

MAST UPDATE #1

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Good Morning MAST Athletes and Parents:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to each and every one of you who delivered Yellowbooks, gave out stuff at Twins games, picked up garbage at the Fair, and promoted MAST at school gatherings. Cheryl does an amazing job grabbing Twins dates and organizing workers at the last minute. Darryl found the State Fair work, promoted it with enthusiasm, recruited and organized 67 us into work crews and gave us a day to remember for a long time. I came away convinced that everyone needs to spend a day picking up garbage at the State Fair. I would have a hard time believing that any of us would ever allow a piece of trash to land anywhere but a garbage can for the rest of our life. Finally, I am the poor lug who put you through the least profitable fundraiser of the summer. Please accept my apologies. The work was a lot more difficult than I anticipated and required probably more logistical support than parents should have been asked to give. Thank you for seeing it through and doing such a good job with the deliveries in spite of the difficulties. I doubt we will offer this as a fundraiser next year but THANK YOU for giving it a try.

Do you need ski equipment: boots, skis, poles, helmet, goggles, etc???? There are many opportunities to buy new equipment (last year's inventory) and used over the next six weeks. As you know, our team is offering an opportunity to swap equipment on Sunday, September 27 at Beard's Plaisance at 4PM at our first ever MAST BBQ and Swap. In addition, there are several other opportunities to buy either new or used equipment. The best prices are in September and October, so don't wait.

Pierce Skate and Ski: If you are looking to buy new skis, take a look at Pierce's inventory of last year's skis. At the end of last season, Bart bought up a supply of unsold 2008-2009 Rossignol Radical RS slalom skis. He is selling these skis (and a couple of other models) for \$900 as a package: skis, bindings, poles, mounting, race tune. In addition, from now until mid-October, MAST athletes can buy equipment from Pierce under the Flex Program. This program offers a 30% discount off full retail price on most equipment products (skis, boots, binding, poles, helmets, tuning supplies, etc). Just tell the salesperson that you are with MAST. I suggest calling ahead to make an appointment to work with either Bart Pierce or Brian Foley should you decide to check things out at Pierce. Here are some prices on two different 2009-2010 adult slalom ski brands under the Flex Program so you can compare: \$837 for the Fischer World Cup Hole Ski; \$899 for the Rossignol Radical RS. Note that many of you on MAST are not big enough (under 120 pounds) to ski on an adult ski and will need to be on a junior race ski. Junior skis are much less expensive and can also be purchased on the Flex Program.

Hoigaards Tent Sale

The Hoigaard's Tent Sale begins tomorrow and runs through the weekend. The best day to go is Friday before the race stock equipment is picked over. Great place to buy quality ski clothing and undergarments as well as ski equipment. Service won't be as good so it is helpful to know what you are looking for before you go.

Ski Swaps

Used equipment will be on sale at Buck Hill over the weekend of September 25-27 and at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area over the weekend of October 9-11. Again, it is good to have done some research before going so you know what to look for and whether the deal is a good one for you. Like the Hoigaard's sale, it is best to go on Friday before the inventory is depleted.

Buck Hill Ski Swap

Friday, September 25, 2-10PM

Saturday, September 26, 10AM-9PM

Sunday, September 27, 9-11AM

Team Gilboa Ski Swap at Hyland

Friday, October 9, time tba

Saturday, October 10, time tba

Sunday, October 11, time tba

In addition, Joe's Sporting Goods in St. Paul has some closeout deals on junior skis that might be worth checking out. Just be sure you are buying SLALOM RACE SKIS.

Here are website links to local ski shops:

www.joessportinggoods.us

<http://hoigaards.com/>

<http://www.pierceskateandski.com/>

If you are trying to budget for the season, I am pleased to announce that our team fee will remain at \$250. No word yet on the cost of a Hyland season pass however.

Finally, please do not hesitate to give me a call to discuss equipment issues (or any other matter). Here is my cell phone: 612-275-8392. Also, you might want to bring my cell phone number to ski shops and swaps so that you can call me if questions come up while you are shopping.

Thanks for your attention.

Mark Conway

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PS: Please send me names, phone numbers, email addresses, etc of friends and acquaintances who have expressed an interest in joining MAST. I want to be sure to include them in our Updates from now on.