

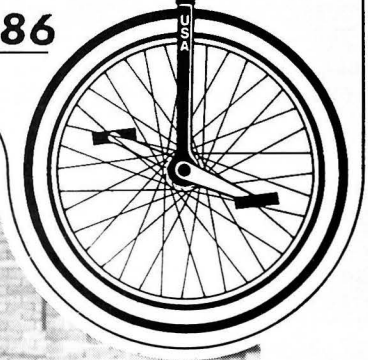
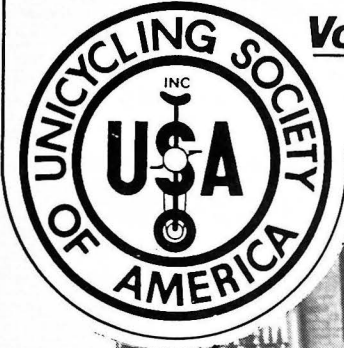
Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America...

ON ONE WHEEL

Volume 13 No. 1

1986

Quarterly



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Send news about yourself, your club, or any other news or articles to be published in the newsletter to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.
ON ONE WHEEL
P.O. Box 40534
Redford, Michigan 48240

Send membership inquiries, book and merchandise orders, etc., to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.
Secretary
P.O.Box 40534
Redford, Michigan 48240

Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Membership fee of \$6 yearly includes four newsletters. For more information and membership application, see order form.

We are not responsible for articles and pictures unless accompanied by a request for their return and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please include same with any inquiries requiring an answer.

All views expressed in this newsletter are those of the respective authors. They are not necessarily those of either members or officers of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc.

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the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Aims:

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.

FUTURE FEATURES:

Vol. 13, No. 2 - more unicycle building tips, book review of JACK WILEY's latest publication "Unicycles and Artistic Bicycles Illustrated", more about the MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB and the unicyclists of Welch Elementary School, Cincinnati, OH, and the 1986 membership roster

Vol. 13, No. 3 - in addition to the regular features, this issue will be full of the pictures and written highlights from the 1986 NUM. Please send any pictures or interesting stories about this event (or any other) to Editor, in care of the Redford P.O. Box.

THANK YOU to the fine writers appearing in this issue!!

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COVER:

1986 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET

JULY 25, 26 and 27

BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

The picture on the cover of this issue of ON ONE WHEEL is of SETH GRANBERRY, Jr. Seth serves as Director of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. as well as the Mobile Unicycle Club. Additional information about Seth, his family, and his active group of unicyclists appears in the CLUB NEWS section of this issue.

Accompanying this issue of ON ONE WHEEL is a registration form for the 1986 NUM. Please note that this form may be reproduced. Sending a separate registration form for each participant will make the job of the registrar much easier.

These forms should be mailed to:

1986 National Unicycle Meet
% Wood One Wheelers
P.O. Box 1031
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

* ADVERTISING INFORMATION *

In order to provide the membership with information on where to procure unicycles and associated equipment, ads will be appearing in future issues of ON ONE WHEEL.

The cost of a camera ready ad is:

full page \$40.00
half page \$25.00
quarter page. . . \$15.00

Brief classified ads may also be purchased. The cost for these is:

\$2.00 for 12 words or less - \$.10 for each additional word. Name, area code and phone number will be included at no additional cost.

All ads must be prepaid. The U.S.A., Inc. reserves the right to reject any ads and can not endorse any company or product.

To place an ad in the next issue of ON ONE WHEEL, mail your camera ready ad and check to:

Editor
Unicycle Society of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 40534
Redford, Michigan 48240

* LETTERS TO THE U.S.A., INC. *

When sending newspaper articles and pictures to the Editor, it would be helpful if these were accompanied by a letter from the newspaper giving permission for use in OOW. Pictures and articles will only be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

While the rules that will be governing the 1986 NUM vary little from those used since 1981, anyone wishing a copy of these rules should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.-RULES
P.O. Box 40534
Redford, Michigan 48240

If you have not already mailed in your registration form for the 1986 NUM, do so NOW. National Unicycle Meets have a tradition of being exciting and stimulating. This year's promises to be one of the best!!! Don't miss all the fun. MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TODAY!!!

* NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET TOP POINT WINNERS *

The "Olympic Gold Medal Winners" of the NUM are those participants who earn more points in their age group than any other. To do this the riders must excel not only in each of the racing events, but also in the individual and couples artistic riding. Those riders who earned this distinction in 1985 were:

Age 0- 8 Girls: SUSIE FOSTER
Boys: BRAD DURYEA
Age 9-10 Girls: PEGGY METHANY
Boys: DALE GRANBERRY
Age 11-12 Girls: HOLLY WALERIUS
Boys: ERIC ARNETT
Age 13-14 Girls: MONICA BUSCH
Boys: KEVIN BOWERS
Age 15-16 Girls: TINA TYSON
Boys: GLEN GRANBERRY

* NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET TOP POINT WINNERS *
- continued

Age 17-18 Girls: WENDY BAHORICH
Boys: PETER MILLS
Age 19-up Girls: MICHELE LAYNE
Boys: JOHN FOSS

Congratulations!! to all of these fine riders. It will be exciting to see if these 1985 winners will retain their title in 1986 or if they will be unseated by others who are striving to attain the tradition of excellence.

* 1986 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET LOGO *



In response to a request by the WOOD ONE WHEELERS for a design for the 1986 NUM t-shirts and patches, the design (above) was selected from a number of creative entries. For her effort, TERRY LAYNE will receive a free t-shirt. Also receiving t-shirts will be the two "runners-up": GINA SALVERDA, from the Twin Cities Unicycle Club, and JANE EILERT, from the Wood One Wheelers.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

* UNICYCLING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES *

Because there are now two unicycling publications (UNICYCLING, the publication of the INTERNATIONAL UNICYCLING FEDERATION and ON ONE WHEEL, from the UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF (AMERICA, Inc.), the editors of each have agreed to try to avoid duplication. In order to do this, the majority of ON ONE WHEEL will be about unicyclists within the United States. UNICYCLING, on the other hand, will place the emphasis on the unicyclists and events that occur outside the United States.

