



North End News

WINTER 2015

The 2014-2015 season got off to an auspicious start with an 18-inch snowfall on November 10 that effectively slammed the door on fall and launched us full on into winter. While a welcome and most unusually early start to the season, it caught most clubs and trail organizations a little off guard, with trail work and other projects still on the “to do” list. The North End crew was ahead of the game, and with a little scrambling was able to tick off most of the major trail work efforts in advance of the pending storm. It was a bit of a hustle as volunteers were working hard the day before the storm to finish dragging and smoothing part of the North End Classic Trail that had suffered some impacts from logging. Work was completed, however, and the club was ready to start another season.

The North End Trails shaped up nicely and in less than two weeks we were skiing with mid-season conditions – fairly level skate lanes and full depth tracks. It was not to last as the first of two warm spells hit just after Thanksgiving with another in mid-December. Fortunately a little new snow and the plentiful base on hand saved us from a potential wipeout.

It would have been catastrophic had the warm spells lasted any longer than they did, for there was little substantive snowfall through January and most of February.

But it was hardly gloom and doom. The North End Trails are well positioned at a slightly higher elevation and right at the edge of lake-effect snow from Lake Superior. As a result, we get more snow and hold it longer than surrounding areas, even just a short distance away. Our grooming team rose to the challenge as well, working the remaining base and transforming the few small new snowfalls into an excellent skiing experience. Our ability to groom several times a week has helped the North End Trails earn the reputation as the go-to place for consistently groomed trails. And while we now have over 30 kilometers of trails to take care of, we have a solid corps of volunteer groomers who have amassed a sizeable amount of experience. This has bolstered the club's reputation for well-maintained trails and positive skiing experiences, which has been validated time and again by the numerous compliments and positive expressions of thanks for the work we do to provide great skiing in the Cable area.

15TH ANNUAL NORTH END CLASSIC A BIG SUCCESS

The fifteenth annual North End Classic ski race on Sunday, February 8 came off without a hitch. Two hundred twenty-five adult racers and 15 young skiers in the Cookie Classic brought registration numbers to a near all-time high. The North End ski trails continued to be an oasis of Nordic skiing with ample snow to provide optimum conditions for the day's festivities. Despite being a low-snow year, the North End has been able to hold onto the snow we have received and have had great conditions almost all winter, while areas all around us struggled. This certainly contributed to the success of this year's Classic, as the course, with grooming provided by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, was according to all reports excellent.

Competition was excellent as well, with highly competitive fields in both the 25 km and 12.5 km races. In the men's 25km a pack of four skiers flew through the trailhead area at the North End cabin as they completed their first 12.5km loop skiing tip to tail almost a minute ahead of the nearest chasing group. The ultimate winner John Wessling managed to gap the others during the second lap and finished comfortably, over a minute ahead at 1:13:43 and only three seconds off the course record set just last year by Adam Swank. What transpired next was worthy of a NASCAR highlight reel ([watch the video](#)) as Jonathan Rulseh of Ironwood, Mich., Blaise Sopwinik of Washburn, Wis., and Jonathan Miller of Roseville, Minn., all sprinted for the next two podium places. Rulseh finished cleanly to take second. Sopiwnik lunged and snagged third, but in doing so tangled with Miller resulting in a spectacular pile-up. When the snow cleared, it was Rulseh second at 1:14:52 and Sopwinik third at 1:14:53, and Miller just out of the medals at 1:14:54. The action was so close and the commotion so great that the official timer had to review the video to sort everything out.

In a similar fashion, the top three women skied through the stadium together at the end of their first lap. But it was Kelly Skillicorn of Winona, Minn., who prevailed, dominating the women's 25 km at 1:24:52, posting a solid victory almost a minute ahead of last year's champion Ingrid Leask of Wayzata, Minn. Leask and third place finisher Kim Rudd offered up their share of excitement as they sprinted for the remaining two podium positions, finishing at 1:25:56 and 1:25:58 respectively.

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Photos by Kelly Randolph

WELCOME TO THE NORTH END BOARD

The North End Ski Club Board of Directors is pleased to welcome two new members, Kathy Pierce and Ed Johnston. Both have already proved to be valuable additions to our team and we look forward to their continued input and leadership in the club.

