



Chamber Chatter

125 Years of Tradition

The Suicide Ski Jumping Tournament is a tradition that Ishpeming and Negaunee residents have been a part of since 1887. The second week of February was full of festivities surrounding the tournament. A Business After Hours at the Ski Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Ishpeming Ski Club and UPPCO kicked off the eventful week with area businesses owners and ski jumping enthusiasts in attendance.



Above: Chamber members sign in for the BAH hosted at the Ski Hall of Fame February 1, 2011. Below: Bruce Turino, Jim Manty and Paul Bonetti serve spaghetti at the Ishpeming Ski Club Spaghetti Dinner. Bottom right: Spectators around the bonfire at the Suicide Ski Jumping Tournament watch athletes take off and land jumps.

A parade in downtown Ishpeming took place the following Tuesday, giving the public a chance to welcome the ski jumping competitors to the area. Afterwards, the athletes from the US Ski Jumping team, as well as athletes representing other countries, were well-fed at the 2nd annual GINCC and Ishpeming Ski Club spaghetti dinner hosted at the Ishpeming Elks. Jim and Don Manty loaned their Italian culinary skills for the dinner, which was a fundraiser for the Ishpeming Ski Club.

The events concluded with the much anticipated tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at the ski jump. Cars lined up the road on the way into the ski hill, and hundreds of people were there to witness athletes from all over the world compete. Talents were shown off through the skill and expertise of the jumpers. Spectators even witnessed a rare jump, called the "Triple Jump" in which three skiers fly off the jump one after the other.

What truly made this event a success was the community response and support. Residents of all ages showed up to cheer on the jumpers; families, students, retired ski jumpers, young couples, and seniors added to the excitement and energy of this tradition in its 125th year. Thanks to all who continue to keep the Ishpeming-Negaunee ski jumping heritage alive. We can't wait until next year!



Lucy Hill written by Elizabeth Peterson

Lucy Hill in Negaunee is a bit quieter now that the luge track has closed for the season, but from what I can tell, even with the strange U.P. winter, it was another great season at the hill. Here's what I learned this year about the sport and the track in Negaunee:

- Lugging is harder than it looks.
- A lot of work and hours go into making the natural luge track.
- We have an incredible resource of knowledgeable athletes and talent in the Upper Peninsula Luge Club.
- I waited far too long to give this sport a try... it's a challenging and entertaining experience.

The Upper Peninsula Luge Club, once again opened the track this year to the public. Family night on Friday's and for a small fee on Saturday's anyone could give it a go.

I headed out to Lucy Hill on a beautiful winter day with my daughter, Nevaeh and good friend, Brian Cabell. He wanted to know first-hand what Lucy Hill had to offer and I thought, why not give it a try as well; I should know what the experience is like.

Pulling up to the track, I was immediately intimidated. It's a big hill. There's a lot of ice. And at first glance, it was easy to envision myself rolling, crashing, sliding, doing anything but gliding gracefully down this mountain of curves and glass. But, I went to the hill for a reason, and I was determined to see it through.



After picking out our gear, watching a video of a TV6 reporter making her first attempt at the hill, which included a number of crashes, and a quick over view of how we would steer, slow down, and hang on, we were on our way. I courteously, of course, let Brian go first, and much to my delight, we didn't start at the very top, but even still, I was expecting this first run to be, well, something we'd laugh about for a long time. Turns out... he did great! No swerving or jerking... almost a little too smooth, I was pretty sure, he'd been practicing. I was next up, a little nervous, but I get a bit competitive in these situations, so the pressure to slide as well as Brian was in the forefront. A little more instruction from our coach and I was off. And, it was awesome! Using my body to steer, I actually kept the sled from going off the track, I used the special spiked boots I was geared with to stop and it was over! What a rush! My daughter, with a little adjusting, also seemed to thoroughly enjoy her time on the hill.

We never were able to successfully complete a turn on the track. Brian was actually closer to this accomplishment than I was. I really never even got my sled to do much more than go straight, and in the long run, after watching Brian crash into a stack of hay bales (he was just fine), I felt pretty good about that.

I wouldn't say I'm a professional just yet. But, I can say that next year, I'll be back to give it another go. And, I encourage all of you, if you've never been, put it on your to do list for next winter. It's a gem, right in our back yard.

The GINCC Community Guide

The GINCC Community Guide is moving along in production! This booklet is a resource packet that categorizes Chamber businesses, making it easy for customers to locate your business or organization. This packet helps people who move to the area to become acquainted with the West End and the services their new hometown can offer. It will also serve as an excellent guide for current residents who wish to have a convenient way to find a business for exactly what they need. Being listed in the GINCC Community Guide will be a new benefit to joining the Chamber, with a revised and edited guide printed every year. Space for advertisements or coupons have been designed into the guide, and the Chamber still has space available for those who wish to get their name out to the community. Call the Chamber to learn about advertising opportunities and stay tuned for an alert announcing when this resource is hot off the press! 486-1111

JUNE/JULY 2011

2012 Ribbon Cuttings!

VOL 1 ISSUE 7

Xcceleratd Fitness



McDonald's



Country Coffeehouse & Pub



Northern Michigan Bank & Trust



Welcome to our newest members of 2012!

- Office Planning Group, Inc.
- Xccelerated Fitness & Wellness Solutions
- Picture This Art Center
- Pizza Hut, Inc.
- United Evangelical Church
- Bottom Line Marketing
- Dave's Collision Center
- Superiorland Cross Country Ski Club
- Venice Supper Club & Pizzeria
- Seelen's Home Improvement
- Buck's Sub Shop
- Thomas R. Fleury, CPA
- RE/MAX 1st Realty
- Bell Forest Products
- Mama Russo's
- U.P. Fabricating Co. Inc.
- Harju Logging, Inc.
- Kroon Forest Products
- Tino's Bar & Pizza, Inc.
- This-N-That Retail for Less
- Barr's Barr
- Sirkka's Massage

Over 200 members & growing!

Thank you!

We reached a big milestone in February when our membership reached and then exceeded 200! A big thank you goes to each and every one of our members who has given the Chamber support to get started and then continued to support our efforts as we settled into our second year. Here's to another 100 members and another 100 years!

"DEDICATED TO BUILDING GREAT BUSINESSES, GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS, AND GREAT PLACES TO EXPERIENCE THE U.P."

Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce

910 US Hwy 41 West
Ishpeming, MI 49849

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**YOUR BUSINESS. YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHAMBER.**

Business After Hours

We do not have Business After Hours scheduled for April. BAH's are a great way to showcase your business and network with fellow Chamber members. Call the Chamber with questions on how you can get your business involved. 486-1111

For more information on our upcoming events, check out our calendar on www.gincc.org.

**WE STAND *STRONGER*
WHEN WE STAND *TOGETHER***

Will Your Business Take the Plunge?

Registration for the 2nd Annual Mud Plunge has begun and the event already has over 130 participants registered! Last year was overwhelmingly successful, and wouldn't have been without the help of our event sponsors and vendors. It's not too late to get your business involved. 486-1111

Many thanks to our current sponsors:

Lindberg & Sons	Carpet Specialists
Bell Hospital	Subway
Crossfit 906	Wilderness Sports
Eagle Radio	Reinhart Food Service
Xccelerated Fitness	Peninsula Glass
Auto Value	Turino Chiropractic
Fox Negaunee	Window Outfitters
Country Village	Peninsula Bank
UPPCO	Oasis Grill
Congress Pizzas	Yoooper Shirts
ICFCU	