



ANNUAL REPORT



Alberta Bicycle Association

The **Mission** of the ABA is to advocate, develop, and facilitate cycling for Albertans.

The **Vision** of the ABA is to be the recognized authority and leader for cycling in Alberta.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erin Ruttan, President
Brian Lee, Vice President - Administration
Chris Bullivant, Chief Commissaire
Robert Grunewald, Vice President - Racing
Shane Carson, Vice President - BMX
Dawn Heinemeyer, Vice President - Women's Cycling
Tom Lee, Vice President Rec & - Transportation
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STAFF

James Kendal, Executive Director - Development, Road, CX, MTB, Para Tyla Thomsen, Executive Director - Administration, BMX, Track, Para Petrina Tsulissi, High Performance Director Kiran Kawa, BMX Head Coach Samantha Hargreaves, Event Coordinator Cody Shimizu, Social Media

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RACING COMMITTEE

Robert Armstrong Tammy Nishumura Bill Burtnik Dixie Le Vesconte Diane Bowles

BMX COMMITTEE

Tyler Semmens Brian Lee Nicholas Bass Brad Streadwick Vacant

REC & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Jeff Gruttz Bob Walsh Karly Coleman Don Hollingshead

INTRODUCTION

Erin Ruttan, President

2025 has been a year of transition at all levels of sport, not just within our organization. I want to thank you all for trusting me to guide the Alberta Bicycle Association through these shifts. I hope that for many of you, the year went by as seamlessly as it always has as this is the sign of a solid foundation at work.

It is no secret that our year started a bit rocky. Much needed time was spent re-prioritizing how the board and committees can best fulfill the ABA's mandate of making cycling accessible to everyone. With this our board also underwent a review of our roles and our governance model including mandatory training from the province on non-profit governance and fiduciary duties. This invaluable training will become part of the ABA's onboarding package for future board members.

With this shift, we have looked at where our organizational holes are and made adjustment. Some of you may have noticed it is now easier to find minutes and policies on our website. Our goal is to help you better understand the ABA's role, processes, and governance. You may also have noticed updates to old policies (like upgrading) and the addition of a Universal Code of Conduct. Our hope is to make it easier for you, as a member of our community, to understand what is expected of you, what your rights and opportunities are, and your avenues for support.

From an activity perspective, the ABA is thrilled to have brought Hop On into full swing in Alberta. This paired with an increase in Team Alberta projects means we have been able to support more youth than ever before participate in cycling across all levels of sport from their first introduction to competing for national podiums. We are excited to keep this momentum going through 2026 and expand our youth support with the help of a sizeable provincial grant through Every Kid Can Play.

Other external impacts we felt this year include, Federal and Provincial budgetary adjustments resulting in shifting the focus of our grant submissions. The City of Calgary announcing the closure of two major facilities as well as the opening of a major facility in Edmonton. These have led us to consider avenues of support the ABA make available for clubs that are leading the way for the future generations of sport. Finally, the abrupt implementation of Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Act. This has caused us to assess how we can continue to support and advocate for everyone in our sport community while being mandated to adopt the policy. I for one believe this Act to be a huge step backwards in sport equality, creating barriers for women, particularly those not from Alberta, and providing an avenue for emotional and psychological harm towards women. For anyone feeling impacted, know that you aren't alone.

Once again thank you for your trust this year.

Chief Commissaire

Chris Bullivant, Provincial Chief UCI Commissaire BMX-R, IC

The 2025 racing season in Alberta was exceptionally robust, featuring a comprehensive calendar of events across multiple disciplines. A primary emphasis was placed on the professional development of Commissaires, ensuring the continued growth and quality of officiating within our cycling community.

Targeted training programs were delivered in Road, Track, Mountain Bike, and BMX disciplines, fostering skill enhancement among our officials. Notably, select Alberta Commissaires were afforded the unique opportunity to participate in National-level training sessions.

- BMX Discipline: Two candidates successfully completed their certification, with an additional two scheduled for practical assessments in 2026.
- Track Discipline: Two Commissaires have finished the classroom component of National training and are poised for practical evaluations in 2026, contingent on opportunities within the Cycling Canada event calendar.

These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our officials and the effectiveness of our structured development pathways.

