



R I D E  
*beyond* E



# Why



The goal of Ride Beyond is to increase inclusion of women in outdoor activities; specifically bikepacking. Ortlieb GmbH is hosting the first event in Slovenia at the end of June 2018. Ortlieb USA plans to grow this initiative by hosting a ride in the States. The group will be made-up of 10 women with different backgrounds and skill levels. Our initiative is to show that we “Ride Beyond” through all levels of diversity, not just by gender.



# What & When



Event dates are August 22-26, 2018 in Montana

August 22 the riders will rendezvous at the Adventure Cycling Association headquarters at 1pm. We will then all shuttle to the Whitefish Bike Retreat where we'll overnight and prepare for the first day of riding on the 23rd. We'll be celebrating the 20th anniversary of The Great Divide Route by having our ride be 2/3 on The Divide. The complete trip will be 3 days of cycling, covering approximately 50 miles per day, mixed road and gravel, and suitable for a wide range of riding skills. The ride concludes on August 25th where we will camp at the retreat again. August 26th will be a travel day home for everyone.



# Who



## Marley Blonsky

Marley Blonsky is a Seattle based environmental manager, bike advocate and women's ride leader. She's the person behind the With These Thighs stickers, and she refuses to let our image-conscious culture interfere with her love of riding bikes.



## Cricket Butler

Cricket Butler moved to Whitefish 2012 and opened the Whitefish Bike Retreat (WBR) in 2013. She has a long history of cycling and adventuring including long distance hiking and kayaking to mountaineering and knows how to cater to visitors looking for an active vacation. Her love for Montana and passion for cycling shows in what she has created and helps others find their own adventure in beautiful Northwest Montana.

## Faith Briggs



Faith is a self-dubbed “professional nerd,” a Brooklyn to Portland transplant and a documentary film producer passionate about sharing contemporary stories from diverse communities. She believes that artists have a responsibility to provoke the social conscience of a society. It is her desire to create nuanced work exploring themes of global citizenship and representation. After working in everything from extra foamy cappuccinos to after-school digital arts to the Discovery Channel, Faith joined Columbia Sportswear’s “Director of Toughness” campaign in 2016 and that brought her to the Pacific Northwest where she, of course, fell in love with the trails of Forest Park. She now works as a freelance content creator, specifically with The Athletic Community. Her current work includes the short doc series for Columbia Sportswear “The Give Back,” “Our Grass is Greener” a documentary about an agricultural youth radio competition in Somanya, Eastern Region, Ghana and “Going Tribal” a documentary about Native American Cultural Appropriation in Fashion. She is a graduate of Yale University and the New York University Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute.

## Aly Nicklas (Photographer)



Aly is an adventure photographer and filmmaker based out of Portland, OR. A rowdy Alaskan upbringing left her with a deep love for wild places and wild people—those are the stories she’s most interested in telling. Her projects cover topics from social activism to good old-fashioned adventure. In addition to running Ursa Major, a multi-media production house, she co-founded the Born Wild Project in 2015 with Alisa Geiser with the goal of inspiring families to get outside.



## Laura Crawford

Laura Crawford is the U.S. Bicycle Route System Coordinator for Adventure Cycling, a role she took on in 2017 after eight years of working in bike tourism. Laura and her partner Russ founded The Path Less Pedaled in 2009, after a fateful decision to sell everything and travel by bike. The subsequent three years on the road taught them about the kindness of strangers and the ways in which cycling can positively impact small and rural communities - and set them on a course to inspire individuals and small towns to embrace bicycle travel. A native Oregonian, Laura loves riding gravel roads through wide-open country and fly-fishing small rivers.



## LeeAnn O'Neill

LeeAnn O'Neill is a recovering attorney who quit her corporate job to wander across Mexico on two wheels in early 2013. Since then, she has settled down in Bend, Oregon and has continued to explore a mix of remote dirt and paved roads in Ecuador, Canada, and the Pacific NW. LeeAnn's passion is to inspire women to embark on multi-day bike tours in Central Oregon by providing women-specific workshops and presentations introducing women to bike touring and bikepacking and leading informal beginner friendly bike tours. She founded and manages a Central Oregon Adventure Cycling group, frequently contributes to Adventure Cycling Association's Bike Overnights, and sits on the board of directors of Bend Bikes, a grassroots non-profit that advocates for better bike commuting infrastructure. When not on one of her many bikes, LeeAnn can be found practicing capoeira, playing acroyoga, teaching salsa, engaging in access to justice projects at her day job at the local courthouse, and facilitating social justice trainings as a certified equity trainer. Her cycling adventures can be found at <http://kungfubykride.blogspot.com>.

