

Copper Harbor TRAILS CLUB



WINTER 2012

NEWSLETTER

NEW TRAILS

The Copper Harbor Trails just keep getting better. This past season riders and hikers were up from all over the country. How flattering to know that people come from the "big mountains" to ride our trails! This year alone the trail crew finished some hearty projects.

The Flow, a three and a quarter mile trail zig-zagging down the north side of Brockway Mountain, is complete. The boys also beefed up the berms at the top, so braking is not required to turn -- just a good center of gravity and a steady lean!

At the base of The Flow, across M-26, a trail now meanders through the woods all the way to Bernard Street in town. Weary riders, tagalong dogs and whole families can travel this five foot wide gravel path. A special thanks goes out to the land owners who gave permission for land access for this community corridor.

Flying Squirrel is a downhill dirt jump course where daring riders get big air. A wide trail allows for a margin of error. With 35 features, this is definitely a trail for adrenaline junkies. This section starts at the top of Woopidy Woo and roars to the reroute on the Garden Brook Trail.

A new section of the Garden Brook Trail has been completed. This roller coaster whoops and twists in the valley above the brook itself. It's a sustainable and fun addition to the west side of the highway.

WEBSITE

Have you checked out our website lately? It's loaded with the most progressive technology found on any mountain biking website! Go ahead, click on selected trails on the Interactive Map, and you can see their stats and elevation profile at a glance, and follow a rider down the trail! This is a surefire way to entice newcomers to make the journey all the way north. A special thanks goes out to Chris Marr and Jason Manders at Trail Genius for making this vision a reality.

Also, be sure to visit once in a while to get updates about meetings, events and races. You'll never have to miss a get together!

Want to support our donors? You can easily visit the websites of all our donors just by clicking their logos on the donor page. And while you're on the site, why not meet your friendly board members, if you haven't already?

It's all at www.copperharbortrails.org.

CHTC DEEMED A RIDE CENTER!

As IMBA's Epic Rides now number over 50 across the globe, the International Mountain Bicycling Association wanted to find another way to showcase what they would consider "Model Trails." This fall they designated seven areas as Ride Centers throughout the world, and Copper Harbor is one of them!

Michigan Tech

Create the Future

When you're done riding the Copper Harbor Trails visit the trails at Michigan Tech, with nearly 30 miles of sweet singletrack, jumps, a trials course, and the area's ONLY pump track.

For maps and more information, visit www.sportrec.mtu.edu and click on Nordic Ski Trails.



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This means that the Copper Harbor trails are built for various skill levels and on varied terrain for beginner, intermediate and advanced riders. From fun back country riding, to gravity fed flow trails and dirt jump challenges, we have something for everyone in the biking world. Off the trails Copper Harbor offers a bike friendly community with its lodging, camping, food, gifts and other tours within a short distance.

Though Copper Harbor is currently a bronze level Ride Center, we have since scored extra points on the board which could put us at the silver level during the next review. The CHTC plans to hold a Grand Opening event for our Ride Center status this summer, so stay tuned for details.

A full-color photograph of Aaron Rogers riding The Flow Trail is on the cover of the latest IMBA newsletter. Read all about it in there, or check out www.imba/ride-center.

IMBA CHAPTER PROGRAM

You have probably noticed our partnership with the International Mountain Bicycling Association. When you become a member of the Copper Harbor Trails Club, you are now doing an even bigger part to promote trails around the world! With this bond, the CHTC is able to take support for our cause even farther.

When you renew your membership through IMBA, 60% of your dues go to IMBA to keep you connected on a broader level. 40% goes to our club. If you would like to make an extra donation, 100% of that will go directly to the CHTC, and it's tax deductible. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

WINTER EVENTS

Appreciation Party Saturday, January 28th. Come on CHTC enthusiast! This is our chance to thank YOU! This soiree will be held at the Sheldon Grill in Houghton -- the 7th Floor of the Magnesun Hotel. From 6 pm to 10 pm they'll be serving complementary appetizers and beer. At 7 pm Aaron Rogers will update you on our Ride Center status, becoming a Chapter of IMBA and other great trail news. We hope to see you there!

Tri Winter Cup Saturday, February 25th. Formerly known as the Backcountry Snow Race, the TriWinter Challenge got a face lift. Three nine mile races will be held consecutively throughout the day for skis, snowshoes and an "anything" category. The latter lends itself to creativity with a snow bike, a new invention or a repeat of skis or snowshoes. Male and female winners will place in each race as well as the over all "Cup" winner of all three races (total mileage over a marathon!). Food and hot beverages will be served all day in the community building. An award ceremony will be held in the evening at the Mariner North. Live music into the night as well. On Sunday we will offer free guided backcountry tours for various skill levels. Admission fee for one or all races is only \$25 per person pre-registered. Bring the family, and spend the weekend in Copper Harbor!

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FAT TIRE FESTIVAL

The 18th annual Fat Tire Festival was a great success. 437 racers from 11 states and Canada, with some attending from as far away as California, Colorado and New Mexico, combined to shatter the previous attendance record of 343. Plus 64 kids participated in the Jr. Fat Tire and 76 in Saturday's second annual "Super D" race. Copper Harbor was brimming with mountain bikers who contributed significantly to the local economy over the course of the holiday weekend.

The new race course was a test run, but worked well enough for the fact racers could enjoy some new trails never before included in the Fat Tire. In Copper Harbor-style tradition, the racers were greeted by cheering spectators in the Township Park along with a cookout, micro-brews and an awards presentation before Chasin' Steel had the crowd kicking up their heels with a spirited, high energy bluegrass performance. The CHTC managed to raise just under \$14,000 in profit as the Club's largest annual fundraiser. All proceeds go directly to new trail development. Thank you everyone who helped support this event!

DISC GOLF COURSE

Have you played disc golf at the course by the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge yet? It's a great sport for families, beginners and low impact athletes. The course also has some strategic obstacles, so advanced players are challenged as well. So far there is a problem with this course: it's too short.

Not for long! This fall five new holes were designed in pursuit of an 18 pin course. Hopefully next summer will lend itself to twice the fun, twice the challenge and twice the time in the woods.

Never played, but want to try? If you already have your discs, you can essentially play for free as many times as you want! Otherwise discs can be purchased at the Mountain Lodge or the Keweenaw Adventure Co. See you on the course!



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