

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

RE: 10TH ANNUAL OOSIK CLASSIC SKI RACE

FROM: DENALI NORDIC SKI CLUB

The 10th annual Oosik Classic Ski Race will be held on Saturday, March 20th at high noon. Both 25K and 50K races will be staged near downtown Talkeetna, Alaska.

When race coordinator Arthur Mannix recently announced that he was stepping down and there would be no race this year, residents and ski enthusiasts in Talkeetna were taken off guard and soon rallied to come up with a plan to continue the race.

Talkeetna resident and past UAF Ski Coach Paul Beberg (*bee-berg*) and Alaskan artist Bill Barstow stepped up to the plate to coordinate the event, which regularly brings in close to 300 skiers from around the state and folks from as far away as Hawaii, Washington State, Canada and Norway. Beberg and Barstow got a jump on course grooming and a team has been brushing the trail and grooming the course since late January.

The race is not advertised on any billboards or in newspapers and since its inception has only been announced by word of mouth. It is run in the same spirit as European village ski races. The village of Talkeetna and the Denali Nordic Ski Club welcome skiers to celebrate this rite of spring.

The event features prizes for top placements as well as the popular après-ski party. The race, hosted by the Denali Nordic Ski Club of Talkeetna, always has a different course that keeps people guessing as to exact length and location. This year's race is no different. As always, there will be an approximate 25 K and an approximate 50K. Pre race registration is recommended, but not required.

Race Day: Saturday, March 20

Time: Noon

Place: somewhere near downtown Talkeetna. Alaska

Host: Denali Nordic Ski Club

What's an Oosik?- come ski and find out how the race got named

Registration information can be found at www.anchoragenordicski.org (last year's information is still posted if people want to look at what the race entails; 2010 information should be posted soon)

For more information call Paul Beberg 907-378-1346 or Bill Barstow at 907-733-1411