Alberta boasted a substantial delegation of Commissaires from all disciplines, who officiated at prestigious national and international competitions throughout Canada and abroad. The exemplary performance of our officials on this global stage underscores the strength of the grassroots training programs and the supportive community we have cultivated in Alberta.

As the off-season commences, planning is underway for expanded development opportunities and training courses to prepare for the 2026 season. We remain committed to elevating the standards of officiating and supporting our growing cadre of Commissaires.

The successes of 2025 affirm the vitality of Alberta Bicycling Associations' ecosystem. I extend my appreciation to all Commissaires, volunteers, and stakeholders for their invaluable contributions.

See you at the races, Chris



Event & Licensing Statistics

Road	Total Event	Total Entries	Average Entries	% change
2025	17	1550	97	-19%
2024	18	1911	106	16%
2023	18	1654	92	0%
2022	16	1467	92	

Mountain	Total Event	Total Entries	Average Entries	% change
2025	8	1056	170	19%
2024	7	886	122	16%
2023	6	764	85	20%
2022	5	679	68	

Gravel	Total Event	Total Entries	Average Entries	% change
2025	5	622	14	-14%
2024	5	707	141	-19%
2023	3	504	168	36%
2022	2	215	107	

СХ	Total Event	Total Entries	Average Entries	% change
2025	11	1341	122	2%
2024	15	1802	120	9%
2023	17	1859	109	0%
2022	16	1743	109	

Track	Total Event	Total Entries	Average Entries	% change
2025	1	52	52	19%
2024	2	85	42	-2%
2023	2	86	43	40%
2022	2	53	26	

вмх	Total Event	Total Entries	Average Entries	% change
2025	12	5138	428	
2024	10	4958	496	
2023	10	5098	510	
2022	10	5268	527	

UCI Race License Type

Primary Discipline Selected



Track, MTB, CX & Gravel Racing

Robert Grunewald, Vice President - Racing

I would like to thank my fellow board and race committee members for their continued dedication and support of the Alberta Bicycle Association and our racing community. It's been a privilege to be a part of soe many passionate volunteers, organizers, and officials who make racing in Alberta possible. The 2025 season brought a full calendar of events across all disciplines, continued growth in mountain biking and gravel, and strong collaboration between local clubs and event partners. We again saw excellent engagement from youth programs and regional development projects, supported by our High Performance Director, Petrina Tulissi. These initiatives remain essential in keeping Alberta at the forefront of national cycling development.

2025 continued Alberta's reputation for producing exceptional talent on the national and international stage. A few notable achievements include:

- · Kelsey Mitchell continued her dominance on the world track scene.
- · Jenaya Francis -was 34th at the World Championships.
- · Alison Jackson won the Elite Women's Road Race at the Canadian National Championships.
- · Alex Volstad won Bucks County Classc, was 2nd in Women's Elite Canadian National Championships in Criterium and Road as well as the U23 National Champion, and 5th in ITT. Racing for EF Education-Oatly.
- · Anabelle Thomas strong overall showing at the Tour de Feminin, including a stage win.
- · Sidney McGill continued her top-30 UCI ranking in cyclocross and multiple top-5 finishes domestically.
- · Nico Knoll Signed with Steve Tilford Foundation, already has numerous top 5 placing and age group wins.
- · Amaia Ervin-Arambarri won the Canada Summer Games ITT which was the second ever gold medal for Alberta at the Summer Games.
- · Ben Morin won the Canadian National Junior Men's Road race
- · Michael Sametz won Gold in MC3 Class ITT at Canadian National Road Championships and Silver in the Road Race
- · Kara Douville, won Gold in the Para WH4 ITT and Gold at the Canadian National Road Championships
- · Lowell Taylor and Ed Veal won Gold in the Tandem ITT and Road Race at Canadian National Road Championships
- · Logan Sadesky won the HC Continental XCO in Canmore and a bronze medal at the National MTB championships.

Looking Ahead

While 2025 saw some participation declines in road and gravel, the overall racing scene remains healthy and diverse. The growth of mountain biking and the steady rebound of cyclocross highlight the adaptability and passion of Alberta's cycling community. For 2026, continued focus on calendar coordination, event marketing, and entry-level category promotion will be crucial to sustaining growth.

