

2021 Race Report

This year at Bessies was the Year of the Woman

Flora Yan hurtling around the 13.8 mile course set a new record of 400 miles in the 24 hour race

Tracy Archelis, who always chose to take a few minutes to resupply at the end of each lap at her self-supported pit stop, averaged over 17 MPH in her 12 Hour race for over 190 miles.

Nancy Guth, the female half of the Guth Team B&B, set a new record for the mixed team in the GC 511 tearing around the course - alternating with John - at nearly 18 MPH to finish in less than 30 hours.

Joni Moore, who sadly decided she could not continue without support still managed to amass 152 miles in ten hours the 511 before retiring.

Sandy Earl massed 373 miles in the 48 hour race on her recumbent.

All in all, it was a pretty good race for the women.

Apart from age and athletic ability, one similar characteristic of each of these women was that they were lean, fighting machines. As I said cheekily to Tracey, 'there is nothing to you' they are all skinny and toned and that seems to be what it takes to race so many miles in a road race - along with the willingness to push through pain, and maybe that is why nature decided it was women rather than men who should be the ones to have babies.

Not that the men were left trailing. Three riders in the GC 511 all finished under 36 hours; Marshall Nord, Michael Davis-Hughes and Jesse Dann.

Van Didelot raced a very credible 425 miles in the 48 hour race

Brent Platt and John Schlitter both accomplished 235 miles on their recumbents in the 12 hour race and Adam Ashwill also made up 235 miles in the 12 Hour standard bike category.

John Maloney on his standard bike came home with 122 miles in the 6 hour race and Troy Timmons built up 124 miles in his borrowed HPV in the same race.

All in all, it was a nice weekend of racing. Not bad weather, a bit windy as it always is near the Gulf of Mexico, but no rain and on and off sun. It was a bit cool at nights requiring blankets for some of the volunteers sitting at the timing desks but warming up during the days.

A record number of solo racers registered this year, old friends met and new friends made. We should do this again someday.

I am off to ride the length of Britain later in the year - and hopefully ride the Blue Ridge Parkway as a warm-up for that, and from the conversations I had with some of the riders, I know many of you are planning other rides and races during the year. Good luck and happy riding to everyone.

Ken Jessett

Race Director.