

ASRA NEWSLETTER

Ski The Ice!

November 17, 2008

Editor: Liz Holste

What's that white stuff on the ground?

Summer might be over, but don't be sad... It only means one thing ...it is time to dig out your ski equipment and ski clothes! The ASRA 2009 race season will be here before you know it. Have you been working out and stretching your muscles?

Yes - - - you were **not** dreaming... that was snow on the ground a few weeks ago! Could this be a sign of what is to come???

Tuesday – October 28th : several areas in the Northeast already got their first dump of snow. What began as a huge rain storm ended up as the first snow storm of the season in some places. Winter is on its way! The Farmer's Almanac is saying we are in for a cold winter this year. Let's hope that means some great racing conditions too. While we're at it...let's remember to help carry everyone's gear down to the bottom of the race trail so we can all stay warm on the lift ride back to the top for the next run.

Word has it that some of our favorite ski areas are already opening.

If you haven't already done it – make sure you get your skis waxed and sharpened so they are ready to go. Check out your helmets and goggles too! There are some great equipment and clothing deals out there now. Make sure you pick up everything you need. Some places are still having great ski sales and ski swaps.

If you haven't done much physical activity over the summer, make sure you start stretching now. If you have stairs at work – walk up and down them every day instead of taking the elevator.

Helmets are becoming mandatory at more and more of the race venues regardless of the type of race. So make sure you pick one up before the ASRA race season kicks off.

ASRA Camp at Sugarbush and Killington Openers

The ASRA camp at Sugarbush is coming up December 8th to the 11th. The camp is limited to 40 people. It is nearly filled, so contact John Foy to make your reservations.

The ASRA Openers will be held at Killington again this year. Cascades Lodge is the place where much of the ASRA gang stays; excellent pricing, with a hot breakfast included in the daily lodging price. Log on to www.cascadeslodge.com or call 800-345-0113. Make sure you ask for the special ASRA rate when making your reservations for the ASRA openers at Killington.

Are your 2009 dues are up to date? Membership renewal forms can be found on the ASRA website at www.skiracer.com/membrapp.pdf. Be sure to send in your dues before the race season begins.

Please, please, please...know your ASRA membership number when filling out your signup forms and waivers at the race venues. Have everything ready to go with your check or cash when you reach the ASRA Registration Desk at each race venue. This makes Melanie and John very happy and makes things go much faster. Your number is available at www.skiracer.com/numberlist.html

Before you head out on the slopes be sure to check the ASRA information boards at each race venue for race start times, trail location, and other important news.

WANTED: More racers

We need to have more skiers join us at our competitions every weekend to ensure that we get the best courses at the various race venues. Many resorts are requiring a guaranteed number of racers. If we don't reach the guaranteed number – we still have to pay for them so we can have the trails shut down for us to race on.

It is important to talk up the ASRA league both during the season and in the off season!

ANYONE can participate in the races. Bring a new racer and show them what to do on the hill. Walk them through the registration process, course inspection and preparing for their race run.

Have your fellow ski club members come out to support you at the race venues. Make copies of the ASRA race schedule and distribute it at your club meetings, work, your gym, etc. Ask your favorite ski shop to put up the ASRA race schedule on their information boards.

More sponsors are needed too! If you know of a company that might be interested in sponsoring the ASRA league in some way, let John Foy know.

Many things need to be done before and after each race. If you have some free time step up and volunteer to help out. If everyone helps – things will get done quicker and AJ can get out on the hill too.

2008 – 2009 ASRA SCHEDULE

The 2008/2009 ASRA race schedule is almost complete. Check out the ASRA website at www.skiracer.com/sched.html for updates. Make sure you hit F5 to refresh the page so you have the latest information. As always, please check the ASRA website BEFORE you head out to a location to make sure the race has not been cancelled or to check to see if the location has changed.

There will be several double days this year. And ...we are back at some of our favorite locations too. Elk Mountain, Bear Creek, Tanglwood, There is even a full race weekend at Windham this year! Super G, GS and Slalom!

TANGLWOOD IS BACK!

Make sure you put these race dates on your calendar now! January 3rd & 4th we're back at one of our favorite ski areas - Tanglwood, PA.

Yes, that's right! The Tanglwood ski area has reopened for the 2008/2009 ski season!

The ASRA races here are always tons of F-U-N. We have **ALWAYS** had good weather and great races at Tanglwood. Come on out and have a great time with the ASRA gang!

AJ stopped in at Tanglwood and says the owners have been working hard sprucing up the resort. Lots of work has been done on the lodge and the slopes.

Tanglwood is the perfect place to bring your family and friends if they want to see you race. They can see the entire course from top to bottom. You can have your own cheering section as you take your runs! There are also beautiful views of Lake Wallenpaupack right from the lodge.

If you know someone that wants to take some photos or shoot some video of the racers, this is the perfect place to do it. The entire course can be seen from top to bottom.

After you are finished with your races take some fun runs and check out "the back bowl". Don't get lost!!!

After the race – head to the bar to have a drink and to pick up your medals and some great giveaways. ASRA is always about great prizes and great giveaways.

Tanglwood is ready and waiting for the ASRA gang to return!

NEW JERSEY SKI COUNCIL JAMBOREE

The New Jersey Ski Council will be holding its annual Jamboree season kick off party at The Stadium Club at Giants Stadium in Rutherford, NJ on Friday – November 21st from 6:30pm to midnight.

Many of the New Jersey and a few New York ski clubs will be there showing what they have to offer. Most clubs have their own ski lodges in Vermont and some also have lodges in New York State.

Besides the ski clubs, there will be several ski shops and many resorts with booths. There are LOTS of great prizes and giveaways from the clubs and the mountains. **Admission and parking is FREE to everyone!**

Come join the fun and say hi to all of your winter ski friends.

