

Toboggan Times

A newsletter for those who ride down icy chutes on bent pieces of wood.

· ISSUE #5 · WRITE US AT RURAL ROUTE 1, BOX 5408, LINCOLNVILLE, MAINE 04849-9759 · MARCH, 1997 ·

7th Championship Slow Start, Fast Finish

Slab City Sliders Win Again

Chuting Stars, Thrill Seekin' Patriots Prevail

It was a start that made veteran tobogganists cringe. After the American flag gracefully fluttered down the chute with the sounds of the national anthem echoing through the hills, the first team bogged



down in the icy slush and stopped dead in front of the crowd, never making it to the finish. The ice was soft, temperatures a balmy 35°F and contestants started worrying that this might be the year you had to get out and push. It soon became obvious that only the unpolished toboggans weren't making it to the finish line. The average time of 15.05 seconds for the first two person morning run was truly sleep inducing. Many teams expressed relief that they didn't have to pull themselves along the chute as some actually did, just to say they finished. The 2-person Wesleyan Wipeouts of Middletown, CT and The Duncan Kennedys of

Newburyport, MA apparently didn't like the sound of "Did Not Finish" so they pulled themselves to the line finishing with epic times of 40.43 and 30.08 seconds. Out of shape tobogganists waiting their turn cringed as one team mates observed that "One of these years it might be so mushy that muscling your way to the finish line will determines who wins". This however, was not that year. The track steadily improved so that by the end of the trials respectable times were posted for all divisions.

Some improvements were too good to believe. The 3-person Camden Women's Club Painted Ladies A-team went from a pitiful

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In This Issue of Toboggan Times

Complete National Finals Results

New Internet Web Page?

Thumbs up - Thumbs Down

Bib Injuries Update

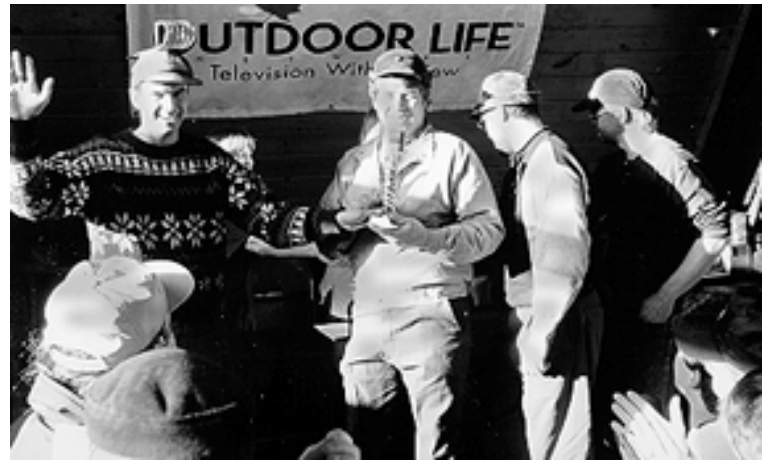


PHOTO: TIM LAWRENCE

LARRY THOMAS (WITH TOBOGGAN ON HEAD) OF THE Slab City Sliders, LINCOLNVILLE, MAINE, WAVES TO THE CROWD AT THE NATIONALS AWARD CEREMONY. THE REST OF HIS TEAM: PAUL THOMAS, DAVID THOMAS AND SCOTT RICHARDS LOOK TO MAKE SURE THEY DIDN'T LEAVE ANY OTHER AWARDS ON THE TABLE. SEE RELATED STORY TO LEFT.

Bent Rule Award to Take No Prisoners

Toboggan Times Denied Permission to Make Presentation at Awards Ceremony

Times apologizes for being too spontaneous

The Bent Rule Award, a certificate of dubious achievement, was presented to the 4 person team **Take No Prisoners**. The award, invented and presented by the *Toboggan Times* honors the team that goes as far as they can go, walking the edge of the rules in the spirit of keeping tobogganing, accessible to all, out of the realm of overly competitive serious sports and above all fun, without being disqualified.

Take No Prisoners managed to lengthen their 8 foot toboggan by apparently screwing a length of a second toboggan onto the back thus changing it into a makeshift eleven foot sled. Apparently they had no problem getting past the judges. Rule #5 in the traditional class states that "Any toboggan judged to be altered from the original, will be asked to race in the developmental class." Take No Prisoners finished 31st in the finals.

Team captain Matt Gilligan of Yarmouth, Maine said that Alan Hill of Hampton Falls, NH and Rick Furey of Andover, MA did the actual surgical carpentry on the sled. The team also sanded and applied a poly finish but not nearly enough to mask the overt splice. An eight foot sled was just not long enough for a four man team, Gilligan

SEE BENT RULE- PAGE 6

Costume Contest Like Communist Elections

Not monitored, questionable and the reds won

Stuff That Ballot Box!

"If you haven't voted for your favorite costume yet," said the voice over the speaker system at the National Toboggan Races, "get to the warming shack and cast your ballot. The team with the most votes will be announced at the awards ceremony." The beauty of this announcement, according to some, is that it made no mention of restricting the balloting to the traditional one-man-one-vote limitations. Neither did the rules nor the race officials. The voting system was interpreted by some to be an on-your-honor traditional ballot while others viewed it more as a free-for-all.

