

SNOSHU-NEWS

I went back to the beginning, South Pond 1998, and re-



tooled the points to the way we do them currently (all races scored with 100% for first). We have had 21 official races, with one (Frigid Figure Eight, 1999) only being based on a best of 50% due to it not being a snowshoe

race but a footrace. So the best possible score for someone who did all and won each would be a 2050.

If people stay healthy, we will have three guys with potential to break 2000 total points by the end of the 2003 season. On the ladies side, it looks like Carol and Darlene will continue to go neck and neck to be first to 1000 points.



These totals are the result of many years and a lot of races for each participant. I would like to say "Thank you" to each of you out there who have participated in some way or other at our races over the years. These are the top ten but there is also a great big bunch of you who make up the majority of each race, we appreciate your continued support of the races in our series.

Next time around, we will look at who has done the most races. Konrad Karolczuk is the only person who has managed to finish all 21 events during the last five years. There are several changes in the leaders from total point producers; look for the next update in a month or two.

Ed

ALL TIME POINTS/ MEN

01.	Ken Clark	1782.87
02.	Bob Dion	1503.84
03.	Leigh Schmitt	1489.13
04.	Jim Preite	1217.33
05.	Dave Dunham	1190.72
06.	David Boles	1166.55
07.	Bob Worsham	1095.30
08.	Ed Alibozek Jr	1013.26
09.	Dave Hannon	965.73
10.	Karl Molitoris	955.85

ALL TIME POINTS/ WOMEN

01.	Carol Kane	775.42
02.	Darlene McCarthy	770.40
03.	Beth Herder	683.13
04.	Laura Clark	635.96
05.	Deborah Livingston	535.18
06.	Lisa Schmitt	517.72
07.	Claudine Preite	441.65
08.	Tracy Van Dyke	338.06
09.	Barbara Sorrell	307.60
10.	Debbie Briggs	231.17

If you wish to receive this electronic newsletter occasionally, either do nothing or let me know that you got into it.

If you don't want to continue to receive email attachments with snowshoe news in it, please send me an email instructing me to remove you from the list.

I hope some of you enjoy the updates and news, and I also hope that we get submissions from folks to add to the information.

Photos are of:

Men's points leader and two time WMAC Snowshoe Champion (1999 & 2000) Ken Clark on the Beaver Brook course 2002.

Ladies points leader and 2001 WMAC Snowshoe Champion Carol Kane finishing the 2002 South Pond Shuffle.

SNOWSHOE SIZE

The United States Snowshoe Association has decided on size limitations for the future of snowshoe racing. I need feedback from as many of you as possible to verify what direction our series of events will go. I do want to make sure that everyone continues to have fun first; I am not in favor of any stress happening over snowshoe sizes.

Please keep in mind that Bob Dion is planning on having his line of snowshoes available for the 2003 season. I am sure Bob will need to hear from you regarding shoe size. My biggest concern has always been making sure that each individual isn't forced into thinking he or she has to buy a new "smaller" pair of snowshoes every year. Since the majority of you already own a pair of 8" x 25" snowshoes, I know we will not have any trouble meeting the size requirements. The issue will be when some participants start showing up with much smaller (in appearance if not actual functional surface area) snowshoes. My guess is most of you don't care what anyone else is wearing, your out there pushing yourself and enjoying the day. There are going to be some issues to work through for the more competitive shoers, however.

I have been in contact with Bob, and our hope is that he has a bunch of snowshoes ready for people to use as loaners for our 2003 events. I know Bob has designed a slightly smaller snowshoe than a strict 8" x 25" model. If everything works out really well, those of you who are interested in trying a smaller shoe to see if it makes a difference in your performance can most likely use a pair of loaners for a race or two. This will really depend on Bob, and how far along he is with his production. I think the situation we are in will work out fine; not every region has a fellow snowshoer designing a new model of shoes that he will want everyone to try a time or two. Please contact us, letting us know what ideas you have for snowshoe size. I am sure Bob is hoping to sell many of you a pair of snowshoes in the near future; lets make sure we inform him on size specifications so we all end up happy in the end.

So, it's on to Mark Elmore, the USSSA Sports Director, letting us know how they came up with the size standard.

