

ON ONE WHEEL



Issue 35-3

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October 2013

NAUCC 2013

The North American Unicycling Competition and Convention (NAUCC) was held in Butler, PA from July 21-27, 2013. It was attended by 288 people (239 competitors and 49 non-competitors). Attendees gathered from 33 states and five countries. The event featured artistic, track, off-road, and distance competitions.

The Unicycling Society of America, Inc. would like to thank our hosts, Butler Wobble, for creating an outstanding event!

“OMG NAUCC was like the best thing ever, highlight of 2013 so far. I LOOOOOOVE YOU GUYS! You are the best community I could ever dreamed of!”

- Benoit Gonneville Damme



In This Issue

- NAUCC 2013
- NAUCC 2013: Favorite Moments
- Club Updates
- NYC Unicycling Festival
- Progress of Purple Mike
- Unicycling Fun
- Upcoming Events

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On the cover: Scott Wilton proves that a 36 inch unicycle is not just for the road as he rides one of the trials obstacles at NAUCC 2013.

Photo by: Jeff Wilton

Mission Statement of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc.

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 information service.

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On One Wheel

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Subscriptions/Renewals & Address Changes

Individual membership in the Unicycling Society of America, Inc., which includes a subscription to On One Wheel, is \$20 for the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, \$25 for overseas. Family memberships are also available for an additional \$15. Send address changes immediately to Unicycling Society of America, Inc., 35011 Munger, Livonia, MI 48154.



Letter from the Editor

I came to NAUCC 2013 with a mountain of work to do for my job. It was either bring the work, or stay home. I did not want to miss it, so I lugged about 20 pounds worth of research material with me.

I skipped the U.S.A board meeting to read up on municipal water products. (Sometimes my day job is not very exciting.) I was not present when I became the new editor of OOW. Later that evening, however, I was thrilled to be invited to play a role within the Unicycling Society of America.

I have been a member of the Redford Township Unicycle Club (RTUC) since 2007. My son, Tyler McManman, joined after learning to ride in a circus class. I got bored with sitting around at practices, so I took the RTUC riding class in 2008.



Tyler helps me ride during a session of the RTUC riding class in 2008. (Photo by Dave Matthews)

The first time we travelled to NAUCC was in 2009. It was hosted by the Twin Cities Unicycle Club in Bloomington, MN.

Tyler had never ridden off-road before this convention, but he was eager to try. As such, we bought him a 24" Nimbus muni the night before the Uphill/Downhill race. The next day, we started at the uphill course. It was beautiful, but short. You could see the whole course from the bottom. At the top were two orange cones riders had pass through as a finish line.

There were between 40 and 60 riders waiting in line when we arrived. I only recognized three of them from our club. In order to get everybody in, riders were allowed two practice runs and two actual attempts.

Tyler failed miserably on his first attempt. As he waited for his 2nd trial run, strangers approached him to give him advice. They said things like, "Ride on the grass where the dirt is loose" and "Hop sideways up the steep part." He listened and put the advice to use on his next attempt, while I stood at the bottom of the hill cheering at the top of my lungs. He made it further, but didn't get close.

As he got back in line for his first actual attempt, he received even more advice. He again made it further up the course, but still didn't make it. After, he walked sullenly down the hill, completely discouraged despite never having been on a muni before that day. He wanted to quit.

People we had never seen before that day begged him not to give up. He was showered him with words of encouragement and more tips to overcoming the obstacles. I urged him to try again as well. He did. This time, he powered past the loose dirt and he successfully hopped up the steepest part. As Tyler cleared the cones at the top, the entire crowd waiting below erupted in cheers and applause. He was greeting with high fives and handshakes from people we did not know an hour and a half earlier.



Tyler Mcmanman on the uphill course at NAUCC 2009. It was gorgeous with all the wild flowers in bloom. I sneezed for about 6 hours straight after the event. (Photo by Shelly Stobierski)

It was at that moment that I fell in love with the unicycling community. This type of support and sportsmanship is typical of every unicycling event we've ever attended. For this reason, I will work hard as the editor of OOW as a way to give back to the community that has given so much to us.

