



Biathlon Brings Out MadNorSki Marksmen

MadNorSki youth and adults skiers alike showed up for the Blackhawk Nordic Fun Day on Saturday, February 19. Biathlon (skiing and shooting) was one of several fun Nordic events throughout the day. The short 1.6km biathlon course provided enough distance to elevate heart rates. Skiers shot at five targets on each of two laps. Each missed shot mandated a penalty loop.

Ansel Schimpff leads Bryan Garfoot coming into the shooting range (right). Ansel's mom takes her turn at shooting (below).



Madison Nordic Ski Club P.O. Box 55281 Madison, WI 53705

**March potluck
wraps-up
season**

Don't miss the last
meeting of the season,
Monday, February 14.

MADNORSKI News

News for members of the Madison Nordic Ski Club

March 2005 Vol. 24 No. 6

What a Season for MadNorSki!



Dirk Mason and Walt Meanwell

Looking back on the season makes us very proud to be a part of this organization. There are so many members that have stepped forward with a passion for Nordic skiing that make this club a strong community asset. MadNorSki is making the Madison area a hub for Nordic skiers in the Midwest. The variety

and breadth of the programs that we offered this year was remarkable.

During the off-season last year while members were out cross-training, the board was in-training for their first year in office. The club rolled out a late-summer newsletter, laid plans to ski and race at Tyrol Basin, and unveiled our online membership initiative. These were all very successful.

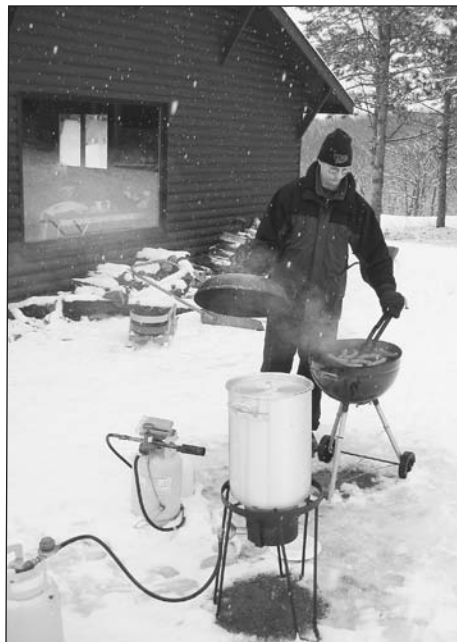
Many club members joined in our Norwegian training-sessions at Blue Mounds, Elver and Blackhawk. The work we do on maintaining the trails is an important part of who we are and what we are about. Keep your eyes out for these "Labor Therapy" sessions next fall and come get dirty with us!

The early-season skiing opportunities in the Madison area were numerous. MadNorSki worked with Tyrol Basin to offer four weekend mornings of open Nordic skiing and three weeknights of racing. You can no longer use lack of snow or skiing opportunities as a reason not to strap on those boards in the early season! Further, lack of Madison area skiing as no longer a reason not to join MadNorSki. We got on snow November 20th and stayed there into March.

Mother Nature provided a great January of skiing at Elver Park. Demand for the lessons, coordinated What a Season! *continued on page 15*



Eventual winner Jeff Schacherl leads Bryan Garfoot down hill #2 in the Boys' 2.5km Sprint final (left). The short-course format of 2.5km time trial, elimination heats and final, followed by a 600m team relay left plenty of opportunity to enjoy brats and hot dogs.



March Club Meeting Monday, March 14th

Where: Lussier Natural Heritage Center

When: Social begins at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting is 6:45-7:45 p.m. Social begins at 7:45 p.m.

Slide Show: featuring our members in action

Potluck: Show us what MadNorSki chefs are made of! Awards will be given out for the best of show in each class —appetizers, main course, salad and desert. Bring it on.

Awards: We will recognize members in a broad array of categories.

Silvers Skiers Shine at State High School Championships

Greg Jones

The Wisconsin State High School Championships were held February 11th and 12th at the Schwan Center just north of Spooner. The Silver Skiers sent up a team to represent the Madison Area in the Middle School age division. There were 5 individuals on the boy's side, Birken Schimpff, James Foust, Mike Becker, Jake Trantow, and Zack Eskrich. The girl's team only had two skiers making the trip Zoë Delain and Hannah Fanney.

