

NORTH END NEWS

Fall 2009



Cabin Saga Continues...

In last year's newsletter we reported on our ongoing battle with creatures of undetermined species that were causing significant damage to the exterior of the North End warming cabin. Much work was done during last year's fall workday to clean up the damage and restrain the cabin. It came out great and looked terrific. For a while.

The general consensus now is that we were up against an aggressive band of flying squirrels. And they came back with a vengeance this spring, chewing the logs, windowsills and even the aluminum window frame! Their persistent efforts resulted in a huge hole chewed through the rear door of the cabin.

Efforts over the summer included bucket traps, live traps, attempting to smoke them out of the roof and even an armed brigade, all to

no avail. Club member Randy Mattis has taken on the eradication of these malicious vandals as a personal mission. All openings under the roof were caulked and larger gaps were filled with wood shims. There appeared to be a diminished amount of damage, so a

crew of volunteers sanded the affected areas and damaged wood was touched up. A couple weeks later the whole cabin received a thorough coat of stain, also treating the logs to deter powder post beetles that had returned to the cabin.

But it didn't last long; within two weeks the squirrels were back at it.

This has been a protracted and frustrating challenge, one that doesn't seem to want to go away. If anyone has any creative ideas on how to deal with this problem, we'd appreciate hearing your suggestions.



Volunteers repair damage to the North End warming cabin.

MEMBERSHIP TIME



All North End Ski Club memberships expire on November 1. You may use the membership form in the newsletter to renew your membership. We have a small, but active membership and truly appreciate your membership support. Thanks for being a part of the North End Ski Club.

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH A SKI RACE - THE NORTH END CLASSIC

The 2010 North End Classic will take place on February 14, Valentine's Day. It's been three years since we began staging the race at the North End, finishing at the cabin, and it has really worked out well. The Classic Race Committee will be meeting soon to start

putting plans in race for this year's event. Based on our analysis of last year's race, we don't anticipate very many changes. The distances and course will remain more or less the same, as will the Cookie Classic.

Perhaps the most positive aspect of last year's race was the adoption of the Ideal Market/Rivers Eatery in Cable as our post-race party place. Mick and Beth Endersbe and family were terrific hosts, generously providing hot soup for all race participants. We look forward to returning to the coolest place in Cable for our 2010 North End Classic celebration.

Race entry forms will be mailed to all past participants and will also be available to download at www.norviski.com/northend. Online registration will also be available at www.signmeupsports.com. Join us on Sunday, February 14, 2010 for the tenth annual North End Classic.



2009 Cookie Classic Racers

Photo by Kelly Flannery



North End Classic Trail

NORTH END CLASSIC TRAIL

Classic skiing is enjoying a renaissance of sorts in the North End area. Not only does the Birkie Classic Trail run through the center of the North End trail system, but last year our own classic trail grew by four and a half kilometers. This singletrack trail snakes through parts of the forest not often traveled, giving it a remote and secluded feel. Reviews of the new portions of the trail were overwhelmingly favorable. One skier reported at our annual meeting that he was "pleasantly surprised" to find the new trail.

The good news is there's more where that came from. The Bayfield County Forestry Department recently approved the club's proposal to develop an additional 2 to 2.5 kilometers. The trail will continue to weave

in and out of the main North End Ski Trail. Like the trail that preceded it, the majority of the new trail will utilize abandoned woods roads, skid trails and open corridors through the forest. Very little totally new construction will be required, though it will be necessary to smooth and clean up parts of the old roads. In as much as this is and has been a "trail of expedience," it will retain a primitive character, a throwback to the "good old days."

This next segment of trail will begin the return to the North End Trail Head, as where it left off last year is about 180 degrees away from the cabin. The return cuts the corner to the northwest and will connect with a portion of the original outgoing classic trail as a temporary return route. It is anticipated that one more segment of new trail using additional roads and trails will be necessary to tie the trail off into a complete loop.

North End - Birkie Partnership Pays Off

Last year the North End Ski Club entered into a partnership with the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation to collect and share a trail fee at the North End Trail Head. The agreement provided that the first \$800 in fees collected go to the North End Ski Club, after which all fees would be shared equally, less expenses for signage, envelopes and other costs. The North End had been accepting donations at the trailhead, which annually averaged \$1,200-\$1,500. The club was concerned that we might not see a similar amount of revenue, which goes to help maintain the trails, the cabin, cover insurance costs, etc. That concern was for naught, as compliance with the new fee was very positive. According to Birkie Foundation executive director Ned Zuelsdorff, the North End had better compliance than at the Birkie Trail's largest trailhead at Cty Hwy OO. He and club members helped facilitate this by regularly placing "reminder" envelopes on car windshields. At the end of the season the trail fee had generated close to \$3,000 for the North End Ski Club. Thanks to everyone who purchased an annual or daily trail pass. We look forward to another successful year. This will continue to play a major role in helping fund the club.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on April 24 at the Rivers Eatery. The evening began with a social hour with beverages sponsored by the club. Billed as a "skiers night out," the meeting was opened to all area skiers who wanted to attend and join us to reminisce on the season past. About 30 people were in attendance. The usual annual meeting information was presented including a financial report. The club's financial position is quite good with a net surplus of \$3,817 in 2008/09 as we had a successful North End Classic, which is our largest fund raising event. Our financial plan includes setting aside at least \$2,500 a year toward the purchase of a new snowmobile when our current one is due for replacement. We are in a good position to both accomplish this without having to do any significant additional fund raising and take on the next season's trail projects and annual operations.

