



THE FRED RUNNING RELAYS
CREW MANUAL
2017

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Glossary of terms

- "Crew".....team
- "Conductor".....captain of the team
- "Wrecking Crew".....ultra team of 6 runners for The Fred
- "Yard Crew".....standard team of 7 to 12 runners for The Fred
- "Grunt Crew".....standard team of 4 to 6 runners for The Ed
- "Cinder Crew"..... standard team of 3 runners for The Ed
- "Lena Crew".....standard team of 6 runners for The Lena
- "Peanut Roaster".....team vehicle
- "Main Rail".....running route
- "Switch".....runner transition point
- "Spur".....individual leg of run
- "Beehive"....main transition points for 12 person yard crews.
- "Shining time".....starting time
- "Highball".....average crew pace
- "Wearing the Blue".....stopped because predicted average pace was too fast
- "Counting the ties".....reducing speed
- "Broken knuckles"... sleeping quarters for crews
- "Buzzard's Roost"....finish line

New this year:

- **New event added –“The Lena”...a 50 mile relay starting on Saturday morning**

Introduction

You must be thinking about embarking on this great adventure if you're reading the Crew Manual for the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail 200 Mile Relay! 200 miles?!? You got to be kidding me!! NO WAY!! But if you really think about it, it's only about 15 miles per runner for a crew of 12! We feel you can do it!!

This year's newest addition is the Lena 50 Mile Relay!! Starting in Belmont on Saturday, August 12, crews of up to 6 will run from Rouge River Trail Head in Belmont, MI to Pierson and back.

All crews finishing the run will receive a finisher's medal for each of their crew...big, honkin' chunks of iron! Also, all crew members will get a great race shirt and enjoy a catered menu from Chef Vincent at the Buzzard's Roost this year!!

Some of the proceeds from the event go directly to the Friends of the White Pine Trail. Their website address is <http://www.whitepinetrail.com>.

Lena 50 Mile Relay

This year we have decided to add a 50 Mile relay option running the mainline Saturday, August 12. This is a 5-6 person relay that will start in Belmont, traveling to Pierson Beehive and back to Belmont. Participants will receive the full Fred experience only in a shorter time frame. Can't do the overnight relay? This is the perfect option!

Deadlines You Must Keep In Mind

Crew Registration Deadline	August 1, 2017
Crew Highballin' Deadline	July 15, 2017
Crew Captain Team Meetings	July 30, 2017 3pm Kroc Center Grand Rapids
Final Crew Substitutions	Race Morning

Before Headin' Down the Track

Hiring Your Crew

Wrangle up some buddies and register your crew. Choose between Wrecking Crew (6 runners) and Yard Crew (7 to 12 runners) for The Fred and choose between Cinder Crew (3 runners) or Grunt Crew (4 to 6 runners). Register your crew at the run website, fredmeijerwhitepinetrail200.com. You don't need your entire crew to register, but crews will need to be finalized by June 30, 2017.

Your crew is responsible for all race aid during the run. You must bring your own food and water for the entire event. There will be convenience stores along the route but if you need something special, PACK IT! You are your own sag wagon!!

Shining times (starting time)

There will be several times to shine based on your crew's average highball (see table below how to calculate Average Crew Highball). Shining times are based on accurate highball predictions. These predictions are critical to a successful event and will allow us to place crews in starting slots that produce the least amount of confusion on the course for both participants and organizers. It is extremely important that the highball submitted for each crew is accurate.

The ED, the start times will anticipate crews leaving Cadillac between 9pm on Friday, August 11 and 1am Saturday August 12. See maps on website for start locations.

All Lena Crews will begin Saturday, August 12 at 6:30am.

Wearing the Blue

We open and close our Beehives based on your average pace predictions. If you are running faster than you predicted, we may not have a volunteer at the Beehive to record your time. If your team is running at least 1 min/per/mile faster than predicted, your team could possibly finish 3 hours faster than predicted. If your team is over one minute faster at any point in the event, you will "Wear the Blue" which means we will hold back your team to make sure we have our volunteers in place at the next Beehive. This time will be subtracted from your overall time, so it's not really a penalty except for the fact that your team will be idle.

We will do everything to make sure that we have calculated our Beehive times to help reduce the risk of this happening.

