

LONGBOARDING... MAYBE

The Plumas Ski Club 20th Annual “Historic Longboard Revival Series” races are scheduled for this coming Sunday, March 18 in historic Johnsville. Race organizers have a sense of “unexpected hope” that enough snow may finally come with this week’s storms to make the race track skiable. However, promoters also recognize that there is much uncertainty about the upcoming rain snow elevation and the races may or may not be possible. But regardless of conditions, the ski club will have a “plan B” event Sunday March 18th celebrating longboarding and ski club history and the renewed possibility of a revitalized ski area.

Longboard organizers met last week to review race plans and to organize an alternative party event even if rain at the ski bowl eliminates the racing potential. The January and February races were cancelled due to this winters drought and minimal snow pack at the historic Eureka Bowl, location of the old Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl. As of last Friday, there was nearly 18” of snow on the race track reported Don Fragulia at the planning meeting. “It’s borderline at best if we don’t get more snow but we will do our best to make the races happen if possible” said race coordinators Rob Russell and Jim Webster. Some reports have predicted a period of high snow levels near 7500 mid week followed late in the week by 3000 foot levels Friday and Saturday. “Trying to plan for the race is very tough when conditions are this variable” said Russell. The final decision on race status isn’t expected until Friday or even into early Saturday based on what happens with snow conditions at the race track.

Longboard racers and spectators can best determine race and event status by visiting plumasskiclub.org on Friday and Saturday. Information will also be posted on facebook and broadcast on local radio as possible.

Ski club president Ron Logan encouraged supporters to come up to the hill even if races can’t happen. “If we make the call to cancel the races, we are still going to have an informal celebration from around 12 to 3 on Sunday” said Logan. The “plan B” event will include free hot dogs, unique live music provided by the nearly historic “Lost Sierra Orchestra”, and some special presentations on Plumas Ski Club and Longboard History and future goals for the chairlift project to be presented by the Eastern Plumas Recreation District. Watch the ski club web site for more information as the week progresses.

2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Club sponsored Historic Longboard Revival Series. The races not only perpetuate the unique history and frivolity of ski racing on 10-16 foot handmade wooden skis, they also serves to commemorate the amazing world class ski history of Plumas and Sierra Counties. 2011-12 also marks the 60th anniversary of the Plumas Ski Club which developed the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl in Johnsville dating back to 1952. Many volunteers have worked together over the years to keep a family oriented ski area in operation. Supporters of a revitalized ski area on Eureka Peak like to note that first organized ski racing in the entire western hemisphere began in Plumas County at Onion Valley and pioneer racers and skiers reportedly came down Eureka Peak and Eureka Bowl circa 1870’s. As part of Plumas Eureka State Park, Johnsville and the “Lost Sierra” region is the home for many “firsts” in skiing history.