

SOCALCROSS RACE REPORT - SCPS #1, 9/21/08 - The Art of Cross, by Dave Sheek and Dot - OutsideAllDay.com  
SoCalCross grows! SCPS #1 - Hits record numbers! Core SoCal'Crossers Wong and Prenzlou take the win!

For those of you that don't know cyclocross is the fastest growing cycling sport in the USA, so it is nice to see more newcomers to the sport as it will only add to the fun and continue to bring big sponsorships from Fluid Nutrition and Kool N' Fit Sport, along with our GoGreenRacer partners, supporting the Prestige Series mission to become Certified Green will feature Clif Bar's Green Notes and Cool Tag programs. A special thanks to Energy Efficiency Solar – the entire SoCalCross Prestige Series will be solar powered! Thanks goes out to Voler and Sock Guy who will support the Prestige Series Leaders and GoGreenRacer jerseys and socks!

The Southern California Prestige Series (SCPS) of cyclocross was underway Sunday, 9/21 with the Art of Cyclocross in Fullerton, CA presented by long-standing CX team, Celo Pacific. Starting out with the men's Category 4 race with a record setting 82 racers rolling to the line, from here the day just got better. The event was held on the picturesque grounds of the Muckenthaler Cultural Center (The Muck) in Fullerton, CA and was full of enthusiasm. The course provided great flow and was challenging, combining quick sections with the overly healthy grass slowing up riders with some tough climbs and slightly muddy sections. The mud was a surprise for Southern California racing but it added to the fun of the first race of the series. One of the most technical sections included scattered tree nuts in the grass on a steep off camber left turn gave a lot of competitors a difficult time and kept the race exciting.

The Women's Elite was the first big race on the day as Prestige Series director, Dorothy "Dot" Wong (Team CICLE) took the win. It was a hard fought battle though as young 16-year old Kendall Ryan also of the CICLE team looked as if it were her race. The experience and skills of Wong were what made the victory hers in the end. In third it was Tonya Bray (Morgan Stanley) who hung in until the end fighting off the power of this strong group. Tremendous racing ladies!

The Men's Elite was taken for the third consecutive year by the 2007 SCPS series champion Brent Prenzlou of Celo Pacific/Alan Bikes. It was a momentary start with the pack close together, but Jason Lowetz of Team Bearclaw pedaled away from the group to take the lead. It did not last long though as fitness of Prenzlou, Fritz Bottger (Pasadena Athletic Association) and Mike Easter (Action Sports) came back to find their positions. On the second lap it was Bottger who shot off the front with an early attack on the group which is where the group began to break. It was an awesome effort but at some point Prenzlou was back to take the lead and open a gap that was at 50 seconds ahead of the group by the last two laps. In the end it was Prenzlou followed by Bottger in second and Mike Easter in third.

Symbolically, Dot and Brent winning that day... Dot, Prestige Series director, and Brent, course designer and heart of Celo Pacific's CX team, have been the foundation of the growth of CX in SoCal for over 10 years, now sharing victory on the opening celebration of SoCalCross 2008-09!

Thanks again to everyone whom came out to another great SCPS event. The growth is up again this year for the Cyclocross and the series, which shows with people filling the courses and categories such as the Men 4 with 82 racers in the field. But, everyone really needs to thank those that hosted the event (Celo Pacific), the spectators, racers, especially those who stuck around to help clean up, and mostly the sponsors who are supplying the funds for such great events, prizes, and fun. The next race is October 5, SCPS #2: PSYCHO-CROSS in Costa Mesa hosted by Lighting Velo so tell your friends and find someone new this season to join in on the fun, even if they ride a mountain bike. More info at:

[www.SoCalCross.org](http://www.SoCalCross.org)

