

Gary Knowles' Wisconsin Event Sampler

A smorgasbord of events with a bit of flavor from all over Wisconsin!

Wrapping up 2011-New Year's Eve

by Gary Knowles © UPDATED 12-29-11

Gary Knowles is a freelance travel writer who writes the "Gary's Getaways" feature for the *Journal & Topics Newspapers* in Northern Illinois, is a consultant to travel businesses, and is the author of *The Great Wisconsin Touring Book- 30 Spectacular Auto Tours*.

BEFORE YOU GO: Avoid disappointment. Always check for schedule changes before heading to events. For more events: www.TravelWisconsin.com or www.WisTravel.com

DEC 31

MILWAUKEE

Harlem Globetrotters

The World Famous Harlem Globetrotters are bringing their 2011 World Tour to Milwaukee for a doubleheader. The Globetrotters will take the court at the Bradley Center continuing the New Year's Eve tradition in Milwaukee. 1PM & 6PM. Bradley Center, 1001 N 4th St. Call (800) 745-3000.

DEC 31

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN

Dropping of the Carp

At the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, 2011, watch in awe as "Lucky #9," a 29-pound frozen carp, takes center stage during a 100-foot drop to usher in the New Year. Prior to the drop, "Lucky #9" is put on a throne where participants are encouraged to kiss the fish for good luck. And the "carp-tastic" fun doesn't end there. The event has spawned 'Carp Fest' which features a series of unique, fun-filled events throughout the city's parks and facilities. 608-326-8602; www.prairieduchien.org/visitors/events.htm

DEC 31

PLYMOUTH

Dropping of the Cheese

Plymouth folks drops an 80-pound decorated cheese wedge from a 100 ft. ladder truck to celebrate the New Year. Here's the 2010-11 drop <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpYJKNokZfc> (the video -- camera operator didn't rotate the camera!) www.plymoutharts.org PH: 920-892-8904

DEC 31

MILWAUKEE

Radio Disney - WinterFest

Bring the kids along to Radio Disney Family Fun New Year's Eve, taking place on the closing night of WinterFest. Kids will love the Radio Disney games and activities, live entertainment, ice skating and the life-size snow globe. Grab a complimentary hat and noisemaker and watch the big screen ball drop. Stick around to find out what local celebrity guests will make an appearance. <http://www.milwaukeewinterfest.com> PH: Winter Fest. 414-376-6514

DEC 31

LA CROSSE

Skyrockers Fireworks Show

Midnight fireworks on Grandad Bluff light up the Mississippi Valley. Folks watch from the bluff, downtown, while ice fishing on the river, cross-country skiing or sledding. Early show for kids at 6pm.
www.skyrockers.org PH: 608-782-2366

DEC 31

FOND DU LAC

Noon Year's Eve Family Celebration

This healthy family celebration includes lunch, balloon drop at noon, crazy contests & prizes, healthy resolutions and a party hat parade. Come join us for family fun! Children's Museum, 51 Sheboygan Street. Event starts at 11:00AM and ends at 2:00PM. For more information call (920) 929-0707.

DEC 31

HAYWARD

New Year's Eve Celebration

Live music, drawings, free hors d' oeuvres, free champagne at midnight. Tickets on sale in Casino gift shop LCO Casino & Convention Center, 13767 W County Road B. For more information call (800) LCO-CASH.

DEC 31

PORTAGE

New Year's Eve at Cascade Mountain

Skiing and snow tubing until midnight. Also fireworks and music. Cascade Mountain, W10441 Cascade Mountain Rd.. For more information call (608) 742-5588.

DEC 31

ELKHART LAKE

New Year's Eve at The Osthoff

Ring in the New Year at Lola's on the Lake Restaurant & Lounge at the Osthoff Resort. Special fare, live entertainment and a midnight toast. Or, celebrate in the privacy of your own spacious suite with all the comforts of home. 877-419-3534 www.osthoff.com

DEC 31

MADISON

U.S. Bank Eve Celebration

U.S. Bank Eve is Madison's time-honored community celebration of the New Year. Don't miss this family-oriented, alcohol-free event that's filled with fun activities for all ages. With performances by various entertainers, the party promises music, magic, and big, bouncy things for the kids to burn off their energy. Held around Madison at: U.S. Bank Plaza, Monona Terrace, Olbrich Gardens, Madison Children's Museum, Keva Sports Center, the Prairie Athletic Club and Sun Prairie Ice Rink. Fireworks starting at 10:05, best viewing from Monona Terrace Bike path. PH: 608-252-4053
www.usbankeve.com/cgi_w/cfm/about/community_relations/madison.cfm?redirect=Madison

