



The Ride of a Lifetime
Jessica Pettitt

This weekend, I worked up a sweat, met some great people, accomplished a personal goal, and enjoyed great weather – what did you do?

The Picacho Century served as the backdrop of my great Sunday. I didn't ride a hundred miles, and yet I am still participating in this great event. I encourage you to do the same.

I volunteered at a SAG stop. SAG, Support and Gear, volunteers set up tables, chairs, parking and repair areas, first aid supplies, hydration stations, and FOOD! I was in the company of several seasoned volunteers, some of who ride and then the cyclists came rolling in to the gas station. In all of the volunteer work I have ever done, which is a lot, I don't think I have had this good of a time. The weather was great, we provided lots of snacks, sandwiches, and encouragement, and I got a workout during set up and breakdown.

What made this experience so great, was the sense of community amongst the cyclists, the many many words of gratitude and appreciation for something simple, like a banana half or a well timed joke and smile. I watched cyclers care for and encourage others, laugh, enjoy the ride, and their sense of accomplishment.

I joined GABA to be supporting to my husband who is a self-identified "TRI-Geek," "Bike Clown," "and Harley driver. I wanted to learn about the world of cycling including the language, costume, community, etc. When thinking about where GABA will be in 25 years, I see riders smiling, supporting one another, sharing the peanut butter knife, wearing bright colors from around the world and taking things one ride at a time.

Thank you for a great volunteer experience. I will see you just around the corner at the next SAG.

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