Back at the warming shack individuals and entire teams filed in, filled in as many ballots as made them comfortable, and then went on to do something



THE SELF-SERVE BALLOT BOX IN THE WARMING SHACK IN THE PROCESS OF BEING STUFFED.

else before venturing back to the warming shack to cast more ballots. On the table were hundreds of ballots and a box big enough to put them in. Pencils were also thoughtfully provided. The real limit to the number of votes one person could cast was determined only by how well a voter tolerated the smell of fuel that filled the shack this year. After a dozen or so votes, most of the electorate had to leave just to get some fresh air.

There were bitter feelings from some teams that fell short on the votes. On the one hand they lost, but on the other hand it wasn't clear if anybody broke any rules, even though they may have broken with tradition. "I didn't know people were going to stuff [the ballot box] like that." Said one female member of a team that looked a lot like Vikings, "Next year I'm really gonna get the vote out!"



The Four Elmos of West Warwick, RI, pose in their red outfits for the video camera and the crowd at the awards ceremony. The team won first place in the costume contest.

1997 Chili and Chowder Challenge

Again local restaurants took part in the Toboggan Nationals festivities by participating in a contest for the opportunity to be declared as serving up the best chili and/or chowder by a bunch or crazed tobogganists. On Saturday night before the final races, over a dozen restaurants or other food establishments set up at the Camden Snow Bowl lodge in soup kitchen style handing samples of chili and chowder to anyone paying to participate. The lodge was packed with people and thick with opinion.

The results of the official balloting are below along with the *Toboggan Times* choices. The 1996 results thrown in for historical note.

Official 1997 Results	<i>Toboggan Times</i> 1997 Choices	Official 1996 Results
Chowder		
#1 Samoset Resort, Marcel's	#1 Frogwater Cafe -See note below	#1 Camden Harbour Inn
#2 Sail Loft	#2 The Waterfront	#2 Peter Ott's
#3 Peter Ott's	#3 Peter Ott's	#3 Windward Gardens
Chili		
#1 Cappy's	#1 Windward Gardens	#1 Peter Ott's
#2 Windward Gardens	#2 Cappy's	#2 Windward Gardens
#3 Peter Ott's	#3 Atlantica Gallery and Grille	#3 Samoset Resort: Marcel's

The editorial staff would like to point out that the chowder at the Frogwater Cafe in Camden is remarkable. What is most noteworthy is that their chowder is so deliciously good this year and was so, very, very hopelessly bad last year. If the misfortune of their former chowder is in your past, it's time to give them another try. Four stars for improvement! Honorable mentions go to the Sail Loft Restaurant in Rockport for their Chowder and the Camden Bagel Deli for their chili. Regrettably, the Marriner's Restaurant in Camden did not enter their outstanding chowder this year. It was the best of the lot in '96.

Our Annual Disclaimer and Rational Reminder

Toboggan Times would like to point out that voting in any election, whether it be for the nation's president or the local chowder, only results in electing the most acceptable choice to the greatest amount of people casting ballots. The truly best chowder, chili and president remain a matter of personal taste. You must find the best chowder yourself; no crowd of crazed tobogganists can do it for you.

Toboggan Times is published oh, every so often, maybe twice a year, by Local Yokels, a division of Yokels International and is dedicated to maintaining a certain mix of serious racing fervor, a disdain for competitive sports, a rational view of the world and of course, an affinity for the bizarre, absurd, and amusing behavior of humans. Subscriptions are probably available but it's all we've got to get this piece out let alone maintain a mailing list and keep track of who has or hasn't paid.

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 Write to us at Rural Route 1, Box 5408, Lincolnville, Maine 04849-9759. Don't try to call us and we won't try to call you. Better yet, E-Mail Tim Lawrence at: tim@yokels.com or, get this, if it's up and running, visit our Web Site on the Internet. Get the web page address by addressing a note to Tim at the above address, or you can use one of those unwieldy search engines.

