

# "Chobot Challenge"

## 15k TRAIL RACE

### & "Hike for Mike" 5K Fun Run/Walk

SUN, MAY 16, 2021 \* 9 AM \* RUSTIC PARK, BIRDSBORO, PA

Honoring Michael Chobot; trail runner, award winning sound engineer, lovable eccentric.

**Entries limited to the state guidelines on raceday-projecting it to be 250 entries. So we can easily close entry if we reach that limit, registration must be done online at [www.pretzelcitysports.com](http://www.pretzelcitysports.com). Race day entry doubtful but check that site leading up to the race for status**

Michael Chobot (sounds like "Robot"), in his too-short 26 years, was AWESOME yet somewhat of a "weird duck". Ironically, a 2013 Emmy nominee in sound for a wildlife documentary entitled "Duckumentary", Michael marched to the beat of a different "drum, harmonica & kazoo". He developed a taste for Baked Beans over Egg Noodles when, while a struggling sound tech in NYC, he found both on sale at the same time. He refused to drink anything but chocolate milk on his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday, maybe the ONLY day at Penn State that he DIDN'T have a beer in his hand. He toted a backpack with him everywhere containing oddities like a compass, astronaut food, a 1 lb bag of rice, a space blanket, twine, waterproof matches, a Swiss army knife and other things that only Michael could see the need to have with him at all times. He once carried a queen sized mattress overland for 2 miles on his back instead of using a truck available to him just to see if he could do it. Even till his passing in 2013, Michael wasn't just a "brother" or "son" or "sound engineer" or "trail runner" or "Penn Stater", he was a little bit of "everything". And the Chobot Challenge, on some of the same Berks Co's trails where Michael learned to run, is a little bit of "everything" too! It has long, gradual climbs that will tax you and long, gradual downhills where you'll run so fast that it will at least LOOK like you actually trained hard for this. It passes one of the prettiest sites in Eastern PA; a spot known to very few; even those living in this area. It has 4 narrow & ankle-deep creek crossings (one of the few races still with creek crossings) & 1 knee deep one right before the finish. You'll run everything from smooth single track to abandoned roads, with a pretty creekside start/finish, a covered pavilion, playground, modern bathrooms, shower, etc. on hand too. And naturally, it has all the other race aspects that make Pretzel City the top trail race organizer around. Come out & run the type of trails that gave Michael so much joy & happiness, cause they're sure to bring YOU joy & happiness as well! **LEGAL LINGO: YOU RACE AT YOUR OWN RISK & ARE SOLEY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR WELFARE WHILE RACING!** These trails are cleaner than most college dorm rooms occupied by males. But if you tweak something, drag your butt to the next aide station so we can get you out via fossil fuel. Get lost? Ray Charles could follow this course except for one reason; HE'S DEAD! Since longer trail races are a little "tuff", entry is discouraged for 1) 15K runners under 14 yrs old (contact director for exceptions-often allowed) 2) anyone who ever called me on the phone at ALL hours to sell me medical insurance, 'cause you'll need it yourself if I ever get my hands on you and 3) anyone who thinks that EZ-Pass is a short, downfield throw to a receiver in football. Because if you do, you're too dim to follow our course marks.

**Entry:** Both events start together at 9 A.M.; reg. registration/bib pickup opens at 8 A.M. **15k Fee:** \$35 if postmarked by Mon, May 3rd, includes a guaranteed soft style short sleeved unisex T-shirt in sizes S thru 2X. After that, fee is \$40 while the shirts last; \$34 when they're gone. **5K Fee:** \$25 if postmarked by Mon, May 3rd, includes the same type of shirt. After that, fee is \$30 while the shirts last; \$24 when they're gone. FEW "EXTRA" SHIRTS PRINTED over our pre-reg needs so if you want some type to prove that you had the fortitude or stupidity to enter this event, PRE-ENTER even if the price break has passed since entries entering after the price break date but before raceday get first dibs at the remaining shirts, based on their date of entry. Rain or shine, no refunds or mailed shirts/awards. No awards for Hike for Mike Fun Run/Walk. **HIKERS ALLOWED ONLY IN THE 5K!**

**Extras:** Lots of awards, covered registration area, hot & cold post race grub, instant results, results posted the next day on pretzelcitysports.com, WELL marked course if no one screws with it, 2 water stops for 15k-1 for 5k, EMS on site, nice creekside start/finish area with picnic areas & playground, So-so parking-carpooling wherever possible, etc. Please note: course not accessible by car. Also, shallow creek crossings on both courses; 5 in the 15k, 3 in the 5k. DID have secured cables, if up, you can use them to cross all creeks in 5k, two creek crossings in the 15k have no cable crossings.

**Awards:** M & F 1st & 2nd overall plus: 0-29: 5M, 5F \* 30-39: 4M, 4F \* 40-49: 4M, 4F  
50-59:4M, 4F \* 60-67: 4M, 2F \*68+: 3M, 1F Clydesdale: 3M, 3F

**Clydesdale Qualification: Minimum weight of 210 for men, 160 for women. Clydes not eligible for age group awards.** Honor system, no scale on site. MUST select the Clydesdale designation BEFORE the race begins.

**PLEASE NOTE: ANY AMOUNT PAID TO PRETZEL CITY OVER THE ENTRY FEE, ALONG WITH A PORTION OF THE RACE PROCEEDS, IS DONATED TO THE MICHAEL CHOBOT MEMORIAL SOUND STUDIO AT PENN STATE-MAIN CAMPUS. Those wanting a proof of donation for tax purposes should include a separate check, instead, for that amount only, to The Pennsylvania State University.**

**Directions from downtown Birdsboro (intersection of Rt 724 and Rt 345-next to Rita's Italian Ice and Sunoco MiniMart) to Rustic Park:** Go south on Furnace St (with the factories to your right) which will then turn into Haycreek Rd. The road will dead-end about 1 mile later. The parking lot to your right is for Rustic Park.

**Address for GPS'ers:** Nearest home is 1230 Haycreek Rd, Birdsboro, PA. Park itself has no address.

**on-line registration via credit card required on  
[www.pretzelcitysports.com](http://www.pretzelcitysports.com)**

(closes at midnight, the Wed before the race-nominal service charge applies)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** to check to see if the race is full, either in the weeks leading up to the race, or for raceday, go to the "race application" portion of [www.pretzelcitysports.com](http://www.pretzelcitysports.com). We will post information relating to that issue on both the pop-up for the site as well as the web page where you can download the race app.

Looking for great running gifts? Go to  
[www.thegiftedrunner.com](http://www.thegiftedrunner.com)

Insurance provided by R.R.C.A.