

Bicycle enthusiasts of all ages descended upon James Bond Beach on
>> Sunday to participate in the 2009 Jamaica Bicycle Bash. Dubbed a
>> "Celebration of Jamaican Bicycling Culture" the Bash featured a jam
>> packed schedule of races and competitions which provided an outlet
>> for riders to show off their skills.
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>> The day started with the "Bunny Hop" competition. In this event
>> riders compete to see who can jump their bicycle highest over a bar
>> - just like the high jump in track and field. Out of a field of 16
>> riders Jeff Crossley, Damion Douglas, Clifton Anderson and Garnett
>> Lopez advanced to the finals. In the end, Jeff "Tinga" Crossley
>> prevailed with an amazing jump of 4ft 1inch high!
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>> Next up was the Rambo Race around Oracabessa. Riders completed 3
>> laps on a 1.5 mile loop around the town. However, this was different
>> than your average road race as it featured a descent down a rutted
>> marl road that all but excluded skinny tire road bikes.
>> Christopher McLean set a blistering pace and for the second year in a
>> row took the overall Championship. Andre Gordon topped the 30-50 age
>> group while the venerable David Linehan took home the crown in the
>> over 50 category.
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>> The Rambolympics have been a crowd favorite since its debut in 2008
>> and this year was no disappointment. Testing riders ability to go
>> fast while carrying a number of unwieldy items (beer crate, gas
>> cylinder and weed whacker), the event always makes for great comedy
>> and friendly competition. The top three riders from the two heats
>> advanced to the finals. The six finalists were: Narone Giles,
>> Christopher McLean, Anthony Uter, Terish Jerrett, Devon Morris and
>> Devon Brown. Narone Giles got out to an early lead and was at the
>> front of the pack for the first two laps. However, he had trouble
>> balancing all the items on the third and final lap which allowed
>> Christopher McLean to power his way to the victory.
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>> A new event for 2009 was the Skills Course. This event saw riders
>> competing two at a time on a 50 meter straight lined with various
>> obstacles for them to negotiate. 20 riders competed in a knockout
>> format - first rider to the end of the course advanced to the next
>> round. The finals featured a Candada vs Jamaica matchup.
>> Representing Canada was Jamie Edmundson from Toronto. Carrying the
>> Jamaican flag was Garnett Lopez from Spanish Town. Although Garnett
>> jumped out to an early lead, Jamie's speed and skill was eventually
>> too much and he walked away with the title.
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>> The Jamaica Bicycle Bash is organized by the St. Mary Off-Road
>> Bicycling Association (SMORBA). SMORBA is affiliated to the Jamaica
>> Cycling Federation and is a non-profit organization dedicated to
>> providing bicycling opportunities within St. Mary and St. Ann.
>> Proceeds from the Jamaica Bicycle Bash will go towards SMORBA's
>> "Bicycling Works!" project which aims to start bicycling clubs in
>> area high schools.
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>> For more information you can contact Jonathan Gosse at 470-8139 or
>> via email at sporttrust.island@cwjamaica.com
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>> Photos attached.