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Mission Statement of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc.

To foster social and athletic interest in and promote the healthy, wholesome sport of unicycling among youth and adults of the country by establishing voluntary standards of performance and sponsoring and overseeing local and national meets. To disseminate knowledge and information on all phases of the sport to all interested parties throughout the country via a newsletter and information service.

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On The Cover; Max Schultz, Trials World Champion, competes in the Flatland Competition at Unicon XV. *Photo art by John Foss.*

On One Wheel

This official publication of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is published at least quarterly. We invite editorial submissions of all kinds. Send news about yourself and other unicyclists. We are not responsible for articles and pictures unless accompanied by a request for their return and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We also invite e-mails to the editor. Reproduction or use of the material in this magazine without the express permission of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is prohibited. ISSN 0893-4606

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The price for advertisements is \$100 for a full page, \$50 for half page, and \$25 for a quarter page. Please contact the Editor at the address above for further information about advertisements.

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Individual membership in the Unicycling Society of America, Inc., which includes a subscription to On One Wheel, is \$20 for the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, \$25 for overseas. Family memberships are also available for an additional \$15. First-class delivery within the U.S. is available for an extra \$10. Send address changes immediately to Unicycling Society of America, Inc., PO Box 530518, Livonia, MI 48153-0518. The USA, Inc. is not responsible for forwarding returned magazines.

President's Corner

Hello USA Members,

I can hardly believe it's spring already! I hope everyone gets an opportunity to get out and ride. There are several unicycling events right around the corner; I hope you get a chance to attend at least one.

The USA Executive Board has continued to meet bimonthly throughout the year. We discuss and vote upon many issues that affect YOU in addition to overseeing the active committees and U Games (aka NAUCC). Feel free to contact any of us if there's an issue you'd like to see addressed in the future. And, we'd love to have some new board members volunteer for the 2010/2011 year. If you think you may be interested, please let one of us know.

Don't forget that registration is now open for U Games. Visit <http://ugames.caluni.org/home> for all the latest updates.

Keep on riding,

Wendy Grzych

USA President

Redford Township Unicycle Club

Contact Info: visit www.rtuc.org for more information about the Redford Township Unicycle Club.

RTUC has had a very busy winter. We had over 40 participants in our beginner's class this year. They all graduated in late February. We were lucky enough to have several join RTUC at the conclusion of class. Our practices have been large, but very fun! Currently we're preparing for U Games, parades, and a Detroit Derby Girls performance.

RTUC is getting ready to put on a show for all our beginner's class graduates.



And the race is on... Tyler's leading by a hair followed by Aaron and Doug. Those two need to pedal a little faster to keep up!

RTUC now performs a short 3-minute 6-foot routine in all the shows. It's a real crowd pleaser.



Memphis Unicycle Club

Contact Info: visit www.memphisunicycleclub.org for more information about Memphis Unicycle Club

Wet winter weather slowed the Memphis Unicycle Club down a bit but we still managed to find opportunities for a few urban and country rides.



On a cool January morning, 5 members of MUC rode through downtown Memphis and along the banks of the Mighty Mississippi River.



We found a sunny day in early February for an urban ride around the University of Memphis campus. Here is Woodrow Savage doing a still-stand.



From January through March, if it was dry on a Saturday morning, we were outside riding.

Twin Cities Unicycle Club

Contact Info: visit www.tcuc.org for more information about the Twin Cities Unicycle Club



TCUCers perform in Jamie Cullum's music video.

Depressed at missing Unicon in Wellington New Zealand, those of us that did not attend the international event wanted to share in the Unicon spirit, so many TCUCers and other upper Midwest unicyclists gathered for TundraCon, a 3 day extravaganza filled with practices and games. Included on the TundraCon agenda were a night of basketball and hockey, a day of riding, practice and games at the NAUCC gym in Bloomington, and a 5 degree ride around a sunny & frozen Saint Paul Lake.

