



ON ONE WHEEL

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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; Will Riley practices his tricks while waiting for the ferry at the New York Unicycle Club Festival 2011.

Photo by Amanda Grzych

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 All views expressed in this newsletter are those of the respective authors. They are not necessarily those of members or officers of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Address editorial material to: Editor – On One Wheel, Unicycling Society of America, Inc. P.O. Box 21487, Minneapolis, MN 55421-0487

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A Letter From Your Editor

Hello USA Members!

I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you, the reader. This magazine is composed of items that you submit. Therefore, if I do not receive anything, I cannot make a magazine. I'd like to encourage you to submit whatever you have the time to do. For instance, I love getting photos for the photo collage pages. Plus, sending in photos with a caption won't take more than five minutes. So please, send ANYTHING you have to me. I have a new email: grzych.amanda@gmail.com.

Have a nice Spring!

Amanda

Memphis Unicycle Club

Contact Info: <http://www.memphisunicycleclub.org/> for more information about the Memphis Unicyclists

Memphis Unicycle Club is still here. What we lack in size, we try to make-up with enthusiasm.

Last fall, MUC participated in the opening of a new “rails-to-trails” type of trail in the Memphis area. The 6.5 mile paved path runs from middle to east Memphis. Plans are in the works to expand the trail several miles farther east plus to the west including all the way across the Mississippi River. A still used 100-year-old railroad bridge across the Mississippi River has some car lanes that were used many years ago. These car lanes may be put into use for running, biking and of course unicycling all the way to Arkansas!



Two members of MUC riding the Shelby Farms Greenline.

Our one and only Christmas parade was rained out so we did not get to parade back in December.

MUC stays busy with weekly Thursday evening practice sessions and when weather allows, a Saturday morning ride either off-road or urban.

We are looking at NAUCC 2011 and hoping to have a small team this year.`



Members of MUC on a recent Thursday evening.

The New York Unicycle Club

Contact Info: visit <http://www.newyorkunicycle.com/> for more information about the New York Unicycle Club

Special Visitors

Our club has just turned 10. Over the years, we've had many local guests, but on occasion we've been lucky enough to host a few national and international visitors as well.

One of our first visitors came all the way from Darwin, Australia back in 2003. Traveling on a government grant, Debbie Hyder had limited funds. But unicyclists are a wonderfully generous community. As soon as I heard about her on the Uniclclist.com forum, I emailed her an invitation to stay in our house and at my mother's apartment, giving her a taste of Brooklyn and Manhattan. She was fortunate enough to arrive just as the Unithon was about to ride across Long Beach Island on its annual tour, and she joined some of our club members in the 18.5-mile ride, after which she realized that she needed to purchase a more comfortable seat!

We've also been lucky enough to have visitors from clubs in other states, including Rhode Island and even Michigan, but our best-known visitors were two of the best riders in the country. On one occasion, Irene Genelin wowed the club with some high-level skills. Excitement was so great in anticipation of her visit that we had over 60 members show up on a day when we might normally have had only 30. Another time, past Unicycle Society of America president John Foss brought out a similar number of our club members when he came for an afternoon.

John may have been responsible for the first semi-official unicycle club back in the 1980s when he was living on Long Island, NY, and my brother and I even rode with him once when we were in our teens. It was great to have him back in the Big Apple.

Our most famous international visitor was world champion rider David Weichenberger from Austria. Young David is one of the best over-all riders I've ever met. He even demonstrated something I'd only seen in videos and at conventions, riding around the thin fence that surrounds one of our nearby playgrounds! In addition to impressing us with his fantastic riding, David also engaged us in some competitive unicycle sumo bouts. My fingers eventually recovered.

[<http://einradfreak.twoday.net/topics/Unicon>]

Perhaps our oddest 'guest' came back in the early aughts: Greg Harper's geared unicycle. Harper had announced on the forum that he had built and tested a geared-up, 1.5-to-1 unicycle on a 26" wheel. I jokingly suggested that he send it around to various clubs for beta-testing, and Harper was just crazy enough to do it! I was fortunate enough to try it for about two weeks leading up to one of our get-togethers, and then I watched as other members of the club gave it a try.

It's been a fun decade, and we look forward to your visit as well.

Come see the sights, and the club, when you're in New York!

Redford Township Unicycle Club

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

RTUC has had a very busy winter. We had 40 participants in our Beginner's Class this year. They all graduated in late February, complete with a graduation ceremony, a show by RTUC, a wonderful brunch, and then a class/club practice. Our practices since then have been very large, but also very fun! Currently we're preparing for the onset of our parade season and of course, NAUCC 2011. This year we're doing a club routine, an intermediate group routine, and an advanced group routine. It's not easy squeezing that many routines into one 3-hour practice/week!

