

# Nick Rider

**W**e first met Nick Rider, newly arrived in NYC, at the crack of dawn for the 2006 Tour de Brooklyn. He's been with us ever since, always for those red-eyed early morning shifts on our major bike tours.

**Age:** 29

**Occupation:** Quality Assurance Manager for a video game developer

**Where do you live and work?** I live in Williamsburg and work in the Flatiron District.

**Where did you grow up?** Portland, Oregon

**What brought you to NYC?** I'd lived in the same town for 26 years and wanted to know what life was like in other parts of the country. I had only planned on staying in NYC for a year but couldn't bring myself to leave when the year was up ...and still haven't after two and a half years.

**How does biking in NYC stack up to Portland?** I miss the proximity to relaxing country roads in Portland, but I'm finding new paths and escapes from the city here that help with that. Drivers in NYC are far more aggressive than in Portland, as well, but I've adapted to it and don't let it stress me too much anymore. I probably wouldn't enjoy cycling here much if I didn't have patience.

**When did you first come into the T.A. volunteer fold?** As I was preparing to move to NYC in 2006, I came across a posting from Clarence Eckerson (Bike TV) about the upcoming Tour de Brooklyn. He raved about the previous year's event, suggesting that people make a summer vacation out of attending and volunteering for it. I signed up thinking



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that it would be a great way to get involved in the cycling community and meet new people. It was exactly one week after I arrived in NYC and was such a great experience. I even found a job through another volunteer at the event!

**TakeAction!**

Connect with T.A.'s volunteer network at our monthly mailing parties, now scheduled at our office at 6pm on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. For details, email [volunteer@transalt.org](mailto:volunteer@transalt.org)

**What kinds of volunteer activities have you done with T.A.?** 3 Tour de Brooklyn's, 3 NYC Century Bike Tours, Breakfast on the Bridge (Bike to Work Day), Tour de Queens, Tour de Bronx and Mailing Parties

**What has been the best moment in your years volunteering?** While assisting along the route of the NYC Century in '07, a cyclist stopped, asked for my name, and then led a group of thirty or so other riders in three boisterous cheers of "Hip, Hip, Hooray!" in my honor.

**Do you moonlight with any other volunteer organizations?** I volunteer for several projects through New York Cares.

**What are some issues that concern you as a bicyclist/pedestrian?** Having a secure place to lock my bicycle in the city, disrespectful cyclists giving the rest of us a bad rep and the aggressiveness with which many motorists treat pedestrians and cyclists.

**What sorts of projects would you like to see T.A. pursue that you would be interested in working on?** What *isn't* T.A. already pursuing?!

**Thoughts on T.A. as an organization:** Amazing. I'd hate to imagine what the pedestrian and cycling infrastructure would look like without T.A.'s existence.

**Why do you have a stripe shaved in the hair of your forearm? It's the subject of much intra-office conjecture.** It's non-committal body art. I can't imagine being happy with any permanent decorations on my body later in life, so this satisfies that creative desire and it will grow back if and when I get tired of it. ☐

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