



E-Newsletter - June 2010

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Troy Gerding, Northeast

Western Chapter Holds "Misery Loves Company" Membership Drive Race

Submitted by Nate Phelps

The Western Chapter held its first race for membership on May 23. The race was free to all MMBA members. Non-members could join the free race series by signing up for MMBA memberships on race day. Fourteen people became new members.

The 14-mile time trial was held on Barry County gravel, sand and dirt roads. "It was miserable - 14 miles and no recovery - and that first four miles put me straight over the red line," claimed Nate Versluis. Nate also claimed the fastest time at 47 minutes and 59 seconds.

The second Misery Loves Company race will be on Saturday, August 28. Check out the [Western Chapter website](#) for information and results for the Misery Loves Company races.

MMBA 20th Anniversary Letter from the President

By Nate Phelps

Two thousand ten marks the 20th anniversary of the MMBA! Dwain Abramowski and a handful of

volunteers started the organization in 1990. It has grown to 2,300 members supporting over 600 miles of trails. I believe these important anniversaries are a good time to step back and celebrate past accomplishments and talk about the opportunities and issues that lie ahead.

Looking back at 2009, the MMBA had one of its best



Glen Ruczynski, Northern
 Bill Mayer, Potowatomi
 Cathy Needham, Southwest
 Nate Phelps, Western

Marne Smiley
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Join or renew your
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years ever with the opening of new trails at Luton Park in Rockford, Morton-Taylor in Canton, MMCC in Harrison, and Anderson Park Red Loop in Lansing. Work continues on developing new trails at Columbus Park, Harrison Township and Rouge Park.

Inside the MMBA, Ed Berta First Across the Finish Line volunteers were recognized for over 9,000 hours of 2009 trail work at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Outside the MMBA, Mike Moss was recognized as the Metro Parks Volunteer of the Year for his work to launch the Stony Creek Skills Park, and Gary Anderson was recognized with a \$5,000 grant to the Poto Chapter for his work developing the Morton-Taylor trail. These awards honor only some of the countless hours MMBA volunteers put in each year to keep our trails open every year.

[Click here to read Nate's complete letter](#) about MMBA funds, insurance, DNR funding, the Equestrian "Right to Ride" Bills, the Michigan Interscholastic Association, and the importance of being an MMBA member.

Grand Rapids Bike Park Pump Track Grand Opening

Submitted by Nate Phelps

Saturday, May 15 marked the inaugural ride (and crash) of Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell during the Grand Rapids Bike Park pump track grand opening. George led the lap for his annual, family-fun Mayor's Bike Ride after a morning of park cleanup by Friends of Grand Rapids Parks volunteers. George opened the pump track with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Key project volunteers, Ryan Olthouse, Josh Duggan, Burt Eilers, and Bob Zylstra were recognized for their efforts.

Meijer State Games of Michigan Mountain Bike Race

Submitted by Nate Phelps

Registration is open for the cross country and downhill races at the Meijer State Games of Michigan which will be held on June 26 in Grand Rapids. Styled after the Olympics, medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age bracket and skill division. Medalists will be eligible to compete in the National Games held in San Diego, California.

The race courses at the Cannonsburg Ski Area will be used for the mountain bike competition. All ages and skill levels are invited to compete. [Click here to register.](#)

Metro South Chapter News

By Claudia Bean

The Metro South Chapter needs volunteers to help with cutting back face-slappers at Hickory Glen in Commerce, Highland, Island Lake, and Maybury. You may cut back any of the trails.

Learn more at the [Metro South Facebook page](#) and the [Metro South forum](#). Members will be asked to complete a survey and will receive an email or find the survey invitation in the forum. Please email metrosouth@mmba.org if you are interested in becoming an Assistant Trail Coordinator.

Fourth Annual Milford Trail Challenge

By Diane Ursu

Riders of all types and skill levels will gather for the Milford Trail Challenge on Saturday, June 5. The routes are quite diverse and range from seven to 90 or more miles long. Traditionally a mountain bike ride, a family-friendly, alternative route has been added along the paved bicycle paths that pass through Kensington Park and Island Lake Recreation Area.

The entry fee is \$15 with proceeds going to the Metro South Chapter. Riders may register on Saturday morning from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Sweet & Savory Bakery, 289 N Main Street, Milford, Michigan 48381.

Participants are welcome hang out at the Milford House Bar & Grill after the ride for burgers and beverages. Those with armbands will receive a discount on certain beverages.

Visit the [Milford Trail Challenge website](#) for more information.

Website Changes

By Diane Ursu

Some of you have noticed that the menu on the website has changed. We are in the process of removing expired content, adding new content, and arranging the website in a way that makes sense to new visitors.

We have received some comments that people cannot find certain pages. If you have this problem, please send an email to communications@mmba.org letting me know what you are looking for and where you were looking.

For example, if you are looking for the [Chapters](#) page, were you looking through the menu on the left, or did you try looking at the page content - *Chapters* is currently located under [Information and Programs](#) within the web page content to the right of the menu, not on the menu. In which directory did you first look - for example, did you expect to find it under "Information and Programs," or under "News and Advocacy?"

This kind of feedback is very important as we work to streamline the site and make it more user-friendly. Thank you for your help, and please be patient while we work on the site.

New Features

The News & Advocacy section contains news stories such as legislation and advocacy issues. Website visitors will see the most recent stories when they click on [News & Advocacy](#). The [News Archive](#) contains all of the articles, past and present, that are posted to News & Advocacy. The [Executive Director's Corner](#) can also be found under this section.

Calendar of Events

The [Calendar of Events](#) contains MMBA events that are organized into the following categories: [Chapter Meetings](#), [Chapter Races](#), [CPS Races](#), [Group Rides](#), [State Board Meetings](#), [Trail Days](#), and [Other Events](#).

Clicking on an event will display information such as where the event is located and where to find information about the event. Chapter presidents, trail coordinators, and other event organizers are strongly encouraged to email communications@mmba.org with updates. The Communications Coordinator relies heavily on communications with these important volunteers in order to inform the membership of upcoming events.

June Schedule of Events

- 5 - Ruby Trail Day
- 6 - [Rouge Park Days](#)
- 6 - [Hanson Hills Challenge](#)
- 11 - [Metro North Campfest 2010](#)
- 12 - [4th Annual Barf at the Farm](#)
- 13 - Ruby USAC Mountain Bike Race
- 14 - Metro South Chapter Meeting
- 19 - Holdridge Lakes Trail Day
- 26 - [Meijer State Games of Michigan](#)
- 26 - Fort Custer Trail Day

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Designed by Diane Ursu, Moronacity.com

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