Well, here it is! The next step in addressing the issue of establishing a "minimum racing snowshoe size" standard. Please understand much discussion, thought, and work has been involved in this decision from our Regional Reps, myself and others who don't serve the USSSA directly. Note, this decision is not "set in stone." Should we learn that something different is needed, nothing prevents us from re-visiting this issue in the future.

For the 2002-2003 season, the USSSA has decided that there will be a "minimum racing snowshoe size" standard for all USSSA sanctioned events including our ten regional qualifiers and the '03 National Championships. That minimum size standard is 120 square inches. Currently, all manufactured racing snowshoe models meet this standard.

From our research we found that the Tubbs Piranha was the smallest in functional surface area (FSA) at 128 square inches even though it measured 8" x 25". At USSSA events, adult racers may not race on children's snowshoe models. Functional surface area is not determined by simply multiplying the length x the width of the snowshoe. So, it is very unlikely that any child's snowshoe will meet this standard. Remember, this is a MINIMUM standard. Racers may choose whatever size snowshoe they deem is best suited to the race course and conditions - as long as it is no smaller than 120 square inches in surface area.

Why 120 square inches? First, all current models provide at least this much flotation area, most popular racing models provide significantly more. Secondly, it provides manufacturers with some room to be innovative and creative in looking at the relationship between snowshoe size, flotation and biomechanical efficiency. Thirdly, it is in line with the minimum standards the Europeans have established for their racing overseas. Thus, our athletes, when competing internationally, will not be at a disadvantage in terms of snowshoe size. Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, this ruling is "not set in stone." As the sport develops we may want to adjust this rule. For now, with approval from most all the regional reps who responded, we'll start here.

I know not everyone will be happy with this decision. I trust we'll continue to see past our personal wishes and preferences so we can continue to work together for the betterment of our sport.

The USSSA will now begin the process of working with all manufacturers to begin labeling their snowshoe models with functional surface area values. The USSSA will continue to periodically test different racing snowshoe models to determine their FSA. All results will be posted on our website in a special table race directors can easily access. By the 2003-2004 season, we hope all manufacturers will have FSA printed on their snowshoe's and/or snowshoe literature so consumers can easily determine a prospective purchases' FSA. The USSSA is committed to assisting the consumer in making easy educated choices concerning their snowshoe purchases.

I want to thank all our USSSA regional reps and the Athlete and Technical Advisory Group advisors for all your work on this 1 1/4 year project. As I noted earlier, it's a first step in what I'm sure we all hope is the continual positive development of our sport of snowshoe racing both here in the U.S. and abroad.

Should anyone have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-643-8806 or snowshoeguy@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,
Mark Elmore
U.S. Snowshoe Assoc. Sports Director

SURFACE AREA STUDY

Many of you have been waiting for a surface area study to be done on a number of racing snowshoe models. Here are the results. I want to thank the group who volunteered to put the time and effort into this project.

Results are as follows. I'm simply going to give you length, width and surface area. The surface area was determined using an auto-cad method, which uses the frame dimensions inclusive of all bends. Then the technology determines the actual surface area within the outside edge of the frame. Look this information over and make any recommendations you feel are merited concerning a possible minimum size requirement for racing snowshoe's at USSSA events. Thanks.

Snowshoe Area Surface	W x L
Crescent Moon Permagrin 12 140.6	8.7 x 24.75
Northern Lite Elite 163.5	8.1 x 25.0
Redfeather R25 151.1	8.1 x 25.3
Tubbs Catalyst 145.6	8.4 x 25.0
Tubbs 10km 145.6	8.4 x 25.0
Tubbs Criterium 145.6	8.4 x 25.0
Tubbs Piranha 128.4	8.4 x 25.0
Atlas Dual Trac 134.0	8.1 x 21.8
Atlas Dual Trac SL 134.0	8.1 x 21.8

There you have it. This is not an all inclusive list of racing snowshoe's. But, I think it represents enough of the brands to assist us in coming up with some parameters. I'll wait to hear what you think. Thanks again for all your assistance.

Here is the logo for the new for 2003 Bob Dion line of snowshoes! Bob mentioned that he has a 7" x 21" size snowshoe that meets the standard for surface area.



CHAMPIONSHIP LOCALES

I need your help to start planning the 2003 USSSA National Championships Series of events. We need to find 2 qualifier events/sites per region (preferably, at least 200 miles apart). Please look around your regions and send me contact information for anyone who might be interested in hosting these events.

