

Marina Bekkerman

MARINA'S TENURE AS A T.A. volunteer goes back nearly two decades, and people like her have kept T.A.'s institutional memory alive year after year. At no time is this experience more valuable than on the annual NYC Century Bike Tour, where riding marshals like Marina watch over our 6,000 riders exploring New York City's streets.

Occupation: Freelance Art Director and Graphic Designer

Age: 46, but don't tell anybody.

What neighborhood do you live in? What neighborhood do you work in? I live in beautiful Park Slope, Brooklyn, and mostly work from home.

Why did you start volunteering with T.A.? I learned to ride a bicycle at 27, which was a life-changing experience for me. This newly found freedom and fun, coupled with the frustration and dangers of riding in the city, led me to join and volunteer for T.A.

What kinds of volunteer activities have you done with T.A.? Many, many years ago, I designed *City Cyclist*, which was the name of T.A.'s magazine at that time. I've also done tabling, mailing parties, valet bike parking, bike commuter breakfasts and marshaling at NYC Century and Tour de Brooklyn.

What was your best experience volunteering? I have the fondest memories of late-night editorial meetings and preparing mechanicals for *City Cyclist* with a great group of other dedicated volunteers and staff, including Jon Orcutt, Charlie Komanoff, Dave Perry and Zoe Waldron. I also really enjoy meeting other cyclists while tabling or parking bikes.

What upcoming projects are you working on? I just finished working on a project that I'm excited about. I helped the Park Slope Food Coop institute a Shop 'n Cycle Committee, which will work on promoting bicycling to the Food Coop and instituting a valet bike parking program on site. Also, recently, I was very happy to be involved as an Art Director in the Kheel Report, which advocated free public transportation subsidized by congestion pricing.

Do you volunteer for other bike organizations besides T.A.? Yes, I lead rides and help with special events for Five Borough Bicycle Club and New York Cycle Club. I designed the logo and jersey for this year's Montauk Century.

What sort of projects would you like to see T.A. pursue that you would be interested in working on? I would like to see T.A. expand the valet parking to more cultural events. For example, toward the end of last year's season, the Celebrate Brooklyn festival disallowed bicycles inside the fence. This, after 29 years of not having any bicycle rules at all. But I was very glad to see T.A. step in and organize valet bike parking at the season finale. I'd love to work on having valet bike parking at all their events this season.

Share some thoughts about working with other T.A. volunteers and staffers: Bicyclists are a fun and dedicated bunch!



JONATHAN BARKLEY

TakeAction!

T.A. needs hundreds of riding marshals, rest stop staff and registration volunteers to make the NYC Century Bike Tour a success on Sunday, September 7th. Sign-up to help at NYCCentury.org/volunteer.

What are some issues that concern you as a bicyclist/pedestrian in NYC? I'm very happy to see more bike lanes popping up in the city on what seems like a daily basis. But bike lanes need to be supported by both driver education and police enforcement. As every cyclist knows, cars parked in bike lanes are all too common. Just yesterday, I was forced to go around a police car parked in the Bergen Street bike lane.

Thoughts on T.A. as an organization? I'm excited to watch T.A. grow and evolve in the current climate of a more bicycle-friendly NYC DOT. □

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