Special international events will, of course be reported here. Such is the race held in Japan on September 16, 1985, when unicyclist TAKAYOKI KOIKE broke the record for the 100 mile race which had just shortly before been set by USAm FLOYD BEATTIE. The picture of this historic event was sent to the Editor by JACK HALPERN. It is Takayoki's name that will replace Floyd's in the Guinness.



Unicycling in Japan has grown fantastically in the last 10 years. How did this happen? Future issues of ON ONE WHEEL will tell parts of this story.

* ON CLOWNS AND CLOWNING *

Have you always dreamed of opening a book and seeing your picture - riding your unicycle - printed on the page? If so, this may become a reality.

Java Publishing Co. is in the process of compiling a book on clowns that will include a chapter on unicycles and unicyclists. And they are looking for good quality black and white photographs to illustrate this chapter. If you have a picture you would like them to consider, mail it along with your name and address to:

P.O. Box 1564
Bellaire, Texas 77401

* ROPE SPINNING *

by AL HEMMINGER

The current rope spinning champion of the International Trick and Fancy Ropers Association is also a unicyclist. VINCE BRUCE from England is shown in the picture doing Texas Skips while on a unicycle at the home of SEM ABRAHAMS. Will Rogers, one of the greatest trick ropers of all times, is supposed to have done 1,000 continuous Texas Skips. This record was not even closely approached for over 50 years until Vince amazed everyone with 1814 skips at an ITFRA meet in 1983. (Such continuous skips, of course, were not done while on a unicycle.)

At every summer unicycle event for many years there has been rope spinning talent shown that has not gone unnoticed among the unicyclists and others in attendance. Our loyal member from the upper peninsula of Michigan, "El Ropo," has demonstrated his fancy rope spinning techniques while on a unicycle ever since he began attending the annual gatherings. This talent (along with his mastery of the ultimate wheel) has aided Dr. REYNOLDS in capturing the attention of the judges throughout the years and continually winning honors in the competitions. Many younger competitors in their class have worn a western costume and, on occasion, also utilized a rope in some fashion to aid in their routine.

Perhaps some people in our membership might be interested to learn, or further improve upon, this novel sport while riding a "city horse" (unicycle). The ITFRA (International Trick and Fancy Ropers Ass'n) membership could be a source for aid.

* MORE ROPE SPINNING *

by Dr. Orland Reynolds

There are a number of rope spinning tricks which, like juggling tricks, go well with unicycling. Besides myself, there are several other ropers who have been, are, or ought to be members of USA and/or IUF. These would include HAMILTON FLOYD and Dr. JIM BAYLISS of Texas and VINCE BRUCE of England. Will Rogers, one of the greatest ropers and entertainers of all time, learned to ride a unicycle and even to do the Texas Skip (jumping through a vertical loop as it is drawn from side to side) on a unicycle. Will Rogers was killed in a tragic airplane crash in 1935 on a round-the-world trip with

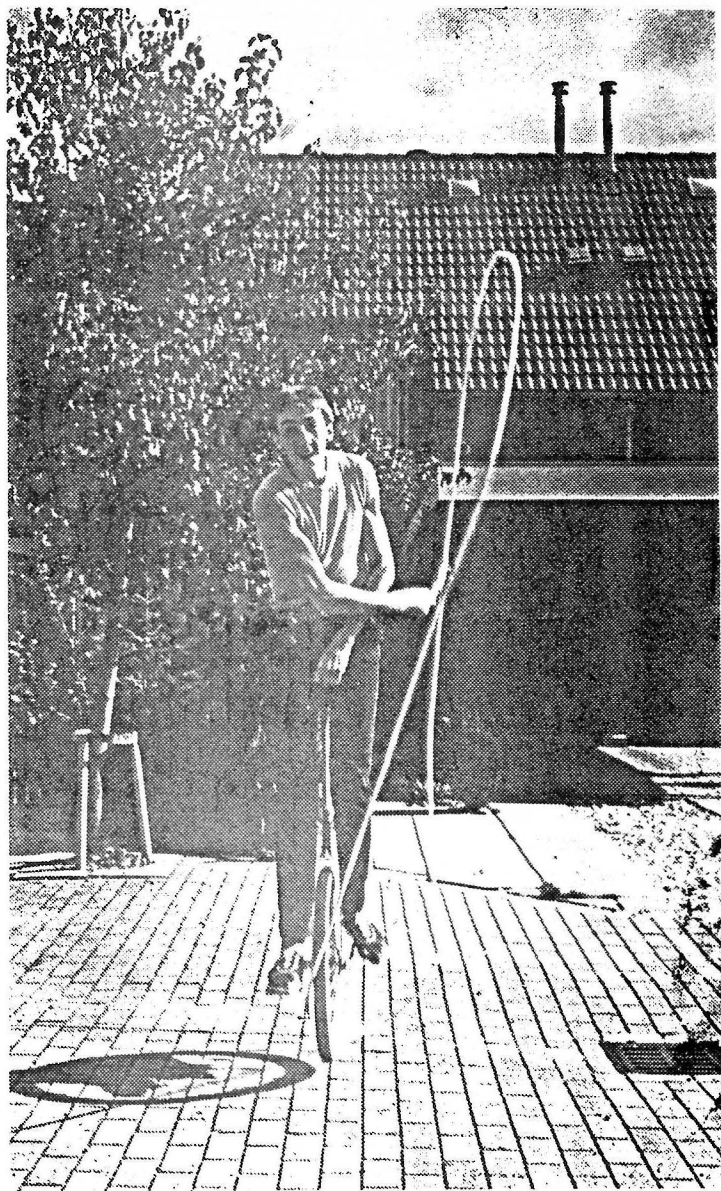


Photo of Vince Bruce - Courtesy of:
TERESA HEMMINGER

pioneer aviator, Wiley Post.

The trick ropers have an organization which puts out a newsletter, sponsors conventions and meets, and keeps ropers everywhere in touch with each other and filled with enthusiasm. The annual dues are only \$10. If you have an interest in this great sport and manipulative art, get in touch with:

INTERNATIONAL TRICK & FANCY ROPERS ASS'N
P. O. Box 2071
Prescott, Arizona 86302

FYI

It is apparent from the correspondence that few members of the U.S.A., Inc. are aware of how the organization runs. For this reason your Editor has decided to include the following article in this issue.

The Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is unique in that the majority of its officers are not active unicyclists. Most of the officers have been drawn into the organization through their children's involvement in their local unicycle clubs. Most clubs function smoothly because of an active, dedicated group of parent supporters. These parents see again and again the benefits children receive from unicycling and local club membership. As a way of showing appreciation for the benefits derived, our officers have gone on to work for the national organization ". . . and promote the healthy, wholesome sport of unicycling among youth and adults of the country . . ."

Once elected to office many discovered the demands on their time were greater than they ever dreamed possible. For instance:

The President has traditionally been responsible for the annual National Unicycle Meet. This requires the exhausting search for a proper location, fund raising to help offset expenses, determining a fee structure, reviewing the rules, locating adequate help, etc., etc. And the weekend of the N.U.M. finds the President busy from the time registration begins on Friday afternoon until Sunday evening when everyone has left and the facilities are searched for the items that didn't go home with their owners.

This year's Vice-President is taking on an active role in making the U.S.A., Inc.'s level patches more exciting. He is undertaking to research the records from the various N.U.M.s to determine the top speeds. He and the President are working together to come up with an award that might be likened to the "olympic gold" of unicycling. A future issue of OOW will give all of the details.

At one time one officer held the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Because of the time involved in each of these positions, they were split into two several years ago. This year's Secretary has been deluged with letters - as has every Secretary in the past. These requests are as varied as the one from a little six year old that looks something like this:

How CAN I ride?

to the three page document from a budding professional that asks everything from "how do you walk the wheel" to "where can I buy liability insurance." Every letter receives a personal reply, well researched to provide the writer with the information requested.

Each year the Treasurer has kept track of all memberships, maintained the mailing list, kept the books, and provided the officers with a regular financial report. Last year, because there was no Editor, she also put together the Membership Roster. She has agreed to do this again in 1986. She also places our drop-ship orders and answers all correspondence concerning membership dues. This last task has become greater than normal since the bylaws adopted several years ago dictate that memberships now run from October to October. Eventually this will streamline the operation. But getting to that point has caused considerable confusion on the part of the membership and a lot of extra work for several Treasurers.

The Editor's basic responsibility is to provide the membership with four publications each year. To do this the Editor must write many letters asking for articles or for information that would lead to an article. Letters also must be written asking for permission to use newspaper pictures that are often mailed by members. (see the suggestion about this on page 3 of this issue) When the information for an issue is collected, it is then written or retyped and given to the Art Editor to be made ready for the printer. When the issue returns, it must be folded, stapled, and addressed with labels organized and prepared by the Treasurer. These are then collected according to the rules of the Post Office to take advantage of the lower, bulk-mailing rates and delivered to the local branch.

* MEET YOUR 1985-86 OFFICERS *

If you have read the article "F Y I" in this issue, it will not be surprising to you why the request for a picture of each officer for this page was met with a picture of the officer and family. Here, briefly, is information about each of the U.S.A., Inc.'s active officers:



President * JAN LAYNE * has begun not one - but two - currently thriving unicycle clubs. He is employed full time, the Mother of five, and the grandmother of one. 1986 will mark the third year that she has been in charge of a National Unicycle Meet. In addition she is active in her church, having begun several education programs; has taught aerobic dance; has refinished and refurbished a beautiful older home with antiques; etc. Pictured with Jan are her husband Emil and son Andrew.

Vice-President * FLOYD CRANDALL * is the son of the first President of U.S.A., Inc., Bernard Crandall. He is a Guinness record holder for speed on a unicycle and can still be remembered for his daring in individual artistic riding competition and grace in the couples. He and Rhonda were recently married and are now living on a farm where Rhonda rides horses and Floyd, unicycles.

Treasurer * BARBARA MARQUART * is also employed full time as a school secretary and helps her husband Wayne on their 300-acre farm. She, too, is active in her church and is a 4-H advisor. Like others, Barbara became a worker for unicycling because of the interest of her daughter, Julie.



Secretary * JOYCE LAYNE * sometimes feels like the "Dear Abby" for unicyclers due to the numerous questions and information requested from unicycle fans. Michele and Jace (front in picture) have kept Norm (yes, he and Emil, Jan's husband, are twins) and Joyce involved with parades, shows, and meets with Smiling Faces over the past 11 years. An interest in youth has also kept her teaching high school religion for St. Michael's for many years. Joyce has been a radio operator for Ohio department of Natural Resources for the past six years.



Editor * CAROL BRICHFORD * first began learning about unicycles when sons Mark (top) and Dave took a beginning unicycle class at the local YMCA sixteen years ago. The family began the Redford Township Unicycle Club, Inc. in 1974 with an assist from Bernard Crandall. She now serves as the President of RTUC, is employed as a secretary parttime, is active in her church, and is Mother of OOW's Layout Editors: DAVID (right) and NANCY (left).

"MURPH"
entertaining
at FOOL'S
FEST
Photo Credit:
Vermont
Travel
Division



FOOL'S FEST

MONTPELIER, VERMONT

July 25, 26 and 27, 1986

Are you stranded in New England with neither money nor time to travel to Bowling Green, Ohio, for the National Unicycle Meet? Then a very exciting alternative is the 3rd annual Vermont Fool's Fest at Montpelier, Vermont.

U.S.A. member, JOE GAUDREAU, attended last year and wrote the following, "I found the Fest most enjoyable. Not a lot of uni's (mostly jugglers) but enough to have fun!!!"

The festival will kick off Friday night with two evening "Extravaganza" performances by the members of the New England New Vaudeville Revue and will be followed by two full days of entertainment and activities for the whole family.

The mostly outdoor entertainment on the beautiful State House grounds allows festival guests the opportunity to simply sit back and be entertained or to participate in a variety of stimulating activities.

In addition to continuous entertainment by a host of fine entertainers, the Fest will also include the Parade of Fools, carnival rides, a learn-to-juggle area, food and game booths, fireworks, crafts, contests, etc.

