

Cross-Country Skiing for Everyone ❄️

MARCH 2004

MADNORSKI News

News for the members of the Madison Nordic Ski Club Vol. 23 No. 5

- A FINAL WORD FROM JIMMY -

Thanks for the Memories

BY JIMMY VANDEN BROOK



As my presidency sinks slowly in the west let me thank the entire club for indulging me these past five years. It's time to join that elite band of ex-presidents who now keep to the shadows and only reluctantly offer their sage advice to troubled board members. While I have had some fun over the years at the expense of these old warriors, I tip my ski hat to them because now I've skied in their boots.

Thanks to my immediate predecessor, Dave Calhoon, who brought a high level of organization to the club and an enormously dry wit that never bites and always brings a smile. Kind of like a good martini. And of course I have to recognize my mentor, the club's rock, the ex-president whose legacy lives in the afterglow of the biggest projects the club has ever undertaken. I speak of non-other than Stormy Kromer himself (the skier formerly known as Mike Ivey). I like to think that Dave and I built on the foundation that Stormy and all the previous administrations laid down. Remember, it was just 1982 when 15 or so ski racers got together at the Memorial Union Rathskeller to launch the club with a few ceremonious brews.

The club has seen steady growth in membership over the years. Almost every program has expanded because of the volunteer effort of board and club members. A great deal was accomplished by the club in the last five years despite the low snow situation. But so much more was

done before my presidency. I hate to think what skiing would be like in our area without the Madison Nordic Ski Club. We would probably not have lights at Elver, nor the quality of grooming equipment in Madison, Blue Mounds State Park, and Governor Dodge State Park. Supporting the club is a little like donating to PBS or your local school (minus the beer and swag of course). It would be nice if everyone who skied in Madison would provide a little energy to further the sport. Unfortunately, that won't happen.

It's your membership that keeps skiing alive and growing despite miserably short ski seasons. We are in many ways a service club. You should feel good about that.

Our club is sometimes criticized for being too race focused. It is a valid criticism. But ski racers provide most of the volunteer effort that drives the club. The challenge to those of you who would like to see more offered to non-racers is to come forward and lead trips or organize other events that would draw in a broader ski community. This is an area where progress has

been slow. And those race-crazed among us need to expand our horizon a little too.

Over the years the club has made continual investments in our youth programs: KidSki, SilverSki, and Juniors. This is the seed from which the club could really flower. The example to look toward is the youth focus of the Blackhawk Ski Club. They have over double our membership. I believe that's because they focus on their jumping, downhill, and nordic programs for kids. Blackhawk is a private club on private land. We operate largely on public

(SEE FAREWELL, CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

OUR NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 8, 2004
Lussier Family
Heritage Center

Agenda

6:30: POTLUCK Dinner
7:30: Birkie Awards
8:00: Election of Officers
8:30-9:00: Socializing

MNSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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No, Jimmy, Thank YOU For the Memories!

By HARRY LUM

I would like to say thank you to Jimmy for all that he has done for us over the past 5 years. He always dealt with things in a professional, yet lighthearted way! I would also like to thank ALL the MadNorSki members, for without you, we wouldn't have a club.

I can't believe Kay and I have been producing the newsletter for four years already. We have met so many wonderful people and it has been a pleasure to promote MadNorSki to different retail, lodging facilities, races, and to our members. Under Jimmy's leadership the membership has really hit new highs and we were fortunate to be a part of that.

It was my intentions to provide "SWAG" at every meeting to help promote attendance and increase membership and we have done that. Alas, I have run out of ideas and new blood



Thanks to special connections in the club... we were able to get our hands on an official postal jersey signed by Lance Armstrong himself to give to Prez Jimmy at his last meeting. (We pretended it was your basic everyday "SWAG" but then pulled out the special raffle ticket pictured.) Pretty sneaky.

will flow in the board meetings next year.

I wish I knew all of you, but I don't. Now, that I am retiring from "Swagmeister", don't stop saying hi to me. It's a nice feeling when someone you don't know says hello because you have your MadNorSki jacket on. So go forth, participate in all the events you can, say hi to all the

people you encounter with a smile on your face and your MadNorSki jacket on your back. *



Harry Lum (along with the rest of the club) serenade Jimmy with the club's version of Bob Hope's famous song "Thanks for the Memories". It was decided that the club is better at skiing than singing.



Willi wore a special outfit in honor of Jimmy and Ned, well, Ned could hardly fight back the tears... if you look very closely, you can almost see his lower lip trembling.

Farewell Letters

TO THE BOARD

My HUGE personal vote of THANKS. You and your Board have taken our club to a higher plane than I ever imagined possible. I can't tell you how incredibly proud I am whenever I put on my MadNorSki jacket or see the name flaunted on all our adult and Junior skiers. KUDOS!

Ski ya!

— DON FARISS, MADNORSKI JUNIOR COACH (AND KING OF THE HOTBOX)

Editors note: aw gee, thanks Don.

OPEN LETTER TO THE OUTGOING (FINALLY) PRESIDENT OF MNSC

JIMMY VANDENBROOK:
RASPUTIN, SVENGALI, OR
SNAKE-OIL SALESMAN?

I want you to know that the people of this club will not forget the endless poor snow years under your reign, even though you have craftily chosen to relinquish your regime on a "good snow year" in a hapless attempt to cloud our memories of your service record. Some of us are convinced that the new "president" will be a mere puppet under your diabolical powers. Further, your charisma cannot be suppressed by your phony "spread the Nordic ski love" persona. This is merely a front for you and your privileged-from-birth cronies to rake in millions passing off pigmented hunks of Ball canning paraffin for \$100 "secret weapon" go-fast Birkie waxes to your endorphin-addicted, oxygen deprived, "Madison Nordic Ski Cult members".

Sincerely,

— ANDY "PINE-TAR AND WOOL KNICKERS" SWARTZ



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES,
WITH FIVE PURE YEARS OF BLISS, UNDER JIMMY'S LEADERSHIP
THE SNOWLESS YEARS, THE ICE COLD BEERS
THE LAUGHS, THE GRINS THE WIT
WE THANK YOU SO MUCH...

THANKS FOR THE BREWSKIS,
THE MEETINGS WERE ALWAYS PACKED, WITH SKI ENTHUSIACS*
POTLUCKERS, WINE CONISSEURS,
MICRO BREWERS TOO
WE AIN'T NO WUSSIE CLUB

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES,
THE SNOWLESS WINTER MONTHS, DIDN'T HINDER US
MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN SO MUCH
MORE THAN JIMMY COULD HAVE EVER KNOWN
IT'S ALL 'CAUSE OF YOU...

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES,
JIMMY'S ARTICLES WERE DIVINE,
THOUGH HE MISSED EVERY DEADLINE
HIS CLEVER WIT WILL SURE BE MISSED
HOW WILL WE GET BY
WE WANT YOU TO STAY...

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES,
ALTHOUGH YOU HURT YOUR KNEE, AT THE 24 HOUR SKI
BACK YOU CAME, YOU MADE YOUR NAME
"NUMBSKIER" PROUDLY REIGNED
PLEASE DON'T GO AWAY...

*NOT A REAL WORD, BUT IT SOUNDS GOOD.

