



Racer Update #1

Welcome Racers!! Hope you enjoy the 3rd installation of The Blast!! This is probably the first and only racer update. We'll send another update ONLY if we find any additional information needs to be sent before race day. Just in case keep checking your email until Friday. Make sure both teammates read the web-site and this update.

Location – Race will start and finish at Depot Park which is on Depot Road in downtown Clarkston. The road in and out of Depot Park is one way. Follow this link for directions: http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=Depot+Rd,+Clarkston,+MI+48346&sll=42.686386,-83.352277&sspn=0.006246,0.011587&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Depot+Rd,+Clarkston,+Oakland,+Michigan+48346&z=15

Timeline:

Registration 6:00 – 6:45
Pre-race meeting 6:46am
Race start 8am
Race Finish 2pm

Registration – Look for the tent in Depot Park near the gazebo. Registration is between 6:00 and 6:45. *Both teammates need to be present to go through registration.* A waiver is available on the SMARTBLAST web-site. Each team needs to print one copy of the waiver and bring it completed and signed by both teammates to registration.

Pre-race meeting starts at 6:46 immediately following registration. At the pre-race meeting you will receive maps and find out about the race course. We hope to keep the meeting short to give you time to plan *your* race strategy before the race starts.

Parking – In Depot Park, we will be sharing parking with the Farmers Market and because of that parking will be limited. If possible try to car pool. Or if your team has a second car, we're asking that you park in a nearby lot which is only 1 block away at Washington and Main. You can drive into Depot Park, drop all your gear at the park or your teammates car and then park at the other lot. It's an easy bike ride back to Depot Park because it's all downhill.

Canoes and paddling gear – You can bring your own canoe as well as PFDs and paddles. Each team is allowed one bag for paddling gear. The shafts of the paddles can stick outside of the gear bag. Anyone that has not contacted Heavener Canoes to reserve your canoe needs to do that **immediately** at [Heavener's Canoe Rental](#). Alan can also be reached by phone at 248-561-8274. If you do not reserve a canoe **48 hours** before the race, there will be a **\$10 late fee payable to Heavener's**.

Maps – All maps will be standard 1:24,000 USGS based and pre-marked (no UTM plotting). You will receive these at the pre-race meeting. Each team will receive one set of maps.

Things you might want to bring – Plenty of water. No water is available at Depot Park, but we will have plenty for the party afterwards as well as pizza, salad, ice-cold lemon-aid and homemade cookies.

Insect repellent, long sleeves and long pants because the green spaces you'll be orienteering are getting green and thick!! Sunscreen because we're hoping to see some sun that day. Weather.com is predicting 84 degrees and sunny. Another dry bag or double zip-lock bags for the race directions. An extra pair of socks because you might get wet!

Gear List – Review the gear list on the web-site. Make sure you carry all mandatory gear that is listed. There will be gear checks during the race. A 15-minute penalty will be assessed for missing mandatory gear. During the canoe section, you must wear a buckled, zipped PFD otherwise you'll be disqualified. During the bike section, you must wear a buckled helmet otherwise you'll be disqualified. Don't forget clear contact paper. You will get your passport at registration. You need to laminate it with the clear contact paper before the pre-race meeting.

Team List – The team list is on the web-site. Check it out and make sure all information is correct. If you registered after Saturday, June 12 your team may not be on the list yet. You can get your team number from the team list and add it to the top of your team waiver.

Rules – Please read the rules on the SMARTBLAST web-site before race day. We will go over the rules quickly at the pre-race meeting but to give you the maximum amount of time to get ready for the start, we want to keep the meeting short.

Accommodations – Pontiac Lake Recreation area is the nearest location for camping. As for nearby hotels, I can't vouch for any of them but here are two that you could check out on the internet: Olde Mill Inn (248) 623-0300 or Mill Pond B&B 800 867-4142 millpondbb@email.com. There is also a Comfort Inn in Waterford about 5 miles from Clarkston.

Depot Park and downtown Clarkston is a nice area to hang out in if you have any fans that would like to cheer you on. Supposedly, the opening day for the Clarkston Farmer's Market is June 19 too. The downtown area has shopping for spectators to walking around while waiting for you to return. After the pre-race meeting at 6:45am, we can give spectators an idea of where to go to see the action during the race.