We also thank Ron Caple for his years of service to the club. Ron was instrumental in helping develop the Mammal Tour on the Ridge Trail in conjunction with the Cable Natural History Museum. And also thanks to Bruce Manske who offered great input from his years of race direction and youth involvement.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRAILS CONTINUE

Most major projects along the trails have been completed, but there are always things that can be done to improve the trails, both from the skier's perspective and to make them easier to groom. Work completed this past fall included: widening and opening up the site around the grooming building to accommodate the addition and create more space to store equipment; straightening the turn at the beginning of the incoming loop to the cabin; straightening the descent on the North End Classic about .5 km into the trail; building a junction to the World Cup trail off the Kortelopet; re-grading several places along the Classic to level the trail; and widening a length of the A Cutoff.

More of this kind of work is planned for the 2015-2016 season, which will be funded in part by a grant from Bayfield County Parks and Forestry Department.

WORLD CUP/TONY WISE TRAILS JOIN THE NORTH END SYSTEM

With the closure of Telemark Resort, several trails adjacent to the North End system might have laid dormant this winter were it not for the efforts of the North End Ski Club. Working with the new owner of the Telemark property, the club was able to gain access to part of the World Cup Trail that dips onto Telemark property in two places. The balance of the trail is on Bayfield County Forest. This allowed us to adopt about a three and a half kilometer portion of the World Cup Trail, link via the Bauer Trail and return on the Tony Wise to the North End loop. All together this adds almost six kilometers to the trail system, including some very challenging skiing on the World Cup, something we did not previously have.

To ready these trails for the season required a considerable amount of work, as they had received little attention and not seen any regular maintenance for many years. The Tony Wise, which had been logged about 15 years ago, was a particular challenge as small birch, aspen and maple trees were now up to 20 feet tall. The huge snows the past couple of winters caused many trees to lean far in and almost obscure the trail.

During our fall workday a crew of 10 volunteers cut and swamped for over three hours and made it through most of the Tony Wise. Subsequent work finished cutting and clearing the Tony Wise, cleared deadfall on the World Cup, cut back more brush on both trails and mowed them into submission. The result has been a very positive new addition to the North End system.



Photo by Kelly Randolph

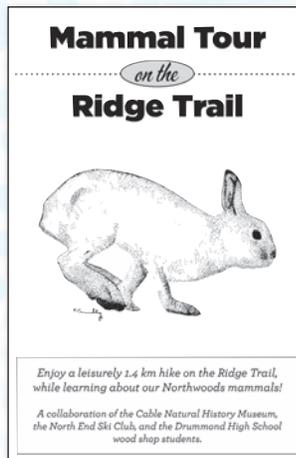


THE MAMMAL TOUR ON THE RIDGE TRAIL

All of the pieces are finally in place for the North End Ski Club/Cable Natural History Museum joint project – previously known as the “Mammal Trail.” To simplify things and not add yet another trail name into the mix, it was agreed to call this trail the “Mammal Tour on the Ridge Trail,” and will eventually be signed in that manner. Some relocations of the wooden mammal cutouts have been made to accommodate recent reroutes of the trail, but otherwise things are much the same as they were last winter. How many of the 22 mammals can you find? This has become a great way to engage kids on the trails.

A new component of the program has been the publication of a 28-page booklet with drawings and descriptions of all of the mammals along the trail. It also includes a map with the approximate location of each and a tracking guide. The tastefully designed booklet was written and laid out by Emily Stone, Naturalist and Environmental Educator at the museum.

Just one more cool thing about the North End Trail End...



OJIBWE TRAIL

Speaking of cool things – you may have noticed the new “gateway” portal to the entrance of the snowshoe trails. This was installed this past summer by CAMBA after the completion of a new singletrack trail connecting from the ridge to the trailhead. With the closing of Telemark Resort, CAMBA has relocated the main access to the Ojibwe mountain bike trail to the North End Trailhead. This is a great addition to our “complex” and brings additional summer use to the trailhead. The club has been very supportive of this move, as it very much enhances what we already have and with increased activity and traffic around the trailhead during what had been quiet times, the security of the trailhead facilities is also increased.