With gratitude,

Shelly



Update from the U.S.A. Board

The Unicycling Society of America's board of directors met via Skype on September 8, 2013. A summary of topics discussed include:

- ◆ UNICON 17 registration is live. Most events will be open to all riders. However, track and artistic events will have limitations.
- ◆ The top three priorities for "Old Business" are online membership, updating the U.S.A. rulebook (adopting the IUF rulebook with some U.S. specific edits), and becoming tax-deductible.
- ◆ Date for NAUCC 2014 will be moved up in the year to accommodate travel to UNICON. (Tentative dates are June 29 to July 4, 2014.)
- ◆ A video contest was proposed that would feature all types of riding and award prizes. This idea needs further investigation.



July 30 to August 10, 2014

Montreal, Canada

Log on to <http://www.unicon17.ca/en/>
to register

***On One Wheel* now has a Facebook page! If you're on Facebook, please "like" it and post your unicycling pics!**



Hello U.S.A, members,

I hope everyone has had a great start to the school year!

I'm excited to take over as President for the next year along with Patricia Wilton as Vice President. We're looking forward to accomplishing several great goals with the Board, one of which will involve the help of you, the riders! Please "Like" the new On One Wheel page on Facebook as we will be posting details soon. And keep an eye out for other social media to begin appearing as well!

Keep on riding,

Amanda Grzych
U.S.A. President



President's Corner



Scott Wilton Wins Everything!

Okay, that is not entirely true.. But he was crowned champion, either as an individual or part of a pair or group, for half of the overall categories.

The Unicycling Society of American would like to congratulate all competitors who participated at NAUCC 2013.



Complete Results

The full list of results for all event categories can be found on the Unicycling Society of America's webpage. The link is <http://uninationals2013.com/results/>



Danielle Chevalier rides the muni XC course at Moraine State Park at NAUCC. (Photo by Mike Briggs)

North American Champions: (Male, Female)

Individual Freestyle: Christopher Hugo, Kelly Oberbillig

Pairs Freestyle: Patricia Wilton and Scott Wilton

Standard Skill: Ryan Moore, Elizabeth Dowling

Group: Titanic (TCUC)

Club: Twin Cities Unicycle Club

Flatland: Dan Colvin, Julia Belk

Street: Maxwell Schulze

(Christian Huriwai*), (Sam La Hood*)

Trials: Maxwell Schulze, Sarah Snyder

Speed Trials: Maxwell Schulze

High Jump: Maxwell Schulze, Robin Smallwood

Long Jump: Hugo Duguay, Sarah Smith

Track Racing: Scott Wilton, Avonlea Schmitz

Mountain Unicycling: Scott Wilton, Danielle Chevalier

Long Distance: Scott Wilton, Danielle Chevalier

(Ungeared: Kevin Tomczyk),

Criterium Unlimited: Scott Wilton, Danielle Chevalier

Criterium Standard: Liam Koehler, Marin Cohan

10k Unlimited: Scott Wilton, Danielle Chevalier

10k Standard: Candido Santiago, Makayla O'Brien

Time Trial: Scott Wilton, Danielle Chevalier

Marathon: Scott Wilton, Patricia Wilton

(*This rider receives recognition for winning the competition, but is not from North America.)



NAUCC 2013 Review

By Lisa Krack

I was asked to mention some favorite bits about NAUCC 2013. It's hard for me to focus on single moments. But a few do stand out in my memory: being handed a shaved ice in my favorite flavor while instructing the road marshals for the 10K; eating watermelon on the Trials Course at the end of a long day; asking Ed, the builder, for 2 equal blocks to prop up the High Jump for the other finalists; Movie Night at the Strand, and the Strand Volunteers asking questions about the tricks in the movie; watching Jesse and Trina finish an event and cheering them on; and seeing the bear at Moraine.

