

**For Additional Information:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Southern Appalachian Bicycle Association**  
**Joanna Atkisson, President**  
**PO Box 461, Hayesville, NC 28904**  
**info@sabacycling.com**  
**www.sabacycling.com**

**Photos & Website Information:**

**Bob DeLong, Webmaster**  
**bobdelong@sabacycling.com**  
**828-837-1945**

### **Southern Appalachian Bicycle Association Announces the 5th Annual "Circle the Bald" Bike Ride**

**HIWASSEE, GA** - Our 5th annual recreational bicycle ride to celebrate the Tour de Georgia will be held Saturday, April 26, 2008. Starting in Hiwassee, GA at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, just minutes from Brasstown Bald, the ride will begin with a mass start after the pre-ride briefing at 8:00 AM. Ride options will include a 12-mile rolling course and a 36-mile, challenging, hilly course that circles Brasstown Bald. You can ride a portion of the same route that the world's best professional cyclists, like past champions Floyd Landis, Tom Danielson and Lance Armstrong, have ridden.

Then, spend the afternoon cheering on the pro peloton as they assault Brasstown Bald and finish Stage 6 atop the highest point in Georgia. Pre-registration guarantees a commemorative T-shirt to the first 300 participants. The registration fee is \$25 postmarked before April 19th, \$30 postmarked after April 19th or on-site. 1,000 Rider Limit. Register at [www.active.com/event\\_detail.cfm?event\\_id=1521091](http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1521091) or [www.sabacycling.com](http://www.sabacycling.com).

Proceeds for this event go to the development of the Jackrabbit Mountain Bike and Hiking Trail Project, which will provide additional recreational opportunities and economic development for Clay County, NC and the adjoining Towns County, GA.

###

#### **ABOUT THE JACKRABBIT MOUNTAIN TRAIL PROJECT**

SABA is working with the USFS, along with the Clay County Communities Revitalization Association to develop a trail system off of Jackrabbit Road in Clay County, North Carolina. This is located on a peninsula on beautiful Lake Chatuge, on the North Carolina/Georgia border. An estimated 14-15 miles of trail is planned, with 7-8 miles being a perimeter trail bordering the lake, and 5-7 miles being inner connector and ridge line trails. Land management studies have been completed, and the design & construction phase has begun. With almost 7 miles of environmentally sound, sustainable trail completed, Jackrabbit has already been deemed the 'Ritz-Carlton' of mountain bike trails. As one of the premier trail systems in the Southeast, the Jackrabbit Mountain Trail Project has all the ingredients necessary to becoming a destination site when completed... beautiful Lake Chatuge, campgrounds, nearby hotel and motel accommodations, great restaurants, shops and more! For additional information visit [www.sabacycling.com](http://www.sabacycling.com)

#### **ABOUT THE TOUR DE GEORGIA**

The Tour de Georgia is North America's premier, professional cycling event and rolling festival of community activities. The Tour was first held in 2003 and has become a spring tradition with a varying route of over 650 miles of racing. Over 2.8 million spectators have traveled to Georgia to watch the event in the past five years, and direct economic impact has totaled over \$148 million. The event is sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale (2.HC ranking), and is part of the USA Cycling Professional Tour USA Cycling, Inc., making the event one of the top stage races for elite athletes around the world. The Tour de Georgia is owned and operated by the Tour de Georgia Foundation (501 c3) and managed by Medalist Sports ([www.medalistsports.com](http://www.medalistsports.com)). Route maps, host venue information, merchandise offerings and sponsor news will soon be available for the 2008 event at the official website, [www.tourdegeorgia.com](http://www.tourdegeorgia.com).

Event T-Shirt Image:



*Presented By,*

**S.A.B.A.**

**WWW.SABACYCLING.COM**