



Thanks for us joining us on Saturday, August 1, 2020 for our "Sweet 16"

Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour (Rhonda Balfour Memorial Ride)

Here's everything you need to know to have a perfect day

(Feel free to call Ardy at 218-749-4331 (office) if you have any questions before tour day)

If you have questions on tour day, contact: Ardy / 218-780-9164 (c) or Wayne / 218-410-4816 (c)

Final Registration:

If you are receiving this packet...we have already received your pre-registration in the mail or on-line.

On Friday night or Saturday morning stop by the finish line or any start location to pick up your final tour packet and confirm all liability waivers are signed. (see schedule on page 2 for details)

EACH ADULT must sign a liability waiver - and parents must sign for their children under 18.
(If you registered on-line, your liability waiver is complete)

Transportation:

Since this is not a circular route, you will be starting and ending your ride at different locations.

If you would like to take advantage of our bike and/or rider transportation options...

The goal on the morning of the tour is to have your bike at your chosen start point and your vehicle at the finish line.
(Of course... you can always provide your own transportation for bikes and/or riders)

Bikes (details on page 2 schedule)

(NOTE - there is no transportation for bikes on Saturday - only Friday night)

- Friday night - we can transport your bike for FREE from the finish line to any of the four start points, where bikes are tagged with a claim ticket, wrapped in moving blankets & transported to secure overnight storage.

OR

- Friday night - "do-it-yourself" drop off for overnight storage at start points #1, #2 and #3 (#4 come to the finish line).
- Saturday morning - "do-it-yourself" drop off at any of the four start points for storage until the tour starts.

Riders (details on page 2 schedule)

- Saturday morning - come to the finish line and park your vehicle, then we will transport you by bus to your start point, where your bike will be waiting and you can begin the tour. (Some folks say this is the most fun part of the day!)
- When you complete the tour your vehicle is waiting at the finish line, and you can head for home at your convenience.

There is NO transportation for bikes or riders at the END of tour day.

If you need lodging, staying near the finish line (Virginia, Eveleth, Mt Iron) will be the most convenient

PLEASE REMEMBER...Everyone MUST wear a biking helmet and sign a liability waiver!

Schedule: You may do your final registration on Friday night or Saturday morning at any location to pick up your final tour packet and assure liability waivers are signed (Start #4 - Buhl open only on Saturday).

Friday, July 31, 2020

Final Registration & Bicycle Drop-Off in 4 Locations

6:00 - 9:00 p.m. **Virginia - Olcott Park / Finish Line**

Final registration and tour packet pick up
Bicycle drop-off for FREE transport to secure overnight storage at all four start points

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Final registration & "do-it-yourself" bicycle drop-off for overnight storage at start points

Grand Rapids - Itasca County Fairground (Route #1)
Marble - School (Route #2)
Hibbing - Greyhound Bus Museum (Route #3)
Buhl (Route #4) - bring your bikes to Virginia (Finish Line) until 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 1, 2020

Final Registration & Bicycle Drop-Off in 5 Locations

6:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Virginia - Olcott Park** (Finish Line)

Final registration and tour packet pick-up
(you may also do this at any start point at times listed below)

5:30 - 9:00 a.m. **Grand Rapids - Itasca County Fairground** (Route #1)

Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 1.5 hours to get to finish line in Virginia by car, park & catch the bus @ 7:00)

6:30 - 10:00 a.m. **Marble - School** (Route #2)

Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 1.25 hours to get to finish line in Virginia by car, park & catch the bus @ 8:00)

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Hibbing - Greyhound Bus Museum** (Route #3)

Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 45 minutes to get to finish line in Virginia by car, park & catch the bus @ 10:00)

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon **Buhl - Stubler Beach** (Route #4)

Final registration, tour packet pick-up and bike drop off
(Plan about 30 minutes to get to finish line in Virginia by car, park & catch the bus @ 10:30)

Rider Bus Transportation from Finish Line at Virginia Olcott Park to All Start Locations

7:00 a.m. To Grand Rapids (route #1)
8:00 a.m. To Marble (route #2)
10:00 a.m. To Hibbing (route #3)
10:30 a.m. To Buhl (route #4)

