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## Volunteer Corner

The Capitol Square Sprints are back even bigger and better, bringing great Nordic skiing and racing to downtown Madison. And we're looking for volunteers.

Capitol Square Sprints is looking for people to commit to a at least 12 hours over the weekend in a variety of positions. We will have vests, hats, raffle prizes and a post event party for volunteers: 12 hour shift receive a CSS hat and one raffle ticket for volunteer party; 16 hour combined shifts receive a CSS hat and three tickets; 24 hour combined shifts receive a CSS vest, hat and one ticket; in excess of 24 hours combined shifts receive a CSS hat, vest and three tickets. Everybody has a great time; please join us! We're looking forward to having you! Contact Pete Anderson, Chief of Volunteers with questions (608) 222-1928.



# MADNORSKI News

News for members of the Madison Nordic Ski Club

January 2007 Vol. 26 No. 4

## Warm Weather Breeds Frustration, Hope



**Dirk Mason and Walt Meanwell**

As I sit down in mid-December to write this President's Note, the mercury is in the mid 40s. We have had several days in the 40s already and a few more to come.

I have all sorts of pessimistic thoughts running through my head right now about winter and why we even attempt this crazy sport called skiing. A combination of things started these thoughts, first of all Ben Neff was expressing his concern about the lack of snow in Austria and how banks are not loaning money to ski resorts below 5,000 feet because of global

warming. Then I get an email from my good friend Jon Lawrence out in Maine, he was ranting about December being 15 degrees warmer than normal and why even take this sport seriously when events and races keep getting cancelled. Jon has traveled back each winter for the Birkie since he moved, although I am wondering if he will have the motivation to make it this year. And finally, our very own Paul Matteoni has chewed all his finger nails down waiting to see if the "guaranteed snow" bus trip would even go.

With all these thoughts running through my mind, I was thinking about burning all my poly-pro, selling the entire quiver of skis and turn my roller board into a basement bar. I was all set to write about my detailed protest plans when my wife, Sam, said "You can not write such a pessimistic article that would be to depressing." Sam also challenges me with "Besides, I thought

you were obsessed with skiing?"

Those comments got me thinking about why I am obsessed with skiing. I started to think of all the great aspects of skiing. Getting outside, exercising, being with friends, waxing, oh there are some many wonderful things about skiing.

Then I start to think about those special days with clear blue skies, snow hanging on the trees, and effortlessly screaming down a hill while letting my skis run in a pair of perfect tracks, being guided through every twist and shift in the trail. WOW, what a sport! I can not wait to ski.

By the time everyone reads this, winter will have returned and the doldrums of the meltdown will be behind us. Hopefully, we have been out on the skis filling our minds with more wonderful memories of Nordic skiing.

--Dirk

## Give a Little Bit

**Walt Meanwell**

Do you remember when you learned to ski? Were you excited, or a little bit scared? You can help us help young children, some of them low income, learn to cross country ski. We have all the equipment; we just need your smiling face. There are a total of 9 opportunities for you to help. You can do your community service outside with kids having fun. It doesn't get much better than that.

The first program is a collaboration with the Blackhawk ski club. It will

start Wed. Jan. 3rd and continue every Wednesday in January and February. We will be skiing in the pines out of the East Chalet at Blackhawk on top in the flats. M.S.C.R. will bring in children from the city in vans. The chalet will be open and the woodstove will be going. We are also planning on having hot chocolate and s'mores. This program is snow dependant. All you'll need to do is show up at. No experience or special skills are required other than a desire to help and have fun.

The other opportunity is to help the

low income children ski around the capitol again during the Capitol Square Sprints. This was a wonderful event last year and Mayor Dave will again be joining us. The date is Saturday Jan. 13th and the time is 12:45. Meet outside the Concourse hotel. We will provide the gear; all you have to do is show up with your skis.

Please consider helping at some or all of these events. Send me an email at [waltmeanwell@tds.net](mailto:waltmeanwell@tds.net) or call me at 608-576-4871 if you would like to join us. Thank you.

# The High School Team Is Racing

**Greg Jones**

The High school team has taken their first trip of the season. On the Weekend of December 9th and 10th they traveled to Ironwood Michigan for a pair of JOQ qualifying races.

Saturday began with a skating sprint race held at the Big Powderhorn downhill ski area. The sprint format made for a very exciting ski race plus the entire race course could be viewed from the ski lodge. Skiers were sent out in 15 second intervals. The top skiers in each age group then skied in elimination heats of 6 skiers with the

top 3 moving on. We had 3 skiers competing. Corrina Jones and Birken Schimpff both raced for JOQ qualifier points and Martin Ventura also skied the event in the open class.

Sunday brought a more traditional classical race of 5 to 10 kilometers depending on the age class. Birken and Corrina continued to compete for JOQ points and Martin skied in the open class. We also had two other skiers in the open classes on Sunday. Anna Young and Garth Hammel, both students at West High, competed in their first ever cross country ski race. They were both a little nervous before

the start (most of us are), but they did just great. As you can see in the pictures we are proudly competing in our new Madnorski jerseys and hats.

