

History of the Wheelmen

Contributed by Jonathan Spicker
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Back In The Day

by Jonathan Spicker

The Queen City

Wheelmen was founded during the late winter of 1971. 1972 was the first year the club was recognized by the Amateur Bicycle League of America, the precursor to the United States Cycling Federation and USA Cycling. It was an "amateur" league because that was the only kind of bicycle racing there was in the United States at the time. To make sure riders remained amateur, and eligible to compete in the Olympics, there were no cash prizes. Entry fees were usually around \$2.25 and racers competed for bicycle components and trophies.

QCW was formed from an off-shoot of the Cincinnati Cycle Club by a couple of members who wanted something more than just long fast rides, they wanted to challenge others in races. Les Gesell and John Gilmer are the founding fathers of the organization. Les was earning a degree at the University of Cincinnati, while John was in his sophomore year at Aiken high school. Meetings were held in the Gesell's apartment, and Mary Gesell was instrumental in the overall management of club membership and organization.

The club was fully up and running by April 23rd, 1972 when they held their first sanctioned event, the University of Cincinnati Criterium, held in conjunction with the UC cycling team with additional support from the University. This event would survive through 1981, although after the first year the event moved off campus to Burnet Woods and eventually lost any association with UC.

In these early years the only thing the club received resembling sponsorship came from Dan Humpert, the owner of a Montgomery Cyclery franchise in Clifton called Campus Cyclery.

Dan's shop was one of the very few places in Cincinnati that came close to being a pro-shop, almost the only shop where you could even buy a tubular tire, much less something like a bicycle built with Reynolds or

Columbus tubing.

Dan was very supportive of the club, using his shop van to take riders to races, employing racers at his shop, and selling race program advertising to all his small business friends in Clifton to fund the annual race. In 1977 Dan dropped his Montgomery franchise, changed the name to Campus Cyclery and increased his sponsorship of the club for a few more years. Dan did a lot to nurture Junior riders and a few years later sold his shop to one of those grown up Juniors by the name of Glenn Wolf.

Another force in the early forming of the club was Bill Gallagher and his wife Mary. They did a great deal of work in managing the organization and Bill was soon its most dominant rider. Bill was a teacher at Oak Hills high school and did a lot of training and coaching work with the Junior riders. Bill also organized a couple of "Little 500" style races for high school teams.

Bill went on to become a premier Senior rider in the Midwest. He eventually joined the Cool Gear/Exxon team. Riding with the likes of Wayne and Dale Stettina, John Howard and Tom Schuller on the very first carbon fiber frame the Exxon Graftek G-1.

The club got its start with the assistance of some very much older riders who raced the "Veteran" category age 40+. One of the club's most important veteran's was Watson Nordquist. Watson had an extensive racing resume which started while living in Connecticut in 1938 and carried through being one of the most prolific attendees to the Cleves Time Trial Series where he rode nearly 200 times from 1974 to 1989.

Watson played a large role in the club administration and nurturing Juniors. I can remember more than once traveling to races in Watson's car where he always had a propane tank filled with compressed air for filling his tubbies. Another part of Watson's passion for helping others was his work with the Blue Ash Lions Club who QCW co-sponsored a race with in Blue Ash called the Southwestern Ohio Bicycle Championship for a few years.

As Les, John and Bill moved on others came into the organization to help fill the voids they left. One of these was Phil Kennedy Jr .

, his son Phil Kennedy III was a dominating Junior rider. Phil Jr. was an attorney and assisted greatly with the organization of the club and taking his son and other Junior riders around the Midwest in their Airstream trailer.

The club continued to chew through officers and around 1977 acquired a very helpful resource in the form of Greg Hanfbauer. Greg was Vice City Treasurer and possessed the ability to devise, organize and follow through on any task he put himself to. One of those tasks that he and I were determined to put together was a bike race in downtown Cincinnati.

This culminated with a unique, onetime event called the Rivertown Rally Gran Prix of Cycling. The race was a serpentine course that incorporated Riverfront Stadium and a pedestrian bridge over Ft. Washington Way.

With the running of the Rivertown Ralley the club acquired the assistance of Betty Lane who was our main liaison with the Downtown Council, the organization that runs Oktoberfest Zinzinnati. Betty would do much to hold the club together with her newsletter writing from 1980 through 1986, and then as one of the behind the scenes organizers of the Cyclebration race series that ran from 1988 through the 1990's.

That's about it for my knowledge of the early years. Perhaps someone with better knowledge about the great Cyclebreation years can add to this.

