

Brule Ski News

2008-09 Ski Season

Brule Valley Ski Club

www.brulexcski.com

Brule, WI

BRSF Update by Cathy Khalar of BRSF

Most skiers are somewhat familiar with the actual grooming of the snow on the trail, but much of our work is done long before the snow flies. Numerous hours of pre-season grooming and maintenance work was done during the summer and fall such as: (1) Putting up new gates to keep motorized traffic off of the trails, (2) A large dip was fixed on Entry Trail, (3) Fill was added to Easy Exit Trail, (4) A washout was fixed at the culverts at Maple Trail, (5) Trees were cut along the Classic Trail to make grooming easier and to prevent damage to the grooming equipment, and (6), Annual mowing and brushing was accomplished with help of the Brule Valley Ski Club.

Grooming equipment is always something that requires constant care and "fine tuning" during the ski season and off. Last year our 1985 Tucker Sno-Cat held up much better thanks to the upkeep of Danny Page, our Facilities Repair Worker. Also, we quickly accepted the transfer of a 1992 Ski Doo Alpine from the Black River State Forest after our Skandik snowmobile "overheated" and caught fire. This allows us to have a "backup" machine to groom with, as well as another grooming tool to keep our trail the best groomed trail in Northwest Wisconsin.

During the ski season Kurt Janko, Kevin Feind, and Dave Schulz, our State Forest Staff and trail groomers, can often be found looking at the weather reports and the radar, watch-

Ski Club Update

By Cordell Manz, President

Hello skiers! It looks like our corner of Wisconsin has escaped the rain and ski conditions are excellent! The club plans to have its usual events again this year – so please come out and join us by participating in, or volunteering to help with an event (see the calendar included for dates and times). Last year each event was well attended, but there is room for higher attendance. More volunteers to help are especially welcome, so don't be shy!

The 2008 Riverview Loppet was a great success. The trail and

weather conditions were perfect last year and really set the tone for a fun day. Bjorn Batdorf of Minneapolis won the men's 24 km freestyle in 1:03:19 and Patti Harvieux took first in the woman's 24 km with a time of 1:16:32. Those are really fast times! Other winners were Raleigh Goessling (Esko) and Ellen Anderson (Duluth) in the 12 km freestyle and Matt Pierce and Corrine Malcom, both from Hayward, in the 12 km classic race.

The ski club did its own timing for the race last year – which helped save us some money. Overall it went well, with a couple minor glitches – the main one being we were

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Brule Valley Ski Club Learn to Ski Day

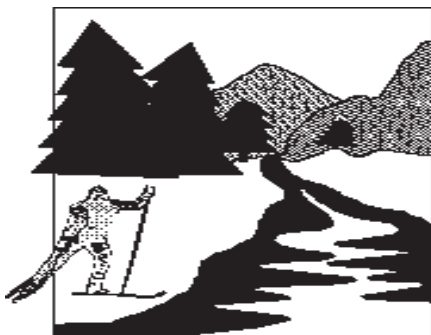
State Forest update continued

ing for snow. They can be counted on to come in the early dark of the morning or work into the night to keep the trails in the best condition as possible.

Josh McIntyre, our Forestry Educator will once again be working at the ski trail selling trail passes on most weekends. Stop in and say hi to him as he usually has great stories to

share. If it is cold enough he will sometimes have a warming fire going.

For those looking to get up to date trail conditions on the Afterhours Ski Trail, see www.skinnyski.com. Cathy Khalar from the Brule Ranger Station tries to keep this site updated. Or call us at 715-372-5678. Our office hours are normally Monday through Friday 8-4:30.



2009 Brule Area Ski Calendar

Published as a community service by Brule Valley Ski Club

• www.brulexcski.com

• Brule, WI

January

10th - 12:30 pm Sat: **Learn to Ski** at Afterhours, remember to pre-register.

February

1st - 12:30 pm Sun: **Learn to Ski** at Afterhours, remember to pre-register.

7th - 10:00 am Sat: **Snowshoe Hike** at the **Historic Bayfield Trail**, 3 miles north of Hwy 2 on Clevedon Rd. Led by a forest educator who discusses winter ecology. Bring your snowshoes. Call 372-5678 for more info.

