with a never-ending positive attitude, a mentor to new riders, a prolific designer of scenic routes, a flèche team captain, an organizer of DC Randonneurs brevets, and a warm and friendly person to have around at the end-of-ride pizza party.

Her positive attitude is infectious. For example, when you get to the summit of a tough climb and see Crista smiling and letting out an audible “Hah!” it’s hard not to think it was fun yourself.

As a route designer, Crista has an encyclopedic memory for local roads and a talent for stringing them together into scenic journeys that always have a restaurant at the right place for a sit-down lunch. For many years, she and tandem partner Chuck Wood led weekend century rides on her routes on both Saturday and Sunday of almost every weekend of the year. These rides, which always included plenty of hills and friendly conversation, have been a valued resource for local riders and a gateway to randonneuring for many. She has also designed some of the most popular permanent routes in the DC area and many of the DC Randonneurs brevet routes.

Crista is no slouch as a rider either. She has completed PBP twice, and recently earned the Mondial and Ultra Randonneur awards.

Thank you, Crista, for your beautiful routes, your warm and positive personality that has sustained many other riders through tough stretches, all those years of weekend rides (on both days!), and for all of your hard work and dedication as permanista for the RUSA permanents riders.

Bill Beck (RUSA# 3446) is the former RBA for DC Randonneurs and new Secretary for the RUSA Board.