

Superiorland Ski Club


www.superiorlandskiclub.com

From the President:

Quite a winter, eh?

This winter we've had to prove how tough we are by skiing through one of the coldest winters on record. I'm sure you all have a story about skiing and maybe even racing in some brutal conditions. And, if you've seen me skiing this winter, you've got a story about that guy who always has that dorky moleskin on his nose, even when it doesn't seem that cold.

As tough as it's been, the ski club has accomplished a lot. The Ski Cats program had a successful season teaching young children how to ski in a fun environment. The Prep and Adventure Teams gave middle grade skiers instruction and challenges to help them become more proficient, faster skiers. The High School Racing Team provided racers with high level coaching, technique work, and race support. The club helped send Ben and Beth Wright, Logan Zueger, Erica Cousineau, and Abby Potts to the Junior National Championships in Stowe, Vermont and provided coaching support for the week of racing there.

That's a lot of kilometers of skiing with the kids in these programs, a lot of coaching expertise shared, a lot of race skis waxed, and no doubt a lot of cold fingers and toes! My appreciation goes out to all the coaches who run these programs and share their time, energy and knowledge to create cross-country skiing opportunities for our youth. I know that our programs, and therefore our club, have a very positive impact on our community and beyond!

Very sadly, one of us who had such an influence on the cross country ski community in Marquette, John Anderton, passed away on March 2nd. John helped coach youth skiers, and his love of skiing and great attitude affected so many. When my son Zach heard the news he noted that John was the coach who taught him how to skate ski when Zach was in middle school. Zach has passed along his love of the sport and knowledge by coaching a high school ski team in Minnesota this winter.

Often what we do as a club has continued significance years after a skier participates in a program. One of the high school skiers who qualified for and raced at Junior Nationals in March, Abby Potts, learned to ski in the Ski Cats program and then did a lot of alpine ski racing before returning to her roots as a nordic skier in High School. Maybe her first pair of skis had something to do with it. At two years old she got some little Karhu skis and they put sparkly clear nail polish over the graphics. She's a great skier and stylish too!

Please join me at the ski club's Annual Banquet on April 16th where we'll get to honor the people who help develop skiers in our community and tell our own stories from this epic winter.

Tom Wagner, Club President

2013/2014

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MSHS Nordic Ski Team Fundraiser at Econo Foods

The high school ski team is raising funds through Econo's We Share program. Through this program, Econo Foods awards participating organizations 1% of store receipts collected. Please save your receipts to help fund youth skiing!

You can mail receipts to the Superiorland Ski Club, P.O. Box 864, Marquette, MI 49855, or e-mail Claire Twohey at cps2e@aim.com to arrange drop-off. Thank you Econo Foods for your generous community support!



Mark your calendars for:

April 16th, Wednesday

SSC Annual Banquet

6-8pm, Marquette Commons

112 South Third Street, Downtown Marquette

April 26th, Saturday

Bike & Kayak Swap & Sale

Marquette National Guard Armory

1820 Lincoln Avenue, Marquette

September 27th, Saturday

Xterra Lake Superior Shore Run

Little Presque Isle

The Superiorland Ski Club Board meets every month on the 14th from 7-9 pm at the Peter White Public Library. The public is invited!

Our Mission:

To provide Marquette's ski community a chance to work together for the betterment of trails and facilities and to help provide and support youth and adult skiing in the area.

Blueberry Ridge Hut Update

It has been a good year for skiers all around, especially in Marquette County and at Blueberry Ridge! We have had good snow, good trails, and plenty of good news. The new year of 2014 brought good news in the form of learning that the Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut was awarded the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant of \$83,700 by the DNR. The LWCF has helped provide funding to ensure there will be public protected spaces for conservation and recreation available to the public. These public dollars ensure treasured places like Blueberry Ridge Pathway will be around forever and will be enjoyed by all. Now, Blueberry Ridge is among other UP venues like the Nara Chalet and Nature Park, as well as national venues like the Grand Canyon National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. This award permits the club, Sands Township, and the State of Michigan to move forward with plans to begin building the warming hut this summer. The Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut will have running water, heat, and toilets, and will be a beautiful place to gather before and after skiing.

Our club and ski community are fortunate to have the dedication of the Marquette community in its ability to raise the needed funds for this hut. We are grateful that the State of Michigan DNR and Sands Township have made commitments to keeping Blueberry Ridge Ski Trails a premier ski trail venue worthy of their support. We hope having this hut will encourage more kids, families, and people of all abilities to get outdoors during the winter and visit the trails at Blueberry. We know having the hut will promote active, healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities who live or visit the Upper Peninsula.

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Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut

The Superiorland Ski Club has recently updated the website to allow its members to stay informed of the latest club information. The site is updated regularly with results, pictures, calendar of events, club functions, and information on youth programs. Check it all out at

www.superiorlandskiclub.com.

Wednesday Night Relays

Hello fellow skinny skiers!