JANUARY 2012

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THROUGH JAN 1, 2012

SPRING GREEN

House on the Rock Christmas Experience

Enjoy the Rock with a holiday twist featuring a chance to tour the architectural wonder adorned with Christmas decor. Stroll through the buildings, which are open daily, and see a collection of more than 6,000 snowman figures, hear the sounds of holiday music and see the famous spaces like the Infinity Room and the Carousel beautifully lit with decorations. 608-935-3639; www.thehouseontherock.com

Through –JAN 6

MILWAUKEE

Blazin Yule Holiday Sculpture Walk

Visit the Harley-Davidson Museum to experience the culture and history of the Harley-Davidson brand this season and see the campus transformed into a winter wonderland full of holiday trees, sculpted by local artists in a variety of media. Holiday visitors can enjoy the sights of the dynamic sculptures and can take part in the fun by voting for their favorite in a public participating aspect of the project. The display is sponsored by Arts@Large, a local organization that provides multidisciplinary art experiences for students K-12 in Milwaukee. Bbring art supplies for Milwaukee's Arts@Large and receive \$4 off adult or child Museum admission. www.hdmuseum.com | 1-877-HD-MUSEUM

THROUGH JAN 15, 2012

MILWAUKEE

Celebrate Grand Avenue Christmas – Pabst Mansion

Beer made Milwaukee famous, and it made life rather enjoyable for the families of Beer Barons, like Captain Frederick Pabst. "Grand Avenue Christmas" turns the clock back each year to create a grand Victorian style holiday display welcoming more than 100,000 visitors from all over the nation. The Pabst Mansion's lavish, elegant furnishings are further dressed with red-velvet ribbons, frosted roses and gilded pinecones for the holidays. The mansion also hosts "Dickens Dinners," a traditional English feast featuring an actor channeling Charles Dickens himself reading his holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*. (Call 414-931-0808 for details and reservations.) "Grand Avenue Christmas" will remain on display for the holiday season, to January 15, 2012. www.pabstmansion.com

THROUGH MARCH 4, 2012

OSHKOSH

"Bling's The Thing" at Oshkosh Museum

A Century of show-stopping fashion hits the runway in "Bling!" an exhibit that celebrates high-class style and clothing embellishments. The display explores the art of fashion through the exhibition of haute couture styles dating from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. Presidential inauguration gowns, bridal trousseaus and dresses fit for queens are accented by an eclectic display of tres chic accessories, including hats, clutches and parasols and the costume jewelry collection of Teri C. Schaefer. Visitors enjoy backstage access to the richest styles of the century all from the remarkable fashion attic of the Oshkosh Public Museum. The museum is at 1331 Algoma Boulevard. www.OshkoshMuseum.org Phone: 920.236.5799

JAN 1

MILWAUKEE

Cool Fool Kite Festival

Free ! Starts at noon following the Polar Bear's jump into Lake Michigan, and will run until around 5PM. Kites and hot food are available for purchase or bring your own. Free hot chocolate, coffee and snacks will be served while it lasts, compliments of Caribou Coffee. Local ice carvers will also be on hand, and for the first time allowing the public to try their hand at carving. Horse drawn carriage rides will also be available from Milwaukee Coach and Carriage. Veteran's Park. For more information call (414) 277-9121.

JAN 1

SPOONER

Jack Frost Fest

Family fun with pond hockey tournament, ice fishing contest, antique snowmobile show, and raffle; Golf tournament and turkey bowling and other contests on or near the Yellow River Flowage on Hwy. 63. Food available. Downtown has free movies, rib & chili contest, and other activities. Sponsored by the Spooner Area Chamber of Commerce. Hwy 63. For more information call (715) 635-2168.

JAN 1

EGG HARBOR

Frosty Fest

This New Year's Celebration has its roots in the "bad old days" before Wisconsin Football teams started to get regular bowl bids. Tired of watching other states celebrate with grand parades, some locals decided to hold their own "no-RoseBowl Parade". Over time it has become a fun New Year's Day tradition to celebrate New Year's Egg Harbor style. You never know what you'll see in this 32nd annual parade. YMCA Icy Fun Run, live music, food vendors, shopping specials and snow sculptures, for sure. Starts at 1PM.

www.eggharbordoorcounty.com PH: 920-868-3717

JAN 1

Phillips, Jacksonport, Sheboygan

Polar Bear Plunges & Swims

Phillips

Registration begins at 10am. At 1 pm the "polar bears" will plunge into the icy cold waters of Long Lake; warm up by the big bonfire on the beach, raffles, door prizes, silent auction and lots of fun! Free sweatshirt with minimum \$35 pledge and pre-registration. Prizes for most pledge money raised, best costume, group with the most participants, and group raising the most pledge money. Support Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Northwoods! www.bbbsnorthwoods.org PH: 715-744-3927, 715-339-2626

Jacksonport

Food and fun for everyone as intrepid swimmers brave Lake Michigan in January. Food starts at 11am; swim at noon sharp. www.doorbell.net/psc PH: 920-823-2231

Sheboygan

On New Year's Day at 1pm, 400 daring swimmers charge into Lake Michigan. 10am registration at the Armory where there's music, entertainment, brat fry and refreshments from 10am-6pm. www.visitsheboygan.com PH:920-467-8436

JAN 2

PASADENA,CA & ESPN TV

The Rose Bowl

The Wisconsin Badgers VS The Oregon Ducks – TV coverage starts about 3:30pm on ESPN.