Later in January, many TCUC club members attended MadFest in Madison, Wisconsin for a weekend of riding and juggling. Also in January, TCUC also took part in 2 chilly & wet parades for the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, where the crowds are always large and enthusiastic, no matter how awful the weather.

In February, several TCUCers migrated an hour west of the Twin Cities to the Cotter Ranch in Hutchinson, MN, new home for all the NAUCC Trials equipment. If you have the opportunity to experience Andy & Irene's strange mixture of country hospitality spiced with knee-scraping bone-rattling trials-riding, don't miss it!

In March, we received a call from a representative of Jamie Cullum, an English jazz-pop singer. Mr. Cullum is currently touring North America in support of the latest of his 4 CDs, "The Pursuit". His most recent single from "The Pursuit" is called "Wheels". Starting to get the picture? TCUCers spent several evenings and 12 hours on a Friday at Saint Paul's Concordia University field house to film a "Wheels" music video. It was an interesting experience: a producer with a microphone ("Where are my unicyclists?"), a director with a scarf and French accent, a camera guy on a trolley, various roadies and caterers. It was a long day for the unicyclists as they circled Mr. Cullum's centrally placed piano, over and over again. As giraffes and cokers whizzed by his piano, I'm sure Jamie wondered just what he had gotten himself into. By the way, Jamie Cullum is a totally cool guy, playing his part all day with grace and amazingly good humor.

On March 24, Jamie appeared on the Jimmy Kimmel show, inviting Spencer Hochberg, Cody Williams and Joe Campbell to ride around the stage while he played "Wheels" for a national audience. I'm pretty sure this is just a song-marketing deal for Jamie, but it is giving unicycling some great exposure! And his songs grow on you. I think we should all be Jamie Cullum fans!

Is America ready for this kind of talent? Only time will tell...

We look forward to Mondo, a 3 day juggling & unicycling convention held at the same Concordia University on April 16, 17, 18. Mondo is non-stop fun, with hours of riding and hockey. TCUC will conduct several classes, play hours and hours of hockey and take part in the Mondo Spectacular, a Saturday night variety show that draws a nice crowd.

Down on the Farm MUni Weekend

When: The next edition of DOTFMW will be June 4th-6th

Where: at Irene and Andy's Farm in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

What: It is a Trials and MUni event for all abilities. If you can ride, mount, hop a few times then this event is for you. If you have more uni skills, then this event is really for you. If the thought of some Trials or riding off road sounds fun, this event has your name written all over it.

Who: We may have Max Schulze, the current Trials World Champion as our special guest, and we would also like to invite you to come and join in the fun.

Why: What better way to celebrate the end of the school year than with a weekend full of unicycling?

Cost: It is free

Food: Saturday during the main competitions we will be having a Potluck lunch/dinner. Bring something to share. Bring your own food for Friday & Sunday, a grill is available.

Lodging: There is lodging in town, camping in town, and also camping available on our property. The number of showers we can offer in the house is limited, but we do live by a Lake and a Pond, and will have a port-o-potty available for use.

What to bring: Unicycle, protective gear, change of clothes, food, any extra fun stuff.

Questions? Feel free to contact Irene Genelin at: igenelin@gmail.com or (612) 968-6498 or Andy Cotter at: ABCotter@GMail.com or (612) 968-3565



Christopher Hugo participates in DOTFMW.

Scholarship Winner Updates

Brittany Ruppert:

I have finished fall semester and am attending my spring classes. I have done well in school so far, all A's and B's. School has been very enjoyable. Thank you so much, this scholarship has helped me so much.

Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend as many unicycle practices as I would have liked, I guess that's what college does to you. Luckily I have been able to go to a few practices here and there at both North Bend and in Sultan. When its not raining outside on the weekends, I still go on uni rides with my dad. I have also picked more up on mountain unicycling, my boyfriend used to compete in downhill mountain biking and I ride my unicycle with him when he goes on the trails by his house. Aside from just college and unicycling I have been working and trying to get an apartment close to school and move out and squeezing in time to be with friends.

It has been fun and exciting to be in college. Thank you so much again, it is really appreciated. Thanks!

