



2023 KAMBA RECAP

Greetings KAMBA members!

I want to give a little recap of 2023 as we roll into 2024. The full chronological brief is below, but some of the highlights to watch for include:

- Successful SLiP N Ride in 2023
- Grand Opening of Petrifying Springs Trails
- Major Rework of KD Line & Rudy's Run at SLP
- Major expansion of Petrifying Springs trails with jump lines
- Raising \$7,000 to Improve Tyke Trail at SLP

Last February (2023), our SLiP-n-Ride event as a part of the Hugh Jass Race Series had over 250 racers and generated more than \$4,000 for KAMBA between registrations, the raffle, and donations. This is our main fundraising event, which pays for our organization's insurance for the year.

In May, we launched the new logo and website in an effort to bring a more modern look to our organization. We've got lots of swag (t-shirts, stickers, water bottles, and hats) available for purchase now, and we are working on getting a full-blown commerce site up and running.

In June, Kenosha County and KAMBA had a ribbon-cutting ceremony for officially opening purpose-built mountain bike trails at Petrifying Springs. The three trails opened that day represent many hours of hand digging by our dedicated trail crew and volunteers. John Londre, Dustin Llanas, and many others were a huge part of that effort. County Executive Samantha Kerkman, Parks Director Matt Collins and many county supervisors were on hand to celebrate and cut the ribbon with members of the local NICA teams.

Work at Petrifying Springs continued through the summer, with Dustin Llanas leading the charge. We finished the blue and black line on the UW Parkside portion of the park and added a couple of nice drops. Along with the County, we utilized a mini-excavator to redesign a trail north of the golf course, adding a secondary jump line and a return trail that proved to be a great loop. We rented a mini-ex for another month and kept going on some of the golf course trails that will be finished off in the spring of 2024. Look for more of the same this summer as we finish phases 2 and 3 of this project!

At Silver Lake Park, John Londre and Pat Burba's crew reworked several berms and sections on multiple trails to make things even faster and more fun. Keeping up with regular maintenance on about 12 miles of trails is no small feat either, which only happens with a dedicated group of Gregs.

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2024](#)

I'm thrilled to announce that fundraising for the Tyke Skills park exceeded our goal of \$4,000! Thanks to a generous matching donation from Dave Bender/SLS... AND a main sponsorship gift from Dan Anderson/Molly Maid of Northern Lake County, Kenosha, Burlington, and Lake Geneva, we doubled our fundraising goal!! Plans are underway to build many fun features for riders of all ages and skill levels. If you're interested in helping build features, please contact us. We will start digging as weather permits this spring.

Todd Hauser, several NICA riders from local teams, and parents made multiple appearances at the Kenosha County Board meetings to express our gratitude for the cooperation with the county and for the ability to build and maintain the trails in Kenosha. It's essential to show that their support is needed and appreciated. Believe it or not, there is a small but vocal group of folks out there who don't want us riding on trails in parks, and we need to show that the trails are better off when we dig and maintain them sustainably.

We held a swap meet in October, but the weather didn't cooperate. It did seem like there was a lot of interest in it, just not a lot of clear skies to participate. So stay tuned – we may try for another one in the spring.

Since the weather this year did not allow us to have a SLiP-n-Ride in February, we plan to do a spring event to replace it. Look for more details as we get closer to dry trails.

KAMBA also had a presence at multiple local events throughout the summer, trying to connect to the community and increase awareness. If you see us out and about, stop by and grab some swag!

If we can keep up the financial support from members and the wider community, here's what we are expecting to accomplish this building season:

- Increased visibility for KAMBA's work both at SLP and Pets
- Complete the improvements to Tyke Skills Areal
- Complete the final phases of the Petrifying Springs Trails
- Focus our fundraising development on a new black line at SLP

I'm really happy with everything we accomplished this year, and KAMBA could not have done it without our board members, volunteers, and paid members. You are the heart and soul of KAMBA, and there are even better things to come. If you want to get involved, please reach out to me by email or social media.

Ride on!
Steve Janiak, President