

Opening Weekend: Beach Volleyball & Bicycle Touring

Opening weekend, July 5 and 6, promises to offer the season's hottest sporting events.

Kicking off the Festival beach side, volleyball players will compete with two and four-man teams on Saturday and Sunday, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Beach Volleyball, sponsored by AquaFina and Domino's Pizza in cooperation with WKLTV Radio, is held on the City Volleyball Courts west of the Festival Open Space Park. Pre-registration is required.

Bicycle touring enthusiasts will enjoy the scenery of the Old Mission Peninsula during the Old Mission Peninsula Bike Tour, sponsored by Traverse City Record-Eagle. Traveling the shores of East and West Grand Traverse Bays, cyclists will ride the beautiful Old Mission Peninsula, which separates East and West Bays.

After the tour, riders will refuel on a pasta lunch buffet. The tour event begins at Traverse City Central High School at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 6.

For race and tour information and applications visit our web site at www.cherryfestival.org or call 231-947-4230.

Races & fun run celebrate fitness & competition

Athletes of all abilities will take to the streets of Traverse City in three nationally acclaimed races on Saturday, July 12, 2003.

The **Festival of Races** sponsored by TRAVERSE, Northern Michigan's Magazine and Traverse City Light and Power, will challenge 2,000 runners along the shores of Grand Traverse Bay, over cherry orchard-lined hilltops, and through spectator-filled Downtown Traverse City. The event features a 15K foot race and a 5K Community Walk. Race packet pick-up and late registration is Friday, July 11, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, July 12, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., at the Northwestern Michigan College. Also Friday evening, runners and their families have an opportunity to enjoy a Festival Pasta Dinner beginning at 6 p.m. at The Traverse City Central High School, in the cafeteria.

Meijer Golden Mile competitors have hopes of breaking the World's fastest mile record. Some of the world's swiftest men and women milers are invited to run in one of the Midwest's most competitive mile races on Saturday

morning, July 12 at 9:30 a.m. Cash awards are presented to the fastest athletes who are no longer eligible for NCAA competition.

Racers run in front of nearly 70,000 curbside spectators anticipating the start of the DTE Energy Cherry Royale Parade. A repeat performance may be in store for the **Wheelchair Mile**, Saturday, July 12 at 8:30 a.m. Top wheelers from across North America will compete in one of the World's fastest wheelchair events. In addition to the open division, an intermediate division for both men and women wheelchair racers will be held.

Families looking for a bit less competitive run can enjoy the **All New Great Wolf Run (formally the Fun Run)** presented by Great Wolf Lodge on Friday, July 11. No pre-registration is necessary. The start is at Traverse City Central High School. Raffle prizes and a party atmosphere is sure to make the Wolf Run and Walk a family hit for years to come. A grand prize drawing will include an overnight stay at the Great Wolf Lodge and Indoor Waterpark. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon. For more race information and applications visit our web site at www.cherryfestival.org or call 231-947-4230.



Bed race before Heritage parade

There may be plenty of beds, but participants sure won't be catching any Z's during the 25th annual Planter's Go Nuts! Bed Race.

The event takes place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 8 right before the AAA Michigan Heritage Parade. Fancy decorated beds on wheels will race down the 100 and 200 blocks of Front Street, while onlookers cheer on their favorite beds.

"Design is important for a lot of the beds," said Patti Lyon, director of the bed race. "Last year the ALLTEL team dressed up as Kiss, and Red Lobster usually does a

cute bed. There's a lot of creativity."

The beds are judged both on design and on speed. Most beds are sponsored by businesses, Lyon said, but anyone can join in on the fun.

A \$30 fee is required to sponsor a bed, as well as a team of five members, all 18 years of age or older. All beds must be present at 5 p.m. the day of the race.

The event is limited to 16 beds, and contestants can grab an application at the Cherry Festival office downtown or sign up online at www.cherryfestival.org.

Each bed races twice, presuming it stays in one piece. "Sometimes they fall apart," Lyon said. "It's

always a lot of unexpected things. It's a lot of entertainment right before the parade."

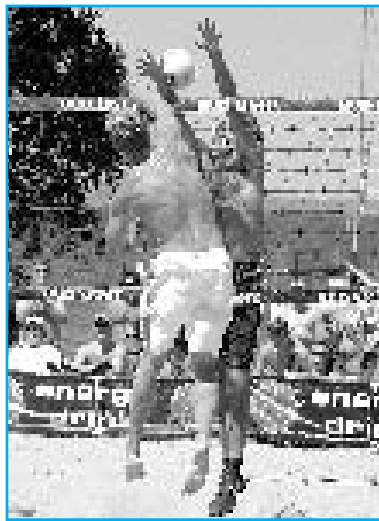
Spectators can also watch another race later on in the week, this one with a blue horizon.

The Credit One Milk Carton Boat Regatta will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday, July 12.

Captains and skippers alike can show off their skills and creativity using only milk cartons, wire, wood and glue.

The race will be followed by the ALLTELL Festival Fireworks, presented by Traverse Bay Entertainment.

— Sarah Henry



Milk Carton Boat Regatta July 12

The Credit Union One Milk Carton Boat Regatta will allow skippers and want-to-be skippers an opportunity to show their maritime skills. There is just one catch; the boats must be made only with milk cartons, wire, wood, and glue. The most cunning captains will win in categories of speed and design. The event is an exciting way to end your

stay at the National Cherry Festival. Spectators can sit shore side to witness the launch and race on Saturday, July 12, at 8:00 p.m., followed by the ALLTEL Festival Fireworks Finale, presented by Traverse Bay Entertainment. The Fireworks Finale is presented in cooperation with Double Rock WKLTV Radio.

Applications for Festival events are available by visiting our web site at www.cherryfestival.org or by calling 231-947-4230.