



The Official Publication of the Montour Trail Council

MONTOUR TRAIL-LETTER

Volume 22 Issue 2

March-April 2011

Ramping-Up in South Park story and photos by Dave Oyler



The Scene before.....

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The February 12 work party had three goals. One, clear the ramp site for 800 cubic yards of fill, spoil to be removed from the Clifton Road Bridge project site; second, to delineate the outline of the S shaped ramp (the S shape lengthens the ramp and reduces its otherwise steep slope); and third, prepare the site for the extension of two drain pipes installed by South Park Township as part of the fill which replaced the Triphammer Road Bridge.

Eight members of the South Hills Friends of the Montour Trail were joined by six other Montour Trail volunteers, two employees of Mingo Creek Construction and a trail neighbor, a total of 17 workers. The work party began at 9:00 a.m. and eleven volunteers were still at it to the finish at 4:00 p.m. They were assisted by two critical pieces of equipment donated by Mingo Creek Construction; a chipper and, most importantly, a track mounted skid loader. Volunteers used chain saws to down trees and cut them to length and then stacked the logs and branches for the skid loader. The skid loader used a thumb attachment to pick up and haul the logs and slash to the chipper at the top of the ramp. The logs were then cut up by volunteers to provide future firewood and the branches fed to the chipper to compact their volume. Roughly 20 trees between 3 and 6 inches in diameter and another dozen between 6 and 20 inches in diameter were removed, with many smaller saplings knocked down by the skid loader. By the end of the day the chipper had produced a pile of chips and sawdust nearly six feet high, and there was an even higher pile of logs. The skid loader, using its bucket, also dug a temporary road which will be used to extend the drain pipes. After the site was cleared, volunteers laid out the ramp centerline and marked the edges of the ramp to make future planning of the project easier.



.....the scene after.

The value of the volunteer work completed on February 12 is estimated at \$3000. This can be directly applied toward the dollar for dollar match required by the grant received by the Montour Trail Council from DCNR in 2008 for construction of trail between Triphammer Road and Piney Fork Road. More importantly, it moves completion of this 0.7 mile of trail one step closer. (continues on page 4)

Visit the Montour Trail Web Site at:
www.montourtrail.org

To Converse, join the Yahoo Group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Montour-Trail/>



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The Prez Sez: It's an Eleven, 2011 That Is

Your Board of Directors has agreed on a particularly ambitious agenda to advance this year. We plan to improve the Trail by:

- Completing projects started last year to re-construct 8 miles of trail in Robinson and North Fayette Townships and to build the Airport Branch.
- Start construction of a connecting piece in South Park and a pair of new bridges in Cecil.
- Advance design work on a small bridge in Peters and a big one in Library.
- Light the National Tunnel.
- Work with our partners to build the Westland Branch and, in Bethel Park, the J.R. Taylor Memorial Bridge.

Clearly, this is a lot for a bunch of volunteers to undertake.

Several initiatives are being made to start closing the trail gaps in South Park and Jefferson Hills through easements or acquisitions of needed right-of-way. A couple of volunteer early-stage construction projects also are slated. One, a major site clearing in preparation for earthwork, already got off to a big one-day start this February. We spent Lincoln's birthday cutting and hauling Logs.

Numerous smaller efforts are also being planned, from trail re-surfacing to drainage and fence repair to endless grass mowing and everything in between.

Montour is fortunate to be able to advance some of these projects through a combination of grants, leases and partnerships put together over a number of years. While these resources have generally funded the large construction, most of the smaller projects and virtually all of the trail maintenance are funded by . . . YOU.

By far the Montour Trail's greatest asset is its large community of ardent trail users and supporters. This includes not only dues-paying and donating members, but those who make individual private donations and also the participants in our fundraising events. These fundraisers occur all over the trail and throughout the calendar, ranging from local Friends Group events to our three major trail-wide events: the Burgh's Race in April and September's Half-Marathon and Tour the Montour.

The more trail and bridges get built for you to enjoy, the more it all costs to maintain. So your Board is also making a specific effort this year to increase private donations, and is upping the goals for our fundraising events. We believe that our community of users highly value the trail and will respond.