For additional information:

Call: (802) 229-4943 or

Write: VERMONT FOOL'S FEST, Montpelier On the Move, Box 1085, Department N, Montpelier, VT 05602

ON ONE WHEEL

* FROM AND ABOUT THE CLUBS *

Catawba County Community School Program sponsored a "Unicycle Rally" held in Newton, N.C. near the end of the school year. Over 100 students participated and were awarded ribbons. Unicycling is a part of Catawba County's Schools Physical Education Program. The following are some of the results in the 5th and 6th grade competition:

40 yards

1st Jason Stewart (8:83), 2nd Jerry Cline

50 yards

1st Melanie Leek (10:10), 2nd Jon Smith

Backwards

1st Stephanie Turner (9:30), 2nd Jerry Cline

Mile

1st Jason, 2nd Greg Vandike

100 yards

1st Melanie Leek (18:49), 2nd Greg Vandike

220 yards

1st Greg Vandike (46:28), 2nd Jerry Cline

440 yards

1st Greg Vandike (136:11), 2nd Jason Stewart
Slowest (40 yards)

1st Regina Rudisill (44:87), 2nd Brian Foard

Jump Rope (30 yards)

1st Stephanie Turner (7:90), 2nd Jerry Cline

Basketball Dribble

1st Greg Vandike (7:00), 2nd Brian Foard

submitted by: BOB ELIASSON
Oxford Elementary School
Physical Education
Rt. 1
Claremont, N.C. 28610

And from a different elementary school in the same school system we have the following article:

We teach juggling and unicycling in our school, Balls Creek Elementary School, in Newton, N.C. It all started four years ago when our county bought two unicycles and brought them to our school. Things started slowly but once SHELLY JOYNER, a fifth grader at the time, learned to ride, things really snowballed. Before long everyone was interested in the one wheeler and success followed success. At last count over 90 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders have learned to ride.

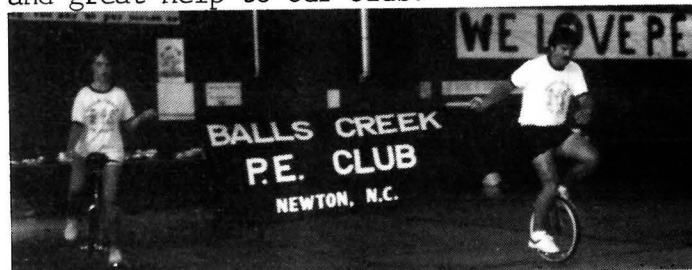
The school now owns twelve unicycles and over thirty-five children have purchased them. The physical education teacher, RANDY BERNHARDT, has three giraffe unicycles and one sixth grader, BRIAN FOARD, has one.

Brian has learned to idle, ride backward, and juggle on his giraffe. The picture below shows Brian juggling on his giraffe while a number of other unicyclists wait their turn in the background.



We have a Physical Education Club which meets after school one day a week with forty-two members from the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. These students work on unicycles, jump rope routines, advanced juggling skills as well as other advanced physical skills. All but three of these forty-two can now ride well enough to perform in shows. We have about a dozen riders who can ride backwards and idle and several who can juggle and ride with one foot. We put on performances at basketball games, parades, and other schools as well as programs at our school. We have also worked some on the unicycles in our regular physical education classes.

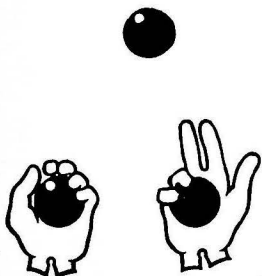
The unicycling and juggling have certainly raised the self-concept of the students as well as improved their physical abilities. The group owes a special thanks to U.S.A, Inc. and I.U.F. member MARK LIPPARD for the juggling and unicycle expertise he has shared with us. Mark has been riding for eleven years and has been a source of inspiration and great help to our club.



The picture above shows KRISTINA SIGMON, age 11, and RAND BERNHARDT riding with their Physical Education Club sign.

article by: RANDY BERNHARDT
Rt. 2, 410 Shawnee Trail
Maiden, N.C. 28650

There are a number of other schools that now provide unicycling as part of their physical education program. KAREN MESSAMER from Chariton, Iowa, (see birth announcement elsewhere in this issue) is another P.E. teacher who does and a January 20, 1986, copy of U.S.A. TODAY told about 1000 fifth and sixth grade students who ride at the Welch Elementary School in Cincinnati, Ohio. If you know of other schools doing this, please write to your Editor in care of the Redford P.O. Box.



"Jugglin' Jeff" (Plake) starts unicycle clubs wherever he goes. His technique (Anyone can learn to ride if they stick with it for 2 hours.) was included in a past issue of OOW. Jeff, now located in

Wichita Falls, TX, tells of his most recent success: "I have taught nearly 20 people to ride unicycles since moving to Wichita Falls last year. We call ourselves "The Wheelie Riders" and our motto is, "We don't pop wheelies - we ride 'em." We haven't learned too many tricks because we have been too busy with a new sport we came up with - Unicycle Football (Uniball). I hope to take some pictures soon to send to you along with some of our rules of Uniball. Our last game was 2 weeks ago (we've played about 20 times), and there were 13 unicyclists out running into each other. We usually end up playing for at least two hours because it's so much fun.

If this is indeed a unique thing, I'll plan to send the pictures and an article that you may be interested in. (The WHEEL PEOPLE were known for their unicycle hockey, and unicycle basketball is played many places, but has anyone heard of Unicycle Football?)

We are beginning to be greatly recognized in our community, so unicycling is coming alive in Wichita Falls, TX!!"

The LONG ISLAND UNICYCLISTS, begun by four U.S.A., Inc. members: JOHN FOSS, KEN FUCHS, GREG MILSTEIN, and BRADLEY NOWAK, have been involved in several New York parades and are busy now supporting the IUF Convention, UNICON II. Greg is in charge of the convention and John is Editor of the IUF publication, UNICYCLING.

In addition to preparing for the 1986 NUM, the WOOD ONE WHEELERS have participated in a number of exciting parades. They rode in both the Kentucky Derby and the Indianapolis 500 parades and reported that there were a number of stars in each of them.

The REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC. invites all unicyclists within reasonable distance of Detroit to their 10th Annual Mini-Meet. The first event will begin at 9:30 at the WESTLAND SHOPPING CENTER. For those who regularly attend this event, (and it usually draws at least 90 riders), please note that this is not where it has been held for the last 9 years. The Westland Center is located in Westland, MI, a few miles south and west of the original location. Maps and further information will be available at the NUM. The date: SEPT. 13.

RUSTY SPADY and KEN BOREN have begun the TIDEWATER ONE WHEELERS in Newport News, VA.

Ken, left, became interested in riding when his father, who also rides, was about to sell his unicycle. Ken decided to give it a try, picked up on it quickly, and was soon delivering his paper route on it. After growing up and becoming well known around his hometown of Farmington, MO, Ken became a familiar



face in the many different cities in Europe that he was stationed at during a four-year active duty in the U.S. Navy. He now lives in Newport News, VA, where he often rides his unicycle to work (a forty-five minute ride).

Rusty began riding unicycles when it became a neighborhood fad fourteen years ago. He rode in a talent show in the sixth grade and was finally persuaded not to bring the unicycle to school any more because his teachers became so upset with him for riding the other students on his shoulders around the playground. He also rode his Schwinn giraffe to work each day as a teenager. (Rusty is front and right in picture above.)

Rusty and Ken met one day as Ken was riding by on his eight-foot unicycle. They decided to join forces and have now started preparations for a club in the Tidewater, VA, area. They plan for the club to have family-type outings, charitable functions, and to promote pleasant, healthy activities emphasizing teamwork and good fellowship. They hope the club will grow to the point that they can sponsor marathon rides and local unicycle meets, awarding trophies and other awards.

Anyone interested in more information or in joining the TIDEWATER ONE WHEELERS is urged to contact Ken or Rusty.

May unicycling also "come alive" in Newport News, VA!!

article by: Rusty Spady (ph. (804) 599-5057)
544 Beech Dr.
Newport News, VA 23601

Ken's address is: 736 Dresden Dr.
Newport News, VA 23601

The MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB and its Director, SETH GRANBERRY, who is also Director of U.S.A., Inc, (see cover) have had an active spring. Seth writes that 25 riders performed for the University of South Alabama/South Florida basketball game in February. Their program consisted of 5 minutes of group riding using the 4-way ramp, etc. and 2 minutes of square dancing with the "Rolling Squares." In March 24 riders presented entertainment for the 33rd Annual Azalea Trail Square and Round Dance Festival. In addition to their normal presentation, the riders square danced on both standard and 6-foot giraffes.

Seth, his wife Sally, and their two sons, Glen and Dale, have had excellent publicity in Mobile publications. The family is searching for any clubs or riders in the Southeast with the hope of organizing a regional meet. If you know of anyone, contact the Granberrys at:

3204 Desire St.
Mobile, AL 36606



The picture (left) appeared in the KERRVILLE DAILY TIMES on March 5, 1986, and is reproduced here with the paper's permission. It shows some of our newest USAm, VALERIE, NATALIE, AND HUNTLEY TARRANT, who are eager to begin a new unicycle club in their hometown called the KERRVILLE YIKES. What is a "yike"? That is a word the sisters have coined which embodies all unicycles. It may also express the sentiment of those learning to ride!

These multi-talented young ladies have not been riding very long; but in their short career they have received a Certificate for

Creative Excellence from their appearance in last year's Hill Country Christmas Parade, have collected quite an assortment of unicycles (including the "SkateBike" Huntley is riding in this picture), and have been learning and teaching the art of unicycle riding. At the time this picture was taken, Natalie was 12 years old and had demonstrated and spoken about unicycles (yikes) at school. She has also written a poem about the unicycle that will be printed in the next issue of OOW. Natalie (10 years old) has been introducing her friends and classmates to the sport of unicycling (yiking?). If you know of anyone interested in unicycling in the Kerrville, TX, area, please have them contact Valerie or Natalie Tarrant at: 613 Harper Road, Kerrville, TX.

* HOW TO BUILD A UNICYCLE *

by LEN SALVERDA

I have built about 15 unicycles so far out of old bicycle parts. My first was built in 1965 and I have improved my methods since then.

Bicycle parts come in all sizes and shapes, but here are a few suggestions for specific parts needed for unicycle construction.

20- and 24-inch wheels are most desirable for beginners, but any size wheel can be used. A standard 20-inch wheel should have a 5-inch center line of hub to center line of pedal arm. (a 5½-inch will work, too) A standard 24-inch wheel should have a 5½-inch pedal arm (6-inch will work). [See Floyd Beattie's article on page 14 for more about crank arm size.] A 16-inch wheel should have a 4½-inch pedal arm and a 26-inch wheel, a 6-inch. The hardest part is finding the proper size pedal arm with cottered ends. If you can't find any on old bikes, 5-inch are available at bicycle shops. The pedal arm with the sprocket must be sawed off equal to the left pedal arm.

The bearings must have a 5/8-inch hole and any size outside diameter. Used bearings from aircraft, which have a 1 3/8-inch outside diameter, work well. 1 3/8-inch is also a standard size bearing for go-carts and is readily available. Cost is about \$3.00 each. They are 7/16 inch wide. Mine are from Gopher Bearing Co.

The rear wheel of a bicycle is used by removing all inner parts and welding heavy washers into the bearing races and drilling the hole out to 5/8 inch or using washers with 5/8 inch holes and grinding the outside down to fit the bearing races. A 5/8-inch solid axel is cut to length and notches for cotter pins filed into ends first, then welded into the hub. Do not overheat spokes. (You can remove spokes before welding.) I use a MIG or TIG welder for welding and never remove the spokes. Brazing requires spoke removal.

The frame is made from a bicycle front fork. Try to get one from a larger bicycle as the stem will be longer and you will have a longer seat adjustment when finished. Also, the fork will be easier to straighten. First straighten the forks. Some can be bent cold, but I find it easier to use a torch. Next determine how short to cut forks off. You will want the forks as short as possible with a minimum clearance for the

tire - ½ inch when finished. This makes for easier trick riding later.

