

'Cross Races Draw Enthusiastic Crowd! (see P2)

Racing Season Is Here!

Record fields greet the new year

The largest Spring Series in Cincinnati history served as a major wake up call to local riders this year! Thirteen spring events are on the calendar, covering Sundays from mid-February through mid-May. Strong attendance has been a feature at every race so far, and the fields continue to grow!

Winter was shaken off in a hurry with three cyclocross races to get the ball rolling. These events on three different courses were a strong follow-up to this past winter's new cyclocross series (see related story, page 2). Starting with these off road events gave dirt lovers a chance to hang some pain on those roadies who dared to show, and gave these versatile riders a head start on the series points totals.

Road races came around starting in March, and it was roadies' revenge! At this writing four road events have passed, each featuring ever-increasing fields going faster every time out. Those who are used to a gentle warm-up into the season have been in for a rude awakening this spring!

The 1998 Greater Cincinnati Spring Series is a cooperative effort of many clubs and individuals. Sponsoring clubs include BioWheels Racing, Queen City Wheels, Bluegrass Cycling Club, Going Mobile Racing Team, Team Pro-Copy, Northern Kentucky Flyers, and VeloCity. These clubs have joined to produce a strong series, made even stronger by the complimentary Saturday races of the Cannondale Spring Series, in central Ohio.

Six races remain in the series. However, due to some unforeseen problems (such as construction), changes may be made in some of the remaining events. At least one course will be moved, and some cancellations are possible. Please confirm the event sites and times before leaving home! Updates are posted on the series infoline at 513/677-PELO (7356), and on the web at www.qcw.org. In addition, even though the weather has been exceptional so far, we've been known to have enough snow to force a cancellation. If there's any doubt, call first! See you at the line!

Elite Nationals Coming to Town

For the first time, the Queen City will host the USA Cycling Elite Nationals this year. Over the weekend of June 25-28 there will be three events each for the nation's best male and female amateur cyclists. The road race will be run on a downtown loop finishing on 4th at Main. The course crosses the river for a loop through Newport, before returning to Ohio to head into Eden Park. In what will certainly prove to be a prime viewing area, the field will climb Cliff Drive, as it passes behind the Krohn Conservatory. This wonderfully winding ascent was the highlight of the Eden Park Circuit Race in past Cyclebration events. The criterium course in Loveland features two crossings of the Little Miami River per lap. The time trial course is not yet fully developed, but it will also be based in Loveland. The races will be televised on ESPN. Spearheaded by **Cycle Cincinnati-Loveland, Inc.**, a large group of dedicated people is working hard to make these races a true success. Cycle Cincinnati-Loveland, Inc., was formed last year to facilitate an ongoing relationship with USA Cycling. The organization is respon-

sible for promoting and producing the 1998 Championships, and will exist beyond that date to promote future races, rides, and cycling events in the Greater Cincinnati area. Many additional people are also involved in the promotion. This includes some of the local clubs. However, a great deal of help is still needed. Any contribution that you can make will be greatly appreciated. If you have any time to help, please offer it. You can contact the Race Director, Betsy Neyer (bneyer@fuse.net), or get in touch through your club's officers. Additional information on the 1998 USA Cycling Elite National Championships is available at www.QCW.org.

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From the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the Cincinnati Racing Journal. I hope that this is the beginning of a long run chronicling the growth of bike racing in our fair city. It's an exciting time to be racing in this neck of the woods. There are more races than ever before, and more teams to keep it all fun. This is also the first year in a multi-year commitment by the USCF to hold Elite Nationals here. It will be an exciting year!

This is not my first cycling newsletter. I started, and was the editor of the QCW News for five years. Unlike the QCW News, I am now aiming at all clubs and racers in Cincinnati. I hope to include something both for and from everyone. I am primarily a roadie myself, but I have ridden off-road for over a decade. This past winter I jumped into cyclocross for the first, though certainly not the last, time. My track experience is unfortunately very limited, but I may yet work on that. I raced a little bit in the late '70's, and started again in the mid-'80's. I have been an official (I'll have some things to say along those lines sometime in the future), and currently hold a USCF coaching certificate. I'm no longer a real competitive threat in races, but I hope to change that, time permitting. Along with the other coaches in this area I was one of the originators of the Rider of the Year program, and I am now the administrator of the program.