A National Historic Landmark built in 1922 and known mainly for the New Year's Tournament of Roses Football Game, the Rose Bowl Stadium has also earned its World-Class Reputation by hosting five NFL Super Bowl Games, the 1984 Olympic Soccer Matches, the 1994 Men's World Cup, the 1999 Women's World Cup, the 2002, 2006 and 2010 BCS National College Football Championship Games and numerous other memorable events over the past eighty plus years. For general Rose Bowl Stadium information call: (626) 577-3101. <http://losangeles.sbnation.com/2011/12/28/2665949/2012-rose-bowl-schedule-oregon-vs-wisconsin-lawrys-beef-bowl-prime-rib>

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JAN 3-8

MILWAUKEE

Blue Man Group

The New York Times heralds the show as "One of the most delightful performance pieces ever staged."! Entertainment News exclaims, "Blue Man Group is what every live performance aspires to be." The Baltimore Sun raves, "Blue Man Group packs a wallop. It's a big, loud, funny, silly, visually arresting production!" Although it is impossible to describe, people of all ages agree that Blue Man Group is an intensely exciting and wildly outrageous show. Tues-Thur 7:30PM; Fri 8PM; Sat 2PM & 8PM; Sun 1PM & 6:30PM. Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N Water St. For more information call (414) 273-7206.

JAN 5-8

MILWAUKEE

Home Building & Remodeling Expo

Enjoy all the new products at this show. Frontier Airlines Center, 400 W Wisconsin Ave. For more information call (414) 908-6001.

JAN 6

APPLETON

January Ski & Snowshoe Night Outing

XC Ski and Snowshoe trails will be lit up with candles and a full moon to guide skiers through the forest at Bubolz Nature Preserve. Ski trails will be groomed! Hot chocolate & food available! Ski and snowshoe rentals available! \$15 nonmembers/ \$10 members (Skis)... Fee is just \$5 if you have your own equipment. www.bubolzpreserve.org PH: 920-731-6041

JAN 6 - 8

Fennimore

O'Cooch Mountain Broadheads Indoor Brush Shoot

Indoor Brush Shoot (bow and arrow) open to the public as a participant or spectator. Jan & Feb events held indoors. March & April events held outdoors. Friday 2PM-8PM. Saturday 7AM-8PM. Sunday 7AM-2PM. O'Cooch Mountain Broadhead Archery, 687 Lincoln Ave. For more information call (608) 822-6402.

JAN 6 - 8

Fond du Lac

Foot of the Lake Synchronized Skating

Synchronized skaters from surrounding area and state compete Blue Line Family Ice Center, 550 Fond du Lac Avenue. For more information call (920) 923-0717.

JAN Jan 6 - Feb 17

Monroe

Earth's Canvas

Naturally inspired art - an exhibit by Elsie Berget, Barb Rothwell, Terri Schmit, and Jeanne Stietz. Tue-Fri 10AM-5PM, Sat 10AM-5PM. Monroe Arts Center, 1315 11th Street. For more information call (608) 325-5700.

JAN 6 - 28

Portage

"On Foot" with Letha Kelsey

Letha Kelsey, an art lecturer at the UW-Baraboo/Sauk County, will take us on a visual tour with her art. Opening Reception at January 6th from 4-6PM. Show runs through January 28th. Drury Gallery at the PCA,

Gallery is open Wed-Fri 1-6, Sat 10-3. Portage Center for the Arts, 301 E. Cook Street. For more information call (608) 742-5655.

JAN 7 - 8

Amherst

Wisconsin Kids Snowmobile Racing Association

Oval ice racing for kids 4-15. Kitty Cat's, 120's, Juniors. Trophies/Medals awarded to the top six drivers in each of 20 divisions. Portage County Ice Wars - Portage Co. Fairgrounds. PH: 715 848-1047.

JAN 7

Baraboo

Candlelight Ski, Hike and Snowshoe

Join the Friends of Mirror Lake and the state park staff for a beautiful winter night. We will have two easy 1-mile trails lit by torches. One trail will be for skiers only, and the other for everyone to enjoy. The Friends group will have food, hot beverages and goodies for sale. You can keep warm and enjoy the company around the two roaring bonfires. A Wisconsin State Park Admission Sticker is required. Mirror Lake State Park, E10320 Fern Dell Road. 6:00PM to 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 254-2333.