Also, the National Championships are slated to go to the Rocky Mtn. Region. We need to come up with bids of who will host this event. The traverse City Running Fit folks did an awesome job this year. I'm sure we can find someone to do as good a job next year! We have already received one initial bid inquiry from Salt Lake City, Utah.

Please send me your recommendations as soon as possible. The earlier I can confirm our event schedule, the better job we can all do to promote these events.

Regional Qualifiers: mid January to early February.

National Championships: mid-late February to mid March.

Northeast Region:

Qualifier 1; _____
Qualifier 2; _____

Natl Championships; Possible Bid; Salt Lake City, Utah

Qualifier 1; _____
Qualifier 2; _____

As always your help is greatly appreciated. I'll keep you posted regarding our contacts with the European National SS Teams.

Sincerely,
Mark Elmore
snowshoeguy@yahoo.com

WORLD CUP SNOWSHOE EVENT

Mark Elmore is trying to put together a World Cup Snowshoe Event for Saturday January 25th, 2003 in Lake Placid, New York. He plans on inviting the National Teams from Italy, France, Finland, Andora, Switzerland, Czech Republic and Japan. He is currently waiting for word from the European Snowshoe Committee to see if this date works for them.

If any snowshoers in the WMAC series are interested in participating at such an event, let us know and we will see if we can organize one of our events into a "qualifier". This will make it a little easier for interested people to attend the Lake Placid event.

Ed

2002 WMAC TOP THREE

Deb Livingston	239.07
Darlene McCarthy	222.37
Barbara Sorrell	176.33

2002 Ladies Champion Deborah Livingston finishes the Greylock Glen race in fine shape.



Debbie Livingston had the finishes she needed to close the season as the 2002 WMAC Ladies Snowshoe Champion. A pair of second place and a third against competition that is ever changing and getting better and better each season. Debbie is a really great young lady and very successful trailrunner; once she spends a little more time getting used to the

running snowshoes I believe we will see even more improvement in her times. She really packs a lot of energy into a very small package, and for everyone who is on the smaller side, the snowshoes will take a little more time to get comfortable in.

Leigh Schmitt	400.00
Ken Clark	386.28
James Preite	363.61

2002 Men's Champion Leigh Schmitt finishing 1st overall at the 5th Annual South Pond Shuffle.

The 2002 WMAC Snowshoe Series Men's champion was the defending 2001



champion, Leigh Schmitt. Leigh was victorious at all four of the races he entered, including new course records at South Pond and Saratoga SPA. He looked to be super

fit, and added a course record for Prospect too (a first year event).

Congratulations to Debbie and Leigh for spectacular snowshoe seasons in 2002!

2003 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 29, 2003	Woodford, VT
2nd Annual PROSPECT MTN	5km/ 10km
Saturday January 11, 2003	Florida, MA
6th Annual SOUTH POND SHUFFLE	4 Mile
Saturday January 18, 2003	Adams, MA
4th Annual GREYLOCK GLEN	3.5 Mile
Saturday January 25, 2003	Hollis, NH
2nd Annual BEAVER BROOK	5km
Sunday, February 2, 2003	Saratoga Springs, NY
4th Annual SARATOGA WINTERFEST	5km
Saturday, February 15, 2003	Hawley, MA
6th Annual HAWLEY KILN KLASSIC	7/ 4.5 Miles
Saturday, March 1, 2003	West Hawley, MA
3rd sort of Annual MOODY SPRINGS	15km/ 10km

Also, for the optimist: Laura and Jeff Clark believe that the Saratoga Battlefield 5 mile event will reappear in 2003, and they are also excited about the possibilities of having a third Saratoga area event. Whether this will be the Biathlon event or a completely new one we will have to wait to see.

Dave Dunham may be doing something at Northfield Mountain in February, I am not sure if this will be in addition to Beaver Brook or instead of (lets hope Beaver Brook comes back for another season!)

It was also really nice to do a "spur of the moment – no frills" event like we had at Hawley Kiln on March 23rd. It wouldn't be a bad idea to resurrect some of the old courses we used to do years ago as these types of outings. Let me know your thoughts and ideas, whether you all would like to see more or less organized events for 2003.

This about does it for 2002, thanks for the company along the way!

Farmer Ed
edtrnews@yahoo.com

The 2002 WMAC Snowshoe Series was helped along by sponsorship from F.L. Roberts Company. Thank you Seth for your generosity!