Now that you know something about me, let me explain what I'm trying to do. This publication is aimed at helping cycling grow in this area. I hope to use this forum to promote racing of all types, and to encourage all racers to keep at it. I will cover all cycling races put on by any local group, regardless of the type of race, with the exception of BMX, of which I know absolutely nothing. My expectations include input from all clubs, as well as from you. Each club will be given as many copies as it wants. However, each club is then responsible for distribution to their members. I hope that copies will also be available in local bike shops.

I will be bugging every promoter to write their race up, as well as trying to maintain a complete list of results. I want you to be a contributor. You don't have to win a race to write about having a good time at

(continued at right)

Cyclocross Series Rocks!

It was a classic down to the wire finish in the Men's Cyclocross category at the final Harbin Park event. Cruising at high speed on the paved downhill chicane, expert mountain biker, Jason Poole (Bluegrass Cycling Club) and David Blackburn on a classic Bontrager Cyclocross rig were quickly approaching the last two hurdles before the finish line. Who would have the advantage? As the riders dismount and remount side by side, the team mates decide to cross the finish line in a tie. Just one exciting moment of this competitive series.

What started out in January 1997 as a winter MTB series has evolved into a fun, competitive cyclocross series. The cyclocross category started off as an experiment to see how much interest there was in Cincinnati. The response has been overwhelming. We had three times the amount of racers signed up for the cyclocross event than the cross country MTB event. Because of this, we are considering concentrating our efforts fully on the growing cyclocross series for next year. Our reasoning is with muddy conditions, the cross country races are hard on the single track and take some of the fun out of racing.

Another notable racer to mention, was David Fleming, a 50 year old mountain biker from Indiana, who did most every event and entered both cyclocross and cross country each time. Quite a feat for any athlete. Good job David!!!

Special thanks to Jeff Ginther who kept us guessing what color his hair would be at each race. He gave the series that off-road feel. Sheila Senft was consistently at the top of the women's field and won the overall series. Amy Martin and Ingrid Carlson also put up a good fight.

Next year we plan to make these improvements:

1. Grow the prize list.
2. Add the following cyclocross categories: women, men beginner, men advanced, veteran (35 and older).
3. Add a couple more venues (locations) with quality cyclocross courses that favor the classic cross set up as well as the mountain bike.

I would like to thank all the participants for their loyalty to this event.

Thank you to these sponsors: Bio Wheels Workshop - 861-BIKE, Team Schwinn Fairfield - 829-7586. Special thanks to these people: Aldo Ross (course design, layout and set up), Al and Sheila Senft, Matt Johnson, Tim Kimbert, Mike Boron, John Lugenville (USCF referee) and Mr. & Mrs. George Ginther (firewood). If I missed anyone, know that I appreciated your help.

A fellow cyclist,

Nick Sapp Bio Wheels Racing

the races. If you go somewhere fun, tell us! If you find a great new trail or road, share it! The only rules are simple ones: keep it positive. I will not be a forum for moaning. Plus, keep it non-commercial. I have the support of all of the local clubs, and I won't play favorites of one sponsor or product line over any other. However, I want you to remember not only your own sponsors, but the sponsors of every other club as well (see article on the next page). I don't accept advertising, but I will put in plugs where appropriate. On that note, let me finish by saying "Thanks" to my newsletter sponsor. Pro-Copy, 4720 Glendale-Milford Rd., 769-0606, is printing this newsletter for free. Please remember Pro-Copy for all of your copier needs!

CRJ

The Cincinnati Racing Journal serves and promotes the bike racing community of Greater Cincinnati. It is distributed free to anyone with an interest in bicycle racing in our community. Publishing frequency is on an "as needed" basis, meaning I'll print it when I've got enough material. The editor and publisher is Robert Westendorf, and I am solely responsible for the content. I can be contacted by writing me at 10296 Deerhollow Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45252, or at robxanne@fuse.net.
No phone calls please!

April, 1998

Queen City Wheels

Questions or comments? Call 677-PELO

Newsletter Editor

We are looking for an editor for our newsletter. If you are interested in helping out, leave a message on the PELO line.

Time Trials

Time trials start Tuesday, May 5. As in the past registration closes at 6:15 and the first rider goes off at 6:30.

