

Summer 2020

making memories

SPECIAL TIMES ON THE PASS: A RETROSPECTIVE

INDEPENDENCE PASS
• MAKING MEMORIES •

INDEPENDENCE PASS
FOUNDATION

welcome

The Independence Pass Foundation hopes this newsletter finds you and your loved ones well. It is **dedicated to Heidi Hoffmann**, a beloved board member who died on May 20, 2020. Heidi was an avid cyclist and Ride for the Pass booster. Although we were not able to hold our 26th Ride this year due to the coronavirus, we believe Heidi would have been delighted by the outpouring of photos and memories we received, many of them photos of bike rides up the Pass, in response to our call.

We hope you will enjoy this “photo album” of special times on the Pass, and that it will inspire you to make your own memories, this summer and in the years to come.



Heidi Hoffman far right: always willing to whack weeds!

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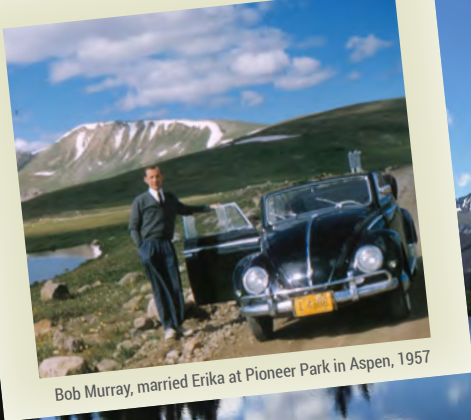


The mission of the Independence Pass Foundation is to restore and protect the ecological, historical, and aesthetic integrity of the Independence Pass corridor and to encourage stewardship, safety, and appreciation of the Pass.



“ I was heading to New Mexico on a birding trip on October 23, 2018, An unexpected snowstorm the night before had left the road icy and slick and I didn't have my snow tires on the Subaru. With white knuckles, I began descending the top of the Pass when I nearly ran into a small herd of bighorn sheep. As I waited for them to desert the pavement for the hillside, I was able to grab my camera and get a shot. I was also able to relax my grip on the steering wheel, take a deep breath and continue my travels in a better frame of mind. Ah, the wonders of nature. ”

ANN LARSON | SNOWMASS VILLAGE



Bob Murray, married Erika at Pioneer Park in Aspen, 1957



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Amy Beidleman, Midway tarn



“ This is after Ride for The Pass was stopped at Lincoln Creek. All riders turned around and headed back down. Not the crazy Uni guy, I kept going!! Made it to about Lower Lost Man switchback, conditions were too slippery at that point. ”

MIKE TIERNEY, MAY 21, 2011

HUB OF ASPEN:

From left to right:
Mark Joseph, Gebhardt
Long, Bruce Rayburn, Kathy
Chamberlain, Dan Sweet, Tom
Hayles, Don Sax, Bill Madsen



Mark Joseph and the Hub crew, 1983

left to right:

Mark Joseph, Gebhardt Long,
Bruce Rayburn, Kathy Chamberlain,
Dan Sweet, Tom Hayles,
Don Sax, Bill Madsen

HUB
OF
ASPEN

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THE ORIGINAL

It's hard to be a cycling destination without a bike shop, so it's fair to say that Aspen didn't become one until 1980, when Mark Joseph opened The Hub. Since arriving in town in 1979, he's seen the Aspen cycling scene evolve into the vibrant community it is today. Here, Joseph recounts the start of the local biking craze and looks forward to the return of professional racing on our mountain roads.

As told to Aspen Magazine...

In 1979, I packed up and drove out to Colorado with my buddy George Mount in the car he'd won in the Red Zinger race that year. A friend of mine owned the space on Spring Street that's now home to The Butcher's Block, and the next summer I asked about renting it to open a bike shop.

"How about \$250?" he said.

"It might be tough for me to come up with \$250 a month," I told him.

"No...for the whole summer!"

I had \$4,000 saved up, so I figured I'd make a go of it. My mom mailed out all my bike tools, and I opened The Hub. Aspen was definitely hungry for a local shop. Within a year, I was organizing races and leading the shop's cycling team. Most of the time, I would foot the bill for the whole team and didn't make much money at the shop. But it was loads of fun.



GOOF BALLS:

The Hub of Aspen team wrestles around on a recovery ride after a big weekend of races.



