

U.S. Canine Biathlon® Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: WHAT IS THE U.S. CANINE BIATHLON?

A1: The U.S. Canine Biathlon is AMK9's annual event and fun day, where dog owner, or dog handler & canine partner come together to test their bond and stamina over a tough 5k course with numerous obstacles, water, puzzles, and challenges. Some people call it the hardest canine race you'll ever freaking love!

Q2: WHEN IS THE RACE?

A2: The U.S. Canine Biathlon® is Saturday May 20, 2016 in Anniston, Alabama, with a limited number of registrations available (1,000). There is also a 1000 Dog March (dog and owner) Sunday May 21st, 2016. The 1000 Dog March is a 2 mile march up a local mountain so we can capture a Biathlon Group picture. Once we all travel back down the mountain we'll all enjoy a Biathlon breakfast. This is to help warm down & recover from the Saturday Biathlon and to encourage competitors to stay overnight for the Biathlon evening festivities. Plus, you'll also get another chance to mingle with your fellow biathlons and have a meal before you journey home.

Q3: LAST YEAR YOU HAD A PRE-RACE PASTA PARTY THE NIGHT BEFORE THE EVENT? IS ONE SCHEDULED THIS YEAR?

A3: There will be no pre-race pasta party this year, as we are planning a longer event on race day and an additional event on Sunday morning. Race day will include a festival atmosphere, bands, all leading up to a concert in the evening.

Q4: CAN I BRING MY CAMPER AND CAMP ON SITE?

A4: Yes, we are planning to have a RV & Tent park area for those that would like to camp near the biathlon race area and evening concert. You must let us know by checking the relevant online registration box or RSVP by emailing BiathlonInfo@amk9.com to reserve your spot in the RV park.

Q5: WILL CAMPING INCLUDE ANY AMENITIES?

A5: Overnight campers should plan for "dry dock" style camping (Although we are working to have power hook ups available). You should plan to bring your own sources of electricity and water as resources will be limited. There will be porta potties, porta showers and hosing off area near the race course.

Q6: WHAT IS THE SUNDAY EVENT?

A6: There is also a 1000 Dog March (dog and owner) Sunday May 21st, 2016. This 1000 Dog March is a 2 mile march up a local mountain so we can capture a Biathlon Group picture. Once we all travel back down the mountain we'll all enjoy a Biathlon breakfast, cooking while we march. This is to help warm down & recover from the Saturday Biathlon and to encourage competitors to stay overnight for the Biathlon

evening festivities. Plus, you'll also get another chance to mingle with your fellow biathlons and have a meal before you journey home.

Q7: IS THERE AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR THE SUNDAY EVENT?

A7: No, the Sunday 2-mile 1000 Dog March is included in your event registration. (Additional breakfast plates can be purchased the day of the Sunday event for those that are not running the event, but would like to attend.)

Q8: WHERE IS THE RACE?

A8: 265 Rucker Street, Anniston AL 36205 (on the old Fort McClellan base)

Q9: What is the start time and schedule of events on race day?

A9: Race day timeline included below. All times are in Central Time:

08:00 AM - 09:00 AM - **Registration**

09:00 AM - **Course Brief**

09:30 AM - **First Runners (without dogs)**

10:00 AM – 03:45 PM - **Canine Teams (runners with dogs)**

04:00 PM-06:00 PM - **Groups**

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM - **DJ plays while y'all get a change of clothing (rock band rags)**

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM **Warm up Live Bands**

9:00 PM – 11:00 PM **Headliner Band: Journey tribute band & post-race party in biathlon area**

Q10: WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SUNDAY?

A10: The schedule for Sunday is TBD, but the events will tentatively start around 9:00 AM CST, here you will follow the "Mad Brit" (race director). We will announce a schedule for Sunday's event as the date approaches.

Q11: HOW DO I GET THERE?

A11: If you are arriving from Atlanta Hartsfield Airport, please follow these driving directions:

Take I-20 West from Airport, which you can get to via I-285 N/W or by Camp Creek Parkway as described in the directions taken from Map Quest pasted below.

Start: Depart Hartsfield International Arpt, Atlanta, GA 30320 on S Terminal Pky [Hartsfield International Airport] (East) 0.9 1: Bear RIGHT (West) onto Airport Blvd 0.5

2: Continue (North-East) on Terminal Return Rd 0.1

3: Bear RIGHT (South-West) onto Camp Creek Pky (SW) 12.3

4: Continue (North-West) on Thornton Rd 3.1

5: Continue (North) on SR-6 [Thornton Rd] 0.1

- 6: Bear LEFT (West) onto Local road(s) < 0.1
- 7: Continue (West) on Ramp 0.3
- 8: Merge onto I-20 [SR-402] (West) 73.0
- 9: Entering Alabama
- 10: At I-20 Exit 185, turn RIGHT (North-East) onto SR-21 [S Quintard Ave] 0.4
- 11: Bear LEFT (North) onto US-431 [SR-1] 3.7

If arriving from Birmingham, Alabama:

Follow the I-20 signs when departing the airport and take I-20 East. You will be on I-20 East for approximately 75 miles. Take the first Oxford/Anniston exit and follow the directions below to get to Ft. McClellan.

