

The United States Snowshoe Association, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

TO: All Media

FROM: Mark Elmore, U.S. Snowshoe Assoc. Sports Director

DATE: Monday March 27th, 2006

RE: 2006 U.S. National Snowshoe Championships

Well, the 2006 United States National Snowshoe Championships are in the book! Building upon successful past Championships, these were the biggest and, arguably, the best yet! One hundred and seventy six of the most competitive snowshoe athletes in the country traveled to the Bolton Valley Resort in Bolton Valley Vermont to compete for National Championship Titles, 2006 National Team berths and age group honors. Athletes representing twenty different U.S. States were joined by international athletes from Canada, France and Mexico to challenge the demanding Junior 5km and Senior 10km courses over the trails of the Bolton Valley Resort Nordic Center.

In addition to the National Championship 5km and 10km events, a Citizen's 5km (27 participants), Kid's Kilo (12 participants) and Championship Banquet (over 170 participants) were also conducted on Saturday, while the 4 x 2.05km Snowshoe Team Relay (13 teams with 52 participants) capped off the weekend's activities on Sunday. In all, more than 230 athletes took part in the weekend's events! Another event record!!!

Many sponsors attended the events. The weekend featured displays and demos by U.S. National Championship Program Presenting Sponsors; Atlas Snowshoes, Kahtoola Traction Devices and Eastern Mountain Sports. Also in attendance were National Snowshoe Team footwear outfitter New England Overshoes from nearby Burlington Vermont. Onion River Sports of Montpelier VT, Dion Snowshoes of Readsboro VT and on Sunday, Exel Sports U.S. of Georgia VT, who attended to provide a free Nordic Snowshoe Walking Clinic, were also present. The USSSA wishes to thank all sponsors who supported the newly expanded U.S. National Championship Program this past season. Supporting the event, some providing items for the prize raffle, but not physically present, were Crescentmoon Snowshoes, Columbia Sportswear, Vermont Sports Council, Vermont Sports Magazine, Pepsi-Cola of Burlington, Thrifty Car Rentals, Powersox and the Vermont State Tourism Agency. The Bolton Valley Resort played the role of perfect hosts, right down to providing enough snow to get the job done! While so many other parts of the country, especially in the Northeast, saw a lack of snow this season. Bolton Valley came through in the clutch! With three feet of snow falling in the ten days preceding the Championships, the trails were in the best shape possible, given the crazy winter weather this season.

The 2007 National Championships move onto the North Central region next season at a site yet to be announced. Whoever hosts next season will have another tough task to follow this year's Championship event! But, we said the same thing after the 2005 Championship in Anchorage Alaska! Many thanks to the Bolton Valley Resort, all our generous USSSA sponsors and our loyal USSSA members! You made the 2005-2006 season our best ever!

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Event Results

(Complete results can be found at www.snowshoeracing.com)

2006 Junior Girl's 5km National Team

(Top 3)

1 st	Anna Leib	Colorado	24:15
2 nd	Johanna Ludington	Vermont	25:33
3 rd	Erika Gates	New York	27:39

2006 Junior Boy's 5km National Team

(Top 3)

1 st	Christian Thompson	New York	20:16
2 nd	Jason Ayr	Massachusetts	20:24
3 rd	Mike Geary	New York	20:27

2006 Senior Women's 10km National Team

(Top 5)

1 st	Kasie Enman	Vermont	53:07
2 nd	Kelli Lusk	Massachusetts	54:43
3 rd	Laura Wheatley	Colorado	55:34
4 th	Sarah Raitter	Colorado	56:08
5 th	Cindy Brochman	Minnesota	57:10

2006 Senior Men's 10km National Team

(Top 5)

1 st	Greg Hexum	Minnesota	42:42
2 nd	Paul Low	Massachusetts	43:11
3 rd	Bill Raitter	Colorado	43:52
4 th	Rich Bolt	New Hampshire	44:13
5 th	Mark Churchill	Vermont	45:09

International Men's Division

1 st	Antonio Holguin	MEXICO	46:21
2 nd	Christian Vachon	CANADA	46:28
3 rd	Jimmy Gobeil	CANADA	47:05
4 th	Martin Ladouceur	CANADA	48:45
5 th	Jean-Nicolas Duval	CANADA	50:17

International Women's Division

1 st	Sarah Montgomery	CANADA	1:01.28
2 nd	Maya Siriwardana	FRANCE	1:15.02
3 rd	Jessica Coll	CANADA	1:16.33

Atlas Snowshoes Citizen's 5km Snowshoe Race

<u>Women</u>			
(Top 3)			
1 st	Bridget Polow	Vermont	30:25
2 nd	Ann Bushey	Vermont	30:53
3 rd	Colleen Murray	New York	31:42

<u>Men</u>			
(Top 3)			
1 st	Connor Bibb	Vermont	22:02
2 nd	Dave Dunham	Massachusetts	23:29
3 rd	Kevin Brochman	Minnesota	25:11