The North End snowshoe trails had originally been overlaid on several segments of the Ojibwe bike trail with one segment using the same name. In an effort to reduce confusion of having a piece of snowshoe trail named Ojibwe and the larger bike trail also named Ojibwe, it was decided to drop the reference to Ojibwe on the snowshoe trail and simply call it Penny Lane, as it connects to that trail and forms a loop. The maps have been updated to reflect this and signage will be installed to make this change.

NEW GROOMING EQUIPMENT WORKING OUT WELL

With our fund raising efforts successfully yielding sufficient funds to meet our goals, the club was able to purchase a Yamaha Grizzly 700 ATV as our primary grooming vehicle. We took delivery in the fall and immediately put it to use clearing the trails and pulling a drag to smooth out a rough piece of the North End Classic Trail. The utility of the machine was immediately apparent allowing easy access to many of the trails to cut downed trees and do other prep work. We anticipate also using the ATV to pull a small trailer to retrieve firewood from some of the less accessible parts of the trails. As winter approached, or actually after it already arrived, the tracks were installed and it was almost ready for grooming. We were actually caught a little off guard with the early snow so it took a while to get the machine fully rigged for grooming, as a custom hitch needed to be created (thanks Paddy Steavenson) and wiring installed to operate the grooming attachments. Once all of this was done it was pressed into full service. Little by little each of the grooming crew was introduced to the machine and became familiar with its operation. From all reports it was a good choice; it is very strong and can pull efficiently through deep snow and up even the largest hills. It is not as fuel efficient as the snowmobile, has a

smaller gas tank and steering when in four wheel drive with the tracks on can be a bit stout. We are quite happy with our decision to purchase this grooming vehicle. Lakeside Sports in Cable, where it was purchased, has been quite helpful in working through a couple of minor bugs that we encountered – mostly resulting from inexperienced operators, and also installing the tracks. Our old Skidoo Scandic, now with close to 7,000 miles, is still in service and performing quite well. It has been used as a back-up, or sometimes in tandem with the ATV and remains the primary grooming vehicle for the North End Classic Trail.



The North End grooming fleet.

THANK YOU TO OUR GREAT VOLUNTEERS!

The North End Ski Club has been extremely fortunate to receive the support of many volunteers who help tend to the needs of the club: fund raising, maintaining the trailhead, trail work, grooming and our biggest initiative, the North End Classic. It's no secret that our area has one of the most dedicated group of volunteers anywhere and we are truly thankful. It was our fear that our efforts to adequately staff the North End Classic might be compromised when we lost the great help we received for so many years from the Wisconsin Wilderness Campus when it closed its doors in 2013. In addition, the layering of the Wisconsin State High School meet onto the Classic (and Pre-Birkie) weekend called for even more volunteers on what already was one of the busiest Nordic skiing weekends of the season. And this year the IPC Nordic World Championships concluded only a week before, which was an enormous draw on the local and regional volunteer pool.

Our fears were for naught, however, as we have been able to recruit new and retain most regular volunteers to comfortably staff our event. This has, in fact, been a key factor in the continued success and smooth operation of the race.

The North End Ski Club extends a hearty THANK YOU to the many volunteers that have helped us this season. Just to name a few: Jim Anderson, Bryan Anderson, Ron Bergin, Kathy Bergin, Irv Berlin, Jan Berlin, Rick Carpenter, Tom Cogbill, Dave Cook, Lori Dunaway, Tom Dunaway, Dan Malesevich, Bill Ton, Dave Tomasula, Kasse Tomasula, Kathy Pierce, Allison Slavick, Lon Anderson, Joe Jenkins, Metro Maznio, John Uffenbeck, Jim Krueger, Scott Richardson, Mick Endersbe, Stan Walczak, Jack Wichita, Mary Wichita, Kathy Zuelsdorf, Jim Heinz and everyone else who helped in any way, small or large. Our apologies to anyone we may have missed.