# Katie Sox (Videographer)



Hey! My name is Katie Sox and I love to ride bikes. I love getting other people, especially women, jazzed on riding bikes. A photographer from Bend, Oregon, I am passionate about my work as a visual creative in the bicycle community. My passion for cycling came through learning to mountain bike on the North Umpqua Trail. I had asthma attacks and a heavy case of self-doubt which often lead to trail side panic attacks. Although my first years of MTB were often trying, I never finished a ride without a smile. I realized that there is simply no room for all the negative chatter in my head while riding techy terrain on a 12 inch wide trail with a 100 ft cliff drop into a raging river. I realized that I couldn't hate myself and get up a steep hill simultaneously. Biking became my medicine. I realized I couldn't both hate myself and be successful in any realm of my life. I had a remedy to my madness and it made me stronger physically, too. I, like a lot of girls, had the idea that I'm not "good" at having girlfriends. Untrue. I simply hadn't met girls who liked to play outside and be dirty. Turns out, there are a lot of us; most of us just don't know it yet. That's my mission. Get women on bikes. I don't care if it's a ride to coffee or 100 miles of single track, just go ride. It'll make you happy. It'll make you confident in yourself - you have to be or you'll crash. True in life, too. Look where you want to go and keep the wheels rolling. You have to say "Yes, I can."

# Machiko Threlkeld



I love being outdoors ever since I was little, thanks to my parents who always took me out, but not in the hardcore backpacking or cycling way. Simply, we were out all the time in the jungles of Tokyo where I was born and grew up. In 2011, I decided to live my life more actively, so I picked up running (though it was more like a fast walk than run then) and bike commuting. I joined Cascade Bicycle Club group rides to learn more about bicycling, trails/roads, etc. I became a ride leader in 2013 and have been paying back to the community what I got from Cascade since. I am a commuter/recreational cyclist and joined many road events (not races). I learned about bikepacking early last spring and that's what I decided to spend my time on this year. I still enjoy road riding with my friends and lead training rides, but I also go out in the backcountry and enjoy a whole different pace/scenery with very close friends (who are crazy enough to get lost with me!). My ultimate goal/hope is to pass on the passion to the next generation of kids. It can be commuting, recreational, or riding around just because Luckily, my only son got this bug, so we enjoy gravel riding together. And he and I succeeded in getting his girlfriend (and her friend, too!) to ride short distances with us! :-). I personally have a great circle of co-ed friends to ride with, but I know there are women out there who can be more comfortable in female only set-up. I have done enough She Bikes rides through Cascade to know that it has a huge benefit to some. If my riding inspires more females to get into cycling, I would be honored!

## Hillary Washburn (Event Coordinator)



Hillary works at Ortlieb USA in sales and customer service. She started cycling while attending university in Utah. Near the end of her degree she started working as an intern at a bike shop. She pretty much never left the industry, except for a small moment to work in the tech industry. While working at a shop in Issaquah, WA she met the folks at Ortlieb. She started out as a roadie, but now focuses on mountain, touring, and gravel. Hillary graduated with a degree in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation. It was during that time that she really gained an appreciation for public lands, range lands, and how we interact with the natural world around us. The more we can get people out to appreciate and explore the outdoors, the more people will learn to respect, protect, and conserve the land. Getting this group of women out to respectfully enjoy some remote areas along The Divide, will help to inspire others to do the same wherever they are.

## Laurie Chipps (Route Planner)



After working in libraries and museums in and around Chicago for sixteen years, Laurie was ready for a change. Not sure what the next step was, she decided to get rid of a majority of her belongings and bicycle across the country along the TransAmerica Trail during the summer of 2015. After passing through 12 states, she decided to return to Montana and settle in the mountains of Missoula. Since starting at Adventure Cycling two years ago, she's worked on temporary projects in the Routes & Mapping, Sales, and Membership departments but will be starting a permanent position this summer planning organized tours. She's happiest when riding her bicycle and camping in the woods and believes that the bicycle is a powerful tool that can change lives and communities alike.