- WHAT WHERE THEY THINKING? -

A Story From The Trail:

The Nicolet Norski 30k Ski Race • Jan. 31st, 2004

The time clock was taken down and the majority of the race fans had gone home. The only visible sign that a race had taken place were the words, "Finish-line" spray-painted in the snow but even that was pretty well skied over.

It was hours after the last skier came in and we began to worry about our two friends who were still out on the course. They had only skied once this season before taking on the 30k Nicolet Norski race, in Lakewood, WI. We weren't sure what to do but we thought it would be best to inform the race director and ask if they would send out a snow mobile in search of them. Just then a skier volunteered to ski out on the trail to see if he could find them. We sent a brief message with him. In 15 min. he reported back that they were fine and had only 3k to go.

As the 2 remaining skiers of the race (Brian & Carolyn Cassel) were in sight we formed a mini-cheering

squad and cheered them on as they crossed the finish line. They completed this race with excellent attitudes accompanied by smiles, laughter, a few blisters and a sense of humor. In spite of the missing time clock and water at the last rest stop they clocked in a lovely 4 hours of blissful skiing in the Nicolet National Forest. They especially got a kick out of the caring message that was delivered by the skier from us friends... "What the hell were you thinking".

As they entered the Country Club (the warming house for the race) they received a standing ovation and a couple of drinks which were well deserved. *Note:* Brian and Carolyn discovered a few things during the race: You may want to ski more than once before taking on 30k, Moleskin is a good thing, and attitude is key! But they still wondered: "What the hell were WE thinking?" *

Pending Thoughts for Next Season

By CO-PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS, DIRK MASON AND WALTER MEANWELL

Here are a few of the ideas that the new administration (if elected) has been working on for next year:

Tuesday night Preseason Racing the first three Tuesday's in December at Tyrol Basin. If we can put this one together it will be something you can plan on since it will be on man made snow.

Activities for children at the monthly meetings. Turkey bowling is a must see.

Featured brewery of the month at the meetings. This one could be quite festive.

The trips are coming back with a vengeance. They will be about evenly split between recreational and racing orientation. At least one trip will be to beautiful B.C. We are going to try to negotiate discounts for club members on lodging at focus hotels.

A clothing order for the 2004/2005 season. Here's your chance to look ever so cool.

Possibly an equipment swap. This could be especially nice for families with growing kids or newer skiers who don't want to drop big bucks

on new gear.

So as you can see we fully intend and plan on moving the club forward. This is your club. If you would like to share

ideas that you have please let your friendly board members know. Thank you very much. *

**THE TRIPS
ARE COMING
BACK
WITH A
VENGEANCE.**



Co-Presidential hopeful
Dirk Mason



Co-Presidential hopeful
Walter Meanwell

2004/5 MNSC Board of Directors Slate of Candidates

*(elections to be held
at March 8, 2004
club meeting)*

Co-President:

Walter Meanwell

Co-President:

Dirk Mason

Vice President:

Tom Kaufman

Treasurer:

Duncan Bathe

Newsletter:

Ben Neff

Membership:

Scott Bachmeier

Publicity:

Ruth Bachmeier

Race Chair:

Ned Zuelsdorff

Youth Ski:

Greg Jones

Kid Ski:

Mark Webber

Social Chair:

Gordy Bartholemew

Wisc. Nordic Sports Foundation:

Walter Meanwell

Trips:

Meanwell/Mason

Advertising/Promotions:

???

Hail to Heil!

By TEDD E. SCHWEITZER

In regards to Blue Mounds State Park grooming — to Karl Heil in particular — In my personal opinion, I think the new equipment donated by MadNorSki was a very good investment. The trails at Blue Mounds have been very good when other locations were marginal. THANK YOU KARL! *

Ski Bikeskiers Tell All

By ANDY SWARTZ, ANN POLLOCK, ARTHUR ROSS, MARK HARMS, & TYE GRIBB, EDITED BY JOE KING, PHOTOS BY PAT KING

A few intrepid individuals gathered at Odana with their bikes and skis just as the sun was fading from view. Soon they would start a 2.4 km ski around the main loop at Odana and then load themselves and their skiing gear onto their bikes for a commute to Elver where they would then ski the 5 km course. Each would be timed from the start of the ski at Odana to the finish of a 5 km ski at Elver. Each would end the day with a story to tell. Here we have pieced together several accounts of the evening's adventure in order to tell their story (ba bum bump). The names were not changed for the protection of others.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 5:55 PM, ANDY SWARTZ PREPARES HIS GEAR: *"I had wanted to do this event in past years and was glad to finally be available to participate. When I read the announcement that there would be style points and night/winter commute appropriateness points I saw this as an opportunity to have even more fun, and possibly pick up some bonus seconds. I was startled when the idea to mount the Yakama ski rack on my tandem popped into my head, and relieved to find that it was indeed possible. The best part of the night was when I was getting the rig out of my car. Joe King came over to say hello and when he saw the setup he said 'WHOOAAA! You've got to be kidding me!' The ski at Odana was frigid but fun. A measure of the tone of this fun event was given by Ann Pollock who said 'I've never been less nervous for a ski race' while shivering on the start line. I've skied Odana in the dark plenty of times and the trail conditions were perfect so that part went well."*



Ann in Transition at Elver

6:13 PM, ANN POLLOCK DESCRIBES THE BONE-CHILLING START:

"I grew a little apprehensive as the temperature dropped, the wind picked up, and darkness fell. Did I really want to



The Group: common Sense Just Doesn't Enter Into It *do this? I was so cold after trying to adjust and organize my gear that I made the last-minute decision to wear my heavy warm-up jacket for the Odana ski. That turned out fine — I was just beginning to warm up at the end of the ski, and by the finish of the bike ride to Elver, the fingers and toes were functional again. I shed the jacket and enjoyed skiing the Elver race alone, ahead of Stormy and all of the other fast Tuesday Night skiers."*

6:26 PM, MARK HARMS BENEFITS FROM THE MISTAKES OF OTHERS: *"I pulled into the first transition with several people and saw one LED'ed bike go off before me. I had learned from the last ski-bike-ski during which I changed shoes, so this time I used toe clips on my bike and rode in my ski boots. When I hit the bike path, I couldn't see the biker ahead of me. I assumed he had opened up a lead to demoralize the rest of us and was already up and over the beltline bridge. When I turned onto Hammersley, I still couldn't see a tail-light, so I figured the guy up ahead was a real monster and deserved to win. I also decided my shoe choice was somehow slowing me down. It turns out, of course, that rider took a wrong turn in the parking lot at Odana and was behind me on the road."*

6:27 PM, ANDY RECOUNTS HIS ATTEMPT TO CATCH THIS WAYWARD CYCLIST:

"Leaving Odana is where things went awry. I was drawn down the snow-covered service road by the flashing lights of another rider like a sailor fatefully lured onto the rocks by a siren. We had been warned about this trap at the start but it was an easy mistake to make. Two people who had finished the ski ahead of me but I had passed in transition passed me while I was slogging through the deep snow with my 50-pound rig in search of the access point for the Southwest Commuter Pathway."

