



November 19, 2007

Hello all and welcome to the "NEW" Friends of Valley Spur e-newsletter! I hope you like the view. Many thanks to Larry Truel for putting out all those newsletters over the past 7 years. He's earned a well deserved "newsletter retirement".

Speaking of views, there's another change of scenery. The Valley Spur website has a new address with a fresh new look. There you'll find information about trail passes and membership fees, upcoming events, trail conditions, the latest trail map, why there's even a link (which will be working soon) to a calendar that you can check to see what shifts might be available for you to volunteer at the lodge. 🙏 So be sure to check it out at www.valleyspur.org

As some many already know, beginning with the 2007-2008 season, the Valley Spur trail system now falls under the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) organizational umbrella. Please be assured that the trail maintenance and grooming, as well as the lodge operations remain the responsibility of the Friends of Valley Spur, just as in the past. Please note though, that unlike the past, use of the trail system for classic and freestyle skiing is no longer by donation. There are set trail fees for use of the trails. Trail use for snowshoeing will remain a donation. Be sure to check the website for the new day pass and season membership fees.

Speaking of snowshoes, there will be snowshoes to rent this winter at Valley Spur so if you are so inclined, come out and hang out in the snow. We have a 3K snowshoe route flagged but if that is too long there are several places along the route where you can take a shortcut back to the lodge.

There's been a lot of high winds in the UP recently and has taken it's toll on the trails at Valley Spur. Thanks to our volunteers, all trails have been cleared and are open for use.

There have been a few changes in the trail system at Valley Spur this season. Some minor changes to outlying routes have been made to help streamline the grooming process. This should save many grooming hours and result in a better groomed trail system for all. This ought to be the best year yet as we've got some new grooming equipment too. We now groom all trails for both skate and classic. Visit our website and print off a copy of the new map.

Remember, there is no grooming schedule at Valley Spur. We groom when it snows, 7 days a week, so the trails are always ready for you.

Next meeting for the Ski Bash race committee is Monday Dec. 3rd at 5:30 at the Falling Rock. Come if you are interested in helping out. The races this year will be a 12K classic and a 24K classic and skate. We will separate the skaters from the classic skiers so as not to interfere with each other. It gives a better race for both.

This newsletter will be published when we have news for you. I'll try to keep it short and.... well not boring.

Upcoming events:

- Ski Bash - Saturday, January 19th. 12K Classic, 24K Classic or Freestyle
- Snowman Biathlon - Saturday, February 23rd. 12K Classic ski & 3K snowshoe
- Taste & Glide - Saturday, March 1st

And finally, congratulations to Tim Greening our first skier this season. Tim was out there a couple days ago double pole skiing in around 2 inches of snow. Way to go for it Tim!

Unfortunately the recent precipitation has been in the form of rain, not snow, so let's cross our fingers that those flakes will be coming our way soon! If in doubt about trail conditions, either check out the website for the latest information or call the lodge hot-line at (906) 387-4918.

Donna Shields
"Editor"
Friends of Valley Spur Newsletter

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