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**Date:** April 11, 2000 07:24 PM

**Author:** Ethan Gelber ([ethang@gorp.com](mailto:ethang@gorp.com))

**Subject:** The RadioShack Big Ride Across America

Trips of epic proportions have long figured high on must-do wish lists. How about a bike trip around the world? Or, for the less ambitious but no-less-driven, how about a bike trip across America? These are undertakings that require time (for preparation and execution), organization, and a little bit of money. Thus, for years and years, they were individual endeavors.

Then, somewhere along the way, someone combined big dreams with a big heart and the bike-a-thon was born. They made two things possible: they brought the institutional strength of organization to bear in realizing big dreams, and they funneled money otherwise spent on organizing private trips into the pockets of cash-poor nonprofits. Want to bike across America? Well, why not do it in the name of something like the American Lung Association, seek out sponsors who believe in the cause, and let the national representation of the organization take care of local support for you every step - or should I say pedal - of the way? The very well-known AIDS rides use the same principle to great and commendable effect.

GORP.com is preparing to pedal 3,250 miles from Seattle, Washington, to Washington, DC, as part of the [RadioShack Big Ride Across America](#) benefiting the American Lung Association, and to work with them and the American Lung Association to bring news of the riders' progress to the general public. We firmly believe in the value of getting out and experiencing the thrill of adventure, but we will also work to help those for whom experiencing an adventure is the experience of staying alive.

What are your feelings about bike-a-thons? Do you think that GORP's choice to play a role in this life-changing (and perhaps lifesaving) ride is worth the effort? Would you be willing to help GORP raise money and send a GORP team on the ride? Would you have the time and energy to be part of such a ride? Is this a trick question? (Maybe!) Now's your chance to speak up and, maybe, put your money where your mouth is . . . and maybe even your foot where the pedal is.

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**Date:** April 23, 2000 05:38 AM  
**Author:** Bec. ([Becky.Lee.98@nd.edu](mailto:Becky.Lee.98@nd.edu))  
**Subject:** bikeathons & work

I think bikeathons are a great way for an organization to raise money & get publicity, but I've always wondered how people are able to take the time off work to bike a long bikeathon. If Big Bike Across America is 48 days, how does a person get the vacation time?

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**Date:** April 12, 2000 09:19 PM  
**Author:** Sean Smith ([ssmith@webb-institute.edu](mailto:ssmith@webb-institute.edu))  
**Subject:** Bike-a-thons are great, but not for everyone

Bike-a-thons are fun way to raise money for worthy organizations and the easy way to do long bike tours. The atmosphere that accompanies the riders is worth the trip alone. However participating in bike-a-thons, especially large ones such as the Big Ride, means that riders necessarily miss things that they would not have had they ben biking alone or with a small group.

I have ridden in both lage, organized tours and solo, self-supported tours. Personally I prefer to ride alone rather than with the large groups. I will say that it is certainly cheaper to go tour with the large groups and self-supported tours have a much larger degree of risk.

I support the bike-a-thons such as the Big Ride, just tell me where they will be so that I can avoid their route.

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**Date:** April 16, 2000 12:03 PM

**Author:** soffride@aol.com  
**Subject:** ride across the states

I think its a great idea. Only wish I had known about it a little more in advance , as the required money is a little steep on short notice, I'm a ultra distance rider thats not the fuss, its the cash flow.. or lack of!!!! I will be keeping my eyes open for next year .

Darrell Bernier

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**Date:** April 17, 2000 10:45 PM  
**Author:** Laurel Wassner ([ellew44@aol.com](mailto:ellew44@aol.com))  
**Subject:** more info on ride

Ethan- I'm interested in the ride across america for the lung association. Sounds like a terrific experience. Is gorp sponsoring a team? Are you looking for participants/sponsors? Can you give me some more specifics? Thank you, Laurel Wassner

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**Date:** April 26, 2000 03:10 PM  
**Author:** Eric Andersen ([coasttocoast99@usa.net](mailto:coasttocoast99@usa.net))  
**Subject:** Bike-a-thons

Bike-a-thons can be great and they can be horrible. Every year in New York City we have the Bike New York. It allows us to see parts of the city we would never see from the perspective of a biker. It takes us across forbidden bridges and down freeways. It's also the most dangerous ride I've very been on. Different levels of riders make the going hazardous. Racing teams drafting each other slalom between slower riders. Joggers in Central Park refuse to yield. There are many accidents sometimes resulting in fist fights.

I prefer the serenity of the open road. No crowds. No hassles. Just me and the ride.

<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/YosemiteDr/ekahob/index.htm>

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**Date:** April 28, 2000 03:02 AM  
**Author:** Sue ([sgalatz@yahoo.com](mailto:sgalatz@yahoo.com))  
**Subject:** ALA Big Ride -- do it!!!!

I did the Big Ride in 1998 and highly recommend it to anyone who is considering such an adventure.

Without sounding trite, it was a MONUMENTAL experience that goes beyond pedaling across the country. (if you want specifics -- sent email -- would love to share my perspective)

Everyday was an adventure -- physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. Your day has the simple goal: get from point A to point B. There were days where all you wanted to do was to be done. But there were also many days that you never wanted to end. It's a great opportunity to experience something "epic" (in some form or fashion) for yourself, with other folks, and while helping a great organization -- the ALA.

And, hey, you get to be outside, ride your bike, and eat guilt free! Who can argue with that?!

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**Date:** April 29, 2000 07:12 PM

**Author:** Dave ([trailbos@bresnanlink.net](mailto:trailbos@bresnanlink.net))

**Subject:** not easy asking for pledges

I would like to participate in such rides, but I will not ask friends and neighbors for pledges so that I can go on a bike ride. It just doesn't seem right. I would like to see these rides also offer a "fee" of sorts for those of us who do not want to collect pledges. Also, I don't like giving pledges, and don't like being asked for them by other cyclists. If I have money to spend on cycling, I'll spend it on rides that I'm participating in, not on someone else's adventure. I think non-profit organizations could get more people involved if they found a way to give cyclists a choice between collecting pledges or paying a straight fee for the ride.

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**Date:** May 03, 2000 04:29 PM

**Author:** Kathy Avilla ([Avillapksa@aol.com](mailto:Avillapksa@aol.com))

**Subject:** TREK TRI-ISLAND (AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION)

We are going on another AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION Ride..A 3 day ride starting from Seattle, Washington. It will be a great challenge for me! Also looking for donations, riders, etc. Please email me with comments...ideas for donations..etc...Thanks, Kathy

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**Date:** May 11, 2000 09:11 PM

**Author:** jeff ([jsambur@ci.fort-collins.co.us](mailto:jsambur@ci.fort-collins.co.us))

**Subject:** if only i'd ...

if only i'd known that gorp was sponsoring a team, i would have shown alot of interest. how about next year? i can pay my way, if gorp fans sponsor some folks. this year is big south 2000, 6 states, 5 weeks 2000 miles.

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**Date:** June 01, 2000 12:28 PM

**Author:** Jerry Goodwin ([jgoodwin17@juno.com](mailto:jgoodwin17@juno.com))

**Subject:** Bike Rides

I would love to ride on a big ride like the BRAG, or the rides you have mentioned. I have put together 2 self supported rides in the past year where I ride solo. I rode 3- 50 mile days in december od 1999 to raise funds for Toys for Tots, and on May 19th of this year I rode a "Century" ride for CFF.

Personally I think they both have a place. I can't afford to ride the big rides because of taking time off work, and the various events. I can afford the self supported rides because I get to choose. I think the big rides are something I would love to participate in if I could.

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