



# From CAMBA Country

# NEWS



Pre-Season 2008

## Call for Membership Renewal

By now you should have received your CAMBA membership renewal notice for the 2008 season. We hope that by now you have also returned it and extended your membership for one more season. If not, you have yet another opportunity to do so. Please fill out the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and return it to our office at your earliest convenience. If you're not sure if you've renewed or not, one way to check is on the mailing label on this newsletter. If the anniversary date is 4/1/08 (or earlier), your membership is

due. Or, please call our office toll-free at 866/747-6501 or contact us by email at [camba@cheqnet.net](mailto:camba@cheqnet.net) and we will look it up for you.

On another membership note, this winter the CAMBA board of directors decided to add a Lifetime category to our membership offerings. The cost is \$500 with benefits the same as a family membership. Unfortunately this option was not included in the recent membership mailing. If you have already renewed your membership, you may convert it to a Lifetime membership by noting this on

a membership form and deducting the amount already paid. Upon receipt of your form and check, we will adjust your membership status. Thanks.

## 2008 CAMBA Calendar

- March 19-22  
Wheel and Sprocket Bike Expo
- April 26  
Annual Trail Maintenance Day
- May 1  
Trails Open-National Forest  
Sawyer County Forest coincides with road bans
- May 15  
Trail Construction Begins
- June 1, 15, 22, 29  
CAMBA Kids
- July 18-20  
CAMBA Festival of the Trails
- September 12  
CAMBA Fat Tire Trail Tour
- September 12-14  
Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival - CAMBA Booth
- October 1  
CAMBA Fall Work. Day/Trail Ride
- October 11  
CAMBA Annual Meeting

## Spring Work Day Saturday, April 26

CAMBA's annual spring workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Our traditional format continues to serve us well, so we will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Mooselips Café in Seeley. We'll see who shows up, divide up into crews and head out to tune up the trails and trailheads for the coming season. Typically most areas are done by early afternoon, so there may be time for a ride if you are so inclined. Do note, however, that many of the area trails do not open until May 1, so all riding should be limited to dirt and gravel roads. Please observe these closures as they are intended to protect the trails.

Come dressed for the weather and working in the woods. Also bring a water bottle, work gloves and snacks. CAMBA will provide the necessary tools and supplies.

If you have any questions, please contact Ron Bergin at 715/798-3599 or [camba@cheqnet.net](mailto:camba@cheqnet.net).



## INTRODUCING THE CAMBA FESTIVAL OF THE TRAILS

Ever since retiring the CAMBA Fat Tire Poker Ride as one of our principal fund raising events, CAMBA has discussed coming up with a new event to replace it. Not any old event just for the sake of holding an event, but something that would serve as a significant fundraiser and help draw attention to the ever-expanding amount of singletrack

trails in the area. Those discussions came to a head late this winter when the decision was made to hold a three-day festival celebrating the CAMBA trails.

While many of the details remain to be worked out, the general concept of the event will revolve around a series of trail-based events including tours, time trials, educa-

tional and kids' programs. We are extremely excited about this new event and feel that it has great potential for CAMBA and mountain biking in our area.

The dates for the Festival are July 18-20. Further details will be forthcoming shortly.

# Trail Construction Update

CAMBA's singletrack trail initiative will resume this spring and summer with more great trail planned for the Hayward area. Last year's effort completed the final two-plus miles of the Hatchery Creek Trail, tying it off to the Mosquito Brook Trailhead. The crew pressed on from Mosquito Brook north building 1.25 miles of what will now be known as the Makwa Trail advancing to near CAMBA landmarker H1 and the junction with the Whitetail Trail. Makwa means black bear in Ojibwe.

From where we left off to Gravel Pit Road, the next logical road crossing, is approximately 2.5 miles. This will be our first goal for this season. Once we reach that point, it is planned to shift construction efforts to Cty Hwy OO and begin working south. The rationale for this approach is two-fold: Gravel Pit Road provides a connection to the Birkie Trail and other area trails so the new singletrack won't actually deadhead; and by starting to work south from OO it is hoped that some of the energy and excitement emanating from the new singletrack in Hayward can be transferred to the Seeley area where hopefully a new crew of volunteers can be enlisted as the trail moves closer to that community.

It is then expected to take one more year to make the full connection from OO to Gravel Pit Road. It is conceivable that we might have two crews working toward each other from opposite directions and have our own Union-Pacific railroad moment when the two segments of trail are connected.

But we still won't be done.

At a CAMBA trail committee meeting this winter, it was agreed that to truly make this a trail of significance, it should go all the way to Bayfield County and connect with the Ojibwe Trail. To accomplish this lofty goal it would require

another one to two years of construction. But when completed, the resulting singletrack mountain bike trail from Hayward to Cable will be a monumental accomplishment.

