



Proposal to Host
the
12 World Rogaining Championships
2014



The Black Hills Orienteering Club (BHOC) and Rick Emerson of Peak Assurance, Inc. are pleased to present this proposal to host the 12 World Rogaining Championships 2014. The Black Hills National Forest is comprised of 1.2 million acres of timbered mountains, canyons, grasslands, streams, lakes, and caves. The name “Black Hills” comes from the Lakota words Paha Sapa, which mean “hills that are black.” From a distance, these Ponderosa Pine-covered hills, rising several thousand feet above the surrounding prairie, appear to be black.

Overview

The site for 12WRC 2014 would be the northern Black Hills of South Dakota, offering world-class recreational opportunities as evidenced by past events like Primal Quest Badlands 2009, the Dakota Rogaining Championships, the Black Hills Fat Tire Festival, Nash Hash 2008, and others. The 2014 event dates would be August 16th and 17th.

Rapid City is the closest metropolitan area at 29 miles with a regional airport serviced by four major carriers (Allegiant, American, Delta/Northwest, and United) and connections to seven major hubs (Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Las Vegas, Mesa/Phoenix, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City). Other Hills communities are Deadwood and Lead at 14 miles and Hill City at 27 miles.

Tourism is a major industry in the Black Hills, with attractions like Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park, and the Badlands in close proximity. Numerous lodging opportunities range from campgrounds to cabins, and from hotels to vacation homes. There will be no shortage of accommodations in mid-August, as this is our shoulder season – a week after the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Participant camping would be available at public and private facilities throughout the Hills – as near as across the road. The Black Hills National Forest has 30 campgrounds with more than 682 individual sites. Dispersed camping is also allowed in the Forest. Private campgrounds with full facilities are located along US 385 between Hill City and Deadwood/Lead. We would work with local business to negotiate WRC discounts and provide links on the event web site. The local Chambers of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureaus are very active and support hosting the World Rogaining Championships. Competitors will find these resources very efficient and friendly.

The Rogaine

The Rogaine would be a 24-hour championship. Teams may consist of two to three members and IRF rules of competition and special requirements for the World Rogaining Championships would apply. SportIdent electronic punching (e-punching) will be used.

A detailed safety plan will guide operations for the Rogaine. This plan will include information on prevention, first aid, the medical team, search and rescue ("SAR"), ambulance, police, fire, and rescue.

At least 25 volunteers will be used for the Rogaine. Designated roles will include the Meet Director, Registrar, Safety Officer, SAR Coordinator, Medical Officer, and First Responder, at a minimum. The Rogaine area spans two counties, Lawrence and Pennington. The Office of Emergency Management for both counties will be on standby for the Rogaine. OEM dispatchers are the primary points of contact for SAR, the county sheriffs, and fire and rescue districts.

Four types of communications between staff members will be used for the Rogaine. These means include cellular, the State of South Dakota digital trunk and analog systems, FRS radios, and runner. Cellular towers are located in close proximity to Roubaix Lake, providing excellent coverage for the Hash House. There are also towers along the US 385 corridor, providing adequate coverage for the course. State and local response personnel operate on the South Dakota Interagency Communications System and will make a radio or two available to the Rogaine for emergency response. County SAR Teams and other emergency responders also communicate via the digital trunk system and will switch to analog systems in the event of tactical response.

A registration fee of \$150 US per participant may be proposed for WRC 2014. Competitive events in the National Forest incur a 5% charge on entry fees and prize money, as well as cost recovery. Cost recovery reimburses the Forest Service for evaluating environmental impacts and for manning the Forest during the event. Cost recovery has been approximated at \$2,000 US.

The Hills Course

The course would be situated on approximately 90 square miles of national forest interspersed with small sections of private land. Existing roads, trails, and features bound the course.

- Northwest on US 385 to Brownsville
- Brownsville Cutoff to Englewood
- Mickelson Trail through Rochford to Rapid Creek-Castle Creek junction
- Down Rapid Creek to Silver City
- East from Silver City along Pactola Reservoir north shore to US 385
- Northwest on US 385 to County Road 255 and Roubaix Lake

The Black Hills are a mountain environment with course elevations ranging between 4600 feet (1400 meters) near Silver City to 6804 feet (2074 meters) on the summit of Custer Peak. Numerous Forest Service roads, old logging tracks, and wildlife trails may be used to facilitate travel. Somewhat rectangular in shape, the area is approximately 18 miles (29 kilometers) long and 6 miles (9.7 kilometers) wide. Please reference the accompanying topographic map.

The Hash House would be centrally located at Roubaix Lake Campground, elevation 5515 feet or 1681 meters. The Hash House will function as race headquarters and be used for registration, medical staff, the camp kitchen, and volunteer staging. This National Forest campground has 56 units, potable water, and restrooms.

August weather in the Hills can be varied, as 2010 saw a high of 91 F and a low of 37 F. Average highs are typically in the low 80's F with average lows in the low 50's F. Total precipitation for August 2010 was 1.01 inches and historical rainfall averages 0.98 inches – typically quite pleasant. The moon will have started to wane, as the full moon is August 10th.

Water will be staged at various locations across the course. Volunteers will utilize four-wheel drive and all-terrain vehicles for staging, spotting, and response.

Rogaine maps will be modified USGS maps professionally prepared and printed by MyTopo.com. Shape files from the Forest Service with the most recent roads and trails will be overlaid on USGS topographic maps. Rick Emerson has personally worked with Kevin Toohill of MyTopo.com on maps for both Primal Quest and the Dakota Rogaining Championships. These waterproof maps are expensive, but first rate and worthy for the World Rogaining Championships. Extra copies will be available for purchase as event memorabilia.