I want to again thank all of our organizers, officials, volunteers, and clubs for their tireless work. Without your energy and commitment, none of this would be possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Grunewald

VP Racing, Alberta Bicycle Association



Road

Road racing in 2025 saw 17 events, a decrease of one event compared to 2024. Across those events, we averaged 91.18 participants per event, representing an 18.89% decline in participation from the previous season. Despite the dip, several long-standing events such as the Tour de Bowness, Stieda Stage Race, and Hay City Road Race continued to anchor the calendar and deliver high-quality racing experiences. The introduction of the Citizen



Race Category in recent years remains a valuable entry point, but uptake continues to be modest. Many road events still report lower numbers in beginner fields, suggesting further outreach and communication about this category's accessibility and insurance coverage are needed. Coordination



with non-sanctioned events such as gran fondos and charity rides remains important to minimize calendar conflicts and retain racers within the ABA framework. We are looking hopefully for an increase in participation for 2026 as the Tour de Bowness will be Canadian Master Championships.

Cyclocross

Cyclocross remains a cornerstone of Alberta racing culture. The 2025 season hosted 11 events, down from 15 in 2024, but participation was up slightly, averaging 122 racers per event compared to 120 in 2024. Despite the smaller calendar, the racing quality remained high. The Devon Provincials once again provided a world-class course, while the Canmore Western Challenge will return next year and continue to attract out-of-province riders and national-level competition. Alberta CX numbers have not yet returned to pre-COVID highs but show encouraging stability and engagement at both the youth and elite levels.





Mountain

Mountain biking continues to shine as Alberta's most robust and fastest-growing discipline. The 2025 calendar featured 8 events, up from 7 in 2024, with an average of 151 participants per event — a 19.19% increase from 2024. The Canmore MTB Classic once again drew a deep field of national and international riders, while the Slither MTB in Sundre and Canadian Rockies 24 Marathon both showed strong turnout. The growth in youth and grassroots categories remains a particularly encouraging sign for the future. The Canmore Women's Enduro is continuing to grow, providing an opportunity for





Track

Track activity in 2025 was limited to a single event, the Alberta Track Provincials. Participation numbers were lower than the previous year due to the cancellation of midweek leagues in Edmonton and Calgary, but the athletes who did compete showed strong performances and excellent sportsmanship. Revitalizing local league activity and providing consistent facility access remain key priorities for 2026.



Team Alberta at the Junior Track Championships in Bromont, QC Charlie Pittard, Maddie Magleo, Lyra Giesler, Ben Morin, Adam Ritchie and Jack Purdy. With Coach Petrina Tulissi and Mechanic Etienne Turcotte.





Coach Petrina Tulissi and Athlete Jack Purdy

Gravel

Gravel racing maintained its steady presence in 2025 with 5 events, the same as 2024. Average participation came in at 124.4 riders per event, a decrease from 141.4 in 2024. While total numbers softened slightly, gravel continues to attract new entrants to organized racing and bridge the gap between recreational and competitive cycling. The ABA formalized an Alberta Cup Gravel Series in 2025 to encourage cross-event participation and enhance visibility for sponsors and host communities.



Warren Muir and Mark Fagnan Photo by: 10 Cent Studio

Para

The Alberta Bicycle Association was pleased to support and facilitate the Canadian Sport for All Initiative (CSAI) Grant, valued at \$12,688 per year for the Ultimate Para Sports Association, with a two-year funding commitment.

The funding supports the Recreational Para Cycling Program, which operates from May to September in the Bowness area of Calgary. Sessions are held twice weekly, on Mondays and Wednesdays, for two hours each. The program utilizes a variety of trails and pathways, allowing participants to progressively build their cycling skills through routes tailored to individual ability levels. Participants are grouped in teams of 3–4 and paired with a volunteer or instructor based on skill level and cycle type. Additionally, weekend opportunities are offered for members to participate in extended rides and tours throughout Alberta's National and Provincial Parks. This initiative has contributed to the ongoing development of Para athletes in Alberta.

Also of note are our Alberta Para athletes who achieved outstanding results at the 2025 Canadian National Road Championships:

- Michael Sametz Gold, MC3 Class ITT; Silver, Road Race
- Kara Douville Gold, CLM Para WH35 ITT and Road Race
- Lowell Taylor & Ed Veal Gold, CLM Tandem ITT and Road Race
- Salomon Grigy Bronze, MC4 ITT

The ABA is proud to continue supporting inclusive sport initiatives that promote access, participation, and excellence in Para cycling across Alberta and we look forward to working with race organizers in the future to help create more opportunities for para events.