Wow! What an extra-challenging winter to be a nordic skier. I've been impressed with a very hardy group who have been showing up at the Fit Strip for the relays on Wednesday nights. To say the least, we've had some frosty smiles out there. Thanks to Coach Joey for bringing his fast and frosty group of high school skiers, and, as always, there was a group of extra-fast master skiers that continued to show up week after week. So there has been a nice mixture of both youth and veteran skiers alike throughout this extra-cold winter who showed up to ski hard and enjoy each other's company. We wrapped up another season of relay racing and camaraderie by doing the Fit Strip 50K in honor of our longtime friend John Anderton.

Ski ya later!
Greg Nelson

Blueberry Ridge Hut Update continued

(Continued from page 3)

Other noteworthy Blueberry News is that the DNR Parks and Recreation Division has secured a new Pisten Bully Groomer for Blueberry Ridge Trails! This is one incredible grooming machine and is another huge step in providing great grooming at Blueberry. Remember to purchase the required Recreation Passport for your license plate at \$11 per year. The Recreation Passport will get you into all 98 State Parks and State Recreation Areas such as Little Presque Isle, the site of the XTERRA Lake Superior Shore Run. If you enjoy the groomed trails at Blueberry and have the desire and the ability to assist with funding to further ensure good grooming, there is a fee pipe at the trailhead. The money placed in the pipe at Blueberry will stay at Blueberry. Donations are truly appreciated in offsetting the high costs for keeping the trails groomed.

To right: Pisten Bully Groomer with Jim Ferris and Stig Fjeldheim



FUN FACTS ABOUT SKI CATS

1 - Ski Cat coordinator who would like to thank all the families and coaches who participated in the Ski Cat program this year and helped make it another successful year of skiing fun for our youth.

5 - Wonderful Sunday afternoon sessions skiing and enjoying the beautiful outdoors.

6 - Awesome coaches that made learning to ski fun. Thank you to Steve Kuhl, Tom Asmus, John Bruggink, Jim Gallagher, Candy Fletcher, and Hilary Billman.

15 - Pairs of Superiorland Ski Club rental equipment provided this year.

40 - Smiles seen on the faces of the young skiers having fun on their skis.

200 - Donut holes enjoyed by the young skiers after each ski session with a cup of hot chocolate.

21 - Years of youth ski programs provided by the Superiorland Ski Club.

Thank you!

Pam Fjeldheim, Ski Cat Coordinator



Prep Team Goes Ski Cross

The Prep Team had a great season this year with many new and old faces on the team. We skied together Tuesdays and Thursdays, practicing both skate and classic techniques. Everyone showed improvements with both abilities and had fun doing it. The coaches are very proud of the team's positive attitude and successful skiing.

A few of our skiers and coaches participated in the Wednesday night relays and had a blast. I think nearly everyone skied the annual Junior Noquemanon ski race. A handful of our skiers joined in the high school race at Al Quaal. We had two end of the season gatherings, the first of which was a pool/pizza party at the Holiday Inn. The second was at Suicide Ski Bowl in Ishpeming where we skied the Ski Cross course, roasted hot dogs, and watched the ski jumpers. This was definitely the highlight of the season for many of the skiers.



In all, we had another fantastic ski season. Thank you to everyone for being part of it. A big thank you goes to the 5 volunteer coaches this year: Mikael Kilpela, Dan Wiitala, Kyle Rambo, Vicky Asmus, and Douglas Kozeluh. Also, a big thank you goes to Dick Ziegler and Andrew Rickauer for building the awesome ski cross course.

Join us for the Ski Club Banquet in April. All skiers and their families are welcome.

Doug Kozeluh, Prep Team Coach

dwkozeluh@gmail.com



www.superiorlandskiclub.com

Fun ° Fitness ° Friendship

20th XTERRA Lake Superior Shore Run

I'd like to introduce myself to all the Superiorland Ski Club members out there: my name is Tara Laase-McKinney, and I'm the director for the 2014 Lake Superior Shore Run. I'm an active participant in many local running and biking events, and hope to make the 20th Lake Superior Shore Run its most exciting yet.

XTERRA has been gracious enough to sponsor us again this year, giving this wonderful local event a much broader appeal. The race will be held on **September 27, 2014**. We're offering the same rugged and beautiful half marathon and relay, 5K, and 1K kids' fun run.

The Lake Superior Shore Run has a new website: www.lakesuperiorshorerun.com. There, you can find all the latest information about the race, as well as links for registration, which will be up soon.

Interested in being a part of this fundraiser, but not ready to tackle this challenging trail run? We're always looking for volunteers, as this race couldn't happen without all the wonderful people who donate their time. There are numerous ways you can help, from helping with packet pick-up, to assisting with the trail marking, to handing out awards after the race. Every little bit helps! If you are interested, please email me at t.laase-mckinney@hotmail.com, or utilize the "Contact Us" page via the Lake Superior Shore Run website.

