

Major Taylor Cycling Club of
Denver Inc.



Future Events:

- Bike to work day
June 23rd 2011
- Parkhill parade
Monday July 4th, 2100
2:00pm
- Sandcreek greenway clean
up.
Sat. July 9th 2011
9 am- noon.
- Trips for kids mountain
biking trip.
- Black Arts festival parade
Sat. July 16th 2011
10 am- noon
- Sandcreek greenway clean
up.
Sat. Aug. 6th 2011
9 am- noon
- Viva Streets event
Sunday Aug. 14th 2011
10:00am
- REI partnership event Sat.
Sept 3rd 2011
- Annual MTCCD picnic
Sat. Sept 17th 2011

MTCCD receives Denver
Foundation's Strengthening
Neighborhood planning grant.

The Denver Foundation is a community foundation that seeks to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen the Metro Denver community. Community foundations are endowments—permanent pools of money contributed by donors to benefit a specific geographic area. In 2006, The Foundation awarded \$37 million to non profit organizations.

Major Taylor Cycling Club of Denver Inc.

MTCCD get's rolling with registration drive

The Major Taylor Cycling Club of Denver Inc. established in 2011, was formed in honor of the African American cyclist who overcame racial injustice to become the first world cycling champion of color.

MTCCD promotes healthy lifestyles for cyclist of all ages. We are comprised of students, adults, and friends from the northeast Denver communities. Our abilities range from aspiring riders to seasoned semi-professionals. Through group rides, youth programs, bike safety and maintenance classes we will work to inspire and educate the northeast Denver communities about using cycling as one of the ways to live a healthy lifestyle.

We had a great registration drive the last two week-ends in April.

We signed up 18 members and thanks to helmet donations from Trips for kids Denver gave 10 helmets to members who didn't have one so they could ride safely.

We have teamed up with Trips for Kids Denver. They have been working with agencies around Colorado to provide underserved youth ages 10-18 yrs old with mountain biking day trips. Our youth members (little legends) will be going on two day trips this summer.

Jon Bowman from Fox 31 KDVR showed up in support of the club. He even did a story on Major Taylor and our new cycling club in north Parkhill, Major Taylor Cycling Club of Denver Inc.



Club president Darrell West talking to one of the little legends about the great Major Taylor.



MTCCD
PO BOX 202181
Denver Colorado, 80220



"I would advise all youths aspiring to athletic fame or a professional career to practice clean living, fair play and good sportsmanship"
Major Taylor



The legend of Major Taylor lives on

You might not know it, but at the turn of the 20th Century, bicycle races were bigger than baseball, basketball and football.

And much like today, the racers were mostly white. But in 1896, Marshall "Major" Taylor emerged on the track-racing circuit. He would become one of his era's biggest stars, breaking more than 8 world track records and pushing against the era's violent and repressive Jim Crow laws.

Born in 1878, Major Taylor spent much of his adolescence living with a wealthy, White family in Indianapolis. After receiving a bike from his adopted family, at the age of 12, Major Taylor soon earned a living performing stunts outside a bike shop, and quickly moved into competition racing as a young teen.

When "The Black Cyclone" first hit the track in Indianapolis at age 15, he got himself

banned. Not because of bad behavior – Taylor was well-known for his ethics and easy-going demeanor – but because he had the audacity to actually win. He had broken the 1 mile amateur track record.

Major Taylor was utterly alone in a tough sport where you needed coaches, teammates and opponents who respect your right to be on the track or road. They ganged up on him. They'd literally push him into the fences and not even give him a chance. But in his day, Major Taylor was a force to be reckoned with.

Some promoters pushed the "White vs. Black" aspect of the competition, but Major Taylor didn't overtly turn his success into a political speech about race or want to be a spectacle reminiscent of a side show. He let his legs do the talking.

Despite rampant racism in competition – which ranged from threats of

violence to being turned away from competitions because of his skin color – Taylor met these challenges with "remarkable dignity.

What sets Major Taylor apart from the other racers and athletes of his day – and after – is not only his tremendous physical strength and endurance, but his strength of character.

Major Taylor's legacy continues in numerous ways, including historical organizations, cycling clubs, racing teams and The Major Taylor Velodrome.

What few people realize is that Taylor's legacy continues in the form of inspiring other athletes, especially those of African-American descent.

Information provided by: Lynne Tolman from the Major Taylor Assoc.

Cycling Growing Among Blacks

Visit your neighborhood park these days and you are bound to notice a new craze among African-Americans. Alongside the roller-bladder and jogger you now notice more Blacks cycling. And, get this, we are cycling in groups.

It was only a matter of time before we got wind of the many health benefits of bicycling, let alone, the beautifying and toning effect it has on our bodies.

For years cycling has been a predominately white sport. With the high cost of good bikes ranging from \$200 and helmets broaching \$40, a thirteen dollar basketball was a far easier buy for many of our parents growing up. Hence, cycling as a true sport, missed most urban areas. It was just plum too expensive.

But, now middle-class African-Americans are beginning to turn on to cycling, and with good reason.

Cycling allows the benefit of exercising without feeling like exercising. Workout in a gym and the setting never changes. The same smelly walls you left are the same ones awaiting you when you return. Cycle a bike trail and fresh air, green grass, and sun soothe your workout. You find yourself riding for hours, getting a great cardiovascular workout, while forgoing the redundancy of the gym. The hours pedaling is easily overshadowed by the relaxation of the ride.

Get aboard the pedaling movement early. With the increase in Blacks awareness of the benefits of cycling, you are bound to see more of us churning the streets cycling. The world was rocked once by the presence of one outstanding Black cyclist in [Major 'Marshal' Taylor](#). We are long overdue for another dominating Black cyclist. Could our next great cyclist come through you?





Bike To Work Day 2011

June is Bike Month

This June is your opportunity to experience the fun and freedom of using a bicycle for transportation and recreation, because Bike Month is back in full force throughout Colorado.

In its tenth year, Bike Month provides activities for the entire family at all levels and abilities. From sanctioned races to bike parades, from breakfast rides to safety fairs and bike safety checks, from leisure rides to mountain bike clinics - there's lots to do to motivate and excite people about bicycling.

While Bike Month offers lots of bicycle opportunities, its main focus is to encourage bicycle riding as a viable alternative to driving one's car. With all the resources available to us, Bike Month is the perfect opportunity to experience riding to work, school and errands.

Bike to Work Day occurs annually every third Wednesday of June. Enjoy the fresh air and exercise of riding your bike to work. Join thousands of others who are making the change from driving alone to riding a bike to work. But don't stop there, consider riding one day a week every week and help reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and put a smile on your face.

MAJOR TAYLOR CYCLING CLUB OF DENVER INC.

RIDING IN THE SHADOW OF GREATNESS

DENVER, CO -- The Major Taylor Cycling Club of Denver Inc. established in 2011, was formed in honor of the African American cyclist who overcame racial injustice to become the first world cycling champion of color. In 1899 after setting numerous world records "Major" won the 1 mile track cycling championship and became the world sprint champion.

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We have teamed up with Trips for Kids Denver. They have been working with agencies around Colorado to provide underserved youth ages 10-18 yrs old with mountain biking day trips. We are looking forward to getting our youth club members active in this program beginning in the summer of 2011.

Membership applications can be completed at Pauline Robinson library during normal hours, located at 5575 E. 33rd Ave Denver Co. 80207.

Like us on FaceBook -Major Taylor cycling club of Denver

For further information contact:

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