There is no rider or bike transportation at the end of tour day

Tour Start Times

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Grand Rapids (Route #1 - 67 miles)
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Marble (Route #2 - 50 miles)
10:30 – 11:30 p.m. Hibbing (Route #3 - 26 miles)
11:00 – 12:00 noon Buhl (Route #4 - 14 miles)

**Please do not start the tour before
designated times.
Volunteers & support vehicles may not be
on the course and rest stops may not be open.**

Finish Line Activities at Virginia Olcott Park

11:30 – 5:00 p.m. Picnic lunch
12:30 – 5:00 p.m. Live Music
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Massage

Start Locations:

- Begin your tour at your choice of four different locations – all will finish at Olcott Park in Virginia.
- Please note the start times and transportation times vary for each start location.
- You will not be allowed to participate without a helmet, tour wrist band and signed liability waiver.

PLEASE NOTE

- ✚ The Mesabi Trail is NOT flat & straight, there are a number of hills and curves. While this public trail is open at all times, our volunteers be on the course only until 5 p.m. - **please select your route according to your abilities.**
- ✚ **PLEASE stay alert while riding** - the trail is not closed to oncoming traffic and there are a few sharp turns & hills.
- ✚ This is a family event, there may be younger and/or inexperienced riders on the tour - please be patient and **ALWAYS announce when passing** - "on your left".

Route #1: **Grand Rapids** - Itasca County Fairgrounds / 1336 NE 3rd Ave, Grand Rapids, MN

- ✓ **8:00 - 9:00 a.m. start time** / 67 miles to finish in Virginia
- ✓ From combined Hwys 169 & 2 (same as 4th Street) turn north onto 3rd Ave NE (follow brown signs to the Mesabi Trail). Travel .5 miles through a residential area until you come to a round-about, go directly into the Fairgrounds. Registration will be at the large Commercial Building - look for yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from Virginia – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking near registration.

Route #2: **Marble** - Elementary School (behind City Hall) / 201 South Kate Street / Marble, MN

- ✓ **9:00 - 10:00 a.m. start time** / 50 miles to finish in Virginia
- ✓ Rest stop for longest route
- ✓ From the east enter Marble from Hwy 169 onto Ethel Street, go two blocks on Ethel Street and turn left onto Alice Ave, go two blocks on Alice then take a left on to Kate Street; the school will be on your right behind the City Hall. From the west enter Marble from Hwy 169 onto Alice Ave, follow Alice to Kate Street and take a right, the school will be on your right behind the City Hall - look for the yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from Virginia – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking near the school - do not block access to school or rest stop area.

Route #3: **Hibbing** - Greyhound Bus Museum (registration & bike storage behind the Museum in large tent) 1201 Greyhound Blvd / Hibbing, MN

- ✓ **10:30 – 11:30 a.m. start time** / 26 miles to finish in Virginia
- ✓ Rest stop for longer routes
- ✓ Enter Hibbing at the 13th street entrance from Hwy 169 – 1st entrance into Hibbing coming from the east, last entrance if coming from the west and traveling through Hibbing. Follow the signs to the Mesabi Trail, Bus Museum and City Park. Head to the back of the museum to the large tent - look for the yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from Virginia – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. There is ample parking on any of the streets surrounding the Museum - please do not park in their lot as they are open for regular tourism business for the day.

Route #4: **Buhl** - Stubler Beach (under picnic shelter) / 45 Grant Location / Buhl, MN

- ✓ **11:00 a.m. – 12 noon start time** / 13 miles to finish in Virginia
- ✓ Rest stop for longer routes
- ✓ From the east - take the 1st entrance into Buhl onto Pennsylvania Ave. Stay on Pennsylvania Ave, .5 miles to the 1st stop sign (intersects with Forest St), continue straight on Pennsylvania another .6 miles, Stubler Beach will be on your left. Look for the yellow registration sign.
- ✓ From the west - take 1st entrance into Buhl onto Forest St. Stay on Forest St, .5 miles to 1st stop sign (intersects with Pennsylvania Ave). Turn left onto Pennsylvania - Stubler Beach will be another .6 miles on your left. Look for the yellow registration sign.
- ✓ If we are transporting your bicycle from Virginia – it will be waiting for you here. If we are transporting you on Saturday morning – the bus will drop you off here. Parking is limited please keep it as tight as you can in the beach parking lot.

