

US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship “is a go” March 18-20 at Wrightsville Beach, NC

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA, USA, March 3, 2022

[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- “I’m so happy the US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship is a go this year,” said Philicia Marion, two-time elite and defending female champion from Pilot Mountain, NC. “I am grateful to be able to get back to what I love doing and seeing all my bicycle friends that I have missed seeing during the pandemic.”

Following a two-year hiatus, the US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship is a firm go and rolls into Wrightsville Beach, March 18-20. The biggest race of its type on the East Coast, all the action will be oceanfront at Blockade Runner Beach Resort.

“The race is definitely one of the hardest I’ve ever done aerobically,” said Robert Marion, two-time elite and defending male champion from Mount Airy, NC. “The top half of the loop is really soft and hard to grind, but on the bottom half, you’ve got a little reprieve, just a little bit of relief. There’s no coasting; it’s pedaling all the time. Prepare to suffer the entirety of the race.”

“The elite race is two-hours and designed for professional, semi-professional, and serious bikers,” said



Philicia Marion, Elite Division Female Champion 2018 and 2019 – Courtesy Robert B Butler



Robert Marion 2017 and 2019 and John Overton 2018 Elite Division Male Champions – Courtesy Robert B Butler

race director David Ellegood, President of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, Cape Fear Chapter. "For recreational and novice riders, we advise the one-hour race. Top winners in the 2-hour race receive medals and cash prizes, with medals presented to our top 1-hour race finishers."

"I'm excited the event is back and to see everybody I haven't seen for a couple of years," said Robert Marion. "It would be nice to pick up a third [championship title]. But, if not, whoever prevails will completely, completely deserve it. Many people have been training, and I've been sitting on the couch. So, we'll see how it goes."



Bikers line up for Elite Division race in 2019 – US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship – Courtesy Robert B Butler

John Overton of Wilmington, 2018 elite male champion, has signed up for the 2022 race and is expected to be one of the top contenders.

"The US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship is about having fun and competing on a unique course," said Ellegood. "The race is held one hundred percent in the sand, and each year the course and beach obstacles change, creating unpredictable levels of difficulty."

Past Elite Champions include:

- Robert "Fear the Beard" Marion, Mt. Airy, NC (2019, 2016)
- Phylicia Marion, Pilot Mountain, NC (2019, 2018)
- John Overton, Wilmington, NC (2018)
- Zdenka 'Zoe' Worsham, Raleigh, NC (2017)
- Andrew Bailey, Piney Flats, TN (2017)
- Jesse Piersol, Downingtown, PA (2016)
- Ben "Thunder" Brown, Wilmington, NC (2015)

"We invite spectators to come out and watch the action," added Ellegood. "We're fortunate to have this unique opportunity to hold a race on the beach, and Blockade Runner offers a perfect atmosphere and location for the athletes and spectators."

The start and finish lines, event activities, and the awards ceremony for the 6th US Open Fat Bike Beach Championship are at the host hotel, Blockade Runner Beach Resort. Proceeds benefit

Cape Fear SORBA, a non-profit organization dedicated to building and maintaining trails for outdoor access. Presenting sponsors are Alpha Mortgage and Bike Cycles of Wilmington.

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