Joe Campbell:

I have been doing great in school. I completed the last semester strong and have started the next one. I and am looking forward to NAUCC here in California and summertime though after I am done with all the work!

Unicycling related I have continued to do many great things. Lately I have been getting all the California riders together to practice, socialize and enjoy the nice cool season here in California.

I have also been applying for jobs as a performer. Cirque Du Soleil and Circus Circus are both interested in my applications.

Also I have been working on my still stand records. I can do 3 minutes easily and will surely prove to be a good competitor for upcoming slow races.

As always I have made a couple videos... here is a link to "Adventures of JOE and Spencer"

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_q2WxfycQQ

I should be going to summer EUC to compete with the Europeans! I just have to finish up all the school work first.

Spencer Hochberg:

School's going really well, I've been looking around for summer engineering internships lately. I've been looking into the aerospace industry. There's a private space exploration company out here (called SpaceX) that builds launch vehicles and rockets, so currently my long term goal is to get a job there, we'll see how it goes though.

As far as unicycling goes, I'm on the KH team again for 2010. Last weekend I rode with a bunch of friends down near San Diego so that's still going strong. In about a week and a half I'm going to a uni event in Germany for a long weekend. It's pretty hard to escape from school during the quarter to go to events but I got lucky and it doesn't conflict with any exams.

That's about all that's going on right now!

NYC Unicycle Bridge Tour

What: New York City Unicycle Bridge Tour

When: Multiple dates in 2010

Where: All Five Boroughs in New York City

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There are 2,078 bridges in the 5 boroughs of New York City. Since October 14, 2009, Keith Nelson and Rob Hickman have been making weekly treks around the city to cross every one of them.... on unicycles.

The duo has been joined by several other one-wheelers and the latest ride on January 27 counted 4 unicyclists. These one wheel wonders leave a wake of amusement through every neighborhood they pass. Never able to coast, the hard-pedaling riders are crossing distances ranging from 2 to 13 miles. The treks usually originate in Hickman and Nelson's neighborhood of Williamsburg.

Longer distances will be covered as the bridges in the outer regions of Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx boroughs are spanned. Staten Island presents its own challenge, as there is only one day a year that cyclists can cross the Verazzano Narrows Bridge. With this in mind, Nelson and Hickman are striving to average six miles an hour, the minimum speed required for the Five Borough Bike Tour.

Taking advantage of cycle lanes throughout the city, the one wheel mission may be rolling through your neighborhood soon. Rides are on Wednesdays, weather permitting. The February 3 ride features the tours first trip to both Staten Island and New Jersey.

* * * * *

Keith Nelson is a variety entertainer (juggler, clown, sword swallower) and co-founder of Bindlestiff Family Cirkus, a nationally touring New York based troupe. Nelson has been an integral part of New York's circus, sideshow, vaudeville and burlesque communities for fifteen years.

Robert Hickman is a contemporary artist who works in sculptural objects, installations, and public sculpture. His work has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally. His Permanent Public Commission can be seen at Verdi Square, 72nd Street Station, New York and Roosevelt Island Station, New York. <http://hickmanindustries.com>



WOW Unicycle Fun Meet

The WOW 4-H Unicycle Club will host a Unicycle Fun Meet at Maumee Bay State Park, Oregon, on Saturday, May 22, 2010.

* Maumee Bay is a beautiful state park located just east of Toledo, Ohio. The lodge has indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpools, racket ball courts, sauna, golf course and board walks. There are also cottages. Reservations required: 1-800-282-7275. The camping is tent or trailer on a first come basis.

Registration will begin at 9:30 A.M. The first event will be the long race and will begin at 10:00. Other events will be a short race, slow board race, obstacle course, one foot race, walk the wheel race, ultimate wheel race, juggling race, obstacle course, slow boards and a ride around the inland lake.



- All ages and skill levels are welcome.
- Ribbon awards will be given for all events.
- Age groups same as National Unicycle Meet.

Lunch will be a potluck picnic.