Finish Line: Virginia - Olcott Park (entrance near 4th St No & 9th Ave W)
9th Street North & 9th Avenue West / Virginia, MN

- ✓ Final registration – drop off for bicycle transport to start points – loading for rider transport to start points – finish line.
- ✓ Enter Virginia from Hwy 169/53 taking the 9th Street North entrance (follow signs to the hospital & park); this is the 4th entrance if coming from the south, and the 2nd entrance if coming from the north. Continue down 9th Street North past the cemetery and hospital – turn right at the first set of stop lights by the hospital onto 9th Avenue West.
- ✓ On Friday night, enter the Park at the entrance near the 9th Avenue West & 4th Street North intersection (near the Parkview School). Registration will be at the Italian-American Club building.
- ✓ On Saturday, park next door in the Parkview School parking lot or on the streets surrounding the Park, no vehicles will be allowed to park in Olcott Park near tour activities.

Rest Stops / Food: Water, Gatorade, fruit and snacks will be available at all these locations:

- **Grand Rapids - Itasca County Fairgrounds** (start #1 - 16 miles to first rest stop)
- **Marble - School** (start #2 & rest stop - 10 miles to next rest stop)
- **O'Brien Reservoir** (rest stop only - 14 miles to next rest stop)
- **Hibbing - Greyhound Bus Museum** (start #3 & rest stop - 12 miles to next rest stop)
- **Buhl - Stubler Beach** (start #4 & rest stop - 14 miles to finish line)
- **Virginia - Olcott Park** - finish line lunch (including vegetarian options) Served by Paul's Market in Eveleth



To make the Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour as "green" as possible, there will be **NO BOTTLED WATER at rest stops**

Be sure to bring your own bike water bottle to refill from coolers.

(Mesabi Trail water bottles will be available at all start locations & the finish line for \$5)

**We are riding this year in memory of, and in celebration of beautiful spirit of
our dear friend and dedicated volunteer, Rhonda Balfour**

Saturday Entertainment / Activities:

- Cycle just an additional 2.2 past the finish line and visit the tallest bridge in Minnesota via the Mesabi Trail - the view is well worth another 4.5 miles round trip. This part of the Mesabi Trail will not be supported...just follow the trail as it passes through Virginia.
- Music in Hibbing, Buhl and the finish line.
- Visit the Greyhound Bus Museum at the Hibbing rest stop.
- Finish line concert / 12:30 – 5:00 p.m.



Miscellaneous:

- All riders will receive a commemorative t-shirt at the finish.
- Massage offered at finish line - 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- If you want to ride the Mesabi Trail for a few more days, your tour wrist band will serve as a three-day trail pass.
- We will ride – rain or shine – the tour will be cancelled or postponed for lightening or severe weather - no refunds.
- No showers available.
- Please support and thank our very generous sponsors – we couldn't do it without them!
- Profits from the ride are used to support the Mesabi Trail and Club Mesabi...we are the "Friends of the Mesabi Trail".

Questions before tour day – call Ardy at 218-749-4331 (home office)

Questions on tour day, contact: Ardy 218-780-9164 (c) or Wayne 218-410-4816 (c)

Other Information

If you are coming from a distance and need lodging...

It will be most convenient to stay in or near the Quad Cities area (the tour finish line) of Virginia, Eveleth, Gilbert and Mt Iron, this will allow the easiest access to rider and bike transportation.

If those lodging in those communities are booked - expand your search west to Chisholm & Hibbing, expand your search to the west to Biwabik & Hoyt Lakes.

Receive a discount on tour weekend (July 31 & Aug 1), by making a reservation with any of these fine Mesabi Trail lodging sponsors. Be sure to tell them you are riding in the Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour.