Bearing holders are made by cutting short pieces of pipe the length of the bearings - with the same I.D. as the bearing O.D. With 1 3/8-inch O.D. bearings, the right size pipe is hard to find. Electrical conduit will work, but I find it hard to weld. I have used pipe from a cyclone fence, which is not a standard-size pipe. Now, weld a ½-inch rod coupling to each side of each bearing holder. They come in 3/4-inch and 1-inch lengths. Use 1-inch length. Only weld the sides. Mark each set with a center punch so you won't get them mixed up later. Saw each bearing holder in half through the rod couplings. The half that is welded to the fork is then cleaned up with a tap. The half that will be on the bottom is drilled out with a ½-inch drill bit. Bolt together with hardened bolts.

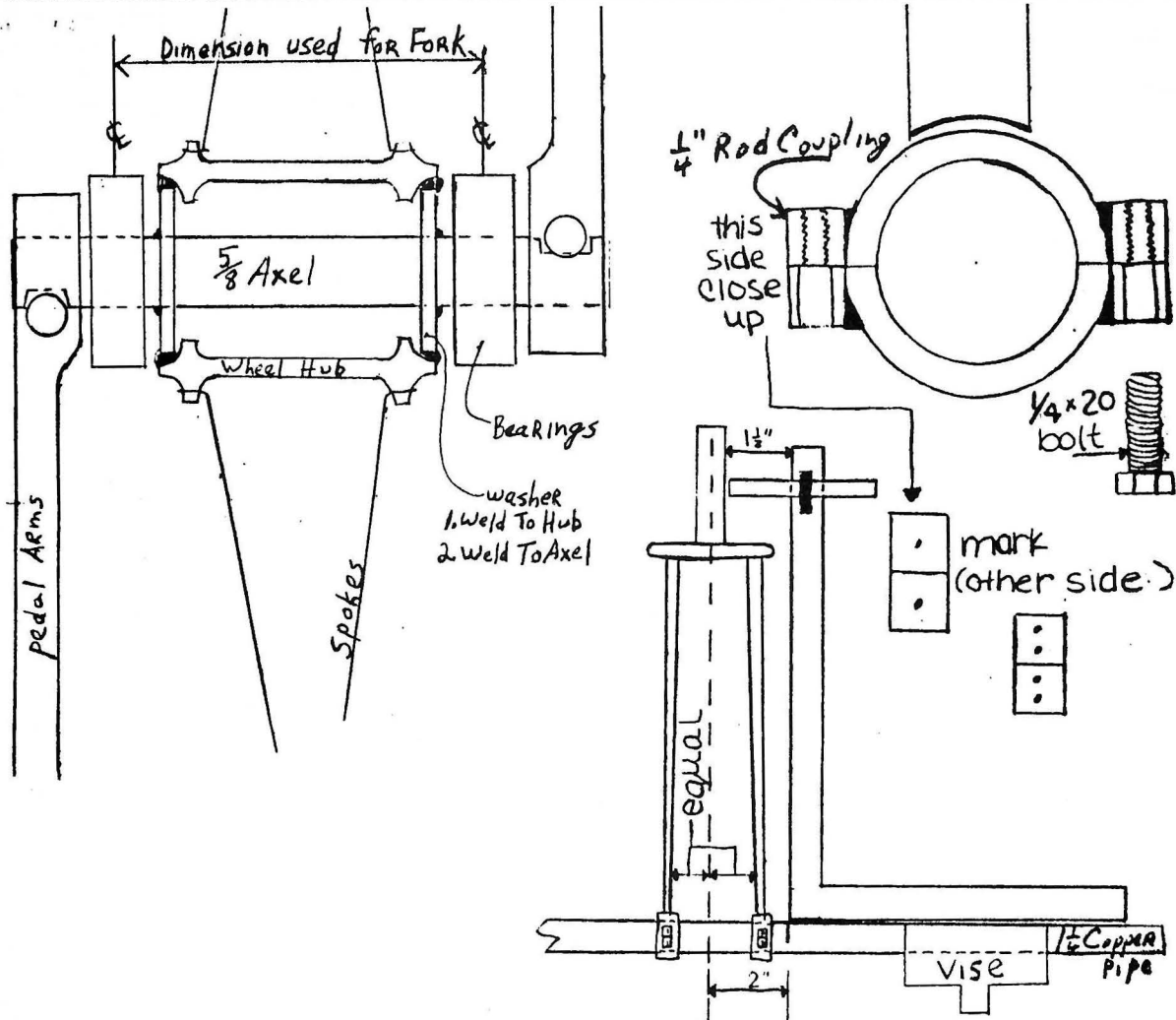
Now comes the difficult but important part of aligning the frame. To center the stem on the forks, I clamp the stem in a large vise with the forks horizontal and lay a 1-inch band iron on top with a shim on the end of the fork. By aligning the stem with the band iron, you can measure which fork needs to be bent in or out. End of fork must equal bearing holders center line apart. Bend by placing a long pipe over the forks.

A pipe at least 30 inches long is needed the size of your bearings. I use a piece of 1¼-inch copper plumbing pipe which is 1 3/8-inch O.D. Clamp one end in a vise and, on the other end, bolt your bearing holders on the distance apart your bearings are on the wheel hub. Be sure bolt heads are down. Mark center line between bearing holders and another mark outside bearing holder, 2 inches should do it. Tape a small ruler to a carpenter square with 1½ inches sticking out that will measure on stem. Now grind fork ends to shape of bearing holders. It should balance straight up. Hold square on pipe and slide over until ruler just touches stem. Square should be on 2-inch mark. Reverse fork to double check. Grind long end until square doesn't move when fork is reversed. Make sure tire will clear fork. When ready, weld forks to bearing holders. The wheel can now be trued. First up and down, then side-ways - without the tire on. Truing is an art that I won't try to explain here.

