

The Mountain TIMES



NEWS • SPORTS • EVENTS • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • DINING • SHOPPING • CARS

Remembering Chet Warman

by Royal Barnard, Publisher

In the spring of 1987 I first became aware of cycling as a professional sport. The occasion was the first annual Killington Stage Race and New England Road Race Championship that The Mountain Times become involved in as the event's first official sponsor. News came to us that Mauricio Puente and Alice Peck, two young promoters from the Boston, MA area were visiting with the Killington Selectboard seeking permission to run an event here on Labor Day weekend. Before long, we met up with Puente and Peck and struck a deal to help them.

At the time I knew absolutely nothing about bicycle racing, but soon learned about the one person in the area that did. His name was Chet Warman, and he turned out to be the fellow I frequently noticed riding his bike around Killington decked out with sponsor clothing and looking like a Nascar vehicle.

In 1987, at age 43, Chet was considered

the "grand old man" of Vermont cycling. Our photo of Chet, taken in 1988, by our now deceased Mountain Times photographer, Bob Perry, is as it appeared in our paper the week prior to the second annual Killington Stage Race. At the time, Chet was racing for the Stowe, VT Onion River Sports team, but would occasionally train with the only other local racer, Glenn Goodman of Rutland.

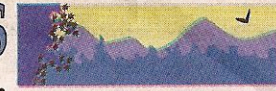


In the 1988 story that accompanied Chet's photo in The Mountain Times, he mentioned that he had been a serious bike racer since 1974 and hoped to score in the top 10 in that year's event in the Veteran's class (riders aged 35-45). Chet noted "Bicycle racing is incredibly rich in tactics and strategies. We all work together as a team until the finish line comes into view, then it's every man for himself." Warman laughed.

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MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

What's Happening In & Around Killington



By Debbie Burke

At the September 8 meeting of the Town of Killington Recreation Commission, the Director Mike Sutcliffe presented the Recreation Department Report. The Fall brochure has been distributed and other than the new family pumpkin carving program the programs are similar to previous years. The new program is called "Pumpkins After Dark" and was held at the Johnson Recreation Pavillion on October 20. The babysitting classes and home alone classes are offered on alternating years and this year the babysitting class will be offered.

Regarding Fall Soccer, the soccer teams have been practicing and are progressing well. The U12 boy's team is the only team with a mid-week Rutland League game under the lights. The other teams all have a double header one of the Saturdays instead of a mid-week game.

Under Old Business, the library baseball field was discussed. The fence has been fixed free of charge by the installers. Now that the fence is installed, Mike Sutcliffe is developing costs for the dugouts and once costs are known, Commissioner Casey Crompton will request assistance from the Sherburne Women's Club and the Killington Rotary Club to

build the dugouts.

Next, Mike Sutcliffe presented a map showing that unfortunately the property lines between the main recreation area and the library fields do not touch. Mike Sutcliffe will walk the State land to see if there is any feasible way to connect the two fields and, if it is feasible, then he will work with economic groups and ask Town Manager Kathleen Ramsay to contact the State.

Mike then advised that there may be an opportunity to add to the Chamber of Commerce sign on Route 4 once it is changed from being parallel to perpendicular to the road. Mike will meet with the new Chamber of Commerce person to discuss signage options.

Regarding the Focus Groups, the last focus group of students was done via mailing because it was too difficult to find an acceptable meeting time. Ten surveys were sent and 6 have been returned.

Regarding the current Recreation building, the basement walls have been professionally cleaned and the Town is in the process of trying to purchase a self-draining dehumidifier.

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Remembering Chet Warman

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The Rutland Herald reported Friday morning, October 17, 2008 that Chet Warman had died in a tragic cycling accident in Utah. At age 64, and still competing, Chet had accompanied a group of cyclists from Vermont who rode across country to California to compete in an event to raise money for AIDS victims. On his way back, it's reported that Chet stopped in Utah to visit friends, and while on an afternoon recreational ride suffered a crash on a remote road and died.

On behalf of The Mountain Times we extend our deep sense of loss of a wonder-

ful man and a very strong and dedicated athlete. The smile that you see in our 1988 photo of Chet is totally typical of this warm and friendly person who made cycling his life.... giving it his all to the end.... while giving to others on the mission that took him to California, but from which he did not return.

This pioneer of American cycling, and popular and extremely pleasant Killington resident will be sadly missed in our community and in the world of competitive cycling. He was Vermont's 20th Century "King of the Mountain" on two wheels... a title he will forever retain.