



**August 16, 2008**

## **Information**

*Stuff You May Want to Know*

### **Why the Great Deer Chase**

Our goal is to showcase this wonderful trail system and to establish a source of revenue to create and maintain bike trails at Swedetown Recreation Area.

The name came from an unfortunate wildlife encounter involving one Dr. Steve Weber. Steve was "just riding along" when out of the bushes Bambo . . . the killer whitetail deer . . . "attacked" his front tire. This caused Steve's bike to come to an abrupt halt . . . Steve didn't, and continued over the bars. Both rider and deer survived the ordeal, but we come out during this event to seek revenge on Bambo for his malicious attack.

### **The Adult Race Course**

The course is predominantly intermediate with some short sections of expert terrain (by IMBA standards). Any person who has a grasp of basic mountain biking skills will be able to negotiate this course. If this is your first race, you will most likely finish and be quite proud of what you accomplished. For the veteran racer the copious quantities of short ups and downs will be challenging as well as the tight, twisty nature of the singletrack sections.

In our 14 and under category for the 15 mile race, we ask that you ensure your child has completed rides of like nature, at distance, prior to competing. Singletrack is more demanding physically than riding gravel roads and we want to ensure each participant has an enjoyable ride and finish. (It also makes it easier on our volunteers if they do not have to transport anyone out of the course area.)

You will start at 10:00 am on the west side of the Calumet Colosseum with a rollout through downtown Historic Calumet. Racing will begin at Sixth & Oak Street as you take a short tour of the Village of Calumet. Soon you will find yourself on 2 miles of double track ski trails in the Tamarack area of the Swedetown trail system. Blue flags on riders right and arrows will direct you through the mix of single track and double track trails. The course has been somewhat modified from last year as some parts of the course are not available any

more. The split will still be near the chalet. When heading to the finish instead of going out the chalet parking lot you will go around and take the Valley Trail to the Cedar Loop and retrace the double track and Village streets back to the finish at Sixth and Oak. Course maps will be placed in bib packets and at Cross Country Sports a month prior to the race.

### **The Youth Race Course:**

The youth races will start at 2:00 pm at the finish area on Oak Street. Most of this race is double track. The shorter race will not take the Outback loop of the red trail which has a nice little climb in it; both will proceed on a short section of the Two Hoots trail that will be single track then up the Blue Trail and a section of the Applesauce trail (singletrack), around to the Valley Trail and use the same way back as the adult race course where they will finish between Fifth and Sixth streets. Parents may ride with their youngsters, that is if the youth wants their parent slowing them up. Just remember to yield to faster racers and do not hamper or impede others or your child may be disqualified.

Because this race is a bit longer and tougher than most area youth races it would be wise to ensure that your child is well hydrated and victualled prior to the race.

3 Mile race is for youth 10 and under, the 4.5 for ages 11-14. Younger racers may compete in the 4.5 mile race but will be registered in a 10 & under category for awards.

### **Course notes:**

Although these are races we hope that you ride within your limits and read the terrain ahead to prevent tire skidding whenever possible. The race is to help create and maintain the trails therefore, the less we have to do to repair them means more resources to create.

Like any mountain bike race ANSI approved **helmets are mandatory** for participation, no exceptions.

Be courteous on the singletrack, allow faster racers to pass when possible . . . communicate . . . "on your

left/right;" " may I please pass;" "seen that deer yet;" " do you know where I can find the idiot who set up this course" . . . etc.

Do not pass on bridges or boardwalks. Many of the corners are on side hills where we have a slight outslope to keep water off the tread. This means many of the corners in the singletrack are off camber. Please, don't complain . . . just deal with it. The trail will last longer built that way.

There are a number of bridges and boardwalks in the race. We try to keep these in good repair but it is possible that there may be loose or inferior planks. Watch out and take care. Also because of their width, (23") the majority are rated as expert by IMBA standards, most of the locals think they are pretty easy.