JAN 7

Blue Mounds

Candlelight Ski/Hike/Snowshoe

Ski one and two mile lit loops. Separate lit trail for hikers, snowshoers, and leashed pets. Guided interpretive hikes at 7PM and 8PM. Bonfire, free hot drinks and marshmallows. Hot food and baked goods for sale. Blue Mound State Park, 4350 Mounds Park Rd. 6:00PM to 9:00PM. For more information call (608) 437-5711.

JAN 7 - 8

Janesville

Southern Wisconsin Mid-Winter Antiques Show & Sale

Fine furniture, jewelry, glassware, primitives, pottery, books, advertising, post cards, cameras, stoneware, linens, sporting items, the unique and unusual and more. Over 30 quality dealers. Sat 9AM-5PM; Sun 10AM-4PM. Pontiac Convention Center, 2809 N Pontiac Dr. For more information call (608) 531-0284.

JAN 7

Merrill

WI State Championship Snowmobile Drag Races

Three lanes with 3 snowmobiles competing at one time. 3 different divisions Stock, Pro-Stock, Modified. Race track is 500 feet on groomed snow. This event is part of the MASTERS Racing Circuit Sanctioned points series. 8:30AM Mandatory Drivers Meeting, 9-10AM Test & Tune, 10:15AM-4:30PM Racing. Ed & Sharon's, N1294 Highway 64 & 107. For more information call (906) 884-9101.

JAN 7

New Auburn

Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

Join Naturalist Rod Gont on a one hour (two hour option available) snowshoe hike by moonlight, starting at the Chippewa Moraine Ice Age Visitor Center. A program on snowshoes and their use starts at 6:30. All ages are invited. No charge. Visitor Center will be open and we'll have a fire going in the fireplace. Cocoa and hot water available (but bring your own tea, soup, etc.). Two outside fires for sitting by, roasting hot dogs (bring your own), making smores, etc. Rod goes, regardless. If there's not enough snow, we'll hike. If it's cold, we'll put on more clothes. Chippewa Moraine Ice Age State Recreation Area, 13394 Cty Hwt M. Event starts at 6:30PM. For more information call (715) 967-2800.

JAN 7

Onalaska

YMCA New Year's Resolution Run/Walk

5-mile Run or 5K Run/Walk. YMCA North, 400 Mason Street. For more information call (608) 783-9622.

JAN 7

Ontario

Torchlight Ski

Cross-Country Skiing and Night Sky Viewing from dusk to 9pm. Ski, hike or snowshoe a gentle 1.5 mile trail through the woods and fields as 100 torches light the way. Also night ski viewing through telescopes begins at 7pm. A bonfire and grill are available for cookouts near the trail head. Along the way stop and soak up the warmth of another bonfire located at the midway point. Stop in for hot chocolate and snacks in an indoor warming area. Dusk-9PM. Wildcat Mountain State Park, E13660 State Road 33. For more information call (608) 337-4775.

JAN 7

Phillips

Ice Fishing Rumble

Prizes for 1st & 2nd place for longest fish in the following categories: walleye, northern, perch, blue gill & crappie; also 1st place for 12 & under walleye, plus door prizes and raffles; food & beverages will be available all day; entrance fee is \$10 per person each day (100% payback). Tickets can be purchased at Roll-In Point Bar & Grill anytime up until 10AM that day. Proceeds from the raffles will be donated to a local non-profit youth group Roll-In Point, W6605 Point Lane. 6:00AM. For more information call (715) 339-4585.

JAN 7

Phillips

Snowshoe Clinic

Snowshoe demo, stretching techniques & tips for exercising in cold weather. The whole family is invited to join Ron and Chris from The Crazy Loon, Phillips, along with Dr. Mel Eggebrecht from sPorT plus, Phillips, at the Wisconsin Concrete Park's new heated Studio for info regarding snowshoes, avoiding injury with exercise, and nutrition. You will have an opportunity to try out aluminum frame snowshoes on the nature trail at the park. Wisconsin Concrete Park, N8236 State Hwy. 13. Event starts at 1:00PM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (715) 339-6254.

JAN 7

LA FARGE

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Winter Festival

The KVR Winter Festival (8am – 4:30pm) highlights winter activities including storytelling in ciporoke, snow sculpture ice slide, hibernation talk, and an ice luminary workshop. NOTE: Guided ice cave hike offered in morning only. Also enjoy skating, sledding, skiing, archery, ice cave hikes, birds of prey presentation, face painting, horse-drawn bobsled rides, snowshoe exhibit, Tristate Malamute Club Sled Dog Race and weight pull, mutt race, horsedrawn tours and snow cave. La Farge Lions Club hosts an annual chili and bread contest for the public. Kickapoo Quick Auction of goods and services produced in the Kickapoo Valley. Proceeds from the auction benefit the KVR Education Program. To view the full schedule visit Web: kvr.state.wi.us/winterfest Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center, S3661 State Road 131 La Farge, WI 54639 Web: kvr.state.wi.us/winterfest PH:608-625-2960

JAN 7

Wisconsin Dells

Candlelight Ski, Hike & Snowshoe

2 trails winding 1.75 miles will be lit by candles and open to cross country skiers. Another trail will be open for hiking & snowshoeing. Refreshments available for purchase, warm bonfires! State Park Vehicle sticker

required. Mirror Lake State Park, E10320 Fern Dell Road. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 8:00PM. For more information call (608) 254-2333.