“ The picture I have chosen is from the Ride for the Pass three years ago. It was an incredibly cold morning but the troops still rallied!! I had just met the man who has become the love of my life. We are both cyclists and had been doing "ride dates" in the morning before I went to work in the the ER. We had showed up separately for the Ride for the Pass, and had seen each other at the start. Jonathan is a far faster rider than I am so I did not see him again until he was waiting at the finish and video taping me as I came across the finish line. We had a chilly but stunning ride down together and then went to the afterparty. I later found out from a close friend that prior to the ride, Jonathan had told his friend that it was too cold for him to ride. When I showed up ready to ride, there was no way Jonathan was not going to bail out. Who knows if it was pride or he was smitten... probably pride :) We have been together ever since and he is truly the best thing that has ever happened to me. ”

DAWN KOPF & JONATHAN HERSHBERGER



INDEPENDENCE PASS
• MAJESTIC STORIES •



Ed Goodman and John Shively, Ride 2017

Burnham Arndt, Grottos



clockwise from above:

Anda Smalls-Zala, Luka and Chase, Grottos, March 2020;
Charlie Eckhart, January 2015; Andrew Vick and Chris Ryan, Ride 2018



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Michael Hutton, Lost Man Lake, 2018



“ I will never forget the ride on May 14, 2016, the ride I almost wasn't able to make. Not because I felt too fat, or out of shape, or it was too cold, but because that was the year I simply might have not been present at all....2016 was the ride of celebration! That day's ride was a ride of movement, a ride of joy, a ride of gratitude and most importantly a ride of love. In May 2016 I was a survivor. The previous May I was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, the kind of which, a large majority of people do not survive. That day's ride was a miracle of sorts. A miracle that there was an army of super fun, super psyched, super nice people ready to make their annual pilgrimage up that mountain. Well that's not really a miracle, that's just this valley! But the real miracle was not only was I feeling so grateful to be alive and physically able to ride Independence Pass, but to top it all off, I was able to ride Independence with my mother, the most vibrant and kick-ass woman I know! We both celebrated that ride. We celebrated the mother daughter connection, we celebrated life and health, and we celebrated her coming in first in her age group on that beautiful spring day! ”

ERIKA CORBIN & LINDA LOESCHEN

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Erik Skarvan with buddy Aidan

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ELEVATION 12,095 FEET

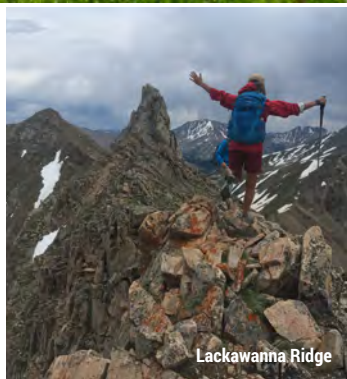
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE



Grizzly Lake Trail



Alyssa and
Fletcher
Richman 2005



Lackawanna Ridge

“ To me, Independence Pass is about connections. The road connects two sides of the Continental Divide, including the towns of Aspen and Leadville. Beyond that, the landscape connects the earth to the sky. It's a place where a person feels an intimate connection with nature, from the scale of a single small flower, to the power of craggy peaks, or the splendor of a sunset. And it's a place where people create connections among themselves as they share adventures and experiences.

Especially touching is an older memory (close to 20 years ago) of a backpacking trip with my young children. Our excursion towards Independence Lake started at a leisurely pace (per the photo). It became increasingly exciting as we hurried to beat an intense lightning storm that chased us down to the safety of trees far below Upper Lost Man Lake. ”

SUZANNE JACKSON




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clockwise from above:
Dieter Tantius & friends Ride 2016;
Dieter Tantius, Ride 2017; Dana Laughren and crew May 2020





Jacquette Tara, Indy ghost town, 2017

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“ We happened upon the Ghost Town on Independence Pass and were amazed at the history of gold mining. It’s beyond me how anyone could survive the winters there at 10,900’, especially back in the late 1800’s when storms and snow fall was probably worse than current times. The lack of supplies due to limits of transportation over the pass had to be hard to bear. It’s seeing and learning about these extinct old towns that gives me such appreciation for all they did to create and begin what we can all enjoy today. ”

JACQUETTE TARA

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Summer Richards, April 27, 2020



clockwise from top left:
Gary Kielpikowski, Ride
after-party; Eric Whewell
and friends, Ride 2016; Ellen
Rome and friends, Ride
2018; Eric Kloor with Bill
Walton, June 2015





clockwise from top left:
Jamie Knowlton and
Debbi Falender, May 29,
2020; Heidi Vosbeck,
lynx crossing road, May
26, 2020; Heather Hower,
May 16; Jake Brace