As far as the actual construction goes, we also decided to continue with a combination of mechanized and hand labor. Current plans call for leasing or utilizing a donated mini-excavator to dig the initial trail tread and follow up with finish work by hand. CAMBA volunteer Butch Grainger has generously offered several weeks of his time this summer as our equipment operator. Steve Morales will again help oversee the Hayward project with the summer crew. Stay tuned – we could really see some big things happening out there this summer.

Of course the Hayward area is not the only trail construction going on in CAMBA country. As you may know, CAMBA has received approval from the Forest Service to completely remove the Rock Lake bike trail from all segments of the ski trail and other woods road, putting it entirely on singletrack. Rock Lake project coordinator, John Leighton, has already completed several short segments, putting in a lot of time on his own or with the assistance of several volunteers. Plans are coming together for this summer's work on the Rock Lake trail and may include the hiring of a small crew to help advance that project. An estimated four miles of new construction is anticipated.



## Fund Raising Moving Forward

While the snow has been on the ground, CAMBA's fund raising efforts to support our trail development initiative have been progressing. Several generous donations and grants have come our way during the off-season. CAMBA would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to Xcel Energy for a \$1,000 grant and REI/IMBA for a grant of \$500. In addition, we also received several nifty sets of tools through the REI/IMBA grant. Thank you very much.

In addition, CAMBA member Ben Marks made a generous donation of appreciated stock which his company, USB Financial, agreed to match. Together the donations total over \$5,000. It was Mr. Marks' request that these funds be specifically applied to help further singletrack trail development in the Rock Lake area.

Ben's contribution was a good example of creative ways in which CAMBA members can come to our aid. If your place of employment has a matching donation program, perhaps you will consider a similar contribution.

Fund raising continues to be a high priority, probably more so than ever before in the history of CAMBA. Our lofty trail ambitions will create a significant recreational legacy for the Chequamegon Area. But as we knew going into it, it will not come cheaply. We continue to look for creative and substantive fund raising opportunities. If you are in a position to help facilitate or initiate a special fund raising project, we would love to hear from you. Of course, individual contributions are always welcome.

And don't forget, CAMBA is now a 501(c)3 organization, and all contributions are tax deductible.



# Member Survey Report

Last fall CAMBA conducted a survey of its membership to learn more about its perceptions and opinions regarding the CAMBA trails. After some serious number crunching, the results are in. While we were not surprised by some of the results, we learned a number of things from the survey. After digesting these results, the CAMBA board will use the information gained to help guide our trail philosophy and initiatives as we move forward with our singletrack trail development.

The survey results follow. Additional comments from the survey are posted along with these results on [www.cambatrails.org](http://www.cambatrails.org).

## 1. What area are you from?

Local (NW Wis.)	10.6%
Twin Cities	45.0%
Madison	5.3%
Milwaukee	1.8%
Chicago	5.3%
Duluth	5.3%
Green Bay	3.5%
Other: Eau Claire, Elroy, Glenwood City, Wauwatosa, Marinette SE WI, Central MN, SE MN, Rockford, Rockton, Iowa, St. Louis, MO. All 1.8% each.	

## 2. What is your level of experience?

Expert/Elite	14.3%
Experienced Enthusiast	50.0%
Average/Moderate	32.1%
Relatively inexperienced	0.0%
Beginner	3.6%

## 3. On about how many different days did you bike on the CAMBA Trails during the past 12 months?

1-5:	27.3%
6-10:	21.8%
11-20:	27.3%
Over 20:	18.2%

## 4. Which CAMBA Cluster(s) do you most frequently ride.

Cable:	1 - 28.6%	2 - 30.0%	3 - 14.1%	4 - 7.0%	5 - 7.0%	6 - 3.5%
Delta:	1 - 0.0%	2 - 5.3%	3 - 1.8%	4 - 3.5%	5 - 8.8%	6 - 36.9%
Drummond:	1 - 16.7%	2 - 1.8%	3 - 3.5%	4 - 7.0%	5 - 8.8%	6 - 31.6%
Hayward	1 - 23.8%	2 - 15.9%	3 - 21.1%	4 - 8.8%	5 - 1.8%	6 - 8.8%
Namakagon:	1 - 42.6%	2 - 14.1%	3 - 7.0%	4 - 14.1%	5 - 10.6%	6 - 1.8%
Seeley:	1 - 17.5%	2 - 15.8%	3 - 21.1%	4 - 7.0%	5 - 1.8%	6 - 12.3%

