

# On One Wheel

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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;** Sara Shilot performs her Individual Freestyle routine at U Games 2010. *Photo by John Foss*

## 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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## Editors's Corner

Hello USA!

I hope that you're doing well in the beginning of the school year and all of the sports that accompany it. For those of you who work, I hope all is well for you too. I'd also like to say that I hope your holidays went well.

I'd like to take this time to remind you that On One Wheel is composed of things that YOU, the reader, send in. If I don't receive enough articles, photos, and videos, I simply cannot send out an issue of On One Wheel! Please, take a few minutes to send me some photos (with captions) or link me to your new unicycle video! I'd really appreciate it!

Thanks guys!  
Amanda  
agrzych@comcast.net

# Gym Dandies

Contact Info: visit <http://www.gymdandies.org/> for more information about the Gym Dandies Team

## Scarborough's Gym Dandies are Crowd Pleaser at Yarmouth Clam Festival

Over 40 Gym Dandies impressed a crowd of thousands at the Yarmouth, Maine Clam Festival Parade last Friday, July 17. From beginner students just learning to ride a 20-inch unicycle to high school seniors who have been members of the organization since 3rd grade, the Gym Dandies put on a great show all along the parade route. In addition to their signature ride of 8-unicycles wide, the biggest cheers came when riders on 36-inch "super wheel" unicycles shot through tunnels created by the unicyclists on the high "giraffe" cycles. Thirty-six giraffe cyclists followed each other, two-by-two, holding hands to create a tunnel between themselves. Then, the super wheels shot through the tunnel, in the reverse direction of the giraffes. This feat requires extreme balance and coordination from all riders, and brought a roar from the crowd every time it was performed. In addition to their appearance in the Yarmouth Clam Festival parade this summer, the Gym Dandies have also been invited to perform at the Rockland, Maine Lobster Festival in August.



Gym Dandies Director Jon Cahill with Steamer the Clam, the mascot of the Yarmouth Clam Festival.



The signature "8-wide" formation of the Gym Dandies

# Boulder Unicycle Club

Contact Info: visit <http://www.boulderuni.com/> for more information about the Boulder Unicycle Club

Patrick Rios is a member of the Boulder Unicycle Club which was started in 2003. The Boulder Unicycle Club consists of members aged 5 -50 and does annual parades and community services. The majority of riders prefer the Mountain trails and rock hopping to any of the other events that can be done on unicycle. However this year we did join forces with the Boulder Circus Club for their Annual Juggling festival which brings in almost 200 jugglers from around the country. As the jugglers taught the unicyclists how to throw balls and scarves, the unicyclists taught the jugglers how to whack a hockey ball into a hockey goal while riding unicycles. The Boulder Circus Center and the Boulder Unicycle club also competed against each other in a unicycle basketball game at half time of the Metro State Colorado Basketball game. I am sorry to report that the jugglers (with a last minute ringer of their own) beat the unicycle club at their own game. It was a fun event and can be seen on video at a facebook site if interested.



Left:  
Silhouette



Above:  
Going for the upgrade



Right:  
Practicing the hop

# Hutchinson One Wheelers

Contact Info: visit <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=57367738577> for more information about HOW

This summer the members of HOW attended 9 parades. We are practicing Wednesday nights outside at the local Recreation Center in their parking lot. We have had two beginning unicycle classes, which has helped us grow our club to 95 members. Thursday evenings we have Trials practice at Andy and Irene's farm. Sometimes Andy will give a few unicyclists a challenge to find things in Hutchinson on Coker. One week he had people ride Cokers and find as many water towers as they could, and then take pictures of them. A few photos from their adventures are included in this update. The annual banquet will be at the end of August, when we have a potluck, play games, and elect next year's officers.



(Left) Elizabeth shows us how much she loves her unicycle!



(Above) Michaela poses with her Coker.



(Left) Sebastian rides through the pond on their MUni course on a Thursday night at trials practice.