1997 Nationals Results: 2 Person Trials

1996 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 1, FEBRUARY 1, 1997
TWO PERSON TEAM TRIALS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1	45	THE BIG KAHOONAS	10.92	9.58	20.50
2	44	THROBBIN BOGGINS' A	11.39	9.74	21.13
3	40	LONG BALL HITTER	11.77	9.77	21.54
4	36	PATRIOTS	12.05	9.69	21.74
5	29	THRILLSEEKERS	11.97	9.82	21.79
6	50	THE BIG KAHOONAS B	11.87	9.95	21.82
7	48	BEEFY BOYS -A	12.11	9.75	21.86
8	18	CHUTE SCIENTISTS	11.93	10.12	22.05
9	1	CHEA SLED	11.91	10.19	22.10
10	25	OH! MEYERS	12.21	10.22	22.43
11	49	THROBBIN BOGGANS B	12.76	9.80	22.56
12	53	GRAVITY GLADIATORS	11.71	11.11	22.82
13	23	UNIBOGGANERS	12.66	10.20	22.86
14	11	THIS YEAR'S FAVORITE	12.59	10.27	22.86
15	46	SLAB CITY SLIDERS	13.06	9.93	22.99
16	55	CABLE GUYS	12.40	10.81	23.21
17	7	CLOSE HAULED	11.91	11.35	23.26
18	20	TWO JERKS & A SQUIRT	12.08	11.20	23.28
19	28	SITTING DUCKS	12.93	10.40	23.33
20	16	THREE JERKS AND A SQUIRT -A	12.39	10.96	23.35
21	47	DEERE JOHN'S	12.50	10.86	23.36
22	42	SISTER ACT	12.26	11.14	23.40
23	14	CHUTING STARS	13.48	10.01	23.49
24	5	TOLL BOOTH WILLIE, BISHOP NEL	13.71	9.78	23.49
25	38	COLD FEET	13.67	9.89	23.56
26	61	BEEFY BOYS B	13.46	10.29	23.75
27	10	KEVORKIAN'S ALTERNATIVE -2	14.04	9.89	23.93
28	21	THREE JERKS & A SQUIRT -B	12.51	11.46	23.97
29	31	CRASH TEST. DUMMIES	13.12	11.10	24.22
30	8	P.B. THUNDER	13.01	11.35	24.36
31	39	DOUBLE TROUBLE	13.81	10.70	24.51
32	27	BRAKING WIND	14.48	10.29	24.77
33	59	TWONOGGINS	13.47	11.34	24.81
34	3	FREIGHT TRAIN TO HELL	13.91	11.15	25.06
35	15	RIFT RAFTERS	13.71	11.68	25.39
36	35	YOUNG GUNS	14.87	10.75	25.62
37	37	LESS THAN BEEFY BOYS	14.58	11.04	25.62
38	60	CHEWBOGGINS	14.27	11.65	25.92
39	57	GRITTY'S BREW CREW	13.76	12.43	26.19
40	22	THRILL SEEKERS' BABES	15.57	10.76	26.33
41	12	ESPRESSO ARMANDO	15.13	11.25	26.38
42	4	WHITE HEAT	14.76	11.80	26.56
43	6	SAKATA BAY 2ND EXPRESS	16.44	10.37	26.81
44	32	GOIN' DOWN	16.54	10.50	27.04
45	2	CHUBBY HUBBIES	14.44	12.62	27.06
46	17	RICKY'S ROCKET	15.31	12.33	27.64
47	56	FIREBALL SLAMMER	17.23	10.67	27.90
48	26	TWO PEAS IN A BOG	18.17	9.92	28.09
49	43	SALT WATER FARM CAMPGROUND	16.46	12.30	28.76
50	54	SLEN NECKS	18.13	10.79	28.92
51	52	THE WELCH GREATS	17.93	13.15	31.08
52	13	NO NAME	16.27	15.52	31.79
53	9	THE FIREMEN	24.06	19.81	43.87
54	19	WESLEYAN WIPEOUTS -A	33.90	14.38	48.28
55	24	WESLEYAN WIPEOUTS -B	40.43	14.68	55.11
56	30	DUNCAN KENNEDYS	30.80	29.74	60.54
57	33	FARFENDRINKEN	DNF		
58	41	SNOW FLOWERS	DNF		
59	51	THE TAZY SWEDES	DNS	12.38	
60	62	GRAPHITO	27.95		
61	34	E-O-O-A	17.16		
62	58	THE NEWLYSLEDs			

1997 Nationals Results: 2 Person Finals

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 2, FEBRUARY 2, 1997
TWO PERSON TEAM FINALS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1	14	CHUTING STARS	8.50	8.62	17.12
2	50	THE BIG KAHOONAS B	8.56	8.70	17.26
3	44	THROBBIN BOGGINS' A	8.59	8.68	17.27
4	61	BEEFY BOYS B	8.63	8.70	17.33
5	48	BEEFY BOYS -A	8.66	8.68	17.34
6	45	THE BIG KAHOONAS	8.60	8.75	17.35
7	40	LONG BALL HITTER	8.60	8.76	17.36
8	23	UNIBOGGANERS	8.74	8.76	17.50
9	29	THRILLSEEKERS	8.76	8.77	17.53
10	36	PATRIOTS	8.76	8.78	17.54
11	10	KEVORKIAN'S ALTERNATIVE -2	8.65	8.89	17.54
12	46	SLAB CITY SLIDERS	8.83	8.73	17.56
13	25	OH! MEYERS	8.77	8.83	17.60
14	5	TOLL BOOTH WILL. BISHOP NELSON	8.69	8.94	17.63
15	49	THROBBIN BOGGANS B	8.67	8.96	17.63
16	31	CRASH TEST. DUMMIES	8.74	8.89	17.63
17	38	COLD FEET	8.78	8.86	17.64
18	53	GRAVITY GLADIATORS	8.77	8.88	17.65
19	28	SITTING DUCKS	8.87	8.80	17.67
20	18	CHUTE SCIENTISTS	8.76	8.92	17.68
21	55	CABLE GUYS	8.83	8.87	17.70
22	39	DOUBLE TROUBLE	8.90	9.01	17.91
23	11	THIS YEAR'S FAVORITE	8.94	8.98	17.92
24	7	CLOSE HAULED	8.89	9.11	18.00
25	16	THREE JERKS AND A SQUIRT -A	8.93	9.09	18.02
26	47	DEERE JOHN'S	9.06	9.03	18.09
27	1	CHEA SLED	9.04	9.05	18.09
28	20	TWO JERKS & A SQUIRT	9.06	9.19	18.25
29	21	THREE JERKS & A SQUIRT -B	9.25	9.06	18.31
30	42	SISTER ACT	9.21	9.30	18.51
31	8	P.B. THUNDER			

