



## E-Newsletter - July 2011

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### State Board

#### Executive Board

Nate Phelps, President  
Diane Ursu, Vice President  
Glen Ruczynski, Secretary

### At-Large Members

### Logsplitter Challenge

By Glen Ruczynski

The MMBA Northern Chapter along with [Hanson Hills](#) and [North Higgins State Park](#) will once again be hosting the 2011 [Logsplitter Challenge](#) on July 16 featuring a course like no other in Michigan: 23 miles of mixed terrain for beginners, 28 miles for everyone else.



There is great SWAG for all racers and we'll be paying out a bit of cash for the top finishers. [Short's Brewing Company](#) will hook you up post race. [The Bicycle Shop](#) in Grayling and [Bikelab TC](#) will provide support along the way.

Early registration is only \$25, rates go up to \$30 after April 30th. Free kids races for those under 12; kids 13 and up race as beginners.

All proceeds go back to your Northern Michigan trails! [Register today](#) and lock in the best price!

### 6th Annual Tree Farm Relay Event

By Loren Konkus

We are pleased to announce the [6th Annual Tree Farm Relay Event](#) at

Lakeshore Park in Novi, presented by the MMBA, Team Tree Farm, and Dark Horse Racing. This is the same format you have all grown to love: a unique four-person team relay race! The course features lots of hills, passing zones and fun! This is a perfect race for the beginner looking to see what team endurance racing is all about, and for experienced racers who want to test their skills against rival teams. If you want to try an endurance race, but aren't ready for the distance, this is the perfect event for you to see what the team racing concept is all about.



This year we are giving away TWO wheelsets from DT

Bruce Geffen  
 Martin Hall  
 Diane Ursu  
 Larry Verna

### **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, Potowatomi  
 Cathy Needham, Southwest  
 Nate Phelps, Western

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Kim Dittmar  
 Treasurer  
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Webmasters  
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Join or renew your  
 membership online!

[membership.mmba.org](http://membership.mmba.org)

Swiss. We will also have post race entertainment from *The Allies*.

- Sport and Advanced classes
- Four person team relay: one lap for each Sport rider, two laps for each Advanced rider
- Fast 10-mile course layout using two-track and single-track (race officials reserve the right to modify the course in case of inclement weather)
- Men's, Women's and Coed divisions in each class—one of the opposite sex is required to qualify a Coed team
- No age divisions
- Race fees only \$100 per team, day-of registration is \$120
- Advanced teams start at 9:00 a.m., race meeting at 8:45 a.m., registration cut-off at 8:30 a.m.
- Sport teams start at 11:00 a.m., race meeting at 10:45 a.m., registration cut-off at 10:30 a.m.
- **Costumes welcome and encouraged!**

[Click here to REGISTER!](#) [Visit our forum](#) or [Facebook page](#) for more information or with questions.

### **Mid-State Poker Run: Sunday, July 31, 2011**

The Mid-State chapter is holding its annual Poker Run at Burchfield Park in Holt on Sunday, July 31. The event begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Deer Run Shelter and proceeds benefit the Mid-State chapter. Last year, all participants went home with great prizes from our many sponsors!

Cost is \$15 for a single lap (1 "hand" of poker) and \$25 for two laps. [Preregister for the Burchfield Time Trial](#) (October 2, 2011), and you'll receive a \$5 discount on your Poker Run entry.

Watch the [Mid-State forum](#) and [Facebook event listing](#) for more details.

### **Burchfield Time Trial: Sunday, October 2, 2011**

The Mid-State chapter and MiSCA are hosting a new race this year! On Sunday, October 2, join both youth and adult racers for the Burchfield TT at Burchfield Park in Holt. The 10 to 12- mile course includes twisty, technical sections and a few areas with fast, sweeping turns, plus new sections of the trail added within the past year!

Registration is available through BikeReg.com. Youth racers, including those participating in MiSCA, may choose from

varsity (sport), JV (beginner) or middle school classes for \$15. Adult racers may choose from A (sport/expert), B (beginner/clydesdale) or female classes for \$20. Fine more information at the [Mid-State forum](#) or the [Mid-State Chapter website](#)

This event is held under the USA Cycling event permit.

## **Championship Point Series Updates**

By Dennis Murphy

We have now completed the fourth event in the nine race series. We are having record turnouts at our races!

At the beginning of June, racers competed at Fun Promotion's Hanson Hills Challenge on June 5 on the scenic northern hills of Grayling. Last weekend, racers participated in the State Games of Michigan mountain bike event held at Cannonsburg Ski Area. This was the first year that this race was included in the CPS and attendance doubled from the previous season.

Results for Yankee Springs, Fort Custer, Hanson Hills, and the State Games are available on the [MMBA Championship Point Series](#) web page.

## **Upcoming Races**

Race #5—Boyne Marathon (points x 1.5), Saturday, July 9, presented by Fun Promotions. Visit the [Fun Promotions website](#) for registration and event details. Remember, Boyne is a marathon race and you will earn 1 1/2 times the standard points for racing this event.

