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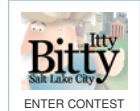
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## Bike champ is racing to save lives

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Rather, he comes across more like the 5-year-old kid who learned to ride a two-wheeler in the driveway of the house where he grew up near 3300 South and 2300 East in the Salt Lake Valley.

That bicycle, he soon learned, was his ticket out of the driveway. Long before he discovered an innate talent for riding bikes really fast he discovered the freeing feeling of pedaling around on his own power.

"I used to just ride around, checking out the neighborhood, seeing the world," he says.

When he got his driver's license at 16, he remembers feeling fearful that he wouldn't ride anymore. "I wasn't scared of getting older," he says, "but I knew the car could take the riding away. I didn't want that to happen."

Good thing it didn't. After faring unexpectedly well in some local Utah races, Zabriskie placed fourth at the junior worlds in Spain at the age of 18, about the time he was graduating from Olympus High School.

He turned professional not long after that and has climbed steadily up the world ranks ever since, to the point that he now finds himself among a small handful of Americans given a chance to be "The Next Lance."

But to do that, he needs to stay alive.

He knows he can't improve the relationship of drivers and bikes on the roads in Utah, and America, all by himself, but he's willing to lend his name and try.

To get things started, his Yield to Life Foundation and the nonprofit organization "Bikes for Kids Utah" have combined to organize a fund-raiser for the weekend of Oct. 5-6 that will include the Yield to Life Dave Zabriskie Time Trial Challenge.

In the Challenge, for a \$25 donation cyclists can participate in a three-mile time trial up Traverse Ridge to Suncrest. Their handicapped times will be compared to Zabriskie's, the reigning U.S. time trial champ, and prizes will be awarded for the top racers (anybody who beats Zabriskie outright can report directly to the Tour de France).

The weekend will also include a dinner and auction, a 50-kilometer group ride with Zabriskie (at a \$1,000 donation per rider), other group rides at varying lengths and, as the coup de grace, the giveaway of 1,000 new bicycles to underprivileged second-graders from elementary schools throughout the state. The bike giveaway will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6, at Intermountain Healthcare in Murray, also the starting point for the various rides. A dinner and auction is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 5, at Hidden Valley Country Club.

For more information, to get involved as a volunteer or to make a donation, go to [www.bikesforkidsutah.org](http://www.bikesforkidsutah.org) or call 801-523-3730.

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*Lee Benson's column runs Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please send e-mail to [benson@desnews.com](mailto:benson@desnews.com) and faxes to 801-237-2527.*

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