

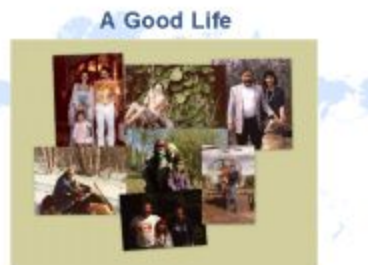
# Ed Noonan

Re: Ed Noonan

by **wendell** » Sun Apr 18, 2010 6:29 pm

Kerry Noonan provided a bunch of family photos. With the photos from Pete Derkos, Steve Schuesler, Jeff Bartrem, and me, plus, of course, Ed's; they made a large collection which I turned into a set of 25 presentation slides, and put into a web album.

Links to all of them are on a web page I put on my web site:  
[ed.prowen.com](http://ed.prowen.com).



wendell

[Re: Ed Noonan - Memorial Service](#)

□ by [wendell](#) » Sat Apr 03, 2010 7:16 pm

Gorline Runciman - Williamston Funeral home has posted the following on [legacy.com](#).

## Edward T. Noonan

Williamston



Born on December 3, 1942, in Chicago, Edward T. Noonan died February 19, 2010 after suffering a heart attack following surgery. He is survived by his daughter Kerry Noonan of Cleveland. He was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Hegedus; brother, Gregory Noonan; his parents and his namesake, Congressman Edward T. Noonan.

A 1961 graduate of Evanston High School in Illinois, Ed attended Michigan State University and Wayne State University Law

School. While at Wayne, he founded and directed the Common Council Support Service, a revolutionary interdisciplinary think tank program in which he gathered together teams of graduate students to perform research projects for the Detroit City Council.

After practicing law in Lansing and East Lansing, in 1973, Ed moved with JoAnn to Fairbanks, Alaska. During 16 years in Alaska, he specialized in aviation law and complex litigation. Much of his work entailed lobbying in Washington, D.C. Additionally, he taught computer science and business classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, owned a helicopter charter company and owned a software development and Macintosh computer sales business. Ed and his family moved to Williamston, Michigan in 1989.

Over the years, Ed served as president of numerous organizations, including the Kappa Sigma fraternity, the Fairbanks Consumers Group, Fairbanks Software Cooperative, Apple Mousse, Lansing Area Macintosh And Lisa Users Group, Tri-County Bicycle Association (Lansing), and the Williamston Community Library Foundation. Ed served as Chairperson Emeritus of the Aviation Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and as an elected member of the Williamston City Council and Mayor Pro Tem. An avid bicyclist and adventurer, in 1996, Ed bicycled from Fairbanks to Key West, Florida and chronicled his journey on his blog <http://www.tailwinds.org>, which has logged

more than 1 million visitors. Ed was honored as a Torchbearer in the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay, carrying the torch past Sparrow Hospital. Trained by Dame Edith Evans on Broadway, he made hundreds of public presentations including digital slide shows, testimony before the U.S. Congress, jury trials, seminars and college lectures. He made mobile computing presentations at MacWorld Expos in San Francisco, New York and Boston; and wrote a book about his cross-country bicycle trip "It's all downhill from here: Alaska to Florida bicycle adventure. His photographs have been published by various periodicals.

Ed was currently working with the MSU College of Law Rental Housing Clinic, where he was a volunteer faculty member. He thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share both his legal and life experiences with the next generation of lawyers, who he often said were some of the most interesting and impressive students he had ever met.

A memorial reception to celebrate Ed's life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, at Brookshire Inn & Golf Club, 205 W. Church St., Williamston. In lieu of flowers, Ed wished to encourage his friends to contribute generously to the Friends of the Williamston Library, c/o Capital Area District Library, 201 School St., Williamston, MI 48895. The family was served by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, Williamston . On line

condolences can be made at

<http://www.gorslineruncimanwilliamston.com>

Cyclists who would like to remember Ed by participating in a memorial ride are invited to join us on Sunday, April 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m. at [Williamstown Township Hall on the corner of Zimmer and Germany Roads](#). Our ride will take us into Williamston where we will visit one of Ed's favorite rest stops while noting Ed's influence on the City of Williamston.