6:30 PM, TYE GRIBB FOUND THE BIKING PORTION OF THE EVENT STIMULATING:

"The bike ride on slick, snow covered roads with my skis continually banging up against my head added the fear element that is often missing from cross country skiing. I'm definitely going to "train" for this

next year. It is all in the transitions..."

6:46 PM, ANDY COMES INTO THE THIRD LEG:

"Once on the bike I rolled along pretty well and even traded pulls with the guy who I had taken the detour with. Then he dropped me on a steep hill. The road was snow and ice covered in some spots but the traffic was courteous and patient and probably a little curious to see cyclists laden with skis cooking down the road at the dark of winter. Upon reaching Elver I was pleased see our intrepid event photographers already there and wanting to take my photo at the transition. It was a fast transition — remove helmet, pop open ski rack, unhook two bungsies, and slap on the skis."



Tye's Head Manages the Trip Slightly Banged but Okay



Andy Arrives at Elver, Yakama ski rack and all

There was plenty of excitement in the air from the ski race. It was pretty impressive to see the dozens of skis lined up outside as we made our transitions. I had never done one of the Elver races so this made it extra fun to ski the course and see the main event front runners as I was finishing my loop. I was happy to score well in the bike and commute categories. It was especially fun to have Arthur Ross at Odana and Elver, clad in Sorels and his Grizzly Adams beard, with his very official (SEE BIKESKIER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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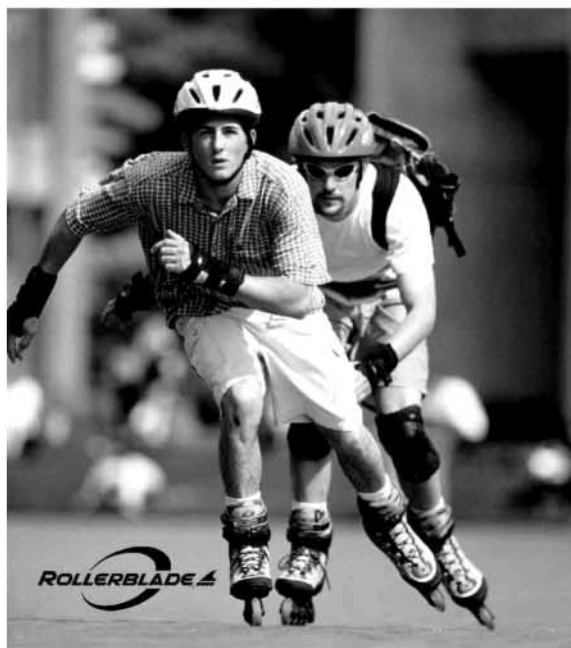
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(BIKESKIERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)
 looking notepad and clipboard. I look forward to next year when I'll have more skiing fitness and I wonder what sort of creative engineering opportunities the event will provide."

7:08 PM, ARTHUR ROSS TALLIES HIS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED JUDGEMENTS:

"Sherren gets bonus points for having a planet bike headlight that probably cost 2 - 3 times what she paid for her good-will pink and purple bicycle that she rode. First place for equipment points is difficult between Andy and Steve Goldstein. Andy's rig was impressive, and he had lots of lights, blinkies and reflectors, plus studded tires. Steve, on the other hand, had the most impressive set up for a standard bike for carrying skis. Andy's tandem ski rack is great, but few people could replicate it. Andy was head and shoulders above the others on lights and reflectors, though. My top points go to Andy. Steve gets an extra bonus, however, for volunteering to sweep the ride after Joe decided to call it a night, and I would recommend an additional bonus for his disappearing transition at Elver [as a way to warm up].

7:16 PM, ANN TAKES STOCK OF THE EVENINGS FUN:

*"I got a lot of good ski transport ideas from the other participants, which I'll try out next year. Next year? Yes, I'll be back. But about the style points — didn't Arthur see my duct-taped fender?! It is amazing to experience how easy it is to bike to skiing. I had thought it was far-fetched, but it is a practical possibility. Thanks for [not] organizing this [non]-event!**



Steve Goldstein Finishes Strong, but last.

Start Saving Your Change.

MadNorSki clothing order planned for 2004/2005 Season.

By DIRK MASON

You have seen the MadNorSki clothing at your favorite trail, race, or post race watering hole. Other skiers are talking about the suits — admired and coveted by those outside the club. You are inspired by Pat Conway's article in the November 2003 newsletter to feel the pride of wearing the MadNorSki clothing or want to be recognized by other club members at your next Birkie. Whatever your reason, there was an unexpected demand for custom MadNorSki ski clothing this year that could not be met with the limited supply.

Given the response an order will be placed early fall for the 2004/2005 ski season. To more accurately determine your size, a fitting will be scheduled. Exact time and location of the fitting will be posted on the XC list serve and MadNorSki website. If you don't have email or internet access, keep in touch with your ski friends over the summer that do. You can join the XC list by sending the word "subscribe" as the subject of a message to xc-request@danenet.org or got the MadNorski webpage www.madnorski.org and click on "The XC List" for more information.

The clothing can be order as a suit (jersey and tights) or by the individual garment. A jacket is also available in the same design as the jersey. The jersey and tights are made of brushed



You too can look this cool! Chris Halverson, Walter Meanwell and John Riley represent MadNorSki well at the start of the 24 hours of Telemark race.

polyester that is warm and soft. The jacket is constructed of soft nylon with a dryfleece lining, great as pre and post ski attire.

The club tries not to manage and carry an inventory of clothing. Therefore, to guarantee you get clothing in your size place your order with the club when it is announced late this summer or early fall.

For additional information or questions contact Dirk at dmason 1027@yahoo.com or 277-1881. *

If you want to see it in how cool the suits look in color, download this newsletter from the MadNorkSki website!

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM WILLI

(APPARENTLY HE SPENDS HIS IDLE HOURS SURFING THE WEB)

Having trouble moving up in the birkie? Check the Toko website, under the information for poles they list spear parts. These may get you the respect you have been looking for at the start line. *

ALL OF OUR MEETINGS THIS YEAR ARE AT THE LUSSIER FAMILY HERITAGE CENTER, LOCATED AT 3101 LAKE FARM ROAD, 608-224-3604

2003-04 MadNorSki Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting	Club Meeting	Meeting Theme	Meeting Agenda	Club Meeting Location	Newsletter/ Ad Deadline
Tuesday Feb. 24 TBA	Monday Mar. 8, 6:30 pm	Racing wrap up POT LUCK	Election of Officers	Lussier Family Heritage Center	Friday February 13

TREK TRAVEL



THINK SPRING...CYCLING...TREK TRAVEL

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As a MadNorSki club member receive a 10% discount on a Trek Travel Vacation if you book a trip before June, 2004. Not valid with any other offers or with any of Trek Travel's Tour de France trips.