Newsletters:

We've had a few prolific newsletter editors over the years. Visity the Grant Wearne Newsletter Library to read about the myriad of events QCW has undertaken throught the years. If you have any newsletters we're missing and would like to contribute, please contact us.

Website:

In 1995 a forward thinking Curt Austin created the first QCW website. In 1997 Curt registered the qcw.org domain name narrowly beating out the Quaker City Wheelmen for the easy to remember name. The numerous photos that Curt posted in the early years were quite popular. The website has gone through a few hiccups in attempts to keep it relevant. In 2008 Mark Strecker created the format today which has endured due to the ease of adding new content.

Officers:

The club officers list below provides links to bios of some of the individuals involved. If you would like to add to these bios or provide some more history please contact me, Jonathan Spicker.

Year
President
Vice-President

Treasurer
Secretary
Newsletter
Board of Directors, or Dedicated
Volunteers

1971
Les Gesell
Beth Gesell
John Gilmer

1972
Les Gesell
Beth Gesell
John Gilmer

Mary Gallagher
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Larry Nordquist, Bill Gallagher, Alan Bolten

1973
Gesell/Gallagher
Bill Gallagher
Larry Nordquist
Don Schilling
Mary Gallagher
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Dan Humpert, Larry Nordquist, Beth Gesell, Stu Pray, Phil Kennedy, Jr., Frank Gall, Alan Bolten

1974
Jack Christensen
Bill Gallagher
John Gilmer
Watson Nordquist
Sam Francis

BOD: Phil Kennedy, Jr., Dan Humpert, Paul Hollingshead, Bill Laphorn

1975
Watson Nordquist
Phil Kennedy, Jr.
Gene Cornwell
Jonathan Spicker
Jonathan Spicker
BOD: Dan Humpert, Bill Gallagher, Bill Laphorn, Jack Christensen, Bill Froschauer, Carol Cornwell

1976
Jonathan Spicker
Watson Nordquist
Bill Froschauer
Bob Atkins
Jonathan Spicker
BOD: Phil Kennedy, Jr., Dan Humpert, Bill Gallagher, Bill Laphorn, Sam Francis, Dell Williamson, Glenn Wolf

1977

David K. Moore
Brian Jones
Greg Hanfbauer
John Montag
Kent Frazier
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Phil Kennedy, Jr., Dan Humpert, Kliff
Hodgkin, Dell Williamson, Mark Vincent, Dave Burleigh

1978

David K. Moore
Dave Gecks
Greg Hanfbauer
Rick Janke
Jonathan Spicker
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Dan Humpert, Kliff Hodgkin, Dell
Williamson, Dave Burleigh, Kent Frazier

1979

Jonathan Spicker
Dave Gecks
Greg Hanfbauer
David K. Moore
Jonathan Spicker
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Dan Humpert, Dell Williamson, Mark
Vincent, Betty Lane

1980

Jonathan Spicker
Dan Humpert
Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Bill Mirbach, Roger Auge, Kent Frazier, Mike
Albrinck, Mark and Nancy Vincent

1981

Greg Hanfbauer
Mike Albrinck
Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Bill Mirbach, Roger Auge, Jack Schmidt, Walt
Smith, Mark and Nancy Vincent

1982

Greg Hanfbauer

Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Bill Mirbach, Roger Auge, Jack Schmidt, Kent
Frazier, Mark and Nancy Vincent

1983

Greg Hanfbauer

Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Bill Mirbach, Mark and Nancy Vincent

1984
Greg Hanfbauer

Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Bill Mirbach Mark and Nancy Vincent

1985
Jim Obert

Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Ellen Obert

1986
Jim Obert
Robin Bruelheide
Greg Hanfbauer
Betty Lane
Betty Lane
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Frederick Mause

1987
Tim Gehling
Robin Bruelheide
Jim Obert
Tim Gehling
Tim Gehling
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Betty Lane, Ed Thuring,

1988
Tim Gehling

Jim Obert
Tim Gehling
Tim Gehling
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Fred Steinbrecher, Ed Theuring, Tom Vanover, Ellen Obert, Steve Trapp, Mike Scully, Ivan Forsythe

1989
Charley Gehling
Jim Flaherty
Dave Carr
Jim Obert
Charley Gehling
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Larry Haubner, Ivan Forsythe, Lois McKnight, Victor Roth

1990
Charley Gehling
Jim Flaherty

Dave Carr
Lois Ellison
Charley Gehling
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Fred Steinbrecher, Victor Roth, Larry
haubner, Roy Roberts

