

# Water skiers plan 700-mile journey to promote cause

High speeds and heavy seas. Sounds like a setting for a James Bond adventure film. Instead, it's just part of what a group of good-hearted, adventure-seeking water skiers expect to encounter over the next four days while completing a 700-mile Great Lakes journey around Michigan.

## RECREATION

Orchard Lake native Tim Flynn, now a Utica-based attorney, masterminded the Great Lakes Long Board Endurance two years ago. The plan is to ski a six-person relay from Chicago to Detroit to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Their goal is to raise \$25,000 through pledges and donations.

"My mother-in-law passed away in 1995 from lung cancer," explained Flynn. "I wanted to turn a negative into something positive and get some positive closure. This is my way of doing that."

Flynn has enlisted the assistance of five close friends to accomplish the feat, which has never before been attempted. He'll be joined by West Bloomfield native Jerry Hoskins and his wife Laura, Tom Temmerlin of Lake Orion, Randy Miller of Bloomfield Hills and Richard Youngs of Adrian.

"We're all mutual ski friends and when they heard about me hatching this crazy idea it sounded like something they wanted to do," said Flynn.

The skiers will use a special 7-foot alalom ski, called a long board water ski, which is especially designed for skiing in heavy seas.

"It's made of spruce and is very stiff," explained Flynn. "It's almost two-foot longer than a regular alalom ski and the bottom is smooth so there is less resistance. It allows you to get up over the waves so you can go faster with less energy spent."

The trip begins Thursday morning in Chicago. Pulled by a 38-foot Formula 382 FASTech off-shore racing boat, the skiers will take half-hour stints in the water throughout daylight hours. The boat will stay on a course approximately two-miles off the shore and will follow the Michigan shoreline throughout most of the trip.

By reaching speeds of up to 50-miles-per-hour along the trip, Flynn said they hope to make it to Charlevoix by Thursday night. If weather cooperates and all goes well, Friday will see the skiers cruising through the Straights-of-Mackinaw and down Lake Huron to Alpena. On Saturday, the group will ski to Port Huron at the south end of Lake Huron; then down the St. Clair River and into Lake St. Clair on Sunday for their final destination at Metro Beach.

"We kind of over-loaded the skis," said Flynn. "We hope to go 300 miles the first day, when we're the freshest, then leave 450 miles over the next three days."

The skiers expect to encounter difficult conditions on the water. "The choppy water in the Straights-of-Mackinaw and at the south end of Lake Huron where the lake meets the St. Clair River."

"We figure we'll experience a wide range of conditions," said Flynn. "The choppy water in the Straights and under the Blue Water Bridge will be tough. Choppy water like that is the



Event mastermind: Tim Flynn came up with the idea to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

most difficult to navigate because there is no regular pattern to the waves. They're all sizes and coming from all directions. Swells, on the other hand, are more widely spaced and have a timed pattern to them so they're a little easier to run."

The team has logged over 2,200 miles of skiing in preparation for the Endurance. Once a month for the past two years they made trips to one of the Great Lakes and they'd tackle the choppy waters of Lake St.

Clair every Thursday night.

The team has enlisted the help of sponsors such as Pepsi Cola and Marathon Oil to cover the high price of the trip, but still needs donations to reach its goal of \$25,000. Anyone wishing to make a donation can call the Endurance Hotline at the American Cancer Society at 1-800-925-2271, or contact Jennifer Durocher at the American Cancer Society, 29350 Southfield Road, Ste. 110, Southfield MI 48076, (248) 557-5353.

## OUTDOORS

# Redford, Royal Oak archery events offer alternative for kids

Children will be the main beneficiaries of a couple 3D archery shoots on tap this weekend. The Second Annual "Redford Shoot For Youth" will take place beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at Capital Park in Redford.

Hosted by Ted Nugent United Sportsmen of America and the Timberwolf Tavern, the day's activities include a 3D charity tournament, four-person team events, novelty shoots, a trout pond, a tree stand safety demonstration, native American dance demonstrations, live music and much more. The event will stress to kids that they can have fun without drugs and alcohol or being part of a gang.

