



# Inland News

## Redlands Bicycle Classic lets good times roll



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By DUANE W. GANG  
The Press-Enterprise

**Video:** [The final day of racing for the 2007 Redlands Bicycle Classic](#)

REDLANDS - Clear skies. Temperatures in the 80s. Food and fun. Oh, and some world-class cyclists.

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Steven Lewis / Special to The Press-Enterprise  
Todd Philpott, left, leads Seth Arseneau on Sunday during the Redlands Bicycle Classic. For the first time this year, participants in the bicycle classic were able to take part in hand cycling.

All marked the final day Sunday of the Redlands Bicycle Classic.

Racers and spectators, young and old, said the annual race always proves a good time.

"Very exciting. It is always a good race to come to," said Kevin Egen, 46, of San Diego, who was on hand to cheer a friend. "It is put on well. They treat the riders well."

Race fans and those just out for a relaxing Sunday afternoon, gathered in downtown Redlands, mainly along Citrus Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets where each race started and finished.

Riders zipped past as the crowd cheered, waved and snapped photos.

And for the first time this year, athletes took part in hand cycling, races sponsored by Team PossAbilities, a program at Loma Linda University Medical Center to aid and support disabled individuals and athletes.

Steven Hoffman, 22, of Colton, plays basketball for Team Poss-Abilities. As he hoisted himself out of his wheelchair and braced himself on the railing, he cheered and whistled as hand cyclists passed.

Hoffman said he hopes the event holds hand cycling races every year.

"I wanted to race, but I couldn't get a bike in time," Hoffman said.

Jim Van Norman, 53, of Redlands, hosted two racers in his home for the first time this year. One was from Italy, the other from Orange County, and both raced for the Successliving.com team.

"Both pretty darn good athletes," Van Norman said.

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Van Norman said hosting the racers made this year's race special.

"It really adds an element of interest," he said.

Watching people his age compete also didn't hurt, said Van Norman as he overlooked Citrus Avenue from the top of a parking garage, the racers whizzing by below.

"It is very cool to see the over-55 guys doing this," he said.

Monty Pettus, 57, of Yorba Linda, was one of those guys.

In fact, the classic was the second event Pettus raced in on Sunday. In the morning, he competed in a race in Los Angeles and took fifth place. In Redlands, he also placed in the top 10.

Pettus said he took last week off from racing and dropped in the points standings. He needed Sunday to make up some ground in his category.

"It was hard. They were really pushing from the start," Pettus said. "These guys, they are tough."

Daniel Macias, 34, of Moreno Valley, took part in a morning amateur race. He didn't finish. "Tough morning," he said.

But he was back in the afternoon, watching the top-level amateurs round the corner onto Citrus.

"Very impressive, the speed they carry," he noted.

Macias got into cycling through his father.

"As a kid, he always put me on a bike," Macias said.

Now he brought his own son, Gavin, 3, to the race and already is getting him on a bicycle around the house.

*Reach Duane W. Gang at 909-806-3062 or [dgang@PE.com](mailto:dgang@PE.com)*

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