



# VELOCITIES




## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RENO WHEELMEN

Hello my fellow cyclists,

For those of you who don't know me my name is Bubba Melcher. I was the president of the Reno Wheelmen in the late 90s and during that time I was part of bringing the college national championships to our local downtown. I grew up here in Reno, went to Reno High, and played football as a tightend for the UNR. I continued on to a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and worked as a physical education teacher for Washoe County School District for 30 years and retired in 2019.

I started cycling in the late 80's after going downtown and watching the Tour de Nez. Playing football at Nevada, I was still competitive and watching the race made me realize cycling was something I wanted to participate in. I bought a bike soon after the race and like many of you can appreciate I started my first training program. A year later I raced in the TDN for the first time and I knew I was hooked. I started to participate in several other local and Northern California races.

I met a lot of different and fascinating people in the cycling community. I was just as excited about the race as I was with talking with people afterwards. I truly love the camaraderie. I dedicated myself for the next few years and over a period of 30+ years I have been a Northern Nevada champion several times and a National Criterium Champion four times as well as winning a gold medal racing on the track. No doubt cycling became a very big part of my life, it has fulfilled a social, physical, and emotional aspect that still serves me very well today.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### TWILIGHT ROAD

Welcome Scot Breithaupt, our new director.

### TWILIGHT MOUNTAIN

Welcome Scot Breithaupt, our new director.

### SAGEBRUSH CX

To all racers, volunteers and Rik Eckert, Race Director. Thanks for a great season!

In 2015 I was given the opportunity to become the executive director of the TDN and held that position for five years. It was at a time when the race was looking for new leadership and I was up for the challenge. Along with a handful of other people and their commitment we able to save the race and put on the event for another five years. At the time we were all very excited about bringing the race back. We couldn't have done that without the help of local sponsors, the Reno Wheelmen, as well as Audi Reno Tahoe cycling team. I have three wonderful children Tucker, 26, a City of Reno firefighter, Jackson, 25, a computer engineer, and my daughter Sophie, 22, a University of Nevada student. My partner Barbara works locally as a nurse. She loves the outdoors, including hiking as well as yoga. We own a home in old southwest where we also oversee a rental.

For my second go-round as the president of the Reno Wheelman I am looking forward to working with this new board and helping members of this community's cycling dreams come true by offering my services and putting on events, sharing my experiences, knowledge, and my expertise in the field of cycling.

I'm looking forward to a great year.

Cheers,  
Bubba



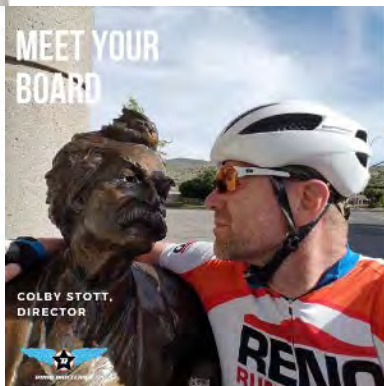
### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lead a ride? Run a race series?  
Register racers? Contribute to your  
community? Contact us at the board  
email.





# NEW YEAR, NEW FACES— MEET YOUR RWM BOARD



<https://www.facebook.com/RenoWheelmen>

<https://www.instagram.com/renowheelmen/>

## Board Meeting Calendar

February 7th, Eclipse Pizza  
March 7th, Eclipse Pizza  
April 4th, Eclipse Pizza  
May 2nd, Eclipse Pizza  
June 6th, Eclipse Pizza

Board Meetings are open to all members.  
On the first Monday of every month we  
meet at Eclipse Pizza and start at 6:00 pm.



## RACE NEWS: SAGEBRUSH CX SERIES, 2021

### 2021 Sagebrush Cyclocross Series Season Wrap-Up & Dedication

By Rik Eckert, Vice President and Sagebrush CX Race Director

Reno's Cyclocross legacy is deep. And it's a legacy that literally lives in my back yard at Rancho San Rafael Park. In recent years our city hosted a couple-three incarnations of Cross Reno and RenoCross, and of course the USAC Cyclocross Nationals were held here in 2018. The Reno Wheelmen has run the Sagebrush Cyclocross Series and other races in autumn for who knows how long. The sport and our club both celebrated centennials around 1996.