7th - 5-9 pm Sat: **Candlelight Ski**. 5-9 p.m. Candles will light two miles of trails. Grills, picnic tables, and a bonfire will be provided. Trail passes not required for this event, which is sponsored by the Brule River State Forest with volunteer assistance from the Brule Valley Ski Club.

28th - Sat: **Riverview Loppet** Cross - Country Ski Races for youths and adults in the skate and classic styles. Register 7:30-8:45 am Brule Town Hall, race starts at 10:00 am. This race is sponsored jointly by the Brule Valley Ski Club, the Brule River State Forest, and the Brule Lions Club.

Learn to Ski Afternoons

Ski club volunteers will provide free instruction for beginning skate or classic skiing at the Afterhours Ski Trail in Brule on Saturday, January 10, and on Sunday, February 1. Have your ski equipment on and be ready to start skiing at 1 p.m.

Pre-registration is appreciated and essential for those renting equipment.

Children must have a signed release form or be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can sign the form.

Everyone is welcome, including youth groups such as scouts and 4-H. Youth groups must pre-register.

Rental of skis, boots and poles costs \$5 for each youngster 12 and under and \$15 for others. Rentals must be checked out at the trailhead warming hut between 12:30 and 12:45 p.m. and returned by 4:00 p.m. Pre-registrations must be in by 7 p.m. of the Thursday night preceding each learn-to-ski afternoon.

To pre-register, call Susie Isaksen at 715/372-4939, Cragin Machine Shop at 715-392-6988, or e-mail siszee@hotmail.com. Be sure to provide the name, shoe size, sex, age, and approximate weight and height of each person wishing to rent equipment.

Neither memberships nor trail passes are required.

The learn-to-ski afternoons are sponsored by the Brule Valley Ski Club, the Brule River State Forest, and the Brule Lions Club.

Visit our website : www.brulexski.com for club news, meeting minutes, and club events.

Ski Club Contacts:

Club President
Cordell Manz
cell: 218-591-1153

Memberships & Donations
Susie Isaksen, Secretary
715-372-4939

Brule River State Forest
Kevin Feind
715-372-5678

VP & Race Director
Greg St. Onge
715-372-5995

Newsletter
Borg Isaksen
715-372-5964

**Race entries,
Learn-to-Ski Events**
Bob Cragin, Treasurer
715-392-6988

Website
Paul Haltvick
715-682-2443

Club Update Cont'd

a tad bit slow in getting the results printed out at the race. One factor contributing to slowness was that last year's race either set or tied our attendance record with a total of 153 registered ski racers. That number is up quite a bit from the past few years (only 78 total skiers in '07). In addition, a total of 147 'paying' racers is good news for our ski club because the race is the club's only fundraiser at this time. There were only six participants last year in the 4 km youth race - which is free - and we would be happy to see that number be higher. Please consider bringing your kids out to the race; children always seem to have a great time no matter how fast they ski, how good they are at skiing, or if their wax is right! Thanks again to the Brule Lions Club, the Brule River State Forest, all the volunteers, and to the skiers themselves for making our race such a success!

Fundraising efforts like our ski races as well as club memberships are very important to what the ski club can accomplish. In the past, money raised from our ski races and through donations/memberships has allowed us to help pay for grooming equipment repairs and gas for grooming, helped pay for the warming hut and storage building, and to pay for trail maintenance projects such as new bridges. Potential future projects discussed at this fall's annual meeting included, 1) creating a designated snowshoeing trail (now in the early stages), 2) developing a small shelter area around the fire-pit at the trailhead (with benches) or out on the ski trail, and 3) extending the classic-only ski trail to eventually end at a point closer to the trailhead. In addition, the ski club is still interested in helping with the creation and building of an additional trail system (preliminarily called the Devils Hole Ski and Bike Trail in the current Brule River State

RIVER VIEW LOPPET

Saturday Feb 28th

There will be a 12k and a 24k freestyle race as well as a 12k classic race. A 4k Youth Event, free to participants 13 years of age & under, is also being offered.

