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AuSable River Canoe Marathon

> News Release <

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDITOR'S NOTE: COMPLETE ENTRY LIST, MAP GRAPHICS (.jpg & .pdf), PHOTOGRAPHS AND MORE ARE AVAILABLE TO THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC AT:
<http://www.ausablecanoemarathon.org>

64th Au Sable River Canoe Marathon

Racers Gearing Up for the 2011 AuSable River Canoe Marathon

June 30, 2011 - Defending champions Andy Triebold and Steve LaJoie will once again join forces with 82 teams to date for the 2011 AuSable Canoe Marathon. The race will start at 9:00pm sharp on Saturday, July 30th. Once again this year, teams from the east coast states of Maryland, Vermont, and New Hampshire as well as a team from the west coast state of Washington are entered. The country of Canada is also represented with teams from Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Ontario.

This year race fans will see the return of Al Widing Sr. Al, who is 86 years old will paddle his 39th marathon with partner Rick Joy who will be paddling in his 35th marathon. Al is from Mio, Michigan and is considered a legend to the marathon.

Sponsors for this year's race include Weyehaeuser Structurewood Mill of Grayling, Springs Wood Products of Grayling, Mercy Hospital of Grayling, Ramada inn of Grayling and Subaru of Traverse City. Springs Wood Products is sponsoring the C1 race. Mercy Hospital of Grayling is also contributing Senior and Youth bonuses for teams in these categories that are first to finish within their group. Charter Communications returns as sponsor of The Spectator Guide. The Time Trials for this year's race have been scheduled for three days and will take place at the local supporting business of Penrod's Canoe Livery. The three days of the time trials are July 27, 28, and 29th. Sponsors of the Time Trials are Basic Communications Inc. and Kirtland Community College.

A prelude to the marathon is the Spike's "Tougher than Nails" race held July 23rd and 24th will give paddlers and fans an opportunity to experience this section of the race in the daylight. Spike's Keg of Nails is another local business that supports not only Grayling, but also surrounding communities in the AuSable River Valley in promoting canoe racing and drawing interest in the AuSable River.

Marathon program books and merchandise are ready for this year's event around the community as well as at the marathon office located in the Grayling Mini Mall. More information can also be found on the marathon website, www.ausablecanoemarathon.org.