

13th Ascent of the Great Divide Hill Climb - MacDonald Pass - September 27, 2003

A gorgeous fall day greeted 22 runners and 27 bicyclists for the 13th Ascent of the Great Divide Hill Climb on MacDonald Pass Saturday. A slight tailwind, warm temperatures, and \$100 prize offering for new records guaranteed an all-out assault on the record books.

Scott Herzig of the Montana Velo Cycling Team played cat-and-mouse for the first mile with the lead pack of cyclists before dropping the hammer and pulling away for a 54 second victory over Bozeman's Andy Schultz. Herzig's time of 25:24 (that's 15 mph average – on a bike!) bettered his own record time of 26:16 in 2002, while Schultz was in at 26:18. Jason Mohr of Helena finished up in 28:13 for 3rd. A special note of accomplishment has to be made for 57-year-old Bill Schneider of Helena, who organized the 1st Ascent of the Great Divide Hill Climb in 1983, and finished this year with an exceptional time of 33:24. *Organizer's note: The Great Divide Hill Climb was not an annual event for the first decade of its existence, which is why the 13th occurrence was held in what would have been the 21st year.*

Gwen Sensenig of the Great Divide Cycling Team defended her 2002 Queen of the Hill cycling title with a 36:40 and a 90-second improvement over her time from last year. GDCT teammate Rhonda Wodnik was second in 37:55 and Abigail Anthony of Missoula was third with a 38:29.

Nationally-ranked women's runner, Nicole Hunt of Deer Lodge, left absolutely no doubt that come Hill or High Water, she would have the fastest time ever record by a woman runner on MacDonald Pass. Hunt cruised to the top in 49:31, breaking Michelle Franchi's 2002 record time of 52:09 by over 2½ minutes. Franchi didn't let her record or championship go easily as she tried to hang on to Hunt, but couldn't hold the blistering pace and settled for 2nd in 53:52. Jennifer Thomas finished 3rd for the 4th straight year, holding off Debbie Magilke of Billings. Thomas finished in 58:24 to Magilke's 59:18.

Defending King of the Hill Runner, (and husband of Nicole), Ray Hunt of Deer Lodge, also left little doubt that he was after a repeat win as he took command early and won handily in 41:37. David Brooks of Missoula claimed the runner-up spot in 43:02 while Pat Judge, the 2000 King of the Hill, was 3rd in 44:59.

The Great Divide Hill Climb, sponsored by Helena's Great Divide Cycling Team, is perhaps the most unique race in Montana with bicyclists and runners competing on the same course at the same time. Cyclists and runners race from the bottom of MacDonald Pass to the top in a race that features a 2,200 foot climb in just over 6.2 miles on Highway 12. The cyclist and runner individual times are combined to determine overall team winners.

Herzig and Judge combined their talents to take the Open Men's top team award with a 1:10:23, not quite a minute faster than Jason Mohr and David Brooks who had a 1:11:15. Open categories have a combined teammate's age of 80 years or less.

Blake Weidenheft of Bozeman and Nicole Hunt teamed up to crush the Open Co-Ed team record with a 1:19:14. The old record was 1:24:49 held jointly by Scott Herzig & Ann Seifert from 1992 and Phil Hess & Michelle Franchi from 2002. Hess and Franchi teamed up again this year, finishing 2nd in the division in 1:26:02.

Team "Gwennifer", a joint effort of GDCT teammates Gwen Sensenig and Jennifer Thomas, took the top Women's team title in 1:35:04, and GDCT kept the division all-in-the-family as Team "R&R", Rhonda Wodnik on the bike and Robin Schropshire on foot finished 2nd in 1:43:43.

The Master's Mens (combined teammate ages over 80 years) title went to "Monkey Business", Chuck Magraw and Tim Davis in 1:22:54, edging out the last minute combination of Tom Owen and Mike Walsh with a 1:24:02.

A first-ever representation from Billings yielded a team title and division record for Charles Harper and Debbie Magilke in the Master's Co-Ed division with a time of 1:34:04. That time just eclipsed the record of Janet Brunner and Fred Robinson of 1:34:35 from 1990. Drew Malaney and Jo Hawkins finished 2nd in the division with a combined 1:43:35.

