

## **A Successful and Fun 2009 Council Cup Race at Blue Mountain**

The 2009 EPSC Council Cup Race day was filled with thrills, spills and a whole lot of fun. Over 100 racers representing 18 teams from six ski clubs enjoyed a day of good racing, good food and good old fashioned racer camaraderie at Blue Mountain on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The weather was uncharacteristically good for the two-run modified dual slalom on the "Raceway" trail, at least for those who remember some of the "washouts" we have had in the past.

The day began with a streamlined registration process, back stopped by a terrific buffet breakfast by the Blue Mountain staff. The Blue Mountain race crew readied the dual course for inspection early in the day, started the race right on time and conducted a very efficient race that had racers off the hill and on their way for lunch and partying by noon. Racers sported bibs furnished from two key sponsors, Buckman's and Pinnacle Ski Shops. The party and awards ceremony was filled with a record number of sponsor prizes from Buckman's, Nestor's and Pinnacle Ski Shops, Elk Mountain, Kirby Bates Associates, Whiteface Mountain, American Ski Racing Alliance (ASRA), Mercer Restorations, and Ski Liberty. In all, over 100 door prizes were issued to racers enjoying a good Blue Mountain lunch and some fine refreshments.

All participating ski clubs had to seed their teams in groups of four men and two women, with three men's times and one woman's times from each of the two individual runs counting as the team's total time. Clubs could enter as many teams as they like, including "masters" teams with all participants over the age of 50. Prizes were awarded for the top team, the top Masters team, the sixth place team which earns the "B" cup, the fastest single run for men and women, including Masters, and the fastest snowboarder.

When the snow stopped flying and the times were added up in the team competition, the Main Line Ski Club pulled off an unusual "hat trick" by taking the "A" cup, the "B" cup and the Masters team trophy. The historians of EPSC have been unable to determine if that has ever happened in the past and if so, it's been many years. The "A" Cup, representing the fastest team on the hill, earns a team the right to hold the coveted and ancient, but one-of-a-kind trophy for the year. The "B" cup, as noted, goes to the sixth place team and the Masters trophy goes to the fastest team composed of racers 50 and over.

In the "A" cup competition, Main Line(178.76), Flying Dutchmen(186.80) and Mack(190.83) Ski Clubs battled mightily for the big trophy. All three teams were within 12 seconds combined time from one another. The Main Line team of Danielle Tully, Kris Buchholz, David Moore, Chris Natress, Jason Smith and Jeff Frey took home the bragging rights for the year.

In the "B" cup competition, Main Line's team of Pam DeCampi, Pete Geyer, Matt Kiner, Ken Snowden, and Greg Gallup landed in the sixth place slot with a team time of 222.10 to take home the "B" cup for the year.

In the Masters competition, Main Line(197.04), who had been beaten in the 2008 Council Cup by the Flying Dutchmen, returned to ski well enough to slip past the Dutchmen(212.13) by a 15 second margin. Main Line's team was composed of Lorrie Snowden, Judy Armstrong, Jacques Boudin, Randy Harper, Dave DeCampi and Tad VanZoeren. Flying Dutchmen's second masters team was third with a time of 251.86.

The fastest single run for the day went to Flying Dutchmen's Bernie Resch with a blazing run of 21.26 followed by Main Line's Dave Moore(21.52) and Main Line's Jason Smith(21.60).

The fastest woman's single run for the day went to Main Line's Kris Buchholz with a fast run of 23.79 followed by Main Line's Danielle Tully(24.28) and Mack's Carrie Sheets(24.95).

On the Master's side, the fastest single run went to Flying Dutchmen's Clyde Norelli with a time of 22.32 followed by Dutchmen's Dave Demko(22.65) and Main Line's Randy Harper(22.78).

For the Master's women, the fastest single run went to Flying Dutchmen's Nancy Brandi with a time of 25.49 followed by Dutchmen's Sarah Leach(28.20) and Main Line's Lorrie Snowden(28.33).

The fastest snowboarder time for the day was Flying Dutchmen's Kelly Mack with a time of 35.19.

Many thanks go to all of the EPSC and racer volunteers that made the day a successful and fun one for all of the participants!

Next year's Council Cup race will once again be hosted by Blue Mountain on the customary last Sunday in February, which will be February 28, 2010. Our goal will be to encourage many new clubs to come out and participate and enjoy the fun and camaraderie.



**A Team – Main Line**



**B Team – Main Line**



**Masters Team – Main Line**