



3rd Annual U.S. Air Force Cycling Classic and Crystal Ride

The 3rd Annual U.S. Air Force Cycling Classic began on May 31st, 2009 with Crystal Ride, a bike ride through the heart of Crystal City on a 12.5 km professional course. Nearly 1,000 riders took part in the ride, and enjoyed three and a half hours of carless streets and glorious weather. While the ride was non-competitive, the cyclists were challenged to complete as many laps as they could in the time period. Medals were given out based on how many laps each rider finished, 1 lap earned a bronze medal, 4 laps won silver, and 8 laps merited gold.

After the amateurs finished, it was time for the pros. 20 professional teams from all around the world rode 14 laps (109.2 miles) in the U.S. Air Force Cycling Classic circuit race. Four hours and twelve minutes later, Shawn Milne of Team Type 1 Racing had out-sprinted four other competitors to win the race. It was a dramatic race with numerous lead changes and breakaways.

The Crystal City BID conducted a survey of participants and race watchers throughout the event. The following data is based on those responses. 94% of patrons rated their experience in Crystal City as either a 4 or 5, with 5 being the highest, and 94% rated Crystal Ride as either a 4 or 5. Most people came to the event by car, 66%. 22% of guests came by bicycle, 12% walked, and 5% used metro. 51% of respondents heard about Crystal Ride from friends/word of mouth, 16% from online advertising and banners/other posters, and 14% for both newspapers/magazines and Metro rail/bus posters. 74% of visitors planned to eat/shop in Crystal City over the course of the day.

