

# September wouldn't be complete without the **Cascadilla Hill Climb** *What the Heck!*

An Ithaca Tradition for Quite a While

## THE RACE OF SUCCESSIVE APPROXIMATIONS

Dear cycling neighbors,

The 2009 Cascadilla Hill Climb will take place (under sunny skies, we're hoping) in the gorgeous heart of Ithaca on Saturday, September 26.

**Registration:** We'll start signing people up at 9:00 am, and begin racing at 10:00 am. There is a very modest entry fee entitling the participant to some food, drink, and lots of merriment. We will probably again have the support of Collegenown Bagels in the form of bagels and outstanding cookies.

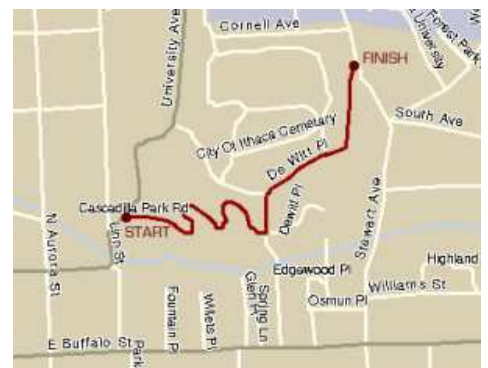
**Competition:** The race is run in two categories, A and B, based on riders' own assessment of their fitness and ability. The Hill Climb is a double elimination/match sprint format. Riders will be assigned to pairs with a view to matching abilities. Pairs will then ride together to the bottom to start the race, sprinting toward the finish line back at the top. The winner of each match will advance to the next heat with the winner from an adjacent match. The loser of each match will be paired with another loser; the winner of this match will continue on toward the championship, the loser will be out of the competition. Thus each rider has the opportunity to ride up this lovely hill at least twice, and most people many more. After the champion has been established, there will be time for fun, including any grudge matches for which there are legs left and amusement races such as the classic "climbing while eating a bagel."

**The course:** The Cascadilla Hill Climb course is both scenic and challenging, climbing several hundred feet in just under half a mile. The narrow city streets start out very steeply and resemble a European hill town as they twist and turn sharply alongside the gorge. (See the pictures on the FLCC website) Before the finish, the terrain opens up slightly and the road goes along the cemetery before easing off for about a 100 meter gradual sprint to the finish. Please remember that we will be visitors in a very small neighborhood that does not share our abnormal obsession with bicycling. Let's be courteous and considerate while riding and parking. The roads are not closed for this event, so watch out for the minimal traffic and be safe.

**Location:** From NY 13 in Ithaca, take Court Street (blue on the map) to the east (away from the lake and toward the hill with Cornell on it). Coming from the north or east, it will be a left turn (off the one-way road) at Fingerlakes Fabricating, shortly after the highway splits into two one-way streams. Coming on 13 from west/south, you'll have to go through what sprawl we have accumulated; after you pass the turn-off for NY 89 and 96 north, it will be the next right.



**What is the CHC?** This is an utterly, completely, chaotically informal event, held annually just for the fun of it. Because the hill climb matches people of comparable ability against each other, it is truly something that can be enjoyed by every member of the cycling community. There will be a place for everyone to have a good time. If you come just to watch, bring your bike; you'll want to jump on and try the hill yourself!



Continue on Court St until it ends at a sharp bend at a park at the foot of a gorge. This is the starting point of the Hill Climb. Take Cascadilla, the small street just left of the park (red and wiggly on the map), up the hill, wind over toward the cemetery and up to Stewart Ave. That's the finish line and the place where you register.

You can also get to the registration point by going across town on Buffalo St. About half way up the steep hill, turn left on Stewart Ave. and proceed across the bridge to the finish line.

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Those are MapQuest maps; thanks, MapQuest.