

The 2022 American Randonneur Award

DEBRA BANKS

BY DAN DRISCOLL AND BILL BRYANT

The RUSA Board of Directors is pleased to give the 2022 American Randonneur Award to Debra Banks. Deb has been an extremely hard-working Regional Brevet Administrator, volunteer, and board member. She is also a strong rider and has earned many finisher's medals across the US and around the world.

Riders have often remarked that Deb helped them during long rides; it's this type of selfless compassion that marks her commitment to our sport and its riders that sets Deb apart. For example, during the Gold Rush Randonnée 1200K in 2017, many riders were in big trouble because of a serious heat wave. It was magical to watch Deb work hard for every rider at her control, helping them to get down the road safely, including an ice sock around departing riders' necks. Looking forward to this coming August, Deb is stepping up again for RUSA members by organizing bag drop support at Paris-Brest-Paris.

Being on the RUSA Board can be a very time-consuming labor of love. A term is three years, and that's a long time. Deb has served two terms. Participating in the normal day-to-day board duties and meetings is one thing, but when a board member takes on extra duties, as Deb has done, it can easily double their time commitment, and she has done it all to help our sport. Deb is currently serving on the RUSA Awards Review Committee and

is also the chair of the RUSA Gravel Committee, plus she helped jump start the new Permanents Committee during the pandemic. Deb has also served on other committees and ran the RUSA store in the past.

Deb is the Regional Brevet Administrator for Davis, California. Few riders know the time commitment

that is needed to be a successful RBA in our sport. Doing so has to be a passion, otherwise it's just a pain. Deb stepped up when the previous RBA retired several years ago, and she kept the popular Davis brevet series from going dark. In addition to the regular Super Randonneur brevet series, she has organized many brevets, populaires, and team events each year. She was the organizer for the quadrennial Gold Rush 1200K too, another labor of love.

All in all, it is hard to imagine a more deserving recipient of the 2022 American Randonneur Award than Deb Banks. Randonneurs USA sends her our admiration and heartiest congratulations. 🚲



Deb is hands-on, hardworking and dedicated.

—PHOTO DREW CARLSON