And an extra special thanks to our North End Classic organizing committee and volunteer team:

*Lon Anderson
Dave Bach
Sara Balbin
Kathy Bergin
Ron Bergin
Irv Berlin
Jan Berlin
Chris Campbell
Ron Caple
Rick Carpenter
Mimi Crandall
Gary Crandall
Jim Crandall*

*Joyce Daugaard
Charlie Evenson
Marv Franson
John Garrett
Colleen Graham
Joe Haugen
Dick Hemsey
Joe Jenkins
Ed Johnston
Irv Lerner
Jackie Lindskoog
Charlie Leuthner
Chris Lindsey*

*Beth Lybeck
Mark Lybeck
Karen Manske
Bobbi McCauley
Kathy Myhra
Kathy Pierce
Bean Timmerman
Joe Timmerman
Kelly Randolph
Chris Ransom
Scott Richardson
Greg Rowley
Andy Schwartz*

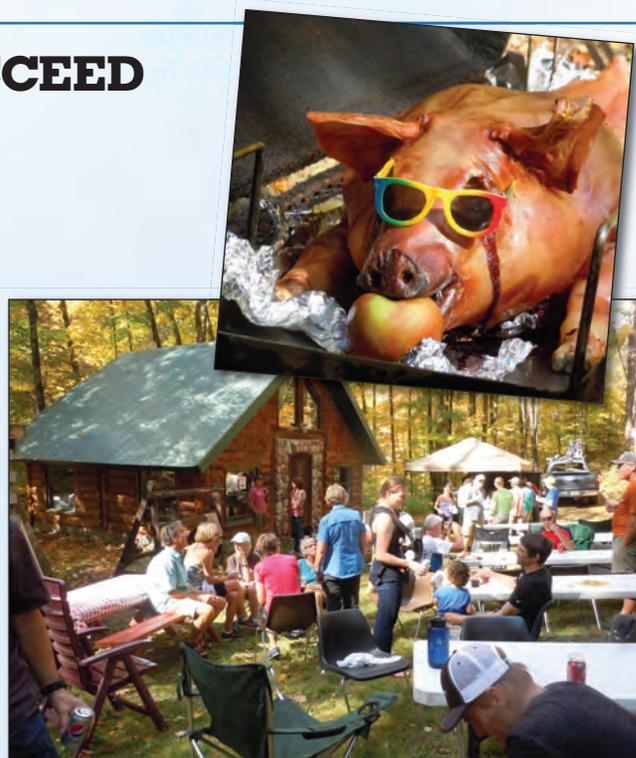
*Carolyn Senty
Allison Slavick
Glenn Taylor
Dave Tomasula
Kasse Tomasula
Bill Ton
John Uffenbeck
Kathy Uffenbeck
Mary Wichita
Ned Zuelsdorf
Kathy Zuelsdorf*

FUND RAISING EFFORTS SUCCEED

Our efforts to raise sufficient funds to purchase new grooming equipment, a trailer and build an extension on the groomer building were quite successful. To date we have received \$8,800 in donations, for which we are very grateful. The Yamaha Grizzly 700 with tracks was purchased in the fall at a cost of approximately \$14,000. A trailer will be purchased in the spring, costing approximately \$1,500 and materials to add the extension on the groomer building will cost about \$1,800. Busy schedules and early snow did not permit the extension to happen this fall, but we are poised to tackle it in the spring.

The pig roast in September was a great afternoon and raised over \$1,000 toward the cause. All together, including \$10,000 in savings dedicated to these projects and profits from the race, we find ourselves in a comfortable financial position and will be able to move forward with a good reserve.

Thanks again to everyone who made a contribution or attended the pig roast. And a particularly LARGE thanks to Dale Vaillancourt with Divine Swine and Jason and Will Rasmussen of Angry Minnow for their significant donations to the pig roast.



15TH ANNUAL NORTH END CLASSIC A BIG SUCCESS *Continued from page 1*

While the 12.5 km North End Classic didn't pack the dramatic punch of this year's 25 km, the competition was no less keen. John Hallett of Oconomowoc, Wis., took top honors in 40:07, with Tyler Thompson of Chaska, Minn., coming second at 40:55, and Jeff Tumbleson, of Hayward, Wis., grabbing third at 42:08. For the women, Sydney Bramer of Minneapolis, Minn., skied convincingly to victory at 45:20. Julie Meyer of Hayward, Wis., claimed second at 47:12 with Kim Lidstone of Hopkins, Minn., rounding out the podium in third at 49:31.

Complete results can be found at www.itiming.com.

The North End Classic annually garners top reviews from participants who enjoy the race's small time feel and appreciate the high level of organization. It's much



more than just a competition, however, and the camaraderie was evident as racers gathered at the Rivers Eatery for hot soup following the race, with many of them sporting their race souvenir, a custom ski hat by Mt. Borah.

