

The Lantern Rouge



The Lantern Rouge Award is presented to the rider with the most perseverance.

The cyclist completed the Mt. Locke Mountain Climb in Ft. Davis Texas at the annual Cyclefest event. The climb to Mt. Locke is one of the most difficult climbs in the Southwest with grades of up to 17%.

Congratulations on your achievement!



In the “spirit of the *Lantern Rouge*” and in honor of his father, Rene Junker, a European bicycle racer in the 1940s, PBBA Midland cyclist Jean Junker has established the *Lantern Rouge Award* for “the rider with the most perseverance”. The award is presented each year during the annual PBBA sponsored Cyclefest at Ft. Davis, Texas and is presented to the last place finishers, but finishers nonetheless, in the seven-mile and 1.5-mile Mount Locke Mountain Climb. The *Lantern Rouge Award* is presented in the spirit of amicable fellowship, encouragement, consolation and sportsmanship and good humor. The *Lantern Rouge* conjures up images of the lanterns with glowing red lights in cabooses of railroad trains of years past.

The History of *The Lantern Rouge* -- As told to me by my Dad, Rene Junker

My Dad was a bicycle racer in Luxembourg, Europe, back in the 1940s; he died in the late 1990s. In his youth, he raced in several European countries, including France, Belgium and Luxembourg. He never won because he was poor, and his bicycle equipment was old and worn. Every time he thought he had a chance to stay with the main group, he would break a chain or flat, etc. Once he flatted three times and still finished with the peloton but, of course as always, out of the money. There were no organized teams and no support – just individual guys riding and racing their bikes as best they could.

My Dad originally told me the story about the *Lantern Rouge* one year as we were watching Le Tour De France on TV. The *Lantern Rouge*, as you may know, is the Man in Last Place in the race or the Last Man to finish. He said in those days that it was customary for *The Lantern* to be given a Ham Sandwich as a consolation prize; they figured he needed it. That’s what my Dad always said. It was a dubious honor of sorts and usually taken with good sportsmanship and humility. My Dad should know. I believe he got a lot of Ham Sandwiches in his day.

In the spirit of *The Lantern Rouge*, and in remembrance of my Dad, I am presenting this special award to the last cyclist to finish the seven-mile and 1.5-mile climbs to the peak of Mount Locke during the Cyclefest annual Mt. Locke Mountain Climb.

The award is a gift certificate (or cash) to the Subway Sandwich Shop or Quiznos Sandwich Shop. Hopefully you will accept this token prize in the spirit of good fun with which it is offered. Enjoy yourself and have a Ham Sandwich compliment of my Dad and me.

Jean Junker
jeanandlinda@gmail.com

