

## New Trail Fee to Go Into Effect at North End

The biggest news out of the North End coming into this season is a partnership with the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation to establish a trail fee at the North End Trail Head. In as much as the North End is a primary access point to the Birkie Trail, we agreed to work with the Birkie Foundation to establish and collect this new fee. The proceeds from the fee will all go toward grooming and trail maintenance of the North End Ski Trails, the Birkie Trail and the Birkie Classic Trail. It costs more than \$20,000 to groom these trails annually.

The trail fee will be an experiment this year and if all goes well continued next season.

Trail fees in effect this season will be: \$10 daily per car, \$50 daily for buses, and \$50 annual per car. Trail passes will be good at the North End Trail

Head and all trail heads on the Birkie Trail.

A revenue sharing agreement has been worked out with the Birkie that will guarantee the club a large percentage of our average annual expected proceeds from donations in the yellow tube plus a 50-50 split thereafter. Our agreement also calls for the Birkie to run its big groomer in and out to the North End Cabin when they come north to groom. Grooming assistance will also be provided with the North End Classic ski race.

While this is a significant departure from simply accepting donations, it is hoped that skiers will understand and embrace the need to collect a trail fee, particularly because it means that increased funding will insure more frequent grooming and better skiing for everyone.

## NORTH END CLASSIC SET FOR FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>

The 10th annual North End Classic will take place this season on Sunday, February 8, 2009. If you'd like to be involved in planning or volunteering at the race, please call 715/798-3599 or email: rbergin@cheqnet.net.



And they're off!

At the start of the 2008 North End Classic.

Photo by: Kelly Randolph

## IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Your North End Ski Club membership will expire on November 1. Memberships make up a significant part of our operating budget and help cover such things as insurance, repairs and upkeep on the cabin, trail signs and maps. We hope you'll join us again this season. Please use the form on the back page to renew your membership.

## North End Ski Club to Sponsor TWO KORTELOPET SKIERS

For the past several seasons, the Wisconsin Nordic Network (WINN) has promoted an initiative to encourage high school age skiers to participate in the Kortelopet. Working with the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, WINN has negotiated a reduced rate for these skiers under the WINN Kortelopet Scholarship program. WINN solicits sponsors and underwriters to fund Kortelopet entries at the rate of \$60. Coaches from teams and clubs around the state can then nominate a skier from their program for the scholarship. The North End Ski Club has donated two WINN scholarships to two area skiers.



# Wannabe a Groomer?

The North End Ski Club began grooming its own trails about four years ago. Prior to that time, none, or very few, of our current groomer corps had any previous grooming experience. With a little orientation and some hands-on experience most picked it up quickly and have continued to hone their skills over the past several seasons. Our crew rotates through a schedule, each grooming the trail about once every two weeks. With a couple additional grooming crew members we might be able to increase the frequency of our grooming and thereby the quality of the condition of our trails.

We'd love to have some additional assistance with the grooming. To learn more about becoming a North End groomer, give our lead groomer, Bill Ton, a call and he'll get you on board. 715-794-2035 email: cbton@cheqnet.net

While on the subject, here's a special shout out and thank you to our North End grooming crew: Lon Anderson, Ron Bergin, Joe Jenkins, Metro Maznio, Dave Tomasula and Bill Ton. Thanks!

## NEW North End CLASSIC TRAIL *IN THE MAKING*

About three years ago the North End Ski Club opened up a three km segment of single track classic ski trail. Though relatively short, it is a delightful ski and unlike other local trails. For the most part it was simply superimposed on existing old roads and trails. As pleasant as it is to ski, it's over all too soon. But that is about to change.

The North End Classic trail is slated to be expanded over the next couple of seasons by approximately five to seven kilometers for a total of almost ten kilometers. The new trail will start about a half a kilometer from the North End Cabin, and spur off to the right where the main outgoing North End Trail curves hard to the left. Old roads, skid trails and some new construction comprise about a kilometer of this segment of new trail.

The classic trail then joins the main trail just a short way before the beginning of the original classic trail. After skiing the two segments of the existing classic trail we will turn

right on the North End A Cut-off, follow the A Cut-off out to and across the Birkie Trail and start down the hill. Part way down the hill the new North End classic will peel off to the right and at the bottom merge with the Birkie Classic for about 50 yards before splitting left. From here on, the new North End Classic runs independently making a clockwise loop. We have been granted permission to cross property owned by Don Ludzack to effect a simple return to the North End/Kortelopet Trail. Time, convenient routes and budget permitting, future plans call for tying the singletrack classic back to the trail head without having to ski the entire North End Loop.

One section of about two km will be implemented this fall with additional sections phased in as they are completed.

The new Classic is an intermediate trail, with only a couple of modestly technical spots, lots of fun descents and several flat or rolling sections. It should be a blast to ski.

## North End *CABIN UNDER ATTACK!*

Okay, that may be overly dramatic, but for the past two seasons the North End cabin and outhouse have been under assault by a yet-to-be-identified creature. Perhaps you've noticed the raw wood on the lower three or four levels of logs around the cabin. This began two summers ago and has continued intermittently since. Initially it was suspected that an aggressive porcupine might be the culprit. Attempts to live trap this suspect last fall netted only one frightened raccoon. The damage to the cabin was sanded down and restrained during last fall's workday.

