

September wouldn't be complete without the Cascadilla Hill Climb

An Ithaca Tradition since 1971



What is the CHC? This is an utterly, completely, chaotically informal event, held annually just for the fun of it. Because the hill climb matches people of comparable ability against each other, it is truly something that can be enjoyed by every member of the community. There will be a place for everyone to have a good time. If you come just to watch, bring a bike; you'll want to jump on and try the hill yourself!

HELD ANNUALLY ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF SEPTEMBER

Welcome to the Cascadilla Hill Climb

The Cascadilla Hill Climb takes place in the gorgeous heart of Ithaca every year on the last Saturday of September. Sponsored by the Finger Lakes Cycling Club, it has been a joyous fall get-together for over four decades. In recent years, Gimme! Coffee has provided special cheer on chilly mornings; and Ithaca Bakery cookies have been offered as the prize for participation to everyone who attends.



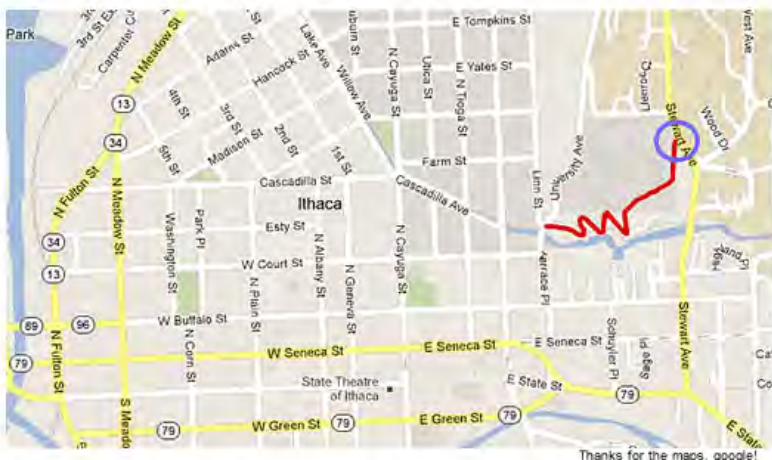
Registration: We'll start signing people up at 9:00 am, and begin racing at 10:00 am. There is a very modest entry fee entitling the participant to some food, drink, and lots of merriment. As of 2012 we have instituted on-line registration via bikereg.com – just search for Cascadilla Hill Climb.



Competition: The race is usually run in two categories, A and B, based on riders' own assessment of their fitness and ability. There are usually other categories such as family tandems, commuting/work bikes, unicycles, tricycles, or whatever else is brought to the event. Even skateboarders have had a go at the CHC. We truly extend a sincere invitation to everyone to come and participate.

The Hill Climb is run in a double-elimination/match-sprint format. Riders are assigned to pairs with a view to matching abilities. Pairs then ride together to the bottom to start the race when they are ready, sprinting toward the finish line back at the top. The winner of each match will advance to the next heat with the winner from an adjacent match. The loser of each match will be paired with another loser; the winner of this match will continue on toward the championship, the loser will be out of the competition. Thus each rider has the opportunity to ride up this lovely hill at least twice, and most people many more. After the champion has been established, there will be time for fun, including any grudge matches for which there are legs left and amusement races such as the classic "climbing while eating a bagel."

The course: The Cascadilla Hill Climb course is both scenic and challenging, climbing several hundred feet in just under half a mile. The narrow city streets start out very steeply and resemble a European hill town as they twist and turn sharply alongside the gorge. (See the pictures on the FLCC website) Before the finish, the terrain opens up slightly and the road goes along the cemetery before easing off for about a 100 meter gradual sprint to the finish. Please remember that we will be visitors in a very small neighborhood that does not share our abnormal obsession with bicycling. Let's be courteous and considerate while riding and parking. The roads are not closed for this event, so watch out for the minimal traffic and be safe.



Location: From NY Route 13 in Ithaca, take Buffalo Street to the east (away from the lake and toward the hill with Cornell on it). Coming from the north or east, this will be a left turn at Green Star Coop. From west/south, you'll be taking a right on Buffalo at Byrme Dairy. Cross the "flats," half way up the hill, take a left on Stewart Ave. The CHC start is across the bridge at Dewitt Place, on the left.

IMPORTANT: Remember that normal traffic rules apply on all the streets; whether you come as a participant or observer, on a bicycle or on foot, please be considerate and then some. We want to be safe – and not wear out our welcome.

For any further information contact Andrejs Ozolins at 607-592-0780 or e-mail info@flcycling.org. The club website, www.flcycling.org, will have any updates prior to the race.