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Jimmy Hunting, May 6, 2020



Julie Shroyer, 2016

“ It was the summer of 1982 and my father and I went on a bike ride from Aspen to Glenwood Springs, over to Avon, up Tennessee Pass, a beer and dinner in Leadville and spent the night in Twin Lakes. The next morning we woke up early and rode up Independence Pass. It was a beautiful morning, and we made it to the top where we had our photo taken by the sign. Afterwards, we headed down to Aspen had a few beers, lunch, and finished the ride. This has become a famous photo at Trek for good reason.”

JOHN BURKE
PRESIDENT
TREK BICYCLE



John and Dick
Burke, 1982



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clockwise from top left:
Linda Spada-Magill, Ride
2013; John and Susan
Eaton, Ride 2018; Laura
Armstrong and friends,
July 4, 2019



One of my great careers has been a seasonal with the USFS for over 30 years. It's the summer of 2012 - USA is hosting the PRO Challenge Race - bicycle racers will be coming over the Pass two times on Wed August 22.

So the Aspen & Leadville Ranger Districts and Emergency and Law Enforcement folks are gearing up to have a lot of us on site to help with tons of enthusiasts coming to watch the race. As I & co-workers are driving up the east side of the Pass on a most beautiful summer day we see folks that have camped in tents in these "teeny" Highway 82 pullouts along the shoulder - like if you got out of your tent at night to pee & made a wrong turn. oh hell, going down an endless cliff- whew!

So headed up to check out the scene at the top of the Pass - lots of folks are having a great time partying, BBQing & super excited about the event - we are excited also and soon we hear that the racers are coming up the Pass. The view to the east to see them is incredible - me, proudly dressed in my USFS uniform, not shy ask to get up on someone's truck to get a better view of the racers - woo, woo!

So we keep doing visitor contacts to make sure folks are being careful of the fragile tundra. So when the racers come back from the west, the typical summer storm is chasing them up the Pass - well they all made it with no lightning and some rain!

It's time for us to get out large trash bags to clean up after this huge crowd - I was so, so amazed - not even 20 pieces I picked up - way to go every one - they were so respectful (except for one couple that dumped hot coals in the tundra - I have ever rarely written a ticket, my duty said I had too, I love the Pass).

What a Great Memory I have of that day on The Pass!

LEE KIRSCH, LEADVILLE, COLORADO

*left: Marylou Felton pastel painting of Independence
right: Sheilah Bryan, Independence Mountain, August 2018*





Mark Sink and friends, 1975

left: Louise Hoversten and Barb Long, May 18, 2020
right: Marty Ames and crew, Ride 2016





clockwise from top left:
Ned Sullivan, March 31, 2020;
Peg O'Brien and friends, May 8, 2020;
Ron and Quinn
Morehead, Ride 2014;
Peter Looram photo of
Barb Long and John
Sweeney, May 22, 2020



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• MAKING MEMORIES



“ Perhaps the only time we were ever at the top of Independence Pass on Christmas Day, this photo taken in 1976, made possible by the drought year of 1976 when the Pass did not close until sometime the following January. ”

