



February 2, 2009

What a winter this has been so far! Snow, snow, **snow**. Our groomers are getting weary, but man what a job they have been doing! Those trails are being kept in great shape which has been very hard to do at times considering all that snow just keeps falling out of the sky at them. And to top it all off, today is Groundhog Day. Let's hope that Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow so we can enjoy at least 6 more weeks of this bliss!

Mid-season rates and credit card payments

If you haven't picked up your season passes yet, now's the time to do it. Effective February 1, 2009 we are offering mid-season rates for all Valley Spur "Only" Season Memberships. Mid-season rates are as follows:

- Individual Adult: \$40.00
- Individual Junior (12-17): \$20.00
- Couples: \$70.00
- Family: \$90.00

Passes are available for sale in the lodge or if you want to pay by credit card you can now get your season membership passes on our [website](#).

New offering on day passes

We are now offering an individual adult **3 Day Pass** for sale in the lodge for \$20.00. That's a \$4 savings off the individual day pricing. The pass will allow the holder to ski a total of 3 individual days and will be good for one week from the date of purchase.

'Name the Hills' fundraiser

Valley Spur has a lot of hills. Perhaps you have a favorite? Here's your chance to help us come up with some names for those unnamed hills and raise some funds in the process. Hills are located on Loop C and are marked as "Hill A" and "Hill B". Name suggestions will be collected at the lodge. Cost: \$2.00 per suggestion. Please be sure to reference which hill you are suggesting a name for. Hill names will be selected from the suggestions by a designated committee and will be announced at the awards ceremony for the Snowman Triathlon / Eki Loppett on March 14th.

Ski Bash mugs and bags for sale

[Stainless steel mugs](#) sporting our neat "I Had A Bash At Valley Spur" logo were given out to all racers at our 2009 Ski Bash. Extra mugs are now available for sale at the lodge for \$5.00 each. Supplies are limited so be sure to get yours before they're gone!

Ski Bash black canvas duffel bags are also available for sale at the lodge for \$5.00 each.

New grooming equipment

Perhaps some of you have noticed our newest piece of grooming equipment. It's our bright blue ["Jimmy Track Truck"](#). The Jimmy is here on lease for the season so we can give it a tryout pulling our attachments. The Jimmy is a fairly quiet operator so don't be surprised if it sneaks up behind you while you're out on the trails!

Taste & Glide

Our 17th Annual Taste & Glide is just around the corner. This year's event will take place on Saturday, March 7th from 11am to 3pm. Cost for the entire day will be \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. Registrations will be accepted the day of the event but advance reservations would be appreciated. If you plan to attend, please contact us by phone or e-mail with your headcount by March 4th.

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Snowshelter

If you're out at Valley Spur, be sure to check out the 9 foot snow shelter. You will find it on the left side off the ski trail behind the lodge just as you're taking off on Loops B,H,Y,Z. Hats off to the guys who put all that effort into building it. Thanks Rob & Charlie! Perhaps someone's even interested in spending the night in it? If so, contact us for more information.

Snowshoe trails

We now have approximately 5 miles of marked snowshoe trails ranging in length from one half mile to 3 miles. All trails are well marked and trail maps are available [on line](#) or in the lodge. Difficulty ranges from the easy Rabbit loop, traversing a half-mile on fairly level ground, to the more difficult Wolf loop, a 3 mile loop which takes you alongside the Valley Spur creek then up through the hills in the upper terrain of Valley Spur commonly known to the skiers as "Heaven". Our most popular loop is the Snowman, a 1.8 mile loop of moderate difficulty which is also the snowshoe course for our annual Snowman Triathlon.

We would like to remind our snowshoers to please respect our groomed ski trails by using only the designated snowshoe trails at Valley Spur or the back country areas of Valley Spur and the Hiawatha National Forest. In some cases you will find a shortcut back to the lodge off one of the snowshoe trails that utilizes a portion of a ski trail. When traveling on these portions of the ski trail, please try to stay over to the far edge of the trail opposite the ski tracks as possible and be on the lookout for skiers.

5th Annual Snowman Triathlon & Eki Loppett

Just a reminder to mark your calendars for this event for Saturday, March 14th. We are back to the triathlon format again this year so if you don't plan to do it all on your own, start looking for your team mates. The Snowman consists of a 12K classic ski, 3K snowshoe, & 3K run. If you're interested, but can't seem to find a team mate, let us know and maybe we can match up some people.

We have also added a new event for this date for those who only wish to ski. It's a 12K classic ski event called the Eki Loppett and was named in honor of Eki Vaisanen, who was an avid cross country skier here at Valley Spur in his day. Eki is the late husband of our very own Friends volunteer coordinator, Mary Vaisanen.

That's about all the news for now. Hope everyone is enjoying this winter and having a great new year!

Donna Shields
"Editor"
Friends of Valley Spur Newsletter