One of my favorite things about attending NAUCC each year is getting to experience different parts of the country that I may not otherwise get to see. So, it was amazing to work with so many locals who were so excited about sharing their hometown with our extended unicycling family. NAUCC helped strengthen a number of local friendships. Sounds trivial, but many of our sponsors (and club members, of course) were already acquaintances. But now, after months of hard work, these same acquaintances have become friends and a number of Butler Wobble members have grown closer - and that is always a great thing for any specialized group or club!

We were also thrilled to get so much media attention. As a young unicycling club that aims to promote unicycling as a sport in which anyone of any age or ability may participate, we have few opportunities to promote unicycling as the sport that it is and to showcase the athleticism required in all the disciplines. The media coverage really helped with that goal, and as with so many alternative sports, it gave the public a glimpse at a sport we all love but of which very few outsiders even know exists.

As far as our extended unicycling family goes, it was great to share our home base with all of you. We always enjoy seeing the familiar faces and making new friends. Unfortunately, we didn't get to hang out with many of you as much as we would have liked, but what is it about this group that the next time we meet, we can just pick up where we left off?

Now that NAUCC 2013 is over, the Butler Wobble continues as it did prior to the event. We just finished racing in a local mountain bike race series, Month of Mud. We meet at the Wheel Mill on Friday nights and the Butler YMCA on Saturdays. We have a FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/ButlerWobble>) if you'd like to follow our antics until we see you again!





NAUCC 2013 Favorite Moments



AVONLEA SCHMITZ - TCUC

“My favorite moment from nationals would have to be performing the Titanic group routine. For me, it wasn't about how we did, but it was just fun to go out and perform with all of my friends.

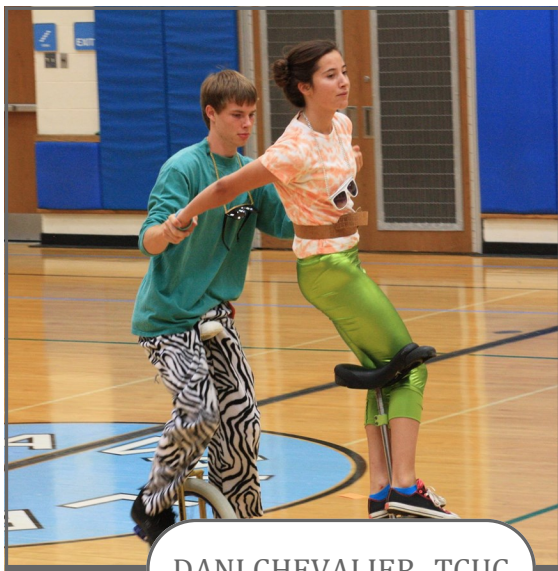
(Photo by Sarah Lind-MacMillan)



SHELLY STOBIERSKI - RTUC

I don't have a photo of my favorite moment. It was the giant hug I got after finishing my pairs routine with my son. He was so proud!

(Photo by Joanne Egan)



DANI CHEVALIER - TCUC

“The expert pairs competition, because I was competing against my friends and we had all worked on great routines. “

(Photo by Kim Chevalier)



MARY WITTENBERG - RTCU

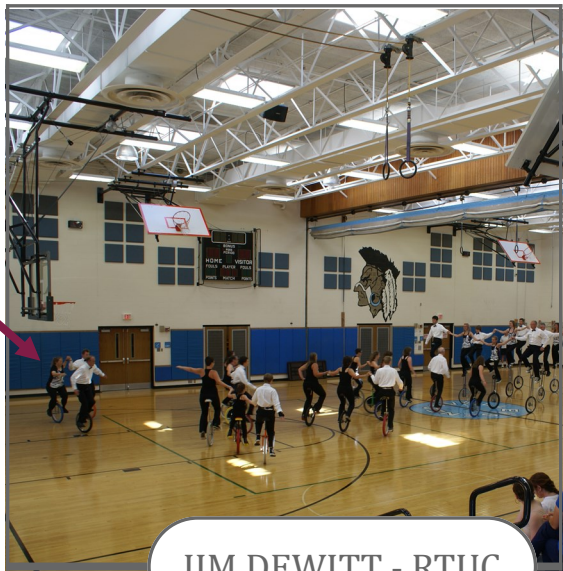
Mary trained every Saturday for months to prepare for the 10K. Finishing it was her favorite moment.