The pesky critter returned this spring and summer with a vengeance and pretty much revised its previous work, and then some. He/she/it not only chewed off much of the outer layer of the lower logs, it went on to vandalize the window sills and almost chewed through one of the panels in the rear door of the cabin. It even attacked the aluminum window frames! An attempt to treat the wood with a deterrent and restrain proved futile as the little bugger kept coming back.

Judging from the size of the teeth marks, it was next concluded that it was possibly a red squirrel. Live trapping did succeed in removing two squirrels from the premises, but we've had no success

for the past couple of months. A recent sighting of a woodchuck on the trails had turned the spotlight in this direction, but the consensus is beginning to come around that it may be a flying squirrel.

We recently sanded and restrained the damage, but "it" returned and we remain stymied by this perpetrator of unknown origin and species. Any help or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.



## Donations Sought for North End CLASSIC TRAIL

The North End Classic Trail extension will cost approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 to build and install the necessary signs. We hope you will consider making a donation to help offset the costs of developing this new trail. Give early, give often - we truly appreciate your support. You'll find a box to check to make an additional donation on the membership renewal form. Thanks.



# North End Classic Finds Success After Postponement

The ninth annual North End Classic cross country ski race came off without a hitch on Sunday, February 17. The race, originally scheduled for February 10, had been postponed from the previous weekend due to extreme temperatures and wind chill. An almost 40 degree temperature swing saw ideal conditions on the alternate race day, with high temps reaching near 30 degrees. Despite postponement, 129 racers out of a total of 169 registered skied the 13 km and 25km classic technique race courses on the North End Ski Trail. Skiers were greatly appreciative that the race was postponed rather than cancelled.



Easing on down the trail.

Competition was keen in the 23 km North End Classic with dominant performances turned in by two skiers from Montana. Fabien Blondeau, ski technician for the Factory Team from Bozeman, Mont., led from start to finish with a blistering time of 1:16:21. Blondeau had been staying in the Cable area and training in advance of the American Birkebeiner and skiing regularly on the North End Trail. Michael Myers from Missoula, Mont. and member of Team Rossignol skied across the finish line only two seconds behind Blondeau. Myers has a strong reputation as a classic technique specialist and has won many major classic marathons around the region. Rounding out the top-three was 18-year-old Matt Pierce from Hayward, member of the state champion Hayward High School Nordic Ski Team. His third place finish time of 1:18:26 was a full minute ahead of the next competitor.

It was a similarly close finish among the women in the 23 km North End Classic. Kate Ellis of Minneapolis held off Kelly Skillicorn of Winona, Minn. to also take victory by a two second margin in a time of 1:26:17. Jan Gunther of Long Lake, Minn., a podium regular at regional races, rounded out the top three, with a time of 1:33:34.

It was a good day for the locals in the 13 km North End Classic companion event where 14-year-old Dylan McGarthwaite of Hayward ran away from the field to finish first in a time of 40:39. Brad Bart of Minneapolis placed second at 41:35. George Brousard of Hayward followed him at 47:17, in third. Among the 13 km women's competitors, Julie Meyer of Seeley skied to an easy victory at 49:08. Meyer's time was also good for fifth place



The 2008 North End Classic gets underway.

overall among all competitors. For the second year in a row, Keely Jackson of Hayward, only 10 years old, took second place in the 13 km event (1:05:24). Rounding out the 13 km women's podium was Jenifer Ostrander, also from Hayward (1:10:44).

In addition to the 13 km and 25 km racers, about 30 youthful skiers, ages 2 through 13 participated in the Cookie Classic children's events.

Courses in the non-competitive event included .5 km, 1 km and 2 km options. All participants received a bag of cookies on a ribbon as their hard earned award.



Cookie Classic kids get set to kick.

The North End Ski Trail received a fresh five-inch topcoat of snow during the week leading up to the race, which coupled with very favorable temperatures made for ideal racing conditions. The trail was prepared with the assistance of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation resulting in a top-level racecourse.

The North End Ski Club would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the Birkie Foundation and the many volunteers who assisted with the race. The Club also extends a special thank you to Major Sponsor Toko Ski Wax and Tools, Awards Sponsor New Moon Ski Shop and Event Sponsor Sublime Subs. North End Classic Associate Sponsors included Bayfield County Tourism, Cable Area Chamber of Commerce, Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, McKinney Realty, Outdoor Ventures, Redbery Books and Rondeau's Shopping Center. Supporting Sponsors included: Andry Rasmussen & Sons Plumbing and Heating, Bayfield Electric, Bon Nuit Motel, Brick House Café, Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival, Coop's Pizza Parloure, Cresthill Resort, King Realty, Mogasheen Resort, Mundahl Veterinary Clinic, Riverbrook Bike & Ski, Rocky's Service & Auto and the State Bank Of Drummond.

Photo credits: Kelly Randolph

# 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!

I would like to make an additional contribution to support the development of the North End Classic Trail. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**We need your email address to send you periodic notices and updates in between newsletters.**

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

*Thank You!*