We work hard to give it all right back to YOU, transformed into more and better-maintained trail for you to travel and where you can enjoy healthy recreation with your family and friends in a natural setting.

More and more volunteers, too, are needed to bring all of this about. Montour is still an all-volunteer organization, providing an opportunity to help out even if you're a little tight on funds just now, as many of us are. Call, or visit the MTC website for information. With more volunteers, the trail can be a better place and experience for all who enjoy it. Especially now, as melting snow served to water new flowers.

Have a fine Spring on the trails!

- Ned

Friends' Meetings and Work Parties

MTC Board Meeting:

Every third Monday of the month - 6:00 p.m. at 304 Hickman St., Suite 3, Bridgeville, PA. Turn right off of the Bridgeville exit of I-79. Turn left at the next light, go straight at next light and make left turn onto Hickman St. just after the Post Office. Call Ned at 724-225-9856 for more information or to get on the agenda.

Cecil Friends:

Friends of the Trail meeting, every fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. From May-August, meetings are held at the Kurnick Access area along the trail off Cecil Henderson Road; other months (with the exception of November and December) meet at the MTC Offices. Work and cleanup parties are scheduled as needed. Call 412-496-4308 for more information, or email densimwx@comcast.net

Airport Area Friends:

Friends of the Trail meeting, the Wednesday before the second Saturday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at the Forest Grove Fire Department. Anyone from the Airport Area is encouraged to attend is encouraged to attend. Call 412 264-6303 for more information. Work and cleanup party, every second Saturday of the month - 9:00 a.m. Call 412 262-3748 for more information and location.

Bethel Park Friends:

Friends of the Trail meeting, every first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Bethel Park Municipal Building Council Chambers. Anyone interested in the Bethel Park Trail segment is encouraged to come. Work and cleanup party, every second and fourth Saturday of the month - 8:30 a.m. Call Bob O'Connell at 412-833-6259 for location and information.

South Hills Friends:

Meeting second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Hills Borough Building. Work and cleanup parties scheduled and advertised as needed. For more information, contact David Oyler at 412-831-9288, davidoyler@verizon.net, or Paul McKeown at 412-835-6692, mckeownp@comcast.net

Fort Cherry Friends:

Friends of the Trail Meeting, second Wednesday of the month at McDonald Borough Bldg., Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. Work and cleanup parties, scheduled as needed. For more information, contact Ray Johnston at 724-356-2621.

Peters Township Friends:

Friends of the Trail Meeting, first non-holiday Monday of the month at Peters Township Parks and Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. For more information on work and cleanup parties, please contact Jim Robbins at 724-941-6132, or for monthly meetings, Mark Imgrund at 724-941-6351 or by e-mail at markimgrund@comcast.net.

The Montour Railroad Historical Society:

The newest Friends group. For more information send email to mrhs@montourrr.com.



Cheyenne Dristas invites you to join her.

Tails for Trails Turn Seven

The Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail will once again mark National Trails Day on Saturday, June 4, with the 7th Annual Tails for Trails 5K Fun Walk. We welcome back Bedners Farm and Greenhouse as the title sponsor. The fun walk is the Friends annual fund raiser that goes towards trail maintenance and improvements in the National Tunnel, which is featured on the walk. The out and back walk begins at the Kurnick (National) Trailhead and heads west through the Tunnel and turns around just before the Muse-Bishop Road Bridge. The walk barks off at 9:00 a.m.

Registration for the walk remains the same as last year; \$10 for one dog and \$16 for two dogs prior to May 17 and \$12 afterward until the event. The first 100 dogs will receive a valuable prize plus a goodie bag with pet information and food samples. Each owner will be eligible for door prizes, including the grand door prize of a \$100 gift card to Capstone Grill in McMurray. There will be a Chinese Auction and a 50-50 raffle to add to the fun. Refreshments will be available for the two-legged and four-legged participants. Pre-registered packet pickup will be available and walk-in entries will be accepted on Friday, June 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kurnick Trailhead.