Wendell

[Re: Ed Noonan](#)

by [Jane](#) » Sun Mar 28, 2010 8:24 pm

I am in shock. I live in Williamston, have known Ed for all the years he's been here, watched and admired his leadership and intensity on City Council, supported his devotion to his wife as they endured her illness for the past few years, appreciated his efforts to build a state-of-the-art Library through his creation of the Williamston Community Library Foundation, and rode with him on many stretches of DALMAC....just found out Ed has died by reading the latest version of the Chainwheel Chatter that arrived yesterday.

Ed was the consummate renaissance man--he was highly educated, connected to the past, understood and could analyze the present, but looked to the future and had a vision for it. I keep

shaking my head in disbelief and will try to put his life into context, but right now, my thoughts are that our area has lost an amazing man who was passionate and intense about everything he did...cannot conceive of how his void will be filled.....

I had been on 20 DALMAC trips. It was Day 5 and my little sister was riding along with me for the week. We had just left the Harbor Springs bike shop and in less than 45 minutes, I had my very first flat tire--of my LIFE!! I knew my streak of never having a flat would end, but was crushed that the last day of DALMAC could be ruined like this, as I did not have a properly fitting spare tube with me. We didn't have the wheel off the frame yet, when Ed pulled up in his SUV as one of the sag drivers that year--his health prevented him from riding that year...and he took me back to the bike shop, they repaired it and I went merrily on my way. Ed was enjoying himself helping his fellow bikers, and it was great to catch up with him, my neighbor.

Loved running in to him this past summer just before his shoulder surgery---he explained the plan and I was impressed with how cutting-edge it would be...that's the last time we talked. He was upbeat, snarky about local politics, and recovering from the loss of his wife. Rest in Peace, Ed.

[Jane](#)

**Posts:** 2

**Joined:** Fri Jan 29, 2010 2:58 pm

## [Re: Ed Noonan](#)

■ by [Ghost Rider](#) » Sun Mar 07, 2010 4:43 pm

I got the bug to start riding a bicycle again after reading a book by Neil Peart called "Masked Rider". That got me really interested in the idea of loaded touring, so I started researching the topic. It didn't take long to come across Ed Noonan's tale of his trip from Alaska to Florida. I read every bit of it and still today yearn for an epic journey like that. Ed was a rider whose experiences inspired many people. I had the fortune of meeting him briefly on my first DALMAC and shared a laugh with him on a slow climb a dozen or so miles out of Central Lake. I'm sure he made some comment about passing me on the way down the hill (he was riding his bent). Being new to cycling as a sport, it was always great to me to see this "elder statesman of cycling" at an event (like seeing Dick Allen on DALMAC). It's a reminder to keep doing this thing I love so much and encouragement that I can enjoy it at any age.

[Ghost Rider](#)

**Posts:** 17

**Joined:** Thu Apr 23, 2009 1:06 am

[Re: Ed Noonan - Memorial Service](#)

□ by [wendell](#) » Fri Feb 26, 2010 11:57 pm

I've just learned that a **Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 10 a.m.** at the [Brookshire Inn, 205 West Church Street](#), in Williamston.

I've also posted a news item on the [TCBA News blog](#).

Many thanks for the posts describing Ed's influence on so many of you. Please continue to post your thoughts. Also, any help with more specific details regarding Ed's contributions will be appreciated.

[wendell](#)

**Posts:** 84

**Joined:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 3:13 pm

**Location:** mid-Michigan



[Re: Ed Noonan](#)

□ by [jnnyz](#) » Thu Feb 25, 2010 11:28 pm

I first met Ed when I moved to Michigan and joined TCBA. I believe that he was president at the time. He was a peerless raconteur, with a huge store of bicycling stories, as well as odd facts about practically everything else. On any given day, during a long ride, you might hear about his enthusiasm for his latest bicycling widget, or civic issues in Williamston, or issues with distributing WiFi in rural areas. I rode with him for three days straight during DALMAC in 2003, and a typical Ed story would start (in the middle of rural Michigan, miles away from any village) “You see that field there? It belongs to an ex-client of mine. He used to grow cucumbers for half of Vlasic’s annual pickle production.....”. Since he was an attorney, he also had the quirk that on group rides, he would absolutely not call out “clear” at intersections because of liability issues.

