

Charity Bicycle Ride to Commemorate Fallen Cyclist, Raise Awareness

The Alabama Wheelmen will hold the Christina Genco Memorial Ride on June 3, starting at the Blake Community Center, located at County Road 505 on Sand Mountain. Registration begins at 7 a.m., with riders choosing between ride options of 38, 80, and 110 miles.

Fort Payne, Alabama (May 13, 2012) – On June 3, the Alabama Wheelmen bicycle club will hold a charity bicycle ride to pay tribute to Christina Genco, a cyclist who lost her life while passing through Fort Payne last year. At the time, she was leading a cross-country cycling trip with Bike & Build to benefit affordable housing groups like Habitat for Humanity. The ride will provide an opportunity for cyclists of all ages and abilities to gather together and celebrate Christina's spirit and passion for the causes for which she gave her life.

The registration will begin at the Blake Community Center, located at County Rd. 505 on Sand Mountain, beginning at 7 a.m. Riders who choose to ride the 110 mile route will depart at 8:30 a.m. and cover scenic roads that pass through communities such as Sylvania, Powell, Dutton, Desoto State Park, Ruhama and Lebanon. At 9:00 a.m., a second group of riders will depart on a shorter 80 mile route that includes a loop on Lookout Mountain. At 9:30 a.m., a third group of riders will undertake a 38 mile route that stays on Sand Mountain and is more suitable to beginning cyclists. The club will collect donations of \$25 from riders that will go to the Christina Clarke Genco Foundation, a group started by Christina's mother to promote safer cycling and support building programs such as Bike & Build.

The event is sanctioned by USA Cycling, Inc., and is part of continuing activities by the Alabama Wheelmen to promote safe cycling for both competitive and recreational purposes. The public is invited to participate in activities at the Blake Community Center and assist in providing support to the participating cyclists as they navigate the scenic by-ways of DeKalb County. Inquiries for further information should be directed to James Dawson (jadawson@hiwaay.net or 256-509-2388).