

Colorado Conundrum

Crested Butte, Colo. Aug. 28, 1994
50 km; trails, jeep roads, cross-country;
6,980' climb

1. Steve Smalzel,30	5:29:00!
2. Chris Parks,21	5:57:58
3. Scott Hirst,33	6:35:00
4. Kirk Apt,32	7:45:34
5. Al Kroeger,34	9:53:26
6. Jerry Deverell,50	10:09:30
Mike Ehrlich,31	10:09:30
11 starters	! = course record

What is the most difficult 50-km in the country? The answer to this conundrum may be the Colorado Conundrum. With climbs to five passes, a traverse across a spectacular boulder field, a thrashing bushwhack up a 700-foot slope, and a final section around the Black Hole and Smelly Tank, the eclectic course offers more than enough challenges for everyone.

Four runners bettered the previous course record, led by Steve Smalzel of Salida, Colo., in a phenomenal 5:29. Chris Parks, a 2:35-marathoner from Gunnison, Colo., cut almost two and one-half hours from his previous course best time to finish second, and Hardrock 100 champion Scott Hirst ran strongly to finish in 6:35.

All the runners enjoyed a beautiful late summer day in the Elk Range.

Kirk Apt (R.D.)

Machickanee 50 Km Trail Run

Abrams, Wisc. August 20, 1994
10-km loop

1. Wayne Christopherson,46,MI	4:09:45
2. Paul Olson,44,MI	4:16:02
3. Andy Holak,26	4:19:27
4. Joe Johnson,44,MI	4:32:37
5. John Hynnek,54,MI	4:35:53
6. Alex Swenson,30,IL	4:48:03
7. Rolly Portelance,51,CAN	4:48:42
8. Robert Rusch,52	4:51:17
9. Wayne Bohlman,47	4:56:43
Mike Keuler,38	4:56:43
11. John Surdyk,38	4:58:08
12. Daniel Heins,39	5:04:04
13. Kevin Greatens,39	5:04:10
14. Liz Johnson,29,MI	5:06:46!
15. David Hughes,48,IN	5:18:04
16. Joe Root,49	5:45:09
17. Alan Hollo,19,MI	5:45:34
18. Carla Anderson,43,MI	6:33:06
Joanne Furton,30,MI	6:33:06
George Drucker,44,IL	6:33:06
21 starters	! = course record

The blackberry pickers were out in force, as the inaugural Machickanee 50 Km Trail Run began on a perfect late-August morning. The sky was overcast and threatening rain, while the temperatures hovered in the low 70s throughout much of the day. The day was ripe for some fine ultrarunning performances.

The Machickanee 50 was held in a

fairly remote section of the Machickanee County Forest, near Abrams, in northeastern Wisconsin. Heavy rains two days before the race turned a couple of short sections of the trail into swamp. Fortunately, runners were able to bypass these wet areas, and remained their cheerful selves throughout the somewhat muddy day.

Joe Johnson blazed out to a fast start, and soon left all other runners in his wake. Only Andy Holak and Paul Olson remained close for the first three laps, while eventual winner Wayne Christopherson started slowly but then began picking off runners as the race progressed.

Holak finally caught Johnson at the start of the fifth and last lap, and while they chatted briefly at the aid station, Wayne Christopherson came blazing in and took off again like a whirlwind, eventually winning by six minutes. Paul Olson passed Holak during the last lap to take second, while Holak held on to finish his first ultra in third. Johnson, a little winded from his blazing start, finished fourth.

Liz Johnson ran a superb race, and came on strong during the last lap to take a convincing win in only her second ultra.

Special congratulations to all of the first time ultra finishers: Daniel Heins, Kevin Greatens, Joe Root, Joanne Furton, Carla Anderson, Andy Holak, and especially 19-year-old Alan Hollo, who ran a great race despite never having run over 16 miles before. Great job! At the other end of the spectrum, Rolly Portelance, from Chelmsford, Ontario, finished his 98th ultramarathon.