All of this history was never far from my mind last summer as I took on the role of Race Director of the Sagebrush CX series for 2021. While I had been both a frequent volunteer and racer at Sagebrush CX over the years and at 2018 Nationals, this was something altogether different. As a rookie director, I had every imaginable emotion from profound anxiety to hope as we pulled all the details together. I did hot or not-so-hot laps at every venue prior to race day, only to be amazed at the actual course Darron, Dave E and their crews put together. Our competition crew



including Heidi and Addie and the USAC officials deftly handled getting the races off as if there was, well, nothing to it – in wind or frost or bluebird day. Our many other volunteers made short work of setup and button-up. So sure, this is the story of what we did as a club and community as we hosted the Sagebrush series last fall; but it's also the story of our cycling community itself as we navigated challenges both on course and off through our unplanned hiatus in 2020 and the four outings of our 2021 Sagebrush CX series.



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**RACE AND SEASON RESULTS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:**

<https://www.renowheelmen.org/2021-sagebrush-cx/>

## RACE NEWS: SAGEBRUSH CX SERIES, 2021

### 2021 Sagebrush Cyclocross Series Season Wrap-Up & Dedication continued...

We hosted a full program of USAC categories at Hidden Valley on September 18, a Nevada Day Double Header again at Hidden Valley on October 30 & 31, at the absolutely magic Silver Knolls Park on November 15, and finally at our favorite 'Power Course', Lazy 5 Regional Park on December 4. Every race day featured a brilliant blue Nevada sky, and from calm mornings to a driving Washoe Zephyr. Clearly to us 'pent up demand' is a thing, and the racers in every category were ready to show up and throw down. I'll leave it to our esteemed readers to go have a look at the results here: <https://www.renowheelmen.org/2021-sagebrush-cx/> It's certainly notable that some racers from around the region including far corners of Northern California showed up to turn in some brilliant performances on their way to 2021 Nationals out in DuPage County, Illinois.



For me, though, the brightest lights of the season shone from two people who gave their hearts to our club, the Sagebrush CX series, and Cyclocross as an expression of life and love. **Erica Greif** and **Ron Patch** both rode their CX bikes with a riotous joy and passion; and I believe inspire us all to, pedal hard, take the hand-up, laugh at ourselves, and embrace the ride – mud, dust, ice, sweat or whatever.

All CX pics courtesy of Gary Hudson- Thank You, Gary!  
<https://www.facebook.com/Garys-Cross-Pics-1491927951070774>

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RON PATCH A LIFE WELL LIVED

Ron Patch, Reno Wheelmen President, Vice President, Sage Brush CX Director, Husband, Father, Cyclist, Fisherman, Rafter, Funny, Kind, Dear Friend, passed away peacefully at home with his family on November 12th, 2021 after a courageous, outrageous, spirited 28-month battle with esophageal cancer. As mentioned above Ron was many things, among those a man of community and events.

On November 21st, his friends and family gathered once more to honor a Life Well Lived at River School Farm. The Wheelmen organized a ride over to his house where we met up with Lori, his wife, Sophia, his daughter and their family. Lori led us a to River School. The community was out in full force- because Ron just had a way of bringing people together. We cried, hugged, and swapped stories of our friend but...



*To make a long story short...*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RON PATCH A LIFE WELL LIVED

Mostly, we laughed at the stories of the long stories  
and celebrated a  
Life. Well. Lived.  
Rest In Peace Ron and wear your Wings proudly.





## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: TRIAL SCIENCE

### Who are they?

TrialScience is a Reno-based trial preparation services company supporting litigation teams all across the country. **Co-founded by Reno Wheelmen member Dr Dan Dugan in 1995**, TrialScience was part of the legal team that obtained the largest civil rights plaintiff verdict in the history of the United States in 2017!

