

Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 7, Issue 2

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

December 2003

Mission statement: *The mission of the Thunder Bay Trails Association is to promote and protect non-motorized trail systems in Alpena county and adjoining areas and reflect their recreational significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure to area citizens.*

NORDIC EVENTS

2004:

- Subaru National Masters, Marquette, Jan. 17-22
- Subaru Noquemanon Ski Marathon, Marquette, Jan. 24
- White Pine Stampede, Shanty Creek, Feb. 7
- Subaru VASA, Traverse City, Feb. 14, 15
- Subaru American Birkebeiner, Cable, WI, Feb. 19-21
- Black Mountain Classic, Cheboygan, March 6
- The Great Bear Chase, Calumet, March 7
- Wabos Wilderness Loppet, Stokely Creek, Canada, March 20

www.thunderbaytrails.org on the WEB

www.thunderbaytrails.org



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TBTA ENTERS 7TH YEAR OF TRAIL ADVOCACY

Thunder Bay Trails Association enters its seventh year of efforts to preserve and promote non-motorized trails in the Thunder Bay region. As state budgets continue their downward spiral during this period, TBTA has stepped up to fill in the voids of maintenance and development at Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills Trails. A brief list of projects completed include : 1. Hundreds of feet of deck installation at Norway Ridge. 2. Up keep of directional trail signs at both systems. 3. Winter Nordic trails grooming and maintenance, annual candle light winter ski outings. 5. Promotion of bike, ski and trail running events. 6. Trail advocacy at the state and local level by TBTA officers. 7. Partnering with local for-profit and non-profit organizations in funding of projects and promotional activities. 8. Purchase and maintenance of Nordic grooming equipment. All of this could not be done without the financial support of our members and active volunteers each year. Please keep TBTA in mind as the new year approaches either as an active member or with your annual membership donations. Remember, without the local support of members and donors like you TBTA would cease to exist.



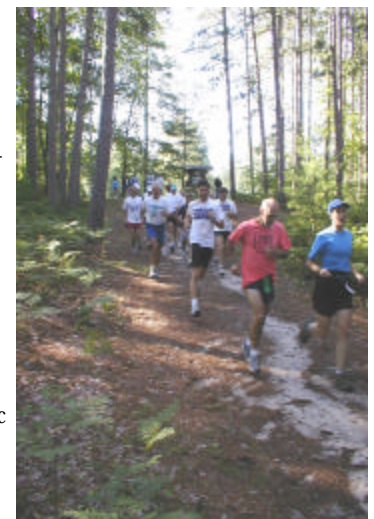
CHIPPEWA HILLS ANNUAL JUNE BIKE RACE A HIT WITH LOCAL MOUNTAIN BIKE ENTHUSIASTS

In its third year, the TBTA Mountain Bike Race at Chippewa Hills Trails has gained popularity with local mountain bike enthusiasts. The well organized race promotion and operation attributed to Randy Fairbanks coordination, the event highlights Chippewa Hills as a primary mountain bike destination for Northeast Michigan riders. The warm sunshine, and challenging trail, along with the abundance of prizes has made the race day a must for local mountain bike enthusiasts. The race will continue to be offered during the end of June and hopes are high to continue to grow the participation levels to numbers that will provide TBTA with much needed operational revenues through the year. Sponsors this year providing the revenues to run the event were Dominion and Quick Silver Resources, both energy exploration corporation operating in the Chippewa Hills area. Prizes were provided by Summit Sports, ABC ACE, Wal-Mart, Thunder Bay Eye, Tour America bikes, Pearl Vision, Eniva sports drink, and Fosters Bike Repair. A big Thanks to those businesses that continue to support this annual event. Thanks again to Randy and family for their hospitality in hosting this annual bike event.