Candy Verduce will be available to take professional portraits of your canine friends. Registration will be available on the Montour Trail Council website and through registration forms that will be available on the Trail and at area businesses. Also expected to be attending will be the Montour Railroad Historical Society, Pennsylvania Great Dane Rescue and Miner, the Cecil Township Police Department K-9. Hope to see you on National Trails Day.



Fort Cherry Friends of the Montour Trail By Deborah Esia

The Fort Cherry Friends of the Montour Trail was organized in 2000 under the leadership of its first president, John Wasco. The group is responsible for maintaining miles 12.6 through 20.7 of the Montour Trail which runs through Robinson and Mt. Pleasant townships.

Initially the group, working in conjunction with the Montour Trail Council (MTC), began clearing brush and debris in preparation for the rehabilitation of the McDonald Trestle. The 967 foot trestle, dedicated in September 2003 at TrestleFest, connected a large gap in the trail and is one of the highlights of the Montour Trail.

The next project was to assist with constructing a connector under the trestle to join the Montour Trail to the Panhandle Trail (MTC Phase 15 project). The Function at the Junction celebrated completion of the connector in June of 2007.



Working at the Robinson Run Bridge from left to right, founding President John Wasco, Jack Peth, Dave Blistan, Groundskeeper Emeritus Roger McElhane and Mark Imgrund.

The Fort Cherry Friends are currently assisting with the MTC Phase 20 project. Several miles of trail will be rebuilt to correct drainage issues and reapply surface material. The redesign of the Quicksilver parking area, completed last summer, is part of this ongoing project.

When not helping with projects, the Fort Cherry Friends maintain the trail corridor. Tree falls and low hanging branches are removed each spring. Litter is removed from the trail and parking areas. Equipped with a tractor and weed-wacker purchased with generous donations from the local community, weeds are trimmed back and the borders groomed. Fences and gates are repaired and replaced as needed.

The Fort Cherry Friends meet the second Wednesday of the month at the McDonald Borough Building at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome. Scouting troops, schools or any other organization looking to fulfill a requirement or earn credits are encouraged to contact Ray Johnston, President of the Fort Cherry Friends.

In the next issue, we will continue east on the Trail into Cecil Township where the first section of Trail was built and is the home of the first Friends group.

Its Time for the Burgh!

Easter Sunday comes late this year, and as a result, the 11th Annual Burgh's 10K/5K Runs & 2 Mile Fun Walk will be pushed to Sunday, May 1. The 5K gets underway at 9:00 a.m. and the 10K at 10:00 a.m. and the walk at 10:15 a.m. The events are out and back on the Montour Trail starting on the Trail near the ramp to Cecil Park. See the back page of this newsletter for the official registration form, or you can register on-line by going to the Montour Trail website and clicking on the Burgh link on the home page. Registering on line will earn the registrant a chance to win a 32" LG – LD350 LCD TV donated by Bridgeville Appliance.



This event has raised nearly \$150,000 for the Montour Trail over its lifetime and anyone who has been to their Bridgeville eatery has seen their "check trophies" attached to the walls from all the events. Following the event, there will be plenty of socializing at the picnic shelter just below the Trail in the park. There will be plenty to eat and drink, including the Burgh's famous wings. Hope to see you there.

Ramping -Up Continues from Page 1.

The next step in the process is a 125 to 135 foot extension of the drain pipes under South Park Township's road fill through the future location of the ramp. The materials for this pipe extension are expected to cost between \$12,000 and \$18,000, depending upon the type of pipe approved by the Township, with a current estimate of labor costs in the same range. The pipe extension needs to be the next step in the process to allow fill emplacement at the lowest point on the ramp.

Participants are featured in the photo below: From left to right, back row), Mark Blum and John Becker, front row (left to Right), Rick Blum, John Kozak, Dan Ratkiewicz, Rich Sahar, Ray Becker, Bill Capp and Ned Williams. Not shown are Art Crompton, John Eisenbarth, Jerry Goehner, Peter Ivancic, Paul McKeown, Dave Oyler (photographer), Dave Phenicie and Don Thoboban.