Our teens are again looking forward to summer. They plan events in which parents aren't allowed (and they think we mind!). This summer they're hosting 2 Teen Camping Weekends, among other activities. They do all the planning, preparation, communication, etc. What a great group of young leaders we have!

The parents haven't been too lazy, either. We had several participate in the Beginner's Class again this year. A lot of parents have decided that it's much more fun to learn than to sit by and watch. You'll see many of them riding in the RTUC routines this summer, and hopefully more will join in next year. Go parents!



RTUC finishes performing for the graduating class and their families.



Members from RTUC practice their club routine.

From left to right:
Jason, Jan, Dan, Katie, Rya,
and Dale form a wall.

Redford Township Unicycle Club

By Lauren

This is an essay that Lauren wrote for one of her classes in school.

My name is Lauren.

I am seven years old.

I am a member of the Redford Township Unicycle Club.

Together we help people to learn how to unicycle.

Together we help each other improve our unicycling skills.

Together we ride in parades.

Some of us are formation riders.

Formation is when we ride in an order of tallest to smallest.

I am the last in line.

Together we make the crowd very happy with our talents. Together we make formations such as walls, lines, stars, and bridges.

Sometimes I am nervous but when I am with my club I am fearless.



Lauren, pictured in the center, does the warm up with her club.



Lauren and her dad, Mark, ride in a winter parade with RTUC.

NAUCC 2011

By Lynn Welch, for the Madison Unicyclists

Unicyclists bring national competition and convention to Madison

Ask anyone who can ride a unicycle what it's like and you'll get varying but similar answers. Some of the more common responses: "It's fun," and, "It's unique."

In the greater Madison area, it's becoming less unique to find people riding on one wheel thanks to an active and diverse group of enthusiasts who continue to spread their passion for unicycling. Members of the Madison Unicyclists practice together from fall through spring. Sessions are open at the Goodman Community Center gym two Sunday afternoons each month for anyone who wishes to try, learn or develop skills riding a unicycle. This year, the Madison Unicyclists is also busy planning an event that will bring world-class unicyclists to Madison to compete and teach skills in another first-of-its-kind event for Madison.

The Madison Unicyclists will host the 2011 North American Unicycling Competition and Convention (NAUCC) July 23 through the 30th. The national unicycling competition and gathering is a something for everyone of all riding levels – beginner to expert – held at venues at in Madison and around the area. Opening weekend events include a race around nearby neighborhoods and flats competitions, where you can see riders do amazing stunts on one wheel (think X Games meets unicycling).

There will be something for everyone at the convention and competition, stresses event organizer Ann O'Brien. "It's a gathering for all levels of riders of all ages, from beginners to experts," says O'Brien, noting that there are many workshops geared toward riders of all levels integrated with competitions that run the gamut. Nationals is an annual large gathering of unicyclists from all across North America held in a different location each year and sponsored by the Unicycling Society of America (USA). This past summer, advanced riders from the Madison Unicyclists traveled to the San Francisco Bay Area where they brought back dozens of medals competing in the U Games, hosted by the Berkeley Unicyclists. In 2009, nationals took place in suburban Minneapolis.

USA describes nationals as "all-inclusive and eye opening." You never imagined how many different ways people can demonstrate technical ability and skills on a unicycle.

Activities at the yearly event include distance and track races, road races and fun rides, mountain unicycling, plus artistic and freestyle riding, where unicyclists demonstrate skill set to music with costumes and props. Track and field competition involves almost anything you'd find at a conventional track meet such as sprints, high jump and long jump. In trials, street and flatland, riders demonstrate flip tricks and spins, and jumping over seemingly impossible obstacles. In addition, unicycle teams play basketball and hockey on unicycles. Workshops have included sessions on learning to ride a unicycle to wheel walking, ballroom dancing, spinning and unicycle maintenance.

With Madison the setting for NAUCC 2011, there's never been a better time here to get a taste for riding on one wheel. "We wanted to host (nationals) in Madison to promote the fun and share the fun," O'Brien says. Find more information on NAUCC 2011 at uninationals.com or find the event on Facebook.

UNICON XVI Limitations for Italy 2012

UNICON XVI will take place in Brixen, Italy, from July 20 – July 31, 2012 (<http://www.unicon16.it>).