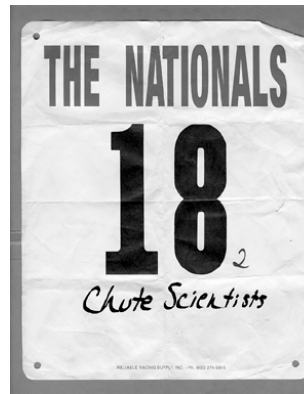
Team Number Bibs Safer Substantial Decline in Stuck- Thumb Injuries

Thanks to a modified design, competing tobogganists at this year's Nationals weren't bleeding as much as they were in 1996 when it

seems someone from every team pierced their thumb trying to get the metal lance on the end of their bib elastic through the tough number bib. Instead of blood trails in the snow combined with cries and curses it was all smiles since the new bibs had a pre-punched hole to accommodate the elastic bands. Last year's bibs had no hole for the elastic. The metal retainer at the end of the elastic had to be forced through the Tyvek bib material. This retainer came sharpened just for that purpose and is reminiscent of a lance phlebotomists use to draw blood samples from fingertips. As it turned out, this is just what it did when used in combination with cold fingers, bulky clothes that stretched the elastic band and the hurried atmosphere of the race.

The problem just melted away with the pre-punched holes in this year's bibs. Still there were a few complaints that the elastic was sized more for the skinny skier than the heftier tobogganist, but on the whole, many teams were pleased just to have the hole.

When questioned before the race, a race committee member told the *Toboggan Times* that there were no plans to change the bibs this year. No further explanation was given.



THE THUMB-SAVING PRE-PUNCHED HOLE FEATURE

Other Toboggan Races

The Nationals are not the only show in town. As the fun of Toboggan Chutting sweeps through dozens of people throughout America, more and more groups are arranging their own races to cash in on its soaring popularity.

The Camden Lion's Club hosted its first annual *Toboggan for Charity* on January 18th this year at the Camden Snow Bowl. John McKay of the Lion's Club reported that the race was pushed back from the 18th due to warm weather. Each of the 18 competing teams had to designate a Maine charity or nonprofit organization to which they would turn over their winnings, which came from the \$50 entry fees. Of the total entry fees collected, 50% went to the Lion's Club and 50% was split among the top 8 teams. These teams were awarded a check made out to their designated charity. The top three teams, including first place Camden Rotary Club, also took home trophies. The 2nd annual race is set for January 17th or the 24th, 1998, depending on the weather. Call John McKay at (207) 236-2896 to learn more. It's great fun, and good practice for The Nationals.

The *Toboggan Times* will keep readers informed about other races as more information becomes available.



1997 Nationals Results: 3 Person Trials

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 1, FEBRUARY 1, 1997
THREE PERSON TEAM TRIALS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
3*	72	THE BIG KAHOONAS	10.27	9.65	19.92
4	73	THRILLSEEKIN' PATRIOTS	10.50	9.49	19.99
5	109	THE KAHLUA KIDS	10.57	9.61	20.18
6	82	CHEA SLED (3 PERSON)	10.40	9.83	20.23
7	103	SAKATA BAY, THE 3RD	10.52	9.72	20.24
8	92	LOADED DOWN, AND DIRTY	10.53	9.78	20.31
9	104	KEVORKIAN'S ALTERNATIVE. 3	10.66	9.77	20.43
10	91	I SCREAM SANDWICH	10.62	10.06	20.68
11	85	POOL BOY ON BOARD	10.79	9.92	20.71
12	102	FROZEN ASSETS	10.73	10.14	20.87
13	67	PENN BAY BOMBERS	10.76	10.11	20.87
14	110	THE UNIBOGGANERS	11.13	9.82	20.95
15	105	WEATHER OR NOT	11.00	10.02	21.02
16	97	DEERE JOHN'S	10.79	10.30	21.09
17	90	BEEFY BOYS	11.59	9.70	21.29
18	93	THIS YEARS FAVORITES	11.10	10.67	21.77
19	101	SEACOAST SCREAMERS	11.44	10.40	21.84
20	76	SUNDAY SPECTATORS	11.38	10.48	21.86
21	66	GENETICALLY DEFICIENTS	11.39	10.58	21.97
22	114	ENJOY THE RIDE	11.39	10.82	22.21
23	86	GENE RACING	11.53	10.74	22.27
24	79	TRUCKING TRIO	11.64	10.65	22.29
25	80	THE FERMENTING FELLOWS	11.99	10.41	22.40
26	108	I.D.K.	11.66	10.74	22.40
27	75	TOBOG. FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRI2.19	10.38	10.38	22.57
28	65	SLIPSLIDIN' AWAY	12.61	10.05	22.66
29	98	THREE JERKS A SQUIRT B	11.66	11.10	22.76
30	94	POINSETTIAS	11.91	10.94	22.85
31	78	SPLINTAH	12.35	10.63	22.98
32	107	SCARBOROUGH SLIDERS	12.13	10.98	23.11
33	77	CAUTION WIDE LOAD	12.68	10.58	23.26
34	83	MACKEY'S CABOOSE	12.80	11.11	23.91
35	112	RIFT RAFTERS	13.64	10.45	24.09
36	100	OCTOPUSSY	13.63	10.71	24.34
37	111	SITTING DUCKS	15.31	9.54	24.85
38	69	SALTWATER CAMPGROUND	13.50	11.80	25.30
39	64	GRITTY'S BREWCURU PLUS 1	13.32	13.25	26.57
40	113	MO HOTTA, MO BETTA	15.83	11.29	27.12
41	81	THREE JERKS AND A SQUIRT	12.00	15.27	27.27
42	84	THE WIND BREAKERS B	15.03	13.78	28.81
43	89	MANIACS	15.65	13.57	29.22
44	87	COAST RADIO	20.09	13.52	33.61
45	63	THE WIND BREAKERS A	21.40	16.37	37.77
46	96	BOARDIN' BABES	15.45	23.71	39.16
47	95	CAMDEN WOMEN'S -PAINTED LA	30.76	10.06	40.82
48	99	CAMDEN WOMEN'S -PAINTED LA	33.19	9.84	43.03
49	68	ESPRESSO EXPRESS	33.48	10.35	43.83
50	106	COLD FEET	DSQ	9.95	DSQ
51	70	TRI-LIKE-HELL	23.39	-	-
52	88	UDDER WHEY	40.78	-	-