Norway Ridge Trail Trot first of future trail runs to be hosted by TBTA

Thunder Bay Trails hosted it's first ever cross country trail run this past September at the Norway Ridge Pathway. In an effort to promote the use of Norway Ridge Pathway and highlight the continued projects that TBTA has completed. The fall trail run will become an annual event the weekend after Labor Day. With 50 local runners competing in the trail run of varying lengths and prizes awarded, it will continue to grow in popularity. The local running organizing efforts of Joe Gentry and the Dork Brothers Team provided TBTA with the necessary expertise in hosting a competitive trail run. The cross country running opportunities at Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills in the Fall have been well known by area running enthusiasts. It is hoped that this event will spread the word that the trails are not just a Nordic winter system, but an all season recreational trail destination for running, hiking, and biking.



for more information, please contact Randy Fairbanks (989)727-3702
On the Web: www.thunderbaytrails.org

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LET THE SKI SEASON BEGIN FOR TBTA

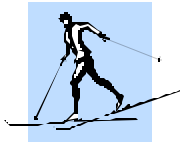


With hopes once again set for a full winter of snow TBTA has all systems go for the start of the Nordic Grooming season at Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills Trails. Randy Fairbanks and Ron Anderson report that the equipment has been prepared and ready to start setting track in anticipation for the season first snow fall. The past few seasons has been a struggle for Nordic skiers, as the drought of snow in North East Michigan has been a hardship for those who enjoy the challenge of gliding the set track of snow at our local trails. Lack of snow has brought an end for this season of the annual candle light ski at Norway. The lack of snow and participation levels at this night time event have at least for this coming season terminated planning of the Norway Ridge Candle light ski event. If sufficient snow fall occurs TBTA will host day time outings on Sundays at Norway and Chippewa Hills, providing hot chocolate and a warming fire. Stay tuned to our Web site at TBTA.Com for updates on snow and trail conditions at Norway Ridge, Chippewa Hills and Black Mountain trails. Look for the TBTA Nordic ski pins at Summit Sports and wear one in support of the trail grooming operations.



LOOK TO CANADA NORDIC TRAILS FOR THE BEST EARLY SEASON SNOW

The early season snow fall and all around best Nordic conditions this side of the Mississippi can be found with our neighbors to the north in the Algoma Highlands of the Sault Ste Marie, Ontario area. It is a well known fact among local Nordic skiers that the grooming and trail conditions at the Stokely Creek Nordic and Hiawatha/Kinsman trails are the finest early season and late season tracked system anywhere in the Great Lakes Region. Warming huts and a Nordic waxing club house available at both Centers; this is the **"place to be"** when the snow conditions in northeast Michigan area sputtering out. The annual Lantern Ski at the Hiawatha Trails over Valentines Weekend, along with the Stokely Wabos Loppet in late March provide cross county ski classic and free-stylers an opportunity to ski unlimited superbly groomed trail systems late into the season. The little known "crust ski" in late March can provide an "out west style" sunshine and go anywhere snow experience not found anywhere else but in this small corner of Lake Superior Country. If you want to learn more about Stokely Creek and the Hiawatha Kinsmen trails check out their web sites found at www.starnordic.ca or www.stokelycreek.com. I am sure you will find some TBTA members venturing north on any given weekend as the Nordic Season progresses. Lodging is available from cozy B&B to resorts lodging at Stokely Creek and traditional hotels in the Sault Ste Marie area.



FALL WORK PROJECTS CONTINUE AT NORWAY RIDGE TRAILS

Continued trail improvements at Norway Ridge Pathway will be noticeable to those trail users during the coming ski season and for early spring hikers and bikers at Norway Ridge. TBTA volunteers have completed a fourth year of ongoing Fall trail improvement projects geared to enhancing the year round accessibility of Norway Ridge. Up keep of directional signs, clearing of brush and downed trees along with completion of prior decking projects in the low wet areas of the trail section #9. It has been the ongoing volunteer efforts of a handful of TBTA members that have seen that the local non-motorized trails are maintained and improved for all users. Your memberships dollars are the only source of revenue available to see that these trail projects are able to continue each season. Please consider joining in the commitment to quality non-motorized trails in the Thunder Bay region. Send in your annual 2004 membership today.



