

Bullfight Charge 2008 Race Results

17th August 2008

70 competitors turned up for the annual Mt Bullfight charge on Saturday 16th August at Lake Mountain Resort. Considering the last two years have been non-events and that the weather leading up to the weekend was atrocious, this was a very good turn out. The fact that we could even run the race is testimony to the hard work put in by the resort management and employees. On Thursday the trails had to be closed as a large build up of snow in the trees became saturated with moisture, the weight became too much and as the wind picked up the trees and branches started to fall! Crews of workers (including the CEO Richard Richardson, Ski school director, Ski patrol and other staff) donned hard hats, and wielding chainsaws in the rain and sleet, cleared over 100 trees of assorted sizes from the trail network. Snowgroomers, Ski Patrol and resort staff continued to rake, sweep and clear debris all day Friday to get the trails ski-able by the weekend. Saturday morning we were lucky to get 5 cm of fresh snow and most people would never have noticed the evidence of the "ice storm".

This year's main race went around Jubilee in a reverse direction, which is probably a first experience for nearly everyone (no advantage from any practise!). While it was a step up in difficulty from the usual layout, the racers completed the course in similar times, and some even thought it was too easy and we should have done two laps!

The men's and winner overall was local skier Andrew Hall in a time of 22.04. Second place was Alan Eason (Lake Mountain ski school director) in 22.57 narrowly beating Kevin Tory by just 2 seconds. The first woman over the line was Mary Hall in 25.48. Second place went to 14-year-old Anna Trnka in 27.03. Only 5 seconds behind in Third was Penny Grose in 27.08.

There were a number of exceptional times from the field, notable Barry Jones at 70 years of age in 26.57 just behind the local Marysville doctor Lachlan Fraser in 25.56. James Butler competing in the Under 16 age group came in 6th place in 23.57 gaining the attention of Race coach JC Legras just behind him and also National Team member Chris Cook a further 10 seconds back.. James was also in luck as his bib number was the winning number in the draw for an awesome pair of Trab skate skis kindly donated by Lake Mountain.

The Short course race for the Under 14 racers went up to the Gap and back on Echo Flat. The kids had to contend with a bit of skier traffic in places and falling snow almost obliterated the course out on the heath but they all did a great race and most stayed around and then competed in the last mini series race for the year at 1 PM. In all seventeen racers competed with Clare Butler the overall winner (20.05) from local girl Katarina Paul (21.41) in second place. The first of the boys Misha Trnka (22.09) was in third place just one second ahead of Clare's sister Laura (22.10).

Presentations were held in the fantastic Lake Mountain conference centre. This facility is a warm, comfortable and professional conference room, which was really appreciated by everyone after being outside in the weather racing in thin Lycra race suits. There were spot prizes galore including three pairs of skis, ski poles, jackets, fleeces, hats and gloves. Loads of useful stuff like waxes, scrapers, sunnies, goggles, bags, glove liners etc. Everyone who entered got a prize and most got a medal in their age category. We would like to say a huge thankyou to our sponsors especially Lake Mountain Resort, Lake Mountain Ski Hire, Marysville Ski Centre, Keppels Hotel, Marysville Bakery, Action Ski Hire, Mystic Mountains Ski Hire, Cross Country Ski Hire and Reddrops Foodworks.

The Bullfight Ski Club is in its 28th year, however we continue to struggle running an event such as this and it would not be possible without the assistance of the resort and

resort staff, especially Alan, Simon and Ski Patrollers, Andrew, Sue, Keith and Ray. Richard Richardson, Brett Weinberg and his snow groomers who prepared the course. Kevin, Nick and Laura who did heaps in promoting the event and making signs etc (There will no doubt be others who I may have overlooked to whom I apologise but also thank). Also Thanks to the volunteers who turned up on the day to help out. Some came to race and ended up working instead. A big thankyou to the Bayly-Jones family, Malachy and Liz O'Dolan, The De Freitas family, John and Scott Douglas, Bec Bessant, Donna Merrilees, Wendy Mateus, Helen Godfrey, Liz Patterson, Dan Hasson, David Mulimpy-Reaves, and various parents and others who willingly assisted. Also thanks to John Cannon and Bruce Straw whose past notes and well-documented instructions, lists and spreadsheets were invaluable!

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to put all members past and present on notice that at the clubs AGM this year we will be discussing the viability and future of the club. Everyone makes mention of the clubs great history, however without direction and involvement from the members' history is what it may end up becoming! The Date for the AGM will be advertised at least two weeks prior and e-mails sent out.