Michael Sametz - Gold, MC3 Class ITT; Silver, Road Race Salomon Grigy - Bronze, MC4 ITT

BMX RACING Shane Carson, Vice President BMX

2025 was an exciting and dynamic year for the sport of BMX racing with provincial athletes taking part in local, national, and international levels of competition. The province played host to multiple competitions with five Canada Cup events over three weekends, six stops on the Alberta Provincial Cup series, the Alberta Provincial Championships, and the Canadian Championships all taking place this past summer. As the largest cycling discipline in the province, BMX racing is a popular sport that builds core cycling skills that are transferable to many other disciplines.

New Technology Introduced in 2025:

Digital timing systems were installed at six tracks hosting the Alberta Cup series this past year by the race organizer (Alberta BMX Association) allowing for the introduction of transponder timing. Event timing and near instantaneous updating of results via the Sqorz website has become popular with athletes who are using the technology to measure performance and gain new insights into the sport.



UCI BMX-RWorld Championships Finalist Logan Lee, 14 Girts-8th & Challenge Team Canada Asst Coach and Alberta Head BMX Coach, Kiran Kawa.

2025 Canadian BMX Championships

St. Albert BMX hosted the 2025 Canadian BMX Championships on August 23 at the recently rebuilt facility. 574 competitors from across British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta competed in both challenge and championship categories. Many Alberta athletes competed through to the main events in male and female

> categories with numerous podium finishes. In the championship categories, Alberta's Molly Simpson won gold in the elite women's category while in the U23 category Dylan Tremel earned top honours. Abygayle Reeve earned silver in women's U23 as did Daisy Kettle in the women's junior category.



Dylan Trème John Pohl Photography



Team Alberta

The 2025 Alberta BMX Race Team, led by Coach Kiran Kawa, entered the season with a refreshed commitment to high-performance training and competition excellence. The team proudly represented Alberta at both provincial and national events, with several athletes also achieving success on the international stage.

Throughout the year, Team Alberta delivered a comprehensive training program aimed at fostering athlete development and performance progression.





The season included training camps in Abbotsford, Nanaimo and San Diego - including a series of training sessions at the Chula Vista Olympic Training Park. The athletes also participated in multiple provincial development camps held across Alberta. Each camp emphasized technical skill refinement, gate start precision, race tactics, and sprint mechanics, providing athletes with valuable hands-on learning opportunities in a competitive environment. Complementing these camps, weekly summer training sessions in Calgary and St. Alberta ensured consistent coaching contact, performance feedback, and progression tracking, giving athletes the tools and confidence to perform at their best.

2025 UCI World BMX Championships:

The 2025 World BMX Championships took place in Copenhagen, Denmark in July with athletes from across Alberta making up members of the Challenge and Championship categories. Canada fielded one of the strongest Challenge teams in recent history. Alberta's Logan Lee's crashed in the 14 female category that took her out of medal contention after going into the main event ranked first overall. In the Challenge male categories, Alberta athletes did not make the finals but Brady Mitschke's semi-final performance in the 14 male category proved he is comfortable competing with the top athletes in the world. Jhett Hickey (13 male) also battled to the semi-finals missing the main event by one position and posted the fastest lap time of his age group. In the Championship categories, Daisy Kettle finished sixth in the LCQ, Dylan Tremel finished third in the LCQ, and Molly Simpson was fifth in the quarter finals. Alberta's Coach Kawa was selected as a coach for the Challenge team and was onsite in Copenhagen to support athletes through the event.

International Competition

Red Deer's Molly Simpson once again made Canadian Cycling history, claiming third overall in the 2025 UCI BMX Racing World Cup standings following a fierce weekend of racing in Santiago del Estero, Argentina. Simpson's third-place finish marks the highest overall ranking ever achieved by a Canadian woman in the BMX World Cup series, adding another milestone to her already groundbreaking season.

After an event filled 2025, the Alberta BMX community will turn attention to 2026 where the Provincial Cup series has been set and the province will once again host the Canadian BMX Championships at St. Albert for a second year in a row. Thank you to the Alberta Bicycle Committee members for the steadfast dedication to moving the sport forward over the past year. I would also like to thank the countless volunteers who invest time and effort whether it be within the Alberta BMX Association, the commissaries, or at the local club level to help facilitate the sport for athletes across the province.