Do you have an old jar or can of pennies sitting around your house that you just never seem to get around to wrapping?

Well now you can use them to help the Montour Trail and possibly win yourself one of a number of prizes including dinners at local restaurants or sports accessories.

Just empty your pockets or look under the sofa cushions and bring your cans, jars, cigar boxes, or carboys full of loose change (nickels, dimes, quarters, and paper money also permitted) to the intersection of Montour Run Road and Park Manor Boulevard. (at the gazebo below Robinson Town Centre) on Saturday, May 7, 2011. The Airport Area Friends of the Montour Trail will be there rain or shine from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. collecting and weighing them as part of their annual **Pennies for YOUR Trail** campaign. They have solicited numerous prizes from area businesses which will be awarded to the persons donating the most loose change according to weight. All money raised will be used to maintain the Airport Area sections of the Montour Trail. Please help to support your trail!

The J. R. Taylor 5K Race



The annual race will be on Saturday, June 11, starting at 8:30 a.m. It will start and end near the construction site for the J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge over Clifton Road. Preregistration is recommended but not required. Park your vehicle in the unpaved portion of the Al's Cafe parking lot. A Chinese auction is planned for after the race. Proceeds go towards the construction of the J. R. Taylor Memorial Bridge.

Call Cyndee Welsh at cyndee5011@verizon.net or 412- 835-0522 for more information.

A Celebration of the Trail: The 16th Annual UPMC Urgent Care Montour Trail 1/2 Marathon 5K Run and 5K Fun Walk

While talk of the trail this time of year has been primarily about cross country skiing, development projects and looking forward to the upcoming spring; preparation is also underway for the annual Montour Trail Council Half Marathon, 5K Run and 5K Fun Walk scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2011.



In the time that I have been involved in this event: first as a participant, then volunteer and organizer; the event has grown from a fundraiser to a celebration of the Trail. Volunteers look forward to working with each other, runners get to remake acquaintances from prior year races and in the end all the funds raised go right back into the Montour Trail to ensure that the Trail continues to be part of the community. The race is also a great way to recruit new trail users, having run on the Trail and enjoyed their running experience. It's also a great way to challenge your running friends to see who is better that day in the race.

For anyone who has ever participated in, or volunteered for this event, there is a celebratory energy that is felt in the air. The challenge to get the runners ready and to the start, the runners waiting to take off, and the accomplishment of the finish, the feeling of achievement and the compliments received from the participants at the end of the event.

This annual event requires a herculean amount of volunteer hours, from finding sponsors to planning and organizing to race day activities and wrap up. If you can give a little or a lot, the committee and the event could use help.

Currently, the event is looking for the following volunteers:

Assistant Race Director – Assist the event Director in all aspects of the event including working with sponsors, race logistics and organization.

Artistic Talent – Race flyer design and shirt logo design.

Public Relations Coordinator – Work with advertisement and marketing of the event.

Race Day Volunteers – Registration, chip distribution, trail marshals, water stations, finish line and chip collection.

Let's make the 2011 event the best ever. Interested volunteers can contact Race Director, Bill Orr at: race@montourtrail.org or 724-695-2638

Editors note: This story was reprinted at the request of the Race Director whose is still looking for volunteers.

MONTOUR RAILROAD HISTORY

The Government Takes On the Montour Railroad by Bob Ciminel © 2011

In an earlier article, we described the Montour Railroad's efforts to build a new route northward across the Ohio River at Smiths Ferry to ship coal to the steel mills at Youngstown, Ohio. This resulted in a protracted battle with the Interstate Commerce Commission and a turf war with the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railway and the B&O, who all claimed that their charters pre-dated the Montour's and gave them exclusive rights to build new routes in the state.

The ICC stepped into the fray on October 31, 1933 when it brought suit against the Montour Railroad, claiming it violated Section 15 of the Interstate Commerce Act because it was providing information to the Pittsburgh Coal Company about the coal shipments of its competitors.

After the Pittsburgh Coal Company bought the Imperial Coal Company, owner of the Montour Railroad, in the 1899-1901 timeframe, it not only took possession of the mines but also the railroad that serviced the mines. From then on, the Pittsburgh Coal Company and the Montour Railroad were figuratively joined at the hip.