Administration

Key personnel managing the Rogaine include Rick Emerson as the Meet Director and Course Designer, Randy Ericksen as the Course Vetter, Jon Machacek as the Event Registrar, Bridget Machacek as Volunteer Coordinator, and Scott Gengler as a Course Setter. Rick was the Course Designer and Assistant Race Director for Primal Quest Badlands 2009. This 600-mile expedition adventure race spanned much of western South Dakota. Rick served as the point person, working directly with public and private parties at the federal, state, and local levels on permitting, logistics, and promotion.

Following the success of PQ, Rick started the Dakota Rogaining Championships in 2010. This Rogaine has been held in Custer State Park, at 71,000 acres, one of the largest state parks in the United States. This Rogaine consists of a 24-hour championship, a 12-in-24 hour intermediate race, and a 4-hour short course and was sanctioned by Orienteering USA.

Randy Ericksen has competed in outdoor recreation events since the 1980's. A world-class mountain biker and ultra distance runner, Randy designed a short, but stout Hills O course used for PQ Badlands. Originally slated to be the PQ Trekking Director, Randy filmed "The World's Most Challenging Human Endurance Competition" and produced a DVD of the event. Randy continues to film extreme sports – trekking alongside participants during competitions. He vetted the Dakota Rogaining Championships in 2010 and has designed smaller courses for local C meets.

Bridget and Jon Machacek have been active in the Black Hills Orienteering Club since its inception in 2007. Bridget serves as the Club Treasurer. Together, they have coordinated numerous C meets for BHOC. Jon was the Registrar for DRC 2010 and will be helping set controls for the 2011 event. Prior to moving to the Black Hills, Bridget and Jon were very active in orienteering events in California. They participated in and volunteered on events with the Los Angeles Orienteering Club and ran the Day and Night Challenge for the Bay Area Orienteering Club.

Scott Gengler was a Course Setter for the 2010 Dakota Rogaining Championships and the Biking Director for Primal Quest Badlands 2009. Scott is dedicated to making every event a success, as evidenced by his can-do attitude before, during, and after DRC 2010 and the numerous hours planting checkpoint volunteers for PQ.

Promotion

12WRC 2014 would be advertised through traditional means like IRF, OUSA, as well as on adventure racing sites including Checkpoint Tracker, SleepMonsters, and Explore.Compete.Live (formerly Adventure World Magazine). Vendors who currently back the Dakota Rogaining Championships and other national sponsors would be solicited for their support and sponsorship. The peakassurance.net website would be our primary site for promotion and information dissemination and RegOnline would be used for formal registration. National press releases would be issued through the South Dakota Department of Tourism. Local Convention and Visitor Bureaus could also promote the event through their sites.

In Closing

It takes three things to make an event successful – people, places, and processes. The Black Hills Orienteering Club, coupled with the volunteers (our numerous friends in other outdoor recreation clubs), and the local Chambers of Commerce, avail the team and experience to host these World Rogaining Championships. Past experience shows we can host a professional, classy event that meets competitor expectations and is palatable with the locals and public entities. Our goal is always a win-win for all.

The place – the Black Hills of South Dakota – is like no other. Seldom on Earth will you find such a diverse terrain, open access, and formidable challenges. The area speaks for itself – all we have to do is lay our blueprint upon it...

Past successes illustrate we have the skills and experience to host the World Rogaining Championships. Our orienteering club may not be large, but our resources are vast as most all of us belong to the other outdoor recreation groups. We support each other to ensure all events succeed.

One of the IRF prerequisites is a friendly hash house atmosphere. The people in western South Dakota opened their arms and homes to PQ competitors. I would expect no less hospitality with WRC 2014. Our state motto is “Great Places, Great Faces” – please come see for yourselves!

Map of the Black Hills Course Area



Pictures from the Black Hills Course



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Media Contacts to Promote 12WRC 2014

South Dakota Media

Wanda Goodman
Media and Public Relations Manager
South Dakota Office of Tourism
605-773-3301
Wanda.goodman@state.sd.us

Michelle Thomson
Tourism Director
Rapid City Convention and Visitors Bureau
605-718-8489
thomson@visitrapidcity.com

Lee Harstad
Deadwood Chamber of Commerce
800-999-1876
lee@deadwood.org

Melissa Johnson
Executive Director
Lead Chamber of Commerce
605-584-1100
chamberdirector@rushmore.com

Deb Bruce
Director
Hill City Chamber of Commerce
605-574-2368
hcacoc@hills.net

Jack Caudill
KEVN-TV (FOX)
605-394-7777
jackc@blackhillsfox.com

Mike Modrick
KOTA-TV (ABC)
605-342-2000
kotanews@kotatv.com

Media Contacts (cont.)

Beth Jensen
KCLO (CBS) - KELOLAND
605-336-1100
bjensen@keloland.com

Kyle Horan
KNBN (NBC) - News Center 1
605-355-0024

Andrew Cutler
Sports Editor
Rapid City Journal
605-394-8291
andrew.cutler@rapidcityjournal.com

Orienteering/Adventure Racing Contacts

Attackpoint
www.attackpoint.com

Checkpointtracker
media@checkpointtracker.com

Kraig Becker
The Adventure Blog
512-636-4083
kungfujedi@gmail.com

Explore.Compete.Live
Clay Abney
251.586.4271
clay@explorecompetelive.com

SleepMonsters
richard@sleepmonsters.com

The SD Office of Tourism is probably our best general publicity resource as they have a database of contacts for disseminating press releases – both across the state and nationally.