

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

SEE PAGE 6

In This Issue of Toboggan Times

Complete National Finals Results

New Internet Web Page?

Thumbs up - Thumbs Down

Bib Injuries Update

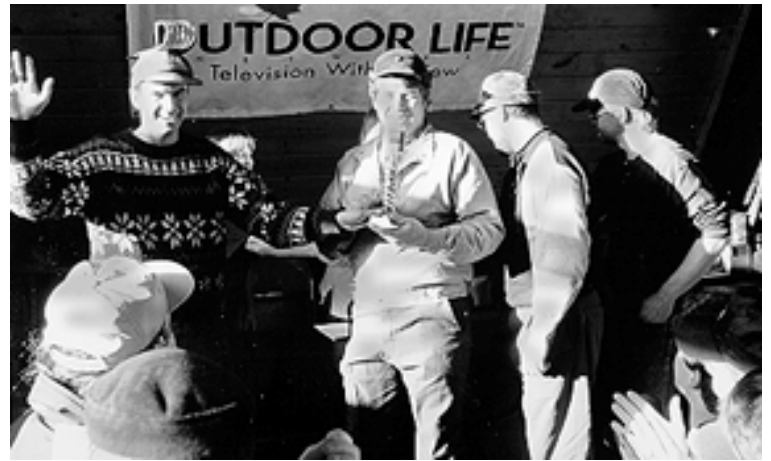


PHOTO: TIM LAWRENCE

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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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 | BRACING 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 | | | |

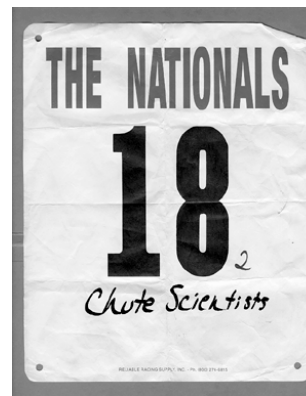
1997 Nationals Results: 2 Person Finals

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 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.