JAN 7

SAINT GERMAIN

Polar Bear Dip For a Cause

They'll be freez'n for a reason in St.Germain, WI on January 7th, 2012. The 12th annual Northwoods Polar Bear Plunge is set for "Fibbers" at Noon with a 1:30PM raffle. Plungers collect pledges that benefit Camp Angel/Camp Teen Angel and other programs of Angel On My Shoulder. Call for pledge sheets and registration forms. In 2011 more than 1900 jumpers raised \$33,097. Ready to chill? Sign up early to get a t-shirt! Visit: <http://www.wrjo.com/pages/11257591.php>? PH: 715-479-4451

JAN 11 - 12

La Crosse

Midwest Farm Show

The show presents the latest in the business of agriculture. 9AM-3:30PM daily; free admission. La Crosse Center, 300 Harborview Plz. For more information call (715) 723-3684.

JAN 13-14

PRAIRIE DU SAC

Bald Eagle Watching Days

Watch as these majestic creatures soar around the open waters of the Wisconsin River. Take a guided bus tour, or wildlife photography seminar and enjoy birds of prey shows. There will also be conservation exhibits, and places to learn about Native American legends. 800-683-2453; www.ferrybluffeaglecouncil.org

JAN 13 - 15

Eagle River

Loadmaster Classic Vintage Weekend

Racing vintage snowmobiles. Eagle River Derby Track, Hwy 45 N. Call (715) 479-4424.

JAN 13

Green Bay

Kathleen Madigan

Comedian Kathleen Madigan performs. Meyer Theatre, 117 S Washington St. 8:00PM. PH:920-494-3401.

JAN 13 - 14

Hartford

Seussical, The Musical, Jr.

Presented by Stagekids Productions in cooperation with North Shore Academy of the Arts & Schauer Community School of the Arts. Adapted from the musical by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens. "Oh, the things you can think" when Dr. Seuss's best-loved stories collide! Performed by a cast of local youth. Fri 7PM, Sat 2PM. Schauer Arts & Activities Center, 147 N Rural St. For more information call (262) 670-0560.

JAN 13 - 15

Kewaskum

Heat Wave Polka Fest

The Good Time Dutchman proudly brings "The Heatwave Polka Fest" to Kewaskum for another winter dance. Featuring great bands like " The Good Time Dutchman", "Barry Boyce", "Music connection", " John Roehl", " Carol and the Key Notes" and many more great bands. Food is available all 3 days. Fri 6PM-

Midnight, Sat Noon-11PM, Sun Noon-6PM. Amerahn Hall. 9480 Hwy 45. For more information call (262) 338-6308.

JAN 13 - 14

Onalaska

Onalaska Show Choir Invitational

20-30 of the finest show choirs in the upper-midwest compete in the Grand Champion Sing-Off. Choirs from six states are represented. Onalaska High School, 700 Hilltopper Place. For more information call (608) 783-4561.

JAN 13 - 15

Rice Lake

Mixed Stein Spiel

Curling Tournament with teams that have both men and women on. Rice Lake Curling Club, 912 S Wisconsin Ave. For more information call (715) 234-9812.

JAN 14

Delafield

Candlelight Ski/Hike

Just over 1 mile of candlelight skiing and hiking on the trails of Lapham Peak from the Homestead Hollow parking lot area. Food and beverages available for purchase from the Friends of Lapham Peak as well as live music entertainment and the warmth of a fire while sitting inside the Trecker Lodge. Outside seating and bonfire also available. Lapham Peak Unit - Kettle Moraine State Forest. W329N846 County Road C. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call (262) 646-3025.

JAN 14 - 15

Oconomowoc

Tundra Challenge

Participants will cover 3.5 miles of tundra and more than 15 obstacles designed by military experts. Begins with a 205 foot climb and a 50 foot "suicide slide." Participants will crawl, balance and weave through cleverly named obstacles such as Polar Pass, Frozen Fairbanks and Whirlwind Whiteout. Participants can celebrate at the after party with music, food and drinks and an awards ceremony in a snow lodge ambiance. Olympia Resort, 1350 Royale Mile Road. For more information call (855) 886-3724.

