Debbie Allmon
Rider Engagement Peloton
This will be my fourth California coast classic. My first year was a reality check this isn’t just about the bike ride. The stories of sacrifice and commitment of the riders is inspiring and are as heart pounding as the hills we climb. Sitting down at breakfast to hear a father tell his “why” of being on the ride (in spite of two knee replacements six months before) changes one forever. Each of my previous rides were different, but they have all helped me discover some profound knowledge of self and has helped me to focus my time to what feeds my soul. To be able to serve these riders and cause is an honor.

Kyle Berg
Leadership Committee
Kyle Berg is a 9 year tour rider. Riding for the Arthritis Foundation gives his passion for cycling real purpose. Kyle is the author of our famously footnoted Packing List and this year finally released his Top Fundraiser Handbook! He’s happy to share his CCC experiences with any interested rider.

Theresa Brees
Mission Peloton
My 18-year-old, Mia, was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis when she was 6. In 2012 Mia was asked to be an honoree for the California Coast Classic. Between that and the 2-day option, I HAD to give the CCC a try. My sister, Cathy, talked me into it and joined me, Team Sluggy was born (Mia’s nickname). I was hooked!

I also have a 16-year-old with life threatening food allergies and eosinophilic esophagitis (EE). It’s difficult juggling two with different medical issues.

I am a Psychiatric Social Worker and work with pregnant woman who may be at risk for substance use during pregnancy. Between Covid-19 and being displaced from the CZU fire for 10 months, I took a break from being a Volunteer Visitor with Santa Cruz Hospice. I plan to return after the CCC on October 1.

Together, we are Champions of Yes.
Dave Buttner
Logistics Peloton

I’m a 12-year California Coast Classic vet and an avid supporter of the Arthritis Foundation cause.

Katy Carter
Mission Peloton

Katy Carter lives in the Los Angeles area with her husband, Richard, and two daughters, Bridget (age 20) and Rhiannon (age 18). At 2 years old, Rhiannon was diagnosed with Oligoarticular JIA. Katy has been actively involved with the Arthritis Foundation for many years, including chair of 2017 JA Conferences, chair of the Los Angeles Walk to Cure Arthritis, and is on the Arthritis Foundation local leadership board. The Carters have enjoyed advocating for the rights and needs of people with arthritis in both Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Tim Clepper
Logistics Peloton / Leadership Committee

This will be my 20th year participating in the California Coast Classic. What a great ride and great group of people. In addition to being a rider, I have been very fortunate to be on the inside of this event on the Leadership Council and several planning committees. I have witnessed the incredible effort and dedication required to make it such a rewarding experience year after year. My goal is to ensure the event endures until a cure for Arthritis is found and to continually improve the experience in every way possible. I ride in honor of my mother, my sister and those that I have met over the years with different types and severity of Arthritis. I can’t wait to sign up for next year. The ride gives back to me as well. It gives me an incentive to stay active and as healthy as possible. It’s a great feeling to know that in some small way I have helped to make someone else’s life a bit more tolerable and maybe more.

Together, we are Champions of Yes.
Dennis Ehling

Rider Engagement Mission Chair / Leadership Committee Chair

Dennis Ehling is the Chair of the CCC Leadership Committee and a member of the National Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation. This is Dennis’ 16th CCC, which he shares every year with his lovely wife, Peggy. Dennis’ #1 Goal is for everyone to recognize and experience the CCC as the greatest event the Arthritis Foundation runs every year ... and to have a waiting list to join the CCC next year! When not volunteering with the Arthritis Foundation, Dennis’ enjoys his “day job” as a partner with the law firm Blank Rome LLP, specializing in all aspects of practice in service to the gaming industry, and cheers Notre Dame!

Pictured with Peggy Ehling - CCC 14-Year CCC Vet and Arthritis Foundation Los Angeles Local Leadership Board Chair.

