

# 2020 American Randonneur Award

## JANICE CHERNEKOFF

BY MIKE DAYTON WITH KATIE RASCHDORF AND CHRISTINE NEWMAN

Once a year, the RUSA Board of Directors and the RUSA Awards Committee present an award to a member of the organization who has made a significant and outstanding contribution to randonneuring in the United States.

This person is to be recognized for having gone above and beyond the call of duty to help our niche of cycling grow. It can 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 by being a good Samaritan.

RUSA wishes to recognize that special volunteer and inspire others to do the same. This is a most prestigious award, a high honor of American Randonneuring. It is the only award we have that names a single winner; all other awards can be earned each season by any number of our members who qualify successfully.

The RUSA Board has the great pleasure of presenting the 2020 American Randonneur Award to Pennsylvania randonneur Janice Cherneckoff, RUSA #1172.

Janice assumed the mantle of RUSA's quarterly publication, *American*

*Randonneur*, for the Winter 2013 edition. Her professional skills, personal dedication and clear editorial vision have been evident ever since.

Being a strong team player, Janice has assembled an enthusiastic editorial crew of writers, readers, columnists and copy editors. Under Janice's unwavering leadership, the international magazine has taken on a professional look, with four-color inside pages and regular columns authored by several RUSA members.

Janice has coaxed a few of her riding buddies to take part in her editorial mission, including New Jersey randonneur Christine Newman, RUSA #2861, who writes a quarterly column in *American Randonneur*. Chris gives high marks to Janice's riding skills.

"On the bike she is steady, patient and unflappable," says Chris. "And she is 100 percent dependable."

Chris also praised Janice's patience as an editor. "I say that because I think I've never gotten a column in on time," Chris said. "I always forget to caption the pictures or create a title. I still forget



Janice, shown above with her award, is toasted by fellow riders: Jonathan Levitt, Paul Shapiro, Katie Raschdorf, and Christine Newman.

—PHOTO JOYCE GREENE



all those things, and she is patient with me. She has a great sense of humor. She really cares about the magazine, and she is wonderful to work with.”

Katie Raschdorf, RUSA #3106, another of Janice’s riding buddies, volunteers as a copy editor. “Janice’s humble nature hides the fact that she is undoubtedly the toughest randonneur I have ever met,” Katie said.

“If you are on a long ride with Janice, there is a virtual guarantee that you will get across the finish line in time,” Katie said. “She has the gift of relentless forward momentum. She keeps going. And going. And going. And going. She has the superhuman ability to ride nonstop—that is her Rando superpower. When she finished BMB in 2006 she probably had a total of three hours of sleep. That tells you of the grit and determination she possesses. Janice brings that same grit and determination to her efforts with *AR*.”

About *AR*, Katie explains, “Janice is very passionate about her writing, her literature and storytelling,” Katie said. “She takes her job as editor of *American Randonneur* very seriously. Dr. Chernekoff was the head of Kutztown University’s English department, and she treats this volunteer position as if it were that same full-time, paid position.”

Praise also came from a past RUSA Board member who has contributed articles.

“Janice is a dedicated volunteer,” said Cap’n John Ende, RUSA #1484. “She has worked tirelessly to keep *AR* at the highest of standards. She has actively sought out contributors and has devoted significant effort to generate new content. She keeps contributors to a timeline without nagging. I know she personally reads our stories because she often sends me questions and requests clarification on certain points.”

Mark Thomas, RUSA #64, a past RUSA Board Member and RUSA president, is a columnist on Janice’s editorial team.



RUSA# 3106 V3.0 and V2.0 enjoying celebratory ice cream cake at the post ride award ceremony.

—PHOTO JOYCE GREENE

“When working with Janice, I always appreciate her professionalism, her patience, and her deft suggestions for improvements to my articles,” Mark said. “A fine example of her dedication is her work on our 60 by 60 article after she broke her leg in Australia. Her attitude is: ‘*AR* show must go on!’”

Columnist and friend George Swain, RUSA #4232, stated, “I can’t think of anyone more deserving of the 2020 American Randonneur Award than Janice Chernekoff. Janice works tirelessly behind the scenes to produce each issue of *AR* magazine. Her editorial vision is inclusive and encourages us to remember that randonneuring itself is a ‘big tent.’ It’s been an honor to work with Janice over the years as a contributor to the magazine and to share the roads with her as a randonneur.”

With Janice at the helm, there is a 99.9 percent likelihood that the show will, indeed, go on. As the pandemic took hold in March 2020, RUSA’s brevets were put on hold. Not so for the magazine. Janice sent this email to her editorial team.

“I thought a bit about whether we should publish the June issue of *AR*, and decided that we should for several reasons,” Janice wrote. “We are a community and the magazine is one way we come together; if there was ever a time when a well-put thought, a good

word, a shared memory, or anticipation of something good to come were needed, now might be that time.”

No truer words have been penned.

Before the magazine reaches our mailboxes, it is sent to graphic designer Mary Humphrey, who gave high marks to Janice’s efforts.

“When the materials for an issue of *AR* land on my desk, I’m always impressed with the diversity and quality of the material that Janice has assembled, Mary said. “In the many years I’ve been working with her, she has continued to elevate the caliber of what we produce, and she is a total professional.”

Riding buddy Katie said there is no one more deserving than Janice of the American Randonneur Award. When our entire organization was put on pause and we could no longer meet in person, *AR*, Janice’s work kept us all connected.

“Janice furthers the sport of randonneuring, not only through what she gives back to the membership but also because of her dedication to the production value of the magazine” states Katie. “She puts in countless hours. She treats this publication like a full-time job, but on a volunteer basis, for the betterment of all of us.”

The RUSA board could not have said it any better. Congratulations, Janice! 🚲