

(INSTANT EXPERT)

# THE UNITED STATES OF CYCLING

FORGET PARIS. IN HONOR OF OUR NATION'S 235TH BIRTHDAY, HERE'S A TIMELINE OF AMERICAN CYCLING ACHIEVEMENTS TO TAKE PRIDE IN.

## 1880

Albert Pope helps start the League of American Wheelmen. By the 1890s, his Columbia Bicycle Factory in Hartford, Connecticut, is reportedly producing one bike every minute.

## 1893

The first world track-cycling championships are held in Chicago—10 years before the inaugural Tour de France and three years before Paris-Roubaix.

## 1899

Massachusetts resident Marshall "Major" Taylor wins the world 1-mile

cycling race, becoming the first African-American world champ in any sport.

## 1963

Chicago-based Schwinn launches the **Sting Ray**. Kids begin taking them apart—and creating the first BMX bikes.

## 1969

The United States gets its first world road champion when Audrey McElmury wins the women's

race. The nation will wait until 1983 for its first male world road champ—Reno, Nevada's **Greg LeMond**.

## 1970s

Hippies + Schwinn's + singletrack = the **sport of mountain biking**, invented in Marin County, California.

## 1974

"I let out a moan of anguish and remember someone yelling, 'It was your idea!'"—**Jack**

**Johnstone**, who codirected (and raced) the world's first triathlon, held in San Diego

## 1984

**Connie Carpenter-Phinney** wins the first women's Olympic road race at the Los Angeles Games.

## 1996

Richland, Washington, hosts the first bike-polo world champs. (Sure, it's dorky, but history was made.)

## 2001

**Alison Dunlap** wins the world cross-country championship in Vail, Colorado, just five days after 9/11.

## 2004

The first of 55 million **Livestrong bracelets** is sold.

## 2011

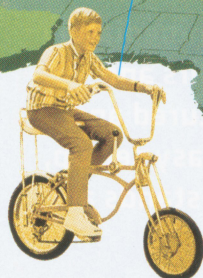
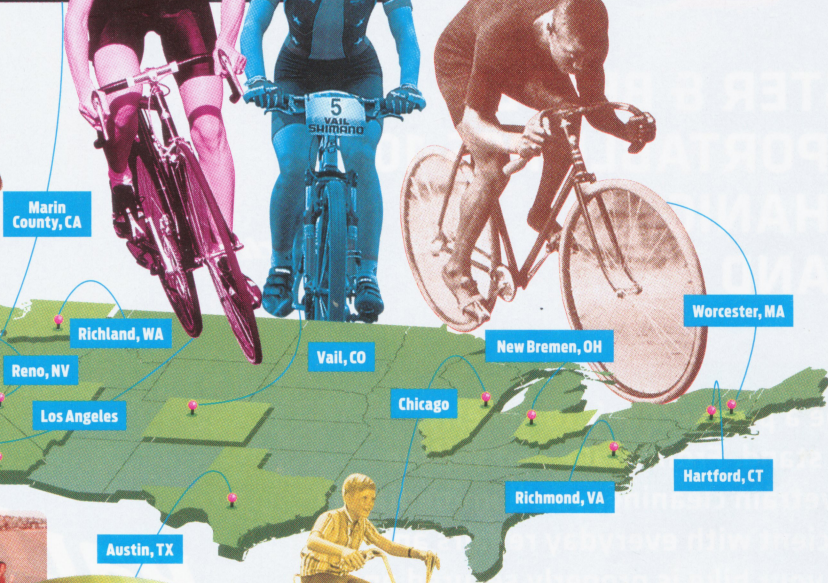
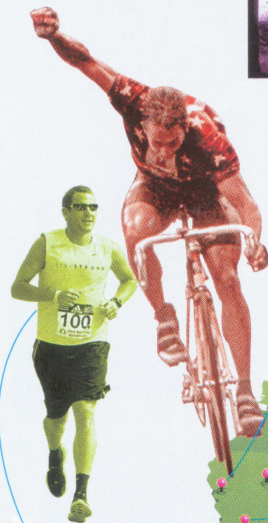
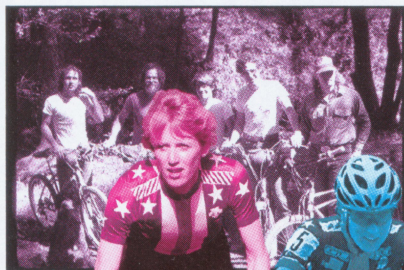
The Bicycle Museum of America in New Bremen, Ohio, boasts more than 1,000 bikes.

## 2012

Rumored to be the date of **Lance Armstrong's** Hawaii Ironman debut. He's currently training for the October 2011 Chicago Marathon.

## 2015

Richmond, Virginia, is bidding to host this year's road worlds. In its favor: It's proven it can handle NASCAR.



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