# Twin Cities Unicycle Club

Contact Info: visit [www.tcuc.org](http://www.tcuc.org) for more information about the Twin Cities Unicycle Club`

Hello USA Unicyclers! How are you? This is TCUC. Hope you've had a good summer so far. We've been very busy. In April, Japanese sisters Yuka and Satomi Saito brought their unique combination of Japanese-style and western-style unicycling to Mondo, a juggling/unicycling event in Saint Paul. Yuka and Satomi attended practices in the twin cities and in Hutchinson. In June, several TCUCers attended DOTFMW (thank you Andy & Irene & Hutch!). July brought NAUCC, er, U-Games (thank you CalUni & Berkeley). We've also performed in fourteen parades so far this summer. Whew!



Left:

A big finish for TCUC Cool Cats U Games Group routine (Matt Sindelar, Gavin Prentice, Grant Koehler, Ben Koehler, Alex Zeller, Jon Atwell)

Below:

Bruce Lee, Gavin Prentice, Brent Lee, Yuka Saito, Ian Prentice, Satomi Saito at Mondo



Above:

Tim Lee sets new unicycle packing record, hauling 88 units in the TCUC trailer to and from U-Games. Tim Lee also sets "most flat trailer tires" record on the way home. Michelle Lee once again voted "Most Patient Unicycle Mom."



# Down on the Farm MUni Weekend

**When:** The next edition of DOTFMW will be October 9th-10th

**Where:** at Irene and Andy's Farm in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

**What:** It is a Trials and MUni event for all abilities.

If you can ride, mount, hop a few times then this event is for you. If you have more uni skills, then this event is really for you. If the thought of some Trials or riding off road sounds fun, this event has your name written all over it.

**Who:** We will be having a special guest (we have yet to confirm he can come), and we would also like to invite you to come and join in the fun.

**Why:** What better way to celebrate the beginning of the school year than with a weekend full of unicycling?

**Cost:** It is free

**Food:** Saturday during the main competitions we will be having a Potluck lunch/dinner. Bring something to share. Bring your own food for Friday & Sunday, a grill is available.

**Lodging:** There is lodging in town, camping in town, and also camping available on our property. The number of showers we can offer in the house is limited, but we do live by a Lake and a Pond, and will have a port-o-potty available for use.

**What to bring:** Unicycle, protective gear, change of clothes, food, any extra fun stuff.

**Questions?** Feel free to contact Irene Genelin at: [igenelin@gmail.com](mailto:igenelin@gmail.com) or (612) 968-6498 or Andy Cotter at: [ABCotter@GMail.com](mailto:ABCotter@GMail.com) or (612) 968-3565

Below:

Andy Cotter participates in DOTFMW.

Photo by Emmet Ross



Above:

Max Schulze uses the trials equipment at DOTFMW.

Photo by Emmet Ross

# Reinventing the Wheel

Unicycle.com



**New book chronicles trials and triumphs of unicycle company launched during dot-com bust of 1999**

Reinventing the Wheel: The Story of Unicycle.com by company founder John Drummond offers insights to entrepreneurs

Reinventing the Wheel: The Story of Unicycle.com by John Drummond details the inside story of launching an online unicycle store and its against-all-odds worldwide success.

When Drummond and his wife, Amy, launched Unicycle.com in 1999, they saw it as a small hobby business that would supplement his IBM salary. In Reinventing the Wheel, Drummond reveals how this small company soon snowballed into a worldwide business phenomenon with locations in ten countries and more in development.

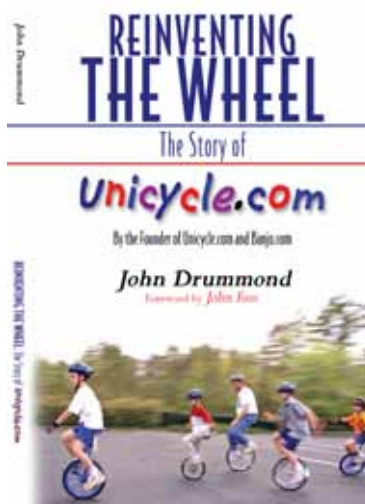
Written in layperson's terms, Drummond's story provides inspiration and insight for budding entrepreneurs, from starting on a shoestring budget to maximizing PR and advertising dollars. Reinventing the Wheel also features photos, facts, and anecdotes from the unicycling community with a foreword by three-time unicycling world champion John Foss, and special sections by author and unicyclist Carol Etter McLean, director of Unicycle Central of Minnesota. A Frequently Asked Questions section covers starting a unicycle club, learning to ride, and developing advanced riding skills through the International Ranking of Unicycling Skills (IRUS) program developed by the Unicycling Society of America.

