

# 2014-04 Focus on Members

**Our April Focus is on Lynne Martin, experienced club & accomplished multiday tour rider.**



My earliest recollection of riding is when I was about 7 years old. My dad took off my training wheels and was holding on to the seat of my bike and all of a sudden I

realized he wasn't holding on anymore, and I was still riding. What a thrill!!!!!! Since then, I have always been riding in one form or another. For years, I rode a bike with no gears and foot brakes, then very apprehensively graduated to a bike with gears and hand brakes (made no sense to brake with your hands when you brake a car with your foot!!)

I remember riding my bike with my daughter when she was just a little girl and watched with joy as she learned to ride a two wheeler. What I guess I'm trying to say is that a bicycle has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

When I moved to New Jersey from New York in 1982, I became friendly with a number of people who rode their bikes long distances. At this point, I had a hybrid and was so happy to be riding with friends. In the late 80's, early 90's, I did a number of MS rides in the Catskills on that bike, and when I think of the bike I ride today, I'm not sure how I did it. Of course, I WAS much younger. I moved upstate NY in 1999, and then began riding in earnest. I met some people who were in a bike club and let me know that if I REALLY was serious about riding, then I had to get a road bike and clipless pedals. Well, I did get this beautiful (if heavy) bright yellow Cannondale (my first ever road bike), and also bought shoes and clipless pedals, which sat in my garage for the next two years out of the fear of falling.

Finally, getting ready to do my first multi day ride (the Trek Across Maine) for the American Lung Association, I knew I had to use my biking shoes and pedals. A friend put the pedals on for me, and came out to the road and held the back of my saddle (at my request). That didn't last long. I rode easily away and wondered why it had taken me so long to try them. I subsequently rode the Trek Across Maine twice, and fell in love with multi day riding.

When I moved back to NJ in 2006, I joined the PFW, and have been having fun with them ever since. Then about 3 years ago, I got an even better bike (an Orbea), and love it. Feels like a trusty companion when I'm on the road. I usually ride with Dennis's team "Social Security" or Ira's Saturday rides, or with my friend, Marina, when the testosterone gets to be too much! LOL During the week, it can be me and 15 guys!

This past summer I completed Anchor House, something I had been thinking about doing for a long time, but felt it was too difficult. Well, I trained my butt off (the guys started calling me a pace pusher, which I took as a compliment since I used to be in the back), and Anchor House was indeed challenging yet turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life! Lynne.