



E-Newsletter - January 2011 - Happy New Year!



Letter from the President

By Nate Phelps

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**January
Calendar of Events**

3 - Western Chapter Meeting

11 - Metro North Chapter Meeting

29-30 - [Annual Meeting & Expo](#)

State Board

Executive Board

Nate Phelps, President
Nick Shue, Vice President
Chris Mensing, Secretary

At-Large Members

Martin Hall
Heather Kubiak
Marty Shue
Diane Ursu

Chapter Representatives

Brad Hranach, Holly/Flint
Nick Shue, Metro North
Dave Thompson, Metro South
Chris Mensing, Mid-State
Troy Gerding, Northeast
Glen Ruczynski, Northern
Mark Fraker, Potawatomi
Cathy Needham, Southwest
Nate Phelps, Western

Kim Dittmar
Treasurer

Contact Us

For more information:
info@mmba.org

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communications@mmba.org

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Director of Advocacy
dga@mmba.org

Executive Director
execdir@mmba.org

Mike Moss
Membership Director
membership@mmba.org

Dennis Murphy

Happy New Year!

As the MMBA begins 2011, I would like to report on where we are and where we are going.

The State Board approved the motion to move forward with the following initiatives for 2011:

- ***A focus on political advocacy at the state level***
Guiding this focus is Director of Advocacy John Gonway with an assembled team of Ted Welsh, Rick Hogle, Travis Bell, Brad Hranach, and Brandon Buck. This advocacy team will be the face of the MMBA in Lansing and assist in regional access where requested. Currently, John is a member of the Michigan Snowmobile and Trails Advisory Council and is the Chairman of its Non-Motorized Advisory Workgroup. In 2010, the State Board adopted the mission statement: **"We believe in equal trail access for non-motorized users, but in respect to equestrians we further believe their needs are better served with separate trail systems."**
- ***Continue supporting the CPS***, the largest source of funding for trails within our organization. The CPS committee, under the direction of Dennis Murphy, will continue to improve the series in an effort to grow racer numbers for sustainable funding. This year's schedule includes classifications for MiSCA racers and a new venue.
- ***Continue supporting MiSCA***, organized by Steve Kinley, last year. Involving youth in our sport through MiCSA ensures there is new blood to assume leadership roles in trail advocacy. As part of the youth program, Mountain Kids will become part of MiSCA, this year.
- ***Formal application into the IMBA Club program*** An advisory committee consisting of Nick Shue, Mark Fraker, Dave Thompson, Glen Ruczynski, John Gonway and myself will be the point of contact between IMBA and the MMBA. An application package including instructions and a time lime will be distributed to chapter presidents at the annual meeting.

The 2011 Annual Meeting

At this year's meeting we are excited to be able to offer a diverse group of speakers and break out sessions. Speakers include IMBA Executive Director Mike Van Abel, Scott Chapin from RJF insurance, Jason Wells from Trail Solutions, Paul Arlinghaus from the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association, and our own Northern Chapter President Glen Ruczynski.

Championship Point Series
cps@mmba.org

Jon Rose and Shawn Murphy
 Mountain Bike Patrol
bikepatrol@mmba.org

Kevin Karpinski
 Mountain Kids
mountainkids@mmba.org

Bent Rim Bugle
brb@mmba.org

Webmasters
webmaster@mmba.org

Join or renew your
 membership online!
membership.mmba.org

Presentations and breakout sessions will address the topics of insurance, determining economic impact, destination trails, and advocacy. With the increased popularity of pump tracks, Jason Wells will be leading a pump track building class and, time permitting, a jump line. The features built in the class will be open to ride during the meeting and expo on Sunday.

Kim Dittmar Becomes New State Treasurer

By Diane Ursu

We would like to welcome Kim Dittmar as a new MMBA member and State Treasurer. Kim has been working as a self-employed accountant since 1997.

"Approximately eight years ago, as a way for me to get out of the house and away from my desk, I bought my first mountain bike," says Kim. "After a very short period of time, I discovered Target was NOT the place to have purchased a bike. My next one, a Trek, came from Brick Wheels (Traverse City bike shop), thanks to my now boyfriend who works there. I dug into the VASA Single Track."

Kim supplements her mountain biking with road cycling and particularly enjoys riding the Old Mission Peninsula with her local cycling club and groups of friends. "I also enjoy the Glen Arbor area and have decided the annual Leelanau Harvest Tour is my favorite."

Kim also volunteers with group rides and races. Last summer, she worked to include more leisurely riders in the Thursday night ride at the VASA. She has dabbled in racing, runs the Iceman awards, and was the Awards Queen for the Cherry Roubaix over the last three years. She is also the social director for the Cherry Capital Cycling Club.

"I'm looking forward to being a part of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and hope to get more of the Traverse City area cyclists to be part of this great organization. The riding in and around this area is spectacular and we have much work to do to develop and maintain trails."

Candidates Needed for State Board At-Large Members

By Diane Ursu

Nominations Are Being Accepted until January 7

Nominations for two (2) State Board At-Large Members are now being accepted. These are two-year terms. You can request to be placed on the ballot by submitting a "Bio" with the following information to the nomination committee at

simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com:

- Applicants history and accomplishments with the MMBA.
- What the applicant would like the MMBA to achieve in the following year and how the applicant will help the MMBA to achieve that goal.
- Other MMBA members who are familiar with the applicants work, preferably a chapter officer or trail coordinator.

