

Cleveland Clinic Sports Health - RGF pb Felt 2012 Top Priority Events

1. ***Sunny King Criterium (NCC)**, Anniston, AL – **Event Dates:** April 21, 2012

The National Racing Calendar will roll into Anniston, Alabama and onto web-enabled devices during the Sunny King Criterium on April 17th. Sunny King is the third event on the NRC schedule in 2010 and opens the string of criteriums in the Southeast that culminates with the USA Crits Speedweek finale at the Global BMW Sandy Springs Criterium in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

The race enters its eighth year and all entry fees will go to support the Relay For Life, a local chapter of the American Cancer Society. Organizers of the event have donated more than \$50,000 to the charity since 2005. Women will race for 60 minutes, while the men will turn 60 laps on the .7-mile rectangular circuit in downtown Anniston, all under city lights. Five cameras along the course will offer a complete picture of the action. Fans can also watch the races live on the Sunny King Criterium website, www.sunnykingcriterium.com.

2. ***Tour de Grove (NCC)**, St. Louis, MO (USA Cycling NRC and the USA CRITS Championship) – **Event Date:** May 12, 2012

The highest paying single-day race in Missouri takes place in one of the fastest growing communities in St. Louis, Missouri on May 14th, 2011. The only race in the region on the prestigious USA Cycling National Racing Calendar (NRC) and the USA CRITS Championship Series, The Tour de Grove is a free full day of family events featuring competitive races for all levels of USAC-licensed racers including US Hand Cyclists, a 5K run, Children's Events and a Grove Expo. Returning for a second consecutive year will be the Mid Town Alley Criterium on Friday, May 13th in the nearby Mid Town Alley neighborhood, a Saturday Night Street Sprint Competition and the ARTCRANK cycling poster show in The Grove. To round out the action on Sunday, May 15th, racing resumes for another full day of action at the South St. Louis Dutchtown Classic Criterium. This means three days of great racing and activities with Saturday's Tour de Grove race being the premier event. The NRC Tour de Grove starts early in the morning and finishes late afternoon with the two main events – the men's and women's Professional/Elite races. The streets will be lined with families from across the region and country, all enjoying the spectacular Tour de Grove. Website: www.tourdegrove.com

3. ***Tour of Somerville and Base Camp International (NCC)** Somerville/Basking Ridge, NJ – **Event Date:** May 28 and 31

The Tour of Somerville Cycling Series, sponsored by sanofi-aventis, U.S., is an exciting four-day event of competitive cycling for professionals and amateurs over Memorial Day weekend. The event culminates on Monday with the 50-mile Kugler-Anderson Memorial Tour of Somerville, known as the "Kentucky Derby of Cycling." The Tour is the oldest major bicycle race in the United States and a legend in the lore of bicycle racing. Website: <http://tourofsomerville.org/>

4. **Elite National Championships** Augusta, Georgia – **Event Date:** June 24-24

Website: <http://www.usacycling.org>

5. ***Tour of the Dairyland (NCC)** Wisconsin – **Event Date:** June 28-31

Located in the heart of Ozaukee County, Grafton, Wisconsin, offers a personal and economic quality of life that draws people and businesses alike to this crossroads community of well-kept homes, tree lined streets and small town warmth. Grafton's brand is "Quality Life. Naturally." Forbes' recent decision to name Ozaukee County the second best place in America to raise a family came as no surprise to Grafton residents who enjoy its nationally ranked schools, low crime rate, short commute times, low cost of living, and reasonably priced homes. Website: www.tourofamericasdairyland.com/schedule/grafon-about.php

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6. **International Tour de Toona**, Altoona, PA – **Event Date:** July (TBD)

The International Tour de Toona is a stage bicycle race held in Central Pennsylvania each July. The International Tour de Toona bicycle race started as a one day race and was initially called the Tour de Toona because it was based in Altoona, Pennsylvania. The current event has become the largest pro-am cycling event in North America and has stages spanning Blair, Cambria, Bedford, and Somerset Counties in Pennsylvania. The name was changed to The International for the 2002 edition of the race and then to the International Tour de Toona for the 2004 edition. In 2008, tour organizers scaled back the event to a one day criterium race in downtown Altoona. On May 22, 2009, it was announced that the 2009 Tour de Toona would be canceled due to a lack of sponsorship. The 2010 event was again a single day criterium race in downtown Altoona. In 2011 the event returned to being a 4 day 4 stage race for both men and women. Website: www.tourdetoona.com

7. ***Alexian Brothers Medical Center Tour of Elk Grove (NRC)**, Elk Grove, IL – **Event Date:** August 3-5

Tour of Elk Grove featured \$150,000 in total cash prize money for the 16 professional and amateur races. Over the weekend, more than 25,000 spectators viewed nearly 1,200 cyclists compete. Tour of Elk Grove is presented by Alexian Brothers Medical Center, an acclaimed health care facility in Elk Grove Village. Website: www.tourofelkgrove.com.

8. **Chris Thater Memorial (NCC)**, Binghamton, NY () – **Event Date:** August 25-26

The Chris Thater Memorial is dedicated in memory of Chris Thater, an avid cyclist, who was killed by a drunk driver. The event is a project of the Broome County STOP-DWI Program to heighten awareness about the drunk-driving problem. The race attracts over 1,500 participants from local athletes to world-class competitors with crowds of over 10,000 spectators. The Chris Thater Memorial consists of the Pro, Elite and Novice cycling events, and a national class 5K Run. The Chris Thater Memorial also features a large Expo area with numerous vendor displays, full concession, entertainment, sports/health clinics, demonstrations and other youth sports and special events. Website: <http://bcstopdwi.com/bcstopdwi/thater>

9. **Tour di Via Italia**, Windsor, ON Canada – **Event Date:** September 2

The Erie Street Bicycle Race - has become an important tradition in the Italian community and in the city of Windsor. We, as part of the community, are very much indebted to those who originally gave of their time and effort to pursue the dream that they had to see the race held in their own city of Windsor. The first bicycle race was held on November 2, 1958 with the help of Gianni Sovran who was then an avid bike fan of the Italian community. Inspired by a painting which he had seen on the wall in the St. Angela Merici Church Hall depicting the "Giro D'Italia Bike Race", Mr. Sovran dreamed of holding such a race in the city of Windsor. He discussed the idea of the race with his nephew, Ezio Orlando, who, at that time, was actively involved in the sport. Ezio had once told me that he had brought the sport of bike racing with him from Italy in his baggage. Website: <http://tourdiviaitalia.com>