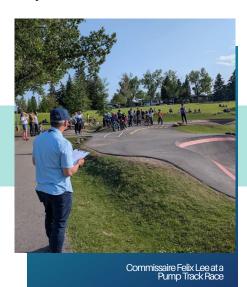


2025 Provincial Junior Podiums 1 - Evan Kapanen, 2 - Jaxson Ross, 3 - Nolan Reiling 1 - Daisy Kettle, 2 - Taryn Baillie, 3 - Ashtynn Forsberg

Pump Track Colin Lolacher, Memner at Large

The inaugural Alberta Pump Track Provincial Championship, held on September 13 in High River, was a resounding success. The event brought together 50 registered racers from a variety of disciplines, including BMX, MTB, and Freestyle BMX. The atmosphere was electric—fun, fast-paced, and full of energy—with strong participation and positive feedback from athletes and spectators alike.

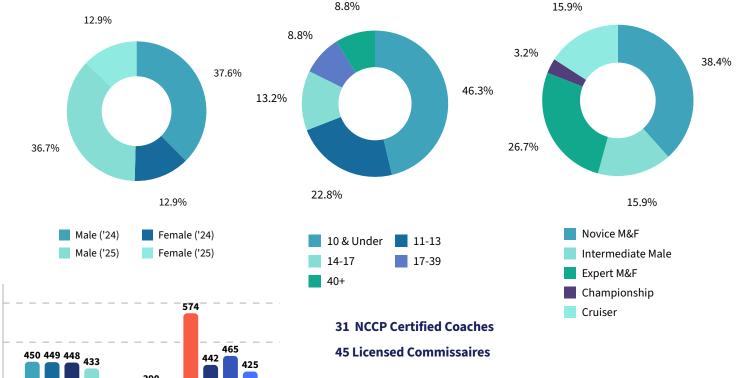
The 2025 season laid a solid foundation for this exciting new discipline, featuring a six-race series leading up to the championships that averaged around 45 riders per event. It's an exciting time for cycling in Alberta as Pump Track Racing officially joins the provincial calendar, setting the stage for continued growth in the years ahead.

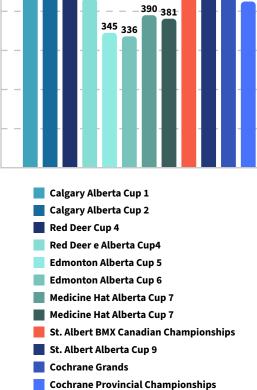






BMX RACING STATISTICS







2025 TEAM ALBERTA BMX **High Performance Team:** Luc Burns, Payton Duffy, Dominick Gosselin-Berg, Jhett Hickewy (Affiliate), Evan Kapanen, Logan Lee, Maxwell Lee, Brady Mitschke, Jaxson Ross, Solvay Semmens, Hudson White

Competition Development Team: Phebe Bass, Kayden Berry, Kaeleigh Cook, Alexis Cremers, Tyler Layton (Affiliate) Bruno Fernandez, Ashtynn Forsberg

Development Team: Hudson Bozac, Zachary Chubey, Colton Cools, Charlie Donaldson, Emmet Esak, Ryenn Forsberg, Kenley Holliday, Jamie Landry, Reef McBain, Elijah McIntryre, Caitlin Pinheiro, Alexander Schley, Camber Schley, Raya Trechka

Recreation & Transport

Tom Lee, Vice President Recreation & Transport

The past year has been marked by both progress and renewed challenges in advancing recreational cycling and active transportation across Alberta. While cycling participation continues to grow, recent political developments have created uncertainty regarding the future of cycling infrastructure in our urban centers. The Alberta Bicycling Association (ABA) remains firmly committed to promoting safe, inclusive, and accessible cycling for all Albertans — whether for recreation, sport, or everyday transportation.

Transportation and Advocacy

The Transportation portfolio this year focused on strengthening advocacy for safer streets, improved infrastructure, and the development of progressive active transportation policy.

Key Highlights

Urban Infrastructure and Policy: A major focus this year has been the continuing advocacy for bicycle lanes and protected paths in Alberta's urban centers, particularly Edmonton and Calgary. ABA's Recreation and Transportation Committee, together with its advocacy partners, has expressed deep concern over recent discussions and proposals by the Government of Alberta to remove or restrict planned bike lane projects in these cities. The ABA strongly supports the efforts of municipal governments and local advocates to maintain and expand safe cycling networks, which are essential for reducing traffic congestion, improving public health, and supporting environmental sustainability.

