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Dear 24-9 Family,

Thank you for helping to create the premier mountain bike race the Midwest: America's Dairyland 24 Hours of 9 mile. The volunteers, staff and riders have built a special event in the heart of Wisconsin.

It is with a bit of sadness to inform you that I will be taking a back seat in the event's production. TS Events (Tom Schuler and I) are handing the reigns of the 24 Hours of 9 mile to Laird Knight and Granny Gear Productions (GGP). I will take the time to focus my future energies on my family and work commitments (yes, I have a real job).

Tracy and I, as well as countless volunteers, have poured our souls into the event to help it grow and prosper. However, the event has grown to a point that I can no longer provide the time needed to help it reach its fullest potential. I am confident that Laird and GGP will bring new energy and ideas to the event and help it continue to grow. It's like sending a child to college: it's time the event to grow in new ways.

GGP built the first 24-hour mountain bike race, the 24 Hours of Canaan (now 24 Hours of Big Bear). They also run the 24 Hours of Moab, the largest and most respected 24-hour race in the world. 24-9 will now become part of this illustrious group, making a 24-hour racing trifecta!

In 1998, we volunteered at Canaan to see what 24-hour racing was all about. We worked three of the four shifts and scoped the grounds on the other shift. Since then, Laird has been a huge help as we worked together and shared ideas about how to run an efficient, fun 24 hour race. Laird's expertise has helped grow 24-9 into the event it has become. I know that GGP will take 24-9 in the right direction.

I will continue to enjoy the 24-9 as a participant and advocate of the sport. I haven't ridden a tandem much in my life, but look forward to being a "stoker" for 24-9. I also look forward to seeing you this summer on the race course. I might even take the jump!

I sincerely thank you all for a very rewarding 10-year run at the helm of 24 Hours of 9 Mile. I will carry the experiences with me for the rest of my days (and nights)!

Happy Trails!

— Kevin Eccles