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890, named after Ohio Senator John Sherman, not Union General William Tecumseh Sherman, was instrumental in allowing the government to break up the railroad/coal company combines, but it did not prevent a coal company from owning a railroad. Still, the Montour/Pittsburgh Coal Company arrangement was viewed as adversely affecting competition within the coal fields south and west of Pittsburgh.

The ICC had five issues with the Montour Railroad. First, the Montour Railroad and the Pittsburgh Coal Company had interlocking boards of directors. Six of the eight members on the Montour board were also officers of the Pittsburgh Coal Company. This situation had previously come under government questioning during Senate hearings on the ICC "Five Percent Case," when the ICC challenged railroad company attempts to raise their tariffs by 5% in 1914. The following exchange took place during questioning of H.P. McCue, who was the General Manager of Transportation for the Pittsburgh Coal Company:

Mr. Bond: "Mr. McCue, you were a director of the Montour Railroad Co. from July 1, 1912, to July 1, 1913, were you not?"

Mr. McCue: "Yes."

Mr. Bond: "Part of your duties as superintendent of transportation of the Pittsburgh Coal Co. is to look after the traffic interests of the Montour Railroad?"

Mr. McCue: "That is right. I misunderstood your question. You said part of my duty as manager of transportation of the Pittsburgh Coal Company was to look after the traffic and transportation of the Montour Railroad. That is not correct."

Mr. Bond: "I did not say anything about transportation."

Mr. McCue: "Traffic. That is not correct."

Mr. McCue: "I am general superintendent of the Montour Railroad. I receive a salary from the Montour Railroad for performing any service which I give them."

Mr. Bond: "That is what I want to get at."

Mr. McCue: "But not as the Pittsburgh Coal Co."

Mr. Bond: "Just how do you tell when you are acting for the Pittsburgh Coal Co. and when you are acting for the Montour Railroad? Do you change your cravat or put on a badge of some kind?"

Second, the Coal Company and the Railroad filed a consolidated tax return. Profits from the Railroad were used to offset the losses of the Coal Company, thus depriving the U.S. Government of the taxes it deserved from the Railroad's profits. The underlying data for this contention was that, over the previous three years, the Railroad transported 4 million tons of coal for the Coal Company, or roughly 80,000 car loads, that only moved from Coal Company's mines and its Champion No. 1 coal washer, not to the Railroad's customers.

The ICC's third contention was that the Railroad bought its locomotive coal exclusively from the Coal Company at a higher price than it could purchase the same quality coal from the Coal Company's competitors located near the railroad. In 1933, some of the competing mines that existed along the Montour were:

Mine	Operator	Location
Scott Mine	Montour Collieries	Scott Siding
Solar Mine	Solar Coal Company	Boggs Yard
Boggs Mine	Unknown	Boggs Yard
Morris Mine	Gilmore Coal Company	Gilmore Junction
National No. 3 Mine	National Mining Company	Muse Spur
National No. 2 Mine	National Mining Company	National Tunnel
Henderson No. 1 Mine	Henderson Coal Company	Hendersonville
Coverdale Mine	Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Co.	Coverdale
Bertha Mine	Domestic Coal Company	Library Branch

continues on page 7

Bob Ciminel is the founder of the Montour Railroad Yahoo group http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/montour_rr/ There are currently 316 members from across the country. You are encouraged to join. There is a wealth of information about the Montour Railroad at this location and you can pose questions of its membership, from whom you are sure to get an answer.

Welcome New Members

The Montour Trail Council welcomes these new members and thanks them for their support. We would also like to thank all our members who have recently renewed their membership and to remind all that a growing membership is one of the criteria foundations look for when we apply for grants.