Cherie Fitzpatrick

Rider Engagement Peloton

Cherie Fitzpatrick from Canyon Lake, California. Member of Team San Diego. CCC 6-year Veteran. Married 31 years to Jay Fitzpatrick and has two sons, Kevin 28 and Ryan 26. Works in Education. Other hobbies include snow skiing; snow skiing; hiking; kayaking; power boarding and mountain biking. Born and raised in California. Average miles per year on my bike 3000.

Darren Gonser

Rider Engagement Peloton Chair / Leadership Committee

Hi, my name is Darren Gonser. I am a 21-year veteran rider and member of the Leadership Council for the CCC. The first year I rode it as a bucket list ride and had no idea how the CCC would change my life. I’m here for the mission, here for the people, here for the Arthritis Foundation, and here till we find a cure.

Together, we are Champions of Yes.
Mary Gonser
Logistics Peloton

2021 will mark my 14th year being a part of the Arthritis Foundation’s California Coast Classic and my 1st year being retired! I had the honor of being a 1st Year Rider in 2019 and also rode the 2020 RR X CCC. This year I have returned as a volunteer to support our riders with all my enthusiasm and can you help me say... "MORE COWBELL!"

I look forward to reuniting with my CCC ‘family’ and meeting the new riders, as well as working with all of this year’s volunteers and AF staff. You will find me helping at the rest stops, making a few PB&J sandwich here and there, but mostly cheering our riders and giving them that extra support they may need to make it to the end of the day.

Be as a rider or a volunteer, I will continue supporting the Arthritis Foundation until a cure can found.

Maelle Grenier
Rider Engagement Peloton

Maelle Grenier is from Houston, TX and graduated from the University of British Columbia, where she studied Psychology. She loves traveling, hockey and her dog, Domino! This Public Relations gal grew her love of philanthropy in college and loves making a positive impact on her community. She volunteers for the Arthritis Foundation in both Houston, TX and Los Angeles, CA. This will be her second RR x CCC!

Erika Halseth
Rider Engagement Peloton

Erika is an 8-year CCC vet and 1st time captain for Team Amgen. She has worked with Amgen, serving patients, for 11 years, in various organizations including Inflammation Marketing, Medical Information, and U.S. Value and Access.

Prior to joining Amgen, she held various roles as an executive assistant and as a group fitness instructor. Erika studied graphic communications at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She is proud of her Spanish heritage and speaks Spanish fluently. She enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, and home interior design, décor, and organization. Aside from cycling, Erika also enjoys other sporting activities such as playing soccer, throwing darts, bowling, and watching Dodgers baseball and Kings hockey.

Erika is married to Rob Kuntz (former Team Amgen captain) and is extremely proud of her three (3) children: Andrew (25), U.S. Air Force, Emma (21), studying to be a music teacher, and Ethan (18), working in the California Conservation Corps fire unit (i.e. the other CCC).

Together, we are Champions of Yes.
Tom Harvey
Logistics Peloton

Hello, my name is Tom Harvey. I’ve been on this earth in So. Cal for 66.25 earth revolutions around the sun. I have been a joyful cyclist for most of those revolutions. In 2004 I received a flyer about this ride and because it was a “bucket list” route, I signed up. I knew no one and nothing about the Foundation nor its mission and went “on my own” and had an incredible time on the ride - I was hooked. Since then, I have done the ride 8 more times and this is my third year to volunteer as a support staff team member.

My career background is as varied as the colors of a fall change. I am a father, I have played music with several instruments and just recently picked up my ninth instrument - can you guess what it might be? I live with two cats in Burbank, CA and have been employed with the City of Los Angeles for the past 21 years.

Kendra Laguilles
Mission Peloton

I have been involved with the Arthritis Foundation for almost 15 years! I first learned of CCC in 2017 when I was asked to be an honoree for one of the stops. Since then, I have slowly become more involved and am thrilled to be taking on more responsibilities as a Mission Peloton member. I love the CCC and can’t wait to ride one day!

