

Mountain True's 2022 Swim Guide

Starting this Memorial Day weekend, area swimmers, paddlers, anglers and others who enjoy spending time playing in our local rivers and streams can access up-to-date water quality results for more than 85 popular recreation areas throughout Western North Carolina, Northeastern Tennessee, and North Georgia. Mountain True's Swim Guide program is powered by volunteers and staff who collect water samples every Wednesday and rush to process, analyze and post the results on the swimguide.org website and smartphone app in time for your weekend fun.



Mountain True Western Regional Director Callie Moore collecting a water sample from Lake Chatuge.

"We test for E. coli bacteria so that people know when and where it's safe to swim," explains Callie Moore, Mountain True Western Regional Director. "E. coli is a reliable indicator of the presence of other bacteria and pathogens that are harmful to human health. Swim Guide is an easy-to-use resource that helps the public get the information they need to safely recreate on the water."

The swimguide.org website or smartphone app,

geo-locates the user and provides a list of nearby testing sites that either pass or fail the EPA guideline for E. coli in designated swimming areas of 235 CFU (or colony forming units) per 100 milliliters.

Samples are collected on Wednesdays, processed using the IDEXX Colilert system, incubated for 18 hours, and results are analyzed and posted on Thursday afternoons. Results are available on the Swim Guide website (theswimguide.org) or on the

smartphone app, available for Android and Apple iPhones.

E. coli bacteria makes its way into our rivers and streams from sewer and septic system leaks, cattle accessing streams, and stormwater runoff — especially runoff from animal agricultural operations with substandard riparian buffers. E. coli is an indicator of the presence of other more harmful microbes, such as Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Shigella, and norovirus. Heavy rains and storms often result in spikes in E. coli contamination, increasing the risk to human health. Contact with or consumption of contaminated water can cause gastrointestinal illness, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. The most commonly reported symptoms are stomach cramps, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and low-grade fever.

In general, waterways that are located in more remote areas or near protected public lands that lack a lot of agriculture, development or industrial pollution sources are the cleanest and least affected by stormwater runoff. Areas closer to development and polluting agricultural practices are more heavily impacted.

Mountain True uses the data collected through its Swim Guide, VWIN (Volunteer Water Information Network), Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and microplastics sampling programs to inform its advocacy and push for science-based policy solutions.

Learn more at mountaintrue.org.

Cooper Woody excels in the classroom and in the woods



Cooper Woody, age 9, killed his 1st Turkey this spring. He loves to hunt deer, turkey, and squirrels, and fishing with his dad is one of his favorite past times too. Cooper made the A-B Honor Roll this year and we are all so proud of him.

Cooper is the son of Kyle & Jaime Woody. Grandparents are Michael & Debbie Woody; and Pam R. Dean; and Gary Dean all of Hiawassee.

Towns County High School hosts Boys and Girls Youth Basketball Fundamental Camp June 6th and 7th

Towns County High School Basketball will be hosting a Youth Fundamental Basketball Camp for Boys and Girls on June 6th and 7th, 2022, at TCHS gym. The camp will run from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. for two days. The cost of the camp is \$25 per day, or \$50 for both days.

Campers will learn the important fundamentals of the game, play competitive games, be allowed to learn alongside varsity players

and coaches, and receive a camp T-shirt.

All youth (regardless of school or place of residence) from 1st - 8th grade are invited to attend!

Please return registration and camp fees to Brian Hunnicutt at Towns County High School, PO Box 1400, Hwy. 76 East, Hiawassee GA, 30546. Checks can be made payable to TCHS Boys Basketball.

Please Read and Return

Warning:

Although participation in supervised athletics and activities may be one of the least hazardous in which campers will engage, by its nature, participation in athletics includes a risk of injury from minor to catastrophic. Participants can and so have the responsibility to reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules and immediately reporting to the coaches any physical problems.

By assigning this permission form, you as the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) acknowledge that you have read and understand this warning.

I (We) have read and understand this warning and hereby give consent for

(Participant's Name)

to participate in basketball camp. I (We) authorize camp personnel to act in emergency situations. I (We) further agree to hold harmless the Camp Staff or the Indian Basketball Booster Club or Towns County Schools for any liability of injuries incurred while participating in camp activities.

Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

(Parent/Guardian) Circle

_____ Phone Number _____ Grade (2022-23 School Year)

_____ Cell/Emergency Number T-Shirt Size Youth _____

Adult _____



Benton MacKaye Trail Hikes

The current social distancing and health rules are used by hike leaders

May 27 (Friday) - The Benton MacKaye Trail Association sponsor moderate 7.4 mile hike at Gooch Gap to Woody Gap on the AT and return. Enjoy great vistas on this moderate hike with some short climbs. Hike leader Kelly Motter. For more information, contact: hikeleaderkm@bmtmail.org.

NASCAR 2022

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

Blaney Races To All Star Victory

FT. WORTH, Tex.- Ryan Blaney took home a cool \$1-million after winning Sunday's All Star race. He started second and led 84 of the 140 laps in the No. 12 Team Penske Ford.

Blaney had to outlast the field in an overtime session, after Ricky Stenhouse Jr. crashed into him just a short distance from the checkered flag. The caution lights came out, forcing the extra laps. Meanwhile, Blaney, thinking he had won, lowered his window net on what he thought was the cool-down lap. After struggling to get it fastened, he held on in the final two-lap shootout to the end.

"I do want to thank NASCAR for letting me kind of fix it and not make us come down pit road, but yeah, that was really tough," Blaney said. "Then having to do it all over again after trying to get that window net back up there.... This is cool. I know it's not a points-winning race, but it's going to be a lot of fun. Party is going to be pretty big."

Denny Hamlin finished second, just 0.266 seconds back at the checkered flag. Rookie Austin Cindric claimed third place with teammate Joey Logano fourth and Daniel Suárez fifth. Alex Bowman, AJ Allmendinger, Chris Buescher, Brad Keselowski, and Christopher Bell rounded out the top 10.

Kyle Busch, winner of the first stage was leading about midway of the second stage, when his No. 18 slowed dramatically off Turn 4 with a flat tire. Austin Cindric avoided Busch to take over the lead, but Ross Chastain plowed into him, briefly tipping up on two wheels after the powerful impact.

Chastain's car then skidded into Elliott's No. 9 at the Turn 1 entry, knocking his car into the Turn 1 wall. All three drivers were done for the night.

Joey Logano's pit crew collected a \$100,000 bonus for the quickest time on pit road during a mandatory four-tire stop for all teams after Stage 2.

Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chris Buescher and Daniel Suárez advanced into Sunday night's NASCAR All-Star Race by posting stage victories in Sunday's All-Star Open, a preliminary race.

Stenhouse led all 20 laps in the opening segment, Buescher surged ahead in Stage 2, and Suárez prevailed in the final 10-lap stint in the 50-lap preliminary. The final All-Star Race berth went to Erik Jones, who got the most votes in fan balloting among drivers not already qualified.

REDDICK TAKES XFINITY RACE

Tyler Reddick was running third in Saturday's Xfinity Series race with 31 laps remaining. But he made a dramatic pass to take the lead and held off the field for his first series win of the season.

It was Reddick's 10th career Xfinity Series victory, coming in only his second start of 2022, and his first since he won the 2019 Xfinity Series championship.

It marked the first ever win for the new Big Machine Racing team's No. 48 Chevrolet, with Reddick taking the checkered flag a distant 1.825-seconds ahead of fellow NASCAR Cup Series regular William Byron.

"First off, just a huge opportunity and thank you to Big Machine Racing, it [the car] was just so good," Reddick said.

"Chevrolet was just so good. Nobody at RCR was really happy with where the cars were at, and I wanted to help and try to



Blaney Races To All Star Victory make these cars get better and to figure out what we needed to do to get these cars better.

"Well, We figured it out pretty quick, I guess."

Sam Mayer was third, while Justin Allgaier, Austin Hill, Ryan Truex, Josh Berry, Riley Herbst, AJ Allmendinger, and Landon Cassill rounded out the top 10 finishers.