There was a three kilometer race for them each day. Friday was the classic race. It was a very warm day with temperatures rising into the 40s. We first put on some silver klister which we thought was going to help with the dirt on the course. We added some red klister on top of the silver and things started working out pretty well for us.

At the end of the boy's race we had a first place skier. Birken climbed to the top of podium that night at the awards ceremony. I had been hoping for and quietly anticipating his win.



Radiant MadNorSki Silver Skiers and coach Greg Jones enjoyed a medal-filled weekend at the High School Championships held at the Schwan Center near Spooner.

Birken comes from a family of strong avid skiers. I've been skiing with him for years, watching him sharpen his technique as he leads the Silver Skiers in our practices.

When the girl's race finished that day we soon learned that Mad-Nor-Ski had another champion to celebrate. Hannah Fanney had won the girls event! We were to have two Madison skiers awarded first place medals that night in the Middle School division.

Saturday brought the skate race. Once again Birken established his dominance by winning the event. Hannah skied

a great race and was good enough for fourth place finish. The medals go five deep for the Middle Schoolers so Hannah had more hardware to bring home.

The top three skiers on each team score points that are added up for a team score. The Madison Area boys team scored well enough for first place. The other two scoring points for us besides Birken were James and Mike. Since our girls team only had two skiers they were not able to score as a team. I think these girls may help do some recruiting before next season.



Flying snow in the face didn't slow down Birken Schimpff (292) on his way to the top of the podium in the boy's classical race. Birken used a mixture of silver and red klister for the hat-less temps.



Birken Schimpff also won in freestyle event and again climbed to the top of the podium. Nice race weekend, Birken!

2005 MadNorSki Calendar



March '05

- 5 Howard Young Cup. Focus Hotel: The Pointe.
- 10 Board Meeting@ 6:45 Meanwells'
- 13 Great Bear Chase
- 14 Club Meeting@ 6:45. Social Begins at 6 p.m. Potluck. Lussier

June '05

- 7 RSSS/Tyrol Summer Championships on Snow.

Board Meeting	Club Meeting	Meeting Theme	Meeting Agenda
Thursday, March 10	Monday, March 14	Racing wrap-up Pot Luck	Election of officers

World Loppet Update from Europe



It's not the Capitol Square Sprints, but there's a reason it looks similar. Scott Akatz spectated at the Dolomite Sprints in Austria as part of his World Loppet tour this season. In 1980 the first ever sprint on cross-country skis was staged here, in those days in the classical style. The Dolomite Sprint became even more dramatic and thrilling with the introduction of skating in 1983. Since then the idea behind the Dolomite Sprint has been taken up all over the world, most recently, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Scott Akatz

The Tartu marathon was last Sunday, and it was brutal. Strong head winds with gusts of at least 40 mph; plus, my head-cold was at its peak. But I managed to finish. This was the first race where I almost quit. Days before the race my main concern was to keep my distance from Raul Olle (Estonia's best marathon skier who lives across the hall from me). I didn't want to give him my cold.

With 45km to go in the Tartu, Olle dropped Stanislav Rezac and Jorgan Aukland like they had some contagious disease; a bold move considering the head wind. But he managed to stay clear of them and win. Stanislav was 2nd—four minutes back. The winners' times were around 3:15—that's how tough it was.

Spending the rest of the week in Otepää has been relaxing. My cold is almost gone. I'm staying next to the school, so every morning I'm wakened by the kids outside in PE class and yes, they're skiing. The World Cup course is only blocks away; that's where they go for recess. It's amazing how much skiing is part of their life. The best thing though, is getting back from morning skiing and turning on the TV to live Nordic World Championships. Next weekend it's the Finlandia!

Scott Akatz is currently touring Europe and skiing as many World Loppet races as he can. His story of meeting Stanislav Rezac is detailed in the December 2004 issue of MadNorSki News.



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We Did It For The Library!

Kay Lum

Splash! That's the sound you heard when some poor soul skiing next to you fell during the second annual Lap the Lake for the Library Ski Race (I use the term race lightly) on Nelson Lake in Hayward, on Feb. 5. A group of us had decided to go up to the Cable-Hayward area and ski on the Birkie trail by day and then do the 8km flat race for fun at night. We got to Hayward on Friday night, and ran into race volunteer Phil Van Valkenberg. Concerned because of the warm weather we had been having, we asked Phil what the course would be like. He said that even though it had gotten up to 50° (F) in Hayward on Friday, the course was going to be packed with a layer of softer snow on top; in other words, just about perfect!

