



6/18/12

Durango Wheel Club Members and area riders:

In speaking with Spencer Compton (Durango Wheel Club President) at the 2012 IHBC review it was requested that the IHBC send out a follow up to the Club to discuss results issues for the 2012 event. I am happy to do so but be prepared, it has lots of detail. As follows

The 2012 event was very similar to the 40<sup>th</sup> with regards to overall number of registrants (4000) across all events for the three days. The only significant difference was the speed for which the rides to Silverton (race and tour) sold out. In 2011 the events sold out in 75 days, in 2012 that decreased to 6 days. A significant difference, with most masters level classes selling out within hours. We are pleased it has become a coveted event, a testament to our community, volunteers, and overall cycling culture.

By the numbers the IHBC is in the top 2 with regards to size of USA Cycling sanctioned road races with near 1000 riders registering for a USAC road race category to Silverton. As many as 600 purchase a one day license which is another near record for a USAC event. That also points out how many “once a year racers” we attract. We sell 1500 Citizens Tour slots.

For 2012 we used a similar process for scoring and results as we have done in the past, the difference for 2012 is we had a few different players managing some of those tasks.

We employ USA Cycling Officials who are tasked to manage the entire scoring process for each race of the weekend. This has always been our process, for 2012 the only difference was we used 8 USAC Officials versus 7 in previous years. 60% of those 8 had worked the IHBC previously. Their duties are to capture all bib/bike number info by rider at finish line, capture the rider time, and compile results by category. We also employ One2Go Events which brings a Lynx finish line camera that does the same tasks as USAC, it captures bib/bike number info as a secondary method of gathering scoring

info. One2Go also scores the Tour of California and USA Pro Cycling Challenge. They are well regarded.

Additionally for 2012, One2Go events contracted Raceday.com to compile rider registration info and compile results. We had never worked with Raceday.com because in past years we did this task in house with Barry Owen, whom retired in 2011 after 25 years of service.

The process for scoring is that each rider is given a bib number and bike number. Each category has a start sheet with that info which is provided to USAC. Once riders begin entering the finish line in Silverton or any other finish line for the weekend events the Officials write down bib/bike number and also write down times. In Silverton we have 6 Officials capturing bib number info at finish line, then we have 2 Officials and 2 Volunteers doing redundant capturing of Bib info at end of chute before riders enter park. Additionally the Lynx finish line camera and operator are also capturing and writing down each rider that comes through finish line. Once the top 20 for each race category are finished the USAC Officials are to post that set of preliminary results for a 15 min protest period. Once the 15 min is complete they make any protest changes and they are to become official. FYI – We score none of the Tour riders.

This is the process we have used for years. A few items that happened this year that created a percentage of the issues. We used a new bib number material that tore from either wind, or pin placement. This is why we also provide a bike number because we commonly have an issue with people putting jackets over their bib number for the descent off Molas. Bike numbers are important! The tearing bib issue while a nuisance was a very small percentage of the issue as in most cases we had captured the bike number. We will use a different material for 2013. Another challenge we face is riders manipulating the registration system to “get in”. An common example is a 50 year old man manipulating his birthdate and gender to get in to a women category as it is still open. The person then lines up with a men’s group even though he is not registered for it and skews the results for the group. This happens a lot and is extremely hard to prevent and police. Integrity by the participant at registration is key, we do not always get that.

I hope I have described the process for which we used for 2012, which is similar to previous years. The IHBC Staff does not score the event, I am not using that as a crutch for poor execution for 2012, but simply pointing out that we pay vendors for a service and this year the end product was poor.

Every year since I have been doing this job I have researched all possible scoring options from chips to high speed cameras. Every system requires the use of people writing down bib numbers as a back up. No vendor that we have spoken to that provides chips or high speed cameras will guarantee 100% accuracy, none! We hired a chip company in 2009

and put 300 chips on racers so we could see how well it worked. By the Chip Operators own admission it was far less accurate than the USAC Officials writing it down on paper and referencing the finish line camera. The IHBC is very complex with categories, shared finish line with the Tour, rider skill level, varying start times etc. Many of the things that create problems also are what make the event so popular. We are open to any method which will provide the most accurate results. To date I have not found a Vendor who can guarantee that, or even close. Providing a time for a Tour with a mass start or a Gran Fondo with a mass start is far different than scoring 14 road race categories with 1000 riders who get mixed together on the road, put a vest over their number, put on the roommates bib number on accident etc. And we have to do all of this in a 5 hour road closure window , a tough task I assure you.

So as it stands, all of the raw finish line data generated for the IHBC is compiled and held by USA Cycling as it is every year. To date they are still trying to resolve issues and generate final results. We cannot send out prize checks until they post final results. We are prepared to send the checks as soon as we have that info.

In closing, I cannot put a finger on the exact issue that caused this many results issues. Every year we have some level of issue, which is to be expected with this size of event and all the possible variables. 2012 has been far beyond a few issues. We have been in contact with USAC and Raceday.com almost daily trying to resolve issues. Interestingly, they have been able to solve many but not all. They keep working on them and it is maddening that they keep changing. Our hope is that it gets resolved this week. If I had a magic wand and could fix this I would have done it three weeks ago!

We will turn over every rock with a better scoring solution for 2013, I assure you. But I will also assure you it will never be perfect unless we drastically scale back the number of overall racers to Silverton, have fewer categories, only cater to annual licensed riders etc.. If the race was much smaller, we lower our variability. That would also cut out many enthusiasts who want to be in the “race” not the tour.

The IHBC has become an important weekend for Durango at many levels. I understand that responsibility and the complexities that go with it. I sincerely apologize that many race results had issues for 2012! It has made a years worth of hard work seem invalid for the IHBC Staff and Crew to some extent, and I am sure many of you that trained diligently have a similar feeling. I do hope although you had an epic ride to Silverton, enjoyed a fast corner at the Crit, and drank a beer while watching the riders go through Steamworks, or suffered up Shalona at the Time Trial. It was an amazing weekend of cycling!

On the flip side we have received an abundance of praise from many directions on once again providing a great bike experience, rallying the community, and being a significant economic driver for the area. We will once again make a large donation (\$60,000 in

2011) back to various community entities including the Durango Wheel Club, Durango Devo, FLC Cycling, and The Mercy Health Foundation. The IHBC appreciates the support the Community and Riders have provided. We assure you we will make every effort to put on a quality event for 2013 and once again make the Community proud. We also will make every effort to provide the best scoring available.

Sincerely  
Gauge Sippy  
Director