

# United States Snowshoe Association, Inc.

**Sports Director:** Mark Elmore; 135 Brand Hollow Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
Phone: 518-643-8806, Email: [snowshoeguy@yahoo.com](mailto:snowshoeguy@yahoo.com), Web: [www.snowshoeracing.com](http://www.snowshoeracing.com)

## Press Release

**TO:** Assorted Regional/Local Media

**FROM:** Mark Elmore, USSSA Sports Director

**DATE:** Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006

**RE:** U.S. Athletes garner medals at First World Snowshoe Championships in Austria!

Ramsau Austria: Two New York State athletes recently traveled to Ramsau am Dachstein outside of Salzburg Austria to compete in the first ever Atlas Snowshoes Dachstein Xtreme World Snowshoe Racing Championships. The 7.8km snowshoe race, which took place at altitudes approaching 10,000 feet on the Dachstein Glacier, was shortened to 6.8km in length due to extremely heavy recent snowfall and subsequent avalanche risks. Aaron Robertson of Rouses Point NY and the current US Men's National Snowshoe Champion along with Rebecca Harman of Wilseyville NY, both U.S. Snowshoe Association and Empire State Snowshoe Racing Association members, competed in the event which also attracted athletes from Italy, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Finland.

Harman, a many time New York Empire State Winter Games Snowshoe Champion, ran to a second place finish garnering the United States' first World Snowshoe Championships Silver Medal. Robertson, also a frequent Empire State Winter Games Snowshoe Champion, after recovering from a stress fracture earlier in the season, ran strongly to take 6<sup>th</sup> place in the Men's event. The dominant Italian men's team swept the medals. Results of the top three and U.S. athletes were as follows;

### Women

<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>Gold Medal</b>	Maria Graziani-Roberti	Italy	32:26
<b>Silver Medal</b>	Rebecca Harman	USA	39:19
<b>Bronze Medal</b>	Rauni Parantain	Finland	41:01

### Men

<b>Gold Medal</b>	Emanuele Manzi	Italy	26:41
<b>Silver Medal</b>	Claudio Cassi	Italy	26:52
<b>Bronze Medal</b>	Filippo Barizza	Italy	28:47
<b>Sixth Place</b>	Aaron Robertson	USA	33:18

In the wake of their World Championship success, Harman will be competing in a 50km Trail Race in Maryland this weekend, while Robertson ventures to Bolton Valley Vermont to defend his National Men's title at the 2006 U.S. National Snowshoe Championships. For more information, go to [www.snowshoeracing.com](http://www.snowshoeracing.com).