2009 ASRA FINALS AT NEW LOCATION!

Unfortunately due to potential budget cuts at Belleayre, the 2009 ASRA finals will be at new location...Whiteface, at Lake Placid!.

The Belleayre Ski Area unfortunately, did not feel that they would be able to provide our favorite trail "Dot Nebel" for a number of reasons – but – perhaps things will change in the future.

Most races have been cancelled at Belleayre for this season, including USSA and ASRA. Hopefully we will be back there next year. We do love Belleayre.

This year the ASRA finals will be held at Whiteface Mountain in New York. The dates will be a bit earlier this year. Feb. 26 to March 1st. **HELMETS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL RACES AT WHITEFACE.**

Whiteface is a great location to hold the ASRA finals. There is a lot to do in the Lake Placid area! More details will follow during the season.

HELMETS AND SAFETY

Helmets are becoming mandatory at more and more of the ski areas for all ski and snowboard lessons and for race events regardless of the type of race (SG, GS, SL, whatever.)

Make sure you pick up a helmet if you don't already have one. Don't get to the start and find out that you can't run the course because you don't have a brain bucket.

There have been times, unfortunately, where some racers have taken a fall and were really glad that they had a helmet on to protect their head.

ASRA NEWS & GOSSIP DEPARTMENT

If you have any important information that you would like to pass on to your ASRA friends, just send Liz Holste an e-mail with all of the details. The e-mail address is: liz@skiracer.com If you have any current equipment to sell – post it here!

Mr. Buzzweiser is healing after his DH racing injuries. Hopefully he will be back racing with us this season.

Mike & Liz Mezzetti welcome a new racer into their home. Michael Andras Mezzetti was born in July 2008. How fast will Liz ski this year???

Dave Moore's father passed away on August 25, 2008.

Sunny Ross had some back surgery at the beginning of October and is healing well.

Liz Holste's grandmother is battling cancer.

Hunter Mountain, NY

November 21st Hunter will be celebrating National Ski Patrol Day. Come check out the events celebrating the history of the Ski Patrol.

Hunter will also be inducting new members into its Hunter Mountain Hall of Fame.

December 13th & 14th – Consumer Demo Days

Check out all of this year's new equipment. Bring your skis and take a few runs on them before you start testing the new equipment so you have something to measure your choices against. Take some test runs on Hunter's slopes on various 2009 skis. If you choose to purchase something you will get a discount coupon to purchase new equipment that day.

For Rent: Vail/Beaver Creek Townhouse

Have you ever wanted to rent a beautiful townhouse in Colorado? You can ski or snowboard at two of Colorado's best resorts in 2009! This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom townhouse sleeps 8 to 12 people comfortably. It is centrally located in the Vail valley.

The townhouse is just 1 mile from Beaver Creek and only 7 miles from Vail. It is not ski in / ski out, but there is no need to drive to the ski areas! You won't find much parking near either resort anyway. There is a local bus that takes you to Beaver Creek or Vail and back every day. The buses run several times during the day.

For more details log on to: www.cocondo.net

FIS WORLD CUP RACES

You can keep up on what's happening with all of the FIS World Cup races if you log on to: www.wcsn.com. Follow them live and on-demand all season long!

SKI AREA & LODGING DISCOUNTS

If you hear of any great lift ticket or lodging discounts and you want to share them with your ASRA friends just send Liz Holste an e-mail at liz@skiracer.com and the deals will get posted in the next newsletter.

If you are a member of AAA (Automobile Association of America) check them out before you make reservations for your lodging. Many hotels offer AAA discounted rates. Ask when making your reservation – you just might get a few bucks off your stay. Some ski areas also give AAA discounts on lift tickets.

Log on to your favorite ski area's website before you head out for the day. There area always special lift ticket deals offered on the resort's website. Some resorts even have FREE ski days on your birthday!

Price Chopper Supermarkets. Check out the Price Chopper Supermarkets discount card. Word has it that they have some special lift ticket deals at various mountains.

Stop in at your favorite ski shop and see what discount lift tickets they have to offer this season.

Check out www.liftopia.com for lots of discounts at various ski areas and nearby lodging.

Ski club discounts – make sure you show your current ski club card at the various ski areas. Many of them will give you a discount. It never hurts to ask! The deals are out there, you just have to look for them.

Log on to SnowEast magazine for lift ticket discounts:
www.snoweastmagazine.com

America's 1st rope tow celebrates 75th Anniversary

We have come a long way in the last 75 years of skiing. Equipment has changed drastically and so have the methods of getting back to the top of the slopes!

Before rope tows a person had to walk back up the hill if they wanted to take another run. Ski trails were much shorter and not as many runs were made each day.

The first rope tow in the United States was installed at Gilbert's Hill in Woodstock, Vermont in 1934. Being able to ski more terrain and taking longer runs became easier with the advent of rope tows.

After the opening of the Gilbert's Hill rope tow, these types of lifts spread quickly across the country and a lot of ski terrain was opened to the public.

The invention of rope tows led to the development of other types of lifts which include: platter pulls, T-bars, J-Bars, chairlifts and gondolas that take you higher and higher up the slopes.

It is amazing to think about everything that has happened in the world of skiing over the last 75 years. And....it is not over yet. There is much more to come.

In 2009 the Gilbert's Hill rope tow will celebrate its 75th Anniversary with several historic events throughout the season. The celebrations are in the planning stage and events will be announced shortly.

How many of our ASRA racers used a rope tow when they started skiing??? I'm sure there are a few of you out there who remember being dragged up the mountain by a rope tow. Look how far you've come!