



Edmonton Bicycle & Touring Club

## November 10, 2020 - Newsletter

### Some More 2020 Riding Memories

#### Self-Supported - Just Do It

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*Danielle Cycling to Canmore, Photo by Wayne Grover*

Although sanctioned EBTC events were cancelled, many members still did COVID-safe rides. Each newsletter, we will bring you one such ride or adventure. If you have a local Edmonton/Central Alberta ride you would like featured, reach out to the Newsletter Coordinator through our contact page: [Bikeclub.ca/contact/](https://bikeclub.ca/contact/).

*This ride is from our Social Media Coordinator, Danielle.*

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Just do it! Sometimes it's the only way to live life. When I was asked if I was interested in cycling from Edmonton to Canmore, self supported in six days with Bob Fletcher, I hesitated for a day, then jumped right in. Now you need to know that I do not have a touring bike and had no idea what exactly I would need. With one week to get ready, I scrounged up what I needed and hoped my hybrid would be kind to me. On June 22, five of us took off from Edmonton.

Day 1 had us cycling to Pigeon Lake. A short ride but mechanical issues delayed us. We still managed on, 68km and 356m of elevation gain. Happy to make it to Pigeon Lake, we had to figure out how to get Bob another bike, there was no fixing his. By bed time, a new bike was delivered and we were set to take off the next day.



*Self-supported means Self-fix sometimes, Photo by Author.*

Our next destination was Rimbey. It was hot and we rode 600m of elevation in the first 40km. With no more bike issues, we completed 92km that day. My beginner hybrid did not let me down, though it did not like going downhill loaded up the way it was lol. Still, all of us were in our happy place.

Bob had all the hotels booked ahead of time and the roads mapped out. All we had to do was pedal. We stopped in Rocky Mountain House next (79km) and counted ourselves lucky that we only had to ride 30 minutes in the rain. We dried up that night and made to Sundre (80km) on day 4. Evenings were spent finding food for the next day, fixing our bikes, locating an open restaurant with an outdoor patio (it was still early COVID time), and relaxing with a drink!

Day 5 was the day with the most elevation. Another 80km but this time with 700m of elevation, and a flat tire for Sandy. Not to worry, she can fix her own flat so the rest of us enjoyed a well deserved break, admiring the mountains as we were approaching Cochrane.

My last day of riding was so beautiful. There's nothing like being in the mountains. Made it to Canmore before the storm hit and dumped a few inches of hail! After 475km and 3000m of elevation, my first self supported touring trip was done. Rachel, Bob, and John would ride back to Edmonton, but that was it for me and Sandy.

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## Looking Forward - Glimpsing Back

*The EBTC board is taking the COVID-hiatus as an opportunity to chart the club's future. This work is expected for the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Taking a moment to look back the following is condensed from an original article published in 2003 by Victor Dorian for the club's 25th anniversary. Somethings have changed (low tech bikes) while many things have not (cycling, wine and inventiveness).*

### **EBTC 25 YEARS Old 1978- 2003!**

In 1977, when bicycling was the realm of kids and racers, Maurice Rousseau, a native of Shawinigan, Quebec, came to Edmonton. He had two goals: explore

bicycling opportunities and meet women. Both were achieved by organizing a bike club in 1978.

From the very beginning, the focus was on touring with trips to Devon, Elk Island, Miquelon Lake and the Red Barn (with country dancing!). EBTC has always been more than cycling with a diversity of activities. Some are familiar: hiking, social-activities and cross-country skiing. Others more diverse: skating, parachute jumping, sewing lessons (Lycra tights!), movie and opera nights wine tasting (*editors note, somethings never change*). Those early members rode loaded, low-tech bikes without granny gears, helmets, bike shoes, bicycle computers or cell phones.

One thing that has not changed over the years is the devotion and inventiveness of EBTC members, and their efforts to welcome and help out new people. We look forward to another 25 years of EBTC camaraderie and events!



*Rest Stop in Looma, circa early-1980's. Photo by Maurice Rousseau  
Note the lack of helmets, high-tech bikes or Lycra in the picture.*

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## RideWithGPS Maps

Many EBTC ride leaders and members use RideWithGPS to map and share their cycling routes. To access the club's RideWithGPS membership and maps, go to: <http://bikeclub.ca/ridewithgps-com>

Visit our website