Q12: WHAT DO YOU WIN?

A12: Besides bragging rights....All those that complete the challenging course receive a medal and t-shirt.

Additionally, there are Male & Female, 1st 2nd & 3rd prizes in each of these categories: Civilian, Police and Military. This year we will also present awards to children to include the most courageous award. Groups will also receive an award for the fastest average time, so everybody counts.

The winning times are based on a time handicap system. Our system will deduct 15 seconds from your overall time for every year you are over 21 years of age. For every year your canine is over 2 years old you receive a 30 second deduction. Ages are checked. ☺

Q13: MY CHILD WANTS TO RACE, WHAT'S THE AGE LIMIT?

A13: Your child must be 12 years old on or before the day of the Challenge. Anyone under 18 must have their parent or guardian present to sign the form in person. The maximum age limit is 100 years.

Q14: WHERE DO I PICKUP MY RACE PACKET?

A14: We have a pre-race packet pickup at registration area the morning of the race and continuing through the day. You simply find your start Block (example "A"), go to the lane corresponding to the first letter of your last name, and give your name. A photo ID will be required to verify age and entry bracket (military or Law Enforcement).

You'll need to pin your race bib to the back of your shirt, shorts, or costume, check your change of clothes at the complimentary **Bag Check Tent**, and still have time to get in line to race. You must pick up the packet at the race, we don't mail packets.

Q15: ARE STROLLERS ALLOWED ON THE COURSE?

A15: No wheeled conveyances or pets other than canines of any kind are allowed on the course, including (but not limited to) cats, mice, parrots, ferrets, gerbils, snakes or lizards. You can bring your stroller into the spectator area, but no pets please!

Q16: TELL ME ABOUT THE FESTIVAL AREA?

A16: We'll have food and beer beginning 30 minutes after the first person runs and ending at late into the evening. We are having bands play throughout the day, with a headlining band closing out the event on Saturday evening. There will be portable showers and rest rooms available.

Awards will be given out approximately 1pm – 2pm CST for the serious competitors and then we continue to give out group and spot awards / prizes throughout the event!

Q17: I DON'T LIKE THE INTERNET, CAN I REGISTER BY MAIL OR TELEPHONE?

A17: Sorry, we feel your pain but to keep our record correct, it's the Internet or race day (which cost \$10 more). But, it's safe and painless, and if you're having problems, send us a note at: ismoots@amk9.com and we'll help you figure it out.

Q18: SPEAKING OF RACE CHIPS, WHAT IS THAT?

A18: Timing chips are small radio frequency gizmos that is on the back of your bib and activates when you cross the start line and send a computer your ending time when you cross the finish line. If you believe in government conspiracies you don't have to wear one, but if you don't, there's no way to know how long it took you to complete the course. Of course that also means the CIA won't know how long it took you either, which might be a good thing... ..we're just saying....

Q19: ARE THERE TEAM REGISTRATIONS?

A19: You're welcome to form a team, and race as a group against another "team." Office challenges, fraternity and sorority challenges, clubs and even family feuds are encouraged! We will give a group trophy to the team with the best combined average race time.

Q20: WHAT TIME DO THE GROUPS RUN THE COURSE?

A20: Groups run late in the day in the last two blocks. We anticipate groups starting around 4:00 PM CST, depending on how many sign up for the event.

Q21: HOW CAN I SET UP A GROUP?

A21: During registration, you will be asked if you are forming a group. Simply enter the name of the group and decide if you'd like to password protect the group. Next, share that info with the other members of your group so they can designate their spot in your group during their registration.

Q22: HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN I HAVE IN MY GROUP?

A22: Minimum of 4 people, maximum of 12.

Q23: DOES EVERYONE IN MY GROUP HAVE TO HAVE A DOG, OR CAN SOME HAVE DOGS AND SOME RUN WITHOUT A DOG?

A23: Groups can consist of runners with dogs and runners without dogs. Minimum of two dogs per team.

All dogs and persons within a single group must get along. 😊

Q24: WHERE DO I PARK?

A24: There will be parking at the event and carpooling is highly encouraged! You can park at AMK9 Academy (at the race) car park. Staff will guide you in come race day.

For those bringing RV's and Tents, you will be directed to the special fun parking area close to the event 😊

Q25: WHAT HAPPENS IF IT RAINS?

