

Thursday, October 11, 2007

CYCLOCROSS BIKE RACING COMING TO CLATSOP COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

The River City Bicycles Cross Crusade will hold its first cyclocross bike race in the Astoria area on Oct. 28 at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Between 400 and 600 riders are expected to participate in the event. The public is invited to come watch or compete.

Cyclocross bike racing is a specialized form of cycling competition in which riders race on a closed-loop circuit over grass, pavement, gravel and mud with barriers and steep run-ups mixed with other challenges. Cyclocross demands special techniques and fitness of the riders – dismounting the bike at speed, running, carrying the bike over barriers, shouldering it up hills and maintaining speed through turns and uneven, muddy terrain.

River City Bicycles Cross Crusade is an Oregon-based grassroots effort that has grown into the largest cyclocross series in North America. On Sundays in the fall, up to 700 racers compete for fun and prizes with men and women represented in 10 age and ability categories. Racing starts at 9 a.m. and continues all day.

Competition is open to any cyclist. Registration begins at 8 a.m. An Oregon Bicycle Racing Association racing license is required to compete and costs \$10. Registration for race events is \$20. Forms and more information on the Cross Crusade website at www.crosscrusade.com.

Admission is free for spectators. Parking at the fairgrounds is \$3 per vehicle.

The fairgrounds is located at 92937 Walluski Loop 3-/12 miles east of Astoria off Oregon Highway 202.