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American Cross Country Skier (AXCS)
National Masters Championships

and the
36th ANNUAL
NORTH AMERICAN VASA



Feel the excitement—
Join the fun!

36th ANNUAL VASA

2012 Festival of Races

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2012



New for 2012

Great Lakes Youth Ski Festival

www.vasa.org Benefiting



VASA
537 Webster St.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Join us for the
NORTH AMERICAN VASA &
The AXCS Masters' National Championships

From the VASA President and Board



Please join us for the 36th annual North American VASA and the American Cross Country Skiers Masters National Championships. For the first time in our history, if you win your age group, you will become both a VASA champion and a National Champion!

Last winter was a great ski season from December 1st until April 1st which included over 900 happy skiers who competed in the 2011 VASA. The VASA board, Timber Ridge and our many volunteers have been working on the trails and race planning to ensure that the 2012 VASA Festival of Races will be enjoyable for all skiers. Our bays and lakes are still very warm and that is usually a predictor of heavy lake-effect snow.

We have made many improvements including a wider start area, a new speaker system, many improved passing lanes and smoother trail surfaces.

A new event for 2012 will be the Great Lakes Youth Ski Festival which will replace the Jr. VASA. Junior skiers from the five Great Lakes states will be competing in a variety of races as well as enjoying other fun activities. Special shorter courses will be used for all the kid's events.

Good luck in your pre-season training. We can guarantee lots of fun for you and your family during the 2012 VASA Festival of Races.

Your President,
Pete LaPlaca

2012 VASA
FESTIVAL OF RACES

VASA Saturday, February 11, 2012
Gran Travers' Classic Sunday, February 12, 2012

LATE REGISTRATION/PACKET PICKUP

Both late registration and packet pickup will be at Timber Ridge RV and Recreation Resort. Hours will run from noon until 9 pm on Friday. You can ski the trails (trail fee required), eat dinner at the Pasta Feed and pick up your race packet in one stop. Directions from Munson Avenue/Front Street (US31/M72) are to take either Garfield Ave., 3 Mile, 4 Mile or 5 Mile south to Hammond Road. Go left on Hammond and continue East until it dead-ends at Timber Ridge (4050 Hammond Road – 947-2770).

VASA PASTA FEED

The VASA pasta dinner will be served at Timber Ridge from 5:00 – 8:00 pm on Friday as a benefit for local youth ski programs. Fresh pasta, a choice of sauces, bread, salad and beverages will be included for a reasonable "all-you-can-eat-carbo-load" price. Meal prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. It will easily be the best deal in town!

National Masters' Championship Registration Information

Race distances are specified for each age category. Team points and championships will only be recognized for those registering in the appropriate race distance for their age. Skiers may select to enter a different race distance for their age, however, they will not be eligible for masters' points and championships.

Race Distances and Ages

Saturday

50k FreeStyle—M0-M6 (25-59 years) and F0-F6 (25-59 years)

27k FreeStyle—M7-M9 (60-74 years) and F7-F8 (60-69 years)

12k FreeStyle—Men (75+ years) and Female (70+ years)

Sunday

16k FreeStyle—M0-M9 (25-74 years) and F0-F8 (25-69 years)

6k FreeStyle—Men (75+ years) and Female (70+ years)

Placement in waves is by race pace as determined by official times from designated AXCS races. A list of designated races will be available on the online registration.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Gold



Collector Car & Boat Insurance



Silver



Bronze





FEATURES OF THE VASA:

- Best grooming in the Midwest
• Challenging & technical race courses
• Unique gift for all skiers
• Two days of racing and amenities
• World-class lodging, dining & entertainment
• Wide permanent trails —99% tree covered
• Minimal road crossings
• Great raffle prizes
• Great food
• Specially designed medals
• Pasta Feed on Friday
• Plenty of free parking

Special Thanks to:

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
TART Trails, Inc.

VASA Directors:

Pete LaPlaca President
Lisa Taylor Race Director

Eli Brown
Roberto Corona
Linda Deneen
John Failor
Ellen Fivenson
Mike Haley
Bud Huber
Jim Monroe
Gussie Peterson
John Pflughoeft
Roger Putman
Aaron Swanker
Mike Tarnow
Todd Vigland
Jim Woodburne

Timber Ridge Hosts:

Kristin Levesque
Gordon Waggoner

Host Hotels

Grand Traverse Resort:
P.O. Box 404
Acme, Michigan 49610
(800) 236-1577
www.grandtraverseresort.com

Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort:
4050 Hammond Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-2770
www.timberridgeresort.net

Facilities/Amenities

Port-a-johns and indoor bathrooms will be available at Timber Ridge and also at locations along the course. Post-race refreshments include hot soup. Eight aid stations will be located on the 12k, 27k and 50k courses serving water, energy drinks and food. In addition, loaner ski poles will be available.