We had lost touch a bit when I moved away, but he called me up out of the blue when he happened to be in Toronto just a little while ago on a visit. Unfortunately I was at work at my desk, but we chatted for a while, and he filled me in the latest: his excitement about working with law students at Michigan State University, his plans to erect an inukshuk as a grave marker for his beloved JoAnn to commemorate her abiding interest in Inuit Art, and his interest in all things Canadian, etc.

He was a good man, and I'm glad to have had the privilege to have known him.

Tailwinds old buddy.

I've posted a version of the above (along with a picture) here:

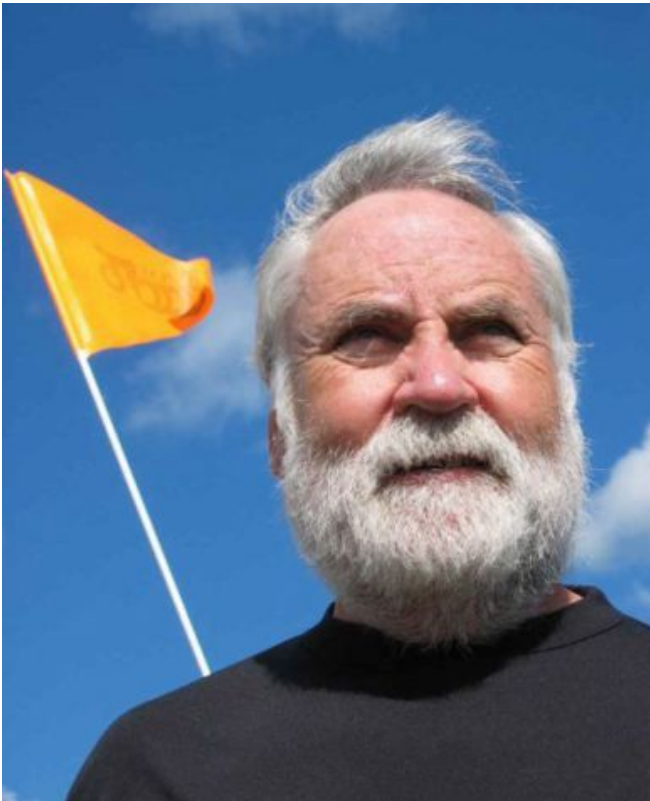
<http://jnyyz.wordpress.com/2010/02/25/in-memorial-ed-noonan/>

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## **in memoriam....Ed Noonan**

February 25, 2010 by [jnyyz](#)

I just learned that an old biking friend of mine, Ed Noonan, passed away last Friday, Feb 19. He suffered a heart attack after routine shoulder surgery.



Ed was a life long bicyclist. His website, [tailwinds.org](http://tailwinds.org) documents many of his bike adventures, with the longest being a 6011 mile trip from Alaska to Florida in 1996. I first met Ed when I moved to Michigan and joined the Tri County Bicycle Association ([TCBA](#)) bicycling club. I believe that he was president at the time. He was a peerless raconteur, with a huge store of bicycling stories, as well as odd facts about practically everything else. On any given day, during a long ride, you might hear about his enthusiasm for his latest bicycling widget, or civic issues in the local burg of Williamston, or issues with distributing WiFi in rural areas.

Although he had done his Alaska trip on a Cannondale touring bike, by the time I met him, he had started riding

recumbents, with his first being a Trek R200. In later years, he switched to a RANS V-Rex. In typical Ed fashion, he would tirelessly promote the advantages of recumbency, and I finally caved and got a P-38.

I rode with him for three days straight during [DALMAC](#) in 2003, and a typical Ed story would start (in the middle of rural Michigan, miles away from any village) “You see that field there? It belongs to an ex-client of mine. He used to grow cucumbers for half of Vlasic’s annual pickle production.....”. Since he was an attorney, he also had the quirk that on group rides, he would absolutely not call out “clear” at intersections because of liability issues.