Intended for anyone eager to start or build a business, Reinventing the Wheel offers a success story as inspirational as it is entertaining.

Reinventing the Wheel: The Story of Unicycle.com is available at Amazon.com, Unicycle.com, and Banjo.com.

About the Author

John Drummond is a freelance writer, entrepreneur, and founder of Unicycle.com and Banjo.com. John and Amy are frequent speakers at schools and business organizations where they encourage others to pursue their dreams.



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

John Drummond

Email: [john@unicycle.com](mailto:john@unicycle.com)

Phone: 1-800-Unicycle (1-800-864-2925)

Websites: <http://www.unicycle.com>  
<http://www.banjo.com>



# A Different Way to Ride

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By Pete Kaszyk

While scanning YouTube for unicycle videos I came upon a Self-Balancing Unicycle (SBU) that I just had to have. It was unique and could provide ample transportation around the large manufactured home community where I live as well as give me an interesting challenge.

It was evident through the videos that the electric motor powered unicycle wasn't a true self-balancing unit. One could not just sit on it and ride away with all the balancing taken care of by the machine. Only forward and backward balancing is adjusted for in a way similar to what you'd find in a Segway. When you lean forward or backward, the unicycle moves in that direction to catch up. Where the Segway takes care of balancing sideways by using two wheels, the SBU needs the rider to accomplish that.

Knowing that the to and fro balancing is automatically compensated for, you might think that riding the SBU would be as easy as riding a bicycle; after all the bike also has the back and forth balancing taken care of by its two wheels. Not quite. The forward and backward stability of the bicycle is created by a solid foundation and will not waver, whereas the SBU attains its forward and backward stability by attempting to catch up to movements in those directions. The key here is the term, 'catch up', which means the stability is always somewhat lagging. This poses a challenge that makes riding the SBU very different than riding a bike.

Controlling the SBU takes practice, but not as much as with the conventional unicycle. It's advertised to take only one hour for the average rider to learn. I assume that means the average unicycle rider and that's about what it took me.

Eager to ride my new machine, I first practiced in my living room by sitting on it and walking forward and backward getting the feel of its responses. It stayed with me easily. Later that day I went outside and continued walking it back and forth for about five minutes.

The following fifteen minutes, with one foot on a peg, I moved forward and stopped a short distance ahead. Once confident with that maneuver, I moved on to putting both feet up on the pegs. An hour later I was consistently riding about 100 shaky feet.

The next day I wasn't able to immediately duplicate the success of my last ride. I had to walk the SBU back and forth a few times, then go a distance with one foot on a peg, and then with two. This time the learning curve was much steeper, quicker than the day before. By the end of this one hour practice session I was able to ride about 250 yards in a straight line.

Turning was a different story and my attempts ended with several inadvertent dismounts. Turns weren't made the same way as with the conventional unicycle and required a different technique. Learning to make them is another chapter in my riding story.

I'm used to maintaining my balance while pedaling. Just sitting with quiet legs on a seat is not the same, at least for a unicyclist who hasn't learned to coast yet. (Riding the SBU might provide good practice for that.)

With the conventional unicycle, I'm used to making some balance corrections with my legs pedaling. On the SBU I have to make them all from the waist up. Learning to balance another way works for me because I believe any type of balancing will help me with my unicycling adventures.

