



For Immediate Release

USA CRITS Championship Series Announces the 2011 Schedule

Washington, D.C.'s CapCrit to host USA CRITS Finals

Athens, GA - January 26, 2011 – The 2011 USA CRITS Championship Series will race through America's main streets starting in Athens, GA April 30 and ending on America's Main Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, D.C. October 2. Celebrating its fifth season, the ten-race series will have teams racing through nine states and the Nation's Capital to determine the best criterium racers in America.

Schedule of Events

The Series features the return of eight races from the 2010 season plus the addition of two new events – the Tour de Grove in St. Louis, MO and the Evanston Grand Prix in Evanston, IL. The number of women's races on the Series will increase from five events in 2010 to eight events this season. Additionally, seven of the ten events are also featured criteriums on the National Racing Calendar and the UCI Criterium Calendar.

Once again, the Series begins at one of the most insane criteriums in the country, the **32nd Annual Terrapin Twilight Criterium**. No other event defines American criterium racing quite like the Twilight with 30,000 spectators lining the .55 mile course in the heart of downtown Athens, GA. A 5k run, amateur cycling races, a participation ride, and one of the largest kid's criteriums cap off a full weekend of events in the Classic City.

New to the Series this year, **The Tour de Grove** is the highest paying single-day race in Missouri and takes place in one of the fastest growing communities in the state - The Grove. The Tour de Grove features a free full day of family events including competitive races for all levels, a 5k run, a US Handcycling race, children's events, street sprints and a Grove Expo. The event also features criterium racing on Friday and Sunday.

The **Giro d' Grafton**, stage 3 of the Tour of America's Dairyland presented by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, features six fast turns across its .85 mile spectator-lined course. Racers will get smacked with the massive roar and frenzy of 15,000 screaming, barricade-pounding fans as they hit the long, flat finishing stretch for a wild final sprint. The popular Mascot Race precedes the Men's Pro Race in Downtown Grafton, which transforms into a massive street festival for the day.

Cincinnati's **Hyde Park Blast** is part of an entire weekend of racing in Ohio. Seven races will be run in the evening on Hyde Park Square in front of 10,000 screaming fans, with the Men's Pro/1/2 event finishing under the lights. Since its inception in 2001, more than \$200,000 has been raised and donated to various charities.

One of the founding events of the USA CRITS Championship Series, the **Iron Hill Twilight Criterium** has become one of the most popular cycling events in the Northeast, growing in size and importance year after year. The day-long festival features possibly the largest kids criterium in America with 500 kids participating in 2010. The event culminates with the Women's and Men's Pro criteriums in front of 10,000 fans.

Started in 1987 as a grassroots effort to create a premier cycling event that would attract more participants to the sport, the **Boise Twilight Criterium** provides an enjoyable family-oriented event for the community, while also attracting the best





in the sport. The electric atmosphere and fast-paced, high-stakes drama draws more than 20,000 spectators to downtown Boise each year.

Boasting one of the largest prize purses in the country for a one-day event and 40,000+ spectators, it's no wonder that the **Presbyterian Invitational Criterium** is a favorite among the best criterium riders. This event benefits the Brain Tumor Fund of the Carolinas (BTFC) and has raised more than \$4 million dollars for The BTFC since the race's inception in 2006.

The **Evanston Grand Prix** is new to the Series in 2011, but it is a well-established event in this vibrant Chicago suburb - featuring a full schedule of pro and amateur racing, kid's events, an Expo Area, and family-friendly entertainment. Almost 20,000 fans gather in outdoor cafes around Evanston's downtown to watch cyclists from all over the country and overseas navigate a tight, technical, and exciting course in their quest for \$25,000 in prizes.

Now in its 28th year, the **Chris Thater Memorial** was founded in 1983 by Jim May in honor of his friend Chris Thater, a cyclist, who was killed after being hit by a drunk driver. The Chris Thater Memorial also includes a national class 5K run and music festival that benefits Broome County's Stop-DWI's mission to improve highway safety through the prevention of drunk driving.



The Series will end Sunday, October 2 at the **Capital Criterium presented by the Washington Convention and Sports Authority**, which races down the world-renown Presidential inauguration route framed by the U.S. Capitol Building. The CapCrit p/b WCSA provides a fitting finale on a world-class stage to crown the best criterium racers in America.



Terrapin Twilight Criterium	Athens, GA	April 30, 2011
Tour de Grove	St. Louis, MO	May 14, 2011
Giro d' Grafton	Grafton, WI	June 18, 2011
Hyde Park Blast <i>(Men Only)</i>	Cincinnati, OH	June 25, 2011
Iron Hill Twilight Criterium	West Chester, PA	July 9, 2011
Boise Twilight Criterium <i>(Men Only)</i>	Boise, ID	July 16, 2011
Presbyterian Hospital Invitational	Charlotte, NC	July 30, 2011
Evanston Grand Prix	Evanston, IL	August 21, 2011
Chris Thater Memorial	Binghamton, NY	August 27-28, 2011
Capital Criterium	Washington, DC	October 2, 2011



Crowning a Champion

The Series features a simple points system that is constant throughout all races, with points being awarded to all starters and to finishers based on finish placing in the men's and women's races. Additionally, a point is scored for each lap a rider leads throughout the year, with additional multi-place points for mid-race sprints.

Series Leaders' Jerseys by Champion System will be awarded at each race and include:

The *Champion System Overall Leader's Jersey presented by Maxxis Tires*, worn by the rider with the greatest amount of points

The *Sportsbase Online Lap Leader's Jersey presented by VeloNews*, worn by the rider who has led the most amount of laps in the Series

The *Best Young Rider Jersey presented by bicyclemonkey.com*, worn by the highest placed U-25 rider in the overall

The *Most Aggressive Rider Jersey* presented by *Cyclingnews.com*, awarded by the fans at each event and in the overall

After 900 laps, 4500 corners, and an accumulated 60,000 miles of pedaling by the peloton, the 2011 Series will decide the best criterium rider in the US.

USA CRITS Division 1 Teams

2011 is the second year for the USA CRITS Division 1 Team program. Open to all professional and elite-level amateur teams, this designation recognizes a commitment to American-style criterium racing by the teams that participate.

For more information on schedule, events, or how to become a D1 team, visit www.usacrits.com.

About USA CRITS Championship Series

2011 will be the fifth year for the USA CRITS Championship Series, a nationwide coalition of the best bicycle races in America. The Series creates a cohesive marketing vehicle for the best existing criterium festivals in North America. The highly specialized skills required in criterium racing, the dynamic eco-urban atmosphere created by the excitement of world-class competition, and the inclusion of showcase city celebrations create an original sports-property opportunity. USA CRITS offers the first nationally-ranked and promoted-series dedicated solely to criteriums.

From April to October, on American main streets to America's Main Street, these events are designed to test an athlete's endurance, skill, and consistency over an entire season. The races that form the USA CRITS Series have been specifically chosen according to the ideals that have made criterium racing an American legacy - challenging courses that showcase arts and entertainment districts, a large and growing base of spectators, and broad community support.

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