**Focus Groups - Mock Trials - Case Theme Development**  
**Witness Preparation - Jury Selection & SJQs - Multi-media Courtroom**

### Why support the Wheelmen?

TrialScience co-founder Dan Dugan is proud and happy to support the Reno Wheelmen, one of the oldest bike clubs in the United States. He also appreciates the mission of the modern organization and our support of the local cycling community. Dan is primarily a time trialist. He travels extensively across the US, riding in his RWM kit along the way. In 2018 at National Championships in Augusta, GA., the announcer gave kudos to Dan, representing the Reno Wheelmen, "Probably the oldest bike club in America," Thanks for representing the Wheelmen Dan.

We are honored and grateful to spotlight you and **Trial Science** in Volume 3 of Velo Clues!

### Reno Wheelmen Support

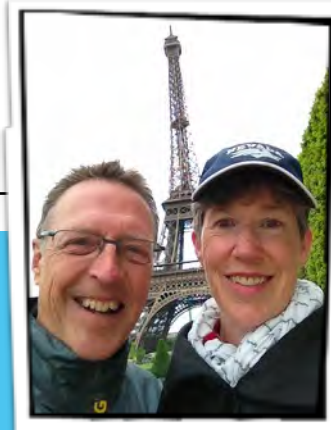
*Generous financial contribution to support club operations*



Northern Cal Nevada Time Trial, 2018

**FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION VISIT:**  
[www.trialscienceinc.com](http://www.trialscienceinc.com)

trialscience



Dan and Mary Dugan,  
Paris France



## NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS: WHAT ARE YOURS?

With celebrations and champagne behind us now, it's time to set new goals for the coming year. Although last year wasn't easy, we can but look forward to a new year filled with cycling related plans and goals! Here are a few ideas for all cyclists:

1. **Put in more miles:** Whether it's on pavement, dirt, or gravel you can set yearly targets on Strava. Join one of Strava's monthly challenges - a group of friends makes it even more fun! Set weekly mileage goals. Explore options to commute to work or run errands on your bike more in 2022. Check out our calendar for spring weekly rides.
2. **Learn basic bike maintenance:** A good bike mechanic is worth their weight in gold, but minor fixes can be done in your garage and save money. Ask your LBS if they offer classes or ask a fellow cyclist to teach you. Also, don't forget RBP teaches you how to!

3. **Get better at climbing:** Some love it, some don't, but we all have to climb at some point. Find a local hill for hill repeats. Time a climb and then beat that time, repeatedly! There's no secret to getting better at it - we just have to spend more time doing it.

4. **Work on your diet and nutrition:** Nothing new here and often most New Year's resolutions are to drink less and clean up the diet. We all know the basics: less alcohol, clean eating, quality protein, high protein recovery drinks to help muscle repair, daily hydration.

5. **Try a race:** Races can bring anxiety, but they also bring you a bucket full of smiles, camaraderie, and boost in your fitness. Participate in Wheelmen Twilight races with familiar faces and courses before heading to out of town events. The familiarity will help! Whether you try a road race, MTB, or gravel event, don't think you have to be super fit or experienced to make the leap. Remember, every racer had to start somewhere! Our community is supportive and there is always be someone willing to offer support and a helping hand. Stay tuned for our upcoming Twilight series.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lead a ride? Run a race series? Register racers? Contribute to your community? Contact us at the board email.



## BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS, 2021

### MARYANN WALTERS

LEARN MORE THROUGH:  
FRIENDS OF BLACK ROCK HIGH ROCK  
FRIENDS OF NEVADA WILDERNESS  
NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL



Last Memorial Day Weekend, a host of local NGOs and the BLM Field Office put on their annual Black Rock Rendezvous Event in the Black Rock National Conservation Area to celebrate, explore and learn about the extraordinary Nevada landscape at our doorstep. Supporting the event were the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Friends of Black Rock-High Rock, Nevada Outdoor School, and the Reno Gem and Mineral Society.