AmericInn Lodge & Suites (10% off)

5480 Mt Iron Drive / Virginia, MN 55792
218-741-7839 or 800-634-3444

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/americinn/virginia-minnesota/americinn-lodge-and-suites-virginia/overview>

Comfort Inn & Suites (25% off)

8570 Rock Ridge Road / Mt Iron, MN 55768
218-741-7411 or 866-987-7411

<https://www.choicehotels.com/minnesota/mountain-iron/comfort-inn-hotels/mn226>

Country Inn of Hoyt Lakes

(10% off a standard room)

99 Kennedy Memorial Dr / Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750
218-225-3555 or 886-444-3555

<http://www.countryinnofhoytlakes.com/>

Eveleth Supper 8 (10% off)

1080 Industrial Park Dr / Eveleth, MN 55734
218-744-1661 or 800-800-8000

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/eveleth-minnesota/super-8-eveleth/overview>

Lakeshor Motor Inn (10% off)

404 No 6th Ave / Virginia, MN 55792
218-741-3360 or 800-569-8131

<http://www.lakeshor.com/>

Pine View Inn

**(\$10 off per night - for 2 nights)
(\$5 off for one night)**

903 17th St No / Virginia, MN 55792
218-741-8918 or 866-263-0535

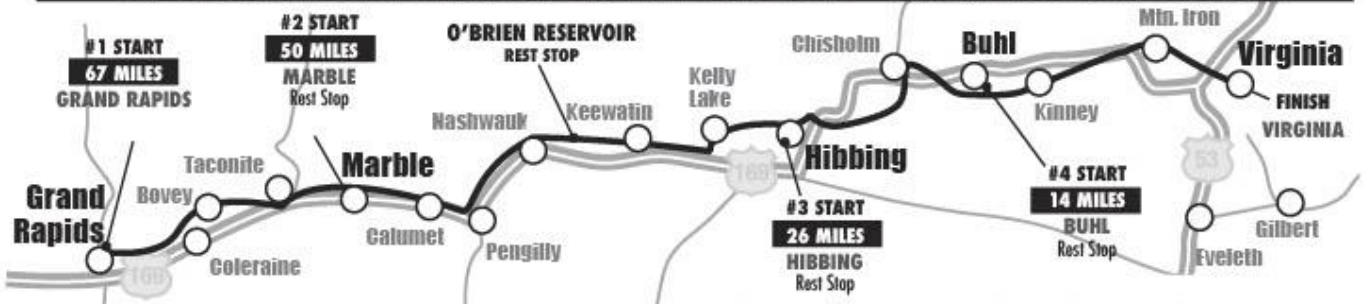
<http://www.pineviewinnmotel.com/>

For more lodging and camping information go to:
<http://www.ironrange.org/> or <http://www.visitgrandrapids.org/>

Mesabi Trail merchandise will be available at the finish line, including jerseys and t-shirts. Cash and check preferred.



GREAT RIVER ENERGY MESABI TRAIL TOUR 2020 - START/FINISH LOCATIONS



GREAT RIVER ENERGY - MESABI TRAIL™



The tour follows the Mesabi Trail™. You will receive more detailed maps at final registration on tour weekend.

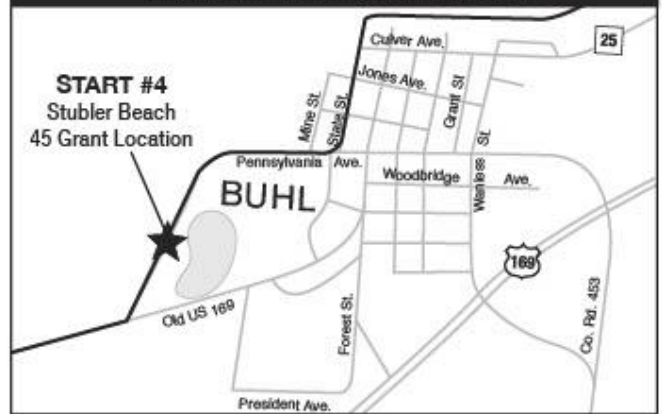
#3 START - HIBBING - 26 MILES



#1 START - GRAND RAPIDS - 67 MILES



#4 START - BUHL - 14 MILES



#2 START - MARBLE - 50 MILES



FINISH - VIRGINIA

