



FEBRUARY 20th, 2010
Hanson Hills Recreation Area

Cote Dame Marie & Ski Loppet

Welcome to the Cote Dame Marie Loppet

The 2010 Cote Dame Marie Loppet is presented by-The Grayling Recreation Authority. This exciting Nordic Skiing Adventure will take you through the scenic hardwood trails of Hanson Hills Recreation Area, located in Grayling, Michigan.

The "Cote Dame Marie" name comes from a hill range located on the Hanson State Game Refuge/Camp Grayling Military Reservation and has WWI significance. In 1918 the German army's last line of defense was the Hindenburg Line. The key to breaking the German line were two hills – the Cote Dame Marie and the Cote de Chatillion. The Michigan 126th Regiment found a gap in the barb wire fortifications but was pinned down by German machine gun fire. Captain Edward Strom then led seven men to find another gap. After finding a gap they attacked up a steep hill in a single rush without loss of life. A full assault followed and the Hindenburg line was pierced. If you are interested, the full story is included in the attachment.

About the Ski Race

The Grayling Recreation Authority has conducted a cross country ski race at the Hanson Hills Recreation Area for more than 30 years. In recent years the race has gained a reputation for excellent grooming and beautiful trails. This year we would like to start the process of growing the race into a major area event. We would like to capture some of Graylings past reputation of being a major snow sport destination. Our approach is to expand the race schedule with races that not only attract the serious racers but also attract the citizen racers. To do this we need you to help.

The Schedule of Events

Friday: Bib Pick-up at the Ramada Inn	5:00-11:00 PM
Kid's Race at the Cross Country	7:00 - 7:30 PM
Ski Shop Lighted Trails	
Saturday:	
Registration at Hanson Hills	7:00- 9:30 AM
Michigan Cup/	
Men's Heat	10:00 AM
Women's Heat	10:05 AM
Citizen Races	
Men's Skate	10:10 AM
Women's Skate	10:15 AM
Men's Classic	10:20 AM
Women's Classic	10:25 AM
Awards Banquet	1:00 - 2:30 PM

Marketing

Marketing is a key part of making the Cote Dame Marie successful. Key elements of the marketing effort are as follows.

- Great Lakes Winter Trails Council
 - Participate in GLWTC October 2, 2009 Organization Meeting
 - Race Brochure
 - Invitation to Participate in the Race
 - Participate in Media Blitz
 - Led by Susan Wilcox (TC Cherry Festival)
 - Stops at : Detroit, Flint, Bay City/Saginaw/Midland, Grand Rapids
 - Meet with and be interviewed by TV, Print Media, Radio
 - Timing: Early December
 - Support the GLWTC "Get Kids Outside" Initiative – January 10, 2010
 - Potential Event at Hanson Hills
 - May also focus on seniors this year
 - Support the GLWTC "Familiarize All Media" Event at Forest Dunes
 - When: January 9, 2009
 - 20-25 Print Media, TV and Radio Representatives
- Press Releases Via Grayling Visitors Council
- Website
 - Graylingnordic.com
- Fliers/Brochure distributed at other races and area hotels/restaurants
- Advertisement/Event Listing in XC Enthusiast Magazines
- Advertisement/Event Listing in Regional Magazines
- Newspaper Articles/Event Listing in local, Detroit area, MSB, Grand Rapids newspapers

How is the Ski Loppet Funded

A majority of funding comes from the participants in the form of a registration fee (a copy of the registration form is attached). In addition The Grayling Recreation Authority supports the event through grooming, insurance, and significant financial support. The remainder of the support required to make this a major regional event must come from sponsors. Levels of sponsorship for you to consider are summarized below.

Timing Sponsor (2 Available - \$500): The races will be timed using the latest chip technology. Racers will have a “chip” pinned to their race number. When the racer passes over the start/finish line the computer reads the chip and records the time. Results are available immediately after the race. Your logo will be displayed at the start/finish area.

Friday Kids Race (1 Available - \$500): The Kids have their own race on Friday night at the Cross Country Ski Shop lighted trials. You will be the major sponsor of this race and your logo will be displayed at the race.

Aid Stations (2 Available - \$250): There will be two aid stations to refresh the racers. Your sponsorship will support the aid stations. Your businesses sign will be placed just before the aid station.

Kilometer Markers (15 Available - \$100): Each kilometer is numbered along the trail. Your logo will be displayed on a kilometer marker.

In Kind Sponsor Benefits: In kind sponsorship is encouraged and the benefit will be determined by gift value.

How Do You Benefit?

You will be helping Grayling to recapture its past glory of being a major winter snow sport destination. In addition other benefits include:

- A race sponsor sign placed at your business during race week
- Your business' logo placed on the Cote Dame Marie race website, graylingnordic.com.
- Your business' logo included in the race brochure and flyers.
- Your business will be included in prerace announcements and the award banquet

The History

The Hills of Hanson: (A WWI History Lesson)

Cote Dame Marie/Red Arrow:

By **ROBERT MESSENGER**

The Kriemhilde Stellung, the southern section of the so-called Hindenburg Line, was a dense network of barbed wire, pillboxes and machine-gun emplacements built as part of the German army's last lines of defense in World War I. During the Allies' 1918 fall offensive, it stood between the American Expeditionary Force and its objective: the fortified city of Sedan, located in northeast France near the Belgian border.

The key to breaking the German line was two hills -- the Côte Dame Marie and the Côte de Châtillon -- from which German guns dominated the western bank of the Meuse River. On Oct. 14, 1918, the American 32nd Division was sent to engage the German troops on the Dame Marie while the 5th and 42nd Divisions swept around in pincer movements to occupy the Châtillon.

It was a complex plan that called for speed and coordination and took no account of the intricate defenses that the Germans had constructed. The first attacks quickly bogged down, and it took three tough days of fighting to achieve the objectives. But the battle occasioned one of the greatest feats of American arms and helped to make the reputation of one of our greatest warriors -- though not without controversy.

The three American regiments assaulting the Dame Marie did not know that they were a diversion. Though they were pinned down at the hill's outer defenses -- the cliff-like Dame Marie commanded a coverless plain -- they kept up a vigorous assault. In one place, the **126th Regiment (out of Michigan)** found a gap in the barbed wire and was badly mauled by German machine guns. Capt. Edward B. Strom then led a patrol of seven men to try to find another gap.

This they did -- and soon climbed the steep hill under heavy fire, crawling within 150 yards of a German machine-gun installation. They hit the Germans with rifle grenades and took the position in a single rush. A full assault followed, and the hill fell. (Being the first to pierce the Hindenburg Line earned the 32nd its famed moniker: The Red Arrow.) Not a single one of Strom's men was killed during the daring mission, yet he wasn't nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 1929, he did finally receive the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism."

The surprise success on the Dame Marie opened the way for the taking of the Côte de Châtillon by two regiments under the command of Brig. Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The northeast face of the hill was incompletely wired, and on Oct. 16 infantrymen from the 167th Alabama Regiment broke through and began firing into the German's left flank. The lowans of the 168th were then able to take the fortified farms at the foot of the hill and begin the ascent. It was a brutal morning of attack and counterattack, but at 1 p.m. the regiments made a coordinated advance and seized the hilltop. The Kriemhilde Stellung was compromised.