



## **2003 NORBA National Championship Mountain Bike Series**

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Series Website: <http://www.usacycling.org>

## **Snow Summit Set to Start 2003 NORBA Series**

### **Two-in-one pro cross country format and amateur mountain cross on schedule**

**BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (May 14, 2003)** Snow Summit Mountain Resort is preparing for the arrival of the world's best mountain bike riders in cross country, short track, downhill and mountain cross disciplines for the season opener of the 2003 NORBA National Championship Series on May 15 – 18. The weekend's schedule is attached.

Cross country athletes will be looking for early season form to carry them through an important year in preparation for the 2004 Olympics. Saturday's cross country races feature men and women starting just minutes apart and riding on the course at the same time.

Canadians Roland Green (Victoria, BC, Trek VW) and Rider Hesjedal (Victoria, BC, Subaru Gary Fisher) are expecting stiff competition from 2002 US national champion Jeremy Horgan-Kobelski (RLX Polo Sport). In the women's category 2002 US national champion Alison Dunlap (Colorado Springs, Co., Luna Chix) will be put to the test by Jimena Florit (San Diego, Ca., RLX Polo Sport).

The big-action mountain cross event, which looks like supercross on bicycles, starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening. World leaders such as Wade Bootes (Australia, VW Trek), Mike King (San Diego, Ca., Haro Lee Dungarees), Eric Carter (Temecula, Ca. Mongoose-Hyundai) and Chris Kovarik (Australia, Intense) will lead the contest for line honors in the men's division. Among the women, Australians Tai-Lee Muxlowe (Tioga-Orange) and Katrina Miller (Jamis) will be up against US aces such as Tara Llanes (Corona, Calif., Yeti), as well as rising stars Jamie Lillie and Jill Kinter – both of whom distinguished themselves at the Sea Otter Classic in April.

Moving onto Sunday's racing, Sunday's Short Track racing will provide fast action for the cross country stars, in the exciting condensed version of the Olympic discipline. This challenging format has been described as "20 minutes of pain," and the likes of Rider Hesjedal make sure it is just that.

The renowned Big Bear downhill course is steeped in a tradition of change, with the designers having never laid out the same course twice. Over the past 15 years Snow Summit has seen unbelievably fast times and spectacular action. Located in Southern California—a traditional "hot bed" of downhill racing – this event is known the world over. Look out for many of the same names from the Mountain Cross events to dominate the downhill. Wheel chair athletes will also display extraordinary skills to descend exactly the same course as the pro two-wheeled athletes.

Amateur racers are an integral part of the festival, making up the majority of the 2,000 athletes expected over the weekend. Amateur Mountain Cross, until now the preserve of professional athletes on the NORBA circuit, will make its amateur debut at Snow Summit. Amateur riders who enter but then choose not to race are offered a refund on their entry fee.

Semi-Pro and Jr.Expert racers will have the opportunity to post fast times this year with the event organizer, Team Big Bear, responding to feedback and giving over the cross country course on Friday to these two categories.

The NORBA National Championships Mountain Bike Series is North America's premier off-road cycling series. The series crowns USA Cycling's Mountain Bike Champions. USA Cycling is the national governing body for cycle sport. GaleForce Sports Marketing is the series management and promotions company, and is recognized as the USA's leading cycling and events management group.

### **About NORBA**

NORBA is the mountain bike member association of USA Cycling. Recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee and the Union Cycliste Internationale, USA Cycling promotes American cycling through its 80,000 members and 2,000 annual events. For more information, visit [www.usacycling.org](http://www.usacycling.org), or contact Communications Coordinator Andy Lee at 719 866 4867.

### **About GaleForce**

GaleForce Sports Marketing is an expanding sports marketing and event management company based in Redwood City, 25 miles south of San Francisco. GaleForce has promoted, marketed, and managed right across the sporting spectrum. Properties owned or managed by GaleForce include the Sea Otter Classic and the NORBA National Championship Mountain Bike Series. For more about GaleForce, visit [www.galeforce.org](http://www.galeforce.org) or call 650 367 7797

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NORBA NCS  
Event Schedule  
Snow Summit/Big Bear Lake  
May 15-18, 2003

**Thursday May 15, 2003**

10:30am-4:00pm	Registration Open
11:00am-1pm	Pro/Semi-Pro Downhill walking inspection
1:00pm-4:00pm	Downhill Practice <u>All Experts</u> "A" Course
1:00pm-4:00pm	Downhill Practice "B" Course Sports/Beg/Jr Oly/Exp Men 50+ /Exp Women 40+
2:00pm-3:30pm	Mountain Cross Practice Pro/Semi-Pro
4:00pm-5:30pm	Mountain Cross Practice All Non-Pro Categories