* The race results supplied to the *Toboggan Times* by the Camden Snow Bowl had the 1st and 2nd place finishers cut off. The *Toboggan Times* regrets the omission. Next time maybe we'll be a bit more thorough.

1997 Nationals Results: 3 Person Finals

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 2, FEBRUARY 2, 1997
THREE PERSON TEAMS FINALS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1	73	THRILLSEEKIN' PATRIOTS	8.56	8.69	17.25
2	90	BEEFY BOYS	8.62	8.65	17.27
3	72	THE BIG KAHOONAS	8.58	8.73	17.31
4	109	THE KAHLUA KIDS	8.57	8.75	17.32
5	85	POOL BOY ON BOARD	8.60	8.74	17.34
6	110	THE UNIBOGGANERS	8.63	8.77	17.40
7	91	I SCREAM SANDWICH	8.63	8.85	17.48
8	104	KEVORKIAN'S ALTERNATIVE. 3	8.70	8.79	17.49
9	74	THROBBIN BOGGINS	8.69	8.85	17.54
10	103	SAKATA BAY, THE 3RD	8.72	9.00	17.72
11	71	SLAB CITY SLIDERS	8.77	8.97	17.74
12	92	LOADED DOWN, AND DIRTY	8.77	8.98	17.75
13	105	WEATHER OR NOT	8.85	8.90	17.75
14	67	PENN BAY BOMBERS	8.84	8.96	17.80
15	80	THE FERMENTING FELLOWS	8.89	8.99	17.88
16	97	DEERE JOHN'S	8.92	8.96	17.88
17	101	SEACOAST SCREAMERS	8.88	9.03	17.91
18	82	CHEA SLED (3 PERSON)	8.91	9.00	17.91
19	93	THIS YEARS FAVORITES	8.90	9.03	17.93
20	66	GENETICALLY DEFICIENTS	8.86	9.09	17.95
21	79	TRUCKING TRIO	8.97	8.99	17.96
22	114	ENJOY THE RIDE	8.89	9.08	17.97
23	86	GENE RACING	8.83	9.16	17.99
24	108	I.D.K.	8.96	9.11	18.07
25	76	SUNDAY SPECTATORS	9.04	9.16	18.20
26	65	SLIPSLIDIN' AWAY	-	-	-

Thumbs Up/Down at this Year's Nationals

- ☺ New white paint on the chute; keeps it cooler (in theory) to keep the ice longer.
- ☺ Score book supplied with race packet. It's great to have a list of registered teams and where they are from but hardly anyone used the book to actually record the scores. Next year lets have a person's name to associate with the team.
- ☺ Safer number bibs (see related article).
- ☹ Sound system at the race. Somehow the speakers are never pointed in the right direction or the volume is too low to cover the entire area.
- ☹ Who's in charge? There is no one person identified as being in charge. Teams needing a ruling on some race question don't have a clear idea of who to turn to.
- ☹ Costume contest ballot box (see related story).
- ☺ Pit parking area; great way to raise money for the Snow Bowl. Good for serious or rich teams.
- ☹ Trail conditions up to the top of the chute prevent some ambulatory octogenarians from participating.
- ☹ Inflexible developmental toboggan ripping up ice pack on chute. New designs are great- just keep them flexible.
- ☹ Warming hut stinks of fuel. Might be enough to ignite.
- ☹ Snowmobiles too close to end of chute
- ☺ Professional announcers, as usual.

New Home Page Planned for the *Toboggan Times* Oh no, not again!

It will be like a dream come true! Millions of people who are wealthy enough to own the hi-tech hardware it takes, who are savvy enough to be tuned into the Internet, who have the time it takes to surf the World Wide Web and who are all clamoring for their own personal view of the *Toboggan Times* will be able to view it on their own computer screens with just a few hundred strokes on their keyboard! This is the view we have in realizing our goal in getting published on the Internet's World Wide Web.

Tim Lawrence, the *Toboggan Times*' Web Wizard, will once again attempt to bring us into the over-hyped world of cyberspace. (Those of you who saw our miserable first attempt to get on the information highway would be kind to keep your comments to yourselves.) Armed with a new computer and threatening to acquire software that "makes it so easy to produce sophisticated pages [on the Internet] using Windows® 95 or Windows NT®", Lawrence has suggested that he'll have the web page up in "no time flat". He does however add a caveat that even though building the web page on the Internet may be child's play, trying to figure out the Microsoft Windows operating system that runs his computer may well be impossible.