## **CPS Registration**

CPS registration is FREE, you MUST [register online](#) to collect points towards a series trophy. If you register ON or BEFORE the July 9 Boyne Marathon, your points from the State Games will be counted, if you competed at that event. There are still plenty of races to participate in to capture your best five results for tabulation.

## **Remaining Races**

- Race #5—Boyne Marathon (Points x 1.5), Saturday, July 9
- Race #6—Stony Creek Time Trial, Sunday, July 24
- Race #7—Maybury Chapter Benefit, Saturday, August 20
- Race #8—Addison Oaks Fall Classic, Sunday, September 11

- Race #9—Pando Challenge, Sunday, September 25

Updated CPS standings will be posted online on the CPS page, soon.

## Owasippe Lives Again?

By Randy Knapp

Mountain Biking on the trails of the Owasippe Boy Scout Reservation, owned by the Chicago Area Council of the Boys Scouts of America, may become reality as soon as this August. A meeting was held Saturday, May 21, 2011 that may have set the wheels in motion for reopening the trails to mountain biking.



The following is a recap of recent Owasippe mountain bike trail history.

- There was fear that the land would be sold to a Holland, Michigan developer and mountain bikers would lose all trail access. In March 2010, this fear was put to rest when Blue Lake Township won a lawsuit by developers who challenged the zoning.
- The Chicago Area Council closed the trails to mountain bikers due to liability concerns. Matt Vander Sys of Endurance Adventure LLC came to the rescue and provided liability insurance to cover mountain biking.
- The Chicago Area Council named the Owasippe Outdoor Education Center (OOEC) manager of off-season use for the Owasippe property and promptly closed the mountain bike singletrack. They stated, "Due to serious erosion to biking and hiking trails at Owasippe as well as vandalism of old growth trees in some areas and unsanctioned trail-blazing and marking, use of Owasippe for mountain biking purposes is limited to those camp roads and established two tracks shown on the accompanying map. This decision is meant to allow the trail system time to recuperate. We look forward to working with the Michigan Mountain Biking Association to better protect

our trail system from erosion in the future. Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in permanent removal of riding privileges on Owasippe property."

Nate Phelps, MMBA President, invited the OOEC to the Midwest Mountain Bike Summit in Grand Rapids in September 2010. The OOECs Chauncey Nizio and Jim Schlichting were able to attend the workshops on Saturday September 11. Chauncey and Jim learned about the positive financial impact of mountain biking on the local economy. The IMBA Trail Care Crew class about building sustainable trail alleviated their concerns with trail erosion. They really took interest when they learned what an IMBA group was able to do in Duluth, Minnesota by thinking BIG! They realized that Owasippe was a mountain biking gold mine!

Mitch Dennison as Development Director for the OOEC in April 2011. Mitch tapped into his energetic personality and past mountain biking experience to arrange a meeting between OOEC Chairman Joe Sener and Development Director Mitch Dennison, MMBA President Nate Phelps, WMMBA President Martin Hall, WMMBA Owasippe Trail Coordinator Randy Knapp, and local mountain bikers Bill Basta, Jim DeWent, Bernie Riehl and Brian Tank. An Owasippe Mountain Biking committee was created and future meetings planned. They:

1. proposed the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding to define roles between the OOEC and MMBA
2. planned a group ride with professional trail designers, the OOEC, and local mountain bikers to assess current trail conditions and develop a plan for sustainable improvements
3. and agreed on trail days starting in August to complete the improvements and open some trail.

Other items discussed at the meeting were:

- Trail signage: current trail does not have adequate trail markers.
- Developing a stacked looped trail system including easy and intermediate trails since the current trails are considered technical/difficult. These easier trails can be used to introduce beginners as well boy scouts to mountain biking.
- Adding a pump track near the parking area for the boy scouts to use during the two-month camp period and for mountain bikers to warm-up on or just have fun with.
- Payment for riding fees (on-line methods, cell phone texting . . . etc)
- Using the Brown County State Park as a model for Owasippe mountain biking.

- Policing the trails.

The future looks bright for outdoor recreation of all kinds as the Owasippe Boy Scout Reservation celebrates its 100th Anniversary as the oldest boy scout camp in the US, this summer.

### **Newsletter Submissions**

By Diane Ursu

Please send newsletter submissions for your MMBA event to [communications@mmba.org](mailto:communications@mmba.org) by June 20 (that means you can send info for your July events, now). You must write it yourself (newsletter volunteers will not compose blurbs). Please keep submissions to 250 words or less.

### **MMBA Online Membership**

By Diane Ursu

Keep track of your MMBA membership by visiting [membership.mmba.org](http://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.

Interested in becoming a corporate sponsor or have questions about corporate sponsor benefits? Visit our [Become a Corporate Sponsor](#) page to learn more!

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](http://Moronacity.com)

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