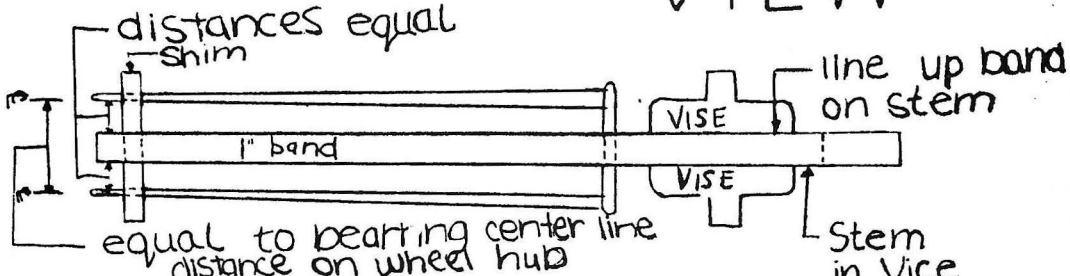
The seat post can be made out of 1-inch electrical conduit. It slides over the fork

stem just right. Saw a large notch about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide and 2-inches long - tapering to a point. A seat post clamp is then tack welded on. Next, the bolt is tack welded into position. Buy a 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch clamp at a bike store with bolt and nut. Cut post to length and weld on plate to hold seat.

Seats can be made from 2x2's or 2x4's and carved down. Foam padding is nice on top of wood. Seats can be purchased from Schwinn or Miyata bike stores. I find the Miyata more comfortable. It will crack in cold weather though. Seats will run \$15.00 to \$18.00



FRONT VIEW



TOP VIEW

Stem in Vice
Len Salverda

ON ONE WHEEL

* ABOUT RACING AND UNICYCLES *

by FLOYD BEATTIE

U.S.A., Inc. racing rules currently limit a rider to a 24" wheel and a 5½" crank (20" wheel and a 7" crank for 10 and under). I would like to see both changed.

If you have switched tires much, you know that not all 24" tires are the same. A 24" x 1.75" tire is not the same as a 24" x 1 3/4" let alone 24" x 1 3/8" or 24" x 2.125." In my last three years, I have played a lot with the tire size and have found a couple big 24's. The one I'm currently using, an IRC high pressure 24" x 1 3/8" is about one whole cm bigger than the standard Miyata 24" x 1.75." That may not sound like a lot, but in the 1600 meter race, it will save me 17 revolutions of the wheel, or 32.5 meters. How many of you are willing to spot me a 32 meter head start? The other big 24" I haven't found a rim for (yet), but it is an amazing 2 cms. bigger than the IRC. It would give me about 100 meters on the 1600 meter over the normal Miyata. Schwinn's, by the way, have a size that is in between the IRC and the Miyata.

What is necessary to stop the search for the largest 24" wheel is simple - a roll-out test. All that is needed would be a marker (chalk or water and a guide [a 2" x 4" x 8'] to keep the wheel roll-out straight. A mark would be made on the wheel at the starting point on the guide, then the wheel would be pushed till that mark again was at the bottom. If it fell within the guidelines, the tire passes. If it exceeds the limit, then it can't be used. Then the only question becomes what is the limit? Since I'll have the only "big" 24," I suggest we use slightly larger than the Schwinn tires - but not as big as what I'm going to show up with this year. (meets in 1986).

The crank size will be to me what National Health Insurance is to Ted Kennedy - my non-ending crusade for equality. Having played with cranks from 115 cm to 190 cm (4½" to 7½"), I realize that there is an optimum crank size, but it varies for each individual. The main determining feature seems to be the length of the leg. It looks kind of like the right triangles of basic geometry with some variations.

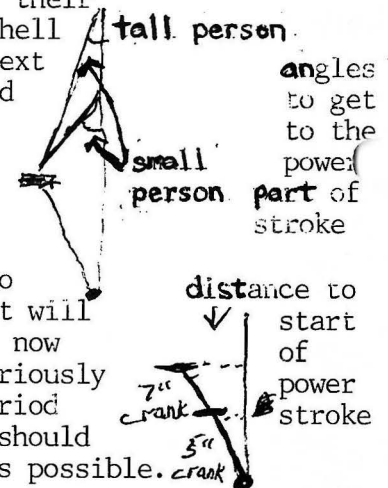
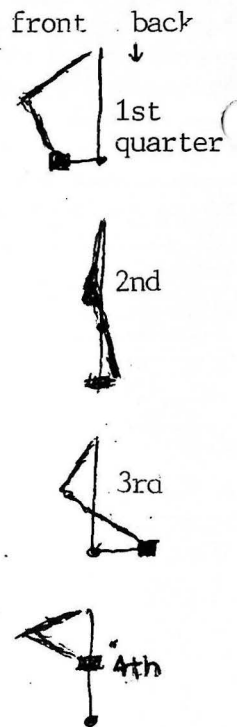
The power part of the stroke starts in between the 4th and 1st quarter and ends just past the 2nd quarter. The longer the crank

arm, the further forward the pedal must be from the vertical to start the power stroke. So far that is equal for all.

But the longer legged individual is sitting higher from the pedals. This makes the angle to get to the power stroke (and the effort) less.

There is a point where the amount of control lost by the shorter crank offsets the slightly better angle gained (and the smaller crank's slowed-down starts). But to put a four-foot person on the same cranks as a six footer gives an unfair advantage to the six footer. Let's free up the crank size.

Lastly, an area that will come: SAFETY. The United States Cycling Federation is requiring that all riders in their events wear a closed-shell hard helmet starting next year (1987). We should get with it and start to recommend helmets and gloves for all racing and practice. (That sounds strange coming from the guy who rides barefoot. But it will come, so why not start now before someone gets seriously hurt?) Following a period of recommendation, we should require both as soon as possible.



* DID YOU KNOW? *

. . . that Robert Shields (of the famed Shields and Yarnell) began by street performing in San Francisco. In fact, he was arrested almost daily for performing in Union Square. He probably had the longest record of arrests than anyone else in S.F.

Things have changed a great deal since that time. Now street performers have become a San Francisco institution, with some earning well into five figures.

Jonathan Park and Scott Meltzer (The American Dream Juggling Team) now juggle and unicycle on Pier 39 to an enthusiastic crowd.

* LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS *

Dear Editor,
With reference to Mr. John Foss' comment that Mr. Bill Jenack was the "founder of the U.S.A., Inc. and organized unicycling in general" (OOW, V. 12, no. 3), it is apparent that Mr. Foss is unaware of the beginnings of the U.S.A. The creation of the U.S.A. was a group effort by the U.S.A. Founder Members whose names are listed on page 2 of each issue of OOW. In fact, Charlotte Fox Rogers (my mother) recently checked her files and found that she had suggested the idea of a national unicycling society to Mr. Jenack. In addition, at least three organized unicycling groups (Concord, CA; Wonderwheels, Carson, CA; and Albuquerque, NM) came about without knowledge of Mr. Jenack's efforts.

