

2007 OZBALDY 50K RACE REPORT

by Debbie Kolp

It might be spring in Seattle, but it's still winter in the mountains, and the 56 racers who showed up for the sixth running of the Ozbaldy 50k, the only long-distance loppet in the Pacific Northwest, enjoyed fantastic conditions. Temperatures hovered in the mid-30's, but a high layer of fog blocked the sun and a good solid cold base of snow kept the course in excellent condition throughout the day.

Jeff Hashimoto skied a masterfully paced race to win in 2:13:14, patiently following the two frontrunners in the first couple of laps until they faded and he powered into the lead. Second place went to XC Oregon's Shane Hoelz in 2:17:07, followed by Warren McDermott, from Whitman College, who actually arrived at the start line eight minutes after the race had begun and surged his way into third place, finishing in 2:23:46. After he finished, Jeff skied a cool-down lap and (now pay attention, children!) picked up the used Gu wrappers that he and other skiers had cast off beside the trail, thus earning the feed station crew's undying admiration!

In the women's race, Ginny Price gave her usual strong performance, winning in 2:46:58. Second place went to Carey Gazis in 3:10:34, followed by Terry Meyer in 3:17:57. Full results are posted on the website.

Many thanks to race directors Dale Bohm and Susie Main, who ran a smooth and crisis-free event, and to chiefs of course Max Limb and Robin Pederson, who designed a route that included Ozbaldy in the first lap, just to give racers something to be thankful for in the next four Ozbaldy-free laps. David Evans was chief of food, providing plenty of chili, bread, and other assorted treats to all the hungry racers. Special thanks to the Bush School ski team, who provided assistance at the feed station and cleaned up the cabin after the awards ceremony.

And once again, courtesy of our wonderful sponsors, Jon Fewster was able to hand out a table full of prizes at the awards ceremony. A great big special thank you to all of our sponsors, who have generously supported us all season and allowed us to be generous in turn to our racers. Our race sponsors include Marmot, Second Ascent, Nuun, Nordic Ultratune, Nordic Saga, Essential Baking, Madshus, REI, AXO eyewear, and Winthrop Mountain Sports.

So that's the end of another season of racing at Cabin Creek. Thank you to all of you who came and participated in our races; thank you to all the volunteers who made the races happen; thank you to the Nordic Ski Patrol, who kept everyone safe; and thank you to our talented groomers, who are out there in the middle of the night, making our trails a skier's dream. Have a great summer, and see you all next year!