- WHAT ARE THE SILVER SKIERS DOING? -

Silver Skiers Roar Into High School Championships and Badger State Games

BY GREG JONES

The Silver Skiers made a strong showing this year at the Middle School division of the **Wisconsin High School Championships**. We went there with a team of seven which included five boys and two girls. That was the largest team representing any club in the state in the Middle School division. The event lasted two days with freestyle races on Saturday and Classical races on Sunday. Awards are given to the top ten finishers in each race. The Silver skiers came away from the event with a total of **FIVE** awards! In the girls freestyle race on Saturday **Corrina Jones** finished in second place. On the boys side **Birken Schimpff** was a fourth place finisher in the freestyle event. Sunday rolled around and they geared up for the Classical race. At the end of the day the Silvers had won three more awards. **Corrina** was second place in the girl's race. In the boys event **Birken** finished in fourth



Schimpff was the second place finisher in the classical and third place in the freestyle. **Cameron Bathe** competed only in the Freestyle event where he finished in first place!

We have been very grateful to Ned for holding the "first timer" events at Elver Park. We have had several racers in those events. All of the skiers mentioned above have been in races at Elver. In addition to them **Jake Tantow** has gotten in his first two XC ski races at the Elver series.

I think I can speak for all of us at the Madison Nordic Ski Club when I say how proud we are of all the Silver Skiers. All of you stuck it out through the first "no snow" months of this winter. Your results at the races are fantastic, but we are also very happy to see the enjoyment you are getting from cross country skiing. We all hope you continue to enjoy and love our sport for years to come. You are the future! *



Silver Skiers before the start of a "first timer" race at Elver. From left to right: Birken Schimpff, Jake Tantow, Coach Greg, and Cameron Bathe.



Ansel Schimpff double poles his way into the finish line at the High School Championships.

place and **Cameron Bathe** finished in ninth place. Our other skiers that participated in both races that weekend were **Mike Becker**, **James Foust**, **Zack Eskrich**, and **Kelsey Eskrich**. Congratulations to all of them on there fine performances.

The next weekend we traveled to the **Badger State games**. Again the Silver skiers came away with **FIVE** medals. As you all probably know they only award 3 deep at Badger State games. **Corrina Jones** took first place gold in both of her races, the Classical and the Freestyle. **Birken**



Some of the Junior Girls team at High School Championships. From Left to right, Elisa Becker, Aria Walsh-Elz, Karen Stolzenberg, Jenna Acker, Brittany Alioto, Marta Drew, Martha Sample, Sara Eskrich, and Louise Jones.



Ansel Schimpff (right) starting the start of the Freestyle race High School Championships.



Birken Schimpff glides into the finish line of the Classic race at High School championship's Middle school division. Note the body position during the "collection phase".



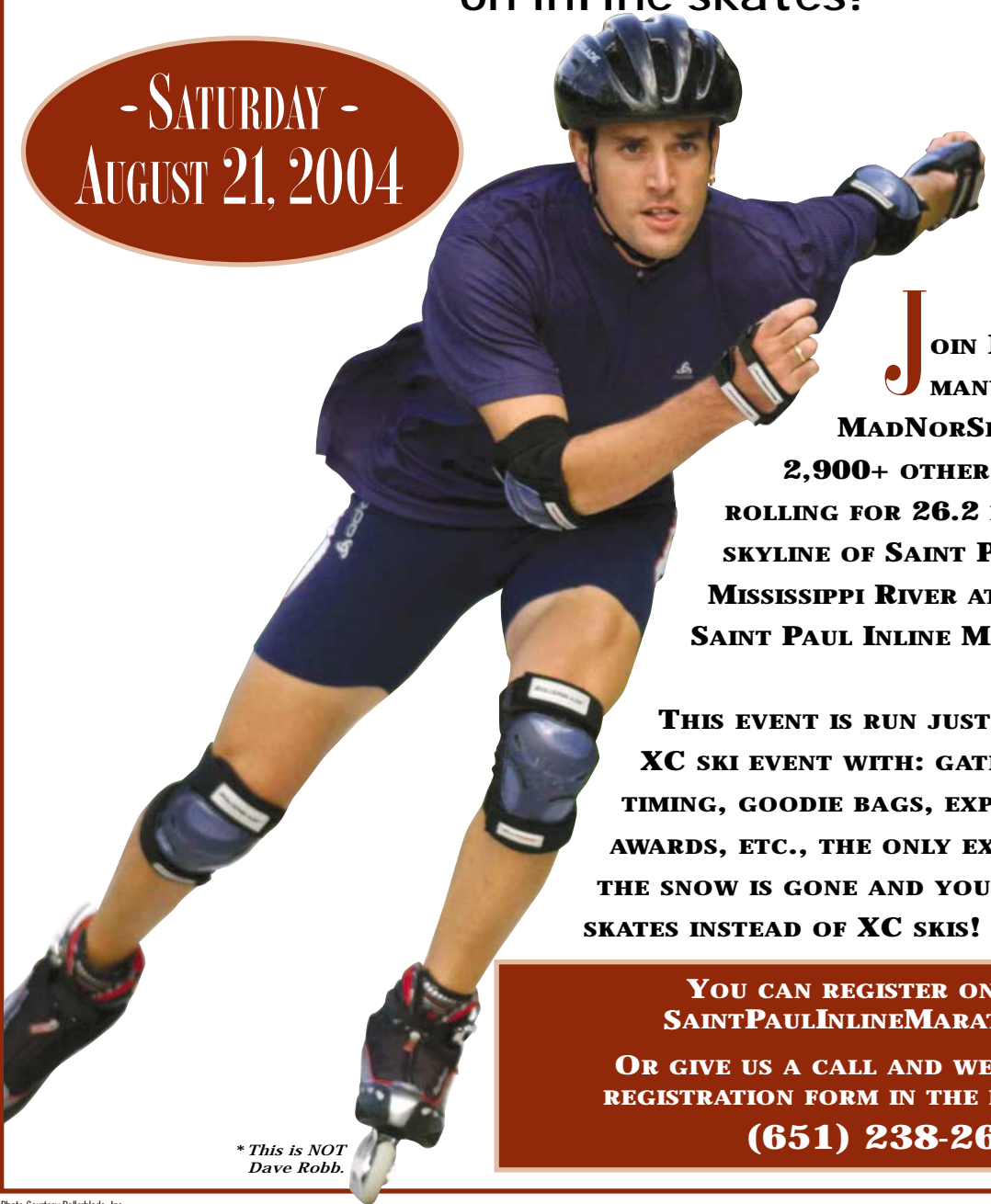
Corrina Jones Starting the Classic race on Sunday against powerhouse Melanie Hoffman from Ashwaubenon.



saint paul
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m a r a t h o n

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- SATURDAY -
AUGUST 21, 2004



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Stay in Shape This Summer...

With the MadNorSki Thursday Paddlers



Looking for an alternative workout this summer, something new and fun that's easy on your knees and builds upper body strength for winter's double poling?

Then mark your calendar for 5:45 pm every Thursday, from April 15th through October 15th, and join the **MadNorSki Thursday Paddlers**.

(There is no entry fee; you need only join the e-mail list and show up with a paddle and life jacket and willingness to get a little wet in the pursuit of going fast.)

We meet at a centrally located Madison launch site, designated by e-mail the day before, and paddle for 1.5 +/- hours of warm-up, moderate pace, and occasional interval workouts, and sometimes gather for beer and dinner afterwards. We also car-pool to weekend races.

Workouts are in C-1 and C-2 race canoes, and recreational race canoes (such as a Jenson 18). If you don't have such a craft, no sweat — you can be provided a seat in one with a day's advance notice.

