

**THE EQUINOX OOSIK 2009:**  
**LIVE THEATER, A SMALL TOWN, A GREAT RACE**  
**AND A ROISTEROUS PARTY**

Alaska skiers! It's been a brisk and burly winter this year with cold temps and ample snowpack... signs which portend a splendid spring Oosik Classic Ski Race/Tour. Talkeetna – being about 2,500' lower in elevation than the Sheep Mountain area (home to the original Oosik) – has always been reluctant to hold the race as late in the season as those earlier venues. We are only at a tad over 300' above sea level, consequently, our snowpack doesn't stick around as long as it does in areas a full half-mile higher. That's not to say we haven't had some great spring crust on April Fool's Day. It's just that – with this “climate-change” thing going on – skiers really don't know what they can expect anymore in the roulette game of predicting trail conditions.

We're keeping our hopes up, however, that this wintry trend continues as (due to popular demand) we've scheduled this year's Oosik for later-than-usual. The starting gun will go off at High Noon on the first day of Spring on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Since we've been reticent about holding the race anytime but early March the past few years, we've conflicted with other venues (like JO's) and a number of skiers have expressed their disappointment at missing the fun. So we're gambling that conditions will hold and we're going for an actual springtime event.

An **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION** for folks who want to come up for the entirety of the festivities is to **REGISTER EARLY!** Despite the conflicts with other races last year, we still had some 350 skiers. This year we expect more.

**THE SHELDON COMMUNITY ARTS HANGAR, HOWEVER, CAN ONLY  
ACCOMMODATE 250 FOR THE APRES' SKI BANQUET/DANCE.**

So this year, we're putting another event in to the hopper... The Denali Arts Council has graciously agreed to co-sponsor this year's Oosik Classic by providing us with a discount on the use of the Sheldon Hangar for the Banquet/Dance. Consequently, we are offering a **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE** the night before the Oosik!

It being nigh upon Saint Patrick's Day, we are offering tickets to the Irish comedy: “Flanagan's Wake” in the Sheldon Hangar on Friday Night, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM

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Since we anticipate more skiers this year than the Sheldon Hangar can accommodate, **SKIERS WHO PURCHASE TICKETS FOR “FLANAGAN'S WAKE” WILL GET PRIORITY ADMISSION TO SATURDAY'S APRES' SKI BANQUET/DANCE.**  
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Early registration for the Oosik Classic is \$35. Tickets to “Flanagan's Wake” are \$15 and will be available on-line on the Oosik website. Skiers who also purchase tickets to “Flanagan's” when they register will have their bib numbers so designated and will be guaranteed admission to the banquet/dance should we (likely) register more skiers than the Sheldon Hangar can accommodate. Late (same-day) registration for the race will be \$50 (show tickets not included).

We are undecided about whether-or-not we'll provide a facility for a wax clinic this year. But check the web-site on-line prior to the event and we'll be posting the wax recommendations of Swix wax rep, Mark Strabel, and Toko wax rep, Pat McGownd.

The Trail Crew is considering a new, "frontier" location for the course this year. But everything is weather dependent... the Old Oosik Trail – after all - IS an ethereal phenomenon. It's episodic. It wisps through the boreal forest for a transient ski experience... then it's gone.

So make a weekend of it. Register early. Come on up to Talkeetna on Friday night, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy some great, hilarious live drama at the Sheldon Community Arts Hangar, ski the Oosik Classic on Saturday and celebrate who we are as skiers at the season-ending Apres' Ski Banquet/Dance. Until then, keep skiing! It's a great winter!