



President's Perspective

Happy New Year!

A lot of areas in the Upper Midwest (the Birkie trail included) rang in 2007 with their first "real" snowfall of the season. For the few places that were already skiable, the new snow repaired the extensive damage that was caused by the #*\$& (4-letter word beginning with "r") that preceded the snow. The weather forecasters are promising that winter will return and stay a while (and they mean it this time!) by the end of the

week.

The limited skiing opportunities resulted in big crowds at the few places that had decent snow. ABR was way more crowded than I've ever seen it (or any other XC ski area for that matter). I heard from a semi-reliable source that they had a thousand skiers in one day! I also heard that Wolverine was just as crowded. This was quite a contrast to the peace and solitude that our sport usually provides.

The #*\$& on December 31st chased away all but the hardest of the diehards (my boots still aren't dry), then the snow that fell overnight created "picture postcard" conditions for the first day of 2007. Let's hope that the trend continues so that the entire Upper Midwest becomes a picture postcard through January and February.

LARRY