

September 17, 2009

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CONNIE CARPENTER-PHINNEY TO SPEAK AT U.S. BICYCLING HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

DAVIS -- Connie Carpenter-Phinney, one the greatest athletes in American sporting history, will be the keynote speaker at the 2009 U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame Induction Dinner and Ceremony on Nov. 7 Davis, California recently named as the permanent home for the Hall of Fame. The event will honor four legendary U.S. cyclists and sports contributors.

Carpenter-Phinney, a 1990 Hall inductee, won 12 U.S. cycling championships, more than any man or woman in history. She also won four medals at the cycling world championships in both the pursuit and road race. Her finest moment came in the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics road race, the first ever Olympic road race for women. She outlasted America's Rebecca Twigg to narrowly win the gold medal in that race. At the finish she "threw" her bike, using a move taught to her by her husband, Davis Phinney, who was a medalist at the 1984 Olympics in the team time trial, and later rode professionally for the 7-Eleven team winning two stages at the Tour de France. Carpenter-Phinney also competed in the 1972 Olympics in Sapporo, Japan as a speed skater, though she was only 15 at the time.

The four Hall of Fame honorees are Phyllis Harmon as a contributor to the sport of bicycle racing; Clayton John in the off-road (mountain, cyclocross, or BMX) racing category; Nelson Vails as a modern road and track racer: 1971 through 2003; and the late Richard Cortright in the veteran road and track racing: 1970 and before category.

The public is invited to attend the induction ceremony, which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, in Freeborn Hall on the campus of the University of California, Davis. The event will include a reception and dinner, Carpenter-Phinney's keynote address, induction presentations and videos and the opportunity to meet the honorees. Tickets are \$120 each or \$800 for a table of eight. Registration is available at: <http://conferences.ucdavis.edu/bhf>.

About Carpenter-Phinney

Connie is best known for winning the 1984 Olympic Road Race on July 29th, 1984. She retired from competition on July 30, 1984. Prior to that, she competed in the 1972 Winter Olympics (speed skating) as a teenager, and is one of a handful of two sport Olympians. She was a national crew champion while at UC-Berkeley. Connie notes, "crew is the only sport where you sit down and go backwards."

Connie has a master's degree in science, she co-authored the book "Training for Cycling" with husband Davis, and she enjoys her role as an ambassador for cycling. Connie is President and chief architect of the Carpenter/Phinney Bike Camps, which were founded in 1986.

Connie and Davis have two children, Taylor and Kelsey. Her son Taylor competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the Men's Individual pursuit and was the seventh-place finisher when he was only 18. He also is a two-time Junior World Champion in cycling. Sister Kels is an avid nordic ski racer.

About the Inductees

This year's Hall of Fame Inductees represent a range of cycling pursuits from helping organize the League of American Bicyclists to Olympians with careers spanning from the 1930s to the 1980s.

Richard Cortright was named Senior Amateur Bicycle League of America's Best All Around Rider of the Year in 1950. He represented the United States at the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympics and won a Gold Medal in the Team Pursuit at the 1959 Pan American Games. Cortright turned professional in 1961 and competed in 6-day bicycle races in Canada. He often traveled across the country as a speaker at "Touch the Torch" ceremonies. Cortright recently passed away in New York after battling throat cancer. Members of his family will be present to accept his Hall of Fame plaque.

Phyllis Harmon has made a tremendous contribution to the sport of cycling by resurrecting the League of American Wheelmen, the oldest bicycling organization in the United States. Harmon, an avid cyclist, revived this organization in 1937 at the early age of 19. Her enthusiasm, spirit of volunteerism, and vast knowledge of cycling brought the organization to national prominence where it has remained during the 66 years of her involvement. The League of American Bicyclists, as it is now known, has 300,000 members and is the leading advocacy group for cyclists and has named their Volunteer Award in her honor.

Clayton John has been instrumental in the formation and evolution of the sport of BMX racing. His early years included owning a bicycle shop and coaching the Penn State Cycling team in 1975. He operated a BMX track in 1977 in State College, PA, built ABA tracks from 1980-1985 and is credited with creating many of the rules that govern BMX racing. John has been President of the American BMX Association since 1985 and runs over 30 national level BMX events each year.

Nelson Vails, nicknamed "The Cheetah", was the first African American to win an Olympic medal in bicycling in the 1984 Track Sprint. He was a Gold Medalist in the 1983 Pan American Games, 1984 National Sprint Champion, and National Tandem Sprint Champion in 1984, 1985 & 1986. In 1985 Vails earned a silver medal in the Tandem Sprint at the World Championships. Nelson Vails starred with Kevin Bacon in "Quicksilver" a movie about NYC bike messengers and is a cycling commentator for major TV networks.

More about the event

The elegant event, the second to be held in Davis, is being hosted by the city of Davis, UC Davis, and the California Bicycle Museum. A silent auction to raise money for the Hall of Fame will also be held as part of the evening's activities.

The U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame -- part museum, membership organization and advocate for all aspects of cycling -- celebrates and preserves cycling's history, promotes safety and fitness, and encourages participation in all cycling activities. In May, the Hall named Davis to be the permanent home for its displays and operations. The museum will be located in the Third and B

Street city facility located in Central Park, in downtown Davis. The building is currently being renovated and an opening date will be announced this fall.