



Member Spotlight - Dawn Wilson

Dawn Wilson's first HBC experience, like that of many other members, was on a Tour D'Amico ride. She still has the 2001 TDA jersey. Dawn and her then-fiance [now husband], John Hardy, wanted to start bicycling more regularly and explore the Twin Cities metro area. Back then, Dawn said, HBC was "definitely smaller - very much a core group of people always on rides and leading rides," including "Bob Dean and Wilbur Thomas."

Her favorite ride, early on, was the "Mediterranean Moods" ride on Friday nights. "It was a great way to start the weekend and get over the stress of the week," Dawn said. Then she and John heard about Marcy Kelash's "Moose Country Roll" ride. That ride started and ended at the now-closed Moose Country bar in Lilydale. After the ride, cyclists would socialize at the bar, which proved very popular.

Being a part of HBC, for Dawn, has been "all about sociability - getting to know other riders." She added, "Over the years, we've [Dawn and John] developed a lot of long-lasting friendships from the club."

Eventually, Dawn took on a number of leadership roles, becoming a ride leader and then, in 2018, Ride Leader Chair. She also served as Marketing Chair for several years, collaborating with Marcy Kelash, Danette Vassilopoulos, and others. They developed new marketing strategies that included HBC business cards, brochures, and new club banners, along with "repping" HBC at bicycling expos and events with HBC water bottles, socks, and membership information.

Career-wise, Dawn knew from a young age, growing up in Wabasha, MN, that she wanted to be a nurse. She studied nursing as an undergrad at Winona State and earned her Masters in Nursing at the U. of M. As a nurse, she valued the opportunity to "care for patients and help

them come to grips with life changes.” She also enjoyed teaching new nurses what they needed to know to provide the best patient care. After spending most of her nursing career at the Minneapolis VA hospital, Dawn retired in 2008.

Dawn and John have taken part in organized bike trips since they first met on an Adventure Cycling trip in Vermont. They have biked in Nova Scotia, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Normandy, Provence, and taken two cross-country USA trips. The first, in 2010, was a Transamerica trip with Adventure Cycling, where they took turns doing the cooking and related chores for 14 people. After that, said Dawn, “no more cooking.” Their next cross-USA trip, in 2013, was via a southern route, with Bubba’s Pampered Pedalers. Dawn and John have also joined other HBC members on European trips, including a bike trip to Provence and two bike and barge trips. Their most recent trip was this Spring - an inaugural Natchez Trace bike trip with Bubba’s Pampered Pedalers.

When not cycling, Dawn enjoys woodcarving with John. Another recent project has been learning German. Since Dawn and John go often to visit her nephew’s family in Berlin, they have been studying German at the Germanic-American Institute on Summit Avenue. Dawn believes that when visiting her German family, “it’s important to speak *their* language.”



Dawn’s recent woodworking projects