New Members

Michael Alexander
Gary Buchan
Kim Cauchy
Sr. Sarah Crotty
Roger Hindenlang & Susan Uram
Joe & Joanne Ihnat
Thomas Levine
Dale & Martha Main

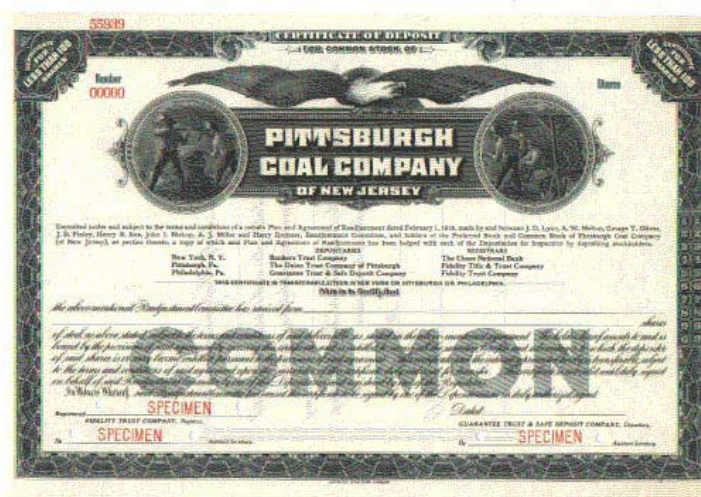
Benefactors

Roger Hindenlang & Susan Uram
Janet & Gordon Jackson
Michael & Cynthia Mullins
Andrew & Ming Tung

Leaders

Kenneth Christman
Thomas Levine

U.S. vs Montour continues from page 6.



Pittsburgh Coal Company Stock Certificate

The fourth and most damning contention was the Railroad's daily interchange report. This report contained the name of the competitor, the number of car loads shipped, and the destination of each car. The report was sent to the Coal Company's Executive Vice President each day.

We have not found any information revealing the outcome of this lawsuit; however, the Montour Railroad remained a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Pittsburgh Coal Company for the next 13 years.

Submissions for the next newsletter will be due Monday, May 3, 2011 at midnight. Mailing will be scheduled for Saturday, May 28, 2011. Thanks

I want to help complete the Montour Trail!

I want to join the Montour Trail Council at this level:

■ Student/Senior	\$15
■ Individual	\$25
■ Family	\$35
■ Supporting	\$50
■ Sustaining	\$100
■ Benefactor	\$250
■ Leader's Circle	\$500+

Make checks payable to the "Montour Trail Council"

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Email _____

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The Montour Trail Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax-deductible. You may also be eligible for matching funds from your employer. A copy of the Montour Trail Council's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling (toll-free within Pennsylvania) 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Don't Forget

The Montour Trail Council may be designated as your United Way Contributor Choice as option #3308.



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Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub 11th Annual 10K, 5K Run and 2 Mile Walk
Benefits the Montour Trail
Sunday, May 1, 2011

ENTRY FEES	Before April 11	After April 11
10K or 5K run	\$22	\$27
2-Mile Walk	\$22	\$27
2-Mile Walk (under 12)	\$10	\$13
Both 5K and 10K Runs*	\$27	\$32

**only 45 min to complete 5K run and recover prior to 10K start*

Schedule

5K Run 9:15 a.m.
10K Run 10:00 a.m.
2-Mile Walk 10:15 a.m.

Make checks payable to:
BP&W 10K Montour Trail
(Please do NOT send cash.)

Mail to:
BP&W 10K Montour Trail
533 Washington Ave.
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Please print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Age as of May 1, 2011: _____

Sex: M F

Event: 10K Run 5K Run 2-Mile Walk

Racing Shorts Size:

XS S M L XL

Based on availability,

racing shorts may be purchased on Race Day.

Waiver: In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I waive for myself, my heirs, and assigns, all rights and claims for damages which I might have against the Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub 10K Run for Family, Friends & Fun to be held Sunday, May 1, 2011, Burgh's Pizza & Wing Pub, The Montour Trail Council, other sponsoring organizations, businesses, or individuals as a result of any and all injuries suffered by me in that event. I attest and verify that I am an amateur and physically fit and have trained sufficiently for this event. I also release any photos that may involve myself.

Signature:

If under 18, parent or guardian must sign below:

Signature of parent or guardian