

NORTH END SKI CLUB

MEMBERSHIP FORM

All members receive periodic mailings informing them of progress and other developments, invitations to Club ski and other special events, opportunity to vote for the board of directors, opportunity to serve on the board of directors, and opportunity to attend and participate in the Club annual meeting in April. Most of all, you will have the knowledge that you have been part of an historic development, one which will have significant long term benefits, not only for you as a skier, but for the entire Cable area.

All memberships expire annually on November 1.

- YES! I would like to RENEW my membership!
 YES! I would like to become a NEW member!

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- Individual Member - \$15.00 Family Member - \$25.00
 Business Member - \$40.00 Premium Member - \$75.00

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please clip and mail with your check to: **North End Ski Club, P.O. Box 192, Cable, WI 54821**

Thank You!



NORTH END NEWS

Fall 2005

NEW TRAIL AT THE NORTH END TRAIL HEAD



As you return to the North End cabin this year after a fun day of skiing the many great trails in the area, no longer do you have to anticipate a harrowing descent and icy turn along a tree-lined trail with a 10-foot drop-off at the bottom. This final approach to the trail head has been rerouted to provide a much more gradual, easy way back. The new section of trail departs to the right opposite the out-going part of the loop from the cabin. It swings to the north on a fun roller and then levels out and makes an easy turn back toward the cabin. A straight, moderate descent brings you about half-way down the

hill. The rest is an easy grade down to the original trail, tying in at the base of the hill. It should be easy enough for all skiers, including beginners, to navigate.

This hill has been problematic and challenging for many skiers. The turn would be scraped down to ice, the upper part of the hill would have snow piled up from snowplowing and of course the speed of the descent and centrifugal force of the turn all added up to a brief moment of panic for many.

The idea to improve this part of the trail was actually suggested at our annual meeting in 2002 by Lynn Larsen. We looked at several options at that time and later spoke to a couple of excavators who both expressed concern about the amount of rock in the area and the possible need to bring in fill. We ended up using part of one of the original lines that we flagged, but to set up a good approach, had to swing further to the north almost to the Birkie Trail, onto Telemark property. We are grateful to Telemark for allowing us to cut across a short piece of their property.

Trees were cut for the new trail in the spring and the bulldozer work done this summer by Poppe, Inc. of Hayward who had no problems with the rocks, didn't require any additional fill and carved a sweet new trail. Volunteers from the club as well as a couple of crews from the Prentice House did clean-up work including rock removal, cutting out roots and cleaning up the edges of the trail later this summer. It was seeded and grass has actually begun to grow.

We did experience a minor set back this fall, when someone of "limited intellectual capacity" drove up the bank by the cabin and part way up the new trail, leaving four to six inch ruts in the still soft trail. The beginning and end of the trail were subsequently fenced off and a chain put up near the cabin.

We are excited to be able to add this major improvement to our North End system. We're sure you are going to love it.

NORTH END GROOMERS

The North End grooming crew continued to refine their efforts last year and delivered a consistently good product throughout the season. A new roller helped the crew prepare the trails in the early season and pack down larger amounts of snow throughout the season. Grooming Chief, Bill Ton, also prepared a detailed how-to "Groomers Handbook."

The trail was groomed on the average of twice a week, and occasionally three times. The job usually took about four to five hours, depending on the conditions, how much new snow, etc. With about six different volunteer groomers working, no one groomer had to work more frequently than once every couple of weeks.

As in any volunteer effort, people's schedules change, priorities are adjusted and other factors affect how much time one can volunteer. This year we are down to about four groomers and could use two or three more to help spread the work around. If you are interested in helping out, even if it's something you could only do a few times throughout the season, please contact Bill. He will get you up to speed on operating the equipment and other basics and put you on the grooming schedule.

Please contact **Bill Ton** at (715)794-2035 or **cbton@cheqnet.net** if you are interested in volunteering to groom this winter.