# Partner and Sponsors



Partner



**Adventure Cycling Association**

Product Sponsors

**EXPED**  
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT

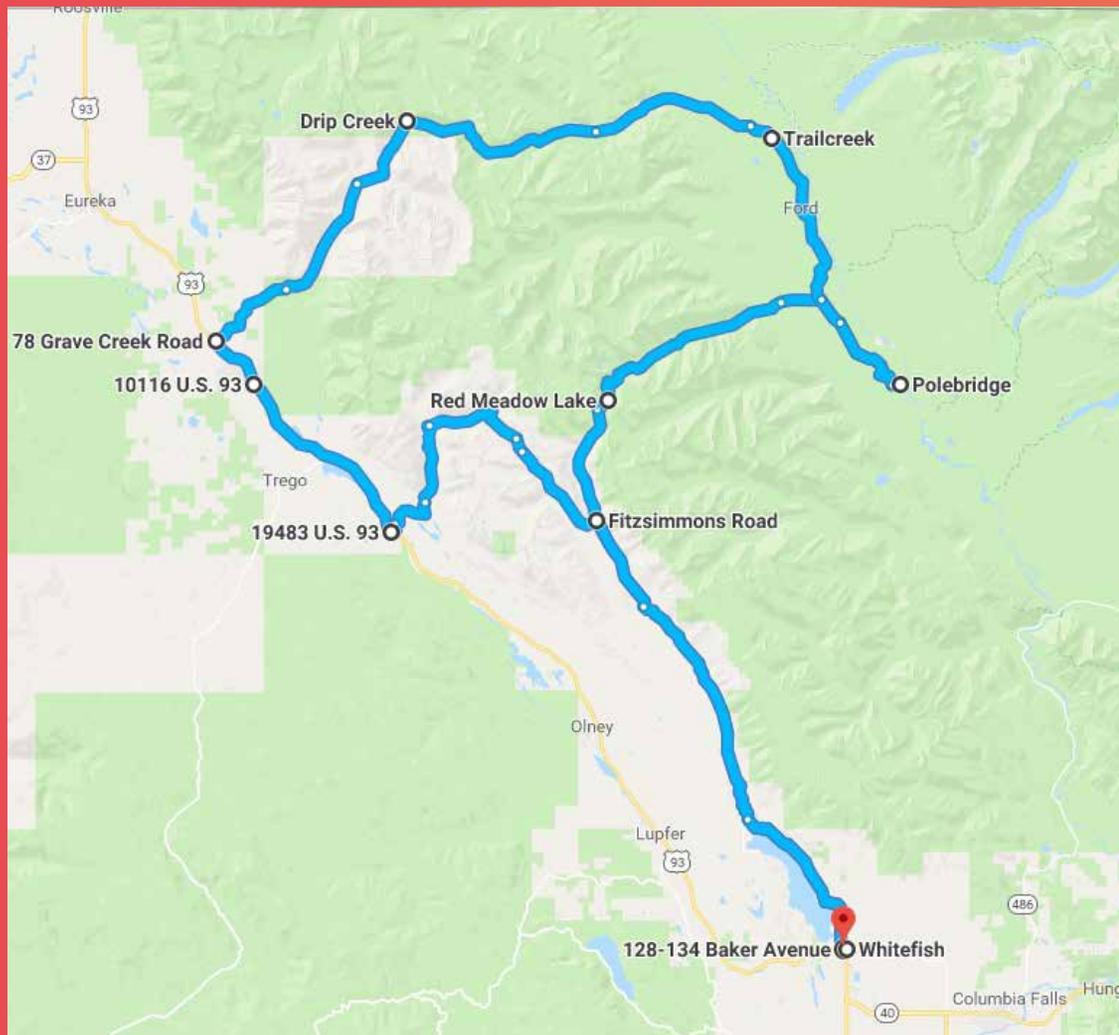
**MASI**  
B I C Y C L E S



**7MESH**  
CYCLING APPAREL

**skratch** LABS

# Where



We will start at The Whitefish Bike Retreat and ride the route clockwise.

Night before ride (Aug 22): Whitefish Bike Retreat (camp)

Day 1: GRAVEL OPTION: 56.4 miles, +3694ft  
\*ROAD OPTION: 42.9 miles, +1503 ft  
(we are thinking we will do the road option as a warm-up day)

Night 1: Grave Creek area (dinner at brewery)

Day 2: 44.4 miles, +3061 ft, -2562 ft

Night 2: Polebridge-North Fork Hostel (group meal at hostel kitchen)

Day 3: 46.5 miles, +3200 ft, -3456 ft

Night 3: Whitefish Bike Retreat (camp + BBQ)