Volunteers from the Holak and Hammar clans also worked hard at the three aid stations and start/finish area to provide runners with treats and encouragement during the race and a post-race pizza feed afterwards. Fun was had by all.

Kim and Andy Holak (co-R.D.'s)

Afton 50 Km Trail Run

Afton State Park, Minn. July 2, 1994
Mostly trails, hilly

1. Charles Hubbard,32	3:17:51!
2. Jim Behr,41	3:46:48
3. Thomas Egger,35	3:58:59
4. Paul Holoumia,32	3:58:59
5. Mike Cloutier,35	4:07:54
6. John Wagner,45,WI	4:16:47
7. Jeff Goldstein,37	4:17:58
8. Gary Westlund,43	4:18:10
9. Jan Schluter,34	4:18:18!
10. Steve Krampe,44	4:18:18
11. Tim Brown,54	4:21:59
12. Kris Olson,35	4:24:23
13. Amy Bergeron,36	4:24:23
14. Mike Millonig,39	4:25:28
15. Mike Hunger,32	4:28:37
16. Mary Bystedt,41	4:37:08
17. Bob Frawley,37	4:41:00
18. Fred Huiras,29	4:41:45
19. Judy Dirks,46,WI	4:47:04
20. Jim Stocco,41	4:49:57
21. Casey Norman,39	4:49:57
22. Howard McCabe,45	4:50:36
23. Fat Rabbit,46,WI	4:58:31

24. Debbie Roth,41	5:00:31
25. Kristofer Kosmider,47	5:07:43
26. Steve Worline,35	5:08:31
27. Michael Scandrett,40	5:10:09
28. Linda Gentling,42	5:11:35
29. Bill Wenmark,46	5:11:35
30. Debi Hogan,36,IA	5:12:16
31. Markus Bosch,35	5:21:40
32. Les Honstad,49	5:27:43
33. Leo Kniebel,48	5:27:43
34. Loren Albin,42	5:36:03
36. Jane Laub,44	5:37:05
35. Pat Walsh,47,WI	5:37:05
37. Mitchell Rossman,37	5:38:09
38. Nancy Gilbert,45	5:39:27
39. Steven Homa,49	5:39:27
40. Marilyn Stimac,46	5:43:41
41. Donald Clark,42	5:45:59
42. Dick Hogan,48,IA	5:47:08
43. Don Divine,45	5:47:57
44. Laurie Woodbury,39	5:48:10
45. Dick Woodbury,49	5:48:10
46. Kris Rogers,41	5:54:12
47. Monica Wenmark,37	5:54:12
48. Thomas Lucy,51	5:55:15
49. Steve Perry,51	5:55:42
50. David Cooper,43,IN	6:04:38
51. Jim Brieske,50,WI	6:09:30
52. Vance Johnson,62	6:21:56
53. Peter Butler,62	6:28:09
53 starters	! = course record

Have you ever had one of those secret places that you run? For years we've been talking about how much we like running at Afton State Park and how much fun it would be to share our secret with others by having an organized event there.

There are trails of all kinds — a little pavement, former railroad bed, hilly hiking trails, cross-country ski trails, narrow rocky winding trails, a little bit of everything. The scenery is spectacular and, as is usually the case with trail running, an assortment of wild creatures. Combine this with the scenic St. Croix River valley, the talented volunteers, and the generous park people and we were well on our way to providing a great running experience.

For some runners, this was their first ultra. For others, it was their second in a week (they had run the FANS 24 Hour the weekend before).

Their were many stories:

"Sue Olsen filled my water bottle!"

"This is the first time I've run a race and gained weight."

"Great race, great volunteers, great weather — where are the forms for next year?"

Yes, the secret is out. We'll be back again next year.

Pam Albin, Mary Croft, and Terry Stockton

Trail Mix 50 Km

Bloomington, Minn. April 23, 1994
7.75-mile loop, trails, moderately hilly

1. Terry Crompton,32,IA	3:36:56
2. Tom Kunesch,29	3:48:16
3. Jerry Heaps,38	3:48:27
4. John Naslund,43	3:53:15