

Register now for the Buckwheat 'Howling good time for the 25th'

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The 2011 annual Buckwheat Ski Classic promises to be a "howling good time for our 25th anniversary," says race founder Buckwheat Donahue of Skagway, Alaska. The race will be held on the Log Cabin, BC course on Saturday, March 26.

Once again there will be 50K, 25K and 10K cross country ski races, as well as a 5K kids race. All races take place at Log Cabin on the South Klondike Highway, and there are pre-and post-race events in Skagway, Alaska, including a fabulous awards banquet and dance at the historic Eagles Hall.

The Buckwheat was named one of the top 49 things to do in Alaska by the editors of Alaska magazine. The race traditionally hosts close to 300 participants from Alaska, the Yukon and elsewhere. Proceeds support maintaining ski trails in the area and other community needs.

For a complete schedule, download the race brochure and entry form at www.skagwaynews.com/BSCskirace2011.

Race brochures and entry forms also are available at the Mountain Shop in Skagway; Lutak Lumber in Haines; Foggy Mountain in Juneau; and at Coast Mountain Sports and Sport Yukon in Whitehorse. There are separate forms for U.S. adults, Canadian adults, U.S. kids, and Canadian kids.

Registration forms may be dropped off at the Skagway and Whitehorse locations or mailed directly to Buckwheat Ski Classic, Box 636, Skagway, AK 99840. Early registration deadline is March 18 at 5 p.m.. Registrations received after that date cost an additional \$10.

The trails at Log Cabin along the South Klondike Highway are currently set for the 5K and 10K courses, as well as the kids 2K, thanks to Skagway trail crew volunteers. The longer 25K course should be ready in February or early March. Trail condition updates are posted regularly on the website, at the Mountain Shop (907-983-2544), and the Skagway Visitor Center (907-983-2854).

Additional volunteers are always welcome. If you can help with race packet prep., dinner serving, race timing, serving breakfast, T-shirt sales, and aid station prep., please call Buckwheat at 907-983-3988 or Su Rappleye at 983-2127.

Major sponsors include: FOE & Aux. No. 25, Steve & Salli Reeder, Municipality of Skagway Tourism Dept., Holland America, Alaska Shirt Co., The Mountain Shop, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Duff's Backcountry Outfitters, Princess Cruises, Elliott Financial Services, Alaskan Brewing Co., and The Skagway News. Co.

For more information, call Buckwheat at 907-983-2854 (days), 983-3988 (evenings), or e-mail: skagwayinfo@gmail.com .

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFO

- **FERRIES** - One ferry is coming north to Skagway on Friday, March 25. The Aurora leaves Juneau at 7 a.m. with a stop in Haines and arrives in Skagway at 1:30 p.m. After the race, the Aurora sails south on Sunday, March 27 at 2:30 p.m. to Haines and Juneau To book space on these ferries, go directly to the state's Alaska Marine Highway site at www.ferryalaska.com .

- **PASSPORTS** - Skiers are also reminded of the new document requirements for crossing the U.S.-Canada border that went into effect in 2009. You must have a passport or passport card to cross the border. If you have questions, contact the Skagway Port of Entry at 907-983-2325.