## 5. Which CAMBA trails do you most frequently ride? List top 5.

	1	2	3	4	5
Birkie	2.1%	0.0%	2.3%	2.8%	12.9%
Boulevard	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Delta Hills	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%
Esker	0.0%	2.2%	4.7%	8.3%	9.7%
Firetower	6.3%	0.0%	2.3%	5.6%	0.0%
Frost Pocket	0.0%	2.2%	2.3%	2.8%	0.0%
Glacier	2.1%	4.4%	0.0%	11.1%	3.2%
Hatchery Creek	16.7%	6.7%	16.3%	13.9%	3.2%
Lake Helene	6.3%	2.2%	4.7%	0.0%	6.5%
Namakagon	10.4%	15.6%	14.0%	5.6%	12.9%
Ojibwe	6.3%	15.6%	4.7%	25.0%	3.2%
Out & Back	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%

Patsy Lake	14.6%	6.7%	14.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Phipps	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Reynard Lake	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%
Rock Lake	25.0%	20.0%	11.6%	11.1%	16.1%
Short & Fat	2.1%	6.7%	9.3%	0.0%	3.2%
Sleigh	0.0%	2.2%	9.3%	0.0%	3.2%
Sugarbush	0.0%	2.2%	4.7%	2.8%	6.5%
Tall Pines	2.1%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
Terrain Park	4.2%	2.2%	2.3%	0.0%	3.2%
West Fork	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Winding Pine	0.0%	4.4%	4.7%	0.0%	0.0%

**6. What type(s) of trails do you prefer to ride (check all that apply):**

Technical singletrack: 68%  
 Easy riding singletrack: 91%  
 Double track/Woods Roads/Snowmobile & Ski Trails: 67%  
 Gravel Roads: 26 %  
 Paved Roads: 14%

**7. When you ride, what type of experience are you seeking?**

Tour – easy ride/enjoy the trail: 10.7%  
 Fitness workout/Training: 26.4%  
 Combination: 58.2%

**8. What distance do you typically ride?**

1-5 miles: 0.0%  
 6-10 miles: 14.0%  
 1-20 miles: 51.0%  
 Over 20 miles: 33.6%

**9. If you ride singletrack, how technical a trail do you seek?**

Easy riding: 14.3%  
 Mix of mellow and challenge: 72.1%  
 Challenging – the more technical, the better: 10.7%

**10. How do you feel about special challenge features (log piles, tricks, drops, jumps, ladders, teeter-totters, etc.)?**

Like: 21.3%  
 Dislike: 57.4%  
 No Opinion: 19.4%

**11. If we offered these features, would you prefer the option to ride or walk around them?**

Yes: 91.2%  
 No: 3.6%  
 No Opinion: 5.3%

**12. How do the CAMBA trails compare to other trails you've ridden:**

	Better	Comparably	Not as good
Wisconsin	72.1%	10.6%	0.0%
Midwest	65.1%	17.4%	0.0%
Nationally	30.1%	52.5%	1.8%

**13. With regard to degree of difficulty, how do the CAMBA trails compare to other trails you've ridden:**

	Easier	Comparably	Harder
Wisconsin	2.2%	49.1%	30.1%
Midwest	2.2%	54.4%	23.0%
Nationally	25%	44.1%	3.5%

## CAMBA Kids Back for Second Year

This summer, the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association will offer its second youth instructional course – CAMBA Kids. The course will again teach young cyclists how to ride off-road mountain bike trails and improve upon skills learned last year. Course content is geared for riders age 6-13 with basic bicycle riding experience.

The course will take place at Hatchery Creek Park in Hayward on Sunday afternoons, June 1, 15, 22 and 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The course will include:

- Bike safety, fit and maintenance
- Following IMBA's "Rules of the Trail"
- Bike handling theory
- Drills to promote bike handling skills
- A short trail ride at every session
- Obstacle course at every session

Participants will need a mountain bike in good working condition and an approved helmet (required). Mechanics supplied by the New Moon Bike and Ski shop will again be on hand to offer bicycle tune-ups prior to setting out on the trails.

The cost is \$15.00 for CAMBA family members, \$35.00 for non-members. Family memberships are available for \$40.00.

For a registration form or more information, call (715) 798-3599 or send an email to [camba@cheqnet.net](mailto:camba@cheqnet.net). The mail-in registration deadline is Thursday, May 23. Registration forms are also available on the CAMBA website, [www.cambatrails.org](http://www.cambatrails.org), and on the first class day, Saturday, June 1 at Hatchery Creek Park.