How to Calculate Average Crew Highball (Average pace)

Please email Pete (at phandwerker@sbcglobal.net) your crews estimated pace time as soon as possible... To accurately project a crew's highball:

Take each runners 1/2 marathon** PACE, add them up and divide the total by the number of runners on the team."

**If individuals have not participated in a competitive half-marathon recently, we strongly encourage them to run one before submitting a crew highball

Volunteers

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THIS RACE AND THEY ARE GIVING UP THEIR VALUABLE TIME TO SUPPORT YOUR RACE!! LET'S KEEP THAT IN MIND!! BE SURE TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR TIME!! AND PLEASE, ALWAYS BE POLITE...

Most long distance relays require crews to supply a volunteer for the event, we are waiving that requirement, but encouraging any extra friends, spouses, etc. to sign up as a volunteer on the website. We appreciate any help crews can supply.

Substitutions

If crewmembers need to be changed, the crew conductor can make those changes by contacting Leslie at lbostian928@live.com or at time of check in. **If your crew Highball time is going to change dramatically, you need to let us know ASAP so we can adjust your shining time!**

Refund Policy

All entry fees are non-refundable, even if a crew is no longer able to participate in the relay. If entry is to be deferred, the crew must make request and deferment may be granted at the judgment of the event directors. [Deadline for transfers is June 30, 2017.](#)

Integrity of our event -- Disqualifications

One place that we will not compromise is safety. Any violations that endanger the safety of your crew or another crew will result in immediate disqualification. You will be asked to leave the event immediately.

Using an RV as a peanut roaster is another area where disqualification is immediate. We have rule for peanut roasters for a reason (see section on Peanut Roasters)

The runner that starts a leg must finish that leg unless injured. If you feel a team is not following this rule, you must tell Howard or Doug at the time of violation, not the end of the race. We will need physical evidence..."spur number, team names, runner numbers, maybe even photos"...just because you said you saw the violation will not be enough.

We are committed to maintaining our good relationship with the communities along the FMWPT. They generously agree to let us use their facilities during our event and we assure them that the participants will be on their best behavior. Consequently, if at any time during the event the Head Hobos

determine that any member of your crew has comprised the integrity of the event and/or endangered other participants, we reserve the right to disqualify your entire crew. A decision such as this is left entirely to the discretion of the Head Hobos and is not subject to review. No refunds will be given. We are all adults, let common sense prevail.

Highballin' the Main Rail

Crew Check-In

Crew conductors must have the entire crew sign race waivers and present the following items to a race official/ staff at the time of check in:

- At least two (2) led runner lights each peanut roaster.
- At least one (1) running headlamp or hand held flashlight.
- Each runner must have a reflective vest.
- **Runners should carry cell phones while running** at all times **even** during the day.
- Upon check-in, crews will receive runner numbers and peanut roaster signage. The signage needs to be visible to anyone outside of the peanut roaster.
- Driving instructions and last minute details will be relayed to crews at this time also.

Lena crews do not need any lights but may need a reflective vest for the first runner on Saturday morning.

Main Rail

Go to <http://www.fredmeijerwhitepinetrail200.com/> for individual maps of each spur.

Main Rail Switches

The run consists of 36 switches along the main rail with 6 of the switches denoted as a "Beehives." At "Main Switches" **ALL** peanut roasters are allowed to park. Beehive switches are

- Shining Time at Rouge River Park in Belmont
- Pierson
- Reed City
- North Cadillac Middle School
- Reed City
- Pierson
- Buzzard's Roost in Belmont

Beehives

At the Reed City and Pierson (Saturday Only) Beehives, we have facilities set up for crews to set out sleeping gear. Sleeping gear cannot be in these facilities if the crew van is not the off van. In other words, if your van is heading towards Cadillac, you cannot "reserve" space for when you return. **NO AIR MATTRESSES!** This ain't no Holiday Inn!!

The Scout Building in Reed City and the Pierson Township Hall will again be places for crews to bed down. The Reed City Scout Building in Reed City has a closing time of 8:00am. If your crew need more sleep time, head to the Pierson Building.

Parking at the Reed City Beehive

With the additional vehicles we are requiring all crews to park at the Scout Building in Reed City and not in the Yoplait parking lot.

Dropping out of the Event

If you are going to drop out of the event for whatever reason, you need to contact Howard or Doug immediately. If those two are not available, you need to contact Pete.

We need to know that you are no longer on the course and we aren't holding volunteer at a check point waiting for you.

