



Interview with Meghan Arnold



How long have you been biking?

"I've been biking pretty much my entire life, but for the past 8 years I've been bike commuting and using bicycling as one of my primary forms of transportation."

What kind of bike do you have?

"I actually have 3 bikes! I have an old G2 bike, it's a tank, it's a commuter bike I've had forever. That actually use to be my primary bike and I did the Ride on it, I did the 25 mile and then I did the 50 mile on it one year and people were like are you crazy? Last year I bought a Trek Road bike at the Wheel and Sprocket Expo but then because I raised over \$1000 for the Ride last year, I won another Trek commuter bike from UPAF and [Wheel and Sprocket](#). So that has become my primary bike in the summer because it's really lightweight and great. So now my old tank is my winter bike. It's nice to have bikes to rotate throughout the seasons. "

How do you feel about Milwaukee as a biking community?

"From what I've seen in the past few years, I think Milwaukee is becoming a fantastic place to be a bicyclist. The [Bike Federation of Wisconsin](#) has done a great job of encouraging people to get out and try it. The bike racks on buses have been wonderful for me; I have a pass and on days when I don't feel like biking in the morning I'll throw my bike on and take it in. It's also made it easier for bike maintenance for me. I had a blowout tire a few weeks ago so I just put it on the bus and took it home. Obviously, The Ride for the Arts is a great way to kick off summer and get people really enthused. Maybe people who've had their bike away for a year aren't sure if they are going to get it out but once they take it out that first weekend in June, they realize they can keep it going. The City of Milwaukee has done a fantastic job too, I think it's a great bike city and it's relatively flat. There are hills, I have found. I used to think Milwaukee was so flat but no, there are plenty of hills. It's a nice place to bike around. "

Do you have a favorite spot you like to bike in Milwaukee?

“The [Oakleaf Trail](#) is the best thing ever, I love it. Just avoiding traffic, it’s great to just hop on and go for miles and get around wherever you want. I have a soft spot for the [Hank Aaron Trail](#), I really love going to the valley and it’s so new and shiny. It’s so pretty down there by the river. There’s little nature ponds with science signs and you can stop there and watch the birds. It’s like a little science trip.”

I heard you were in an accident recently, can you tell us about that?

“I was a little over enthusiastic about getting out on the trails and decided to bike up to Bayshore on one of the first warm Saturday mornings and I was cruising along in the park and there was a patch of ice that I thought I could make it over but I slipped and fell, that was not so fun. I was only off for a couple days but the moral of the story is if you see a patch of ice, get off and walk your bike.”

I know you have raised money for the Ride before, what is your motivation?

“I love the performing arts and my parents loved the arts. We moved around a lot when I was young and when I moved to Milwaukee there was just this wealth of art groups integrated into the community. You can’t escape it, it’s just so cool. I go to shows regularly to see the Rep, the Milwaukee Ballet and the Milwaukee Symphony. “

How do you get so many people excited about the Ride?

“I’m so passionate about it and I have to tell everybody through word of mouth and now social media. I try to make people aware that you can make a difference even if they don’t have deep pockets, you can be a part of an impact even with \$10.00.”

Can you tell us about your overall experience at the Ride events? Any memory that sticks out in your mind?

“I’ve been the team captain for [FUEL Milwaukee](#), an organization I volunteer with, for the past two years; it’s a great motivator to get people to ride. It poured rain last year, I got to the finish line and I was soaked and I had to do some stuff for my job but I was a part of improving biking in Milwaukee!”

Read Meghan’s [blog](#)

