

2015 American Randonneur Award

Vincent Muoneke, RUSA #5004

BY MARK THOMAS

Walking to the velodrome with Vincent Muoneke in Saint Quentin-en-Yvelines for the RUSA and SIR Paris-Brest-Paris pictures this past August took forever. We could barely advance 25 meters before a randonneur would stop us to greet Vinny. The greetings came in accents many and varied, as befitted the good doctor's status as unofficial RUSA goodwill ambassador to the randonneuring world.

Over the past decade, Vinny's randonneur bikes have taken him to Australia, Canada, Hungary, Belgium, France, Taiwan, Korea, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Austria, Italy, and India. In all those places, his infectious smile and generous spirit left an impression on all he met, especially those riders that he accompanied through a dark night or long day.

Vinny's randonneur accomplishments have been legendary. He has qualified for every RUSA award except the Ultra R-12, which requires 10 years of continuous riding. Vinny's results have been achieved in just seven years of randonneuring. He reached the Galaxy award level (100,000 kilometers of RUSA events) in less than five years, less time than any other recipient and at an astonishing pace of 55km/day over that period. In 2013, he became the only randonneur ever to complete nine (!) grand randonnees (1200km or longer) in one year.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, Vinny is as well



known for his volunteer efforts as for his accomplishments as a rider. Many a Seattle International Randonneurs member has received support from Vinny at a control by the side of a dark road, been hosted in his home at the end of a dart ride, or found

encouragement from a kind supportive word. Perhaps no rider has made himself more available to help SIR organizers with a pre-ride and event-day assistance.

Even in adjoining Oregon, Vinny is known as a volunteer. Lynne Fitzsimmons recalls a hot 400k when "Vinny drove down from (wherever he lives, not close to Portland!) just to volunteer, drove out into the boonies on a very hot day, waited for the riders to come through, rehydrated [a rider suffering from heat exhaustion], drove back to the finish, and, then after a few hours nap, drove home."

Thanks Vinny, from all of us. And congratulations on your American Randonneur Award. 🚲