Willi Van Haren is the operations chief (psh@it is.com); Frank Farwell is communications coordinator (ffarwell@tds.net); and Kevin Leroy (kevin.leroy@charter.net), a nationally-ranked Big Kahuna of marathon and short-course race paddling, is frequently on hand to lead the workouts and offer expert coaching tips.

If this sounds good to you, send Frank an e-mail and ask to be put on the alert list.

In the Days of No Snow that are sure to come, there is no better way to spend an evening. *

(FAREWELL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
lands and could accommodate essentially unlimited membership. I think that with kids having more and more trouble with weight control and health issues, we could fill a growing need for healthy lifestyle alternatives. This could reach out to a very large group of folks. As a future ex-president, I will advocate our development as a club into that arena. Our mission

- NEWS FROM THE JUNIORS - Just Wait 'Til Next Year!

BY DON FARISS

The 2004 edition of Wisconsin High School Championships was held in Iola at the Norseman Trails at the end of January. The event consisted of an interval start freestyle race Saturday followed by an exciting pursuit-start race on Sunday that determines the overall "Skimeister" for the weekend. This year's edition was dominated by Hayward, Minocqua and Rhinelander. Everyone on our young team



improved this year and 4 individuals nearly cracked the top 20. These four (Louise Jones, Mikaela Robertson, Noah Kenoyer and Ansel Schimpff) all ended the weekend by being named to the prestigious "Gold

Group" for seeding at next year's event. Next year we will have a very strong team with 10 seniors. We hope to be back on our mid-February date then and possibly racing at Telemark Resort or Schwann Center. *

Blue Mounds Trail Run!

BY WILLI VAN HAREN

Many nordic skiers use the trails at Blue Mounds State Park for skiing and trail running. Now there is a trail running event to enjoy at this beautiful park. On Saturday June 5, 2004 at 8:30 A.M. there will be two trail runs, one at 14.1k and the other at 25.5k. Both races traverse the park from top to bottom and around the perimeter. You'll run through dense maple forest and open prairie. Most of the trail is shaded and about 15% is single track. The park is about 400 feet of vertical from bottom to top, so you'll do some climbing. Walking is used by many "runners" to moderate the uphill. Showers will be available after the race. Pre-race registration is \$20.00 and day of event is \$25.00. The web-site for this event is <http://personalpages.tds.net/~pshdsl/trailrun.html>

Or email me at psh@it is.com for the link or more information. *



includes more than just beer at club meetings.

Again, I've been proud to be your president and look forward to joining Dave and Stormy in the background (and we'll still complain if the beer isn't up to snuff!). Please lend your support and energy to the incoming administration. They have some great ideas of their own and they will need you. *

FREE Kortelopet Entries Received

BY DON FARISS

Two MadNorSki Juniors were the lucky recipients of two free entries to the Kortelopet this year. These freebies were funded by contributions to the Wisconsin Nordic Network (WINN) and were the result of the labors of Phil Johnsrud of Iola. One free entry was offered to each of the 19 organized high school ski teams in the state. The MadNorSki Juniors received a second one as a memorial to the late *Silent Sports* editor and Birkie skier, Greg Marr.

These entries were awarded to individuals based on commitment to the sport, improvement and/or need. 2004 MadNorSki Junior recipients were Mikaela Robertson and Martha Sample.

If anyone would like to contribute to this effort (which has not been fully covered by donations yet), contact Phil at johnsrudp@iola.k12.wi.us or winn@xcskiwin.org. This program will likely be offered next year too and funds will be sought again. More information on WINN can be found at <http://xcskiwin.org/> *

Good Luck to the winners! Do I see a newlsetter article for the Nov. 2004 issue?

The CAT Ski Story



Dale Niggemann started the quest to make a better Classic ski around 12 years ago but he did not want to copy the competition. He wanted to beat the competition. So, he talk to coaches, did a few clinics with some coaches on classic technique, read a little about classic skiing and he came up with an idea late one night in his laboratory several years ago. The idea he came up with was the **CAT Ski** which stands for **Classic All Terrian Ski** and he means all terrian! Other manufactures say their skis are all terrian but they are not. The CAT skis can go on sand, ice, grass, pavement or mud. In fact they can go where mountain bikes can't even go! We have several customers who ski when it is cold and dark. They put their CAT ski's on in the garage and CAT ski right out their garage onto the lighted 1000 km CAT ski trail (lighted city streets). They ski for 30 minute to 2 hours and ski right back into there garage. They love it because they don't even have chance to get cold. The CAT skis have another feature that is quite nice. You can ski side by side with your CAT ski buddies and talk. It can be very difficult to do this on other roller skis because of traffic and narrow trails.



A future Birkie skier starts training early.

CAT Ski testimonial by Lowell McCoy

"MAXIMIZE SKI-SPECIFIC FITNESS WITH MINIMUM INVESTMENT IN TIME. AS EASY TO FIT INTO DAILY ROUTINE AS RUNNING. BUT MORE EFFICIENT BECAUSE ITS SKI SPECIFIC AND INCLUDES UPPER BODY WORKOUT AND CLASSIC TECHNIQUE. DURING THE (BUILD) PART OF MY TRAINING YEAR, CAT SKIS TAKE ON AN INCREASING ROLE IN MY TRAINING. CAT SKIING MIXES WELL WITH ENDURO ROLLER SKIING (SKATE TECHNIQUE AND POLING) AND TRAIL RUNNING TO BUILD SPEED ENDURANCE. BY MIXING THE 3 TRAINING ROUTINES, I AVOID OVERUSE INJURY WHILE INSURING ATTENTION TO ALL THE BALANCE AND MUSCLE TRAINING NEEDED FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON. AS THE WEATHER GETS COLD, WET, WINDY AND JUST PLAIN MISERABLE, I RELY ON THE CAT SKIS. THEY ACTUALLY MAKE IT PLEASANT TO SKI DURING THIS TYPE OF WEATHER. I INVEST ALMOST NO TIME IN DRIVING, WAITING FOR THE ROADS TO DRY, OR AVOIDING TRAFFIC. I DON'T HAVE TO QUIT BECAUSE ITS DARK. I JUST HOPE THAT THE OTHER GUYS IN MY AGE GROUP HAVEN'T FOUND CAT SKIING YET. I NEED EVERY ADVANTAGE THAT I CAN GET. LAST SUNDAY, FOR THE LAST 20 MINUTES OF A RAIN-SOAKED CAT SKI SESSION, I GOT THAT WONDERFUL MID-SEASON FEELING WHEN THE RHYTHM AND BALANCE OF CLASSIC SKIING COME TOGETHER IN A NEAR EFFORTLESS MOTION. AND ITS ONLY SEPTEMBER."