Bruce R. Rogers
San Fernando, CA

(ed. note: In addition to moving across the country [from CA to PA] and renovating a home that is over 50 years old, CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS is writing an article on the beginning of the U.S.A., Inc. and its Founder Members. If you have information that would help her in this endeavor, please write to her at her new address:

802 Credo Ave.
West Chester, PA 19382

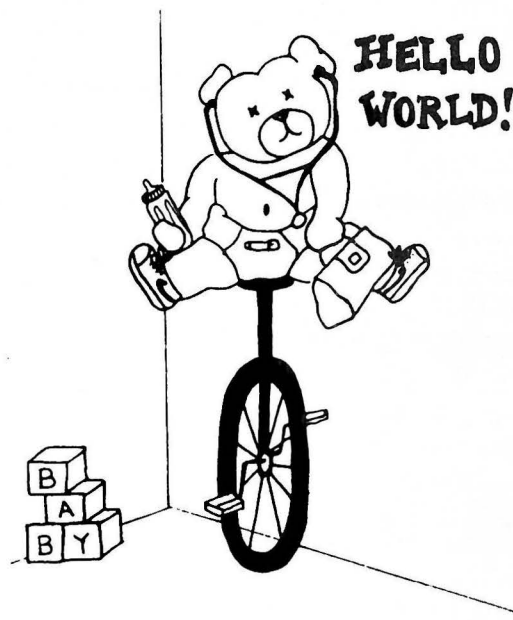
We look forward to seeing this well-researched article in a future issue of ON ONE WHEEL.)

Lew Wirt (Fresno, CA) included his card (as Zippo the Clown) and the following comment when he sent in his new membership: "I have been unicycling for about 7 years and would like to join an organization just for people like me."

John Foss (Wantagh, NY), who is Editor of UNICYCLING, the publication of the International Unicycling Federation, sent copies of articles that appeared on April 28, 1986, in THE NEW YORK TIMES and the NEW YORK POST. Both articles were about the 10th annual Citibank/American Youth Hostel Five Boro Bike Tour held on April 27. The POST had a picture of John astride his big wheel and the TIMES opened the article with words from an interview with John concerning the

difficulty of riding that same big wheel over the windy, 6,690-foot Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. (John made it!) There were only three unicyclists that joined the 20,000 riders attempting this annual ride.

Karen and Nick Messamer (Chariton, Iowa) announced the birth of little Gina Marie with the following announcement:



Karen included, "I thought you might enjoy our birth announcement. I teach unicycling in physical education classes and my husband is attending medical school. Enjoyed seeing the poem I wrote on the cover of ON ONE WHEEL" (Vol. 12, no. 3) CONGRATULATIONS!!

Tully Gehan (Keene, NH) wrote, "It's fun to ride (the unicycle) and it's fun to see people's faces when they see me ride."

Jared and John Trosclair (LaPlace, LA) wrote requesting information on the source for 24" and 16" unicycles. (ed. note: This is one of the most frequently asked questions and is the reason U.S.A., Inc. officers decided to sell advertising space.)

James Green (Detroit, MI) has appeared in the DETROIT FREE PRESS on his unicycle on several occasions and completed 50 miles on his "transformacycle" which he rode to raise funds for the March of Dimes. His vehicle is a home-made bicycle-turned-unicycle.

CALENDAR:

39th ANNUAL I.J.A. CONVENTION - July 22-27 - Information about the International Jugglers Association, Inc. and its publication JUGGLER'S WORLD is available by writing to: Rich Chamberlin, Box 29, Kenmore, New York 14217

1986 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET - July 25-27 - Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio - This meet, sanctioned by the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is being sponsored by Wood One Wheelers, P.O. Box 1031, Bowling Green, OH 43402 - or call: U.S.A. President, Jan Layne (419) 422-8959

VERMONT FOOL'S FEST - July 25-27 - contact: Montpelier On the Move, Box 1085, Department N, Montpelier, VT 05602 - or call: (802) 229-4943

WORLD UNICON II - August 1-3 - HPER Complex of Nassau Community College, Garden City, Long Island, New York - This meet is sanctioned by The International Unicycling Federation, Inc. - contact: JeanPaul Jenack, 67 Lion Lane, Westbury, New York 11590 - or call: (516) 334-2123

10th ANNUAL MINI-MEET - September 13 (rain date: September 14) - Westland Shopping Center - Westland, Michigan - sponsored by the Redford Township Unicycle Club, Inc. - contact: RTUC, 24460 Lyndon, Redford, MI 48239 or call: (313) 533-4677

In response to the article "For Your Consideration," which appeared in this space in Vol. XII, No. 4, concerning unicycle riding skill levels 5-8, your President has received the following letter:

. . . My two sons, Chad and Kit, are members of the Twin Cities Unicycle Club.

Level 5 has a requirement that is questionable and is lacking one requirement. Level 5 proposes juggling. This does not use the unicycle in a direct way. Must one be able to juggle to attain Level 5?

Level 6 requires free mounting a chain-driven unicycle. First, I do not believe free mounting is that difficult. Further, I believe that free mounting should be encouraged prior to so many tricks on the unicycle. I am a parade walker for the club. One of my jobs has been to help riders get back on their chain driven unicycles during the parade. My opinion is that unicycles should not be ridden in the routine of a parade unless the rider can free mount. My boys acquired a 6-footer this winter. The climate prevented their riding it much until this spring. I do not allow them to ride it except when I am there until they can free mount it. Further, they cannot ride it in a routine. One has quickly learned to free mount. The other is just a beginner and has learned to idle.

I would move free mounting a chain driven unicycle to Level 5. In place of juggling, I would require some trick; the trick could be juggling or something else.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond. Hope to see you at the NUM.

Very truly yours, WAYNE D. WARD

Another thought voiced by USAm LIZ MILLS is that ALL levels should involve a standard unicycle only. This would permit a rider without access to a chain driven unicycle to reach all levels. WHAT DO YOU THINK???