

DEAD HORSE POINT HAPPENINGS

60th Anniversary Trails Challenge at Dead Horse Point

by Scott Chandler

“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity.” – John Muir

People from across the world come to Dead Horse Point State Park to witness a view millions of years in the making. A wonderful entrenched meander of the Colorado River has carved a path through imposingly hard rocks to form one of the most majestic views around. It is quite the nice spot.



But what is it to wander away from the road?

The concept of a trail has always been a piece of the human experience in natural places. Before the time of civilization, trails were the way to resources; take this trail to find the watering hole, follow this trail to the hunting lookout. With time the trails grew with civilization, stretching across continents to connect people and goods from different environments. This stretched so far that explorers used the stars to chart trails across the oceans to “new worlds.” For generations these trails were the way we humans could venture into the unrelenting and dangerous

vastness that was wilderness, to challenge the world leaving shelter behind. To venture off the trail was surely the way to death, those creating their own were mad.

As civilization has come to modern times, the trail seems to have picked up different meaning, while still possibly coming from the same point of thought. To set out on the trail has been found to draw people to many a destination, including Moab. What used to be a symbol that people feared is now celebrated. With our civilization’s growth, many now seek wildness in their lives, seeking values that it holds: the joy of seeing something beautiful, the challenge of going out and accomplishing a goal, the serenity of the wind, the discovery of witnessing something new. To venture onto a trail now is to visit a time long past, leave civilization behind and embrace the call of wildness.

As Utah State Parks has been celebrating sixty years as an agency, we at Dead Horse Point want to embrace this



timely tradition and celebrate our trails. On November 4th we will be holding The Dead Horse Point Trails Challenge, a 60th Anniversary Event embracing the experience of getting away from the road. From 10:00 am to 4:00 pm we will have a scavenger challenge along our mountain biking and hiking trails; a challenge to collect pieces of information and clues to solve puzzles in order to earn prizes and tickets for a raffle. Everyone from beginners to experts will be able to challenge the trails and win! We want to see how many people will celebrate the park’s beautiful trail systems with us!

Dead Horse Point State Park is located 32 miles from Moab heading north on US 191 and west on SR 313. The park fee is \$15 per vehicle and valid for three days. If you have questions about the 60th Anniversary Trails Challenge contact the park at 435-259-2614 or visit deadhorsepoint.utah.gov.

Please be sure to mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*.



3rd Annual Dead Horse Ultra

On November 18th, close to 800 runners will line up at the start line of Moab’s Dead Horse Ultra, a 50 mile, 50k, and 30k foot race along the Magnificent 7 trails, known for its 26 miles of moderately-technical trail. Hosted by local Mad Moose Events, the course will begin at Gemini Bridges, in the parking area near Hwy 191 and run along Gemini Bridges road, towards singletrack. The course will require runners to do most of the climbing in the first half of the race, and will offer runners views of Arches National Park, Behind the Rocks Wilderness, and Canyonlands National Park. Last year, Moab local, Melissa Beaury won the women’s 50 mile event in 8 hours, 16 minutes, and 6 seconds, setting a new course record. The men’s winner completed the course in just under 7 hours.

Packet pickup for the event will be hosted at the Moab Art and Recreation Center from 4-7 pm on November 17th. Runners will be receiving a custom race shirt, a technical trucker hat, and a finisher’s medal. Aid stations along the course will provide food and water to runners, who will be coming from all corners of the country. After their finish, runners will have an opportunity to explore Moab!

Dead Horse Ultra’s 2016 event was voted by readers as the “Best Destination Race” in the mountain west region. It is a faster course in a stunning part of the country.

The end of November is the perfect time to visit Southern Utah, since it is much less traveled then. After this end-of-season event, runners have an opportunity to visit the two national parks and the state park that call Moab home.

For a detailed course map or other race information, please visit madmooseevents.com.



Runner Sonja Glaser



Runner Sonja Glaser & Justin Ricks

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