The race is made possible through the generous assistance of over 40 local volunteers. We are very fortunate to have the volunteer support that we do, particularly in a year when the volunteer pool has frequently been called upon. Additional support and cooperation is also provided by the Namakagon Fire Department, American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival and Bayfield County Forestry Department.

The North End Classic is supported by the generous sponsorship of the following area businesses and organizations: Presenting Sponsor: Essentia Health. Major Sponsors: Mt. Borah, Ideal Market/Rivers Eatery, American Birkebeiner. Event Sponsors: New Moon Ski and Bike Shop, OutThere Shop, Salomon, United Church of Christ. Associate Sponsors: Delta Diner, Hayward Area Memorial Hospital/Water's Edge, King Realty, Nordic Ridge, Norvado, Outdoor Ventures, Tailwind Nutrition. Supporting Sponsors: Bayfield Electric, Coop's Pizza Parloure, Cresthill Resort, Garmisch USA, Mogasheen Resort, Northern Native Plantscapes, The Riverside Motel, Rondeau's.



SUCCESSFUL NORTH END MASTERS CLINICS CONTINUE

The North End Masters' training clinic resumed this fall for the fourth consecutive season. We were fortunate to once again have Mike Mandli as our head coach leading the program. Mike has continued to volunteer his time to coach and coordinate the clinics. He has also recruited a team of assistant coaches so that the program can cater to a wider level of skiers. Assistant coaches included Jane Mandli, Kris Hansen, Chris McGrath and Cindi McGrath. Mike, now a Level 200 USSA Certified Coach, sent out weekly notices to accommodate different ski techniques and different levels of ability. One of the more significant differences with this year's clinics is that, thanks to the early November snowfall, the first dry land session was held on-snow. Six subsequent on-snow sessions took the group up to just before the Birkie. Mike is also an expert wax technician with a deep knowledge of many brands and types of waxes. He shared detailed waxing advice for each of the sessions as well as for each of the local ski races and even threw in a graphic description of his own North End Classic experience.

The clinics included many veteran skiers looking to improve their technique. As a testament to the quality of the program, quotes such as, "I only made it to a few of the sessions, but I always learned something new that I could apply to improve my skiing," were common. In as much as all of our coaches were volunteering their time, the clinics have also become a bonafide fundraiser for the club, and a good bargain for all participants.

The North End Ski Club is very pleased to be able to facilitate these clinics. The level of interest and enthusiasm underscores the need and importance of something like this to our ski community. Thanks to everyone who participated and a very special thanks to Mike Mandli and all of the assistant coaches for helping make this great program possible.



Coach Mike Mandli shows how it's done.

All Photos by Kelly Randolph

BIRKIE TRAIL FEE

Instituted last year in Sawyer County, a mandatory trail fee is now in effect on the Birkie Trail in Bayfield County. All fees go toward offsetting costs of grooming and trail maintenance. The fee is \$10 per day per individual, \$50 annually per individual, or \$125 per family annually. Kids 12 and under ski free. With the new trail fee program now in place, the Birkie Foundation has assumed collection and maintenance of the trail fee tube. In the past we have shared revenues from the fee tube with the Birkie and to offset any losses the club would have experienced by this new arrangement, the Birkie has made a \$3,000 contribution to the club, which is approximately the amount we have collected in the past.

BIRKIE Birkie Trail
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VALID DECEMBER 1, 2014 - MARCH 31, 2015

Bjorn Daehlie

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NORTH END SKI CLUB

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www.norwiski.com/northend

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Bergin President
Allison Slavick Vice President
Kasse Tomasula Secretary
John Uffenbeck Treasurer
Lon Anderson Director
Ed Johnston Director
Kathy Pierce Director



MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT STRONG

With over 70 members, support of the North End Ski Club and our many initiatives and programs continues to be strong. It's not too late to renew your North End Ski Club membership and if you become a new member or renew now, your membership will run through the 2016 season. Just fill out the form below and send it in. That's all there is to it!

Thanks for your membership support.

North End Ski Club



MEMBERSHIP FORM

All members receive periodic mailings informing them of progress and other developments, invitations to Club ski and other social 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.

- 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
- I'd like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

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

Thank You!