Any active and respected candidates will then be placed on the ballot and the bios will be placed on the MMBA website. Any questions should be directed to simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com.

Electronic Voting

Members will be able to vote online from January 10 until January 21. Members may vote for candidates using one of two methods:

- The MMBA will send each member an email with a unique link to the voting ballot. This will allow each member to vote only once. Each link will be associated with an email address, so member email addresses must be updated in the system (visit membership.mmba.org).
- MMBA members who cannot vote online have the option of voting by proxy. Members may fax their ballots to (248) 488-3908. When faxing, please send an e-mail to simse@ntcna.nissan-usa.com indicating that a fax has been sent. Members may also vote by proxy by sending their ballots to *Emil Sims, 15563 Merion Ct., Northville, MI 48168*.

The ballot must contain the following items:

- Names of up to two (2) candidates
- Your name, printed
- Your name, signed

Annual Meeting & Expo

By Diane Ursu

January 30, 2011

Michigan State
University
Pavilion



All are invited to the Annual Meeting & Expo everyone from veteran MMBA members to those who are interested in learning more about the sport of mountain biking to those who are *just curious*. Look for lots of great vendors, the silent auction, and other fun mountain biking stuff. We look forward to seeing **you** there!

Check the [Annual Meeting & Expo web page](#) for updates.

View the [Annual Meeting & Expo Vendor Packet \(PDF\)](#) for information about vendor booths and the silent auction.

Volunteers Needed for the Expo

By Diane Ursu

We need volunteers for the following positions: vendor check-in, swap meet sign-up, membership/merchandise table, silent auction, silent auction check-out, morning set-up, and evening clean-up. This event is 100% volunteer-driven and we need your help. If you can help, please email Diane Ursu at communications@mmba.org.

Expo Schedule

This is a tentative schedule. Any changes will be noted on the website (see [Annual Meeting: Schedule](#)).

Saturday, January 29

- 5 to 7 p.m. Pump Track 101: build with Jason Wells of Trail Solutions
- 8 p.m. Meet and greet, location to be determined

Sunday, January 30

- 8 a.m. Expo setup
- 8 to 10 a.m. Complete work on pump track
- 9 a.m. **Expo opens**
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Concessions; pizza may be ordered from Union Pizzeria, (517) 884-0375, no delivery charge
- 9 a.m. Swap meet, purchase tables and setup
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Silent auction
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swap meet
- 10 a.m. Pump Track Breakout Jason Wells
- 10 a.m. Building a Destination Trail Paul Arlinghaus, Hoosier Mountain Bike Association
- 11 a.m. MMBA Address Nate Phelps, John Gonway, and chapter presidents
- 11 a.m. Insurance FAQ Breakout Scott Chapin
- 1 p.m. Mike Van Abel, Keynote Speaker

- 2.30 p.m. Economic Impact of Mountain Biking, Scott Chapin
- 2.30 to 4 p.m. State Board Meeting and IMBA Club FAQ for state and chapter board members
- 4 p.m. Pump track closes
- 5 p.m. Expo closes; please remove all items
- 5 p.m. Cocktail hour, location to be determined

Vendors Booths for the Annual Meeting & Expo

By Diane Ursu

The Expo is a great opportunity to interact with cyclists from all over the state and sell the cycling gear that we all love. Download the [Expo Vendor Packet](#), fill out the forms, and mail them in by January 15 to secure your spot. Vendors who donate \$75 worth of product will receive a \$50 reduction in price for a vendor table.

Silent Auction Donations

By Diane Ursu

If you are donating products for the silent auction, please fill out the Silent Auction Donation Form found in the [Expo Vendor Packet](#) and mail by January 15. Please drop items off by 9 a.m. at the MSU Pavilion on January 30. If you cannot personally deliver the products, please contact Diane Ursu at communications@mmba.org to make other arrangements.

Swap Meet

By Diane Ursu

The swap meet is an excellent opportunity for mountain bikers to buy and sell bike parts and other cycling-related things that they no longer need. Those wishing to sell in the swap meet must purchase a table. The money raised from table purchases is used to fund the MMBA's advocacy projects for the following year.

Rules and Guidelines

1. The cost is \$20 per table. Participants may sign up the day of the expo.
2. Multiple persons having few items per person may share a table, but we ask that large groups consider making a larger donation or purchase the appropriate number of tables for the amount of gear they bring to the swap meet.
3. The swap meet is for non-business use. Businesses wishing to sell merchandise may purchase an expo

booth.

Email Lists for New Chapter Presidents and State Board Members

By Diane Ursu

Please contact webmaster@mmba.org if your name needs to be added to a mailing list. State board members should be on the board@mmba.org list, and chapter presidents should be on presidents@mmba.org.

MMBA Online Membership

Keep track of your MMBA membership by visiting membership.mmba.org. By logging in, you can

- view information about your past and present membership cycles;
- renew your membership;
- edit your information including your address and chapter affiliation;
- view previous electronic communications;
- and control your mailing preferences.

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of the MMBA.

[Login here to change your mail settings.](#)

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Designed by Diane Ursu, Moronacity.com

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