Herzig and Nicole Hunt each won \$100 for setting new individual records. The recognition from their fellow competitors and a spot in the record book had to suffice for those teams that set new team records.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Runners: Female

1	NICOLE HUNT	49:31
	breaks old record of 52:09 by Michelle Franchi, 2002	
2	MICHELLE FRANCHI	53:52
3	JENNIFER THOMAS	58:24
4	DEBBIE MAGILKE	59:18
5	JO HAWKINS	1:05:43
6	ROBIN SHROPSHIRE	1:05:48
7	TAMI CALDWELL	1:10:09
8	CINDY GAFFREY	1:16:36
9	JENNIFER GRIGGS	1:21:12

Runners: Male

1	RAY HUNT	41:37
2	DAVID BROOKS	43:02
3	PAT JUDGE	44:59
4	TIM DAVIS	45:55
5	JOHN CASEY	46:51
6	MIKE TELLING	47:32
7	PETER DAN SULLIVAN	49:19
8	MIKE WALSH	50:47
9	BLAIR HOPKINS	54:13
10	STEVE ENGBRECHT	56:15
11	RYAN MELLE	59:27
12	MARK SCARFF	59:57
13	GREG SCHNEIDER	1:01:21

Bikers: Female

1	GWEN SENSENIG	36:40
2	RHONDA WODNIK	37:55
3	ABIGAIL ANTHONY	38:29
4	GWEN POZEGA	38:48
5	SHERYL SIEBENS	43:10

Bikers: Male

1	SCOTT HERZIG	25:24
	breaks old record of 26:16 by Scott Herzig, 2002	
2	ANDY SCHULTZ	26:18
3	JASON MOHR	28:13
4	BLAKE WEIDENHEFT	29:43
5	ERIC LANDL	31:24

6	RUSS SCHNEIDER	31:55
7	GREG WIRTH	32:00
8	PHIL HESS	32:10
9	CRAIG POZEGA	32:43
10	TOM OWEN	33:15
11	BILL SCHNEIDER	33:24
12	CHARLES HARPER	34:46
13	PETER JOY	36:35
14	CHUCK MAGRAW	36:59
15	DREW SHOENING	37:45
16	DREW MALANEY	37:52
17	PAUL SIEBENS	38:46
18	HAROLD DRAMSTAD	39:51
19	BRIAN MOREAUX	40:16
20	ED GRAY	42:01

Division: Open Men (Team name listed first, then Biker, Runner, Time)

1	OVER HILL OVER DALE	SCOTT HERZIG, PAT JUDGE,	1:10:23
2	COLORADO VIGILANTES	JASON MOHR, DAVID BROOKS,	1:11:15
3	WIRE ROPE	PETER JOY, RAY HUNT,	1:18:12
4	CRAIG & JOHN	CRAIG POZEGA, JOHN CASEY,	1:19:34
5	ERIC & PETER DAN	ERIC LANDL, PETER DAN SULLIVAN,	1:20:43
6	GREG & STEVE	GREG WIRTH, STEVE ENGBRECHT,	1:28:15
7	FLATHEAD CYCLE/SCHNEIDERS	RUSS SCHNEIDER, GREG SCHNEIDER,	1:33:16

Division: Open Women (Team name listed first, then Biker, Runner, Time)

1	GWENNIFER	GWEN SENSINIG, JENNIFER THOMAS,	1:35:04
2	R&R	RHONDA WODNIK, ROBIN SHROPSHIRE,	1:43:43

Division: Open Co-Ed (Team name listed first, then Biker, Runner, Time)

1	BLAKE & NICOLE	BLAKE WEIDENHEFT, NICOLE HUNT,	1:19:14
breaks old record of 1:24:49 by Scott Herzig/Ann Seifert, 1992 and Phil Hess/Michelle Franchi, 2002			
2	PHIL & MICHELLE	PHIL HESS, MICHELLE FRANCHI,	1:26:02
3	THE GWEN & MIKE SHOW	GWEN POZEGA, MIKE TELLING,	1:26:20
4	I'M WITH STUPID	ABIGAIL ANTHONY, RYAN MELLEME,	1:37:56
5	CARROLL	BRIAN MOREAUX, TAMI CALDWELL,	1:50:25

Division: Masters Men (Team name listed first, then Biker, Runner, Time)

1	MONKEY BUSINESS	CHUCK MAGRAW, TIM DAVIS,	1:22:54
2	THE VERY LAST MINUTE	TOM OWEN, MIKE WALSH,	1:24:02
3	TEAM M.S.P.	DREW SHOENING, BLAIR HOPKINS,	1:31:58
4	SCARFF & SCHNEIDER	BILL SCHNEIDER, MARK SCARFF,	1:33:21

Division: Masters Co-Ed (Team name listed first, then Biker, Runner, Time)

1	THE BILLINGS RIMRUNNERS	CHARLES HARPER, DEBBIE MAGILKE,	1:34:04
breaks old record of 1:34:35 by Janet Brunner & Fred Robinson, 1990			
2	J&D	DREW MALANEY, JO HAWKINS,	1:43:35
3	ED & CINDY	ED GRAY, CINDY GAFFREY,	1:58:37
4	TEAM HAR-JEN	HAROLD DRAMSTAD, JENNIFER GRIGGS,	2:01:03