In order to get directions to the site, drop Lawrence an e-mail note to tim@yokels.com. If you haven't the means to send and receive e-mail, you won't need to bother with the directions.

1997 Nationals Results: 4 Person Trials

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 1, FEBRUARY 1, 1997
4 PERSON TEAMS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1	175	THE BIG ' KAHOONAS	9.36	9.36	18.72
2	128	THROBBIN' BOGGINS	9.40	9.44	18.84
3	156	THE WINTER WAR CANOE	9.49	9.35	18.84
4	190	THRILLSEEKERS AND BABES	9.49	9.38	18.87
5	162	FATHEADS	9.53	9.47	19.00
6	188	BEEFY BOYS	9.46	9.55	19.01
7	159	800 QUIVERING POUNDS	9.47	9.58	19.05
8	183	TEAM BROADBEAT	9.57	9.50	19.07
9	177	VIKINGS	9.64	9.44	19.08
10	180	KAVORKIANIS ALTERNATIVE -4	9.62	9.47	19.09
11	182	UNIBOGGANERS	9.57	9.52	19.09
12	191	DARYL, DARYL, DARYL & DARYL	9.52	9.62	19.14
13	144	SLAB CITY SLIDERS	9.63	9.54	19.17
14	146	WEATHER OR NOT	9.66	9.58	19.24
15	171	TOWNE MOTEL EXPRESS	9.72	9.56	19.28
16	136	THE SAKATA BAY 4	9.71	9.58	19.29
17	161	SITTING DUCKS	9.61	9.72	19.33
18	198	MB3	9.79	9.65	19.44
19	192	CRUISE CONTROL	9.71	9.81	19.52
20	169	SWEDISH NATIONAL TEAM	9.86	9.71	19.57
21	150	MACKEY'S BLEND	9.70	9.87	19.57
22	140	MEDIUM PACE	9.88	9.70	19.58
23	196	PENN BAY BOMBER	9.85	9.76	19.61
24	160	THREE HO'S & A HUM	10.00	9.67	19.67
25	137	TAKE NO PRISONERS	9.98	9.74	19.72
26	170	4 FAHRENHEIT FANATICS	9.83	9.89	19.72
27	163	FROZEN ASH	10.04	9.84	19.88
28	165	MIXED NUTS	10.17	9.86	20.03
29	142	RIFT RAFTERS	10.07	9.98	20.05
30	147	SECOND CLASS CITIZENS	10.15	9.94	20.09
31	194	THE FOUR ELMOS	10.06	10.04	20.10
32	135	UW MADISON 1ST TOBOG. TEAM	10.00	10.19	20.19
33	148	SLEEK ZEKE	10.01	10.23	20.24
34	130	DELIBERATE SPEED	11.01	9.40	20.41
35	195	BERNIE'S GUN STOCK BOYS	10.20	10.21	20.41
36	176	DEERE JOHNS	10.31	10.14	20.45
37	132	SECOND TIME AROUND	10.15	10.30	20.45
38	131	BOARD BUDDIES	10.43	10.13	20.56
39	193	FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE	10.28	10.29	20.57
40	158	FLYING EAGLES	10.46	10.13	20.59
41	129	CROCKETT'S ROCKET	10.52	10.09	20.61
42	197	F-N-S	10.41	10.20	20.61
43	179	THE WINDWARD FLYERS	10.36	10.26	20.62
44	154	THE LIFESAVERS	10.30	10.56	20.86
45	141	FOUR FAST FEMALES	10.55	10.32	20.87
46	164	I.D.K.E.	10.78	10.17	20.95
47	189	GRITTY'S BREW CRU PLUS 2	11.29	9.71	21.00
48	134	THE GRATEFUL SLED	10.71	10.33	21.04
49	153	WICKED MOVIN' CHICKS	10.66	10.45	21.11
50	157	EIGHT POINT FIVE-TWO	10.90	10.24	21.14
51	166	OTTOMAN'S	10.51	10.67	21.18
52	151	BLACK BEAR MEDICAL	10.61	10.59	21.20
53	200	FREEZE POPS	10.52	10.91	21.43
54	167	FRENCH AND BRAWN'S BAG BOYS	11.09	11.09	21.75
55	139	TEAM MEATSMOKE	11.01	10.86	21.87
56	145	MOLSON MUSCLES	11.02	10.86	21.88
57	199	THE ICE WOMEN COMETH	11.04	10.97	22.01
58	185	THE BOWDOIN BOMBERS	11.36	10.89	22.25
59	119	FUBAR	10.88	11.38	22.26
60	173	OCTOPUS	11.53	11.13	22.66