## Forest Service Acknowledges CAMBA Volunteers

In December, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service paid a special honor to CAMBA volunteers Ron Bergin, John Leighton and Dave Nelson. Each has contributed a significant amount of time and effort helping further mountain bike trail development on the Great Divide District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. District Ranger Connie Chaney initiated the award to recognize their efforts. She invited Regional Forest Supervisor Jeanne Higgins to a gathering at Mooselips Café in Seeley where the trio was presented with an engraved wood plaque and a reversible Forest Service volunteer vest.

Nelson was the principal architect of the Rock Lake Trail re-route, removing it from the ski trail. He spent hundreds of hours walking the woods hanging flagging, finding the best terrain for the new trail. Leighton came on board early in the Rock Lake project and quickly became its most passionate advocate. His contributions can be seen in particular on the Hildebrand Lake Loop. John continues to champion the Rock Lake Trail. Bergin oversaw construction of the most of the Rock Lake Trail and worked for three summers as the trail grew in length and stature. His efforts included recruiting numerous volunteers from Prentice House, CAMBA Trail Camps and CAMBA workdays as well as working with contractors and paid trail crew.

The Forest Service plaque reads:

In Recognition of the  
Extensive Amount of Volunteer Time  
and  
Effort You Devoted to the  
Creation of an  
Outstanding Single-Track Trail System  
That Will be Enjoyed by  
Silent Sports Enthusiasts and Appreciated by  
Trail Users For Years to Come

Your Contributions Exemplify Community  
Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet N.F.



L-R: Jeanne Higgins, Dave Nelson,  
John Leighton, Connie Chaney, Ron Bergin

## Fan Mail

It's always great to hear from CAMBA members and visitors to our trails. Positive feedback is very gratifying and validating of our efforts, and constructive criticism is important to help guide our vision of the trails. A few appreciative riders offered the following comments.

We had the pleasure of riding 3 days on CAMBA trails over Labor Day - Ojibwe, Fish Hatchery and others. The single track was fabulous. We loved it. Like butter! Thanks for all your hard work to make the sport so accessible and enjoyable. We'll be back. Enclosed a token of support.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Sussex

Memorial Day weekend we rode Hatchery Creek, Ojibwe and Rock Lake single track trails and we were very impressed. Please keep building single track trails and we will continue to support CAMBA.

Doug & Colleen Erdmann

My wife and I had an opportunity to ride some of the CAMBA trails Labor Day weekend and we loved it! We rode Hatchery, Ojibwe, Esker, Namakagon and Emerson Lake Cutoff and we were impressed with the quality of the trails. They are so enjoyable because they followed the IMBA rules of trail building. Great flow, technical challenge and beautiful scenery are the reasons we ride. What makes the CAMBA trails great is that there are so many

trails in close proximity. Please use our contribution to build more single track.

"Build quality trails and people will come."

We have already made our reservations for next year. Thank you for your efforts,

Sincerely,  
Doug & Colleen Erdmann

We love your trails!! Here is a donation. Please earmark it for the trail maintenance. Thank you for letting us share your love for CAMBA trail system.

Birkie Girls

Enclosed is my donation to the ongoing single track projects in the Hayward/Cable area. I would like to thank all of you for your continued efforts to provide some of the best riding in the Midwest. My efforts to help build have been minimal this summer, for which I feel bad but work hours have been long. I will try to do better!

I have enjoyed all the trails a lot, particularly the new Hatchery Park trails (what a hoot), and hope you continue to keep in mind those of us who are somewhat technically challenged when it comes to difficult courses. If you choose to build more technical trails I hope you consider loops off the main course as was done with the Hildebrand loop.

Special thanks to the folks who maintain the trails. I know it is a huge job and is much appreciated. I try to clear the trails with debris when I ride, but my 54 year old body can only lift so much weight.

With appreciation,  
Marcia Engebretsen

Clip & mail with your check to:  
CAMBA - P.O. BOX 141 - CABLE, WI 54821

**MAPS** - I do not wish to join at this time; however, please send me the CAMBA overview map and a set of cluster maps for which I have enclosed \$5 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

**VOLUNTEER INFO** - Join us for trail work and other projects throughout the year.

**SPONSORSHIP and AREA MAP ADVERTISING**

I am also interested in:

renewing members only:  Please send me a new set of maps  Thanks, the maps I have are fine

\$25 - individual  \$40 - family  \$50 - business/club  \$100 - premium  \$500 - lifetime  \$\_\_\_\_\_ contribution

dues enclosed:  new member  renewal

phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

street \_\_\_\_\_ city/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

name/business \_\_\_\_\_

# CAMBA membership form

100%PCW

Chequamegon Area  
Mountain Bike Association  
P.O. Box 141  
Cable, WI 54821



(715) 798-3599  
camba@chequet.net  
www.cambatrails.org

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