

Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 11, Issue 1

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

December 2008

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.*

REGIONAL EVENTS

- Jan. 4, 2009
Noquemanon Ski Marathon, Marquette Michigan.
- Jan. 17, 18, 2009
Garland Gripper/Glide, Lewiston, Michigan.
- Feb. 1, 2009
Hanson Hills Classic, Grayling, Michigan.
- Feb. 7, 2009
White Pine Stampede, Mancelona, Michigan.
- Feb. 14, 2009
North American Vasa, Traverse City, Michigan.
- Feb. 28, 2009
Black Mountain Classic race and Tour, Black Mountain.

www.thunderbaytrails.org on the WEB

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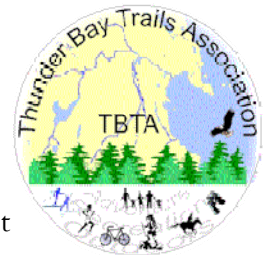


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TBTA CONTINUES TO MEET GROWING NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL NEEDS IN THE REGION

With the completion of the tenth year of volunteer service to the community of mountain bikers, hikers, skiers, trail runners, and other non-motorized trail users, TBTA prepares for the coming decade. Little hope of funding from the MDNR for trail upkeep or development, TBTA will continue to network with local and regional partners in the efforts to assure that non-motorized trails in northeast Michigan remain viable. The growing mountain bike interest has found the demands for quality trails at both Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills high on the priority list of many members. The annual Chippewa Hills Mountain bike race now in its eight year continues to impress all those that have taken on the challenging race.

Each coming winter the first snow fall brings about excitement from local cross country ski enthusiast, who have come to expect the quality of a groomed ski experience that TBTA has provided at the Norway Ridge, Chippewa Hills, and most recently at the local Thunder Bay Golf course in Alpena. The Black Mountain members of TBTA have taken the snow grooming operations to a new level with the volunteer efforts of Jim Meyers, grooming this past spring into April, both for classic and skate skiing. The annual Black Mountain Nordic Classic race has drawn praise from the cross country skiing community state wide. If you are new to the area, or have been on one of our local trails skiing, mountain biking, and hiking, TBTA hopes you will consider joining with an annual membership.



TBTA NOW GROOMING AT ALPENA GOLF CLUB



With the assistance of members Bobby Brady and Ron and Mike Anderson, local cross country ski enthusiast have been able to make use of the local Alpena Golf Club golf course on Golf Course road during the winter months. Bobby resides on the edge of the golf course and the Andersons live within a mile. They have been able to team up to assure that the ski course is maintained on a regular basis through out the ski season. The skating course, the only available track in the area, gets routine use during the week. Local families have found the gentle rolling classic track friendly for children and older skiers. Bobby and the Andersons have put in many hours to assure that the track is of the best quality for all trail users. If you happen to see them out grooming, please give them a big thanks for the huge efforts they put in each winter to assure that skiers will enjoy the winter months in a sport that is available to all ages and family members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT RANDY FAIRBANKS (989)727-3702
On the Web: www.thunderbaytrails.org

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Thunder Bay Trails Members Complete Annual DALMAC

Randy Fairbanks, trail boss, along with Bobby Brady, Russell and Mary Fairbanks, and Vince and Mary Call participated in the 400 mile Dick Allen Mackinaw five day bike tour. The annual bike tour departing from the MSU campus and ending in Detour village in the eastern UP is an annual sell out upon being posted on the Internet in January each year. First timers Vince and Mary Call, were guided along by the veteran Dalmac riders from TBTA. The ride took in the communities of Shepard, Lake City, Central Lake, Pellston and Detour. Camping at the local school grounds and meals provided at the schools leave the riders free to ride the 70+



miles each day without carrying camping gear. A fleet of trucks and trailers relocated the personal camping gear and other items to each of the schools. Sunny skies and a rain free week provided for a memorable tour of the back roads of northern Michigan taking in the rolling lake side hills of the villages of Boyne City, Walloon Lake, Torch Lake, Cross Village, Pellston and the amazing cycling across the Mackinaw Bridge. (go to youtube.com and search "crossing the Mackinaw Bridge DALMAC 2008"). Road cycling has continued to hold a strong interest along with mountain biking with TBTA members, who have all participated in numerous tours, races and events both locally and regionally. Northeast Michigan has some of the best back roads for quite summer evening road bike riding, with excellent road pavement and low volume traffic, and minimal steep grades to tackle. Consider joining TBTA if not already a member and meet some of the members who will be more than happy to share their enthusiasm for biking in Northern Michigan.

