



Concrete Crater Gazette News of the Encino Velodrome

What a Difference a Year Makes

by John Stesney, President

YES, WE'RE BRAGGING

A year ago, the Encino Velodrome had a three person Board. And there was an open meeting that took it down to two. A number of people were willing to serve in this less-than promising scenario. Here's what we've been doing with ourselves. We've obtained grant funding from LA84, and a bike sponsor. We've added events, including upgrade races, Tuesday night open races, and a coaching clinic for Juniors. We've also started regular fund-raising events (a.k.a. quarterly bike swap meets. We've cleaned up the vegetation situation, and redone the boards. Oh, and the Junior State Championships were well-received. You can get a lot done with more than two people. So let's call them out: Henry Shibata, the Iron Man of the track, he should list it as his home address. Rick Skalak serves as Board Secretary and Wednesday night host. John Ellison is the prime mover behind our grant funding, and the track beautification. Andy Schwartz makes bikes appear, and swap meets happen. Cathy Keeley takes on varied tasks, most recently the lights. Our emeritus Board members, Ken Avchen, Lynn Ingram, and Vance MacDonald, were instrumental to our race program, and Vance still maintains our web presence.

They've done well for you. Collectively, they're the reason there is a velodrome here, and not yet another baseball field. When you see them, buy them a beer, or offer to pull some weeds.

LA84 Grant

The Encino Velodrome has received funds from LA84, the youth sports foundation funded by profits from the 1984 Olympic games in Los Angeles. (Perhaps the only time the Games were ever profitable). The grant funds new boards, a storage container, and a sound system. This is important since a very previous Board lost the trust (and funding) of LA84's predecessor foundation. We look to grow this relationship (and thereby the youth program).

Bike Sponsorship

The Encino Velodrome has entered into a four year sponsorship agreement with Pure Fix Bicycles. Small riders, also known as young juniors, have access to 650c track bikes; by the way, you can't get those from anyone else. Adults get access to Pure Fix's tough and sharp-looking Keirin Pro frame. These are now the backbone of our rental fleet. And if you want to buy one of your

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own, we can get it, build it, and have it waiting for you at the track. Is that convenient or what?

Junior Development Event

On Saturday, April 4, The Encino Velodrome hosted 25 Junior Track racers (and their parents) from all three regional tracks. Nate Koch and Missy Erickson, two of the best sprint cycling athletes in the US, talked about technique, specifically the fine points of a flying 200 meter time trial, and 3-up sprint tactics. Then the kids got a chance to put their learning into action. And we did it free or charge.



Missy, Nate, Juniors, Photobombing Adults

We've done more, a lot more; just ask us, we'll tell you. Better yet, come out and see.

What's Coming Up

by John Stesney

A long-time complaint about the Encino Velodrome has been transparency. That and hot weather. We can't fix that last one, but we have plans for the first. For starters, a number of other tracks post the minutes of their Board of Director meetings on-line. Not everyone is interested in these, but those who are, are very interested. We've started doing that. Second, is this newsletter. We'll put it out at least quarterly, and it will be more fun to look at than the minutes, take it from someone who sees them.

Finally, and this is the biggie, we are working on re-writing the by-laws to have an elected Board. Rather than being dissatisfied with the way "they" are running the place, you can, you can be "they", just like *Men in Black*.

We will be doing outreach on this project (see "Open Board Meeting" following), and plan on implementing in the following calendar year.



If you don't want the pressure of elected office, we will also be assembling committees, which are less of a commitment, and a good way to work on that one thing you really care about, instead of having everything come at you about everything.

Participation is the best transparency.

OK. Let's talk about race programming: this is a race track, after all. On Sunday, August 1, She-Wolf Attack Team will be taking over the velodrome with sci-fi themed racing, aka Tracklandia. It will be a lot of fun. Although women are the marquee event, there is racing for the dudes too. Racing starts at 4 pm.

Ride The Black Line will roll twice later this season. Racing for all, no USAC license required, but of course you should be track certified. (This applies to Tracklandia too.) RTBL dates are August 12 and September 2. Those are Wednesdays, in case you forgot how RTBL rolls.

As with all our events, spectating and hanging out are free.



Open Board Meeting

In case you didn't read the last article, we plan on revamping the Velodrome laws to enable an elected Board. It's an important issue that merits the input of the velodrome community.

We also have other projects we'd very much like the community's help with. And perhaps you have a project you wish to implement. (Note, if you have a project you wish to seem implemented, but aren't going to work on yourself, it is likely we will follow your example.)

We plan on holding the meeting in late September at the velodrome, when the weather has cooled off a little. Notices will be posted on the website (encinovelodrome.org), our Facebook page, and on the e-mail list.

The Encino Velodrome is an institution with a long and honorable history. It has an important role in the future as well. But the institution is more than a physical facility. It's people. The velodrome serves the community; it is supported by the community. The two go together. In the end, we get the track we earned.