



[Log In](#)

Username

Password

Remember Me

[Register](#)

[Lost Password](#)

MOST LIKED

- [Video - Whistler, Canada 2010 \(2\)](#)
- [Danny MacAskill flips off Edinburgh Castle in new film \(1\)](#)
- [Amazing POV \(1\)](#)
- [Extreme Mexican Mountain \(1\)](#)
- [Freeride \(1\)](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[Brailsford analyses Sky's "zero tolerance" policy](#)
[Boonen can't understand why Contador might not face suspension](#)

Bike craftsman doesn't mind reinventing the wheel

by [WoB](#) on February 15, 2011 · [Leave a Comment](#)

Like 0



Staff Photo by Jake Daniels

Merlyn Townley attaches a spoke to the rim of a New wheel at his shop, Merlyn Mechanics, a custom bicycle wheel shop, repair station and maintenance school.

[Enlarge photo](#)

From India and Rwanda to China and Argentina, Merlyn Townley has seen much of the world through the spokes of a bicycle wheel.

Townley is one of only a handful of Category 1-licensed bicycle race mechanics in the world, a distinction in the field that has afforded him the opportunity to work as a support mechanic in 60 countries on six continents during the last 20 years. He is also a practitioner of the art of building bicycle wheels by hand, a craft that is becoming rare.

After moving to Chattanooga in September 2009, Townley late last year launched Merlyn Mechanics, a custom bicycle wheel shop, repair station and maintenance school.

HELLO BIKERS!

This is a site for everyone who loves to share their World on Bike. Thank you for riding and sharing with us :) [Learn More](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



SOCIAL

Find us on Facebook

WorldOnBike.org

WorldonBike.org

Like

42 people like **WorldOnBike.org**.



Facebook social plugin

TAG CLOUD

Alberto Contador amgen tour of california
bike Cervélo champion climb com
cycling cyclingnews cyclist
doping Fabian Cancellara France giro
d italia home HTC-Highroad international

AdChoices ▶

Track Bikes Up To 60% Off

Free Shipping, New, Full Warranties Fixed gear bikes with fliptop hubs www.bikedirect.com

bicycle tires road-track

huge selection / clincher & tubular same day ship, great price, service www.worldclasscycles.com

Single Speed Bike Shirt

Unique and creative designs in all sizes, styles and colors! www.coqculture.com

Schwinn Cruiser Bikes

No Matter What You're Looking For, We've Got a Schwinn Bike for You! SchwinnBikes.com

Q: Chattanooga is gaining a reputation as a bike town. Would you agree with that?

A: It is very much a bike town. I find that there are a lot of cyclists and a lot of really good cyclists here. It's a great scene for that. There's a lot of great riding here, both road and mountain.

There is getting to be more cyclo-cross racing going on. Without much effort, there could be more 'cross racing here than there is in New England, and New England has dominated that sport for 30 years.

Q: What does a bicycle race mechanic do for the cyclist?

A: Mainly, I'm known for neutral support, which means I will work for everyone, whether they are on a team or are an individual. (Mechanics) have 30 wheels and four or five bikes on the roof (of the car). If someone gets a flat, they move to the back and put a hand out. The mechanic pulls in behind them, gets out and puts a new wheel in very quickly. What is entailed in being a race mechanic is a mind-boggling amount of work.

Q: How quickly can you change a wheel?

A: I can do a consistent rear-wheel change in seven seconds. Front wheels, ironically, take a lot longer, depending on equipment challenges.

Q: Describe one of the worst crashes you've seen.

A: There were 130 riders going down the road in a circuit race in Massachusetts. One guy on

To read the whole story, visit here:

<http://timesfreepress.com/news/2011/feb/15/bicycle-mechanics-skills-take-him-all-over-the/>

LIKE: 0

Related posts:

<p>At news conference, Contador vows to appeal</p>	<p>From the beach to the track: Bike Week transforms over past 70 years</p>
<p>Kidnapped Bikers: Is Lebanon Being Sucked Into Regional Unrest?</p>	<p>2011 Vuelta a España preliminary startlist</p>

cycling union **Italia** jersey Lance Armstrong Levi Leipheimer **mountain** news omega pharma Paris-Roubaix Press Rabobank **Race** ride road Saxo Bank sport stage **team** Thor Hushovd Tour de France track training transportation Trek UCI USA victory win winner

RECENT VIDEOS

- Cavendish: "Greipel was just faster"
- Chris Jones' Rapha-Focus Mares
- Alex Candelario: World Bicycle Relief UCI3 2010 day 3 Jeremy Powers – Cyclocross Cycling
- Ryan Trebon at UCI3 Day 1 2010 RR Men@2010 Road WCH
- RR Women@2010 Road WCH
- TT Men@2010 Road WCH.mov
- Mountain Bike 4X Fort William
- The Props Winter Skatepark tour!

VIDEO GALLERY

Click for the complete **VIDEO GALLERY**

EVENT CALENDAR

Click for the complete **Event Calendar**

ADVERTISEMENT

Miscellaneous Links

- Bicycle Design
- YehudaMoon Cycling Comics

Organization Links

- International Bicycle Fund
- International Cycling Union (UCI)
- World Bicycle Relief
- World Bike

Repair and Maintenance Links

Tags: bicycle race, bicycle wheel, bicycle wheels, custom bicycle, Mechanics, race mechanic, shop, station, Townley, wheel

Tagged with [bicycle race](#) · [bicycle wheel](#) · [bicycle wheels](#) · [custom bicycle](#) · [Mechanics](#) · [race mechanic](#) · [shop](#) · [station](#) · [Townley](#) · [wheel](#)

[Bicycle Tutor](#)
[Wiki Books](#)

ARCHIVES

[Select Month](#)

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name *

Email *

Website

Comment

You may use these [HTML](#) tags and attributes:

```
<a href="" title=""> <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <b> <blockquote  
cite=""> <code> <del datetime=""> <em> <i> <q cite=""> <strike>  
<strong>
```

POST COMMENT

WorldonBike.org

Pages

[About](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Events](#)
[Log In](#)
[Privacy](#)
[Terms](#)
[Video Gallery](#)

The Latest

Live coverage of
CrossVegas on
Cyclingnews
Jamey Driscoll (Cannondale-
Cyclocrossworld.com) with a
15-second lead with one lap to
go. [...]

More

Thanks for dropping by!
Feel free to join the
discussion by leaving
comments, and stay
updated by subscribing to
the RSS feed.

© 2011 WorldonBike.org



[Switch to our mobile site](#)