Fall Work Bee Remains a Critical Component of TBTA Services



Thunder Bay Trail Association volunteers continue to complete numerous hours of trail upkeep at both Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills. Each Fall TBTA must prepare the trail for the coming cross country ski season by brushing back the summer growth on the trails, repair signs, benches, and add wood chips to low wet areas. The wood chipping operations were completed in the morning with assistance from Wayne Christopher and his Ford tractor. Chippewa Hills trails will be in need of major trail upkeep in 2009 as it has had minimal trail brushing done due to the high demands of work at Norway

Ridge. TBTA has purchased a power brush hog to assist in the process and we will continue to acquire further trail maintenance tools in order to maintain the trails each season. It is with the trail memberships and work of the volunteers that this work is able to continue annually. Please consider joining in TBTA efforts with an annual membership!!

BLACK MOUNTAIN COMPLETES FIRST SEASON OF GROOMING

The Black Mountain division of Thunder Bay Trails have entered into its second full season of grooming operations at the trails north of Rogers City. Sitting along the east shore of Black Lake and in the eastern most reaches of the Lake Michigan snow belt region, the abundant snow fall has been both a blessing and a challenge. Head grooming chief for TBTA at Black Mountain, Jim Meyer, has put in hundreds of hours the past season assuring that the weekend ski enthusiasts have impeccable trails, both for skating and classic. His grooming operations will often take him late into the evening hours as it did for the annual Black Mountain Classic race due to a late snow fall the evening prior to the event. The trails remained in excellent shape for the late spring ski season with many members skiing the first weekend in April due to Jims efforts.

A late season tornado during the fall of 2007 brought down hundreds of acres of hardwoods, many on the Black Mountain trail. Efforts of cooperation with the MDNR and local logging operations, the trails were able to remain open for the season last year. If you have not skied Black Mountain in the recent years it is worth the drive north of Rogers City to experience the rolling hardwoods and panoramic views of Lake Huron, Black Lake and the superb trail grooming. Also, the annual Black Mountain Ski Classic, offers a challenging 30K classic race event to close out the cross country ski season in northern Michigan. A tour is also hosted for those interested in a more leisurely day, with a dinner hosted after the event at the beautiful Chateau Lodge. This years event is set for February 28, 2009.

ANNUAL TBTA MEMBERSHIP MEETING DATE SET

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the annual TBTA meeting to be held at Jeppeto's on the river in Alpena on December 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided, along with a special viewing of Road to Roubaix, a Toronto bike festival award winning documentary.

TBTA 2009 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!

- Hiking X-C Skiing Mtn. Biking Horseback Riding
 Running Nature Viewing Family Trail Walks

2009 Membership Dues:

Please check one category!

- Student \$5.00 Individual \$15.00 Household \$20.00

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Groomer Donation: \$ _____

Is this for Black Mountain Recreation Area?

Thunder Bay Trails Association is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization.
Donations and membership dues are tax-deductible 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

2703 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766



2008 TBTA Contributing Members and Donors

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Dawn and Brett Anderson
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Cary and Donna Bautel
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Vince and Mary Call
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Stu and Gail Stuber
Paula and Geoffrey Thompson
Susan Thompson
Kim Trevillian
Robert and Meredy Vande Kopple
David and Lynn VanderLinde
Amber and Dennis Vesotski
Jon and Sarah Webb
Robert and Rosita White
John and Rita Wilberg
Tom and Judy Woizeschke
Chris Wright
2009 TBTA Contributions
Russell Courtney
Hil and Marilyn Florek
Charlie Giordano
Tim Rumbles
Bob and Marylou Wagster

*** 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!!

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