A host of celebrity shooters will also be on hand including state Sen. David Jaye, state Rep. Bob Brown, Ted Nugent's daughter Sasha, National TNAUSA Director Chuck Buzzy, members of the rock bands "Kung Foo Diesel" and "Noon" as well as radio personalities from 102.7 The Bear.

Course fee is \$8 and proceeds from the shoot will benefit Ted Nugent Kamp for Kids and the D.A.R.E. America drug awareness program. Participants are also asked to donate canned goods or non perishable foods, which will go to the Hunters for the Hungry program.

For more information call Randy Collick at (810) 231-3843 or Brian Boyadjian of the Timberwolf Tavern at (313) 937-1218. No alcohol is permitted at this event.

Royal Oak Archers is also holding a benefit 3D archery shoot this weekend on its walk-through course in Lake Orion.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Royal Oak Archers will host a 30-target 3D shoot. There will also be novelty shoots and a balloon shoot for the kids. Proceeds from the shoot will also benefit Ted Nugent's Kamp for Kids, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Kamp for Kids teaches children between the ages of 11-15 the values of the great outdoors. While at the camp, kids are taught a lifestyle that instills wildlife stewardship, conservation and environmental responsibility. They also receive certification from the International Bowhunter Education program.

For more information on the 3D shoot at Royal Oak Archers call (248) 693-9799 or (248) 693-1369.

## Angler guide book

Nationally-acclaimed outdoor writer Tom Huggler has completed his popular *Fish Michigan* series with the sixth and final mapped guide book - *Fish Michigan*.

gan, 100 Great Lakes Hotspots.

Like his five other guidebooks, 100 Great Lakes Hotspots includes detailed information about 100 hotspots for Great Lakes fishing including maps with public access sites, depths, contours, DNR stocking records, master angler catches, names and addresses of local charter boat captains, bait and tackle shops, campgrounds and other valuable information. The book also includes tactics used for catching Great Lakes sport fish as well as the best times and places and lures used to catch them.

Copies of the atlas-sized books are available at area book stores and sporting goods stores for \$17.95 or by direct order from Friede Publications, 2339 Venezia Dr., Davison, MI 48423. Credit card orders can be made by calling 800-824-4618.

If you've never used one of Huggler's *Fish Michigan* map books give one a try. You won't be disappointed. The information is detailed and accurate. The books are a must for serious anglers interested in improving their catch rates.

## DNR open house

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will hold a Public Listening and Outreach Open House, 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, at the Southgate Civic Center, 14700 Reame Parkway, Southgate. (The Civic Center is located north of Eureka Road and west of Dix-Toledo Road.)

Everyone is invited to attend the open house to share their views and meet with DNR wildlife and fisheries biologists, foresters, conservation officers, and state park, recreation area and real estate division staff.

Displays, pamphlets and other written materials will be on hand. While at the open house, visitors can try the DNR's Firearms Training Simulator machine, a virtual reality machine that enables people to shoot at moving targets on a video screen using a laser-beamed shotgun.

For more information on the open house, or persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation, call Denise Magus at (734) 953-1528.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314, send e-mail to barker@oe.homes.com or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

# Roadrunner

## Defending champs return for 15th Classic

Both the defending men's and women's champions are expected to return Saturday for the 15th Annual Roadrunner Classic in downtown Northville.

Paul Aufdenberge, who recently moved to Redford, will try to defend his 8-kilometer men's title.

The 1997 Michigan Runner of the Year has won the event three of the past four years. He won last year's race under the sweltering heat in 25 minutes, 16 seconds.

Also expected to challenge for the men's title is Keith Stopen of Farmington Hills.

Stopen recently earned a spot in the U.S. Olympic marathon trials by running 2:21:35 at last month's Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minn. He shaved five minutes off his previous best.

He is coached by Roadrunner Classic race director Doug Kurtis, the Livonia Stevenson High product who holds the world record for most sub-2:20 marathons.

