

January 10, 2013

New Snoqualmie Rando Race Series Starts Friday, Jan. 11

Thinking about doing Vertfest this year? It's coming up sooner than you think - January 19th is the inaugural Vertfest at Bend, OR and February 16th is the date for the Monika Johnson Memorial at Alpentel, WA. If you want to be a contender, now's the time to start practicing. Rando racing is a little like cycling; the top guys always tell you they're "out of shape" and "just trying to hang with the bunch" but in reality they're training their butts off for these events for weeks or months beforehand.

Now you've got a mini-series of five night rando races held at Summit Central Ski Area on more or less consecutive Friday nights at 7:00 PM to test your fitness and uphill/downhill skiing skills. The series, not surprisingly, is the brainchild of Brandon Kern, Seth Davis, and Lowell Skoog, who also happen to be perennial Vertfest top finishers (Seth won last year). This event is being held with the cooperation of the Summit-at-Snoqualmie, but they ask that participants be inconspicuous and that no uphill travel or lengthy traversing take place in lighted areas used by the general public - in other words, stick to the shadows while skinning and try to be as stealthy as you can. Jibbing on your race skis is permitted only if wearing Spandex.

For more information on the series, check out Brandon's website, <http://snoqualmiepassskimo.blogspot.com/>



Lowell's course starts at the base of the Central Express lift and winds around the perimeter of the ski area - ascents are marked in red, descents in blue

February 17, 2013

Vertfest 2013: Locals Report

Roughly 160 people braved the drizzle at Alpental yesterday for the Monika Johnson Memorial Rally. Rain-softened bumps and a slightly altered course made for some spicy and fun racing. Here's Kevin's firsthand report of what went down:

"Nice race course. Rain softened up the top surface and made for good skiing. Two ringers from SLC place 1 and 2. Brandon ended up 3rd. Seth had a cold and ended fifth. Holly took 3rd in race women. I ended up 15th. Frank skipped out, not liking the rain and thinking the bumps were still firm. Good turn out, 160 racers?"

More to follow later, and I'll try to find out who the "ringers from SLC" were . . .

More: The winner was Jason Dorais (misspelled in the results), second place went to Eric Carter (Brandon says he's actually from Canada). Congrats to all who showed up, especially those who went two laps! For complete results, click [here](#).

Brandon emailed me this synopsis:

"Missed you out there yesterday. Yes despite the rain, the skiing and skinning was good. No Traslins, guess they were sick, Heather didn't participate as she was sick as well. Luckily (?) I just caught her bug the day before so I felt crappy but not bad enough to miss out on some suffering. With Seth and Holly sick it seemed to be the common theme of the day for a lot of people. Despite the Traslin brothers no show, Jason Dorais (they misspelled his name) simply destroyed the competition putting down pretty impressive times at what was probably a comfortable pace for him. Jason is the current Grand Teton ski speed record holder among many other accomplishments, pretty talented dude, and pretty humbling watching him just amble off into the distance. The second place dude was a twenty something fast guy from Canada. Another fast guy was the BD rep Alan, who Seth knew from bike racing, he was with Seth and I the whole race, and looks to be even faster once he gets more efficient. Alan actually was ahead of me towards the end of the second lap but got off course a bit thinking the Snake Dance gate was a turnaround. This was an opportunity I capitalized on, although I think that I could have caught him on the downhill anyways. All in all it was a great day, hope that some day we could have more of these events locally."



Brandon (green helmet, red top and grey pants) charges off the line enroute to 3rd, with Kevin just behind him and 3rd place Women's Race finisher Holly in light blue/black a few places to the right. What's up with the dude in grey with the Whippet? Francine Curd photo