

Page Two:

meal as well. For participating athletes, this meal comes as part of your entry fee, which will remain the same as last years' Nationals in Alaska!

The 2006 Nationals will also feature a number of our sponsors presenting at an Expo. Thus far, Kahtoola Traction Devices, New England Overshoes Co., perhaps Columbia Sportswear, Aruba Sport Eyewear and Atlas Snowshoe representatives will be present. Our race raffle will thus far feature prizes from Columbia Sportswear, Aruba Sport Eyewear, a pair of TSL Snowshoes, and NEOS. Many other prizes are expected to be collected. So, we hope to see you at the beautiful Bolton Valley Resort in Vermont in late March for all the exciting action, on the snow and off!

Lastly, as per a recent USSSA BORAD decision, any member of the 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 U.S. National Snowshoe Team may now gain automatic eligibility to participate in the 2006 US National Snowshoe Championships. Former and 2005 Team members must be current USSSA members, but need not qualify by participating in a regional event. Obviously, these athletes have confirmed their status in the Sport and their inclusion in the National Championships will only serve to make the fields more competitive and the events more exciting! One can re-visit the USSSA website to ascertain who were members of the 2002-2005 US National Snowshoe Teams.

The latest word from the Bolton Valley Resort (1/30/06 afternoon) was that they received over thirty inches of fresh powder last week, while the rest of the northeast was getting rain and unseasonably warm temperatures. Check out the Resort at www.boltonvalley.com. If you are looking to make room reservations, you must phone your reservation in. Do not attempt to lock in a reservation on-line. Go to the "Championships Update" page on the USSSA website for instructions.

The United States Snowshoe Association, Inc.

Sports Director: Mark Elmore; 135 Brand Hollow Road, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
Phone: 518-643-8806, Email: snowshoeguy@yahoo.com, Web: www.snowshoeracing.com

Press Release

1/31/06:

Well! Here we are at the end of a busy month of January. We have reached the mid-point of the 2006 U.S. National Snowshoe Championship Series. Nine of the twenty regional events have been completed. An additional two events were cancelled due to lack of snow. There are still ten events to go, one of which is a replacement event for one that was cancelled earlier. USSSA Membership is on record pace. As of the latest Membership Report (1/30/06 am), there are 181 members registered with the USSSA this season. There are already 172 athletes eligible to compete at the 2006 National Snowshoe Championships in Bolton Valley Vermont. So, the USSSA is on pace for a record-breaking season! Here is a brief breakdown of the regional events that have been conducted thus far....

<u>Site</u>	<u>Total # of Participants</u>	<u># of Qualifiers</u>
1. Bolton Valley Resort, VT (+)	60	44
2. Silverthorne, CO	146	13
3. Park City, UT	44	4
4. Bend, OR	9	3
5. Mendon, NY (*)	71	45
6. Schroon Lake, NY (+)	46	34
7. Flagstaff, AZ (*) (+)	40	2
8. Traverse City, MI	199	9
9. Grand Marais, MN (+)	26	4
Sub-Totals:	641 total participants	172 Qualifiers (@)

Key:

(+) denotes a new first-year event

(*) denotes a trail race was held due to a lack of snow

(@) includes all 2005 National Team members who are automatically eligible for the Nationals.

The ten events yet to take place are in Alaska, Massachusetts, Iowa, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Montana, California, Minnesota, Colorado and Alaska.

At this point in time, we also have ten international athletes who have qualified to participate in the 2006 US Nationals in VT. Nine of those ten athletes are from Southeastern Canada, just across the border from northern New York and Vermont. The tenth athlete is from Mexico! New in 2006, International athletes will continue to compete alongside the US athletes but will not displace American athletes. They will be competing in their own International division where the top 5 International Men and Women will be recognized with awards. There is the outside chance that a small team of athletes may attend from Finland. Snowshoe racing traditions date back as far as 150 years in the northern New England and southeastern Canada region. So, it comes as no surprise that our friends from 'north of the border' are so interested in this Sport.

We are pleased to announce that the USSSA will conduct its first-ever Athletes' Banquet at the Nationals on Saturday evening. This buffet style meal will feature pasta dishes and a vegetarian option for those athletes so inclined. Non-athletes will be able to purchase a meal ticket so they can enjoy the