Well, it got above 50 on Saturday as well. The Birkie trail that day went from hard, fast and perfect to a death march where you had to pole even downhill! But we were doing the Lap the Lake race anyway, I mean heck, it was only 8km and it was for the

Library after all! We started a tradition to wear costumes last year (yes, some of us are founders of this race, another reason not to bag out), even though there is no actual costume category (yet). We all chose our outfits, and loaded into the car. They had us park on the lake, so we figured if the ice could hold a car, it could surely hold us! We walked through the slush by the registration tent. I kept thinking, "its got to be better out on the course". As we registered and got our numbers and a nice pin, I was amazed to find that they had chip timing this year! Wow, this race is really getting high-tech! We donned our chips and lined up for the mass start.

The race basically starts at dusk. It's light when you start and the sun goes down as you do the race. They had lots of ice luminaries to light our way (well, most of them were lit; it was a bit breezy as well as warm). At the start, it was basically slush, I kept waiting for it to get better, but the water and slush just got deeper and deeper! There were parts that had up to 6 inches

of water! Our feet were wet, but not cold at all, since it was still close to 50 degrees! Little kids were skiing as fast as they could and would fall, splash around and get up and go some more! I thought, "heck those kids aren't whining, why should I"? Attitude is everything!

My friend Jacky and I met at the rest stop at the 5km mark. We were waiting for her husband Ward. Ward has a unique way of doing things. He decided he wanted to make some friends along the way and get a good workout. So, he got rid of one of his poles, grabbed a plastic Menard's bin, filled it with 40 cans of Busch Light (he is from Iowa) and used his ski bag as a rope to pull it with! He finally made it to the rest top where he proudly proclaimed ICE COLD BEER! He had already given some away. He said the deep water actually helped; the bin floated through those areas! (His bin was empty by the time he crossed the finish line.) Once we got to the other side of the lake, the

Continued on page 11



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Juniors Performance Best in 26 Years

Don Farriss

In mid-February, the MadNorSki Juniors had the most successful Wisconsin High School Cross-Country Ski Championships by a southern Wisconsin team in its 26 years of existence. After two days of racing in both the classical & freestyle techniques, the boys team (representing Madison West in name only) were 2nd overall. If the girls' team had not been split into 3 teams (as required), they would have been 4th!

Individual results were stellar: Ansel Schimpff was a surprising 6th in the classical race & 8th in the pursuit. Mikaela Robertson was 9th in classical, 11th in pursuit. Jenna Acker & Bryan Garfoot amazed everyone, including themselves, by placing 15th both days. Other notables: Corrina Jones 26th & 24th, Noah Kenoyer 18th & 22nd, Jeff Schacherl 25th & 32nd and Louise Jones moved up 30 places to place 23rd in the freestyle race. Martha Sample, Jenna & Bryan skied their two fastest Championships ever.

In 2006, the Championships will return to the Schwan Center (near Minong) where we hope to be very competitive once again. Next year's elite seed will include Ansel, Noah, Corrina and Silver Skier Middle School Champions Birken Schimpff and Hannah Fanney. The last two will move up to the Juniors team next year.

We should note that the 5.5km course was about 50% covered with shoveled snow due to an incredible volunteer effort by the Hayward & Spooner ski teams!

The Juniors and Silvers would like to thank the Madison Nordic community, especially the M.N.S.C., for the support that raised them to this level. Without your donations of equipment, the Nordic facilities at Blackhawk, Yuriy's summer Yunost program and all the other support you give these young athletes, they could not have succeeded against their northern competition. A big, sincere THANK YOU to you all. We couldn't have done it without you!



Hannah Fanney (left) and Ansel Schimpff on their way to medal placings in the freestyle events.



Look closely to read the coded message as the girls prepare to cheer for the boys!



The girls stress over their performances following the 6km classical race.



Wisconsin's second place boys high school team sits atop the podium.