No registration fee but donations would be appreciated.

In case of extremely bad weather the meet will be canceled.

If you would like more information contact Jan Layne,
303 E. Lincoln Street, Findlay, OH 45840. 419-422-8959
email jlayne1@juno.com www.wowunicycle.com



How To Crank Idle

By Matt Sindelar

1. Start off your unicycle. Position cranks to be level.
2. Place your non-dominant foot on the opposite crank.



3. Step up to pedal and begin to idle. Start on a wall. It will feel different at first, but like any trick it just takes practice. Remember to get nice big pushes. This trick is similar to one foot idle because it only uses one foot to push.



4. When first learning, keep seat firmly against your hip and hold the seat.
5. Once you get comfortable just idling, you can learn how to get into it from riding. Start by idling seat on side with the foot used to pedal in crank idle down. Then swinging your other leg around onto the crown of the crank. Go back to normal idling by swinging the non-pushing leg over the seat, similar to a side mount. Kick your knee up really high for this.

NYC Unicycle Festival

The first NYC Unicycle Festival will be rolling across New York City September 3 to September 5, 2010. Bindlestiff Family Variety Arts, Inc. is producing this three day event featuring a grand gathering on Governors Island on September 4. The festival features unicycle races and games, Trials demonstrations, public shows, a long distance ride, and the largest group of one-wheeled enthusiasts ever to gather in the five boroughs. 2010 will be the first year of a festival that intends to become an annual tradition for the Big Apple.

New York City is already home to the New York Unicycle Club (regular meetings at Grant's Tomb), the King Charles Troupe (the most famous unicycle troupe in the world), and most recently, the NYC Unicycle Bridge Tour. The growing popularity of this quirky pastime, combined with the city's initiatives to encourage cycling, make this a timely opportunity for a celebration of the unicycle.

Although you may witness one wheelers all over town including a mass ride on Friday (9/3), The main event is Governors Island on September 4. From noon to 5 pm people can enjoy rolling on one wheel in an automobile free area, attempt unicycling for the first time, participate in games of unicycle basketball and hockey, and witness some of the most daring feats imagined by legends in the mono cycle world.

The NYC Unicycle Festival on Governors Island features:

1. A fun filled day of riding unicycles on Governor's island
2. Organized games such as unicycle basketball and unicycle hockey.
3. Workshops, ranging from learn-to-ride sessions to advanced skills instruction.
4. Races and competitions.
5. A unicycle Trials course. As in skateboarding and BMX, there is a community of unicyclists who will attempt to run obstacle courses on one wheel.
6. A unicycle vending area that invites dealers and vendors from across the country.
7. Interboro tunnel ride through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, entering Governors Island through the stairway in the air shaft (pending MTA permission)
8. International unicycle film series.
9. A public show featuring the best unicycle entertainers from around the world (if venue and funds permit).

New York City Unicycle Festival
3 Days of One Wheel Madness

September 3, 2010

West Side Cycle Path

A long distance ride from South Street Seaport up the West Side Cycle Path.

September 4

Governors Island

The New York City Unicycle Festival comes to Governors Island for a day of unicycle races and games, public shows, and the largest group of one-wheeled enthusiasts ever to gather in the five boroughs.

September 5

Grant's Tomb

The festival joins up with the New York City Unicycle Club at their traditional meeting ground, Grant's

Boulder Unicycle Club

The Boulder Unicycle Club will be having it's annual Muni fest in conjunction with the Juggling Club's festival. They have hundreds of people in attendance for this festival and a lot of them ride unis so we have joined forces to combine the events for the first time. All events will be updated on the clubs web site soon.

www.boulderuni.com

“the Boulder Juggling Festival dates have been set! June 18th-20th, which is Father's Day and World Juggling Day just like always. We are teaming up with the Boulder Unicycle Club to offer more events like trail rides and unicycle hockey.” All juggling events will be held at Boulder's Circus Club. All unicycle