CAT Ski testimonial by David Deverell

"I HAVE LOGGED JUST OVER A HUNDRED HOURS ON THE CAT SKIS OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS. I HAVE SKIED IN 90 PLUS HEAT, RAIN, & ANYTHING MOTHER NATURE DECIDED TO SURPRISE ME WITH. I WENT OUT YESTERDAY FOR MY DAILY SKI AND I WAS STILL SO EXCITED TO GO. IT WAS ALMOST LIKE A KID WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS MORNING TO COME OR WAITING TO GET OUT ON A FRESHLY GROOMED TRAIL AFTER A GOOD NIGHTS SNOW-FALL. I TRIED TO PUT MY FINGER ON IT AND SIMPLY PUT CAT SKIING IS REAL SKIING AND NOTHING ELSE IS UNLESS THERE IS SNOW. I LOVE TO SKI AND THE CAT SKI LETS ME SKI YEAR ROUND. I LOVE THE GLIDE OVER A CRISP SNOWY TRAIL, THE JANUARY AIR BITING AT YOUR NOSE AND FINGERTIPS. THERE IS NOTHING BETTER AND THE JOY IT BRINGS EACH TIME IS REALLY PRICELESS. THE LAST COUPLE OF WINTERS HAVE LEFT US WHO LOVE THIS SPORT DAZED & DEPRESSED. YOUR CAT SKI IS THE ANSWER TO ANY SKIERS PRAYERS. I NOW CAN SKI ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, AND ON ANY THING. THE CAT SKI IS THE ONLY TRUE OFF ROAD ALL TERRAIN SKI. ALMOST NOTHING STOPS IT. IN THE PAST I HAD TRIED RUNNING WITH POLES, SKI WALKING, & ROLLER SKIING. ROLLERSKIING WAS THE MOST CRITICAL OF THE THREE. I WENT OUT & BOUGHT THE SUPPOSED TOP OF THE LINE ROLLER SKI WITH SPEED REDUCERS. AFTER I PUT ON MY HELMET, ELBOW PADS, WRIST GUARDS, GLOVES, & KNEE PADS I FELT MORE LIKE A KNIGHT GOING INTO BATTLE INSTEAD OF A CROSS COUNTRY SKIER. I WENT OUT ON A FAIRLY SMOOTH ROAD & AFTER GETTING BREEZED BY MANY CARS I REALIZED THIS WAS NOT SKIING AT ALL. I WAS BUNDLED UP LIKE AN X GAME PARTICIPANT, GOING WAY TO FAST ON UNSTABLE ROLLER SKIS FEARING FOR A BROKEN BONE OR ROAD RASH. THE NOISE OF CARS ZOOMING BY & THE SMELL OF EXHAUST WAS NOT WHAT I SENSE WHEN I

AM ON MY FAVORITE TRAIL. IN 3 YEARS I PROBABLY PUT MAYBE 30 HOURS ON THEM. I HAVE SINCE SOLD THEM ON A POPULAR WEBSITE. THE CAT SKI HAS CHANGED ALL THAT. I CAN SKI MY FAVORITE TRAIL ANYTIME I WANT. I JUST PUT ON MY NORMAL SKI BOOTS, GRAB MY POLES AND GO. BEFORE I KNOW IT I AM GLIDING ALONG WATCHING THE SUN DANCE ITS WAY THROUGH THE PINES. THE DEER ARE WATCHING JUST OFF TRAIL & THE SQUIRRELS ARE BOUNDING AROUND IN FRONT OF ME. AS I SKI PAST LARGE ROCKS LEFT BY A MELTED GLACIER I REALIZE I AM SEEING THINGS I NEVER SEE IN THE WINTERTIME. WHEN I AM DONE I HAVE JUST GOTTEN A FABULOUS WORKOUT AS A BONUS. THE CAT SKI HAS TAUGHT ME PROPER WEIGHT TRANSFER & HOW TO PUSH WITH MY WHOLE FOOT. IT IS MY PERSONAL COACH THAT KEEPS ME FOCUSED EVERYTIME I USE THEM. I HAVE DEVELOPED AMAZING STRENGTH BOTH UPPER BODY & LEGS. THE BUNGEE RESISTANCE PROVIDES ALL OF THAT I NEED TO DEVELOP STRONG SKI MUSCLES. MY USUAL SKI TRAIL OFFERS, PINE NEEDLES, DIRT, STICKS, STONES, GRAVEL, GRASS, & SAND. THE CAT SKI JUST MOTORS EFFORTLESSLY THROUGH ALL OF IT. FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T TRIED THIS SKI, YOU ARE REALLY MISSING OUT. IT IS IN TWO WORDS AMAZINGLY FUN. IT HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT I LOVE MOST WHICH IS TO SKI. I CAN NOW GO ANYTIME IN ANY WEATHER. I HAVE HAD MORE FUN THAN EVER THIS SUMMER ON THE CAT SKI'S AND AM SO EXCITED ABOUT FALL. IN A WAY, I AM NOT SURE IF WHEN WE GET SNOW IF I WILL GET THE SAME WORKOUT I DO WITH THE CAT SKI. IT IS THE MOST FUN ANYONE CAN HAVE WITHOUT SNOW. THANK YOU AGAIN AND I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE BIRKIE. BRING ON THE HILLS I AM READY TO GO. THANKS AGAIN DALE FOR YOUR VISION!"

Blackhawk Nordic Day A Success!

BY MARK TORRESANI

The First Annual Blackhawk Nordic day was held on February 14, 2004. A day that brought perfect snow conditions and the weather to match. The participants and spectators at the event had a great time. The day was focused on four events, a 0.3 K sprint, a 5K race, a children's

race and a biathlon. The races were skied over a variety of terrain including the new trail that was developed in 2003 and trails that members created years ago. The natural snow on top of the man made snow made for great races. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this day happen, and a special

thanks to Ned Zuelsdorff for his timing expertise. Summaries of the races are as follows.

Sprint: We now have a King of the Mountain and his name is Yuriy Gusev. He won the final leg of the sprint with a time of 52 seconds. Yuriy played his cards right and saved his speed for the last sprint of the day. Other speedsters of the day were Dirk Mason and the new up and coming kid on the block Chris Lawn with a time of 53 seconds.

5K: The race consisted of two loops around the outer Nordic trail with two climbs to the top of run #1. Chris Lawn thought he had a victory in hand until Mark Torresani tied him with an all out effort down the home stretch.

Children's Race: This was one of the highlights of the day. Watching kids get excited about cross country ski racing makes all the volunteer hours worthwhile. Racers ranged from 5 to 13 years of age and skied from 0.5 to 1.5 kilometers. A photo finish was

needed for the 8 to 10 year old age group, which saw Nicki Wolfe and Andrew Torresani neck and neck throughout the race to the finish line with a time of 5:13 for 1.5 K. Congratulations to all the children who participated.

Biathlon: With this being the first ski and shoot biathlon race to

be held at Blackhawk, one thing was learned by all who participated and those who watched "biathlon is a lot of fun". The format for the race was a sprint, which consisted of skiing 1K, shooting, skiing 1K, shooting, and skiing 1K. For each missed shot racers had to ski a penalty lap of 100 meters prior to skiing the 1K loop. There

were several standouts in the crowd of racers. One being Don Becker, who had a strategy as he described as "heart rate management". The rest of the racers just thought he was skiing slow, but his strategy paid off big on the firing line where he hit 8 out of 10 targets (the best of the day) and driving the crowd wild with every hit.