Your Newest MadNorSki: Nancy Winter

Tom Kaufman

Nancy Winter is a Madison attorney who has become part of the MadNorSki clan this winter. Nancy has been skiing for 5 years which she jokes amounts to ten days. It's easy to see that Nancy fits right in with the rest of us southern Wisconsin skiers. Nancy reports that her favorite places to ski are Nine Mile Forest and Minocqua Winter Park. Nancy prefers skating to striding, but states that her "current method does not qualify as technique".

When she's not skiing Nancy loves to run, ride her mountain bike and practice yoga. Indeed those MadNorSki's, who occasionally forego roller skiing to run a bit in the non-snow months, may recognize Nancy as one of the top women road runners in the area. A lack of snow may not help Nancy's ski technique, but she is never short on fitness options.

Nancy's non-sports passions run

toward civic involvement and environmental advocacy. She enjoys reading, having just finished *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* (highly recommended) and like so many of us, dining out. Nancy joined the club to meet new skiers and to participate in trips. With a little cooperation from the weather gods, maybe all of us will get in a few more trips to slide and glide in the white stuff. We welcome Nancy Winter to the MadNorSki family.

Ski Swap!

We're planning a ski swap for next fall. Contact Tom Kaufman at runski@charter.net if you are interested in being a part of what is sure to become another fine MadNorSki event!

Video Library

Gina Interrante

So many times friends have asked me if I have a video on skiing that I would like to organize a lending library of cross-country ski videos and DVDs.

This can only be accomplished if we have people who are willing to share their materials to help build our lending library. Please let me know if you would be willing to share your ski videos and/or DVDs with others. Ideally, at every meeting I will have a table set up with videos and DVDs and you'll be able to sign-out an item and return it at the next meeting. I also might create a list of titles available and post them on MadNorSki.org.

Please respond to me if you have any ski videos or suggestions at purplebike@aol.com.



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Racing Thoughts of a Middle School Skier

Zoë Delain

Zoë Delain is one of the youngest members of the Silver Skiers. She is currently a 6th grader at Blackhawk Middle school.

The speed, wind rushing through my hair, the glide, people cheering, bells ringing, the push as I cross the finish line, and the relief of completing a race, I loved it all. My team surrounded me, High-Fiving and congratulating me. I was so tired, but the good kind. That was basically my experience at High School Ski Championships, one of the best experiences of my life. The tension, the crowds, everything was exciting.

I'm on the Silver Ski Team or Junior High Team. We practice twice a week, normally at Elver, if there's snow. Otherwise we do strength workouts. Joining the team has made me a much faster runner, which has proved helpful,

because I'm now one of the fastest players on my soccer team. Before I started Silver Skis, I had no upper body strength, but skiing works pretty much all the muscles in your body, so I've gotten much stronger. There are only two girls on our team right now, including myself, and it would be nice to recruit some more.

High School Championships was only my second race. I did pretty well getting 10th in classic style skiing and 12th in freestyle. More importantly, I did my best, and I felt really good about it. What I think about when I race is that I'm doing better than all those people sitting on the couch watching Saturday morning cartoons. It has helped build confidence in myself. Skiing is an awesome sport, but not enough people do it, so it's up to us to keep it going. Hope to see you on the ski trails.



Zoë Delain double-polling her way to 10th in the classical division of the 2005 High School Championships.

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Jonesy's Wax Room

Skis Need To Hibernate To Stay Healthy

Greg Jones

The snow has melted and you have no more ski trips planned. It's time to put the skis away for the summer. Be nice to them now and they will be nice to you next year when you take them out to use them again.

The first thing you want to do is clean them. After all you would never put your dishes away dirty. I learned a long time ago from the old timers in the trades that you never put any tools away dirty. Your skis deserve the same respect. Skis that are stored with any bases exposed run the risk of oxidizing. Think of it as your bases getting rusty.

Your classic skis should get all the kick wax cleaned out of the kick zone.

Scrape as much out as you can. Next use your citrus wax remover on it. I like to dribble some on and then use a small brush on it. I find a stiff tooth brush works great. Scrape again and then use paper toweling with solvent to wipe clean. Don't stop there. Use the toweling and solvent to clean the entire top and sidewalls of the ski.