JAN 14

Portage

An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan

Bill Lutes and Martha Fischer from the University of Wisconsin, Madison will regale us with songs from Gilbert & Sullivan & Broadway Shows! Call for ticket pricing. Portage Center for the Arts 301 E. Cook Street. Event starts at 7:30PM. For more information call (608) 742-5655.

JAN 14

Sheboygan

Candlelight Ski & Hike at Kohler Andrae Park

Hike the 2-mile cross-country trail lit by tiki torches on this fun filled annual event. Warm-up shelter open. Light refreshments served. No pets, snow shoes or sleds allowed on the trail. Vehicle admission sticker required. Kohler-Andrae State Park, 1020 Beach Park Ln. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call (920) 451-4080.

JAN 14

Ashland

Sleigh & Cutter Parade

Dozens of old-fashioned sleighs and cutters in a parade sponsored by the Northwood's Harness Club. Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Event starts at 1:00PM. For more information call (715) 685-9983.

JAN 14

Spooner

Jack Frost Fest

Family fun with pond hockey tournament, ice fishing contest, antique snowmobile show, and raffle; Golf tournament and turkey bowling and other contests on or near the Yellow River Flowage on Hwy. 63; Food available. Downtown has free movies, rib & chili contest, and other activities. Event starts at 9:00AM and ends at 4:00PM. For more information call (715) 635-2168.

JAN 14 - 15

St. Germain

World Championship Kitty Cat Races

Held on Little St. Germain Lake at Black Bear Lodge. Registration starting at 7:30AM, Hot Laps at 9AM and racing starting at 10AM. Racing is offered to children from ages 4 to 14. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Kids Racing Association, promoting family fun for everyone! Contact WKSRA Hotline at (715) 843-9577. 1330 Halberstadt Road, St. Germain, WI 54558. For more information call (800) 563-4340.

JAN 14

St. Germain

PrimeTimers Snowflake Dance

Live entertainment, food and beverage served. Public is welcome. Music will be provided by "The Music Connection". St. Germain Community Center, 545 State Highway 155. Event starts at 7:00PM and ends at 11:00PM. For more information call (715) 479-6310.

JAN 14 - 15

Waukesha

Waukesha Expo Market

Enjoy estate and attic treasures, antiques, collectibles, coins, jewelry, art, glass, and pottery, furniture & repair services, depression glass sports items old toys candles & soaps, Watkins, Avon, knick-knacks, and more. Admission is \$4/pp over 6 years, \$2/pp plus two non-perish for food pantry donations. Sat: 9AM-4PM, Sun: 9AM-3PM. Waukesha Expo Center, 1000 Northview Rd. For more information call (262) 896-8490.

JAN 15

Chippewa Falls

Crystal Ice Exhibition

All skaters and coaches are welcome to participate in this fun event. Each skater will be announced, have her music played, and skate to her program. Skaters choreograph their own program. Chippewa Hockey Arena, State Street. Event starts at 2:00PM. For more information call (715) 559-3753.

JAN 17

West Bend

Collection of Collectors

Join us for this informal yet informative evening showcasing local collectors. Past year's collections included golf memorabilia, milk bottles and Civil War battlefield relics. This event is free for collectors and attendees, and is open to the public. Old Courthouse Museum, 320 S 5th Ave. Event starts at 7:00PM. For more information call (262) 335-4678.

JAN 19 - 22

Eagle River

World Championship Snowmobile Derby

The world's premier snowmobile racing event. 1400-plus entries compete for oval and sno-cross championships in front of 30,000 spectators. Eagle River Derby Track, Hwy 45 N. For more information call (715) 479-4424.

JAN 20-22

Fontana

"Great Chefs at the Lake"

Back by popular demand at The Abbey Resort. Three renowned chefs from Chicago and Lake Geneva will host cooking demonstrations and prepare their mouth-watering cuisines during the weekend culinary events. The "Great Chefs at the Lake" series will take place over three weekends.

www.theabbeyresort.com/PR PH:888-629-9594

JAN 20 - 22

Waukesha

Waukesha JanBoree

Family fun winter celebration! Events will take place throughout the city of Waukesha. Many family, children (both young and teen), and adult events. It's a wonderful winter event with or without snow! Downtown. For more information call (262) 524-3737.

JAN 21 - 22

Antigo

Langlade County Trailblazer Challenge Sled Dog Races

The Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce will host the 2nd Annual Langlade County Trailblazer Challenge Sled Dog Races. The public is welcome to come out and watch; there is plenty of parking and several road-crossing locations for spectators 2105 Neva Road. For more information call (888) 526-4523.

