

Red Jacket/Blue Sky Health Cycling Team Minutes September 10, 2008

The team met at 7 pm at the Bike Shop on Wednesday, September 10.

The first agenda item focused on the experiences that folks had as team members this year and what the team could do to improve for next year.

Brett liked the fact that early in the season when a number of team members went to races in Wisconsin or lower Michigan, car pooling took place, which fostered team camaraderie before, during and after the race. Later on in the season as races were closer to the area, team members went more as individuals and that camaraderieship was not there. Diane also commented on how after the Superior Bike Fest road race, she was looking for team members to help her at the finish line since she had cramped up during the race but did not find anybody there.

This then lead to a discussion of having an area at the start or finish of the race that could be identified as a Red Jacket staging/finishing location. The consensus of the team was that we needed to do this next year. Also, there was discussed the need to do shop/group/training rides during the entire season. Later on the idea of purchasing a team banner or tent came up. It was decided as long as the tent did not cost more than about \$300, the team should make that investment without consulting the entire team.

The next discussion item involved our main sponsor, Blue Sky Health. Jeff has been very supportive of our efforts and we talked about how we could help him out such as in staging events such as kids running races. At this time, it appears from discussion team members have had with Jeff, he simply wants to see how the team evolves over the course of this and next year.

We then discussed possible races to sponsor next year. A 10 hours of Tech (similar to 12 hours of Potluck) was suggested but the main focus was on a crit and some other race (mountain time trial or road race) as part of Pasty Fest in Calumet. Pat said there was a lot of interest from folks in Calumet for this race/races and so further discussions of this possibility was planned.

Pat also brought up the issue of how many people fulfilled the 20 hours of community service that were expected of the team members. Pat felt that this was an area that the team did not do well in this year. Some examples of how team members could interact with the community were brought up. Pat and Bruce both

were involved in the kids mountain bike group and others helped out with the kid's races at the 3 local mountain bike races. (I also helped out at the Copper Kids triathlon). Others like Diane were involved in trail building and the team is responsible for a section of trail at Maasto Hiihto and at Swedetown. The consensus of the team was that we needed to do this more next year so that the team is more visible in the community with the additional purpose of using this as one the reasons sponsors should considered supporting the team. Pat volunteered to be the coordinator of our team community/outreach activities.

The cyclocross season was then brought up. The team is hosting the Keweenaw Cup which consists of a cross race at Copper Harbor followed the next day by another cross race at Michigan Tech on Oct 11/12 as part of the KMK UP cross series. There is a need for volunteers at these races and it was discussed how C4 is hosting collegiate cross races on November 7/8. So the plan is to get some C4 folks to help out at our races and to get Red Jackets helping out at the C4 races. (Jon and Bruce will bring this up at the C4 meeting on Thursday, Sept. 11). Caleb scored some lumber from McGanns (?) and we need to make barriers for these races. A work session will be held in the future to build these barriers.

We then discussed whether we should actively recruit new members to the team. It was decided that we had a good working group of riders and that we would not actively recruit new members. However, if we could identify an individual(s) who would be interested in joining the team, we would certainly encourage that person or persons to consider joining the team.

The problems that folks had with the race kits from Champion Systems were then discussed. Because the team met the minimum order with our initial purchase of team kits, we will not look at other vendors at this time. If new sponsors come on board after the 2009 season, other vendors will be examined. Additional purchases of team gear from Champion Systems are ongoing – leave your order at the Bike Shop and your check by Friday (Sept. 12).

The next meeting will be held after cross season.

Submitted by

Bruce Pletka

Secretary – Red Jacket – Blue Sky Health Cycling Team