

Jeff Gahnz...our Silent Fox

Last year about this time we were handing out our very first Fuzzy Fox awards to deserving members of The Fox Cities Triathlon Club and our most unheralded Fox took home the very coveted, SILENT FOX AWARD...he is Jeff Gahnz, age 40, married to Beth, a Rene Russo (as in movie star) look-a-like.

Jeff was instrumental in the early formation days of our club and he never ever sought attention and never wanted his deeds to be publicized. However, with due respect to his humility, we "outed" him last year, simply to say THANK YOU and to let everyone know that without his strategic financial maneuvers, the TRI FOXES would be nowhere near where we are today.

Jeff was responsible for finding an anonymous donor to give "up front" money to Sugoi, the maker of our original jerseys....they charged us about \$1000.00, when we had nothing, to design our logo and several more thousands for our very first technical clothing order...and Jeff found money for us for our brochures, our t-shirts and sweatshirts, our water bottles and our FOX SOX and hats...we got them for free and sold them within the club to raise funds for all of our activities while at the same time remaining "dues free". When we needed help financing Bob Roll's (Tour Deeeeee France announcer) speech, Jeff was our source once again. Jeff was also the main guy who found sponsors for the High Cliff Triathlon. Because of Jeff's efforts on behalf of all of us you will never see a logo on our clothing other than our own!

So, who is our Silent Fox?

Jeff is the Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at Nicolet Bank in Green Bay where he lives with his family, including 2 kids. He is originally a Wisconsin native from Wausau, graduating from St. Olaf in Northfield, Mn, with a degree in economics, and an MBA from the prestigious Boston University. Before moving to Green Bay in 1996, he worked in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Boston.

Jeff was sad to have done only the Green Bay Triathlon in 2007, but ankle surgery wouldn't allow him to compete in more than that and the famous "Chequamegon Fat Tire 40", a 40 mile mountain bike race. Jeff likes to call his adventure, "A Fox Tackles the Forest!"

With 2008 right around the corner and his ankle healed, Jeff has new goals and more triathlons in mind:

2008 Goals

1. Not to drown
2. Do the Green Bay and Oshkosh Triathlons (on vacation for High Cliff!)
3. Grow back my hair (not gonna happen)
4. Help my 8 year old with math homework (good luck with that one!)
5. Look good in spandex (don't we all?)

When asked about his feelings for our club, Jeff is very introspective...

"I am not an Ironman type triathlete, yet I am made to feel very welcome by every other TRI FOX...Everyone in our club is helpful and everyone offers extremely good advise. When I wear my gear, everyone is my best friend and I love it when spectators and other non-Tri Foxes yell, GO TRI FOX..that's pretty cool!".....

Jeff goes on to say: "We are kind of like a gang...we have our own slogan, our own colors, and when you hold your middle and ring fingers against your thumb ...we have our own hand sign, too!"

Jeff Gahnz, in keeping with the whole "silent night-silent fox" theme, we saved the Christmas TRI FOX OF THE WEEK edition especially for you.....you are kind of like one of the presents people might find under the tree....not flashy, not noisy, not dolled up with pretty ribbons, fancy paper and bows, yet you have become the best present of them all!

Pretty Cool Jeff!

