



2008 Thunder Rolls Adventure Race – Presented By Salomon

Competitor Up-Date #2

August 3, 2008

Well...only about a month to go to the start of the 2008 Thunder Rolls Adventure Race. From an organizational standpoint everything is falling into place nicely. The course is unbelievable! It is all new and extremely challenging. For all of you navigation lovers, this is the race for you. Every available moment is being spent on the course scouting new areas and running all aspects of it. The recent 100 mile + wind storm has left its mark on the forested areas. No problem though, it only makes route choices more challenging and slows up the land navigation. The good news this year is that the stinging nettle is much less than last year. Yesterday, we only encountered one small patch of it. I would highly recommend the wearing of long pants on the land navigation sections of the course though.

There have been a large number of posts on the FORUM at www.thethunderrolls.org. I would highly recommend that you read and reread all of them to pick up bits of information, hints, and answers I have provided to your questions. I will not use the up-date to repeat them.

One question though I will answer here. For those of you who would like to stay in a motel and have a private hot shower, the closest motels are located in Muscatine, Iowa. They are all grouped together on Highway 38/61 and are only about 12 miles west of Illinois City. They range from the Muskie Motel at \$40 for two beds and first floor access to the AmericInn which is a three story motel and about \$80. You can Google "Muscatine Motels" for a sampling of the quality of them. Here are some of the phone numbers:

- Muskie Motel 563-263-2601
- Super 8 563-263-9100
- Fairfield Inn 563-264-5566
- AmericInn 800-396-5007

I have not reserved rooms at any of the motels. Last year we did not meet the minimum required. Please contact me via e-mail if you have a question on the quality of each.

WATER - There will be water available on the course at each of the transition areas. I would recommend that if you have team members that drink a lot that you have a water purification system with you. There will be at least one lengthy land navigation section.

BRIEFING - The race briefing has been moved up to 7:00 p.m. at the Illinois City Grange Hall on Friday night, September 5th to allow the 24 hour teams more time to plot the course and to prepare and drop gear.

MAPS – 1:24,000 National Geographic Maps, created by TOPO! Will be used for this race. You will be required to plot UTM's. The only outside map which may be used is the Illinois Atlas and Gazetteer available at Active Endeavors or bookstores.

CHECK IN – There will not be a gear check at check in. There will be mandatory gear checks on the course. Failure to have the required gear will result in a time penalty.

ACTIVE ENDEAVORS – At check in, everything in the store will be at least 20% off for racers!

COURSE MILEAGE – The official distance for the 24 hour race is 102 miles! The 12 hour race distance will be announced in Up-date #3.

Finally, I would like to personally thank John Hobbs of Enviromark and Tuvi Mendel, MD of Orthopaedic Specialists, P.C. for their financial support of the Thunder Rolls Adventure Race. Without it, a race of this quality and magnitude would not be possible. If and when the occasion presents, please thank them personally.



If you haven't done so yet, please register on-line at www.getmeregistered.com as soon as possible to insure a slot in this year's race.

Train hard and smart!

Gerry V.

More Than an Adventure.....It's an Experience!