We were all happy to have had the time on snow. We returned to Madison to face a week of 40 plus degrees, but in spite of the heat we still caught a fun night of skiing at Tyrol Basin on Tuesday night. The rest of the team is looking forward to the chance of getting into their first race of the season. Over winter break we all hope to find some snow. It looks like roller skiing could be back in the cards again.



*MadNorSki Junior skiers and their coaches hit the snow early with JOQ qualifying races at Big Powderhorn ski resort in Ironwood, Michigan.*



## January

- 2 Don Miller Elver Series Race 7 p.m.;  
Registration 6:30 a.m. Elver Park
- 7 Board Meeting; 6:45 p.m.
- 8 Club Meeting; 7:15 p.m. Social begins  
at 6:30 p.m. Lussier Center
- 9 Don Miller Elver Series Race 7 p.m.;  
Registration 6:30 a.m. Elver Park
- 13,14 Capitol Square Sprints, Madison. Visit  
capitolsquaresprints.org for info
- 16 Don Miller Elver Series Race 7 p.m.;  
Registration 6:30 a.m. Elver Park
- 23 Don Miller Elver Series Race 7 p.m.;

Registration 6:30 a.m. Elver Park

- 30 Don Miller Elver Series Race 7 p.m.;  
Registration 6:30 a.m. Elver Park

## February

- 8 Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.
- 12 Club Meeting; 7:15 p.m. Social begins  
at 6:30 p.m. Lussier Center
- 18 Ice Age Challenge

## March

- 12 Club Meeting; 7:15 p.m. Social begins  
at 6:30 p.m. Lussier Center

Board Meeting	Club Meeting	Meeting Theme	Meeting Agenda
Thursday, Jan. 4	Monday, Jan. 8	Waxing for racing and recreation	Wax Demo
Thursday, Feb. 8	Monday, Feb. 12	Birkie stories	Juniors fund raiser
Thursday, March 8	Monday, March 12	Racing wrap-up Pot Luck	Election of officers

## Membership Renewal Date; Halloween 2007

### Margie Sprecher

MadNorSki memberships currently run from the date your membership renews for one year. And the date you submit your payment is often a little different than the date due. This has caused some uncertainty about just when renewal is due, and made for a few bookkeeping causthetics.

At the December Board meeting it was decided that a single expiration/renewal date would make for a less confusing renewal process. Beginning October 31, 2007 all memberships expire and are due for renewal. Remember Halloween!

## What a Tangled Web We Weave

Have you looked at the club website lately at [www.madnorski.org](http://www.madnorski.org)? The web committee has been hard at work spending a lot of time and energy improving the site. Special thanks go to webmaster Craig Heilman and Dirk Mason, Dave Bell, Duncan Bathe and everyone else who submitted comments.

Website design and construction costs money, \$4500.00 to be exact. Thank you to these generous club members

for investing in the clubs future and making this upgrade possible. When you see them around please be sure to say thank you to everyone listed below.

- Dr. Leslie Taylor
- Stacey Meanwell
- Frank Farwell
- Gail and Willi Vanharen
- Jim Coors and Ann Pollack



## 2006-07 Board

### Presidents

Dirk Mason: [ddmason@charter.net](mailto:ddmason@charter.net)  
Walter Meanwell: [waltmeanwell@tds.net](mailto:waltmeanwell@tds.net)

### Vice-president

Tom Kaufman: [runski@charter.net](mailto:runski@charter.net)

### Treasurer

Duncan Bathe: [bathe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bathe@sbcglobal.net)

### Membership

Reg Breskewitz: [bruske@surgery.wisc.edu](mailto:bruske@surgery.wisc.edu)  
Margie Sprecher: [margies@tds.net](mailto:margies@tds.net)

### Race Directors

David Bell; [davepbell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davepbell@sbcglobal.net)  
Tom Galliger;  
[tom.gallagher@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:tom.gallagher@dwd.state.wi.us)

### Publicity

Gail Moede; [gail@moederogall.com](mailto:gail@moederogall.com)

### Advertising/Promotions

John Riley: [john\\_riley@trekbike.com](mailto:john_riley@trekbike.com)

### Newsletter

Ben Neff: [ben.neff@tds.net](mailto:ben.neff@tds.net)

### Director of Instruction

Jimmy Vandenbrook: [jpvanden@mhtc.net](mailto:jpvanden@mhtc.net)

### Youth Ski Chair

Greg Jones: [jones6601@ameritech.net](mailto:jones6601@ameritech.net)

### KidSki Chair

Mark Webber: [webber@chorus.net](mailto:webber@chorus.net)

### Social Director

Gordy Barthowome;  
[gbartholomew@fmserv.com](mailto:gbartholomew@fmserv.com)

### Webmaster (interim)

Craig Heilman: [craigh@bugsoft.com](mailto:craigh@bugsoft.com)

### WNSF

Walter Meanwell: [waltmeanwell@tds.net](mailto:waltmeanwell@tds.net)

### FunSki

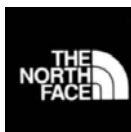
Walter Meanwell: [waltmeanwell@tds.net](mailto:waltmeanwell@tds.net)



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Visit [capitalsquaresprints.org](http://capitalsquaresprints.org) for a complete schedule



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SNOW



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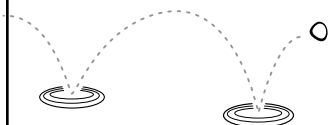
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