JAN 21-22

Stevens Point

Arctic Run Model Railroad Sale & Show

Fun for the whole family. Enjoy a convention center full of trains, trains and more trains. Featured are operating model railroad layouts (some as large as 24' x 52'), a hands-on Thomas the Tank Engine layout for the children, swap/sales tables, hobby shop dealers and vendors. If you are just interested in watching trains, thinking of getting started in the hobby, or a seasoned model railroader there is something here for everyone. Don't forget to ride the train with Engineer Ted. The show is sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders Ltd. Activities include promoting model railroading as a life long hobby and family activity, supporting community events and the Portage County Historical Society. Adults \$3, Ages 11-16 \$2, Ages 10 & under free. Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 11am-4pm. www.trainweb.org/cwmr 715-341-8228

JAN 21

Baraboo

2nd Annual Ride-In and Chili Feed

Baraboo River Runners snowmobile club. Chili Served 5:30PM - 9PM. "Vinnie B" videos & music start at 6:30PM. Raffles and door prizes. Everyone is welcome - come by sled or by car. Please call for admission info. Hooty's Bar & Grill, Hwy 123. For more information call (608) 963-4193.

BEFORE YOU GO: Avoid disappointment. Always check for schedule changes before heading to events. **For more events:** www.TravelWisconsin.com or www.WisTravel.com

JAN 21

Curtiss

Curtiss Snowmobile Drag Races

Vintage sleds and up. Registration 9-11:30AM. Racing starts at noon. Admission \$3/ person. There will be cash prizes, food, refreshments and raffles. Sponsored by the Curtiss Lions, Inc. Hwy E. For more information call (715) 613-5353.

JAN 21

Dodgeville

Candlelight Ski/Hike/Snowshoe

Walk, ski, or snowshoe a trail lit with glowing candlelight. Warm up by the bonfire after enjoying the trail. Limited snacks and hot beverages will be available for sale. Weather and snow conditions determine trail location Governor Dodge State Park, 4175 State Road 23 N. 6:00PM to 9:00PM. Call (608) 935-2315.

JAN 21

Madison

Isthmus Beer and Cheese Fest

What better way to celebrate this winter than tasting some of the best beer and cheese our area has to offer? This Annual Beer & Cheese Fest sponsored by Isthmus is a great place to socialize and enjoy great food and drink. Call for ticket info. Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way. Event starts at 2:00PM and ends at 6:00PM. For more information call (608) 267-3976.

JAN 21

Edgerton

Trivia Night

This Annual Trivia Night includes trivia contests, food, drinks and a silent auction. Tri-County Community Center, 112 Swift Street. Event starts at 7:00PM and ends at 10:00PM. For more information call (608) 884-4408.

JAN 21

Franksville

Snowmobile Clubs Winter Fest & Dance

Family fun in the snow. Games, food and raffles. Radar run, weather permitting. South Hills Country Club, 3047 US Highway 41. Event starts at 11:00AM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call (262) 554-8823.

JAN 21

Manitowoc

Lakeshore Big Band – “The Best of Broadway”

From Broadway and on to the Silver Screen featuring "Sound of Music", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "Beauty and the Beast", and many more! Capitol Civic Centre, 913 S 8th Street. Event starts at 7:30PM and ends at 9:30PM. For more information call (920) 683-2184.

JAN 21

New London

Mosquito Hill Winter Family Fun Day

Come out to Mosquito Hill Nature Center to celebrate the season of winter. Enjoy a family day of playing in the snow. There will be dog sled demonstrations, ice bowling, an otter slide for the kids and much more. When you're all done playing check out the chili bar. Mosquito Hill Nature Center, N3880 Rogers Rd. Event starts at 12:00PM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call (920) 779-6433.

JAN 21

New London

27th Annual Mosquito Hill Snowshoe Race

1, 3 & 5 mile as well as an 800-meter kids race located at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. N3880 Rogers Road. For more information call (920) 779-6433.

JAN 21

Sun Prairie

McCarthy Youth & Conservation Park "Snow Day"

Join us for sledding, Cross country skiing, snowmen and smores McCarthy Youth & Conservation Park, 4841 Hwy TT. Event starts at 11:00AM and ends at 3:00PM. For more information call (608) 224-3601.

JAN 21

Waukesha

Waukesha JanBoree Ice Sculpting Contest

Amateur ice sculpting competition on the sidewalks of Historic Downtown Waukesha. A portion of a weekend full of winter activities. See up to 40 large blocks ice sculpted into works of art. A part of the Waukesha JanBoree 802 N. Grand Avenue. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 2:00PM. For more information call (262) 549-6154.

JAN 21

Webster

8th Yellow Lakes & River Assn Fishing Contest

Fishing Contest fun for the whole family. 9:00AM to 3:00PM. PH: (715) 866-4281 ext 321.

JAN 21 - 22

West Bend

West Bend Antique Show

More than 50 quality dealers. Catered lunch, children free. Parking free. Sat 9AM-4PM, Sun 10AM-3PM. Washington County Fair Park. For more information call (414) 525-0820.

