

An Evening with Jacquie Phelan

-- aka Alice B. Toeclips --

Women's Mountain Bike & Tea Society (WOMBATS) founder

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023

Downstairs at



55 Chester St., Davis Square, Somerville, MA

Free, but seating is limited. Preregister at <http://tinyurl.com/alicebt>

Come early to check in and order food & drink.



Jacquie Phelan was a bicycle commuter and bike advocate before she discovered bike racing. She won her first race, was unbeaten for five years, and easily bested 90% of the men - the pack was unsegregated in the 1980s. Her "old man," husband, Charlie Cunningham, designed and built her unusual bikes. That, along with her abiding fury about patriarchy, helped propel her successes. (Charlie suffered a brain injury in a mountain biking crash in 2015. Jacquie will happily accept "dough-nations" for his care.)

Jacquie wrote about cycling for *Cyclist* magazine, *Winning*, and *BIKE* (Life in The Fat Lane) and contributed to French, Italian, Dutch, and Swedish cycling publications as well. She was a co-founder of NORBA (the National Off-road Bicycle Association). In 2001 she developed the skills training for Marin's Safe Routes to Schools program. She demanded to be inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame and got her way in 2001.

She is most proud of creating space for women in what was considered a man's game, and founded the **Women's Mountain Bike & Tea Society**, for both racers and recreationalists. In the 1990s the club had 400-500 members nationwide, with chapters in CT, AK, AZ, MT, MI, MA, NM and TX. A WOMBATS team participated in the famed Ore-Ida women's stage races in Idaho. The WOMBATS were enriched by Jacquie's humor and indomitable spirit.



Illustration by WOMBATS member Sue Edwards, Pepperell, MA wombats.org