I've been asked why I ride the SBU by people who feel it has no exercise benefits, is dangerous, and isn't practical. Although the exercise benefits are not much, I find the ride works out as a good warm up for my pedal practice. It gets my blood flowing and my balancing mechanism fired up. And I don't believe the SBU is any more dangerous than any other type of transportation practiced by skilled riders. I find it very practical. I've used it to retrieve my car from the repair shop and run other errands around the area.

But even now, after a few miles under my belt, my starts are still shaky for the first twenty or so feet, however after rounding the first corner I feel ready to work on developing other skills.

Many tricks possible on the SBU haven't been imagined yet, but as with other challenging activities, they will appear as the number of riders increase.

Let's see what happens.



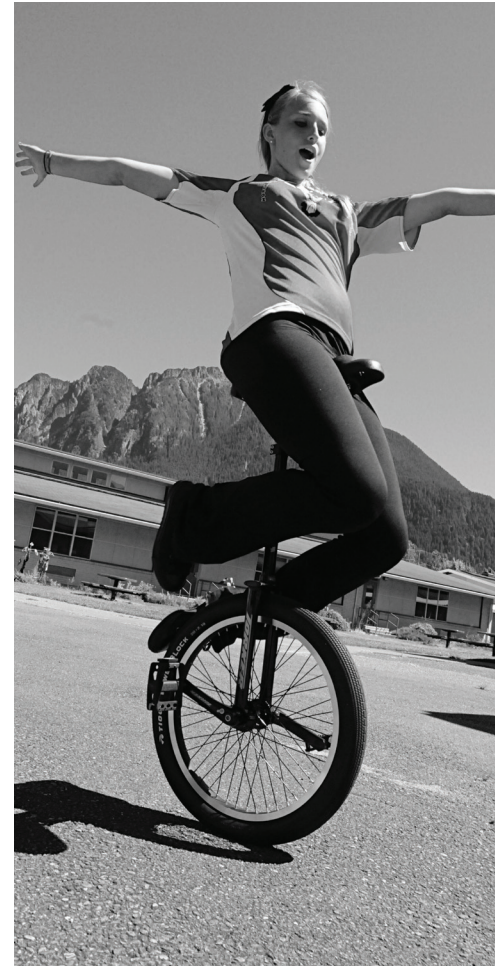
Pete rides his self balancing unicycle around his neighborhood.

# TORKER®



## LX Pro

Designed with input from the National Championship winning team - Panther Pride, the new Torker LX Pro is all show and all go. Our new frame design uses a taller mast, with a double seat clamp and a lower and wider fork crown for foot scuffing tricks. Additional upgrades are the alloy Isis crank arms and spindle, Tioga Powerblock tire, and the deluxe padded saddle with front nose handle/guard. Sold in two frame sizes, regular and tall, both utilizing a 20" wheel.





**TORKER**

## DX

Built with a strong chromoly frame, and designed to take the rigors of off-road unicycling, with a re-designed tubular fork, Isis B/B spindle, and light weight, hollow chromoly crank arms. Maxxis tire will enhance your off road experience while bouncing over rocks or blazing down dirt paths. Available in 20" and 24" wheel models.

TORKERUSA.COM

# TORKER®

## TX

The Torker TX stands above all others ...obviously, because it puts you 5 feet up. When you're riding the Unistar TX, at 5 feet up in the air, you'll be glad you have the added features of a Torker – such as an easy-adjust quick release binder, cotterless crank arms, and precision bearings held using the mail cap-style bearing holder. And with the sure-grip of a Kenda tire tread, you can ride high knowing you've got great traction with the earth's surface far below.

TORKERUSA.COM



# TORKER®

## CX

For the past decade, more riders have learned how to ride on one wheel aboard a quality Torker Unistar CX than any other unicycle. The lugged frame style, with built in quick release, and the sturdy main cap-style bearing holder are unique Torker qualities. The padded saddle with scuff guards and the cotterless cranks are an additional feature that enhances your first unicycling experience.



Available in three sizes 16", 20" and 24" in red, blue, or chrome.

[TORKERUSA.COM](http://TORKERUSA.COM)