GROOMING EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

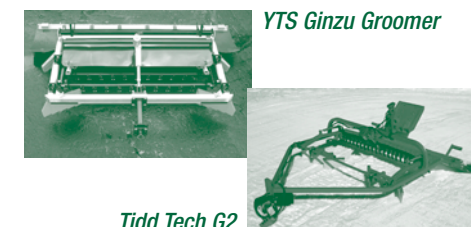
We are also pursuing an upgrade to our current grooming equipment. Presently we own a six-foot Tidd Tech Trail Tenderizer purchased used when we first began grooming three years ago. The Tenderizer has been the standard for snowmobile pull-behind implements for many years. It does an excellent job under most conditions, but it has limitations under icy and hardpack surfaces.

Under consideration are two more contemporary designs – Yellowstone Track Setter (YTS) Ginzu Groomer and the Tidd Tech G2. The YTS was one of the first pull-behind groomers that could truly renovate hard, icy trails. It utilizes several rows of down pointing knives shaped like long thin curved fingers with a cutting edge running most of the way up the knife. It is capable of transforming a solid pack of ice into a granulated very skiable surface. Advantages of the YTS include lighter weight aluminum construction, a goose neck mount for easier attachment and steering, price and several generations of development and refinement. The only negative is that it is about one foot narrower than a comparable Tidd Tech. The Tidd Tech G2, around now for about three years, has adopted similar cutting blades that renovate equally well with a wider "footprint" and it has several wing attachments that extend the width and a comb for smoothing. It is heavier with a steel frame, a standard mount and is slightly more expensive.

Both Telemark Resort and the Birkie Foundation use G2s to groom in the early season. If you've skied from the North End trails on to the Birkie or Telemark trails you can see the difference between the North End trails that have been slightly softer and more irregular than the others. Of course, this is also a function of frequency of grooming, but the better renovating job by the G2 has helped the other trails level out sooner and remain firm.

Besides cost, the other concern is weight. No matter how careful one is, in deep snow the groomer can inevitably get stuck. For one person to dig out a heavy groomer, at night, could be an unwelcome challenge. Both implements do allow the groomer to back up a short distance to free the groomer, which we can not do with the Trail Tenderizer.

If you have experience with either of these pieces of equipment, we'd appreciate your input. The other upgrade under consideration is a move to a 4-stroke snowmobile which is more powerful, quieter running and more environmentally friendly. It is also much more expensive – by at least \$2,000, so it looks like that will have to wait.



YTS Ginzu Groomer

Tidd Tech G2

MEMBERSHIP

We're a little late with the newsletter this year, so by the time you receive it, your membership will have expired on November 1, 2005. Please renew at your earliest convenience as memberships provide a significant portion of our annual budget.

Please use the form in this newsletter and mail your renewal to:

North End Ski Club
P.O. Box 192 • Cable, WI 54821

Thanks!

SUCCESSFUL FALL WORK DAY

A quite successful work day was held on Saturday, October 22. About 11 volunteers showed up to tackle a task list that included cleaning the cabin and outhouse, mowing and trail repair. The trails were mowed earlier in the fall with a tractor, but because of the alignment of the mower behind the tractor's wheels, it was unable to get tight to the edge of the trail. A couple of large walk-behind mowers helped do the trick and there should be far less brush along the edges of the trail this season. Since the North End area was designated a non-motorized recreation area by the County and gates installed limiting the amount of access by trucks, the trail tread has recovered significantly. We have had to do much less work to repair truck ruts that make early season grooming difficult. A couple of old ruts did remain and were filled and smoothed on the work day.

Volunteers were treated to a hearty chicken soup lunch from the Brick House Café following the morning's work. Thanks to everyone who has donated his or her time to make our skiing experience at the North End the best possible.

In addition to the work day, volunteers were out earlier in the fall, checking out the snowshoe trails and removing brush and downed trees. We have also received a considerable amount of help from the students at the Wisconsin Wilderness Campus who on several afternoons have repaired ruts, filled and smoothed a major erosion gully and hauled firewood.

DANI FECK receives PRESTON & DOTTIE MORREL SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Dani Feck, 2005 Drummond High School graduate & recipient of the 2005 Preston & Dottie Morrel Memorial Scholarship.

Best of luck with your studies and college career.