Next, you need to clean the base of your skate skis and the glide area of your classic skis. Start with a vigorous brushing using a copper brush. As a rule I never like to touch wax solvent to my glide zones although this may be the one exception. We have all next early season to re-soak wax into the bases. You can clean your bases with hot wax. Choose a very soft glide wax, it usually comes as yellow. You do not want to use a fluorinated wax for this. Put a liberal amount of wax on the ski. Iron it in. While it is still warm scrape off as much of the wax as you can. The dirt will "float up" in the wax and you can scrape it off. Now with your bases thoroughly clean drip on a liberal

amount of the same soft wax you used for cleaning or choose a base prep wax and iron it in. Set the skis aside to cool slowly. The kick zones on your classic skis are still bare. They also need to be covered somehow to protect them from oxidation. I like to put on a base (binder) wax. Toko makes a nice base wax that crayons on very easily. Unlike the glide wax put this on in a much thinner layer. It should be heated and corked to ensure total coverage of the base.

With the tops and sidewalls clean, and the bases completely covered with wax your skis are now ready to be stored for the summer. They should be covered up. Put them in your ski bag. If you don't have a ski bag at least wrap them in an old sheet. Find a cool dry place and put them to bed for the summer.

Next fall when you take your skis out for the first time and smile at them, they should be smiling back.

Nordic Style

Karen Stolzenberg

As a senior on the MadNorSki Juniors' team, I have had the wonderful opportunity to learn many things from both this sport and our excellent coaches. Most importantly, I will take away a deep appreciation of that most sacred material, Spandex. Some people wear Spandex to ski; I ski in order to wear Spandex.

This clothing article, also known as "Lycra" or "tights," is the basis of many cross-country skiers' wardrobes. It has many practical applications. Because of its close fit, Spandex legs tuck neatly into ski boots; minimizing those nasty, wet and dragging pant cuffs that often accompany an ordinary ski pant. It is also a versatile, lightweight layer that provides a sleek fit for racing. Personally, I wear Spandex to minimize air resistance while skiing. I can't stand losing seconds to loose, flapping pant legs that really catch the wind. Wearing Spandex makes me feel super-fast and

occasionally, it inspires me to workout.

Spandex is unique in its ability to be personalized; it is after all, a very close and personal matter. A note of warning, Spandex is a brutally honest fabric; there is no hiding behind these clothes. The most common type is the plain black tight, practical and serious. For people with a small sense of excitement, there are tights with subtle stripes down the legs. Only for those who are supremely confident, a full body suit offers maximum coverage and minimal style. More modest folks may opt to layer a pair of athletic shorts over the spandex tights. With each style of spandex, there are many different texture and color options available.

I am proud to belong to an elite clique of wacky tight-clothes aficionados, the MadNorSki Juniors. The Jones family created a team tradition of crazy patterned tights, with their children. Soon, all the other Juniors were clamoring to get some cool patterned



MadNorSki Junior girls show Nordic skiing isn't all about strength workouts and hill repeats!

Continued on page 11

Successful Ice Age Challenge Brings Snow and Smiles

Ned Zuelsdorff

Forty one skiers and 30 club volunteers were on hand for the 2005 MadNorSki Ice Age Challenge “Event” on Sunday, February 20. Poor snow conditions at Elver Park resulted in changing the race format and moving the event to a challenging course at Blackhawk Ski Club. Ironically, for the second year in a row the event brought snow to the area on race day.

The day’s events started with a 2.5km individual time trial on a course that took skiers from the flats below the Blackhawk ski jumps, up and down one ski hill, across the flats and up a second, very steep ski hill to a 400 meter loop on top. The two climbs burned the legs, lungs, and confidence of even the strongest skiers. Time trial results were used to seed racers into four person heats of single elimination, head-to-head competition. In a last minute act of mercy, race officials eliminated the second climb from the heat races.

Prior to the sprint finals, a three-person



Tony Hartmann gets a tag from teammate Corrina Jones on their way (with teammate Bill Rattunde) to winning the relay. The relay was moved to a short loop near the concessions in the East Chalet to allow racers to fill up on brats between heats.

team relay race was held. Nine co-ed teams competed for the championship. The relays were a crowd-pleaser with numerous spills and assorted skier antics.

The day was perfect with mild temperatures and at times, heavy snowfall. Several top regional junior ski jumpers were practicing which



Race director Ned Zuelsdorff gives instructions for the 2.5 km time trial. One entrant came from Indiana for the event. He said that it was worth the 3+ hour drive for some final pre-Birkie skiing and full day of fun on snow.

provided another exciting spectacle for racers and volunteers alike. While racers challenged the hills and loop courses, there were few “game faces” in the crowd. The atmosphere was light, festive, and social. Smiles were everywhere. Overall, it was truly a Nordic experience.