Top 10 leaders after 12 of 33: 1. Allmendinger-500, 2. Gragson-456, 3. Gibbs-448, 4. Allgaier-423, 5. Berry-411, 6. B. Jones-377, 7. Mayer-376, 8. Herbst-350, 9. Hill-342, 10. Cassill-326.

Reddick's victory snapped a three-race winning streak by the JR Motorsports Chevrolets, which combined to lead 118 of the 167 laps on Saturday.

FRIESEN GETS OVERTIME TRUCK WIN

Stewart Friesen had led 60 laps in Friday's Truck Series race, but when a late caution sent the race into overtime, it was an entirely new ball game. Fortunately, he had enough speed to hold off Christian Eckes by 0.122-seconds, for his first win since 2019.

"I made all the mistakes I needed to make in the first two segments," said Friesen, who had only one other top-five finish this season. "We had an awesome truck."

"You have no idea the work that has gone into this race team over the past three years to build this up. It's an awesome group. And we're in the Playoffs."

Ryan Preece, Carson Hocevar, Ty Majeski, John Nemechek, Corey Heim, Chandler Smith, Matt Crafton, and Matt DiBenedetto were the remaining top 10 finishers.

Top 10 leaders after 9 of 23: 1. Nemechek-343, 2. Rhodes-339, 3. C. Smith-325, 4. Friesen-322, 5. Z. Smith-311, 6. Majeski-310, 7. Eckes-298, 8. Hocevar-284, 9. Enfinger-262, 10. Crafton-260.

KURT BUSCH AND WIFE GETTING A DIVORCE

Kurt Busch and Ashley Busch are getting a divorce, according to court documents.

In a statement, Kurt Busch said, "I am heartbroken to confirm that my wife Ashley and I are working to dissolve our marriage. Divorce is a personal and private matter and I hope our privacy will be respected."

Ashley Busch, formerly Ashley Van Metre, is a polo player and was named a global brand ambassador for the U.S. Polo Association in 2017.

The two met in 2015 and married in 2017. They do not have any children.

TMZ reports that Ashley filed for the divorce on May 9

in Florida - the couple split their time between Wellington, Florida, and Mooresville, North Carolina. In the documents, she says that Kurt "committed a tortious act" and that their marriage is "irretrievably broken." She says that problems arose in the relationship in April, and Kurt allegedly cut her off from their joint bank accounts and cards.

Kurt was previously married to Eva Bryan, but the couple was legally separated in 2011.

Two weeks ago, Busch got his first win at Kansas Speedway and the second win for his new team, 23XI Racing, which is owned by Denny Hamlin and former NBA star Michael Jordan.

Meanwhile the NASCAR Cup Series race at Kansas got a 1.43 rating and 2.337 million viewers. That was down from a 1.62 rating and 2.739 million for last year's event.

Racing Joke: Two buddies, Jimmie and James were two of the biggest NASCAR racing fans ever. For their entire adult lives they discussed racing history, and in the winter poured over all the driver statistics from the previous season. They even agreed that whoever died first would come back and tell the other if there was racing in heaven.

One summer night, Jimmie passed away in his sleep after watching the Sunday race on TV. A few night's later, his buddy, James awoke to the sound of Jimmie's voice. "Jimmie, is that you?"

"Of course, it's me!" James exclaimed, "So tell me, is there racing in heaven?"

"Well, I have good news and bad news," said Jimmie. "The good news is there's racing in heaven."

"And the bad news," asked James.

"Tomorrow afternoon, James, you start on the pole."

Weekend Racing: All three of NASCAR's major series' will be at Charlotte next weekend.

Fri., May 27; Truck Series race 10 of 23; Starting time: 8:30 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sat., May 28; Xfinity Series race 13 of 33; Starting time: 1:00 pm ET; TV: FoxSports1.

Sun., May 29; Cup Series race 14 of 36; Starting time: 6:00 pm ET; TV: Fox.

Racing Trivia Question: Which famous NASCAR driver helped build Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Last Week's Question: Who was the race winner of the first Kansas Speedway race in 2001? Answer: Jeff Gordon.

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