We had lost touch a bit when I moved away, but he called me up out of the blue when he happened to be in Toronto just a little while ago on a visit. Unfortunately I was at work at my desk, but we chatted for a while, and he filled me in the latest: his excitement about working with [law students at Michigan State University](#), his plans to erect an inukshuk as a grave marker for his beloved JoAnn to commemorate her abiding interest in Inuit Art, and his interest in all things Canadian, etc.

He was a good man, and I’m sure that he will be missed by all who had the privilege to have known him.

Tailwinds old buddy.

[jnyyz](#)

**Posts: 1**

**Joined:** Wed Feb 24, 2010 10:50 am

[Re: Ed Noonan](#)

□ by [Halfstep](#) » Wed Feb 24, 2010 11:34 am

I would not be riding a bicycle today if not for Ed. Of course, I had a bicycle as a kid but I'd left it behind with other "childish" things. Then I met Ed. He was serving on the Williamston City Council when I was hired at City Hall fresh out of college. He left the Council to ride his bike from Alaska to Florida and I was there when he rode into town at the halfway mark. I remember the catalogues and web pages he would show me with the gear he wanted to buy for the ride. He was like a kid in a candy store. When I went over to see the fully prepared bike before he left, I told him the weight would kick his middle-aged ass. He gave me the look and I shut up.

When I sold my car, he convinced me a bicycle was a perfectly acceptable form of transportation and inspired me to find one and use it. I could only afford a garage sale special, but that didn't deter Ed from encouraging me to fix it up and ride it. If any of you frequented M-43 between Williamston and Lansing during the early 90's, you probably saw me riding to the mall or Barnes & Noble (when they were in the old grocery store!) on a weekly

basis. Ed was the only person who never saw my rides as out of the ordinary.

I left Williamston in 1995 but I would see Ed on and off over the years at club rides and on the DALMAC. He always acted as though no time had passed at all and would take up a conversation I wouldn't even remember having had with him. He was always trying to convince me to give up my "wedgie" bike and buy a recumbent swearing I'd never go back.

Ed's late wife JoAnn was also a dear friend and between them both they made the life of an introverted bachelor much more fulfilling.

You are missed, Ed.

Halfstep

**Posts:** 3

**Joined:** Mon Apr 13, 2009 11:48 am

[Re: Ed Noonan](#)

by [Velopunk](#) » Tue Feb 23, 2010 4:09 pm

There was a nice article on Ed in today's State News.

[http://statenews.com/index.php/article/...n\\_students](http://statenews.com/index.php/article/...n_students)

## **Volunteer dies, remembered for his 'impact on students'**

By [Brittany Shammass](#)

February 22, 2010 9:39 pm

After years of successfully working court-assigned cases defending accused criminals, Ed Noonan needed a change.

So the future MSU College of Law volunteer moved to Alaska and practiced aviation law, a choice that epitomized his zest for adventure.

“He basically told me, ‘Don’t necessarily limit the mind to one particular place,’ because there are so many places to see out there and so many places to practice,” said Julien Landry, a fourth year law student who worked with Noonan at MSU. “For him, life experiences were meant to be explored in different areas.”

Noonan, a volunteer faculty member in the MSU College of Law Rental Housing Clinic, died Friday after a heart attack following a shoulder replacement surgery, close friend Lenny Provencher said. He was 67.

“He just had a real lust for life,” Provencher said. “He really lived life and showed people that nothing is too big of a challenge at least to try and how to really enjoy life.”

Noonan graduated from Wayne State University’s College of Law and practiced in Michigan before leaving for Alaska, Provencher said. He practiced aviation law in Alaska and returned to Michigan about 15 years later.

A passionate cyclist, Noonan took a 99 day, 6,000-mile bike ride from Alaska to Florida in 1996, Provencher said. Noonan kept a blog throughout his travels.

He began volunteering at MSU in August 2009.