NORTH END CLASSIC ROUNDS OUT DOUBLE HEADER OF NORDIC SKI RACING

Nearly 1,000 skiers participated in back to back events at Telemark Resort on Feb. 12 and 13. Sketchy conditions on Lake Hayward necessitated the relocation of the Hayward Lions Pre-Birkie to Telemark Resort and the northern half of the Birkebeiner ski trail on Saturday, February 12. Diligent and skilled grooming transformed what had been a hard-packed, icy trail into a safe, speedy ride from Cable to City Hwy 00 in Seeley. From all accounts, racers thoroughly enjoyed themselves and notched personal bests over the 23-kilometer distance.

On Sunday, February 13, the North End Ski Club presented its fifth annual North End Classic with 216 racers lining up for the 24 km or 12 km classic technique events. North End Classic participants were greeted with similar conditions and were surprised to find the course in top condition thanks to supplementary grooming provided by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation and Telemark Resort.

While conditions were fast, the course was well groomed and no injuries were reported as Andy Weddle of Phillips, Wis. logged a convincing win, finishing in 1:14:25, over one minute ahead of Fred Kueffer of Shoreview, Minn. who finished at 1:15:42. Mark Parman of Wausau placed third, covering the 24-kilometer distance in 1:15:34. The top local finishers were Scott Nesvold of Washburn (18th) and Michael Uffenbeck of Cable (19th).

Stephanie Howe, a student at the University of Northern Michigan in Marquette, dominated the women's field by a 12-minute margin finishing at 1:18:29. Melinda Silbernick of Maple Grove, Minn. skied in second at 1:30:32, followed shortly by local favorite, Michelle Flanagan-Haag of Seeley at 1:31:05.

For their efforts over the weekend, Andy Weddle and Michelle Flanagan-Haag took home some additional hardware as winners of the Pre-Birkie/North End Classic Best of Both competition where racers' times from both events are combined to determine the fastest overall participants in both races. Weddle's Best of Both time was 2:13:58 (third in the Pre-Birkie) and Flanagan turned a time of 2:40:22 after finishing second in the Pre-Birkie and third in the Classic.

Local and regional skiers nailed down the top three positions in the new 12 km companion event to the North End Classic. Bob Peterson of Barron, Wis. was the first to the finish line in 39:21. A pair of Hayward skiers, John Garrett and George Broussard, rounded out the top three for the men finishing at 43:44 and 45:56 respectively.

Jeanine Evenson of Minneapolis was the women's 12K winner completing the course in 57:13. Rachel Kresse of Wausau, second, was the only other female competitor to complete the 12K course in less than one hour, finishing at 58:50. Samantha Kaplan of Madison, Wis. placed third with a time of 1:01:34.

The 2005 Classic was sponsored by Toko ski wax and tools and hosted by Telemark Resort. Other sponsors included: TNT Video, Coop's Pizza, Hayward Power Sports, Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, McKinney Realty, Mundahl Veterinary Clinic, New Moon Bike Shop, Outdoor Ventures, Wilde River Realty, Bon Nuit Motel, King Realty, Mogasheen Resort, Riverbrook Bike & Ski, Rocky's Service, Rondeau's and the State Bank of Drummond.

2006 NORTH END CLASSIC SET FOR FEBRUARY 12th

The 2006 North End Classic will be held on Sunday, February 12 at Telemark Resort. Similar courses and formats will be in place for the sixth annual running of this increasingly popular event. Last year's participation of 216 racers continued the event's annual growth of about ten percent.

Toko will again be the major sponsor of the North End Classic and the first 200 registered racers in the 24 km and 12 km events will receive a Toko ski hat. Telemark Resort will once again be our Event Host.

One potential change in the courses, however, may increase the distance in both events by one to 1.5 kilometers. With the creation of the new trail at the North End Trail Head, we are considering running the race out to the North End cabin for Food Station One. This would provide easier access for food station volun-

teers and also eliminate the need for a separate food station for the 12 km course. In the past this would not have been possible with the difficult hill approaching the cabin. Now skiers can approach the cabin, slow down, take food and water and climb the hill on the way out. The .5 km of trail from the Birkie trail to the split for the new trail to the cabin would be two-way for that portion of the race. Moving the race to this location would also provide a great vantage point for spectators, with easy access, parking and a warm cabin. Food station one at this location would be approximately 6 km into the race.

