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**EVELYN STEVENS, NEIL BEZDEK WIN INAUGURAL STORM KING “CANNIBAL”
TIME TRIAL IN HUDSON RIVER HIGHLANDS**

NYC bike messenger turned pro racer Neil Bezdek won the first-ever Storm King “Cannibal” individual time trial on Sunday, Oct. 10 with a finishing time of 19:17:18. Coming in twenty-three seconds later, Wall Street banker turned cycling champ Evelyn Stevens placed first in the women’s division and second overall.

Nestled above the cliffs and woodlands of the Hudson River Valley, the Storm King Highway was closed to car and truck traffic for the race. Contestants cycled one by one through a twisting 7.1 mile course featuring sustained climbs and expansive views. The Storm King “Cannibal” is named after five-time Tour de France winner Eddy “The Cannibal” Merckx and is a licensed USA Cycling event with photo-finish timing. Cyclists competed on standard road bikes, unaided by aero-bars.

“It was an absolutely beautiful event,” said Race Director John Eustice, founder of Sparta Cycling, which promotes professional cycling events. “The course is reminiscent of a stage in the south of France and we hope to do it again next year.”

The proceeds of the race, which featured professional, amateur, and many first-time racers, will benefit Transportation Alternatives and its advocacy work for safer cycling and improved cycling infrastructure in greater New York City.

“Racing along a car-free highway is perhaps the best way possible to support vital bike advocacy campaigns that are making it safer for New Yorkers to ride,” says Paul Steely White, executive director of Transportation Alternatives.

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