All in all the day was a lot of fun and we're already planning for the second annual Nordic Day at Blackhawk Ski Club. The plan is to hold the event the week before the Birkebeiner on an annual basis. Thanks to all the participants and volunteers and consider yourselves founders of what should become a hallmark event of the club. *

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GET EXCITED ABOUT
CROSS COUNTRY SKI
RACING MAKES ALL
THE VOLUNTEER
HOURS
WORTHWHILE.**





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Never Say Never

BY KATHY DUCAT

Flash back – it is the weekend prior to the Badger State Games 2000. I am skiing the 10k route at Nine Mile as a practice session. I am skiing with Gina Interrante, my ski guide. Her crucial role, in the absence of my sight, is to provide direction on terrain, the location of other skiers, and a few technique tips thrown in for fun. I would not be out there skiing without the guidance of another person. We pass the spot that reads 20k loop. Gina says “C’mon, lets ski 20k today”. I respond with firm belief – “I will never be able to ski that far”. That year I scored a third place out of four entries in the Novice Group for the 10k race.

Never say never. Here we are looking back at Badger State Games 2004. No more entering the Novice Group because one time at that level is all you get. Signing up to Ski the 20k race was a way to see if I could ski that far. The maiden Kortelopet race is the next challenge.

It’s off to the races with Jim Cunningham, my “ain kind dearie, O” and guide for BSG 2004. He is a great skier and absolutely filled with patience. He skis right behind me and gives me direction on the upcoming terrain. He even exploded with hearty laughter when I fell and got angry with myself, wiped my snow filled face, eyes, and ears dry, and got us back on track.

Participation in the BSG seemed very low this year compared to 2000. All 20k racers began at the same time – no wave starts. There were many supportive comments from fellow MadNorSkiers at the start line. OK so everyone dusted me from the sound of the whistle, but hey I was fortunate being there skiing with this cool guy and gave it my best shot.

Up and down the trails we raced or in my case shuffled. The real neat thing was the “old farts” doing the 43k race passing us. Oh they would slow their pace a while to chat along the route, but in no time, they were out of sight. Maybe during retirement my race time will improve... What a great sport that draws folks of all abilities.

We finally passed the finish and the standings were being announced. We watched for a while, but the chill crept up. The call of the warmth of dry clothes drew us to the car. It was from that point of putting on my hiking boots that we heard the announce-

ment – 20k classical race women’s age 40-44 – first place – Kathleen Ducat. I was the only entrant – all I had to do was finish – sometime...

Not feeling too worthy of this medal, it was Jim taking on that guidance role again – “you know there are a lot of people sitting on the couch right now – they’re not out here skiing”. In all truth, a special thanks to all of you who guide because if not for you, we’d be sitting on that couch.

There are a lot of good people in this world who are willing to share their time and talents. This has been especially true in the folks who have touched my life through

skiing. Every “good race” or “you are looking good” makes a difference. Thanks to all of you who are supportive of one another and who make our world a winter wonderland.

For the Kortelopet, the Birkie Office offered a name of a person who has guided people in the past. A few weeks ago we traveled to Hayward to meet Jon Malkerson. You may know him or of his business Cycle Wyld. Up and down those hills of the Birkie and Kortelopet we traveled. He guides from the front so is calling direction by looking back – a talent in itself. Jon has had extensive time as a guide as he has skied the Olympics, World Cup, and Internationals with other visually impaired people.

Jim Cunningham and Cindy Easely also offered to guide me during this race, but since this is their first race, it is great that they will be able to get their own time. Once again, big thanks to them for their generous offer – a testimony to the fact that they put others before themselves.

There is an excitement in the pit of my stomach as I look forward to the upcoming race. It is the excitement of being in that large crowd as they start, of zooming down hills, of being a hill hugger (cuz you know I may spend a few moments on my side warming mother earth), of meeting fellow skiers, and then of course the finish. Last year as a spectator, I stood in a crowd watching racers come in, there was a feeling of envy, like someday I want to try the Kortelopet. Maybe next year the full Birkie. *

“My ain kind dearie O,” is Scottish and means my own kind dear. Good luck at Kortelopet Kathy! You can do it!

**“I WILL NEVER
BE ABLE TO SKI
THAT FAR.”**

Gallons of Chili Consumed

by Hungry MadNorSkis

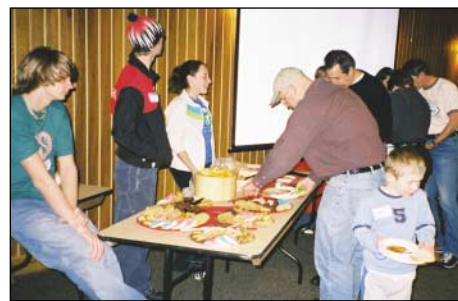
The MadNorSki Juniors would like to extend an enormous THANK YOU to the adult MadNorSkis for their participation in the first Chili



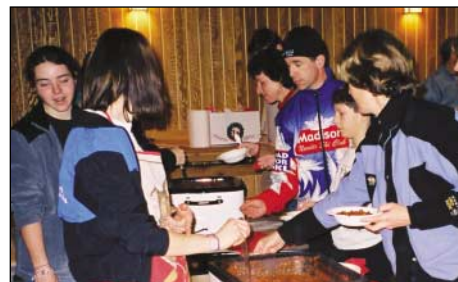
The Juniors gathered for a group shot, just before serving their chili to fellow MadNorSkis.

Dinner at last January’s MadNorSki club meeting. It was a rousing success! We had hoped to feed 80, but there was so much interest, we fed 100 and raised over \$600. These monies will be set aside for any MadNorSki Junior who earns a future berth to Junior Olympics. The 2005 edition of this week-long event will be held in the Rockies and must be paid for entirely by the participant.

We hope to be invited back next year to put on another Chili Dinner for the club. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please contact Don Fariss. Thanks again everyone! *



Juniors supervise the dessert table...making sure members finish their chili before taking any!



Starving MadNorSkis line up in an orderly fashion as the Juniors scoop the liquid gold into bowls.



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Yuriy Wears New Hat

BY STACEY MEANWELL, GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1029 LEADER

After listening to some of the activities I've done with my Girl Scout troop, Yuriy suggested I take them cross-country skiing. I cringed at the thought of taking 11 girls out knowing that 9 had never been on skis before. I asked Yuriy if he would like to lead the meeting, and much to my delight, he said "sure!"

The Elver shelter opened 2 hours early for us given that they would finally be able to rent skis for the first time in almost 3 years. Once the troop was outfitted and assembled, Yuriy took the lead. He taught the girls some coordination and balance drills disguised as snowflakes and snakes. He progressed them rapidly



Yuriy Gusev and Stacey Meanwell surround Troop 1029 after a fun and eventful day of skiing. (Well, MOST look like they had fun!)

to double poling and the downhill schuss. We had the occasional "yard sale", but everyone had great fun in the process.

To finish our meeting Yuriy set up a team relay and then a mass start race.

Just like the Birkie, there were the expected collisions and wipeouts. Bente Skaari (Eva Grutzner), by far the most petite, and with the least amount of field-tested glide, surged ahead to claim the gold with her quick tempo. Olivia Oyamada displayed a fierce double pole that landed her firmly in the second spot. Great fun was had by all. So hats off to Yuriy. I never would have tackled this one alone. *

- SECOND ANNUAL! -

Fun Day at the Lussier Family Heritage Center

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2004
FROM 1-6 P.M.

