

AuSable Spring Trials

May 31 – June 1, 2008

Grayling to Oscoda, Michigan

AuSable Spring Trials

PO Box 652

Oscoda, Michigan 48750

(989) 739-2946 or (989) 739-9231

cricket2@chartermi.net

One River - One Boat - 120 Miles

Michigan's earliest explorers used the AuSable River as their super highway from Grayling to Oscoda. They would paddle in groups up and down stream trapping and trading their way through the AuSable River valley. Today, the AuSable is known as one of the finest canoeing venues in North America.

Designed as a unique fundraiser for the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, the AuSable Spring Trials provides the opportunity for six to ten paddlers to experience the challenge of a non-stop river assault from Grayling to Oscoda in relay fashion. Each team of two will paddle separate river stages out of a total of nine - handing their canoe off to fellow team members.

The total distance is 120 miles, with stages from 8 to 18 miles long. The total trip time to Oscoda is eighteen to twenty-two hours. This is truly an opportunity to participate in northern Michigan adventure of a magnitude that few will ever experience in a lifetime.

People watch reality shows - The AuSable Spring Trials is the real deal. Call five friends and tell them to turn off the TV. Let's go paddling.

This is not your Saturday family canoe trip!

The race will begin beside the Grayling Post Office in a LeMan's style start at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 31st. Six to ten paddlers per team will run with their canoe to the river where two paddlers will depart in stage one. Canoes will be of standard design, and provided by the Spring Trials committee.

Paddlers will then trade off at each stage. All teams will travel together, and assist at portages, serve as feeders for their paddlers and safety support. Lettering for the sides of the canoes will be provided by the Spring Trials committee to reflect the name of the team's sponsor, city or team name.

Estimated paddle time

- Stage 1 Grayling to Wakeley Bridge 18 miles 2 hours, 50 minutes
- Stage 2 Wakeley Bridge to Parmalee Bridge 18 miles 2 hours, 50 minutes
- Stage 3 Parmalee Bridge to Mio Dam (portage) 13 miles 2 hours, 30 minutes
- Stage 4 Mio Dam to McKinley Bridge 16 miles 2 hours, 40 minutes
- Stage 5 McKinley Bridge to Alcona Dam (portage) 11 miles 2 hours, 30 minutes
- Stage 6 Alcona Dam to Loud Dam (portage) 14 miles 2 hours, 35 minutes
- Stage 7 Loud Dam to Cooke Dam (portage) 10 miles 2 hours, 25 minutes
- Stage 8 Cooke Dam to Foote Dam (portage) 8 miles 2 hours, 15 minutes
- Stage 9 Foote Dam to Oscoda 12 miles 2 hours, 30 minutes

Let's race!

How do the AuSable Spring Trials work? At 12:00 noon on May 31st, all six to ten members of the team will run with their canoe to the river where only two of them will paddle the first stage.

At Wakeley Bridge, they will hand the boat off to another two members of their team for the second stage. At the beginning of each stage, fresh paddlers will take the boat towards Oscoda.

Teams are self supporting and serve as their own canoe's safety support team.

How much is the entry fee? As a fundraising event for the AuSable River Canoe Marathon, the entry fee per boat is \$1,100. A \$350 down payment per team is due with the application, with the balance due by May 15th. Entry fees may be paid by the paddlers themselves, or raised by taking pledges or seeking sponsorships. This entry fee is a minimum, and if your team has the highest amount of pledges or sponsorships raised, there will be special recognition for each member of the top fundraising team.

What will the Spring Trials committee provide? Each team will be provided a typical livery-type canoe, paddles, a competitor shirt and detailed maps for each of your individual paddlers. The committee will also provide custom lettering for your canoe to provide recognition for your paddlers and sponsors. We intend to make the event known to the press and make at least one press release to the print media after the event has concluded. We are excited about the accuracy of the map set that will be provided the paddlers, as it will be the most comprehensive maps of the AuSable River provided to the paddling public ever.

What will the competitors provide? Paddlers will be responsible to provide their own personal flotation device, transportation, food and lighting system for night paddling. After securing a starting position with the \$350 down payment (balance due May 15th), the Spring Trials committee will provide each team a list of equipment requirements, pledge sheets, and good ideas of things to bring along. Team members will then be able to start studying the map sets and the stages that they will be paddling. It will be a good idea to study and paddle your assigned stages at the time of day that you will be paddling prior to the event.

Can we use Global Positioning System (GPS)? Absolutely! A GPS is a great aide to river navigation, and is able to tell you exactly where you are on Mio Pond prior to your first portage at 8:00 pm. What GPS does not provide is information such as where the stumps are in Mio Pond. That is why teams need to study the different stages of the river before paddling it for real.

Why livery canoes, not racing canoes? The goal is to provide a consistent standard to be judged by without the expense of purchasing a race canoe. After all, anyone can go fast in a racing canoe; real paddlers get their canoes at liveries... and paddle from Grayling to Oscoda.

Why paddle at night? It's impossible to paddle from Grayling to Oscoda without doing part of it at night. The start and finish times will work well for leaving Grayling and arriving in Oscoda.

Do we need a team captain? Yes. You will need one team captain that never paddles, but runs the team, or you may have two paddling captains as long as they are never on the river paddling at the same time. Your captain(s) will have overall responsibility for the safety of your team. Your paddlers will be very alone on the river except for other paddling teams on their way to Oscoda. Team captains will need to know which direction to go for assistance if needed. It is imperative that you KNOW when and where each stage swap is to be made.

Team Captain #1 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Captain #2 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #1 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #2 - Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___

Female ___ Shirt Size _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #3 - Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___

Female ___ Shirt Size _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #4 - Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___

Female ___ Shirt Size _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #5 - Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___

Female ___ Shirt Size _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #6 - Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___

Female ___ Shirt Size _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #7 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #8 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #9 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Team Member #10 - Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email Address _____ Birthday _____ Male ___
Female ___ Shirt Size _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to:
ARICM,
PO Box 652
Oscoda, MI 48750
(989) 739-2946 or (989) 739-9231

www.ausablecanoemarathon.org

For information or inquiries please contact:

Chris Rudolph at cricket2@chartermi.net
Tom Rudolph at rudyracing@charter.net