I have to admit, it was initially the Gem and Mineral society talk and not the bike ride (I desperately wanted to learn how to find Fire Opals in the desert) that initially lured my freshly vaccinated self out to Gerlach for the long weekend, yet within minutes of arriving with fellow Wheelmen

member Christine Anderson, I was marveling that I had waited so long to visit this iconic place only 100 miles from Reno. There was no official group camping due to the pandemic, but a sizable crew came out from Reno to camp, ride bikes, hike, clean-up the desert, and learn about cool rocks.



**Cleaning up Trego Hot Springs**  
Pulling metal debris out of the ground with a magnetized rake



Pulling non-magnetic brass bullet casings and glass out of the ground around the Hot Springs by hand



# BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS, 2021

## MARYANN WALTERS

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NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL

On Saturday, Christine and I rode (my first time!) on the Playa, deciding to self-navigate by bike to the clean-up effort at Trego Hot Springs rather than drive. We had an entertaining and productive morning cleaning debris and metal out of the protected Hot Springs area. Others were fixing fences protecting the National Conservation Area.

The morning's cleanup activities were followed by several talks on rocks and rockets, all of which was so fascinating I failed to notice the epic sunburn blooming on my sheltered-for-too-long-in-place back and shoulders.



A lone male pronghorn keeps a close eye on us near Soldier Meadows Road



Kurstin Graham, local cyclist, renowned desert bike-packer and Board member of the Friends of Black Rock High, led the Guided Bike Ride on Sunday. Despite my ill-advised choice of cyclocross bike to experience our cross-desert adventure, it was an incredibly fun time with a great group of people riding through stunning scenery, featuring the utterly unique geological formations, flora and fauna of the area.

We returned to Reno Sunday night, sunburned, dehydrated, and happy, determined to rendezvous again in 2022.



Abandoned mine shaft near Cassidy Mine Road



# THE RENO WHEELMEN: 1896-1909



The following is an excerpt from "the Reno Wheelmen, Part One", printed in the Washoe Rambler in 1981  
Part 3

## THE WHEELMEN'S ATHLETIC PROGRAM, cont.

A second baseball team was part of the club's athletic projections for the spring of 1903 and arrangements were made for contests with squads from Winnemucca, Virginia City, Reno's Washoe Indian Reservation and Loyalton, California. The schedule was aborted however after the Wheelmen dropped a contest with the University by a score of 33 to 16.

The organization of another football team was brought before the membership in 1904 and again in 1905 and it was reported that the University would agree to a rematch and that the Carson Indian School at Stewart had shown some interest in the

Game, but the plans did not materialize and the cyclists never again took to the grid-iron.

In January of 1906, the Wheelmen became involved with roller skating craze then sweeping the country and rented out their gym to a California firm desiring to use it for a rink. The sport proved to be immensely popular with Renoites for a time, but left the club with a badly damaged floor and suit against the company's agents to collect the back rent. The Hall's banquet room was converted into a gym shortly after the rink opened, but soon proved to be unsuited for gymnastics as well as the dances usually put on by the club during the spring and summer, a shortcoming that hurt the club's standing with members who customarily used the gym and people in the community to whom the dances were an important part of the social season.

A basketball team was organized in February of 1906 and several "indoor baseball" (softball) teams later

In the spring. Interest in the former was slight and only one game, a contest with a passing Minnesota college squad, was played, but the latter became, like skating, something of a craze for a time and dozens of games were played in the converted banquet hall and on the skating rink when it was not in use.

There was also some interest in playing water polo in the Hall's heated pool and in the Reno Boat Club organized in March of 1906 by Al Pape, the cyclists' trainer and a former Pacific Coast sculling champion. Believing that the Truckee River would be an ideal site for scull races. He imported three one-man racing sculls and four oar-racing barges from San Francisco and set about organizing teams from the University and the town. It was his intention to eventually enter upon competition with California squads, but all his effort went for nothing in the end. Pape later tried to interest the University's athletic department in the sport, but was unsuccessful.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RENO WHEELMEN'S RICH AND STORIED CYCLING HISTORY BY READING LEGACY BLOG POSTS BY BILL CLINE.**

<https://www.renowheelmen.org/about/>