**Friday May 16, 2003**

7:00am-3:00pm	Registration Open
8:00am-9:30am	Mountain Cross Practice All Experts
8:00am-12:00pm	Downhill Practice Pro/Semi-Pro
9:30am-11:00am	Mountain Cross Practice Sports/Beg/Jr. Oly/Older Experts
11:00am	Mountain Cross Qualifiers – All Non-Pro Categories
12:15pm-2:45pm	Downhill Practice Experts <b>Even # Plates</b>
1:30pm-4:30pm	Downhill Practice Sports/Beg/Jr. Oly/Older Experts
<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Cross Country Race Semi-Pros/Jr. Experts</b>
3:00pm-5:30pm	Downhill Practice Experts <b>Odd # Plates</b>
3:00pm	Mountain Cross Qualifiers Pro/Semi-Pro
5:00pm	Awards for Semi-Pro/Jr. Experts Cross Country Race
<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Mtn. Cross Finals – All non-Pro Categories</b>

**Saturday May, 17 2003**

6:30am-12:00pm	Registration Open
7:00am-8:30am	Downhill Practice <b>Expert Odd # Plates</b>
<b>7:45am</b>	<b>Cross Country Race All Experts/Sports/Beg/Jr. Oly</b>
8:45am-11:00pm	Downhill Practice Pro/Semi-Pro
11:00am-3:00pm	Downhill Practice Sport/Beg/Jrs./Exp Men 50+/Exp Women 40+
11:15am-12:45pm	Downhill Practice Experts <b>Even # Plates</b>
<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Cross Country Race Pro Men &amp; Pro Women</b>
12:45pm	Cross Country Awards for 7:45am race
<b>1:30pm</b>	<b>Downhill Race Experts/Jr. Experts (awards 20 min. after last racer finishes)</b>
<b>3:45pm</b>	<b>King of the Hill Point to Point (all categories – Stage 2)</b>
4:00pm-5:00pm	Super D Practice
4:45pm-5:45pm	Mountain Cross Practice Pro/Semi-Pro/Jr. X
5:00pm-6:00pm	Pro Short Track Registration
<b>5:30pm</b>	<b>Super D Final (awards to immediately follow)</b>
<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Mountain Cross Final Pro/Semi-Pro/Jr. Expert</b>

## **Sunday May 18, 2003**

7:00am-8:00am	Registration Open
7:00am-8:45am	Downhill Practice Sports/Beg/Jrs./Expert Men 50+/Expert Men 40+
<b>7:45am</b>	<b><i>King of the Hill Super Hill Climb Stage 3</i></b>
8:00am-10:00am	Downhill Practice Pro/Semi-Pro
<b>9:15am</b>	<b><i>Downhill Race "B" Course Sport/Beg/Jrs/Exp Men 50+/Exp Women 40+</i></b>
<b>10:00am</b>	<b><i>Short Track Race Expert Men 30-34 &amp; 35-39</i></b>
<b>10:30am</b>	<b><i>Short track Race Expert Men 19-24 &amp; 25-29</i></b>
<b>10:30am</b>	<b><i>Downhill Pro Qualifier</i></b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b><i>Short Track Race Junior X</i></b>
<b>11:30am</b>	<b><i>Short Track Semi-Pro Men</i></b>
12:00pm	Short Track Practice Pros
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b><i>Short Track Race Pro Women</i></b>
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b><i>Short Track Race Pro Men</i></b>
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b><i>Downhill Race Semi-Pro Men</i></b>
<b>2:15pm</b>	<b><i>Downhill Race Pro Women Final</i></b>
<b>2:45pm</b>	<b><i>Downhill Race Pro Men Final</i></b>

## **Registration Close Times for all Events**

### **Friday May 16**

10:00am	Closes for all Mountain Cross Entries
12:00pm	Closes for Semi-Pro/Jr. Expert Cross Country Entries
3:00pm	Closes for all Saturday Cross Country Racing Entries
3:00pm	Closes for all Expert Downhill Racing Entries
3:00pm	Closes for all King of the Hill Entries

### **Saturday May 17**

12:00pm	Closes for all Sport/Beg/Jr Downhill Entries
12:00pm	Closes for Super D Entries
5:00pm-6:00pm	Open for Pro Short Track Entries

### **Sunday May 18**

8:00am	Closes for Semi-Pro/Jr. Expert Short Track Entries
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