



January 28, 2008

The second annual Ski Bash on January 19th was a tremendous success despite temperatures barely above zero. There were a total of 52 racers who braved the frigid weather to come out and enjoy this spectacular event. Congratulations to all our racers!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this event such a success. We couldn't do this without all of you. A special thanks to all those who braved the cold weather to tend to the aid stations and to the Sports Rack of Marquette for warming our bodies with hot vegetable soup in the lodge after the event!

Race results for this year's event (and last) are posted along with a photo gallery on our [website](#).

Kids ski free this weekend at Valley Spur!

The Friends of Valley Spur have declared Saturday February 2nd and Sunday, February 3rd as "Kid's Ski for Free" weekend. The "Kids Ski for Free weekend is being offered to encourage families to come on out and enjoy what the Valley Spur trail system has to offer. All school age children will be allowed to ski for free and are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity on either one or both days. The heated Valley Spur lodge will be open from 10am till 4pm on both days. There is also a marked snowshoe trail available for use.

Snowshoe trails are growing at Valley Spur. In addition to the 3k "Snowman" route, there has been a 1k loop added recently. Both trails start out from the lodge. Just follow the orange tags tied to the trees for the 3k route and the bright green tags for the 1k route. Both routes are beautiful! The 3k route provides quite a workout going up and down those hills.

Remember, the snowshoe group meets every Tuesday at 5:15 at the lodge so why not go and join them for an evening trek?

Snowshoe rentals are available in the lodge. \$2 for 2 hours.

Calling all volunteers:

There are a lot of openings on the lodge schedule. Please check the [lodge volunteer calendar](#) to see if there's a time you could help fill at the desk. This weekend is covered except for Saturday (Feb 2) afternoon 1-4pm. Can you help us out? If so, contact vs.volunteer@yahoo.com with a date you can cover.

The 4th annual Snowman competition is approaching fast! This 2 event "duathlon" (12K ski and 3K snowshoe) is being held at Valley Spur on Saturday, February 23, 2008. [Registration forms](#) can be printed from our website or you can register on line at [active.com](#).

The events can be done as an individual or in teams. If you would like to participate as a team but are in need of another team member, maybe we can help find someone for you. Just reply to the newsletter and let us know your preference on what match you need to make (male/female/co-ed, ski/snowshoe) and we will see if we have anyone we can match you up with.

The 16th Annual Taste & Glide is also coming up soon on Saturday, March 1, 2008. It looks like this may be our busiest year yet for this event! You can sign up the day of the event, but advance reservations will be greatly appreciated. This year's cost is \$18.00 per adult and \$10 for children under 12. [Reservation forms](#) can be printed from our website.

What crazy weather we've had this year! A little more than a week ago we were in low single digits for the Ski Bash race. Tonight as I write this, it's pouring rain but there's a "Blizzard Watch" in effect for tomorrow evening. Snowfall up to 10 inches with winds 40-50 mph are expected. They are also calling for wind chills as low as 10 to 20 below for late Tuesday night and into Wednesday. Absolutely crazy, but I bet the ice climbers are loving it as the annual Ice Festival is taking place in Munising this weekend!

You won't catch me hanging from any ropes off a cliff. I think I'll stick to the trails!

Donna Shields
"Editor"
Friends of Valley Spur Newsletter

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