The Madison Nordic Ski Club will host a "Farewell to Winter" party featuring orienteering and skiing (if possible) for all ages at the Lussier Family Heritage Center on February 29, 2004. We will have the entire facility open for club members free of charge. Please bring the whole family. Hot chocolate and chili will be provided. After dinner we'll have a bonfire and a candle-light ski or hike depending on conditions.

So, mark your calendars now for a low-key, fun event, that everybody can enjoy. Since we seem to get all our snow in March in recent years, we think this could be the best skiing of the season! And if the snow deserts us, we'll still have fun. *

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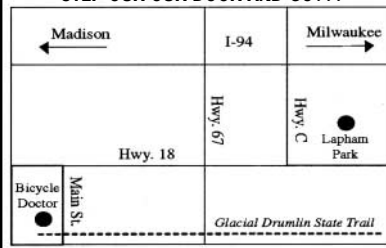


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From Leery to Elated in 7K Flat

By JEFF AND JUDY ARCHIBALD

Looking for that one race to end all races? Then Lap the Lake for the Library (LLL) is the race for you! Bye bye Birkie. Move over Mora. No need for Nokie. LLL was held on Nelson Lake near Hayward, WI on Jan 31, 2004. The course was a GRUELING 7 KM designed especially for those elite skiers at the top of their game. The corners were tight (all two of them). The hills were Horrible.

"Bitch Hill" would be a joke on this course. Some hills were a good 9-12 inches and I'm not exaggerating! Wear a helmet for your children's sake!

This year's inaugural event was a fund raiser for the local library. The 7 KM course was set for both classical and skating, and lapped the Big Island on Nelson Lake. (Ok, ok, the race was designed for all ages and abilities and elite skiers were publicly shunned). Both skiers and snowshoers were welcome.

Kay Lum, (A.K.A. Madnorski Newsletter Guru) was our hostess for our weekend and heard about the race from organizer Phil Van Valkenberg. On race day, after a fun but tiring day of skiing on the Telemark trails, Kay bullied us off the couch and back into our ski duds. She forced us to wear costumes that she oh-so-thoughtfully provided. Her hats were tastefully subdued as usual. Yes, we looked sharp (no, not sharp as in "sharp as a tack", rather sharp as in "pointy headed"). In any event, Kay's costumes seemed to entertain the other skiers and even got the attention of a photographer from a local newspaper.

We got to park on the lake which meant we would surely die when our cars broke though, or, that we would stay warm while waiting for the start. Fortunately, the latter occurred. At 5:20 pm, the race began. Hundreds of ice "luminaries" lighted the way for the kids, adults and cranky out-of-townners. The weather cooperated with temps in the the low teens and little wind. Snow was plentiful and well groomed. In other words, perfect conditions. For those who haven't



Ram (Tom Helke) and Shamrock (Jeff Archibald) line up at the start of the race at dusk... not sure what to expect.

tried it, lake skiing is a gas (and a good time to practice your V2). We cruised around Big Island, and passed the bonfire with water and energy drink at about the halfway mark. In the distance, the finish was lighted up to greet us as we came in. The wide variety of skiers/snowshoers (including kids, recreational and racers) all seemed to really enjoy the event.

A heated tent after the race provided chili, hot chocolate and, a MadNorSki favorite, BEER! Awards were given to all 1st and 2nd place finishers in all age groups. All finishers under 12 received a special

award.

Here's hoping they make this an annual event (*Editor's note: They are! next year's event is slated for Feb. 5).* Night skiing is a wonderful way to enjoy winter in the north woods. Tying this in with the annual

Weekend Ski Club getaway at Telemark was a great idea and a nice benefit for the local library. In short, WE LOVED THIS RACE! *



Did we mention that Judy Archibald WON FIRST PLACE in her age group? Apparently, the 5 foot long stocking cap she wore didn't slow her down a bit!

THOUGHTS FROM A FIRST TIME RACER

By BARB ROBSON

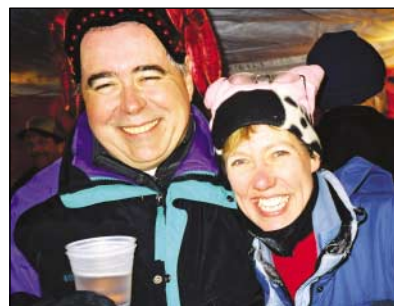
When friends Harry & Kay Lum first mentioned the race – Lap the Lake for the Library, I envisioned myself cheering from the sidelines. Never one to compete in any sport (especially one that I'm a novice at) I pictured myself applauding for my friends as they crossed the finished line.

"Oh come on, you can do it!" Kay pressed. "After all, it's flat. And it's only 7K."

After a little more urging, I donned the Holstein patterned tights and "udderly" silly matching hat that Kay had so thoughtfully provided.

Once there I started feeling excited. There was music pumping over the loudspeakers. And an occasional announcement blared about the (delayed) start of the race.

Finally we were off! Within minutes my friends disappeared from sight. Oh well, I thought. It's good exercise for a great cause. (Did I tell you that my grandmother was a librarian?)



The author, with Tom Helke shortly after the race. (It was Tom's first race too... I think it's safe to say he had a good time too!)

Besides, it was beautiful out on the lake.

Luminaries flickered along the path and people were warm and friendly.

I hadn't been out long when a group of young women skied past. "We love your outfit," they called.

"Thanks!" I yelled back feeling a smile grow across my

face. Then I lowered my voice and confided, "but these tights make me feel like a cow."

We all laughed and so began new friendships. I found that I could keep up with them – Rachel, Kathy and BJ. None of them had skied for a number of years. We had a lot in common – small towns, libraries, teenagers... They were so pleased that we would drive up from Madison to help support their library.

I'd have to say that's it's the best race I've ever participated in. If they have a second, annual LLL it just may coincide with my second, annual race. We hope more of you can join us next year! *

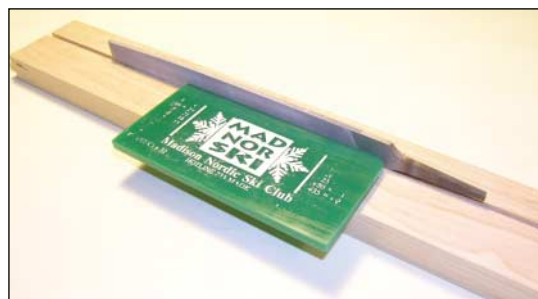
Other Stuff...



Elver Race organizer Ned Zuelsdorff (right) congratulates Brett Larson and Mikaela Robertson after they were presented with MadNorSki clocks for winning the "predict-your-time" division of the February 10th Elver Tuesday night race. Ned looks a little too happy to finally be getting those clocks out of his house!



Jimmy gives his farewells speech to a stunned audience at the February meeting.



Pat Conway came up with this clever little tool to sharpen his MadNorSki scraper! When it just says: NOR SKI" perhaps it's time to purchase a new one from the club, ok?

A little
MORE SNOW
would be NICE!



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