Ice Age Challenge *continued on page 13*

Junior Eric Delain Talks About The High School Championships

Q Eric, so you were asked to ski the race course easy with your team mates after the long drive from Madison?

A Indeed; but that was actually a lot of fun. It was a good experience to get to know the course before the race.

Q Where did your Championships experience go from there?

A We arrived at the Schwan Center Thursday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., dumped our equipment, and took an easy ski to learn the course. Afterwards, we ate together as a team in the lodge. After our meal, attended a pep rally and then returned to the cabin and tried not to get too excited for the race the next day, although it was inevitable.

Q Eric, don’t you and your teammates get wound up before the big race?

A I race because I enjoy the training and being part of the team. It’s meant

to be hard-core. I set personal goals for myself that my coach and teammates help me strive for.

Q What was your morning routine?

A The morning of the first day, the team got up at 7:00 o’clock and got out the door for a morning run/walk to prepare our muscles for the race later on. We then came back to the cabin to eat breakfast and get in the right mind-set for the race ahead. During that time, there was a confusing period of waxing skis, and as the day wore on, people had to wax differently as the conditions changed.

Q So it’s your turn to race. What’s it like standing at the start line?

A The first day was an interval start, so we had plenty of time to think about what was going on. A lot of things go through your head when you’re standing there waiting for the timer to beep and for you to go off on the

course for about 20 minutes and ski your heart out to exhaustion. There’s a lot of excitement. It’s hard to hold back until the final sprint.

Q So what happens after the race?

A After the race, our coach gave us a recovery drink that wasn’t quite appealing to the palate. We relaxed, had dinner at the lodge, sat through an awards ceremony, in which our teammates scored some medals.

Q So what’s the best part of High School Championships?

A The best part of High School Championships is working with the people that you’ve suffered through hours of practice with, and seeing them strive to reach their goals. Another cool thing about High School Championships is how even though we’re individuals, we work as a team and support each other. Overall, it was a great weekend.

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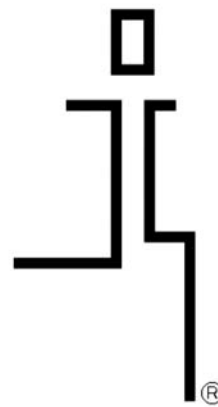
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Nordic Style from page 9

tights like the Joneses. A lot of the patterns for these tights come from remnants of 1980s swimsuit fabrics. Sometimes our tights are tasteful, usually, they are not. At all of our races, the other teams are always quite jealous of our styling leg-ware. Our Spandex looks so ridiculous, that everyone around us, can't help but to smile.

I encourage all those Spandex-wearing skiers to continue proudly wearing this fabulous material. For the rest of you, I urge you to try it, at least for fun. In almost no other setting, is it appropriate and even encouraged, to wear skin-tight clothing outside. Besides, you can't run away from this style; someone else with less air-resistance, who is undoubtedly wearing Spandex, will catch you and remind you of this fashion.

Library, from page 5

conditions were better, there was white stuff on the ground! At first, I wasn't sure what it was, then I realized, it was SNOW! Wow, real snow, and tracks! It was really dark now, most of the luminaries were drowned out or blown out. Snowmobilers that were helping with the race whizzed across the center of the lake (safely out of our way), but they looked like boats, with water spraying up behind them.

Jacky and I left Ward behind and guided each other to the finish line. After the race we went into the big tent and shared stories with other skiers, drank and ate. Everyone was all smiles; it was a really fun adventure! It puts a whole new meaning to the phrase, What wave are you in? (By the way, last year the conditions were just about perfect. They can't have 2 years like this, can they?)

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MadNorSki Youth in Championship Action



Mikaela Robertson charges to the line in the girls' 6km Classical event for 9th place.



Youth medal winners show off the hardware. Left to right, Ansel Schimpff, Mikaela Robertson, Hannah Fanney, Birken Schimpff.



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Jeff Schacherl on his way to 25th overall in the boy's 6km classical race.

