

CLUBS

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Group shot of some team members in front of Cycle Solutions (l-r) Barry, Michelle and Arden Earhart, Dave Reid, Briana Illingworth, Logan Earhart, Ted Ingram, John Bates, Tanya Flemming, Bryant Cooke, (hidden) Emma, Damian and Stefan Wiechula.



Profile

Cycle Solutions/Angry Johnny's Racing

by Lisa Evans

They may have a name that frightens contenders and a ferocious-looking dog as a logo, but Angry Johnny's aren't an enraged bunch of riders. Cross paths on a race course though, and they're likely to leave you in their dust.

In fact, this group of racers has many reasons to be cheerful. With numerous awards behind their name, multiple provincial and national championships, two members who have competed at the World Championships and three OCA (Ontario Cycling Association) Ontario Club Challenge awards, this competitive racing club is one any racer ought to be wary of.

What started out in 2005 as a group of friends who wanted to start racing, Angry Johnny's teamed up with Cycle Solutions in 2007, making them one of Ontario's largest bicycle-racing teams.

The angry name comes from John Bates, the executive director of Cycle Solutions and a former bike messenger who got a reputation for fuming at passing cars, earning him the nickname Angry Johnny. "It was a nickname that he had, and when we were thinking of a name to call the team, all the friends around him said, 'Hey, you wanted to start this, so let's name it after you; we'll call it Angry Johnny's,'" says Emma Wiechula, director sportif. The name stuck, and has since been the source of some confusion among racing peers who assume Wiechula's South African Boerboel — the dog the club's logo is modeled on — is Angry Johnny. "People come up to the dog and say, 'Hi, Angry Johnny,' but no, it's actually the guy standing next to the dog," laughs Wiechula.

Now called Cycle Solutions/Angry Johnny's Racing, it is not a club for amateurs or recreational cyclists. Although comprised of a strong contingent of Masters racers, this is a group dedicated to supporting young riders serious about the sport. "When we were starting out, we had a large contingent of cadet and junior riders, and all of those have

grown up and we're working on developing the next generation," says Wiechula.

Out of the club's 45 members, four are under the age of 19. Dedicated to the advancement of young racers, the non-profit club runs a cross race every fall to raise funds to support the endeavours of their junior riders, hoping to fill a need in the sport.

"We support a couple of junior riders at a very high level every year. That's where we feel that there's a gap in support for riders at that age, and so because of that we've really concentrated on supporting a couple of those riders to the best degree that we can," says Wiechula.

This year, the club has thrown its support behind Peter Disera, a 17-year-old racer who placed second in the 2011 Canadian XC MTB National Championships and first in the Plastiglas Ontario Cup XC MTB Series final standings last year and will be competing in the Canada Cup in Quebec this year.

A close-knit group, Cycle Solutions/Angry Johnny's Racing supports all club racers in their endeavours in every way possible, from financial support, bike set-up assistance, solving transportation problems and moral support at races. "We'll continue to support Masters in their endeavours to race, but our main focus will always be on helping to develop riders to the next level from Ontario racing into Canada Cup and beyond," says Wiechula.

Those interested in joining the club will have to wait until fall, when they begin taking applications. Interested riders should have some racing experience, send a race resume and sign a rider contract. Being angry isn't a requirement, but ferociousness on the course is!

Mo' Info

Visit the club's website at <http://csajracing.com>.

For membership, contact John Bates, angry_johnny07@sympatico.ca