

For Immediate Release

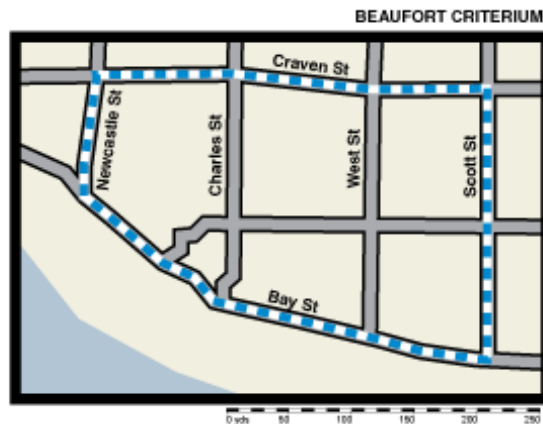
March 20, 2008

BEAUFORT MEMORIAL CYCLING CLASSIC SET FOR APRIL 29
Second annual event will include a bike safety fair and family fun ride on April 27

BEAUFORT, S.C. – Racing at top speeds of up to 35 and 40 miles an hour, more than 120 professional male and female cyclists will descend on downtown Beaufort during the second annual Beaufort Memorial Cycling Classic, a celebration of active, healthy living in the Lowcountry, on Tuesday, April 29, at 6 p.m.

The format will offer spectators the opportunity to watch Olympians and national champions up close as they ride at top speeds for up to two hours on the .6-mile course. Cyclists representing all 15 national professional cycling teams will participate in the race, all vying for a slice of the \$15,000 purse: \$10,000 for the men’s competition and \$5,000 for the women’s competition.

The evening will kick off with a kids’ race at 5 p.m. on Bay Street, and will be followed by the women’s, then men’s races. The professional races will follow a .6-mile course that begins and ends at the clock tower on Bay Street (see course map below).



This year BMH is also hosting “Cycling Sunday,” a family cycling safety event on Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the BMH Annex on Ribaut Road. The event will feature bike fittings, bike safety instruction and a bike rodeo. Each participant will also receive a free bike helmet, tire reflectors and more. The event will end with a family fun ride through Mossy Oaks led by professional and local cyclists.

“As the community’s primary healthcare provider, we are delighted to be a part of Beaufort’s pro cycling event,” says Beaufort Memorial Hospital President and CEO Rick Toomey. “The Beaufort Memorial Cycling Classic truly celebrates active, healthy living, and we are looking forward to this year’s event.”

The Beaufort Memorial Cycling Classic is a part of the USA Crits Southeast series that kicks off in Athens, Ga., on April 26 with the “Athens Twilight,” and continues with a total of seven races in nine days – each in a different Southeastern city.

The event is managed by Lowcountry Velo, and is supported by various local sponsors, volunteers and cycling clubs.

For more about the Beaufort Memorial Cycling Classic visit www.lowcountrycyclist.com.

About Professional Criterium Racing

America has a rich history of criterium racing, a unique form of cycling that stresses high-speed racing contested amidst an urban atmosphere. Criterium racing’s ability to combine the most exciting elements of popular sports with the large-scale appeal of downtown festivals has made it the most enduring form of cycling in North America with an ever-growing following of fans.

Because criteriums are run on short lap courses through city streets, they offer spectators the opportunity to watch Olympians and national champions up-close as they ride at top speed for up to two hours. This has made the criterium format the most spectator-friendly form of cycling. When showcased in a community’s downtown districts, these races often draw more than 10,000 fans per event.

The Beaufort Memorial Cycling Classic is part of the USA Crits South East race series which will be held in seven cities over a nine-day period, including:

Event	Date	Location	Website
Athens Twilight Criterium	April 26, 2008	Athens, GA	www.athenstwilight.com
Beaufort Memorial Classic	April 29, 2008	Beaufort, SC	www.lowcountrycyclist.com/
Walterboro Cycling Classic	April 30, 2008	Walterboro, SC	www.usacrits.com/se2007/walterboro.html
Uptown Greenwood Cycling Challenge	May 1, 2008	Greenwood, SC	www.uptowngreenwood.com
SmithBarney Classic	May 2, 2008	Spartanburg, SC	www.biketownspartanburg.org
Dilworth Criterium	May 3, 2008	Charlotte, NC	http://www.nccycling.com
Sandy Springs Cycling Challenge	May 4, 2008	Sandy Springs, GA	www.sandyspringschallenge.org