BLACK MOUNTAIN TO HOST FIRST EVER MICHIGAN CUP CLASSIC NORDIC RACE MARCH 6TH

Black Mountain Recreation area has been placed on the Michigan Cup Nordic Ski schedule for the 2004 season. Mr. Denny Paul, a local ski racer and avid Nordic promoter, has placed the Black Mountain trails on the list of key sites for the Michigan ski enthusiast. The date is set for March 6th and the race covers over 30k. The race will start out of the North end parking area near the Twin Lakes and head south over the rolling hardwoods of the Glacial Moraine known as the Black Mountain Recreation area. Concerns over the MDNR commitment to seeing that the trails remained groomed in the current state budget crisis has led to the possible interest in TBTA assisting in the race day track setting. As of the newsletter publication, a review of how best TBTA might assist in the reestablishment of Nordic racing in the northeast Michigan area is being considered. The loss of the Silver Creek Challenge on the Corsair Ski Trails in the 1990's was a major set back to growth in the Nordic community. With the loss of Nordic grooming by the MDNR spreading to all state trails local ski associations, commercial and public groups will need to step up to the challenge if Nordic Skiing is to remain a part of the Michigan winter scene. TBTA has seen this coming over the past years and has firmly set itself in place to assist in the Thunder Bay region in Nordic Trail maintenance and non-motorized trail preservation. Please check out the details of the Black Mountain Michigan Cup Race at www.nordickiracer.com; click on Michigan Cup Calendar. Stay tuned to www.thunderbaytrails.org for further details.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW EASY TO LOCATE WEB SITE AT WWW.THUNDERBAYTRAILS.ORG

THUNDERBAYTRAILS.ORG

Our new, easy to find web site will host the most recent newsletter and an update on ski trail conditions and activities in the Nordic community this winter. Any events which TBTA will host at the local trails will be posted at this site. Also, handy weather sites and web sites for all the major Nordic ski centers in the region. Local trail maps and directions to trail heads will also be available. Your comments on the site will be very helpful in refining the newsletter and site in the future.

TBTA 2004 Membership Application

Please take the time to fill out the form completely. This information will help to better assist our individual members needs and assist with planning and grant writing for trail maintenance and improvement.
PLEASE PRINT!

Please send form to:
TBTA
2703 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766

Name: _____ **Names of Household Members:** _____

Thank You!!

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone Number: _____ **Work Phone Number:** (Optional) _____

Occupation: _____ **E-mail Address:** (Optional) _____

What activities do you participate in?

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY!

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> X-C Skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mtn. Biking | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Trail Walks | |

2004 Membership Dues:

Please check one category!

Student \$5.00

Individual \$15.00

Household \$20.00

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Groomer Donation: \$ _____

*Thunder Bay Trails Association is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization.
Donations and membership dues are taxdeductible to the extent provided by law.*

for more information, please contact Randy Fairbanks (989)727-3702
On the Web: www.thunderbaytrails.org

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Thunder Bay Trails Association

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Ossineke, MI 49766



2003 TBTA Contributing Members and Donors

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Suelyn Bartz
Don and Barbara Beem
Marcia Billings
David Blumenthal
Jeff and Amy Blumenthal
Robert Brady
Paul and Mary Bray
Tom and Karen Brindley
Steve and Gina Brochu
Robert and Pauline Buchner
Vince and Mary Call
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Jerry Trevillian, Sr.
Jon and Sarah Webb
Jim and Sue Weeks
Tom and Judy Woizeschke

*** If your name is missing or you would like to donate to the TBTA, please contact Vince Call at the number listed below or go to the TBTA web site to get a membership form.*

Thanks so much to all that donated and paid dues!!