JAN 21

Whitewater

Kettle Moraine XC Ski and Annual Candlelight Ski

Enjoy the Purple Trail in its candle lit glow. The DNR will build a large campfire, so don't forget the marshmallows! Nordic Trail - Kettle Moraine State Park. For more information call (262) 495-8600.

JAN 21

Wisconsin Rapids

Nepco Park Cross Country Ski Event

Night cross country ski on 7 km of trail plus chili feed and bonfire. Sponsored by River Cities Nordic Ski Club. Nepco Lake County Park, 1410 Griffith Ave. Event starts at 2:00PM and ends at 6:00PM. For more information call (715) 451-1812.

JAN 24 - 25

Rice Lake

Rice Lake Farm Show

This year's featured entertainment will be Martha Herbert and her "live" Creature Encounters with wildlife from Africa, South America and other parts of the United States. Open to the public free of charge including free parking and entertainment. Cedar Mall of Rice Lake. Event starts at 10:00AM and ends at 3:30PM. For more information call (715) 723-5061.

JAN 26

Prairie du Sac

The Mighty Oak Tawny Port Fundraiser

A special fundraiser tasting for brain cancer research featuring our single barrel Tawny Port 2005. Tickets: \$50, available for purchase beginning November 1, 2011 after 10:00AM (must be purchased in advance; call or visit winery to purchase tickets). (Note: Bottles of Tawny Port 2005 can only be reserved with ticket purchase.) Wollersheim Winery, 7876 Hwy 188. Event starts at 6:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. For more information call (608) 643-6515.

JAN 27

Green Lake

John Gorka in Concert

Singer/songwriter famed for his rich, expressive baritone, New Jersey native John Gorka was one of the leading lights of the new folk movement. His songs have been recorded and/or performed by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Nanci Griffith, Mary Black and Maura O'Connell. Thrasher Opera House, 506 Mill St. Event starts at 7:30PM. For more information call (920) 294-4279 ext 101.

JAN 27

Appleton

Swan Lake

The State Ballet Theatre of Russia invites you to enjoy one of the most beloved ballets of all time. Fox Cities Performing Arts Center. Event starts at 7:30PM. For more information call (920) 730-3760.

JAN 27

Rhineland

The Second City

Second City brings to the Nicolet stage unbridled delight in the foibles of our politicians, celebrities and even our significant others. From the blowhards of the Beltway to the Hollywood elite, no institution escapes this troupe's satiric eye. Get ready for a hilarious, irreverent ride through present-day America. Nicolet Live!, 5355 College Dr. Event starts at 7:30PM and ends at 10:00PM. For more information call (800) 544-3039.

JAN 28

Bloomer

Bloomer Rope Jump Contest

20-35 participating schools and approximately 240 jumpers try to break the records in the Jump Rope Capital of the World. Bloomer High School. For more information call (715) 568-3339.

JAN 28

Crivitz

Caldron Falls Fishoree & Drags/Radar Runs

All runs and raffle proceeds benefit Town of Stephenson Volunteer Fire Department. 1000' track, \$100 cash top speed, trophies for all classes. 100% payout for fish-o-ree, food, beverages, raffles in heated tent on ice. Call for more information. Caldron Falls Lake - Boat Landing #9. 8:00AM to 4:00PM. Call (715) 757-3311.

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Green Bay Visitor's Guide – 888-867-3342 www.GreenBay.com
Green County Travel Guide – 888-222-9111 www.GreenCounty.com
Kenosha Area Visitors Guide – 800-654-7309 www.KenoshaCVB.com
Kewaunee County Guide – 800-290-4299 www.VisitKewauneeCounty.com
Madison Area Visitor Guide - PH: 800.373.6376 <http://www.visitmadison.com>
Mineral Point Travel Guide – PH: 888-764-6894 www.MineralPoint.com
Minocqua Area Destination Guide – 800-44-NORTH www.minocqua.org
Sauk Prairie Visitors Packet – PH: 800- 683-2453 <http://www.saukprairie.com/visitorspacket.html>
St.Croix Valley & Polk County Guides (ask Sue for both) PH: 800-222-7655 www.VisitSCF.com
Superior & Douglas Country Travel Guide 800-942-5313 www.VisitSuperior.com

OTHERS – NEIGHBORING STATES, REGIONAL, ETC

Lake Michigan Circle Tour and Lighthouse Map – PH: 1-800-442-2084 or at www.WMTA.org
Mississippi Valley Partners (WI-MN) www.mississippi-river.org 1-888-999-2619
Red Wing, Minnesota www.redwing.org 1-651-385-5934
Wabasha-Kellogg, Minnesota – www.wabashamn.org 1-800-565-4158
West Michigan Travel Guide 616-245-2217 www.wmta.org/publications-24/
Winona, Minnesota Visitor Guide – PH: (800) 657-4972 www.VisitWinona.com

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