Refer a Friend

Club membership hit an all time high in late February with over 350 members. To celebrate its 25-year anniversary the club has added almost 70 new members since August. That represents growth in new memberships of over 25% this season. It appears that all of the fun things we're doing are having an impact!

Why would you want your club's membership to continue to grow? Memberships provide revenues for programs and volunteers to make them happen. MadNorSki are interesting folks. Having more of them around makes things more fun. There is also the opportunity to make new friends with these unusual people that share your interests. Please help the club continue to thrive and flourish; refer a friend!


Thanks to the many volunteers who helped, to the racers who participated, and to our sponsor, Don Miller Subaru. Thanks also to race chiefs; Tom Kaufman, Greg Jones, Joe King, Mike Ivey, and Gordy Bartholomew. Special thanks go to Mark Torresani who brokered our access to the site and groomed the course, and to the Blackhawk Ski Club for allowing us to hold the event. Together everyone made the event another MadNorSki success.




Relay teams line up under the backdrop of the Blackhawk ski jumps (top). Bill Rat-tunde leads his heat in the relay. Event timer Joe King records results on his laptop from his Subaru (right). Joe and Ned Zuelsdorff are behind all well-run MadNorSki races from Elver Park to Tyrol Basin.

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Bike? Ski? Or Both!



Tom Hooyer, Mike Cockrem, Joe King, Scott Topel, Sherren Clark, Tye Gribb participated in the 3rd annual Ski-Bike-Ski (Scott's son is in front).

Erik Pearce

It was a cool February evening, when six Madisonians gathered at Odana Golf Course for the 3rd annual Ski-Bike-Ski event. The event, started by local cross-country ski and cycling enthusiast Joseph King, involves skiing approximately 3km at Odana Golf Course, bicycling 5km to Elver Park, and then participating in MadNorSki's Tuesday night 5km ski race.

The participants face more than just the athletic aspect of the event. Not only are they racing to be the first across the finish line, but they were also judged on such things as the best commuting bike,

best clothing, and their overall racing spirit.

The event itself poses particularly interesting challenges to the participants. First, they are required to transport their skis, boots, and poles from Odana Golf Course to Elver Park on their bikes. Then, they also have to be concerned about skiing and biking in the dark. Most racers use some sort of bike or helmet mounted lighting system and some pretty creative means of strapping their skis to their bicycles. All participants finished safely. Special thanks to Erik Pearce for providing morale support, judging, photos, and prizes.

What a Season!, from page 1

by Jimmy Vanden Brook, was so high several other members stepped up to instruct. Race Directors Ned and Joe and many volunteers pulled off four Elver races. These were a clear success with an average turnout of 66 skiers per race; three had over 70 skiers.

All these skiing and racing opportunities paid big dividends for the Youth skiing programs as well. The Juniors placed second in the State High School Championships, their best finish in 26 years. The Silver's did very well at the Middle School Championships and the KidSki program broke records for participation with over 30 skiers this year. Special thanks and congratulations to Don, Greg, and Mark. Many thanks also go to the parents that have helped wax skis and drive to the various races.

We are constantly amazed at all the volunteer hours this club puts forth. We deeply appreciate each and every one of you who has donated your time, expertise, muscle, money to the cause.

The two bigger races that we had this year went well. Hosting an Olympic-qualifier went well and over 500 people had the unique experience of skiing around our Capitol Square. Due to club outreach efforts we were able to move the Ice Age Challenge race to Blackhawk Ski Club at the last minute due to poor conditions at Elver Park. Both races were run with the customary

low-key efficiency that has become a MadNorSki trademark.

With your help club membership set records this past year. We added over 70 new households since last August and this pushed our total membership to over 350 households and businesses. Thank you for your efforts spreading the word.

All this could not have happened without the fine people surrounding us on the Board and the vision and dedication of our membership.

Wow, what a list of accomplishments for a volunteer organization! We look forward to building on these great successes next year. Based on the overwhelming support of club members, the Board will move forward with a ski swap next fall. Let Tom Kaufman know if you would like to help with this event.

It feels like everywhere we go, people seem to know us. "Hey, MadNorSki!" they say, with a "thumbs-up".

Through our energy and participation, we have gained a reputation as a fun and approachable group. We're known as a thriving club that doesn't let the lack of snow slow us down. We all have a lot to be proud of; thanks for a terrific year!



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