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U.S. BICYCLING HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INDUCTEES FOR CLASS OF 2008

SOMERVILLE, NJ – Four legendary cyclists will be inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame at a Davis, Calif., event that will be the organization's first induction ceremony in the western United States.

The four honorees represent a range of cycling pursuits from bicycle motocross (BMX) to 6-day track racing with careers spanning from the 1920's and 30's to the 1990's. The inductees are Cheri Elliott (BMX racer) from El Dorado Hills, California; Mike Plant (cycling contributor) from Atlanta, Georgia; Jeanne Golay (road and track racer) from Glenwood Springs, Colorado; and Jimmy Walthour (deceased) a track racer as the four honorees for 2008.

"The U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame is proud to honor these individuals," said Hall of Fame President Rusty Schommer. He said these individuals were selected because of their accomplishments in the sport of cycling and that induction into the Hall of Fame will serve as a poignant reminder of their support, dedication, and sacrifice to the sport.

The Nov. 2 ceremony will be held in Davis, long recognized as the bicycle capital of the United States.

Cheri Elliott raced in BMX and mountain biking events in the 1980's and 1990's. She won four BMX world championships and won national BMX titles against male competitors. She is considered a legendary BMX pioneer among women BMX racers and with superior bike handling and jumping skills.

Mike Plant contributed to the sport of cycling through his leadership as president of USA Cycling, the national governing body of cycling and as president and founder of Medalist Sports, a sports marketing company that produces national and international cycling competitions. He has served on the executive committee of the International Cycling Federation (UCI), the United States Olympic Committee board of directors, and has held numerous other leadership positions in support of cycling.

Jeanne Golay was a five-time world champion and nine-time national champion. She raced successfully as a road, time trial, and track competitor during the 1980's and 1990's. Golay is the last American woman to win three national championship titles, a feat she completed in 1992 in Altoona, PA when she won the road race, time trial, and team time trial events.

Jimmy Walthour, now deceased, was selected to the Hall of Fame in recognition of his amazing track racing career in the 1920's and 1930's. Mr. Walthour raced in the United States, Canada, and Europe. As a track racer, he competed in 89 six-day races earning 14 first-place and 15 second-place finishes. Near the start of his career as a 17-year old racer in 1927, Mr. Walthour won the amateur cycling championship in both the track and road categories.

The Hall of Fame selects inductees from former competitive cyclists in the following categories: veteran road and track racing: 1970 and before; modern road and track racing: 1971 through 2003; off-road (mountain, cyclocross, or BMX) racing, and contributors to the sport of bicycle racing.

The Hall of Fame elected to hold the event in California, in part, because so many prior Hall of Fame inductees reside in the western United States. Organizers are making special invitations to all prior Hall of Fame inductees and are expecting this ceremony to be the largest gathering of U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame inductees.

The Hall of Fame chose Davis in recognition of the community's strong connections with bicycling. The city pioneered the creation of bicycle lanes in California more than 40 years ago, and the Davis Bike Club hosts premier cycling events including the annual Davis Double Century and the Fourth of July Criterium, one of the oldest races in the western United States.

"The announcement is terrific" said Bob Bowen, public relations manager for the city of Davis.

The hosts for the 2008 induction ceremony are the city of Davis; the University of California, Davis ; and the California Bicycle Museum. The California Bicycle Museum is a nonprofit organization working to establish a bicycling history and education center in Davis.

Dan Kehew, president of the museum said the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame induction ceremony is a tremendous opportunity to recognize individuals who have given a substantial part of their lives to the sport of cycling. "We are honored to participate in this ceremony." Kehew said. "We look forward to helping the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame host this ceremony."

The public is encouraged to attend the Nov 2 induction ceremony on the UC Davis campus. The ceremony will include a reception, dinner, a high-profile keynote speaker, and the opportunity to meet and greet all of the honorees. Sales of event sponsorship and table packages as well as individual seating will begin in mid-June.

For more information and updates on the 2008 Induction Dinner and Award Ceremony, go to www.usbhof.com or www.californiabicyclemuseum.org

The 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.