

WIZZARD CROSS AT WARNER PARK

(Wisconsin Cycling Association's Warner Park Cyclocross event)

November 7th 2010

Race organizers:

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Related Event Sponsors:

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For over twenty years cyclocross races have been conducted in Dane County parks, but never in Madison. (View: madcross.org for recent years' history of over 6000 photos). This year, and hopefully for years to come, the Team Magnus bicycling club/team is interested in hosting an exciting autumn WCA cyclocross event in Warner Park. Our club has forty members to call upon to volunteer for set up and clean up and to assist the WCA officials. The prospective race is a not-for-profit event, run by volunteers, to further develop this sport in our area. An average Wisconsin cyclocross event attracts between 200 and 400 participants. Participants range from seven to 65 years of age. Most of the fans are friends and family of the racers. In the home countries of Belgium and Holland, professional events attract thousands. Madison, home to the greatest number of racers, has yet to host a race.

The event would be scheduled in November when the ground is partially frozen and the Park's use has waned from peak summer and fall use. We have mapped out a course that runs over grass, trails, pavement, cement, uphill climbs, in a 1 to 2 mile loop that resembles a steeple chase obstacle course for bicycles. (See attachment). The bicycles used in this sport are basically drop handlebar road bicycles with knobby tires, ridged forks and cantilever brakes. Temporary wooden 12" high barricades and plastic caution tape are used to create obstacles and turns that challenge the riders' skills, often requiring them to dismount and carry their bikes. As a host city, the numbers in dollars and people are not great, but it further promotes Madison as a center for cycling tourism and cycling events without any significant disruption of city traffic. The event needs no other city services except the use of the park. A cyclocross event is wholly contained in a portion of the park. The event is mostly promoted by local sponsors. The event organizers and many of the participants live near and enjoy the park year round, so stewardship of the park's ecology is an important consideration in the event's design.

In addition to the race course, the event will require bathrooms, a registration tent, and a food and beverage tent. We will also need to set-up a podium for announcing the winners of each event. If the shelter is still available in November, it could by itself serve all the additional needs of the race. Some of the bicycle equipment sponsors may bring tech support vans and we will encourage them to bring a demo tent. If we can get our coffee sponsor to bring a coffee cart they will be asked to do so.

We hope to create a lasting relationships with this first event, so please offer any hints to make it run more efficiently.

Sincerely,
Christopher Berge and Luke Batchelor-Clark