Jerseys

This year Wright Brothers is purchasing and selling our jerseys in their stores. We will use the new design for at least 2 years. Take a look at our web site to see the design (www.qcw.org). In addition to jerseys, a limited number of vests will be available. If you want a vest, a sure way to get one is to send \$50.00 to me with your size (M,L,XL). If they are popular we can up the order. Jerseys will not be available until around June 1. Send vest money only to me (Jim Flaherty) at 1314 Observatory Drive, 45208.

Nationals

As you know, Cincinnati is hosting the USCF Senior Nationals this year June 25-28. QCW is coordinating the kids activities and the police races. If you are interested leave your name on the PELO line or call Charley Gehling at 248-2215 or Bob Rich at 248-0702.

Photos

Curt Austin has been busy photographing the local races. Many of his photos are on our web site. If you are interested in a disk containing his photos, call Curt at 677-9385 or e-mail him at curta@iac.net

Membership

On the other side of this flyer is the 1998 membership application and

Greater Cincinnati Rider of the Year Program Enters 2nd Year

In late 1996 a small group of USCF coaches sat around a coffee table in Paul Eddleston's living room. In addition to drinking beer, these guys were talking about ways to juice up the local racing scene. Some of the goals that everyone agreed upon included increased participation by local racers in existing races, increasing the number of local racers, and retaining those new riders in the sport. Creating new races would help, but supporting more races requires more participation, so it becomes a chicken and egg situation. Back in England, Paul was familiar with a program in his home town of Manchester that tracked the performance of local riders through the year. This idea was enthusiastically received, and soon evolved into the 1997 Greater Cincinnati Rider of the Year program.

The primary goal is to help the sport of bike racing grow in the Greater Cincinnati area. The program seeks to reward those riders who consistently show up to compete. It is not intended to identify a "best" or "fastest" racer, rather, the program is designed to encourage development. All categories are included, and it is hoped that some friendly rivalries might spring up.

The first year of the program succeeded better than anyone had reason to expect. There were 135 riders who earned points in the program. The winner of each category was determined strictly by points earned. However, it was not possible to compare points across categories for a number of reasons. Because of this, the overall winner was selected from among the category winners by a vote of the participating clubs, and the local officials and coaches. Team Botanics rider Adam Fuson, the category 4 winner, was awarded the title of Rider of the Year. Adam was a perfect example of the

program's goals, as he started the year as a first time racer in category 5, and progressed strongly through the year, including his upgrade. Winners in the other categories include Beth Jordan (VeloCity) for the women, Jeff Plank (QCW) for category 5, Bob Schoettinger (Pro-Copy) for category 3, Jeff McLane (Tyson) for category 2, and Jon Spicker (Pro-Copy) for masters. Congratulations to all of the 1997 winners!

The way the program works is relatively simple. Points are awarded to the first twenty places in every local road race. All races put on by a sponsoring club are included, plus district championship events. Other out-of-town events are not included. Any eligible rider is automatically tracked by the program. For races with field sizes of less than 20 riders the points are down-sized to reflect the depth of the field. QCW's time trials (see page 4) are included on a monthly basis. Your best time in a calendar month is used. In addition, the best times at the end of the year are counted. (Note: point totals for QCW time trials are adjusted to reflect what is considered a fair value for this system.) The program also takes into account that many riders often miss riding an event because they're performing an essential role as a race day worker. Those who work races instead of racing them are awarded bonus points to make up for the lost opportunity. One change this year is that you will earn bonus points for working at any club's race, not just your own club, up to a maximum of 5 bonus days. Updated standings are posted on the QCW web site (www.qcw.org), as well as being forwarded to each of the local clubs on a regular basis. In addition, the standings are occasionally posted at the registration area of local races. The full text of the rules will also be posted at www.qcw.org, although it probably won't be there yet

before you read this.

Eligibility rules have also been modified for 1998. Eligible riders are those who live in the Greater Cincinnati area, or race for a sponsoring club, or race for a local collegiate squad. The Greater Cincinnati area is defined as the following counties: in Ohio: Hamilton, Butler, Clermont, and Warren; in Kentucky: Boone, Kenton, and Campbell; and Dearborn in Indiana. The sponsoring clubs include Queen City Wheels, Cincinnati Velo Club (Team Pro-Copy and Team Coffee Emporium/Botanics), Oakley Cycle Club (Team Oakley and VeloCity), BioWheels Racing Team, Northern Kentucky Flyers, and Going Mobile (Going Mobile, Team Piranha). Eligible collegiate squads include the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University.