SAT: 7:30-8:45AM
Registration and bib pick-up at Brule Town Hall.

10:00AM - 4k Youth, 12k Classic, 24k Freestyle, 12k Freestyle

Noon - After-race lunch at the Brule Town Hall, with awards by 1:30

We use interval starts, 2 skiers at a time every 30 seconds, based on order of registration.

Last year's racers will receive a race brochure by mail in Feb. Others may register or request a brochure by calling 715-392-6988.

The awards presentation will take place at the Brule Town Hall following our traditional free luncheon.

Major Sponsors: Brule Valley Ski Club, Brule Lions Club, the Brule River State Forest. Area and ski businesses contribute to the door prizes and lunch.

Visit www.brulexcski.com for more info.

Forest Master Plan) at another location in the state forest. However, at this point, with the state's budget deficit, it may be difficult for the state forest to find project funding for a second trail system any time soon.

At our autumn annual meeting, we discussed how increasing club membership might help us accomplish more of our goals for the ski trail and other activities, such as ski lessons.

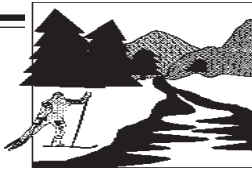
I encourage all members to invite other skiers and families to join our club. The club also welcomes any suggestions or new ideas for future projects or activities - just send a note to me at Cordell.Manz@gmail.com. If you'd like to see something done, let us know, or better yet, get more involved if you can!

Finally, the ski club would like to thank all those who came out to help on our annual work day at the trail this fall - we got a lot of pruning done! I'd also like to welcome our new board member-at-large, Gary Rutledge. Paul Haltvick has stepped down from the position, and we really appreciated his service and thank him also for continuing to maintain the club's website. I'd like to thank the other returning board members for your service: Greg St. Onge (VP), Susie Isaksen (Secretary), and Bob Cragin (Treasurer) as well as Borg Isaksen for working on the newsletter. The club especially thanks everyone at the state forest for all your hard work on the ski trail.

See you soon!

Brule Valley Ski Club seeks volunteers & donations:

(1) *Ski Instructors*: Give beginner lessons during Learn-to-Ski, please call 715-372-5995. (2) *Ski Rentals*: Help check rental skis in and out at Learn-to-Ski, call 715-372-5995. (3) *Race Events*: Help at water stations, the start and finish, timing, registration, and take-down, call 715-372-5995. (4) *Work Days*: Help maintain the trails. Work days are announced by post card. (5) *Candlelight Ski*: Volunteers are needed to help set candles at 4:30 pm, Feb 7th. (6) *Cash Donations*: Donations are used to fund trail grooming, facility improvements, as well as educational activities, often by helping the club receive grants. Donations are tax deductible.



All memberships expired Oct. 31. If you have not already done so, please renew for this season, and...

Please Continue Your Support

Please send this form to: Susie Isaksen, Brule Ski Club Membership, PO Box 129, Brule, WI 54820

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Optional - Telephone: _____

Email _____

Membership type

_____ \$10, Individual

_____ \$15, Household - *Please name one or two adults who may vote for the household on club matters:*

_____ \$15, Business - *Please name one adult who may vote for the business on club matters:*

_____ \$ I am enclosing an additional donation.

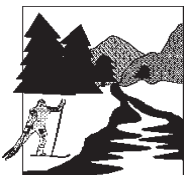
A copy of our latest annual financial report is available.

_____ Please check here if you would like it.

Brule Valley Ski Club Goals

- Provide the Brule River State Forest with volunteer and funding support to help build, maintain, operate and improve public facilities.
- Provide area youngsters and the general public with a place, facilities and educational programs for positive outdoor recreation in winter.
- Assure that the ski trails remain an asset that generates community pride and enhances the quality of life.
- Provide outdoor winter environmental education.
- Carry out these objectives in cooperation with the Brule River State Forest, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Brule Valley Ski Club, Inc., is a tax-exempt charitable organization defined by Chapter 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. All but \$1.00 of your membership contribution is deductible.



Brule Valley Ski Club, Inc.
Newsletter Editor
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Brule, WI 54820

INSIDE:

Brule Area Ski Calendar