Recommended Crew Rotation

Yard Crews

Each member of the crew will complete three legs of the relay. Runners may run any leg that they wish, but we recommend runners run in the same sequence throughout the run to help facilitate which runners go in which peanut roaster. For example, if a runner runs spur 1, he should also run spur 13 and 25. If this method is followed, runners in peanut roaster #1 will run spurs 1-6, 13-18, and 25-30. The runners in peanut roasters #2 will then be responsible for spurs, 7-12, 19-24, and 31-36.

Wrecking Crew

Each member of the crew will complete six spurs of the course. Because your whole crew will be in one peanut roaster, we really don't want to know what goes on in there!! Also, limit your Facebook posts as not to scare your younger friends.

Crew Support

This is a self-sufficient race. We do not provide food or water. Crews are responsible for all nutrition for themselves and the runners along the course. There will be opportunities to stop at convenience stores and restaurants (for Yard crews) along the way. But if you want something special, bring it with you. We are trying to make arrangements at different locations for extended stays (rolling out sleeping bags and showers) for the crews to rest. Watch the website and your e-mails for details as we get close to the event.

Some crews have spectators traveling with them in a separate vehicles. These vehicles cannot park in the trailheads except at the Scout Building.

2017-- Peanut Roasters (crew vehicle)

We recommend 12 – 15 passenger peanut roasters whenever possible. Runners will have a lot more room to relax. We do not allow any vehicle longer than 20'. **Motor homes, RV's, campers, trailers, buses or limos are not allowed on the course.**

- Yard Crew -- 2 vehicles max
- Wrecking Crew -- 2 vehicle max
- Grunt – 2 vehicles max
- Cinder -- 1 vehicle max.
- Lena Crew – 1 vehicle max.

Crews provide their own vehicles.

With the additional vehicles we are requiring all crews to park at the Scout Building in Reed City and not in the Yoplait parking lot.

We have limited parking at some runner switches, so please park only one peanut roaster at these switches. Peanut roaster numbers will be assigned at check-in. These numbers need to be visible in the front and rear windows. Crews using just one vehicle should post both peanut roaster numbers in their windows so they are allowed at each exchange point. Two peanut roasters are allowed at Beehives where the runner rotation requires it. Most crews will have 12 runners, so Beehives locations are:

- Shining Time Rouge River Bank in Belmont
- Pierson
- Reed City
- North Cadillac Middle School
- Reed City
- Pierson
- Buzzard's Roost in Belmont

We recommend peanut roaster #1 contains runners 1-6 and peanut roaster #2 contains runners 6-12. Runner #1 from peanut roaster #1 begins at the starting line. Once the race starts, peanut roaster #1 travels to the first runner exchange point where runner #2 will prepare to run. Runners from Peanut roaster 1 continue to run in order up to runner switch #6; At switch #6, peanut roaster #2 should be waiting.

At this point, runner #6 from Peanut roaster #1 will hand off to runner #7 from peanut roaster #2. Then, peanut roaster #2 continues along the race course rotating runners until the next major switch, switch #12, where they will hand off to Peanut roaster 1 again. This pattern continues until the Finish.

Visible Race Number

Crew race numbers must be worn and visible on the front of each runner at all times while running. Bib numbers must be pinned to the outer most layer of clothing, including jackets, shorts, and reflective vests. At night, please attach the bib in a manner that does not obscure reflective material.

Cell Phones

Runners should carry cell phones at all times even during the day. Because runners will be away from the road during parts of the run, it will be very helpful if they carry a cell phone in case of injuries or other issues.

Peanut Roaster Drivers

We recommend that Grunt crews in The ED should have a separate driver and we require that a Cinder Crew in The Ed have a separate driver.

Peanut roaster drivers DO NOT need to be members of the crew.

Driving

Written driving instructions are being developed and will be posted on-line as soon as they are finalized. An email will be sent to the conductors as changes are made.

Garmins, TomToms or Onstar types of GPS navigations systems are strongly recommended for all crew, one for each peanut roaster. We have tried to capture actual

address location as close as possible to all runners' switches. If you don't have access to a GPS unit, written driving instructions and maps will be provided to the crews.

We ask that all drivers be alert and drive at or below posted speed limits. Be sure to leave adequate time to arrive at exchange points so that there is no temptation to speed. Please be courteous all others on the road. Do not honk in residential areas.