1991

Dave Carr

Jim Flaherty
BOD: Watson Nordquist,

1992

Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Gayle Goldsmith
Rob Westendorf
BOD: Watson Nordquist, Dan Roketenetz, Charley Gehling, Charlie Wright

1993

Jim Flaherty
Fred Steinbrecher
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Rob Westendorf
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Lois Ellison, Roy
Roberts, Jim Clingman

1994

Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Rob Westendorf
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Kurt Etter, Scott Lyle, Roy
Roberts, Roxanne
Westendorf, Charlie Wright, Jim Clingman

1995

Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Rob Westendorf
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Roy
Roberts,
Scott Lyle, Kurt Etter, Jay Faberman

1996

Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Rob Westendorf

BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Roy Roberts,
Scott Lyle, Kurt Etter

1997
Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling

BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Roy Roberts,
Scott Lyle, Kurt Etter

1998
Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Toby Costello
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Roy Roberts,
Scott Lyle, Kurt Etter, Curt Austin

1999
Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Toby Costello
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Roy Roberts,
Scott Lyle, Kurt Etter, Curt Austin

2000
Jim Flaherty
Chip Ellison
Dave Carr
Charley Gehling
Toby Costello
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Scott Lyle,
Kurt Etter, Curt Austin

2001
Bob Rich
Doug Dobrozsi
Dave Carr
Evan Sayer
Toby Costello
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Scott Lyle,
Kurt Etter, Curt Austin

2002
Bob Rich
Doug Dobrozsi
Dave Carr
Evan Sayer
Toby Costello
BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Scott Lyle,

Kurt Etter, Curt Austin

2003

Doug Dobrozsi

Tom Cross

Dave Carr

Larry Haubner

Toby Costello

BOD: Dan Roketenetz, Jim Obert, Charlie Wright, Jeff Vaught, Scott Lyle,

Kurt Etter, Curt Austin

2004

Doug Dobrozsi

Dave Carr

2005

Bill Lorenz

Jim Rollo

Jonathan Spicker

Randy Frauhiger

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Rick Hoeting, Bob

Schoettinger

2006

Bill Lorenz

Jim Rollo

Jonathan Spicker

Randy Frauhiger

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Rick Hoeting, Bob

Schoettinger

2007

Rick Hoeting

Peter Wimberg

Grant Wearne

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Bill Lorenz, Dave

Riemenschneider

2008

Rick Hoeting

Peter Wimberg

Grant Wearne

Nathan Bremer

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Bill Lorenz, Dave

Riemenschneider, Dave Nissen, Dell Williamson, Mark Strecker

2009

Peter Wimberg

Rick Hoeting

Grant Wearne
Lisa Hender

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Bill Lorenz, Dave Riemenschneider, Dave Nissen, Dell Williamson, Karen Rokich

2010
Peter Wimberg
Tracy Segar
Grant Wearne
Gina McCafferty

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Dave Riemenschneider, Dave Nissen, Dell Williamson, Patrick McMullen, Karen Rokich, Jerry Hayes II

2011
Peter Wimberg

Tracy Segar

Grant Wearne

Karen Rokich

Jonathan Spicker

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Dave Riemenschneider, Dave Nissen, Dell Williamson, Patrick McMullen, Jerry Hayes II, Barbara Walker

2012
Peter Wimberg

Tracy Segar

Grant Wearne

Karen Rokich

Jonathan Spicker

BOD: Doug Dobrozsi, Jonathan Spicker, Dave Nissen, Dell Williamson, Patrick McMullen, Jerry Hayes II, Rick Hoeting, Patrick Bendel,

2013
Tracy Segar

Dave Nissen

Grant Wearne
Karen Rokichx
xxxxxxxxxxxxx
BOD: Jonathan Spicker, Dell
Williamson, Patrick McMullen, Rick Hoeting, Patrick
Bendel, Peter Wimberg, Jeff Seeley, Robin Zuend

2014
Jeff Seeley

Dave Nissen

John Beyer

Karen Rokich

BOD: Dell
Williamson, Patrick McMullen, Rick Hoeting, Patrick
Bendel, Katrina Savich, Jim Halpin

2015
Jeff Seeley

Dave Nissen &

Jim Halpin

John Beyer

Karen Rokich

BOD: Rick Hoeting, Pat Bendel, Patrick McMullen, Melissa Kurzhuls, Nicole Wheeler, Brian DeSoto

2016

Patrick McMullen

Jim Halpin &

Peter Wimberg

John Beyer

Karen Rokich

BOD: Pat Bendel, Melissa Kurzhuls, Nicole Wheeler, Brian DeSoto, Rob Westendorf