

November 23, 2023

Happy Thanksgiving MECCA Members:

MECCA volunteers have been busy making final plans for Winterfest (Sat., 01/20/24), mowing and brushing trails, repairing signs, maintaining grooming equipment and cleaning facilities. Once we have measurable snow you can be assured the grooming team will be out on the trails. Keep in mind, MECCA will not groom trails until after the statewide gun deer and muzzleloader seasons which end December 6th. The majority of land that the MECCA Trails cross are public - Town of Mercer, Iron County Forest and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

- ❖ A friendly reminder **Annual Memberships** are due. Memberships can be paid electronically by visiting MECCATrails.com or if writing a check, print the membership form on our website and mail or place it in the drop box on the outside of the MECCA Chalet. And thank you if you have already paid your membership!
- ❖ Come join us at the MECCA Chalet on Wednesday, December 6th from 5-7pm for the **Mercer Chamber of Commerce - Live at Five**. The event is co-hosted by MECCA and Mercer Fire and Rescue who are coordinating a *Christmas for Kids Toy Drive. Unwrapped toys will be collected to be distributed to children in Iron County.* Light snacks and soft drinks will be provided. Wine and beer will be served by the Fire Department via donation.
- ❖ The Tuesday after Thanksgiving has become known as “**Giving Tuesday**”. This initiative encourages supporters to generously donate time and money to organizations within their community. We invite you to consider making a special donation. MECCA is 100% volunteer supported and all monies go toward supporting and enhancing our trail system, facilities, equipment and community outreach. Visit MECCA's website to donate. We sincerely thank you for your support.
- ❖ Rodney Silvis, Winterfest Race Director, wrote an article about MECCA to be published in the December issue of **Silent Sports Magazine**. Rodney

interviewed some old timers to get a historical perspective of the beginnings of MECCA. Be sure to get a copy (there will be copies available in the Chalet for visitors to read).

- ❖ The fundraising for MECCA's new **Equipment Building** will officially kick off this winter. Watch for more information coming soon.

MECCA continues to strive to meet visitor expectations by providing a quality experience of hiking, skiing, snowshoeing or to just relax outdoors. MECCA is special and the club's goal is to keep it that way. Your continued volunteerism and donations are truly appreciated.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Holiday Season and of course "think snow!"

Jerry Leiterman
MECCA President