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For Immediate Release

Special Needs Children to Receive Special Cycles as Walterboro Hosts USA CRITS *Speed Week*

Atlanta, Ga. (April 28, 2008) – There will be lots of action in the Lowcountry, April 30, during the 6th Annual Downtown Walterboro Criterium and USA CRITS *Speed Week*. But several special-needs children will have a difficult time deciding what is more exciting—seeing the professional racers flying by or getting a first glimpse of their brand new, specially outfitted cycles so they can ride too.

Anne Guthrie of The Little Red Dog Foundation of Beaufort, South Carolina says, “We are hoping the donations raise awareness that there is a huge need for these bicycles, because they help special needs children to get out and about with their families and friends.” Guthrie adds, “the bikes also strengthen the children’s bodies, improve their outlook and build their self-confidence in truly amazing ways.” The Little Red Dog Foundation is a chapter of National Ambucs, an organization which has a long history of helping people with special needs become more active.

USA CRITS *Speed Week* organizer, Gene Dixon says, “We’re going to give the kids an extra treat by arranging for them to meet some champion cyclists and to get their autographs too. We’re very pleased that the Downtown Walterboro Criterium asked us to be a community partner, because this is exactly the type of community outreach that USA CRITS is happy to support.”

A physical therapist will be at the *Speed Week* event to fit each child with their new, therapeutic Amtryke. Members of the Walterboro Fire Department have already assembled the cycles, so the children are benefiting from a widespread community effort. Walterboro Mayor Charlie Sweat says he is looking forward to seeing beaming smiles when the children receive their their cycles. Mayor Sweat really identifies with the challenges that special needs people face. Last year, a freak accident left him in critical condition, with a serious head injury, and he has only just returned to work after spending months in a wheelchair and in therapy. Starting the major races at the Downtown Walterboro Criterium, will his second official act since returning to his mayoral duties. “I’m happy to do my part to make the criterium and Speed Week unqualified successes,” he says.

During USA CRITS *Speed Week*, more than \$100,000 in prize money is up for grabs as professional cyclists go head to head in 7 races, in 7 cities in 7 days of racing.

The Pros are not the only racers vying for prize money. Walterboro gives amateurs a sporting chance too, in several categories, and even children can get in on the action.

Race Category	Start Time
Master - Ages 35+/45+	4:00 p.m.
Elite Men – Levels 4 & 5	4:50 p.m.
Elite Men – Levels 2 & 3	5:30 p.m.
Elite Women Pro Levels 1, 2 & 3	6:30 p.m.
Kid's	7:20 p.m.
Elite Man Pro – Level 1 & Invitation 2	7:30 p.m.
www.bikereg.com	

Speed Week began on April 26 at the famed Twilight Criterium in Athens, Ga., and the series final is scheduled for May 4, in Sandy Springs, a suburb of Atlanta. This is the inaugural year for the Global BMW Sandy Springs Challenge featuring world-class riders in both the men's and women's races.

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About USA CRITS

USA CRITS National Criterium Series has been developed to feature a brand of cycling unique to the United States, the criterium. Criteriums are historically run on short laps through city streets. They offer spectators the opportunity to watch Olympians, world and national champions up-close as they ride at top speed. This has made the criterium format the most spectator-friendly form of cycling entertainment. Events on the USA CRITS series have the ideals that have made criterium racing an American legacy: Challenging courses that showcase arts and entertainment districts; a large and energized base of spectators; broad community support; and strong marketing opportunities for sponsors. For more information visit www.usacrits.com