

2012-11 Focus on Members

This month's Focus is Andy Chen, long time member, some time photographer and fun-time ride leader.

Really, you didn't know I own a deli? My wife and I bought it shortly after I retired two years ago

because, after working in the corporate world, I just

wanted to be my own boss. I thought you knew. Anyway, more about me....



Funny thing about this world is how small it is. Many years back while in college

in Philly, I met a woman named Barbara. One day about 25 - 30 years ago, when

I was driving across the Griggstown Causeway, I run (not literally, mind you) into a

group of bicyclists. I stop and chat with one of them and he turns out to be that

woman's father, Hank Hirshmann., who tells me about the club. (They didn't have

pre-printed business cards to hand out back then.)

I joined and went on several rides and had a great time. Fast-forward to about five years ago. After some friendly cajoling from Jeff Lippincott (the original version), I decided to lead the Friday rides from Pennington. Over the years of leading I met more wonderful people, had many good times (rides, dinners and otherwise), and feel that this club provided a tremendous amount of fun and enjoyment for the small price of admission.

Besides leading rides, Big Bruce asked me to help him with Event registration. That was a no-brainer since, as you know, this club is run by, and depends on, its volunteers. Since I never ride the Event, I agreed to do a double-shift. However, after a few years it was tougher to be there by 6:30 so now I only do the second shift.

That covers the bicycling part of my world. In addition to that, I enjoy photography (www.andychenphotography.com) and my wife, Heidi, and I have an RV (technically, a travel trailer). We are still trying to

get beyond the NJ, DE, MD, and PA universe of campgrounds. We were in IN for a week this summer but obligations here (read: lawn) keep most of the trips relatively short. By the time you read this, we will have been back from a few days with the RV for the Seagull Century (thank you Chris).

How could I not mention our cats? We have six (or seven, if you count the one Heidi is trying to adopt out). I really need to repair that one-way door. They are pleasant enough, not too demanding, and surely less maintenance and cheaper than kids. Disclaimer: Just an opinion and no offense intended to any parental units.

Thanks to a fortuitous encounter at the causeway, it has been a great ride ever since. Oh, finally, the part about the déli...just pulling your leg.

There you have it...everything you wanted to know about me in 457 words.