

2016 Blankets Creek 6 Hour Race Update

THANK YOU for registering for the Blankets Creek 6 Hour Race presented by OutSpokin' Bicycles! We have an exciting event lined up and are really excited to have you join us! Below you will find detailed information regarding race activities.

Race Check In/Registration – Two Options

Thursday, July 14th from 4 pm to 7 pm at OutSpokin' Bicycles on Sixes Road.

Check in early so you can skip this step on Saturday morning and focus on your pit setup. If you plan to register at OutSpokin' on Thursday, you'll also save \$5 per person versus race day registration. (Online registration closes Friday July 15th at 5 pm)

OutSpokin' Bicycles – 3422 Sixes Rd, Canton, GA 30114

Phone : 678-483-0200

Saturday, July 16th from 7 am to 9:30 am onsite at Blankets Creek

Registration will be in the picnic shelter behind the large metal building.

Parking and Pit Setup – GATE OPENS AT 7 a.m. – PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 7 am

We will be opening the gate to Blankets Creek at 7 am. There is limited parking this year in the Blankets Creek Parking lot and it is first-come, first-served, with overflow parking being at River Church as usual. There is no gear drop off this year, so those parking at the church will need to carry all pit items the short distance to the Blankets Creek Parking Lot. There is a nice cut-through from the church lot to Blankets that we will have marked for you. Please be respectful and do not change clothes or use the bathroom anywhere on or near the church property. We have plenty of pit space for everyone so don't worry about us running out of room.

All solo pits (meaning a pit that contains at least one solo rider) will be along the course within the parking lot. Team pits will be located in the grass area between the parking lot and church (this area actually has some good shade). If you are on a team and you desire to be right on the course, you will need to find a solo to share a pit with. There will be enough room for all solos to have a pit along the course, and we will likely have room for some teams to be along the course if they prefer. Pits along the course in the parking lot do tend to be hotter than those in the grass. No pits in the skills yard or festival lawn area.

I would not recommend setting up any pit items the night before due to the probability of theft or vandalism. The only area you may set up anything early (and you will have to carry it in from the church since the gate will be locked) is in the grass area (team pit area) behind the fence. No tents may be set up in the parking lot before 7 am – sorry no exceptions, as the course needs to be staked out before tents start going up.

Waiver and Check-in

There is a link to the race waiver in the racer update email. Each racer must fill out a waiver, and any children under 18 need to have their waiver signed by a parent or guardian. If you are under 18 and your parents will not be attending the event, please print out the attached race waiver and have them sign it beforehand. You may either print out the attached waiver and bring it to the race or fill one out at the race.

You may only check in your teammate if you bring an accident waiver signed by them. Team members may check in individually – not all members need to be present before going to check in.

At check-in you will be given your race number, t-shirt, beer glass and swag bag. The race number needs to be attached to the handlebar on the front of your bike. We are using Chip Timing, and your chip will be adhered to the back of your number plate. Please do not bend, fold or damage your timing chip in any way or it may not read properly.

If you are competing as part of a team, you DO NOT need to wait for your teammates to check in. Each racer will have a unique number, regardless of whether you are a team or solo racer. You will not have a baton this year – instead you will need to tag your teammate in the teammate exchange area.

Pre-Race Meeting and Start Procedure

We will have a **mandatory pre-race meeting at 9:40 am in the Blankets Creek Parking Lot.** Here you will receive detailed course instructions and will be given a chance to ask any questions you may have. The start will again be out on Sixes Road thanks to the assistance of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department.

Real Time Results

As with all of our events, real-time results will be available at the race venue on any device that can connect to the internet. Save yourself the walk over to the results tent and simply pull up **mgareresults.com** to view your lap times and team's current placing. If you live in the dark ages and still have a flip phone, you can always walk over to the results tent to check results on tablets we will have set up.

Neutral Mechanical Support

OutSpokin' Bicycles will be on site providing mechanical support to all racers. If you have a mechanical and can complete your lap and return to the pit areas, you may utilize them for any and all mechanical support without penalty.

Weather

Based on past event history, I predict a 100% chance of rain or extreme heat at some point during the event. I would highly recommend an Ezip shelter of some sort and a means of anchoring it in case of gusty winds. Note that stakes will not go into the parking lot gravel very easily. Anchoring with heavy coolers or tool boxes works well. We reserve the right to end the race early for the sake of YOUR safety if we have violent thunderstorms with dangerous winds and lightening.