National Context

Ontario Court Decision: On July 30, 2025, the Ontario Superior Court struck down the Ontario provincial government's plan to remove three major bike lanes in Toronto, ruling the decision unconstitutional. This decision underscores the importance of protecting active transportation infrastructure as a public good that enhances mobility, safety, and urban livability. The ABA continues to monitor this development closely, as it may set a precedent for how cycling infrastructure is treated across Canada.

Partnerships and Coalitions

The Association continues to collaborate with Paths for People, YEG Bike Coalition, Bike Edmonton, Bike Calgary, and the Alberta Cycling Coalition to ensure a coordinated advocacy response and to present a unified voice for Alberta cyclists.

Recreation

This year, the ABA continued to promote recreational cycling through collaboration with local clubs, community organizations, and event organizers.

Key highlights include:

Trail and Pathway Advocacy: Alberta Bicycling Association engaged with municipalities and parks to support maintenance and connectivity of multi-use trails and pathways

Queen Elizabeth Park Integrated Bike Skills Park—better known as the Edmonton Bike Park Secured \$1.235 million in combined provincial, municipal and private funding—including the \$407,000 Recreation Partner and Facility Investment Program (RPFIP) grant from the City of Edmonton and a matching Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant from the Province of Alberta.

Collaborated closely with Indigenous partners, biologists, and urban foresters to ensure the project enhances river valley ecology through native plantings, wildlife monitoring, and respectful interpretive design.

Bow Valley Parkway Cycling Experience

From 2022 to 2024, Banff National Park piloted a three-year cycling program along the eastern 17 km section of the Bow Valley Parkway. The initiative restricted public vehicle access during spring and fall, allowing cyclists to enjoy the scenic parkway free from motor traffic.

The pilot demonstrated significant public demand and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. As a result, Parks Canada extended the Bow Valley Parkway Cycling Pilot for an additional five years (2025–2029), further solidifying Alberta's position as a premier cycling destination.

Challenges and Opportunities

Political Climate: The shifting provincial stance on active transportation poses a significant challenge to long-term infrastructure planning and investment.

Coordination Across Jurisdictions: Policy and infrastructure vary significantly between municipalities, underscoring the need for provincial alignment along with continued advocacy for active transportation policies

Public Awareness: Education and engagement remain critical to improving cyclists' safety and public perception.

Inclusion in Cycling: There remain opportunities to work with clubs to ensure cycling is a sport that is open and welcomes everyone. This includes language, imagery, and willingness to include others.



Women's Cycling

Dawn Heinemeyer, Vice President Women's Cycling

This year was off to an enthusiastic start with multiple plans for drawing women of all ages into cycling and racing. Although there was an increased interest at the club levels and group rides, participation appears to be down at the ABA events especially amongst older women. There was an increase in juniors and Cat 4 women who quickly moved up in categories but this was also disproportionately affected older riders who don't want to race with juniors, young women or the mixed citizen categories. It was wonderful to see so many young women represent their clubs an ABA event and do very well in all Provincial, National and International events!

Petrina's involvement and key role as ABA head coach has made the growth in girls and women's participation and racing what it is and it's increasing year over year. She has been instrumental in getting juniors on bikes, racing and competing at a very high level. Some of the local clubs have been working together to create regular weekly rides for women and have plans to continue this. With the addition of more ride skill courses and maintenance workshops that I plan on sharing the costs and hosting duties with some 'sister' clubs, we can get more traction in the female rider realm.

Women's only and group rides have blossomed this year especially at the recreational level and this often leads to more women becoming interested in racing. I hope that the ripple effect gains more and more momentum over the next few years and that those that are already involved inspire others to continue their cycling journey.

The ages of women instead of losing them to local fondos and other recreational events that are not part of the ABA. The addition of master categories was introduced to a few of our ABA events and though participation was not what I hoped for women as the men have been enjoying it and loving it! I'm confident that it will gather much more interest and this will translate to more women racing.

An incredible road has been built and we have an impressive number of young women on it leading the way for many more to follow in their pedal strokes. My goal is to also have this trickle up to all.