Mark Janowiecki's UNICON Trip

This past Christmas I had the opportunity to attend Unicon XV in Wellington New Zealand. The mere trip there took nearly two days, 20 hours of which were spent in the air. Once there, the convention, and country was wonderful. It was very eye opening to see the more than 650 unicyclists from 23 different countries compete in the various events. There were many unique styles from the different countries, especially in freestyle, and this was interesting to see (but very difficult to judge!) The country was also very unique and interesting to me. It contrasted northwest Ohio simply by having hills. It had so much more though, and the scenery was varied but overall beautiful. Overall, a Unicon is an amazing event that is definitely worth attending. New Zealand is also a very beautiful country that would make an excellent vacation spot.

The Unicyclist

By Andrew Kitchner

The unicyclist is the perfect outward example of the inner sage.

His humble profession is a testimony to his depth of character.

He balances on the wheel of life between the two forces, threatening to unbalance him which are desire and aversion.

He maneuvers around all obstacles like a flowing river.


He attains to ever reach the greatest heights of inner liberation by concentrating all his energy in the task at hand.

His achievements are not for his own selfish ends but for the joy of his audience.

His goal is reached and reward is attained, not from any outward show of success but rather when his skills act effortlessly and all thoughts fall from his mind.

Saving Cash for the 2010 U Games

By Shelly Stobierski



When my son, Tyler, first joined RTUC, I bought him a 20” unicycle. He quickly decided that he wanted a 24” wheel for riding around the neighborhood. I can’t afford to buy a new unicycle every other month, so I told him he would have to buy it himself. With that end in mind, he took his 20” unicycle to school and did tricks at lunchtime while “passing the hat” to raise money. I can assure you, after a lengthy conversation with his principal, that this is most unwelcome. However, there are other methods to save for our unicycle-related goals, such as paying for a trip to nationals.

The 2010 U Games in California are fast approaching. The tough economic times have many U.S.A members scratching to save money for the trip. I was laid off from my job in February and find myself needing to be creative to finance our trip. Here are some ideas that we’ll be using to cover expenses.

Warehouse clubs, such as Sam’s Club or Costco, offer candy bar fundraisers. Sam’s Club, for instance, offers a fundraiser package of Hershey products. The kit includes a display box and 52 assorted candy bars (Hershey Bars, Kitt Kats, Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups, etc.) The cost is approximately \$26 per box (prices vary slightly by location). The candy bars sell for \$1, and as an added incentive, many have coupons inside the labels. The boxes are easy to carry and great to take to children’s sporting events or to the office. I once sold them for Tyler’s soccer team and all I had to do was display them on my desk at work. I sold four boxes in one week. I had people chasing me down for candy bars weeks after the sale was over.

For those of us in states with bottle laws (CA, CT, DE, HI, IA, ME, MA, MI, NY, OR, VT) that collect a deposit on cans, glass and plastic bottles, organizing a neighborhood bottle drive is a quick and easy way to earn cash for the trip. RTUC members Mitch and Patty Whittenberg did a neighborhood bottle drive to earn money for their trip to Minnesota last year. They printed out flyers explaining that they were going to compete in NAUCC09 and asked for any donations of bottles and cans to be left on the porch on a specified day. On that day, they rounded them up and returned them to the grocery store for cash. In one afternoon, they collected over \$100.

A garage sale is another great way to earn extra cash, and you get the added bonus of cleaning up spaces like garages, basements and closets of old junk. I recently cleaned out all of Tyler’s old toys, and other stuff we no longer use that had been cluttering up my basement. I held a two-day garage sale and took in over \$300. And, my basement has never looked better.

Finally, many credit card companies and banks have reward programs attached to the credit/debit cards that can be redeemed for travel and/or gift cards. My bank, for example, gives you four points for every dollar spent paying bills on line, as well as points for purchases made by using your debit card as a credit card. There is no added expense to me for using these payment methods, and the points can be redeemed for hotels, rental cars, and Visa gift cards. I have ear-marked these points to be used for the trip in July. Since January, I’ve banked enough points for two \$50 Visa gift cards.