



Mt. Diablo Challenge 2022 Special Edition

Event Overview

On a beautiful fall day, Sunday the 2nd of October, 829 riders registered to climb more than 3,000 feet over the course of 11 miles to the Mount Diablo summit. This marked the 39th Annual Mount Diablo Challenge, now a memorial ride to honor the memories of Joe Shami and Joan Walt. Joe had just completed a streak of riding to the summit of Mount Diablo for 615 consecutive weeks when he was tragically killed by a motorist in a local traffic circle. Joan was an avid Mt. Diablo cyclist who sadly passed away some 40 years before Joe, succumbing to a heart ailment despite her youth. It was to honor Joan's memory that the Mt. Diablo Challenge was first organized by the Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Club. Other organizations have managed the event at various times during the ensuing years, but the Valley Spokesmen took over the Challenge again in 2017 and has hosted it since then.

This year's event saw hundreds of road cyclists, but also quite a number of mountain bikers, tandem riders, and even unicyclists and people striding on elliptical bikes. Prizes were given to the King and Queen of the Mountain and to top finishers in numerous age categories. The oldest male cyclist, William Oldham, was 84, and the oldest female rider, Shirley Osmer, was 86. At the other end of the age range, the youngest female cyclist, Elizabeth Long, was 11, and the youngest male rider, Shourya Patel, was 8.

Results

Quinn Felton won the KOM prize, with a time of 45:09.4, and Robin Betz captured the QOM title with a time of 59:35.2.

Other top prizes include (for Road, Mountain, Unicycle, and Elliptical Bikes):

Age Category	Best Male Rider	Time	Best Female Rider	Time
1-10 years old	Yuri Tupaz	1:06:34.6	No entries	
11-13 years old	Dave Avery	00:58:07.0	Julie Perrodin	01:32:01.7
14-15 years old	Yoann Perrodin	00:48:28.9	Allie Long	01:28:09.4
16-17 years old	Devin Hawk	00:51:44.7	Shantelle Tupaz	01:01:19.7
18-24 years old	Quinn Felton	00:45:09.4	Michelle Chen	01:09:18.2
25-29 years old	James Kinney	00:45:24.7	Karina Polanco-Jimenez	01:07:34.5
30-34 years old	Alex Hanson	00:47:50.9	Robin Betz	00:59:35.2
35-39 years old	Italo Ciccarelli	00:47:44.4	Zula Agvaansuren	01:03:02.0
40-44 years old	Todd Markelz	00:45:55.3	Marcie Palmer	01:05:28.9
45-49 years old	Greg McCulloch	00:55:37.3	Amy Koop	01:06:23.6
50-54 years old	Chris Peck	00:48:46.4	Heather Peck	01:01:47.6
55-59 years old	Aaron Long	00:53:21.9	Jenny Slawta	01:06:01.8
60-64 years old	Kevin Metcalfe	00:51:05.5	Jenny Phillips	01:02:35.4
65-69 years old	Michael Barnes	00:57:37.5	Elizabeth Benishin	01:18:24.7
70-74 years old	Kevin Weitz	01:11:19.9	Debbie Frederick	2:31:42.5
75-79 years old	Will Uher	1:27:30.7	No entries	
80+ years old	William Oldham	01:22:13.3	Shirley Osmer	2:04:30.6

In addition to the above winners, Andrew Duensing was the fastest on an e-bike with a time of 00:39:07.9. In the team competition, the winning male team was Team California, and the winning coed team was Trapper McNutt.

For a complete list of results, go to:

<https://www.itsyourrace.com/results.aspx?id=11068&y=2022>.

Sponsors

Trek Bicycle Corporation was again the Title Sponsor this year. In addition to their sponsorship dollars, Trek provided marketing support and a wonderful vendor display at the Monte Vista High School post-ride venue. The display included e-bikes available for test rides and a fun spin-the-wheel game that allowed participants to win merchandise. Other sponsors included Hyperthreads, which offered Challenge jerseys for sale; Hammer Nutrition, which provided goodie bags for registered riders, as well as raffle prizes; Expert Tree Service, a full service, family-owned business based in Orinda, California; Save Mt. Diablo, a nationally accredited land trust dedicated to preserving Mt. Diablo State Park; and Bay Area Bicycle Law, a firm specializing in representing cyclists.

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A Special Shout-Out to VSBC Volunteers!

Many thanks to the more than 160 volunteers from the Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Club who made the event possible. VSBC volunteers spent countless hours in pre-event planning, set up the venues before dawn the day of the event, and ensured that the event went safely and smoothly.

Save the date for the 2023 Mt. Diablo Challenge — please scan this code:



Event Photos (photo credits to Sue Kaiser and Peter Kyong)