1997 Nationals Results: 4 Person Finals

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 2, FEBRUARY 2, 1997
FOUR PERSON TEAMS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1	144	SLAB CITY SLIDERS	8.65	8.78	17.43
2	188	BEEFY BOYS	8.68	8.77	17.45
3	175	THE BIG ' KAHOONAS	8.71	8.76	17.47
4	190	THRILLSEEKERS AND BABES	8.78	8.70	17.48
5	180	KAVORKIANIS ALTERNATIVE -4	8.70	8.79	17.49
6	130	DELIBERATE SPEED	8.79	8.73	17.52
7	177	VIKINGS	8.77	8.80	17.57
8	191	DARYL, DARYL, DARYL & DARYL	8.67	8.90	17.57
9	128	THROBBIN' BOGGINS	8.75	8.82	17.57
10	146	WEATHER OR NOT	8.77	8.81	17.58
11	161	SITTING DUCKS	8.75	8.86	17.61
12	159	800 QUIVERING POUNDS	8.81	8.83	17.64
13	183	TEAM BROADBEAT	8.73	8.92	17.65
14	198	MB3	8.74	8.92	17.66
15	156	THE WINTER WAR CANOE	8.75	8.93	17.68
16	163	FROZEN ASH	8.77	8.91	17.68
17	182	UNIBOGGANERS	8.81	8.87	17.68
18	170	4 FAHRENHEIT FANATICS	8.78	8.92	17.70
19	162	FATHEADS	8.79	8.91	17.70
20	171	TOWNE MOTEL EXPRESS	8.81	8.93	17.74
21	136	THE SAKATA BAY 4	8.81	8.95	17.76
22	196	PENN BAY BOMBER	8.91	8.93	17.84
23	160	THREE HO'S & A HUM	8.98	8.86	17.84
24	194	THE FOUR ELMOS	8.88	8.97	17.85
25	142	RIFT RAFTERS	8.86	9.00	17.86
26	132	SECOND TIME AROUND	8.89	8.98	17.87
27	192	CRUISE CONTROL	8.93	8.94	17.87
28	169	SWEDISH NATIONAL TEAM	8.99	8.89	17.88
29	165	MIXED NUTS	8.92	8.98	17.90
30	176	DEERE JOHNS	8.90	9.02	17.92
31	137	TAKE NO PRISONERS	9.01	8.92	17.93
32	150	MACKEY'S BLEND	8.96	8.98	17.94
33	140	MEDIUM PACE	9.02	8.94	17.96
34	195	BERNIE'S GUN STOCK BOYS	9.00	9.01	18.01
35	148	SLEEK ZEKE	8.95	9.12	18.07
36	193	FRAMPTON COMES ALIVE	9.06	9.14	18.20
37	147	SECOND CLASS CITIZENS	9.29	9.11	18.40
38	131	BOARD BUDDIES	9.46	9.35	18.81
39	135	UW MADISON 1ST TOBOGGANING TEAM			

1997 Nationals Results: Developmental Trials

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 1, FEBRUARY 1, 1997
DEVELOPMENTAL TEAMS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1*	201	SKELETON CREW	9.02	8.93	17.95
2	155	THE SEACOCKS	9.38	9.27	18.65
3	186	THE BULKHEADS	9.39	9.32	18.71
4	117	THROBBIN BOGGINS	9.53	9.50	19.03
5	115	CHASING RACING	9.56	9.49	19.05
6	116	BEEFY BOYS	9.74	9.47	19.21
7	118	M.J. HUMMERS -A	9.77	9.55	19.32
8	123	SEACOAST SENSATION	9.84	9.66	19.50
9	122	M.J. HUMMERS -B	10.09	9.60	19.69
10	120	GREASED LIGHTING	11.31	10.54	21.85
11	121	KNARLY NIELSENS			0.00
12	201.5	DARYL, DARYL & DARYL			0.00

1997 Nationals Results: Developmental Finals

1997 TOBOGGAN NATIONALS; DAY 2, FEBRUARY 2, 1997
DEVELOPMENTAL TEAM FINALS

RANK	BIB#	TEAM	1ST RUN	2ND RUN	COMBINED TIME
1*	201	SKELETON CREW	8.50	8.53	17.03
2	155	THE SEACOCKS	8.58	8.69	17.27
3	116	BEEFY BOYS	8.74	8.76	17.50
4	115	CHASING RACING	8.69	8.81	17.50
5	186	THE BULKHEADS	8.72	8.82	17.54
6	117	THROBBIN BOGGINS	8.74	8.87	17.61

* THE TOBOGGAN TIMES UNDERSTANDS THAT SKELETON CREW RAN AS AN EXHIBITION TEAM

Miscellaneous Notes from The Nationals

Since The Nationals are so vast and complex, many interesting facts and events get lost in the shuffle. For example:

- The team from **Coast Radio** in Camden (FM102.5) was possibly the first ever to broadcast from a Toboggan as it caromed down the chute in an actual race. Radio personality and team captain Mark Elliot (aka Mark Deane) reported that the broadcast went fine but may have resulted in an abysmal run of 20.09 seconds. The team buffed the bottom of their sled, laid flat and got rid of the broadcasting assignment for their second run and posted an almost respectable 33% gain for 13.52 seconds.

- Richard Pfeffer, team captain for **Gritty's Brew Crew** was here from Portland, ME, for a 2nd year with teams in nearly all divisions. They were the team with the very large inflatable beer mug atop their team vehicle. Mr. Pfeffer had nothing but praise for the local Camden Police who were "extremely polite to my crew while explaining local ordinances concerning alcoholic beverages." Hmmm.

- Our favorite new team name for 1997: **The Toboggan Formally Known as Prince**.

- The team name **I.D.K.** from Union, ME, we learned, stands for "I Don't Know". The 4-person team **I.D.K.E.** also from Union stands for, well, "I Don't Know Either".



Letters

To: The Editor
Tobago Times

Dear Sir, Trinidad is not - as you so cruelly point out - a muddy backwater in a forgotten corner of the post-colonial Caribbean. The island is as popular now as it has been in its history. People from all over the world flock here for the sun, the weather, the night life and the carefree attitudes of our friendly populace. We are happy to report a vibrant community, a robust economy and a nation eagerly looking forward to the challenges of the new millennium. A public apology in The Tobago Times will satisfy our deeply offended honor.