Eastern Mountain Sports 4 x 2.05 km Snowshoe Team Relay

<u>Team Place Overall</u>	<u>Team #</u>	<u>Team Members</u>	<u>Splits</u>	<u>Team Time</u>
1 st place Open Men	10	1. Kevin Tilton 2. Paul Low 3. Ben Nephew 4. Rich Bolt	9:40 9:30 10:16 9:21	38:47
2 nd place Open Men	5	1. Christian Vachon 2. Jean-Nicolas Duval 3. Martin Ladouceur 4. Jimmy Gobeil	9:40 10:19 10:05 9:45	39:49
3 rd place Masters Men	4	1. Carl Johnston 2. Jason Urckfitz 3. Alan Mead 4. Alan Evans	10:28 10:23 11:08 10:24	42:23
4th place Masters Men	11	1. Dan Verrington 2. Ken Clark 3. Rob Smith 4. Dave Dunham	10:41 11:22 10:47 11:02	43:52
5 th place Junior Boys	7	1. Jonathan Pinto 2. Ethan Bernstein 3. Ruben Land 4. Mike Geary	10:49 12:44 10:29 10:17	44:19

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6th place Open Mixed	13	1. Peter Maksimow 2. Robert Yerex 3. Mike Decker 4. Kelli Lusk	10:27 12:14 10:05 12:10	44:56
7th place Mixed Masters	2	1. Jim Graupner 2. Jim McDonell 3. Cindy Brochman 4. Curt Krieger	11:42 12:30 12:34 11:36	48:20
8 th place Masters Men	9	1. Mark Rickman 2. Rich Lachowski 3. Brent Weigner 4. Jamie Boese	12:13 12:48 12:20 11:29	48:50
9 th place Masters Men	8	1. Peter Malinowski 2. Steven Rivers 3. Brian Geary 4. Ralph Merzbach	12:58 12:40 13:27 13:02	52:07
10 th place Junior Girls	1	1. Lynann Lorenz 2. Sarah White 3. Erika Gates 4. Alexis Stanley	12:50 14:09 13:38 13:29	54:06
11 th place Mixed Masters	3	1. Bill Morse 2. Carol Kane 3. Brian Dodge 4. Bob Dion	14:03 16:06 12:34 12:07	54:50
12 th place Mixed Juniors	6	1. Judy Merzbach 2. Carolyn Campbell 3. Debbie Merzbach 4. Zachary Rivers	16:19 14:21 15:09 10:21	56:10
13 th place Mixed Open	12	1. Ann Vannucci 2. Chris Ford 3. Scott Lamothe 4. Todd Lamothe	17:47 15:31 14:52 15:03	1:03.13

Kahtoola Kid's Kilo

1 st place	Josiah Heil	Wisconsin
2 nd place	Carter Lacrosse	New Hampshire
3 rd place	Bridger Lambert	Texas
4 th place	Abigail Heil	Wisconsin
5 th place	Dillon Beckum	Maine
6 th place	Thea Lacrosse	New Hampshire
7 th place	Rebekah Heil	Wisconsin
8 th place	Brian Bushey	Vermont
9 th place	Mikeeli Hanson	New York
10 th place	Sadie Sumner	Vermont
11 th place	Elizabeth Mitchell	Vermont
12 th place	Eliza Thomas	Vermont

Senior National Championship Regional Scoring:

Senior Women's Regional Results

(Cross-Country Scoring – 7 members per team place, first five score)

1st place	26 Points	Northeastern Region	1. Kasie Enman	VT	1 st
			2. Kelli Lusk	MA	2 nd
			3. Kelie Gregoire	NY	6 th
			4. Sheila Osgood	MA	8 th
			5. Jessica Tylutki	NY	9 th
2nd place	40 Points	Rocky Mountain Region	1. Laura Wheatley	CO	3 rd
			2. Sarah Raitter	CO	4 th
			3. Laurie Lambert	TX	7 th
			4. Andrea Kinzey-Wheeler	CO	12 th
			5. Tina Oberheide	CO	14 th

**** North Central, Western and Alaskan regions were incomplete ****

Senior Men's Regional Results

(Cross-Country Scoring – 7 members per team place, first five score)

1st place	30 Points	Northeastern Region	1. Paul Low	MA	2 nd
			2. Rich Bolt	NH	4 th
			3. Mark Churchill	VT	5 th
			4. Kevin Tilton	NH	9 th
			5. Greg Hammett	NH	10 th
2nd place	50 Points	North Central Region	1. Greg Hexum	MN	1 st
			2. Scott Gall	IA	6 th
			3. Mike Decker	MI	8 th
			4. David Schuneman	MN	16 th
			5. Kasey Schmitt	IA	19 th

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Senior Men's regional scoring continued....

3rd place	68 Points	Rocky Mountain Region	1. Bill Raitter	CO	3 rd
			2. Bernie Boettcher	CO	7 th
			3. Dewey Peacock	MT	15 th
			4. Jamie Boese	CO	20 th
			5. Robert Creer	UT	23 rd

**** Western and Alaskan regions were Incomplete ****

Participation in the National Champs. Events by State/Country

1. New York	67 participants
2. Massachusetts	32 “
3. Vermont	15
4. Colorado	10
CANADA	10
5. Minnesota	7
6. Wisconsin	5
7. Connecticut	5
8. New Hampshire	4
9. Iowa	3
10. California	3
11. Pennsylvania	3
12. Michigan	2
MEXICO	1
13. Maine	1
14. Montana	1
15. Alaska	1
16. Utah	1
17. Wyoming	1
18. Texas	1
19. Oregon	1
20. Florida	1
FRANCE	1