A25: You get wet. I mean, seriously, this isn't NASCAR, we don't stop and dry out the course. A little (or a lot) of rain just makes it more of a challenge. There are 15+ water obstacles, there is only one man in history that could remain dry and he walked on water.

Q26: I SIGNED UP BUT CAN'T ATTEND, CAN I GET A REFUND?

A26: Sorry, no refunds under any circumstances. If you want a friend to pick up your race packet, they must have a letter from you giving them permission and a copy of your identification. You may also transfer your registration to someone else before May 13, 2017. Or send an email to ismoots@amk9.com and we can comp you a registration for the 2018 event.

Q27: WHAT KIND OF WATER/HYDRATING STATIONS ARE THERE?

A27: Are you kidding me? Biathloners don't stop in the middle of challenge for refreshments!! There will be multiple tables with water along the course (most for your canine, who we care more about). However, you will lose style points if you have to stop and take a drink. We're just saying....

Q28: WILL I HAVE TO SWIM ACROSS ANY LARGE BODY OF WATER?

A28: If there is water that is deeper than 5 feet, we provide an alternate route for non-swimmers, or a rope to hold onto to pull yourself across. Our race director "the mad Brit" has been known to throw in some last minute crazy water features.

Q29: IS THE BIATHLON CHALLENGE SAFE?

A29: While there are risks involved in every sporting event, we take your safety seriously and do everything we can to make this a relatively safe event. But, remember this isn't your grandmother's 5K and if it was easy, it wouldn't be the U.S. Canine Biathlon®. We'll have an ambulance with Emergency Medical Technicians for you, and a Veterinarian for your pup on-site just in case.

Q30: WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

A30:

1. "I can do anything" attitude.
2. A change of clothes – We'll have hoses to rinse off
3. Fancy dress welcome
4. A portable kennel may be a good idea if camping / RV and staying for evening function, that way we know your dog is secure when resting / wanting a break from the festivities
5. Camping Gear if camping. This will be a dry-docking camping setup.
6. If camping / RV food, water, beer, toilets will be very near.
7. Dog Bowl and water
8. Dog food if staying the evening
9. Warm blankets for your dog if staying the evening
10. Have you guessed this is all about the dog yet 😊
11. Cash for Biathlon Swag, extra beer, and food.
12. A garbage bag to sit on if you decide to roll with the muddy look on the way home!
13. Your ID to pick up your packet.

Q31: HOW DO I TRAIN FOR THE U.S. CANINE BIATHLON?

A31: Seriously? We don't give training advice. Some people come with the intention to win and train like beasts, but others who are uh...not as athletic just come to have fun and finish when they finish. We've found that most people who are serious runners find the toughest trails course they can and then run through mud, cross rivers, and any kind of mixed terrain. We care more about your Canine's training and encourage nice long walks and bursts of energy. Look for obstacles to work as a team to overcome. Oh, and be sure to drink a beer when you're through. That seems to help with motivation. Or maybe join your local gym....that helps too!

Q32: WHAT KIND OF PERSON TAKES ON THE U.S. CANINE BIATHLON?

A32: Canine Lovers. Those who are out for a fun day mostly but also the thrill seeking athletes who are not afraid to get down and dirty. Runners who are tired of the same old 5k or 10k runs. Military and hardcore outdoor enthusiasts, moms, dads, children, granddads and grandmas. In short, anyone who loves doing wacky and crazy events with the added perk of participating with your four-legged friend.

Q33: WHAT DO I WEAR?

A33: Practically anything as long as it's in good taste. Well, actually good taste is optional, but it has to be legal and not likely to come off during the obstacles. Remember there will be lots of kids and other people who don't want to see you naked. Other than that, costumes of all kinds are encouraged! Or, if you'd rather just run in old shoes, shorts and a t-shirt, that's ok....we roll that way too.

Q34: HOW LONG IS THE BIATHLON COURSE?

A34: We like to change up the course every year. Last year the Biathlon Course was approximately 3.5 miles.

Q35: WHAT DISTANCE IS THE 1000 DOG MARCH ON SUNDAY?

A35: Approximately 2 miles up and down a local mountain for a mass group photo opportunity. The aim is to laugh and reminisce about the biathlon and evening event.

Q36: WHAT HOTELS OFFER A BIATHLON DISCOUNT?

A36: Hampton Inn-Jacksonville will offer a discount and your canine will stay for free. [Click here to visit](#) to their website for booking.

Q37: I'm all in. What should I do next?

A37: Spread the word, dust off you tent, walk your dog, find your old rock clothes, and prepare to enjoy a great biathlon weekend complete with Journey Tribute band.

Q38: I already know I will have a great time, who do I thank?

A38: Thank the "Mad Brit" Race Director and Event Manager "Laura Smoots", tell them how young they look when you see them, and bring them gifts ;-)