(Photo by John Wittenberg)

Mary

NAUCC 2013 Favorite Moments

Amy before giraffes



JIM DEWITT - RTUC

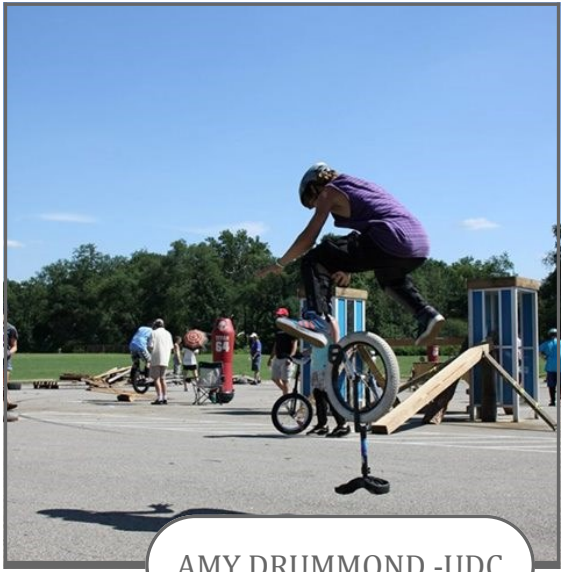
Amy reluctantly agreed to be in the RTUC club routine. She was terrified of going under the giraffes. (Continued in box to the right)
(Photo by Al Egan)

Amy after giraffes



AMY GOOD - RTUC

She made it! This was both her and Jim's (he and John Shade are riding with her) favorite moment of NAUCC.
(Photo by Al Egan)



AMY DRUMMOND -UDC

Amy's favorite moment of the convention was when Jack Sebben successfully landed a uniwhip right in front of the UDC booth.
(Photo by Jeff Dam with his Canon EOS Rebel)



PATRICIA WILTON - MADUNI

"The camaraderie aspect and that amongst all of the competitions there was still time to have fun and goof around ."
(Photo by Jeff wilton)



Twin Cities Unicycle Club

Submitted by :Avonlea Schmitz



Fall Practices and Classes (Photo by Nick Schatz)



Summer Parade Fun (Photo by Alex Schatz)



Show Group at NAUCC 2013 (Photo by Kevin Schmitz)



Distance Rides including the Powderhorn 24 with Team "Chubby Guys on Bikes" (Photo by Kim Chevalier)



Minnesota Muni Weekend (Photo credit unknown)

Redford Township Unicycle Club



(Photo by John Wittenberg)



(Photo by Joanne Egan)

The Redford Township Unicycle Club took most of August off from regular practices in order to spend some quality time together doing other activities like camping and tubing. We're back on schedule with regular practices. In fact, we've already begun choreographing the club routine for NAUCC 2014! In addition, we've performed in four parades and are getting ready to do America's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Watch for us Thanksgiving morning on NBC.



(Photo by Al Egan)

Fourth Annual NYC Unicycle Festival

The New York City Unicycle Festival was held on Labor Day weekend. The event is organized by Bindlestiff Family Variety Arts, Inc., along with the New York Unicycle Club, Governors Island, and the Unicycle Bridge Tour.