Like any mountain bike race you will encounter, rocks, sand, roots, trees, bridges, boardwalks, bees, bugs, and may also encounter squirrels, birds, attack deer, coyotes, bear, and possibly any freakish thing one could imagine. It's just part of the terrain and situation, please make the best of it. Last year we did have a couple of racers who were accosted by hornets, if you are allergic to bee sting we strongly suggest that you carry any necessary meds just in case.

There are a couple of moderate climbs but for the most part this is an easy to intermediate course.

All races will finish in downtown Calumet, **meaning you may have deal with cars at intersections.** Although we will have signage telling vehicles to yield to racers and crossing guards at critical intersections we may not be able to stop the unattentive driver. Please beware of cars and ensure your own safety.

## Registration:

Early registrations may be mailed to Great Deer Chase, 423 Pine Street, Calumet, MI 49913. Registration/bib pickup will be open from 6:30 to 8:00 pm Friday, August 15, 2008 and 8:00 - 9:00 am Saturday, August 16, 2008 for all events at Cross Country Sports, 507 Oak Street, Calumet. Youth races will also have an additional registration time from 12:00 to 1:00 pm August 16, 2008. Fees are \$25 postmarked by June 30, \$30—July 1-31, \$35—August 1-14, \$40—August 15, 16. 3 and 4.5 mile youth events are \$5 the untimed Fawn Chase is \$5. There will be a \$5 fee for event changes. Transfer of entry will not be allowed. Any questions regarding the race or registration contact Marc Norton at (906) 337-1300 or email him at gpc49913@charter.net.

15 & 25 Mile racers will receive \$5 in "Bambo Bucks" (good for food purchase at participating restaurants and Heritage Celebration food vendors) plus an insulated water bottle. Those who register the day of the event will receive water bottles on a first come first served basis until supplies are exhausted. We will have water bottles or event pins for youth racers.

## Awards

Awards ceremony will start around 4:00 pm in Agassiz Park for all events.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place medals will be given out for the 15 mile race, male & female, in the following age divisions; 15 & under, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+, and singlespeed (no age division). The tandem division will have no gender or age division) Plaques will be given to the overall male and female finishers.

For the 25 mile race the medals will be awarded for male & female in age divisions; 19 & under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+, and singlespeed (no age division). The tandem division will have no gender or age division) Plaques will be given to the overall male and female finishers.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place medals for age divisions 8 & Under, 9-10 for the 3 mile race and the same awards for age divisions, 10 & under, 11-12 and 13-14 for the 4.5 mile race. Overall male & female finishers will receive a trophy or plaque in each distance. Participant ribbons will be given to those in the 40 yard non-timed kid's race.

## Disclaimer

Circumstances may change the course somewhat and the mileages stated are mere estimates and have not been measured either with a cyclometer or gps. Your mileage may vary. Our goal in stating the distances was to give you an overall flavor of the course to help you decide in which race to participate. There may also be other changes beyond our control. We ask your patience for not meeting any expectations and hope you will enjoy this event.

## Other Events/Amenities:

There will be Heritage Days events in Agassiz Park (near the start/finish area) featuring games, music and food. The Awards ceremony will follow about an hour after the conclusion of the Youth Races.

The Dusquesne University Tamburitza's are in town that night featuring an energetic program of East European dance and music. Get your tickets early from the Calumet Theatre or a Calumet/Laurium/Keweenaw Rotary member.

The Calumet Colosseum (Red Jacket Road near Fourth) will have dressing rooms with showers. There are no lockers available and the security of personal items will be up to you. We plan to have the facility open by 9:00 am to change into bike gear and then until 3:00 pm to shower and change afterwards. **Dressing rooms are located in the basement, please enter the door on the west side of the building.** The Calumet Keweenaw Sportsmens Club is having their expo in the arena at the same time. There is a fee to enter and you are welcome to attend, but please enter the expo through the main doors on the south side of the building.