

# ON ONE WHEEL

Official Publication of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc.  
Issue 34-2 July 1, 2012

## JULY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	N	A	U	C	C
'12	16	17	18	19		
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**Unicycle.com will be at  
N.A.U.C.C. all week:**

Tues. ~ Thurs. - General Sales and Service  
near the Gym.

Friday - D.E.M.O. unicycles will be available  
to ride at the trail.

Sat. ~ Sun. - Setup at the track for  
small part sales and light repair.



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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;** A countdown to some of the most exciting events!

## 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.

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## A Letter From Your Editor

Hi Everyone!

I'd like to start by saying that I'm thrilled to be the host of this year's North American Unicycling Championships and Convention in Saline, Michigan! I hope to see you all there and wish you the best of luck. And good luck to Team USA at UNICON as well!

I'm also stepping down as On One Wheel editor this year. My plate has been full (and over filled) for quite some time now. I hope the next editor takes as much pride in their work as I do. It was a fulfilling job to have for four consecutive years. Thank you to all of you who have contributed to On One Wheel over the years – you made my job much better.

Amanda

# New York City Unicycle Festival

New York City Unicycle Festival  
3 Days of One Wheel Madness

**What:** New York City Unicycle Festival  
**When:** August 31, September 1 and September 2, 2012  
**Where:** Governors Island and Brooklyn Bridge to Coney Island

NYC's Unicycle Festival will roll across New York City this Labor Day. The growing popularity of this quirky pastime, combined with the City's initiatives to encourage cycling, make this a timely opportunity to celebrate the unicycle. Last year's festival brought over 300 riders to the Big Apple, even more one wheelers are expected for this year's event.

The New York City Unicycle Festival takes place August 31 to September 2, 2012:

August 31, 2012 – Brooklyn Unicycle Day (proclaimed by borough president Marty Markowitz). Festivities begin Friday afternoon with a mass ride over the Brooklyn Bridge (3pm) to Grand Army Plaza (4pm) and then to Coney Island (6pm). Expect to witness amazing unicycle displays near Deno's Wonder Wheel, along the Boardwalk, and around the Cyclone Stadium. This long-distance unicycle ride is being organized by the Unicycle NYC Bridge Tour ([unibridgetour.info](http://unibridgetour.info)).

September 1 and 2, 2012 – The festival's main events takes place on Governors Island from 12pm-5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Activities include races, competitions, exhibitions, and a variety of unicycle sports including unicycle basketball and hockey. New York City's legendary King Charles Troupe will be organizing the Unicycle Basketball games. For fans of extreme riding, the Hell on Wheel trials course will challenge riders throughout the day. World-famous riders will display their skills, and members of the public will have the opportunity to try one-wheel riding.

Produced by Bindlestiff Family Variety Arts, Inc., the New York City Unicycle Festival brings together recreational riders, world-class performers, mountain and off-road unicycle enthusiasts, mono-wheel vehicle inventors, and 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!



All ages and abilities welcome.  
Find out more at [nycunifest.com](http://nycunifest.com).

Bindlestiff Family Cirkus  
PO Box 1917  
New York, NY 10009

1-877-BINDLES info  
<http://www.bindlestiff.org>

# Kris Holm's New Book



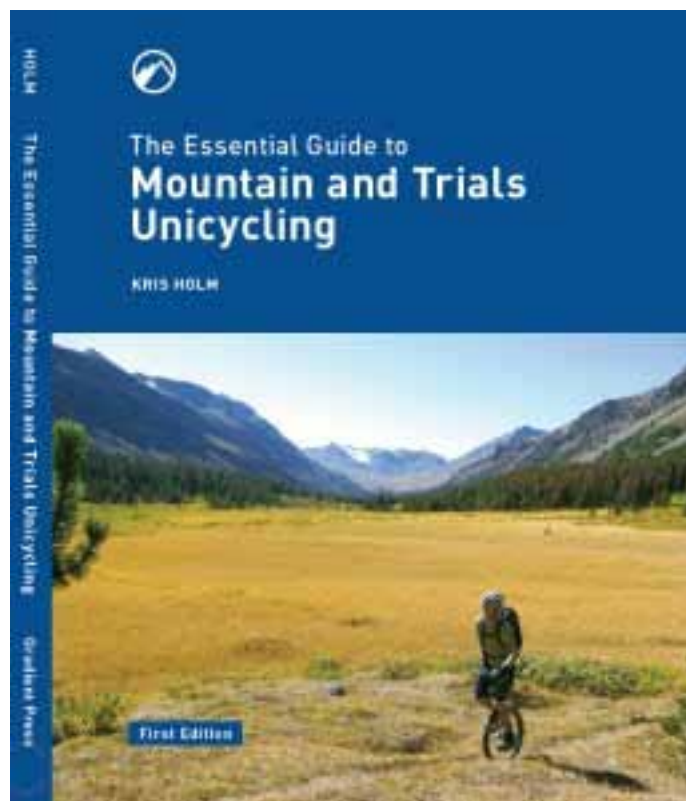
I just finished reading Kris Holm's new book *The Essential Guide to Mountain and Trials Unicycling*. It was great! The book is full of great unicycle action pictures and very good advice for any unicycle rider looking to get started riding bike trails or riding in Trials competition. Once I started reading the book I couldn't stop, I read it cover to cover, the writing is not only informative it is well written. The book has several personal riding stories that give the book a nice human touch and makes the book enjoyable to read.