Among the agenda items was election of directors. John Uffenbeck was elected to the board of directors to fill the seat vacated by Irv Berlin. Irv is a founding board member of the North End Ski Club and has served since 1997. Since 2000 he has also served as treasurer. Irv (and Jan) have been among the most active club members, taking a particular interest in the snowshoe trails and as chief of course for the North End Classic. Welcome John, and thanks Irv for all your contributions to the club.

The evening included a slideshow of the 2009 North End Classic and concluded with a viewing of a video of this year's Birkie.



Founding board member Irv Berlin

NORTH END CLASSIC 2009 - JUST ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

It was just another day in paradise for Nordic skiers participating in the ninth annual North End Classic ski race. Idyllic weather, enthusiastic competitors and perfect trail conditions aligned to deliver the best race in the event's history. It was a far cry from the conditions encountered last year when the 2008 edition of the Classic was postponed one week due to brutal temperatures and wind chill. The weather was not a problem this year, with temps at start time in the high 20s and remaining very comfortable throughout the day.

Much of the credit for the success of this year's race goes to the assistance provided by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation in grooming the racecourse prior to the race. Saturday's warming temperatures around the region and subsequent freeze saw the trail transformed into a hard, icy sheet. Utilizing the Birkie Foundation's Pisten Bully groomer under the skilled operation of the Foundation's Trail Coordinator Bill Pierce, the entire trail was tilled twice prior to setting three tracks around the course. The process took over five hours, well into the wee hours of the morning. North End Ski Club lead groomer, Bill Ton, commented, "He's a perfectionist, and really wanted our trail to be top notch." Pierce's yeoman effort paid off with unanimous agreement among skiers and numerous positive comments from racers about the condition of the racecourse. The club is extremely grateful for the assistance provided by the Birkie. It truly contributed to our having a near perfect day on the North End Trails.

On the competition side, over 200 skiers from around the Midwest participated in the 13 km and 24 km race events as well as the Cookie Classic kids races. With skiers from age 3 through 75, the North End Classic is truly an inclusive event. Many also participated in the Pre-Birkie on Saturday.

Top honors in the 24 km race went to Marc Beitz of Minneapolis. Beitz, 39, blazed the first lap of the two-lap course in

a blistering 33 minutes. He only slowed a bit on the second lap to register a record-shattering time of 1:10:08. His average pace was 2 minutes 55 seconds per kilometer. Beitz skied to victory with a very comfortable margin of almost three minutes over second place finisher Ken Statz of Wisconsin Rapids, who finished at 1:12:59. It was a battle for third place between two area skiers, Blaise Sopwinik of Washburn and Chris Ransom of Hayward. Sopwinik ultimately prevailed, edging Ransom by 1.4 seconds to record a third place time of 1:15:24.



Cate Cogger of Houghton, Mich., who also posted a three-minute margin of victory, finished at 1:27:42, and similarly dominated the 24 km women's division. Second place honors went to Amy Rau of Hopkins, Minn. with a time of 1:30:51. Perennial top contender Michelle Flanagan-Haag rounded out the women's podium in third at 1:31:36.

In the 13km companion event, Tom Jorgenson of Northfield, Minn., skied a dominant 35:25 winning time, laying down a four-minute margin over second place finisher Michael Cavanaugh of Wausau, Wis. Though not as dramatic as the third place finish of the 24 km race, Cavanaugh clinched second place by 24 seconds, finishing at 39:32 with John Hallett of Oconomowoc rounding out the top three at 39:56.

In the 13 km women's division Cindy Storm of Savage, Minn. and Hayward, Wis. earned top honors, finishing at 47:16. Cindy Bijold, also of Savage, Minn. and Hayward, Wis., finished second at 50:39 with Kendra Estenson of Eagan, Minn. taking third at 52:32.

The spirit of the event can best be summarized by the comments of Anne Riendl of Waukesha, Wis., who finished near the back of the pack, "Thanks for a great race on Sunday!!! The tracks were superb! It's a shame most of those racers get done so fast. They don't get to savor the track as long as I do!" Following the race, participants enjoyed hot soup and the opportunity to swap war stories at the Rivers Eatery in Cable.

The North End Ski Club is very grateful to Major Sponsor Toko Ski Wax and Tools, Awards Sponsor New Moon Ski Shop and Event Sponsors Cable Area Chamber of Commerce, Bayfield County Tourism, Ideal Market/Rivers Eatery and Second Street Market. North End Classic Associate Sponsors included Hidden Bay Graphics, Lakewoods Resort, Outdoor Ventures and Sublime Subs. Supporting Sponsors were Andry Rasmussen & Sons Plumbing, Bayfield Electric, Brick House Café, Cable Lumber & Home, Cresthill Resort, Garmisch USA, Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, King Realty, Mogasheen Resort, Northern Natives Landscapes, Rocky's Service & Auto and State Bank of Drummond.

TIMBER SALE IN THE NORTH END AREA

Bayfield County Forestry will be offering a 200-acre timber sale this fall that will include a portion of the North End Ski Trails. The sale lies south of Timber Trail Road, between Randysek Road and the Birkie Trail. It has a variety of management prescriptions: red oak thinnings, spruce thinnings, aspen/birch removal, overstory removal and one aspen clearcut (the clearcut is not near the trails). A couple of sections of the North End Trail will need to be utilized

as haul roads. It should be noted that the reason the roads used as ski trails exist in the first place is because of forest management. The sale language requires that no logging be done near the trails once there is two inches or more of snow on the ground and that the trails be return to their original condition following the conclusion of the management activities. A map of the sale can be viewed at www.norwiski.com/northend/timbersale2009. We will keep you posted on the progress of the sale and the work, which may begin as early as spring 2010.

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!