"Keith made a big breakthrough at Grandma's," Kurtis said. "He's upped his mileage. He's running more comfortable miles and is just more consistent. And he's pacing himself

## RECREATION

better."

Four-time women's champion Laurel Park, who ran 23:21 last year, is also expected to return. Her competition could possibly come from three others who have yet to commit to the race.

Among those who may enter include Ann Boyd, 1996 Michigan Runner of the Year and Free Press Marathon winner, Juli Buck, and Cindy Barber-Keeler, the 1998 Boston Marathon women's masters (over-40) winner.

The 40-year-old Keeler, a Lincoln Park native who now resides in Lake Worth, Fla., was the second American to finish with a personal best of 2:39:37.

Defending men's masters winner Tim Emmett of Redford, fighting a back injury during last weekend's 258-mile Toyota Great Lakes Relays, may also return.

Some elite runners, however, may have backed off because the \$3,800 in prize money given away last year was eliminated after chief sponsor First Finance pulled out six months ago. (Gold sponsors include the Observer &

Eccentric Newspapers and Jack Demmer Ford.)

"I don't think it will change the field much at all," Kurtis said. "Last year was the first year we offered prize money."

The Roadrunner, however, is more than just an 8K race for elite runners.

It's considered one of the most popular races in the Detroit area.

"We've increased our participation every year by five to eight percent," Kurtis said. "Last year we had 1,300 including the party."

"Normally 50 percent of our participants show up on race day."

Race day fees for the 8K run, which starts at 7 p.m., and 5K walk, which starts at 7:15 p.m., are \$15. (Age group awards will be given to the top three finishers.)

The 1-mile Classic Junior Series, for youngsters 14-and-under, begins at 6:30 p.m. (cost \$5 includes gifts for all). The 1-

mile fun run (15-and-up) also starts at 6:30 (cost is \$8 with ribbons to all finishers).

And don't forget the party afterwards (\$5 only for food, refreshments and prizes). Joy Ride, Detroit's up-and-coming dance band, will perform at 7:30 p.m. (through 11 p.m.)

There will also be a series of speakers and performers with the band Superdot opening the festivities at 1 p.m.

Buck, a physical therapist, and Boyd will also speak at 4 p.m. with Mitch Albom, WJR Radio host and New York Times No. 1 best-selling author "Tuesdays with Morris" doing a signing at 5 p.m.

At 6 p.m., Karen Newman, Hockleytown's anthem singer, and Richard Fitzhugh, renowned watercolorist from Washington, D.C., will autograph race T-shirts.

Pre-registration check-in is from 4-6 p.m.

For more information, call Running Fit at (248) 380-3335.

# Baseball

Harris, Dan Duffey and Mike Sopo.

Sopo and Morris had two hits apiece in the victory.

The nightcap was a slugfest as the Cobras prevailed by a score of 12-10.

Tim Andrzejak pitched the first five innings, striking out six. Harris and Sopo, who stopped a Portage rally in the seventh, pitched one inning of relief each.

The offensive leader was Andrzejak with three hits. Morris and Dave Boer had two hits each.

The big blow was a home run by Duffey in the sixth inning that provided the Cobras with the winning margin.

For the fourth time in five years, the Cobras will compete on a national level. They travel to Des Moines, Iowa, to partici-

pate in the AAU 17-year-old World Series, which begins Friday.

Eight members of the Cobras are veterans of last year's team that competed in the Junior Olympics in Charlotte, N.C.

## Westland wins district

The Westland Youth Athletic Association Travel All-Stars used a three-run homer from Dave Lewandowski in the fifth inning to beat South Farmington, 4-3, Sunday in the championship final of the Cold district tournament in Garden City.

The All-Stars advance to the state tournament starting Friday in Farmington Hills.

Lewandowski's homer, estimated at 400 feet, came after a one-hour rain delay and WYAA trailing 3-1. Pat Barter was the winning pitcher in relief.

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