Race Start and Post Race Activities

We are again working with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Dept to start this year's race on bikes. This will include a start out on Sixes Road, followed by a 1/2 mile circuit on Sixes and then back through the parking lot and down onto the trail.

Once you complete your lap, as you come back into the parking lot, you will need to dismount your bike and run with it through the timing and teammate exchange area. If you are on a team, this is where you will tag up with the next rider and he/she will run their bike out of the exchange area and then remount and take off on their lap. Solos just keep running through the exchange area and then remount after exiting. After going through the exchange area, teams and solos are welcome to stop at their pit area along the course to refuel, switch bikes, fix bikes, sit and rest, take a nap, etc., before heading out for their lap.

If you are on a team, each team member needs to complete at least one lap over the course of the race. You can do back to back laps or you can switch each lap. You will still dismount at the exchange area and you will still ride the same

distance through the parking lot. There is really no advantage to doing back to back laps if you are on a team, so best to use that as a last resort if your teammate isn't ready in the exchange area when you come through :)

This race will have a hard cut-off at 4 p.m., meaning that if you are not back by 4 p.m. on the race clock, your lap will not count. It is up to you whether you want to try to beat the clock for your last lap. Please note for the sake of our volunteers on course, we will not let riders go out after 3:30 pm. If you do so, you are on your own.

Solos only need to complete one lap to be considered an official finisher, however the winner will be determined by who has the most number of laps in the least amount of time.

The main heckle/spectator area will be Hurl Hill. We are encouraging folks to watch the race at this location, but be advised that hecklers and spectators should be out on the trail BEFORE the race begins and may not interfere with forward progress of any bicycle at any time.

The awards ceremony will be at approximately 4:30 p.m. or when all podium finishers return from their final lap and are scored. You must be present at the awards ceremony to receive your award, as they will not be mailed. We have cash for a minimum of the top 3 male solo experts, top 3 female solo experts as well as custom podium shirts to the winners in each category. Medals and sponsor prizes to the top three in each category as a minimum, with some categories going deeper depending on number of entrants.

ADDITIONAL RULES:

- NO EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES!!!
- Do not throw litter of any kind of on the trail. Penalty is DQ, one very ticked off race director, and 10 hours of trail work before we let you sign up again.
- All participants will be required to wear a bicycle helmet at all times while riding. Penalty is DQ.
- Outside (non racer) assistance is only permitted in the pit area. Non racers may not assist out on the course. Racers may assist other racers and are encouraged to do so.
- All food and drink for the race must be either carried with the racer or staged in the pit area. There will be no water stops on the course.
- You must run or walk your bike into and out of the exchange/timing area each lap, regardless of whether you are a team or solo racer. If you do not dismount, you will be assessed a 5 minute penalty and potentially tackled by our teammate exchange bouncers.
- Teams must tag their teammate in exchange area each lap. A 5 minute penalty will be assessed each time a team does not complete the tag up.
- Race numbers must be visible at all times and must be mounted to the handlebars on the front of the bike.
- Cutting the course is not permitted. Penalty is DQ and most likely public ridicule as with Strava and all the electronic gadgets, someone will probably figure out that you cheated.
- In the event of an unfixable mechanical, the racer must complete the lap along the entire course with his/her bike to receive credit for the lap. You MAY back track or shortcut back to the pit to fix your bike, but you will not receive credit

for that lap. Do not enter the timing/exchange area if you are coming back from an incomplete lap. Please be honest – we know you can't really take 20 minutes off your fastest lap time on lap#5.....

- Please exercise caution and good sportsmanship when passing other racers on the trail. Announce your intention to pass rather than just forcing your way by with no warning. Most riders will gladly let you pass. If a rider in a different category asks to pass, you must let them by at the first safe opportunity. There is no reason to block the trail for those who are not in your category. In most cases, simply moving to the side (not necessarily stopping) will be enough for faster riders to get by.
- Solos need to complete one lap to be considered official finishers. Teams need each person to complete at least one lap to be considered official finishers.
- Once you reach your pit, you may change any equipment you want, including bikes, and you may stay there as long as you'd like.

Thanks again for registering and see you all on July 16th!