In the book Kris describes and gives the pro's and con's of all the different types of equipment and parts used to build a unicycle for this sport: saddles, seatposts, clamps, frames, brakes, tires, rims, hubs, cranks, and geared hubs. After reading this section you will be all set to build that perfect uni to address your personal goals.

Kris goes through an in depth instruction on how to learn all the basic skills required to ride trials and trails, voicing his many years of experience on the topics. Kris gives plenty of credit to all the people who helped expand the sport of unicycling from racing and artistic riding of the 1970's to the many faceted sport that it is today.

Written by Hans Mills

*For more information on Kris' book and where to get it, see the book website at [www.gradientpress.com](http://www.gradientpress.com).*





# A Success Story



<https://picasaweb.google.com/105619525839842586418/UnicycleGraduation2012?feat=email#5741403046192559106>

\* All photographs were taken by Amanda Grzych

The above site contains a picture of my unicycle ride at the end of an eight week class.

I had not ridden a unicycle for more than a year and decided to enroll in class.

That old adage that says “Relearning is just like riding a bike”; is far from the truth.

With the GRACE of GOD, I survived!

I am now a member of the Redford Township Unicycle Club.

Carl H. Yerger III



*Redford Township Unicycle Club's Graduated Class of 2012.*

# Tour de Lopez

Who drives 15 hours for a four-hour ride? A unicyclist!

Friday, April 27 Scott and I drove five hours north to Seattle, Washington and spent the night with friends. We got up at 5:15 a.m. Saturday, picked up another unicyclist, Noli Ergas, and drove 1.5 hours to Anacortes to catch the ferry to Lopez Island, one of the U.S. San Juan Islands between Washington state and Victoria, British Columbia.

The Tour de Lopez (<http://www.lopezisland.com/tourdelopez.htm>) is a non-competitive cycling ride which swells the rural island's population by almost 50%. With 900 bicyclists and only two unicyclists, Scott and Noli got a lot of attention. While they rode the 31 mile route around the island, I explored Lopez Village, sat on the beach, and enjoyed the unique feel of a small island.

The only way off Lopez Island is by ferry and catching the 1:30 p.m. ferry was essential to our plan of getting back to Oregon that night. So as soon as Scott and Noli finished riding, we headed to the ferry terminal and joined a mob of bicyclists for the 45 minute ferry ride back to Anacortes. Then it was 3.5 hours of heavy traffic before dropping off Noli in Seattle. Five hours later we were back home in Springfield, Oregon.

Was all that driving worth it? Yes! We've been very busy this year, with trips to Ecuador and Colorado and a hectic final tax season for Scott (he's a CPA). We were moving from our home of almost 33 years into a small apartment, in anticipation of moving to Ecuador later this year. We hadn't taken much time for fun. We enjoyed the brief visit to Lopez Island and the change of pace it brought. Despite the long drive, we came home refreshed.

Unicycling has been important to our family for more than 15 years. All seven of us ride, but it is Scott who enjoys it the most. And since getting his first 36" wheel in 2002, he has increasingly chosen longer road rides for his recreation. We've been to fourteen consecutive North American conventions and three international events, including Ride the Lobster ([http://www.ridethelobster.com/race/teams/team\\_udc/index.php](http://www.ridethelobster.com/race/teams/team_udc/index.php)) in Nova Scotia in 2008. We have met many wonderful people through unicycling. But because of our impending move to Ecuador, we're not going to NAUCC 2012 (<http://www.naucc2012.com/default.aspx>) this summer and that makes us sad.

Unicycles are at the top of Scott's packing list for Ecuador. He's hoping he can take both his Telford mountain unicycle and his 36" Nimbus because he doesn't want to choose between them. We plan on buying most of what we need to set up our household in Ecuador, but if we ship anything, it will be unicycles.

The attraction of unicycling is universal. We have taught many people to unicycle here in Oregon. We hope unicycling will help us connect with our neighbors and community in Ecuador too. Although we'll be busy in Ecuador, Scott is looking forward to riding there. Watch for blogs on unicycling and our other adventures at <http://AdventuresInMiddleEarth.com>.

*Written by Jody Arnold*

To see photos, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150175095714178.326321.501074177&type=3>



# Twin Cities Unicycle Club



Over the past months, the Twin Cities Unicycle Club has held between three and five practices each week. Many of these practices include class time with the practice to incorporate new learners into the club. However, these practices are only a part of what the club has been doing.

