

The United States Snowshoe Association, Inc.

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ATTENTION - All USSSA members who have qualified to participate in the 2006 U.S. National Snowshoe Championships.....

It has been an 'odd' winter. Some places that normally receive plenty of snow, have received very little or none! While other places that have been struggling to get snow the past few seasons, got plenty! Some of our USSSA regional qualifying events had to be cancelled. While others were changed to footraces. All due to the lack of sustained cold weather and snow.

WORRY NOT!!!!!!

If you have qualified to participate in the 2006 U.S. National Snowshoe Championships at the Bolton Valley Resort in Bolton Valley Vermont next month, **DO NOT** for one second consider not coming because of a worry about lack of snow! There will be plenty of snow! The Bolton Valley Resort is situated in just a way that they get snow earlier, keep it longer and get more of it than most anywhere in the Northeast/New England! It is going to be a great Championship weekend!

The Bolton Valley Resort is situated a short and easy 30 minute drive from Burlington Vermont. Vermont's 'Queen City' features the nearest major airport. Thrifty Rental Cars has provided discounted rates for rental cars to our members coming in for the Nationals. Call them to make your arrangements. The Resort is offering reasonably priced rooms right there so you can rise in the morning and hit the trails, or the ski slopes (if you're so inclined), with no delay or worries! Call the Resort to reserve your room today! After an invigorating day in the beautiful Vermont outdoors, enjoy a refreshing swim in their Sports Centers' indoor pool. Or, perhaps you'd prefer to soak in the hot tub or relax in the sauna. It's all right there.

Friday March 24th will kick off the Championship Weekend with Athlete Registration/Check-In and Course Preview from 2-5pm that afternoon. The Junior National 5km, Senior National 10km and Citizen's 5km racecourses will be marked and open for inspection. As of 2/22/06, there are 33 pre-registered athletes who have made sure they won't miss out on all the snowshoe fun!

Saturday March 25th will feature the Junior National 5km, Senior National 10km, Atlas Snowshoes Citizen's 5km and Kahtoola Kid's Kilo events. The Citizen's and Kid's Kilo event are open to athletes of all ages and abilities. Only the Junior 5km and Senior 10km National Championship events require that athletes have 'qualified' through a regional event. All other Championship Weekend events are 'open' to the public! There will be a professional photographer on hand taking photos all day. Also, Insight Media will be on site video recording the action to air later on a cable sports show entitled Rad X Sports. Saturday evening will feature the first USSSA Athletes' Banquet. This buffet style meal is free to all registered athletes. Guests may purchase meal tickets also. But, we are hoping to have an accurate 'head count' prior to that weekend so the Resort can be sure to have enough food on hand. We are asking all participants to register early so we can get that head count. If you anticipate driving in just for the day and registering on site, please drop the Sports Director an email to let him know you will be attending and how many in your party expect to eat (email snowshoeguy@yahoo.com).

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This would assist us greatly. Later Saturday evening, the USSSA will host it's annual Members Meeting. It will certainly have been a busy day! But, we're not quite done yet!

Sunday March 26th will provide another exciting day of snowshoe fun. The Eastern Mountain Sports 4 x 2.5km Snowshoe Team Relay will start things off. This exciting event features 4 person teams with each athlete running 2.5km. Teams will be broken down into three age groups based on the average age of the four team members, i.e. Junior Boys and Girls (average age of 19 and under), Open Men and Women (average age of 20-39 yrs.) and Master Men and Women (average age of 40+ yrs.). This is an 'open' event, so bring your running buddies! Maybe running on snowshoes isn't for you. That's fine! Exel Sports USA will be there to conduct a Nordic Snowshoe Walking Clinic. This activity is sweeping the World as the latest winter fitness activity, walking on snowshoes using trekking poles. After a 45 minute to one hour **free** clinic, participate in our first-ever Exel Sports 5km Nordic Snowshoe Trek over the beautiful trails of the Bolton Valley Nordic Center. What a great way to polish off an incredible weekend!

So, don't wait! Pre-register today! You may not have snow where you live, but Bolton Valley will have plenty when it counts! That's March 24th-26th, 2006 at the US Snowshoe Association's Sixth Annual United States National Snowshoe Championships! Check out all the event information, access entry forms, see who else has qualified from twenty different U.S. States, so far, all at www.snowshoeracing.com. Or call 518-643-8806 with your questions or email them to snowshoeguy@yahoo.com. You don't want to miss this one! The 2007 Nationals will once again resume their regional rotation across the Country by moving onto the North Central region.

See you in Vermont!!!