“Oh, he had just such high regard for MSU and he said the ones in the law school that he interacted with were truly brilliant,” Provencher said. “They just amazed him.”



Students saw Noonan as a mentor who offered a wealth of firsthand experience, said Michele Halloran, director of Clinical Programs and a clinical professor in the College of Law.

“He absolutely had an impact on students,” Halloran said. “The students learned so much from him and that’s what I’m hearing them express today. They’re so shocked that he won’t be there to assist them.”

Noonan is remembered for his sense of humor and positive attitude, Landry said. He cracked jokes when students were under high stress and sat down with them to talk about law and life.

“To a lot of us, he was more than just a co-worker,” Landry said. “He was actually a friend to many of the students.”

[Velopunk](#)

**Posts:** 2

**Joined:** Sun Feb 21, 2010 7:27 pm

## [Re: Ed Noonan](#)

by [Velopunk](#) » Mon Feb 22, 2010 3:27 pm

I first met Ed in 2005 when I rejoined the club after a long absence. I hadn't known of his epic Fairbanks - Key West ride. I soon learned about it. Ed was a great riding companion, the miles rolled on by while chatting with Ed. He introduced me to Lenny, Steve, Rao, Wendell, Jamie, Jan, Tony, and many more people in the club. I first used my touring bike for its intended purpose with Ed and Jamie on a ride to Alma in May 2008. Later that summer I rode with Ed and the group to the start of Summer Tour in Caro and did the same last summer to Baldwin. As a newbie to loaded touring Ed and Lenny couldn't have been nicer to me, answering all my questions.

I will miss Ed. Just a few weeks ago I e-mailed him about possibly riding through Ontario on the way back from the Five Day UP finish in the Soo. He replied that he was interested if he wasn't working at the MSU Law School. Ed was a good friend who did a lot for the club and passionately believed in it. Rest in Peace, Ed.

Bill

Last edited by [Velopunk](#) on Wed Feb 24, 2010 10:37 pm, edited 1 time in total.

[Velopunk](#)

**Posts: 2**

**Joined:** Sun Feb 21, 2010 7:27 pm

[Re: Ed Noonan](#)

□ by [sidesdeb](#) » Mon Feb 22, 2010 10:41 am

Thanks for starting this thread. I was sad and surprised to hear of Ed's passing. I met Ed on my first DALMAC on the 5 Day West tour. Although I did not know Ed well, he enjoyed sharing some of the Club history along with his own ride experiences. He made me feel welcome when I was a new member and provided that steady reassuring presence often. It seemed like Ed was always smiling and that he truly enjoyed the sport, the outdoors and the people in our club. I am sure we will all miss Ed.

[sidesdeb](#)

**Posts: 3**

**Joined:** Mon Apr 13, 2009 11:08 am

## [Re: Ed Noonan](#)

by [wendell](#) » Sun Feb 21, 2010 12:30 pm



John, I don't think anyone knows more than that at this point.

I would appreciate having people relate their remembrances of Ed, using this topic.

Many of you know that I rode often with Ed, although not so much recently. He asked me to join him in a ride to Hamilton Ontario during October, 2004, and we rode 2 days semi-supported to Marysville(?) for the Blue Water Ramble, and then self-supported four days to Hamilton to see the 2004 World Championship bike races. It was my first experience riding self-supported, and we had many experiences, as was always true with Ed. Since then, all but one of my self-supported experiences have been with Ed, and Ed had set up the other one.

He and I did club rides together so often that when I showed up alone, people would ask, "Where's Ed?"

I hope others will write about his time as club President, webmaster, and ride leader.

[wendell](#)

**Posts:** 84

**Joined:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 3:13 pm

**Location:** mid-Michigan

[Ed Noonan](#)

☐ by [John Foltz](#) » Sat Feb 20, 2010 5:27 pm

I've learned that Ed Noonan passed away yesterday. Apparently he had a heart attack following shoulder surgery. Anyone who knows more details, please feel free to post them.

[John Foltz](#)

**Posts:** 83

**Joined:** Sat Mar 21, 2009 9:42 pm