This remains an evolving program. As previously referred to, some of the rules have changed from last year. There will undoubtedly be additional changes yet to come. Rules changes are decided by a vote of the sponsoring clubs. Any club can propose a change, and each club has one vote. In addition, the local officials get one vote, and the local coaches get one vote. This has proven to be a very effective and popular system.

The primary drawback of the current program is the exclusion of off road events. The sponsors feel strongly that, with so few local off-road events as compared to road races, mixing the two is not yet practical. However, it is hoped that a sister program tracking off road performance will be made possible by continued growth in the number of local dirt events. Once this happens, a way will be found to meld the two disciplines to recognize the very best on Cincinnati wheels, regardless of the width of the tires!

Printing of this newsletter is provided as a free service to the cyclists of Greater Cincinnati by:

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Calendar

Greater Cincinnati Spring Series

513/677-PELO for all events
April 19 Cincinnati Financial Criterium
April 26 Criterium at Newmark Center
May 3 Circuit of Champions
May 10 Ft. Thomas Firecracker
May 17 Criterium in Mariemont

QCW Time Trial Series

513/677-PELO

Tuesday nights from May 5 through
September 29, Cleves, OH
Registration at 6:15, first rider at 6:30

Ault Park Series

June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8
20k ("B" race) at 7:00
40k ("A" race) at 8:00

Only one race per rider per night, your choice. It is strongly suggested that 1,2,3's ride "A", 4,5, women ride "B". There will be many other races in our area this season. Unfortunately, it is too early to make official announcements about the rest of them. Please show your support to every promoter. Show up to compete at every opportunity. Whenever possible, be a race volunteer. It takes a lot of people to put on a safe event, and there is no such thing as too many volunteers. Make a point of working at least one race for every five that you enter. Finally, thank those who put on the races that you enjoy. Tell not just the promoter or registrar, but say thanks to every course marshall that you can. And finally, when the inevitable snafu arises, take it with a smile. Nobody's out to cheat you. We're all amateurs doing our best. Plus, I reserve the right to invoke the Frimel Clause* at any time!

* "Anybody who complains, has to run it next year!"

Local Clubs Announce '98 Sponsors

Sponsors are an essential part of amateur athletics. At the local level, most, if not all, sponsorship dollars are provided as an investment in the community and it's people, with little real expectation of commercial returns. It is important to go out of your way to remember the businesses that support your sport, no matter which club or event they sponsor. Please remember all of these companies in all of your transactions, and, when you do business with them, mention their racing sponsorship as a factor in your decisions. Thanks!

Not all local clubs have finalized their sponsor lists, and there are others I have not yet been able to contact. Look for additional lists in future editions of CRJ.

Team Pro-Copy

<http://home.fuse.net/robroxanne/>

Pro-Copy, copiers and service

Dodd Jewelers

Campus Cyclery

PowerBar

Team Coffee Emporium/Botanics

<http://home.fuse.net/robroxanne/>

Coffee Emporium, Hyde Park

Botanics, landscape services

Campus Cyclery

National Wastewater Industries, Cleves

K&M Graphics

Team Kenda (VeloCity)

Kenda USA, cycling tires

Andrew Allwein, L.M.T, massage therapy

Bishop's Bicycles

Pep Products, sports and energy supplements

Trek Bicycles

BioWheels Racing Team

www.biowheels.com

BioWheels Workshop

Jamis, frames

RST, suspension forks

Geax, tires

Wilderness Trail Bikes, bearing components

Real, chainrings

Kooka, stems

USE, suspension seatposts

GU, power food

Digital Bang, website programming, remote event coverage

Check back here next issue for reports for Queen City Wheels, Going Mobile Racing Team, and the Northern Kentucky Flyers. Did I miss a team? Let me know at robroxanne@fuse.net. Thanks!

It's All On-Line @ www.qcw.org

One of the hottest cycling sites on the web belongs to Queen City Wheels. Maintained by Curt Austin, www.qcw.org is loaded with everything you need to stay on top of the racing scene in our area. Besides being loaded with the latest on

races, or nationals, Curt is at almost every race with his camera. He probably already has a shot of you, and it's on the web right now! Check it out, and, if you like it, you can order reprints on-line.



Grant Wearne
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