Safety/Ski Etiquette

The North American VASA races are staged on dedicated trails. Every effort has been made to start each race to minimize skier traffic on the courses. All skiers should stay to the right to allow faster skiers to pass. Classic skiers should yell "track" to pass another classic skier if there is only one set of tracks. Every effort should be made by all freestyle skiers to avoid skiing over groomed classical tracks. Please thank our outstanding group of National Ski Patrol, local medical personnel and all volunteers.

Awards

Special awards will be presented to the top male and female in each race. In addition, custom designed medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age bracket from 14 & under to 80 & over. Awards for the VASA races will be presented at the awards ceremony starting at 6:30 pm. on Saturday at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa. All race results will be available at that time and will also appear in the Traverse City Record-Eagle in the Sunday edition. Awards for the Hagerty Insurance Gran Travers' race will be presented in the hall at Timber Ridge shortly after the conclusion of the races.

VASA RACE START TIMES

Saturday, February 11, 2012

- 27km & 50km Classic 8:00 am
50km Freestyle (integrated waves by km time) 9:00 am
27km Freestyle (integrated waves by km time) 9:06 am
12km Freestyle & Classic 1:00 pm
6km Freestyle 1:30 pm
Awards at Grand Traverse Resort..... 6:30 pm

Hagerty Insurance Gran Travers'

Sunday, February 12, 2012

- Hagerty Insurance Gran Travers' 16km Classic 9:00 am
Hagerty Insurance Gran Travers' 6km Classic 9:15 am

Great Lakes Youth Ski Festival

- Feb. 11, 2012— .5km, 1km, 2km, 3km, 4km Freestyle Races*
Feb. 12, 2012— .5km, 1km, 2km, 3km, 4km Classic Races*

*visit www.VASA.org for race start times

SEASONAL GROOMING BADGES

Please support our two primary grooming/lodging sources by purchasing a season badge or pass:

- TART Trails Grooming Badges \$100 call: 941-4300
Timber Ridge Ski Pass \$129 single call: 947-2770

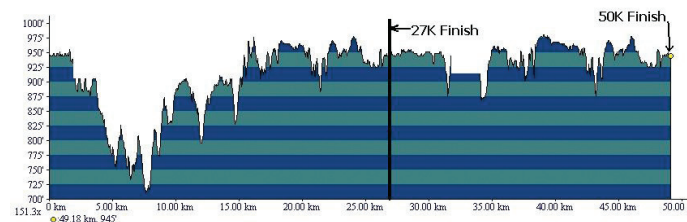
HAGERTY INSURANCE GRAN TRAVERS' CLASSIC RACES

We are very pleased that Hagerty Insurance will once again be the title sponsor for our traditional Sunday Classic Races. We have greatly expanded all Sunday activities for both the 6km and 16km races including medals, more food and a 16k aid station.

All medals and plaques will be presented at a lively awards party starting at 6:30pm at the Grand Traverse Resort. All ages are welcome. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Music will follow the presentations.

Call 231-938-4400 for more details or check our website.
www.vasa.org

VASA 27k and 50k Elevation Profile



benefiting



and



VASA Tour

Make Sunday Feb 19th special with a relaxed ski outing in the beautiful Pere Marquette Forest. Come ski with your friends or special someone on immaculately groomed trails starting at noon on Sunday. Music and special treats (think chocolate) will be provided. All proceeds will benefit the Munson Women's Heart Health Fund.

Packet Pickup

Timber Ridge RV & Recreation Resort
Traverse City

- Fri—noon-9:00 pm
Sat—7am-10am & noon-1:30
Sun—7am-9am

www.vasa.org

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY
Please use separate form for each entry (you may copy this form)

PLEASE CHECK EVENT(S) ENTERING:

- VASA Saturday, February 11: 50km Classic, 27km Classic, 12km Classic, 50km Freestyle, 27km Freestyle, 12km Freestyle, 6km Freestyle
Hagerty Insurance Gran Travers' Sunday, February 12: 16km Classic, 6km Classic
Hagerty Heart Benefit Tour (not Timed) Sunday, February 19

Double Bonus!
Both races qualify for Michigan Cup points

FEES AND DEADLINES

North American VASA Saturday, February 11

Table with columns for race date, fee, and distance (27km, 50km). Includes 12km and 6km fees and Great Lakes Youth Ski Festival pricing.

NO REFUNDS—NO EXCEPTIONS

*Immediate family members only. ID may be required.

Hagerty Insurance Gran Travers' Sunday, February 12

Table with columns for race date, fee, and distance (16km, 6km). Includes pricing for 10-19 year olds.

Complete separate application for each family member and send in together with fee.

Registration form fields: First name, Last name, Address, City, State/Province, Zip, Country, Telephone, E-mail, Birth Date, Sex, Seed Time, Distance/Event, # of VASAs skied.

I understand that I must sign a release form at Packet Pick-up. Under 18 requires signature of a parent or guardian.

Signature _____ Date _____

FEES AND DEADLINES

Table with columns for event name, fee, and payment instructions. Includes 'GRAND TOTAL DUE' row.

You may register online until 6pm February 9th at www.vasa.org