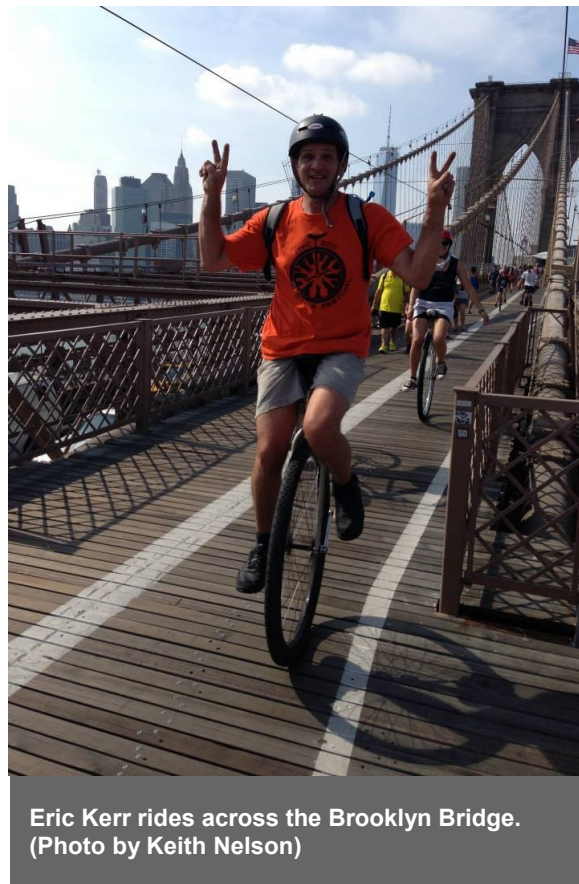
The event took place on Governors Island and other iconic places in the Brooklyn area, such as the Brooklyn Bridge (69 unicyclists crossed it!) and Coney Island. It was attended by close to 700 participants.

It featured games by the Unicycle Football League [Editor's Note: More to come on them in the next issue of OOW!], basketball, hockey, trials demonstrations, riding lessons for beginners (300 people gave it a try!), and public shows.

Links to coverage of the festival:

As in past years, the festival was covered in the media by NY1, Brooklyn News, Timeout NY, and the Huffington Post. Some active links include:

- ◆ <http://www.ny1.com/content/news/188032/nyc-unicycle-festival-kicks-off-with-13-mile-trek-to-coney-island>
- ◆ <http://brooklyn.news12.com/news/unicycle-festival-kicks-off-in-new-york-city-1.5988381>



Eric Kerr rides across the Brooklyn Bridge. (Photo by Keith Nelson)



Unicycle pile (Photo by Michael Dwass)



Unicyclists playing football on Governors Island. (Photo by Keith Nelson)



Above: Standard Skills layout painted over basketball court in Westland, MI. (Photo by Tyler McManman) Inset Right: Purple Mike in Laguna Beach, CA. (Photo by Chris Parsons)

The Progress of Purple Mike

By Tyler McManman

Mike (a.k.a. Purple Mike) Parsons of the Redford Township Unicycle Club (RTUC) is a 47- year old, retired firefighter. He is also skilled unicycle rider. He was injured playing hockey at the NAUCC tournament when he collided with opposing goaltender, Mark Atkinson. That didn't stop him from showing up on track race day to run the one-footed and wheel-walk races. I overheard a fellow club member tell a non-RTUC unicyclist that Purple Mike intends to be the first "old dude" to reach Level 10. The unicyclists laughed.

The reaction seems reasonable from an RTUC outsider who understands how difficult it is to attain Level 10. However, it seriously underestimates the tenacity of Purple Mike. Currently, he is a Level 7 rider actively working on Level 8. He passed Level 7 on October 5, 2013, after 4 failed attempts. He has also started a movement in our club to have an additional day of open gym practice for members to attend on Tuesday nights, which he is paying for himself. During this time, as well as at our standard club practice times, he can be found in the middle of the floor constantly working on advanced skills. The picture above illustrates his level of dedication.

In preparation for his standard skills routine he took the liberty of converting a public basketball court into an official standard skill floor with paint showing the boundaries and the circles in the middle. He practiced there most of the days leading up to NAUCC. This is an excellent way for unicyclists to practice their skill levels.

Barring major injury, I think he will eventually make it to Level 10. Currently, Purple Mike estimates it will be one year before he achieves Level 8 and we hope to keep you updated on his progress.

[Editor's note: I would like to remind the reader that the views expressed by the author are not necessarily those of the U.S.A. In fact, if you paint over a public basketball court, you may face vandalism and/or property destruction charges.]

UNICYCLING FUN



(Photo by Mike Parsons)

While this photo of Davey Rance crashing on the NAUCC 2013 muni XC course may not look like he's having fun to you, the guy in the bright yellow shirt is cracking up!