The other new component of the North End Classic is the addition of two children's events – the Cookie Classic 1km and 2km. Both events will start at the same place as the adult events with courses running

2006 NORTH END CLASSIC FEBRUARY 12th CONTINUED

around the Hytte and out toward the Fever Trail before turning around and returning to the finish area. It will not be a timed event and all participants will receive – what else? Cookies. Parents are welcome and encouraged to ski along with their little ones. Both Cookie Classic events are free.

One negative from last year were the reports from several skiers of cheating during the race. Specifically, several skiers used skating motions when climbing hills. As you know, classical technique races do not allow skating strides of any kind, except perhaps step turns when taking corners or changing lanes. We will monitor several places on the course more closely next year and anyone observed skating will be disqualified.

A copy of this year's event registration form is included with this newsletter. It's never too early to sign up. Plus, if you belong to other clubs and organizations, feel free to copy it and bring it to club meetings or distribute at your local trail head, health club or anywhere you think people might pick it up. If you need larger quantities of the form, please let us know and we'll send you some.

A downloadable registration form can also be found at www.norwiski.com/northend/north_end_classic.html. On-line registration is available at www.signmeupsports.com.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

As email has more and more become the preferred method of communication, we find our club email list lacking. Having a more comprehensive email list would greatly enhance our efforts to put out timely notices about trail work and other projects, and perhaps, even this newsletter.

Please be sure to include your email address with your membership renewal or if you just want to send it along now, direct it to rbergin@cheqnet.net. Thanks.

WEBSITE IN THE WORKS

We are finally getting around to developing a more complete website. So far, about all we've ever had was our race application. It may ultimately have its own domain, but initially the site will be located at www.norwiski.com/northend.

SALVAGE TIMBER HARVESTS UNDERWAY

You will undoubtedly notice some big changes along the trails in several areas of the North End trail system this winter. Bayfield County has begun harvesting dead oak trees in several stands near the North End classic trail as well as in the interior of the system. One stand also butts up against the Birkie Trail at the top of the hill known as "Big Bertha" just south of the 7km point.

The harvest is much more than just the dead oaks, however, as the management prescription calls for removal of all maple and birch. This management practice is to discourage the fast growing understory of maple seedlings to allow oak to regenerate and become the dominant species. The primary remaining trees will be larger live oaks and all white and red pines. In areas where there was heavy mortality of oak trees due to the Two-lined Chestnut Borer a few years ago, there will, in fact, be very few trees left and in places it will resemble a clear cut.

We are saddened to see the forest surrounding our trails transformed in this manner. While one can intellectually understand the logic and rationale behind such logging efforts, it is still difficult to accept when we've become accustomed to a close canopy and the deep woods feel the relatively undisturbed forest provides.

Timber harvest is a significant source of revenue for Bayfield County. A recent County Journal report about the county's budget woes noted that timber sales last year generated over \$2 million. It's tough to argue the aesthetic value of the forest and put it in concrete terms when those who make the decisions can so readily see the cash value of the forest crop. One of the challenges we face as advocates for trail-based recreation is to develop more objective means of relating the economic impact of trails like the North End system and the American Birkebeiner Trail so that more of an apples to apples comparison can be made when evaluating whether or not to log a certain area.

Logging is a fact of life in these parts, and we'd be hypocritical to simply come out and say "no logging, anywhere." We all use wood products, including the paper this newsletter is printed on. But there can be selective logging, which, when done properly with careful consideration of access roads, skid trails, slash disposal and use of lower impact processors will leave the forest in better shape and facilitate a quicker aesthetic recovery.



This is a growing issue in Bayfield and Sawyer Counties where the amount of high quality non-motorized trails of all kind has mushroomed in the last decade. Along with the growth of trails has been an influx of new residents, retirees and second home owners – all coming here because of the presence of these trails and the corresponding lifestyle they encourage. Property values continue to increase and the dollar value of these new homes is tremendous. Couple that with the additional spending in the communities adjacent to the trails, and there is a bonifide economic impact that makes \$2 million look like small change. Hard numbers relating this kind information remain elusive however. But it is just this kind of dollars and cents information that is needed to help convince the powers that be that protection of the forests and the trails is necessary to encourage the sustained growth of non-motorized trail-based recreation and the economic benefit it brings to the area.