Tara Laase-McKinney
Director, Xterra Lake Superior Shore Run
(616) 260-0054

Annual Club Banquet Set for Wednesday, April 16th 6-8pm

The Superiorland Ski Club will host the year-end banquet on Wednesday, April 16th at the Marquette Commons, from 6-8pm. The Club will gather to celebrate and acknowledge all the positive programs and successful events of the year. Dinner will be provided by Border Grill, and a small donation of \$3-5 is requested to help offset the cost. All skiers, families, individuals, Ski Cats, Prep Team members, Adventure Club skiers, and High School Teams are encouraged to come. Youth program members will be able to pick up their cool Superiorland Ski Club water bottles at the banquet as an added incentive to come together to celebrate this past winter season. Also, annual club awards will be presented. Please come and bring your family, a fellow skier, or friend. RSVP to Jill Zueger at jzueger@yahoo.com

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Call for Nominations for Annual Ski Club Awards

1. Lifetime Achievement Award: given to an individual, business, or organization making a major long-term, positive impact on the Marquette County ski community. Open to anyone with a 10 year involvement or more. Posthumous awards considered.
2. Volunteer of the Year: given to an individual who gave hours, organizational skills, and/or leadership to the following events or programs: Ski Club youth programs, the Lake Superior Shore Run, Ski and Bike Swaps, and the Ski Club board of directors. Recipients names will be inscribed on the Volunteer of the Year plaque on permanent display in the Forestville Lodge.
3. Skier of the Year: given to a nordic skier with a remarkable accomplishment, displays tenacity and perseverance, overcomes odds or obstacles (possibly performance-oriented), and/or exhibits outstanding sportsmanship. Must be a Ski Club member to be eligible for this award.

Please email your confidential nominations to Debby Muskovitch at Debby@northjacksonco.com or send them to Superiorland Ski Club PO Box 864, Marquette, MI 49855-3204 . Recipients will be recognized at the Ski Club annual social and awards gathering on April 16, 2014.

Past recipients: (more information on www.superiorlandskiclub.com)

2013: Lifetime Achievement- Daniel Wiitala
Volunteer of the Year- Dennis Whitley
Skier of the Year- Mik Kilpela

2012: Lifetime Achievement – Beverly Laughna
Volunteer of the Year – Ingrid Fjeldheim
Skier of the Year – MSHS Nordic Ski Team

2011: Lifetime Achievement – Bob Mahaney
Volunteer of the Year – Rick Kauppila
Skier of the Year – Greg Nelson

2010: Lifetime Achievement – Paul Hannuksela
Volunteer of the Year – Debby Muskovitch
Skier of the Year – Ellen Wiitala

2009: Lifetime Achievement - Sten Fjeldheim
Volunteer of the Year – Craig Stien
Skier of the Year – Zach Wagner

2014
Prep Team



Junior Nationals Update

Stowe, Vermont, home of the Von Trapp family, and this year, a week-long series of races known as the 2014 Nordic Junior Nationals. Thanks to their efforts throughout this season, MSHS skiers Abby Potts (senior), Ben Wright (junior), and Logan Zueger (sophomore) earned the opportunity to travel with the Great Lakes Division's Junior National team, a team compiled of 16 junior skiers in groups U16-U20 from Michigan. Beth Wright and Erica Cousineau also competed at Junior Nationals, racing on the J2 team.

In Vermont, the week started with a classic-style distance race on Monday. Wright placed 64th in the U18 10km event, Potts placed 60th in the U18 5km, and Zueger skied to a 34th place finish in the 5km U16 event. Next up were classic sprints on Wednesday during which our sole qualifier, Zueger, ended the day with a 20th on the very technical 1.4km course. Following that came the mass start freestyle race on Friday, in which Wright and Potts raced in the 10km race and came in 55th and 70th, respectively, in their classes. Zueger, racing a 5km course, came in 33rd for the U16s. The last event of the series was a 3km three person relay event on Saturday; most contestants agreed it was a very fun day of racing to end the long week of competition.

Racing at Junior Nationals is always a big event, with as many as 76 competitors racing in the largest age category, among which are some of the best skiers in the country. It is an event that is recognized as the first opportunity to discover skiing greats such as Olympians Andy Newell, Kikkan Randall, Sophie Caldwell and Jessie Diggins. For our Marquette skiers, traveling to their first national event proved to be a major learning experience, and by the end of the week MSHS skiers alluded unanimous aspirations to ramp up dry-land training so as to ready themselves next year to race at the Auburn Ski Club in glorious Truckee, California.

Karmen M. Whitham

Assistant MSHS coach/Assistant GLD Jr. National coach (U16-U20)

High School Race Team 2014



Superiorland Ski Club



PO Box 864
Marquette, MI 49855
www.superiorlandskiclub.com
Fun ° Fitness ° Friendship

BIKE

& SWAP

KAYAK & SALE



Saturday, April 26 • Marquette National Guard Armory
1820 Lincoln Ave.



Drop off: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ski Club Members' Only Sale: 1:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

General Public Sale

1:15-3:00 p.m.

Pickup: 3:00-3:30 p.m.

Bring your bikes (mountain, road, youth; components and related equipment) and let us sell them for you. Kayaks and related equipment are welcome. A 20% commission will be charged and all profits will support the Superiorland Cross Country Youth Ski Programs. For additional information call 362-4463.

Brought to you by the Superiorland Cross Country Ski Club