

# CAPTAIN JACK'S BIKE RIDE

## CAPTURES SPIRIT OF MEC DEC COMMEMORATES HISTORIC 1775 RIDE

The May 20th Society is partnering with Charlotte Health and Fitness(CHF)magazine on a bike ride to commemorate Charlotte's original rebel, Captain James Jack. Capt. Jack, a colonial tavern owner, rode more than 1100 miles on horseback all the way to Philadelphia to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (MecDec) to the Second Continental Congress in 1775.

The May 20th Society is a non-profit group which organizes and funds educational to celebrate the MecDec. CHF is a fitness-focused publication whose readership includes thousands of cyclists. The event will mark the start of The May 20th Society's 2008 MecDec celebrations. Former city councilman Pat Mumford, an avid cyclist who serves on The May 20th Society's board of advisors is chairing Capt. Jack's Ride and plans to ride in the event.

"This bike ride is exciting because it's another chance to commemorate the MecDec in a way that really suits the story - Capt. Jack rode on horseback to Philadelphia," said Mumford. "Though we're not riding to Philadelphia, we're riding to honor his journey and the MecDec he delivered."

The ride is expected to draw several hundred cyclists. Beginners and seasoned cyclists can ride in 20 and 50 mile routes while families can enjoy a short five mile route. The ride will be held on the outskirts of the county in the Waxhaw area to allow for the extended course. Though not considered a race, door prizes

rode his horse to Philadelphia, and we're a community of cyclists, the symbolism is definitely there."

The ride will begin at 9 am and online registration is available by clicking on the Charlotte Health and Fitness Magazine web site at [www.CHFMag.com](http://www.CHFMag.com). The cost for registration is \$20 for adults and children 15-18 and includes marked rest stops, Captain Jack t-shirts, and family-style lunch at the start/finish line. For more information or to register visit [www.CHFMag.com](http://www.CHFMag.com) or call 704-969-4241.



will be awarded to participants for various accomplishments. CHF Publisher David Klein, also a cyclist, says the ride is a great way for participants to get valuable exercise while supporting a worthy Charlotte cause.

"We were really glad when The May 20th Society approached us about this event, because our goal through the magazine is to help Charlotte become a healthier, more fit city, and we also support The May 20th Society's efforts to educate the city about its history," said Klein. "When you tie in that Capt. Jack

### About The May 20th Society

The May 20th Society promotes Charlotte's rich history of being the first to declare independence from Great Britain in the American colonies. On May 20th, 1775, more than two dozen colonial civic leaders from Mecklenburg County approved and unanimously adopted the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The May 20th Society hosts an annual speaker series featuring renowned historians, live re-enactments and educational outreach to Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and civic organizations. For more information, visit [www.May20thSociety.org](http://www.May20thSociety.org).