Yours Sincerely,

Sir Harold Swickenham Thwaites Vice Royal - Trinidad

We at the Toboggan Times haven't a clue as to what you're talking about but as usual, we stand by our story, will go to all lengths to protect our sources, invoke the 1st amendment and all that other stuff the newspapers are expected to say.

Editor



Championship

FROM PAGE 1

33.19 seconds to a admirable 9.84 seconds. Judy Emory, team captain, sheepishly admitted that they junked their toboggan after the first run and "borrowed" the **Sitting Ducks** sled for their second ride. **Espresso Express** of Concord, MA shelved their new toboggan, used their old standby and shaved 23 seconds off their time. Good tries but not good enough to make the finals.

As Saturday chilled, times improved to the point that the average first run for the 4-person division was 10.14 seconds only about two seconds behind **The Big Kahoonas** of Camden, ME who had the fastest overall 4-person combined time on the day of the trials.

Sunday, the day of the finals, was cooler and the chute remained hard and fast all day. The race moved along without a hitch and as usual, teams that overslept, overpartied or were just plain hanging back were still allowed to race even though the rest of their division had already finished. Hosmer Pond, where the toboggans spend their energy after leaving the chute, had a covering of an inch or more of snow; just enough to slow the sleds down comfortably. Last year large windrows of snow gave teams wild rides that resulted in many overturns. During other races, the pond had bare ice which tends to take a toll on toboggan bottoms as they scream their way across the cold, hard surface, sometimes slowly rotating without even a hint of control.

By three o'clock, **The Chuting Stars** of Rockport, ME claimed first place in the 2-person division soundly beating the **Big Kahoonas B-Team** by 0.14 seconds, a wide margin by The Nationals standard. Even more impressive was the fact that the Chuting Stars came in 23rd in the trials while the Big Kahoonas came in 1st on Saturday. In the 3 person division the **Thrillseekin' Patriots** of Bath, ME edged out Camden's **Beefy Boys** by 0.02 seconds. A loss by 0.02 seconds was getting to be standard for the Beefy Boys because that's what their 4-person team needed to tie the Slab City Sliders of Lincolnville, ME who took 1st place in that division.

No Idea

With all of the theories in the air about what makes a toboggan go fast, it was good to hear from Larry Thomas of the Slab City Sliders. Thomas is a true champion of the fast toboggan and very candid about how his team manages to win so many awards. Thomas and crew have also taken first place in last year's 4-man team event. After 6 years of racing, the team has a number of awards to its credit. Thomas built the winning toboggan himself out of still-green ash in 1993. The sled is 12 feet long and polished. Having been a body-shop man, Thomas may possess a bit more knowledge than others about what it takes to polish a finished surface. His advice about the most important characteristic for a toboggan? "Keep it smooth". As to the reason that particular toboggan is the world's fastest, Thomas casually replies "You know, I've got no idea". His 2nd and newest toboggan placed 12th in the 2-person race and 11th in the 3-person event. He will be at The Nationals next year because "no one has ever won [the 4-person race] three years in a row."

In the Developmental class, **The Seacocks** of Thomaston, ME took first place with a combined time of 17.27 seconds. They were second only to **The Skeleton Crew** which raced only as an exhibition team with the same futuristic ice machine used by **Black Magic** in last year's race. Their exhibition combined time was 17.03 seconds, the fastest of the day and nearly a tenth of a second faster than the best traditional toboggan.

Bent Rule Award

FROM PAGE 1

explained. The team however was not satisfied with their rank. They've already ordered a longer, custom sled from the Camden Toboggan Company. "We all had a good time, and we hope to do better next year, and we'll be nice and legal." Said Gilligan. The men had also competed in the 2 and 3 person divisions as the **White Heat** teams. Last year they participated as the **Freight Train to Hell**. The fourth member of the team was a good friend who Gilligan tentatively identified as John.

Awkward moment

There was an awkward moment at the last moments of the Annual Championship awards ceremony. As participants started up from their seats just after it was announced that the proceedings had come to a close, Tom Sadowski from the *Toboggan Times* approached members of the race committee seated at the trophy table to remind them that the *Toboggan Times* had a special award to present. One committee member, who may not have been aware of the *Times*' request to present the award, or who may have just grown tired of the *Toboggan Times*' apparently flippant involvement with race proceedings, denied any speaking time after looking at the certificate for not more than a full second. She said "Oh no, we can't have that" before giving the *Times* some terse advice about becoming properly involved with working for the race.

The *Times* now realizes that the formal awards ceremony is not the forum in which to give out light hearted awards and so, unless invited by the race committee, we will not attempt to do so in the future. We will instead present them through this publication in recognition of those who bring the most fun -or the least seriousness, to the sport. Our apologies to the race committee if they feel that we are trying to muscle in. Indeed we have attempted to keep a distance because we see our role as an independent observers, reporting on the race -not trying to run it.

Available for viewing

A copy of the certificate awarded will be available for viewing if the *Toboggan Times* succeeds in publishing a copy on the Internet's World Wide Web. Send E-Mail to tim@yokels.com for the latest news about the web site.



Next Issue!

Watch for the *Toboggan Times* Pre-Race Issue in January 1998. Of course it's not available on the stands; so watch carefully.