During the weekend of February 17th to the 19th, the club enjoyed participating in the annual MONDO event which is a unicycling and juggling festival. The weekend included many hours of open gym for practice

as well as a court for unicycle hockey and several other fun activities such as unicycle games. On Saturday evening, the club show group performed during the show. One of the highlights of MONDO, however, was that the club was able to bring in two special guests, Emilie and Philipp. Both were unicyclists from Switzerland who not only performed at MONDO together in a pairs routine but also spent several weeks with the club at practices and other events. Overall, the weekend was a tremendous amount of fun for everyone in the club and provided some great time for practice as well as social time.

The club also had the Saint Patrick's Day parade in Wisconsin. Many of the club members enjoyed dressing up the traditional parade outfit with green accents. Also, the club continued a tradition by going to Pizza Hut together following the parade to celebrate another successful parade.

Both of these were excellent local events, but several club members are looking forward to attending NAUCC this year in Michigan. Many members of the club are planning for individual routines as well as small groups and show group. Along with NAUCC, a small group of club members will be headed to Italy for UNICON. In addition to these events, the parade schedule is filling up as summer approaches which will keep the club busy for the next several months.



# Buttler Wobble

From the Hills of Western Pennsylvania:

The Butler Wobble unofficially started in the Summer of 2008- shortly after Ride the Lobster. We had a couple of locals who were interested in riding so we decided we should have a club. Things were low key for that Summer and Autumn as we met on an impromptu schedule, but the seeds were planted to integrate unicycles into the local mountain bike race series, the Month of Mud.

A big boost to our club occurred in February of 2009 when the Butler YMCA allowed us to form a more official unicycle club. We are able to use their gym for a couple of hours a week and offer free unicycling lessons to the community at large. This gave us a “public” space and visibility- as the Y always has no shortage of people. Word got out that there was unicycling in town and interests were piqued. That first Winter of 2009, our roster consisted of about 20 people. When Sandy, the Director, saw how many people were on our roster she was elated. This allowed us to come back in late Autumn and start the cycle all over again. When we resumed in November 2010, our roster expanded to over 30 people- many of whom hadn’t been involved the prior Spring. Throughout the 2010-2011 indoor season our roster swelled to nearly 50! When we showed up for the first meeting in the Fall of 2011 we had 8 newbies who were eager to ride, but had never tried to unicycle before. We were shocked when they all showed up, as we didn’t even know these people were coming! All in all, our weekly Y meetings throughout the colder weather season have resulted in well over 60 people learning to unicycle.

From the beginning, the Butler Wobble has been interested in unicycling outdoors. We’re passionate about distance and MUni. In 2009 due to member’s connections through years of bicycle racing, we were able to get several riders together and enter the Month of Mud Cyclocross race. This action blossomed into several riders showing up for each race in the Month of Mud series throughout 2010 and 2011. In 2010 we were very fortunate to be able to co-host a 2 day stage race on the road that included a closed course time trial, a criterium, and a 25.5 mile open road race. The event was organized for bicycles, but the main organizer wanted to include unicycles too. We were able to use the same courses at different times which was a huge benefit to us since most of the expenses the event incurred were covered by the bicycles.

In 2011, another local race organizer approached us about adding an official unicycle class to the Fat Tire Challenge mountain bike race. We hit the big time! In 2012 we were welcomed into yet another off road racing series, the Yellow Creek Grassroots series. That brings the total opportunities to enter a MUni in a race in Western PA to over 15 a year!

We have done some parades, and we’ve also been able to represent unicycling at some other non-traditional events. We attended a benefit car cruise in 2011, and in 2012 we did “Learn to Unicycle” demos at Dirt Rag’s Dirt Fest at Raystown Lake, PA. Being able to cross over into the broader cycling community has been one of our strengths since our inception.

One of our most exciting recent events was the Beyond the Basics Unicycle Workshop with Connie Cotter the weekend of May 11-13th, 2012. This was great as we had the opportunity to spend some time with some other clubs, namely the Wonders from Eighty-Four, PA, and the Sebring Unicycle and Juggling Club. It was a fantastic weekend for us as it gave our current learners the opportunity to learn new skills from a master teacher and meet other riders. We all came away better riders, but totally exhausted.

We are really excited that NAUCC 2012 is only 4 ½ hours away this year. We hope to get a lot more of our local riders out to experience the Convention and meet other unicyclists from around the country. Our goal is to get as many as possible interested in unicycling, because it’s fun! We’ve had success at getting 7 year olds to 60 year olds interested in giving it a go. We’ve got big plans in store for the latter part of 2012 and beyond.



# RTUC Graduates



**Mitch  
Wittenberg**  
Attended: Livonia Franklin High School  
Attending: Michigan State University  
Major: Video Game Design



**Chad  
Walters**  
Attended: Livonia Franklin High School  
Attending: University of Michigan Dearborn  
Major: Business

A graphic featuring a black graduation cap with a gold tassel on the left, and the year "2012" in large, bold, gold, three-dimensional numerals to its right.

**Katie  
Crombez**  
Attended: Home Schooled  
\* Not Pictured



**Amanda  
Grzych**  
Attended: Garden City High School  
Attending: University of Michigan Dearborn  
Major: Engineering/Math

**Stephen  
Ebaugh**  
Attended: Detroit Catholic High School  
Attending: University of Michigan Dearborn  
Major: Chemistry

