

Professional Mountainbike Event Promotions
Home of The 24 Hour Mountain Bike Team Relay National Point Series

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Dear 24 Hours of 9 Mile Race Fan,

03/11/09

Over the last ten years, the 24 Hours of 9 Mile has become one of the biggest and best 24-hour races in the country and one of the largest mountain bike races in the Midwest. **Kevin Eccles deserves great credit** for creating an event that has achieved such success and for creating the a spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and fun that are hallmarks of all authentic mountain bike races. The cult-like feel of the event is so evident. Kevin has assembled a tight-knit core of volunteers and staff whose hard work, motivation, and loyalty are testaments to the commitment of the Wisconsin mountain bike community that have supported and nurtured the 24 Hours of 9 Mile over the years.

Kevin's decision to sell the event is understandable; though I'm sure it was not an easy one for him to come to. Kevin loves this event. It's "his baby." We here at Granny Gear Productions are truly honored that Kevin chose **Granny Gear to pilot the event into the future**. We know that Kevin places in us his trust, his confidence and his best hope for the future. It is our intention to follow through with Kevin's vision for growing the event, while maintaining its home-grown, fun-fest, community atmosphere.

Granny Gear is a small company that was born out of the first 24-hour race, the 24 Hours of Canaan, in Davis, West Virginia, in 1992. Our mission statement is encapsulated in our logo's tag-line, "**Our Business Is Fun!**" We are very clear in the understanding that we are in the business of delivering fun but we are also committed to having fun in doing so. For seventeen years, we have earned a sterling reputation because we care deeply about our racers, about delivering maximum fun, and about running our business with integrity and listening to our racers so that we can constantly improve our events.

Racers want a great race to look forward to, year after year. To do this, the entry fees need to go up. We know that for some racers the entry fee is a significant cost and we don't want the new entry fees to represent a barrier to your continuing to enjoy the fun at 9 Mile. So, **through the April 15th, we are offering an early-bird discount**, comparable to last year's 24-9 entry fees. Sign-up soon and take advantage of these prices by going to our new on-line registration system **at grannygear.com**. Because at the outset Kevin sanctioned his event through Granny Gear, you'll find many of the same classes (and a few new ones). We will be continuing the 12-hour race at 9 Mile, too.

The timing of Kevin's offer to sell could not have been better. There's a real opportunity here for everyone. Kevin will have more time with his family (and on his bike), Granny Gear has a new shining-star event to incorporate into The 24 Hour National Point Series, and 24-9 racers and fans will get to see **the race taken to whole new level**. For starters, we intend to fatten up (pun intended) the on-site food concessions, expand the family-fun aspects of the race by bringing in more activities for kids, improve the PA system, and hire Bruce Hildenbrand, our favorite race announcer. Rest assured, we want to keep all the great traditions (e.g. check-points, kids race, etc.) and 24-9 has inspired us to integrate some of the 24-9 fun into our other events.





GRANNY GEAR PRODUCTIONS, INC.



In our way of thinking, this is your race, not ours. It wouldn't happen without you and your support-crew of friends and family. **We want your ideas and suggestions.** Please feel free to send us an e-mail at heygranny@grannygear.com or call us at **304-259-5533**. In the twenty six years that I have been a mountain bike race promoter, it has been my experience that the most successful races invariably have a huge community of support. When I saw how true this was at 9 Mile, I became very excited about the possibilities for the race. And I knew Granny Gear would be a good fit to help you carry it on. Together we can make the 24 Hours of 9 Mile the largest and "funnest" race in the Midwest, a race that draws teams far and wide, a race in that carries-on its traditions and has its reputation and prestige continue to grow, year after year.

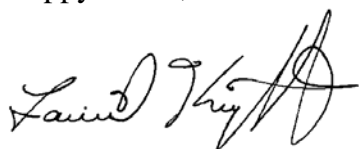
For the last three years, 24-9 has enjoyed the lime-light and prestige of being designated the USA Cycling 24-hour National Championships. Now, as part of Granny Gear's 24 Hour National Point Series, **24-9 will continue to be a go-to event** for top solos and teams from all over the country. Points are tallied in all pro and amateur competitive classes so this creates an opportunity for you to go "on-the-road," too. The Series opener is 24 Hours of Big Bear, the roots of 24-hour racing, in Hazelton, West Virginia, June 13th & 14th, next is 9 Mile, July 25th & 26th, and then, the Series Championship, in the world's mountain bike Mecca of Moab, Utah, at the famous 24 Hours of Moab, October 10th & 11th

In an interesting turn of events, USA Cycling's Arizona venue for the 2009 National 24-hour Championships fell through and they recently tapped **Granny Gear to host the 2009 National Championships at the 24 Hours of Moab**. 24 Hours of Big Bear will be the Nat champs in 2010. And we intend to bid for the Nat Champs to return to 9 Mile in 2011.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge Kevin for all his hard work, creating such a great event and for all his help making the transition easy for us. **You'll likely see Kevin out on the course** this year, having fun with the race in a whole new (and entirely less stressful) way. As part of the deal, we've given Kevin and Tom Schuler a free team entry, for life. They deserve it.

We are grateful for the patronage and good energy that 24-hour racers bring to our events and we are **so looking forward to hosting 24-9** in its eleventh year and beyond. Best wishes for an awesome 2009 race season. See you at 9 Mile!

Happy Trails,



Laird Knight
President - Granny Gear Productions, Inc.