The 2012 UNICON will be the first international unicycling competition in which the number of competitors per country is limited in certain events*. All events are unlimited unless listed below and all members of the USA are encouraged to attend:

- Racing
 - o 400m
 - o 800m
 - o Wheel walk
 - o One-foot
 - o Relay
 - o Track coasting
 - o Downhill gliding
- Freestyle
 - o Individual freestyle (age groups, jr. expert, and expert)
 - o Pairs freestyle (age groups, jr. expert, and expert)
 - o Group freestyle small group (max 10 person, age groups 0-14 AND 15+)
 - o Group freestyle large group (11+ people, age groups 0-14 AND 15+)
 - o Group freestyle expert
- Flatland
- Street
- Trials



Because the USA is allowed to send only a set number of competitors in each of the events listed above, the results of NAUCC 2011 will determine who will be allowed to compete in Italy in 2012 in the events listed above, with few exceptions. Please plan on attending NAUCC 2011 if you plan on competing in the aforementioned events at UNICON 2012.

If you have any questions about the limitations or UNICON in general, please contact Ryan Woessner
ryan.woessner@gmail.com

***All other events are open to ALL competitors.**



NAUCC 2011

Mark your calendars July 23-30 for the 2011 North American Unicycling Convention and Championships! Madison unicyclists have planned a full roster of workshops, competitions and fun activities for riders of all level in Madison, Wisconsin – among the best vacation spots in the Midwest.

Learn more at the Unicycle Nationals website , including information about participating hotels and campgrounds, then make plans now to attend. Registration is open now, but make your hotel or campground reservations now for choice locations.

VISIT UNINATIONALS.COM TO REGISTER

NORTH AMERICAN UNICYCLE CONVENTION & CHAMPIONSHIPS



Join the largest gathering of unicyclists in North America!

- * Participate in workshops, competitions, and social events for riders of all skill levels beginner to expert.
- * Ride in a top-ranked cycling city.
- * Enjoy many nearby attractions for riders and non-riders.
- * Compete to qualify for UNICON 2012 in Italy.

**One Week of Unicycling
Vacation Memories for a Lifetime**

July 23-30

Madison, Wisconsin

Visit UniNationals.com for more information or to register

New York City UNIFEST 2011

Mark your calendars for NYC UNIFEST 2011 – September 2-4, 2011

Although spring is just – AND SLOWLY --arriving, it is not too early to start planning your 2011 summer vacations (after Madison's national championships in July, of course!). Here is a great idea for a Labor Day weekend getaway in New York City.

The Bindlestiff Family Cirkus has announced that the Second Annual New York City Unicycle Festival is being scheduled for September 2-4, 2011. The New York City Unicycle Festival seeks to bring together recreational riders, world-class performers, mountain and off-road unicycle enthusiasts, mono-wheel vehicle inventors, and the thousands of people who have not ridden in umpteen years along with circus enthusiasts, extreme sports viewers, and anyone seeking an unusual sight--even for NYC!

We're expecting an even greater turn-out than last year, when about 50 unicyclists celebrated Brooklyn Unicycle Day (Friday) by riding from downtown Manhattan over the Brooklyn Bridge and over 13 miles of dedicated bike paths to the famed Coney Island boardwalk for fireworks, Nathan's hotdogs, sandy beaches and amusement park rides. The following day, over 300 unicyclists took part in games and competitions on the historic park grounds at Governors Island in the middle of New York Harbor. On Sunday, the New York Unicycle entertained over a hundred visitors – our largest turnout ever -- at Grant's Tomb in Upper Manhattan near Columbia University.

The website will be launched shortly at <http://nycunifest.com/2011.html>. Volunteers to help organize sponsorships, website, rider recruitment, logistics, etc are welcome. Please contact Keith Nelson, 347 404-0422,keith@bindlestiff.org

Press Coverage of the NYC Unicycle Festival included:

AOL News- Unicyclists to Roll Over New York City by Marc Hartzman
<http://www.aolnews.com/weird-news/article/unicycle-festival-wheels-its-way-through-new-york-city/19614948>

Brooklyn Daily Eagle
http://www.brooklyn eagle.com/categories/category.php?category_id=31&id=37356

One-Wheeled Riders Take Over the Brooklyn Bridge for New York Unicycle Festival by Julie Shapiro
<http://www.dnainfo.com/20100903/downtown/onewheeled-riders-take-over-brooklyn-bridge-for-nyc-unicycle-festival>

CNN Report - Unicycle Fest NYC: Unibasket, Unihockey, Unicanman
<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-488914>

Luke Burrage's Blog
<http://www.lukeburrage.com/blog/archives/1043>

NYC Unicycle Festival report by Lane Talburt
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2d8m-7ohVM>

Stacey Rosenstock photos
<http://srosenstock.photoshelter.com/gallery/NYC-Unicycle-Festival/G0000Qo6qn.UpWi4>

Jofawan's Blog
http://jofawan.wordpress.com/2010/09/06/first-nyc-unicycle-festival/?preview=true&preview_id=1&preview_nonce=a8b55753e8