Respect Local Residents & Communities

While traveling through the local communities, please remember we are guests and you should treat all residents with courtesy and respect. Going out of your way to thank locals will go a long way in securing our ability to return each year.

Reflective Vest Requirements for Nighttime Running and Crew Members Outside of Peanut Roasters

If there is one thing we will not waiver on is runner safety, especially at night. Nighttime reflective gear and lighting will be required from dusk to dawn. Every **crew member outside the support vehicle MUST** wear a reflective vest at dusk (this time to be determined).

Night time running requirements

- Runner MUST wear two (2) led runner lights, one in front, one in back
- Runner MUST wear one (1) running headlamp
- Runner MUST wear a Fred Approved Reflective Vest or Harness.
- Runners should carry cell phones at all times even during the day.
- A chaperone for nighttime runners will be allowed either as another runner or as a biker. But that extra runner/biker must have the safety lights and approved vests just as the runner is required to have.

After sunset on Friday and until sunrise at Saturday morning, these safety measures must be followed. **SAFETY IS THE ONE REASON THAT WE WILL DISQUALIFY A TEAM FROM THE EVENT.** So bring extra batteries for your lamps.

- Peanut roasters are not allowed to follow the runner while runners are on roads.
- Please do not stop or slow down in places that will impede traffic
- Runners are to run on the left shoulder of all roads (against traffic), using sidewalks when available, unless signs or race officials direct otherwise.

APPROVED



Reflective Vest and Harness

NOT APPROVED



Reflective Belts, Sleeves and Vest with Piping

Injured Runners during Race

In the event of an injury, any of the remaining runners can replace the injured runner. With the exception of the leg in which the runner was injured, legs cannot be split in sections. Once a runner drops out of the race, he or she cannot re-enter back into the race. Once an IV is administered, the injured runner is no longer eligible to run. Crews can substitute the injured runners legs in any fashion they see fit.

Littering & Property Damage

Any runners who are reported to have damaged private or public property or to have littered, urinated or defecated on private or public property will be disqualified and will not be invited back. Toilets and trash bins are available at all exchange points.

Follow Race Officials Instructions

Race officials include staff and volunteers. Course volunteers will be stationed at strategic switches along the trail, but not all. We are all adults here. We don't feel that we need to baby-sit crews at all switches. We trust the crews to make honest switches because we are here to have fun, right?...I SAID RIGHT? That's better!!

Weather

The train is rolling whether it's rain or shine. However, under certain severe weather conditions wherein significant damage or alterations to the race course may occur, we reserve the right to cancel the event. There will be no refunds given if the race is canceled due to severe weather conditions. The race may be canceled or delayed due to, but are not limited to, the following: severe electrical storms/ thunderstorms, typhoons, earthquakes, severe raining, flooding, fog, landslides, mudslides, etc. **Every effort will be made to hold the event!!**

Lightning

If there is lightning at the start of the race we reserve the right to delay starts until the lightning clears. If you see lightning on the course after the race has started, get your runner off the road and into the support vehicle. Make a note of the time and the location where you exited the course. If lightning clears within 1 hour put your runner back on the road where they left and make a note of the time. If lightning persists longer than an hour, Race Officials will give your crew instructions on how and where to proceed

In the Event of an Emergency Dial 911

We will have no medical staff on hand. First aid will be stationed at all major exchanges. They will be equipped to handle only minor sports injuries. Please be aware of this and plan ahead on how you will handle any emergencies. It is the responsibility of each crew to be aware of the location of hospitals and other medical facilities and their hours of operation.

In the event of an emergency, dial 911 Then notify the nearest race official, as they will be able to communicate with medical personnel or call for an ambulance if the emergency is severe.

Buzzard's Roost

Buzzard's Roost in Comstock Park

Celebration

Join us at Rouge River Park for the Fred/Ed Buzzard Roost!!! More details to follow!

Awards

The Fred trophy will go to the overall winning team, whether yard or wrecking crew. A permanent plaque will be affixed before we let the winning team take the trophy. Details will be worked out between the event and the winning team.

Awards will also be given to overall yard crew and wrecking crew (minus the overall winner). We will also be giving away prizes for best crew design, best crew name, most crew spirit, and anything else we can come up with!

Results

Start and finish times will be tracked and results will be posted on the web site following the event. Team times will be recorded at all Beehives.