

# The *Spring Times*



**December 2006**

[www.springcity.org](http://www.springcity.org)

*Official publication of the Spring City Cycling Club  
Huntsville, AL – Founded 1892*

*Dedicated to providing “concerted plans and amusements for the bicyclist”*

## **Club Meeting Dates:**

### **Officer’s Meeting:**

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

### **General Meeting:**

#### **\*\* NEW LOCATION \*\***

Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Indigo Joe’s  
7407 U.S. 72, Suite 1

## **Welcome New Members!**

Jerome Davenport  
Eric Hayden  
Huy Huynh  
Mark Rosewell

## **President’s Ramble**

**Mike Bayler**

### **Indigos and Calicos**

The month of December will bring several new things to the Spring City Cycling Club. Among them, a new meeting location, a new slate of officers, and a new winter ride series.

In our search for a new meeting location we will be holding the December general meeting at Indigo Joe’s on the west side of Huntsville. Indigo Joe’s is a new sports pub that serves a well rounded menu of American bar food and has a nice meeting room that will hold about 40 people. Their bar has 20 beers on tap and another 40 or so available in the bottle. Please come out and check out this location on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. We will have the room from 6:00 until 9:00, with the meeting starting at 7:00.

During the December meeting we will also be electing the officers for 2007. If you want to throw your hat in the ring you are more than welcome to do so at the meeting. If you are not interested in serving as an officer, you don’t have to worry about being cajoled too much at the meeting as we do have a full slate of candidates available in case there are no nominations from the floor. Please do not let officer elections hold you back from attending this meeting.

The program for the meeting will be Jack Bice and Mike Steffen presenting a Group Cycling program that will glean some content from the recent skills clinic and provide additional information about becoming a better cyclist. The meeting room at Indigo Joe’s includes six monitors that should provide everyone a good view of the material from the comfort of their own chair.

We will also be starting the Feral Feline Face-Off this month, which will hopefully become a monthly activity during the winter. This series is based on the alley cat races that are put on by bicycle messengers in larger cities. The contests will require that the participants visit a set number of locations and return with specified items from a list. There is not a set route or order in which the stops must be made. The route that one chooses to get to these locations is open to personal preference.

Since bicycle messengers typically ride single speed bikes, the contest rules will provide incentive to ride a fixed gear or single speed freewheel bike. Bikes with multiple gears may be used, but riders using such equipment may be handicapped to help equalize the advantage that may be obtained by using a wider range of gears.

The first Feral Feline Face-Off will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at East Clinton School. Please arrive at the school prior to 2:00 so that everyone can be briefed on the rules and requirements of the contest and we can be ready to race at 2:30. No special equipment will be required for the first contest.

## **Edgy Race in Offbeat Location Gets Black Sheep Support**

*Pro Riders and Great Sponsors Commit to Big Money Early Season Race*

### **Fayetteville, Tennessee – November 27, 2006**

Dirt Sweat & Gears, the nation's newest mountain bike shindig is carving out a unique position in an established sport.

This early season event is boldly calling attention to the strange inequity in professional mountain bike racing where a typical race pays professional men so much more on average than professional women for their podium performance; the DSG inaugural 12-hour event stepped up to a record purse in excess of \$10,000 and is paying women the same blue ribbon incentive as men. Event sponsors, bike shops and both male and female racers alike are responding to the message as they make a commitment to put the April 28th event on their 2007 schedule.

Race Director Clay Higgins accepts new team and individual race registrations every day. "Female pro athletes see this as a chance to back us up, to show up and make a statement," Higgins says. "It's like the whole industry has reached out to us, asking how they can help and at the same time," Higgins laughs, "...asking how to get to Fayetteville, Tennessee. We're in the heart of the country, in a breathtaking location and The Cotton Mill Preserve will not disappoint, I promise you."

Dejay Birtch, who in 2005 placed first at the 24 Hour World Championships and 24 Hour National championships plans to have a go at the big cheese offered for the single speed pro winner. Birtch, sponsored by Niner Bikes, Light & Motion and WTB is known for his crazy speed and ability to go long. "I'm going to hitch a ride with my friend Monique Sawicki and find my way to Tennessee," Dejay said, "I like hitting up first year events due in fact that the attention is mostly focused on the fun of the sport and you never really know who is going to show up to throw down."

Black Sheep Cycles of Charlotte, NC, the South's headquarters for single, fixie, and 29er will be the exclusive sponsor of the DSG Single Speed category. Race promoters were thrilled to have a premiere shop like Black Sheep on board to match the grit and edge of the fast emerging sport's discipline riders, all competing for a 1x1 title that pays \$1,000 for first place male and female.

Thanks to the guys and gals Black Sheep, amateur single speeders will also have the opportunity to hit it big by taking home a new Niner Bikes frame for finishing first in the Solo Single Speed Amateur category. "The gang at Black Sheep Cycles are famous for putting their touch on custom builds and agreed to deck out the winner's frame with a discount on a custom build," said a jealous Higgins "they got behind the race and sweetened the pot, which makes me want to jump in and compete myself."

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### **Dirt, Sweat & Gears the South's Newest Mountain Bike Shindig**

On April 28th, 2007 the Cotton Mill Preserve in Fayetteville, TN will be the site of the Inaugural Dirt Sweat & Gears. A weekend that is sure to be an epic gathering consisting of mountain biking, camaraderie and new horizons.

The headlining event for Dirt Sweat & Gears is a solo and team relay 12 hour mountain bike race with a \$10,000 cash purse up for grabs for the pros and plenty of good stuff for everybody else. From 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. teams will compete for cash, prizes and best of all, bragging rights.

Not only will riders be competing against the clock, but their efforts will also benefit those in need of a little help. A portion of the proceeds will go towards Al's Pal's Foundation - an organization dedicated to the fight against Crohn's Disease that supports the Ronald McDonald House and Make A Wish Foundation.

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