

Decades ago I learned to mountain bike in Utah. It was the one sport I was able to do after recovering from a tragic car accident. I fell in love with the freedom and challenges a bike provided. Always competitive, I thought how cool it would be to race but had little support nor exposure- so it went the wayside. Flash forward several states, a career, and 3 kids later I discovered road racing by a chance encounter on a jury with another female cyclist. Had it not been for her encouragement and the generosity of the team in helping me get outfitted I would have never seen racing bikes as remotely possible. The Early Birds were critical in gaining skills which were then practiced in all the races available in the NCNCA calendar. My racing journey is going on 5 fulfilling years.

In that time I have served as SJBC Women's Team Squad Captain and SJBC Board Member at Large, learning much about the behind the scenes as well as issues teams and race promoters face. But the most important to me personally is serving on the NCNCA DEI committee as I feel it is high time for action to make cycling a more equitable and approachable sport. I absolutely love the cycling community in NorCal but we have a ways to go to emulate better diversity, inclusiveness and accessibility in our sport. I'm proud of our committee's work launching Rider Support and building up an open network from all walks. I'm active in the USAC Local Association meetings as well as in direct contact with their diversity team. I'm a bridge builder and solution finder. The very bylaws of NCNCA state its purpose as "to encourage the sport of competitive cycling by every feasible means deemed advisable by the membership." Every feasible means. While the world around us can often be in turmoil there are so many opportunities arising if we really look- and act. I am super psyched to continue to roll up my sleeves and do my part in creating possibilities for others at the same time growing the sport we love.

I'd be honored to keep playing a role in shaping the future of NorCal racing by serving on the NCNCA board. Thank you for the consideration!

Andrea Cherniak-Tyson