MARKALUNAS FAMILY

Markalunas Family, Christmas 1976



Tim Murray photo of Elli on New York Peak, 2008

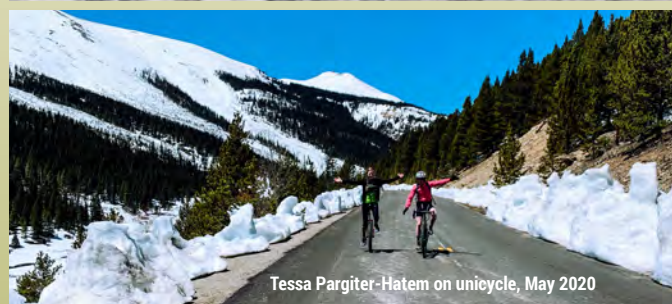


Summer Richards, May 31, 2020

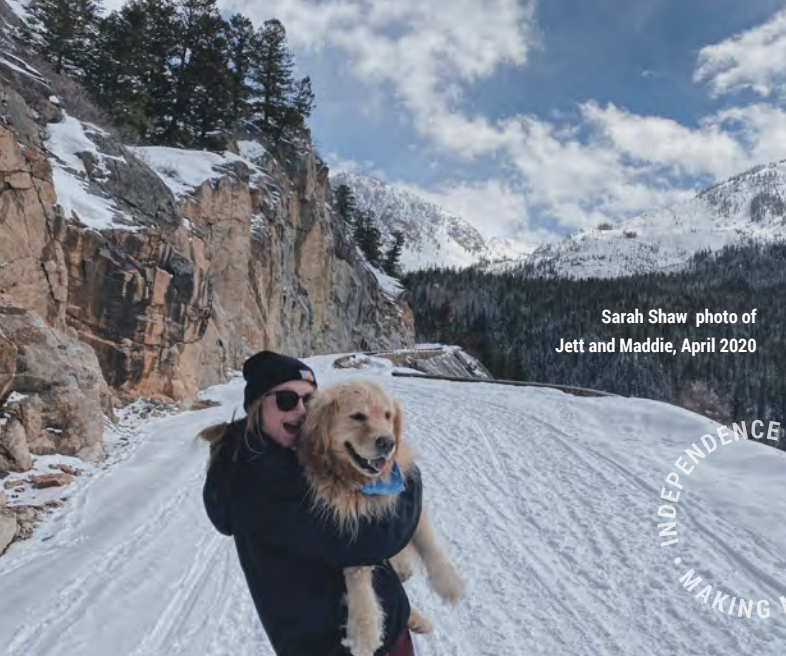


Steven Hill and Aspen
Glen Cycling Club,
May 21, 2020

Scott Condon, May 16, 2020



Tessa Pargiter-Hatem on unicycle, May 2020



Sarah Shaw photo of
Jett and Maddie, April 2020



Steven Waldeck, May 26, 2019



Suzanne Scheer, May 31, 2020



“ It’s not unusual to come across old cabins out in the woods around Aspen – miners, homesteaders and cattlemen have been building shelters in these mountains for nearly 150 years and their remains take a long time to sink back into the earth in our cold, dry climate. But to come across a cabin that looks like it might have been occupied last week – complete with an intact roof, furniture and even an old whiskey jug – that’s another thing altogether. I and my hiking companions stumbled onto this old prospectors’ cabin deep in the woods near timberline on the Pass several years ago and the glass in the windows and the carefully constructed furniture – including a bookcase! – showed a long commitment to a nearby prospect hole. Apparently the claim never paid off – there was no sign of mining gear beyond a few broken shovel handles – but the idyllic setting and the utter isolation of the spot spoke to something more than a search for silver or gold. Perhaps the cabin’s occupants just liked to have an excuse to spend a few summer weeks at a lovely spot in the woods – we knew how they felt. ”

MARK FULLER



clockwise from top left:

Tim Hall cutting old phone wire (before);

Tim Hall cutting wire (after);

Tim Riggins, Altai cottongrass, 2018

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clockwise from top left:

Wes Higginbotham, May 31, 2020;

Zach Heuscher, skate skiing, Lost Man Lake, spring 2016;

Whitney Ward and friends, May 22, 2020

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MAKING MEMORIES





Michael Woelke,
Ride 2016



“ We come with a group and have been doing so for a number of years. In 2016, I turned 58 and I was born in '58 so I rode an extra mile and a half to mile marker 58 and took a selfie. That is the year I was literally the last rider to finish, they were taking down the time clock and I got a picture holding it. ”

MICHAEL WOELKE



Summer Richards May 31, 2020

For 31 years, no project has been too big or too small for the Independence Pass Foundation. From stabilizing and revegetating the Pass's massive roadcuts, removing hundreds of thousands of pounds of metal debris from its slopes, and planting thousands of native trees with kids and volunteers, to funding toilets at the summit, maintaining trails, pulling weeds, and caretaking the winter gate area, we take huge pride in our beloved backyard. **We are dedicated to keeping it healthy, beautiful, and wild for future generations.**

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who made this retrospective, and our summer restoration work, possible



IPF volunteers clearing avalanche debris at the Grottos

Thank you to all of our supporters who make our

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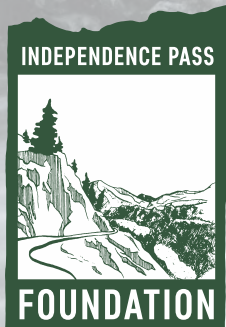
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