Rachel Mershon
Mission Peloton

At 13, I was diagnosed with arthritis after countless doctor visits, unbearable pain from daily activities and being told “that’s just the way God made you.” My journey with the Arthritis Foundation began immediately after I was diagnosed. I participated in the Walk to Cure Arthritis each year, advocacy training in Washington D.C. and Sacramento and other miscellaneous fundraising events.

In college, I intended continuing to fundraise and be involved within the Foundation. However, I didn’t realize my involvement would become intertwined with my school curricular activities. As an active member of AOII, I was able to help coordinate the Walk to Cure Arthritis in San Luis Obispo for two years. I became a peer mentor, a speaker and volunteer at the California Coast Classic Bike Tour, and our campuses Connect on Campus coordinator.

I was an Arthritis Champions Scholarship recipient and graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Applied Nutrition in 2020. I am currently a Registered Dietitian.

Together, we are Champions of Yes.
Robert Pendley

Mission Peloton

My name is Robert Pendley. I am a retired Ironworker - Local 433. I am 58 years old and this will be my eighth tour down the coast of California. I am married to the love of my life Anneli Pendley and I have two kids, Zachary Pendley and Kendal Pendley. Next year I’ll be a grandfather and am looking forward to it. Both my kids are married and are teachers like their Mom. So glad they didn’t take after me.

The first year I did the CCC was in 2014, a year after my heart attack and two stents. I also have arthritis and take medication every day for it. In 2019 I volunteered because I could not ride due to that I had more heart issues. This year I’m not riding but volunteering. I want to make this ride the best ride ever as this is important to me. The California Coast Classic is like family - I wouldn’t miss it.

Richard Reyes

Logistics Peloton

This will be my 9th CCC in a row. I did the first ride because I saw an advertisement in a magazine and thought it would be a good ride. I’ve come back every year since because it’s an awesome cause and I’ve met some great people that I’m happy to call great friends now. I look forward to the CCC like an annual family reunion.

Pete Staylor

Logistics Peloton

I was born a poor ... wait, that’s not what Shannon wanted... Simply put, I am a long time participant as I started back in 2002 after receiving the first of my 42 Synvisc shots in my arthritic knees that allowed me to get active once again after the Arthritis diagnosis that had sidelined me for over 10 years. Dr Greg Heinen told me after he injected my knees that I could swim or ride a bike. The rest is history or lore as my story has been published in multiple magazines including The Costco Connection, Arthritis Today, Inland Empire Magazine and Adventure Cyclist. I say that Doc saved my life by allowing me to get active. Because of my arthritis, I had both of my knees surgically replaced back in 2014 and while the surgery was not perfect, I can still ride. I ride an electric assist bike that allows me to keep up with everyone... and then some. This will be my 18th time participating in the CCC. 9 times as a rider and 9 times as a full time volunteer. The best part about this year will be that Doc Heinen has decided after all these years he would join me and ride down the coast with our group. I am excited that we finally get to “get out there” and look forward to seeing everyone’s smiling faces - even if there smiling under a mask!

Together, we are Champions of Yes.
Gavin Keith Hough

Just an English dude who is truly going to miss being with his extended family!

Hey everyone! Hope you are all well after this super challenging 18 months. I first became involved in the CCC back in 2015 as an rider from overseas (Wigan - Manchester, England). It was suppose to be a once in a lifetime wanderlust adventure, which has turned in to something that I want to be a part of forever!

2017 took on a couple of new roles for me. Firstly it was a year that I volunteered and was Co Rest Stop Manager for the week. An amazing week with great insight to experience just what it takes to put on such a huge event. Secondly I was given the honor of creating all the assets required for this event to take place. This honor bestowed upon me has been a major creative project for me ever since.

I am responsible for the design of many things you will have seen, read, touched, held and maybe even worn, adorn and now treasure. Look out for the Manchester Bee!

Rider - 2015 / 16 / 18 / 19
Volunteer - 2017
RRxCCC - 2020 / 21
Creative - 2017 / 18 / 19 / 20 / 21

With love from Manchester, England.