

NorthShore Inline Marathon—Continued

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Rotary, Central High School Student Council, Marshall XC Ski Team, Two Harbors Chamber of Commerce and the UMD International Club, for providing some sorely needed, and much appreciated, volunteer help. Hats off to Red Bull. They showed up unsolicited on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and dispensed free drinks to the volunteers. Super One Foods is a fantastic supporter of this event. They donated \$1,000's worth of food plus they encouraged other food suppliers to get involved. Pizza Luce hosted the spaghetti feed this year and it was a tremendous success. This year was the biggest turn out ever for the spaghetti feed. We need to thank Sonju Two Harbors for donating 8 brand new mini-vans for five days. Thank you Two Harbors Ford for donating 8 trucks plus space on their property race day. We want to thank all the volunteers that helped with the Kid's Races this year. A big thanks goes out to the Northern Inline Skaters for providing most of the volunteers for the

Kid's Races.

Each year we have a fun story to tell and this year's story involves an 80-year-old lady. This lady successfully drove her car to the start line (coming from the Duluth direction) and actually had the nose of her car on the start line at 7:10 a.m., just 20 minutes prior to the start. Who knows how she got there? When I confronted her I quickly found out that this lady was bound and determined to keep going straight on her way to Two Harbors. Her husband was right behind her in a pick-up truck. This lady was very upset that she was being delayed and carried on about how she was a taxpayer and she had every right to keep going straight. We got her calmed down and I finally asked her if she would turn around. She said she couldn't, as in she didn't know how to back her car up. So I ask her to slide over, I got in and together we got her car turned around and headed back towards Two Harbors Ford. Her husband fell in behind us. So we get this couple off the course, on the expressway and headed towards Two Harbors. So now I have to literally sprint back to the

start to begin the race. I arrive at the start with no time to spare huffing and puffing.

We had a record pre-registration for the 2005 race, 408-race weekend vs. 250 last year. We attribute this, we think, to the \$5 off pre-registration special and the guaranteed refund through March 31st.

We had a record number of World Cup skaters this year. After the race I was talking with Juan Carlos Betancur, last years winner, and he told me that the NSIM course is the best course, best run, best World Cup event this year. The whole group enjoys coming to the NSIM. For most of his teammates the temperature is colder than they are accustomed to but they are getting used to it and at least now know how to dress for it. Juan requested several extra finishers' shirts because his picture is on it. He wants to give the finisher's shirts to family members.

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The Sunday morning course clean up went well again this year. Eddy Matzger was on hand again to single handedly clean the left side of the course, on skates. He even found a wad of green backs during his clean up. The course was the cleanest it has ever been before the Sunday morning clean up. This can be attributed to the volunteers who did a tremendous job of keeping the course clean during the race and cleaning up before they left.

2004 will be remembered as a year of transition. We had lots of new volunteers, new race coordinators, and approximately 900 first time race participants.

We are looking forward to the 2005 race and are already making plans. The 2005 race will be a milestone event because it will be the 10th anniversary. There are approximately 130 skaters who will receive their 10-year pin and we plan to celebrate, in a special way, this accomplishment.

Eddy Matzger Cleaning the Course Sunday Morning



Munger Trail Porta Potties

Tim Cameron wants to announce that the porta potties along the Munger Trail have been removed for this 2004 season. Tim had two in place, one behind the Willard Munger Inn and the other at Douglas Road, from April 30 through October 12.

These two porta potties cost \$1,131 for the 2004 season. Tim has \$1,056 in the bank for the porta potties for the 2005 season. This means we won't need to do any special fund raising projects for

next season. Of course, Tim will gladly accept additional donations.

Tim polled users last summer and most people suggested that we go with two porta potties for the summer and bank the leftover funds for 2005. That's exactly what Tim did and it seemed to work to the satisfaction of everyone.

The next time you see Tim (pictured at right) be sure to thank him for taking on this responsibility.



Duluth Cross Country Ski Club



opportunities to ski, train, and socialize together. The club is a point of contact for resources and information about XC skiing. We provide opportunities for skill improvement for all XC skiers. We encourage young people to XC ski with programs like KidSki. We preserve, maintain, and enhance local XC ski trails.

We will foster local XC ski races and athletic advancement for all ages and abilities and we will educate the general public about XC skiing in Duluth. You can learn more about this fine club by visiting their web site at www.duluthxc.com.



Beautiful Lester Park XC Ski Trail

There is a new club in town devoted to cross country skiing. The Duluth Cross Country Ski Club (DXC) is dedicated to the growth and enjoyment of *Cross Country Skiing!* We support and conduct activities in Duluth, Minnesota that Provide local XC skiers regular



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