Unicycle Joke
Q: Why is the unicycle the quickest of all pedaled transportation?
A: Because it doesn't need training wheels to get it moving!

(credit: <http://unicyclemom.blogspot.com/2012/04/unique-jokeswhy-is-it-people-are.html>)



Alternative Uses for NAUCC 2013 Plaques

The organizers of this year's NAUCC created an innovative and cost effective award system compared to the medals and ribbons presented in previous years. Each competitor was given a set of two acrylic plates with registration. The first featured the beautiful NAUCC 2013 logo that was created by art teacher and graphic designer, Nate Burtner. The second was etched with label-sized rectangles. Competitors received stickers with their event place to display on the set.

However, what do you do with your plaque if you didn't place in any event? Tyler McManman demonstrates some ideas to consider:

Option 1: Paint it with watercolors to make a sun-catcher.



Option 2: Use crayons or pastels to do a rubbing.



Option 3: Use it for a coaster to prevent unsightly rings.



Tyler created this lovely greeting card with his pastel rubbing.

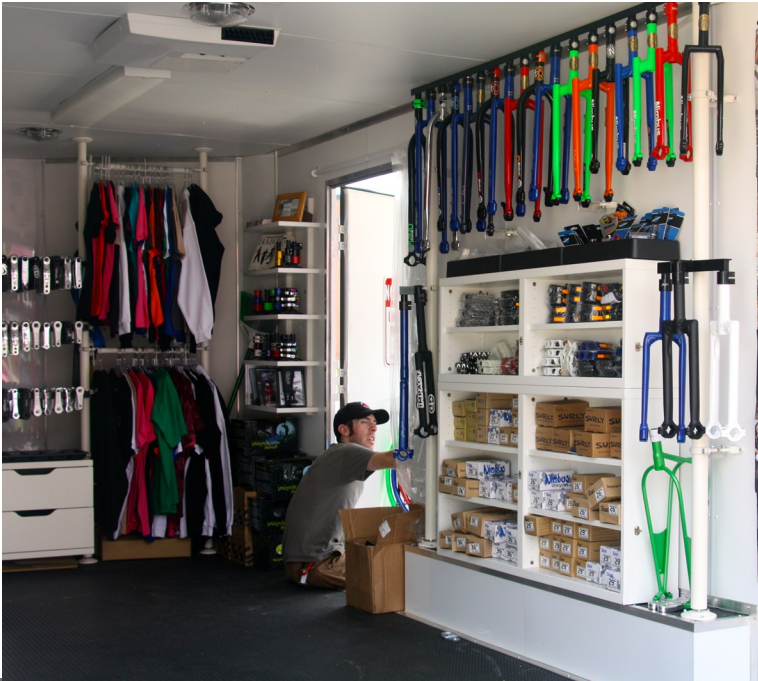


(Photos by Shelly Stobierski)



New Unicycle.com Booth

There is always a mad dash to the Unicycle.com booth when it opens at the annual NAUCC events. This year attendees had the privilege of shopping in company's newly designed travel booth. The setup allowed more room to browse for replacement parts and accessories. The UDC crew and booth will travel to S.T.O.M.P. and the Moab Muni rides to meet your unicycling needs.



Jason Wieske checks out the inside of the new setup. (Photo by Amy Drummond)

Upcoming Events

- S.T.O.M.P.
November 1-3, 2013
Pelham, Alabama
- Moab Munifest
March 21-23, 2014
Moab, Utah
<http://munifest.us/>
- Mondo Juggling Festival
February 28 –March 1, 2014
St. Paul, MN
- Muni Weekend
June 13-15, 2014
Bellingham, WA
<http://teamunicycle.com/muniweekend.html>
- NAUCC 2014
June 29 - July 4, 2014 (TENTATIVE)
Bloomington, MN
- UNICON 17
July 30 - August 10, 2014
Montreal, Quebec
www.unicon17.ca



Josh assists some interested shoppers at NAUCC 2013. (Photo by Amy Drummond)