

## NSIM—Continued

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designed. There will probably be less than 200 participants to receive a 10 year pin in 2005.

There are about 300 signed up for the half marathon right now. It is interesting to note that after the St. Paul Inline Marathon many NSIM half marathoners switched and signed up for the full marathon. Yes, you can switch from the half to the full or vice versa. It will cost you \$10 to make the switch.

Participants can move up a category especially if they have finish time proof from a previous and recent marathon. It is very difficult to get approval to move down a category.

Each year usually 40% of the participants are skating their first NSIM. This year it is running about 30%. Right now it looks like overall attendance will be down about 10%. Also, usually 1500 sign up from the Duluth/Superior area. Right now about 950

are registered. Keep in mind however that this group is notorious for waiting until the last minute to sign-up.

The Half Marathon starting line will be adjacent to 5290 Pine Tree Road, north of Lakeview Castle about ½ mile. Skaters will be bussed to Ryan Road and will have about a ¼ mile skate/walk to the start area.

Bill Bastien, a local singing talent, will sing the Canadian and American national anthems at the start for both the ½ and full marathon.

The Air National Guard Unit, 148th Wing, is scheduled to be flying the morning of the race. With a little luck they will do a fly over.

This year we have a record number of World Cup skaters registered. Chad Hedrick will be back to defend his world record.

The gear bag pick-up area is moved this year due to construction in the DECC

parking lot. The gear bag pick-up area will be in front of the parking ramp, between the ramp and the DECC.

This will be the last year for mats at the start and finish. ChampionChip is coming out with a mat-less system for the 2005 race.

The Expo is filled to capacity and will be bigger and better than ever. 2005 products will be on display and lots of stuff will be for sale.

The NSIM had a booth at the SPIM. There were lots of visitors and over 500 NSIM registration forms were handed out.

Laurie Dowling (FASST) and Heather Lacayo will emcee the awards ceremony.

The Kid's Races Friday night should be bigger than all previous years. We need adult volunteers to help staff this event. Contact Jay Seiler at

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## NSIM—Continued

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[info@securityjewelers.com](mailto:info@securityjewelers.com) if  
 interested in helping out

Please be reminded that the Friday Night Fun Skate is a tour, it is not a race! Go slow! The guides need to keep the skaters grouped and moving at an easy and controlled pace. We need adult volunteers to help staff this event. Contact Terry King at [tking@chartermi.net](mailto:tking@chartermi.net) if interested.

If you want to get a preview of the race packet information it will be posted on the NSIM web site under "news and announcements". Go to [www.northshoreinline.com](http://www.northshoreinline.com) and check it out!



Rich Ward & David Koch at SPIM

# NSIM Weekend Calendar

Our advise for the NorthShore Inline Marathon weekend is to come early and stay late. We have a long weekend of fun activities planned for you!

## **Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**

Meet at Old Chicago for a club social. Out of town members that may already be in town are encouraged to attend, as well as "locals". Spread the word. This is open to anyone, members and non-members alike. Leave your skates behind; this is NOT a skating function.

## **Friday, noon to 10:00 p.m.**

Expo – we will have a booth at the expo. Stop by, say hi, and perhaps pay your 2005 membership dues. Don't forget, if you pay your 2005 dues on Friday you are eligible for a \$100 Play It Again Sports gift certificate prize drawing on Friday evening.

## **Friday, 4:00 p.m.**

Registration starts for Kids races. Club volunteers needed. Report to Jay Seiler. Racing starts at 5:00 p.m.

## **Friday, 7:00 p.m.**

Friday Night Fun Skate. Club members are asked to help with this event by wearing your club apparel and working as "guides" during the skate. Marty Hope is the main club contact for this event. The skate route is:

Assemble outside Pioneer Hall. Skate between the DECC and the harbor and then between the DECC and the Aquarium. Cross the freeway on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. West and take a right on Superior Street. Continue down Superior Street

to London Road and then take London Road out to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. Turn around at 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East and skate back the way you came on London Road and then Superior Street. Take a left at Lake Avenue and cross the freeway. Skate down Canal Park Drive and take a right in front of Little Angie's. Cross the Slip Bridge and return to the DECC staging area. This skate will have a police escort. Stay behind the escort. This is a fun skate, a tour, not a race.

## **Friday, 9:00 p.m.**

\$100 door prize drawings for any members paid for 2004 and/or 2005. From the 2004 pool we will draw for a Ski Hut \$100 gift certificate. From the 2005 pool we will draw for a Play It Again Sports \$100 gift certificate.

## **Saturday, 11:00 a.m.**

Meet outside Pioneer Hall for a club group photo. Please be prompt. This will be the 2005 photo on our web site home page.

## **Saturday, 5:00 p.m.**

Awards ceremony at the DECC. We will try to sit together in a large group. We will probably be left of center (as you are looking at the stage) near the front. Come early (4:30 or sooner) and help save seats.

## **Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

Grandma's Sports Garden opens special for the Bont Sunday Morning Fun Skate. Coffee will be available. At 10:00 a.m. we assemble behind Grandma's Sports Garden for a large group photo and then take off on our skate. Club members are

encouraged to attend and act as guides during the skate. Wear your club apparel. The skate route is:

Skate towards the canal, go under the lift bridge and skate out to the lighthouse at the end of the pier. Turn around and head back under the lift bridge, cross the slip bridge and then skate behind the DECC and out to Railroad Street. Take a left on Railroad Street and then a quick right onto the paved trail that takes you under the freeway. Skate up the paved trail to the back of the library, continue to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West then skate up 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to Superior Street. Take Superior Street to London Road and then enter Life Erickson Park using the footbridge. Take a left on the Lake Walk and skate east to the first yellow gate. Turn around at the yellow gate and skate the entire length of the Lake Walk back to the pier, then under the lift bridge and then back to the parking lot behind Grandma's Sports Garden. This skate will NOT have a police escort. Be aware of auto traffic and the streetlights on Superior Street. On the Lake Walk be courteous towards walkers, runners, bicyclists, etc. This is not a race.

After the skate, meet inside Grandma's Sports Garden for the NIS Cup awards and Bont door prizes.



Laurie & Greg Ash



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