

***The Thunderdrome!*** rumbles into Detroit's  
**Dorais Park** for fifth time  
***Two-wheeled racing event raises money for classic Detroit park***



More than 100 bicycles, mopeds, scooters, mini-bikes, and other two-wheeled craft once again will descend on a nearly-forgotten, 20th century piece of Americana in Detroit when *The Thunderdrome!* returns to Dorais Park for the fifth time on Saturday, June 30.

A groundswell of support from attendees, riders, and volunteers has allowed this event to take off in more ways than expected when a few guys happened across a nearly buried cement track in a largely forgotten but surprisingly expansive park in 2010. *The Thunderdrome!*, now held twice a year, has led to \$12,000 and countless volunteer hours spent on repairing the velodrome (bicycle racing track), clearing out garbage, mowing grass, cleaning up brush, and other touch-ups.

Those efforts have stabilized the park. Now that *The Thunderdrome!* has some distance in its rearview, it's time to capitalize on those efforts with a more ambitious rehabilitation of Dorais. Proceeds from this year's events – June 30 followed by another on Sept. 15 – will go toward the founding of a nonprofit conservancy to formalize efforts and raise funds for the revitalization of Dorais Park, which, besides the velodrome, also is home to a classic soap box derby racing hill, playground, and more than 30 acres of green space.

This event will feature for the first time an afterparty with bands and beers. Camp Casey, the local nonprofit that provides horse-riding activities to children with cancer, has partnered with *The Thunderdrome!* to support us on this, and local breweries graciously have pitched in to provide the beers: Short's Brewing Company, Dragonmead Microbrewery, and Motor City Brewing Works all have thrown their support our way.

The event schedule, map, and other event details are attached.

Sponsors this year include:

Camp Casey -- Liquor license sponsor. Without them, we cannot feel warm and fuzzy.

TechShop Detroit -- Credential and ID Sponsor. Without them, we cannot enter the park.

Vitamin Water -- Infrastructure and Hydration Sponsor. Without them, we cannot rest.

Wheelhouse Detroit -- Without them, we cannot have a tough custom Origin 8 Brutus bicycle as a top prize.

Other sponsors of prizes and providers of help, info, grub, and adoptable puppies:

Alpinestars, Bulkbeefjerky.com, Downtown Ferndale Bike Shop, Sweet Bikes, Dog Aide 2012 (Come adopt a rescue on-site!), Aerospoke Wheels, The Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan, and Greening of Detroit.

Note to reporters: For pre-event interviews and other up-close information, you're welcome to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Night at our HQ in Ferndale. We are providing food from Detroit BBQ Company to our 40 volunteers (who can offer commentary on the event) while showing "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome"!

And, yes, we are the same guys who do the Detroit Bus Company, so if you're wondering why this messaging looks familiar, that's why! (And thanks so much for all the press on DBC. All of Southeast Michigan seems to have heard of us!) We love those buses, but Dorais Park has a special place in our hearts, too, and has been our labor of love since before any bus graced our lot.

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**More about *The Thunderdrome!*:** This light-hearted racing event features riders on bicycles, mopeds, scooters, mini-bikes, and other small, personal vehicles on two wheels. Participants are enthusiasts, tinkerers, revelers, and lovers of Detroit. The inaugural event was held in October 2010 and immediately saw strong turnout of more than 900 spectators and riders. Held three times since, it has grown to more than 1,200 spectators. What's more, is this fun, grassroots event has been able to breathe some life back into a Detroit treasure in an area that receives less attention than other areas of the city – Dorais Park, located at East Outer Drive and Mound Road – by bringing people, elbow grease, and money to this classic local example of 20th century Americana.

<http://www.thunderdrome.com>

<facebook.com/thethunderdrome>

Thunderdrome! Videos:

<http://youtu.be/og-ooEhhhlw>

<http://vimeo.com/16439031>

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