

MICHIGAN ICE FEST

2017



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February 15th - 19th

Munising, MI



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Cover: Mountain Hardwear
athlete Tim Emmett climbing
Pictured Rocks Classic
HMR at Ice Fest 2016
Photo: Erik Olson

Contents: Grivel athlete
Angela Van Wiemeersch
during a Backcountry
Adventure Tour
Photo: Jack Frost



THE **OFFICIAL**
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MICHIGAN ICE FEST



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Ice Fest Staff Member Linda Wappner playing on the frozen spray from Miner's Falls

Welcome to Ice Fest, Welcome to the Family

Quietly nestled on the south shore of Lake Superior we have some of the country's most outstanding ice climbing and for years it was a secret treasure no one had ever heard of! Then the secret got out. With the release of two major films featuring the area, climbers are beginning to discover what many of us have known for decades: Michigan climbing is great and the Michigan Ice Fest is at the center of it all. The festival makes ice climbing accessible to the first timer, teaches advanced skills to those looking to improve and connects participants with the greater climbing community through slideshows and socials.

We started almost thirty years ago as a way for a handful of the hearty souls who enjoyed climbing in the area to meet up, share stories and do a little climbing. We bonded over the areas beauty and the adventurous nature of the sport and became something of a family. Stories spread by word of mouth, social media and now film. Over the years our family has grown, a lot, and it hasn't been without some growing pains. We are no longer 7 people watching a slideshow in a bar, we're now 700 people watching slideshows in a historic theater!

Starting the day after last year's Fest, the organizers have been looking for ways to improve the festival experience. We have been sifting through participant evaluations and working tirelessly to put together an amazing week, yes we said week, of ice climbing festivities! Once again we've pulled out all of the stops for 2017. Based on your feedback we now have smaller class sizes, staggered class times, an improved shuttle system, and more ice to climb (fewer climbs will be taken up by classes including the Dryer Hose and Ampitheater)! We're moving to a new headquarters so we have more space, are offering more off the ice activities and, maybe most importantly, we've got more free beer!

Whether you're an experienced climber who's been to every Michigan Ice Fest or an adventure seeker who's never tied into a rope, we hope you'll join us this February in Munising. This is a place we can socialize and bond as climbers and get to together as the biggest, best family around.

Festival Organizer
Bill Thompson



CASSIN
Alpinismo in evoluzione.

What's New for 2017

NEW HEADQUARTERS!

Last year, after decades of meeting in the same bar to celebrate all things winter, our family had finally outgrown our home. We searched for a new venue and thought we found the perfect spot at the American Legion Hall, but that too couldn't handle our rapidly expanding list of friends. Based on feedback from our participants we started the search all over again. **Our new headquarters for 2017 will be at the Central Community Center!** With the additional space we should be more organized and certainly more comfortable without being overcrowded. The Central Community Center will be home to registration, demos, vendors, presentations and more! One change that will come with the new headquarters is there will be **NO ALCOHOL allowed inside the school**. So that brings us to...

AFTER PARTIES!

After the presentations and films we will be hosting after parties at a few of the local bars. This will be your chance to hang out, have a drink and talk to the pro athletes. The headquarters and store will still be open during the parties so if you need anything for the following day this is a great time to stop by.

NEW SPONSORS AND VENDORS

In the past we've seen tremendous support from our partners in the climbing industry, but nothing holds a candle to the support we've seen this year. Over twenty different companies are sending representatives and products to help you get the most out of your gear. New this year we would like to welcome Rab, Trango and Osprey Backpacks to our Ice Fest Family! At headquarters you will see the latest and greatest in climbing gear and clothing as well as have the chance to buy it at a discounted price.

SMALLER CLASS SIZES AND MORE ICE TO CLIMB!

The Michigan Ice Fest has always brought in elite climbers from all over the world to teach our classes and clinics and this year will be no exception. So why change anything? Once again, based on 2016 participant feedback our classes were too big and took up too many classic climbs. In an effort to improve the quality of our courses we are cutting the size to 8 participants and we are not teaching any courses on **THE DYER HOSE** or **THE AMPITHEATER!**



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Sterling Athlete Mayan Smith-Gobat made the fifth known ascent of *Riders on the Storm* in Patagonia, Chile on the 25th anniversary of the first ascent. She chose the 9.2 mm Evolution Aero™ to get her there.

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Get the Most Out of Ice Fest

- **Sign up early.** Not only does it save you money, but our classes tend to fill up. You can register at michiganicefest.com
- **Show up early!** Doesn't matter if it is a class, the demo, a presentation or for the free beer at the after parties. If you are late you will almost certainly miss out.
- **Prepare for anything.** The weather on Lake Superior is unpredictable at best. Be ready for cold, snow and wind.
- **Take a course/clinic.** This is a sure-fire way to increase your skills, gain some valuable knowledge, and get on some amazing ice, all the while being instructed by one of the country's best alpinist/ice climbers.
- **Corner a manufacturer's sales rep.** These folks come from all over the country to support our event and represent the leading manufacturers of climbing equipment and clothing. They bring with them a vast knowledge of this gear and are more than willing to share their insights and experiences. If you have questions, they have answers.
- **Have a drink with a professional athlete.** Many of the world's best climbers are in attendance at Ice Fest and will be attending our after parties and socials. It is a rare opportunity to be able to socialize with a sport's elite athletes and the ability to share stories with them is priceless.
- **Enjoy Munising and Pictured Rocks.** The ice climbing in the Munising area is immense. Try to get off of Sand Point Road and explore the backcountry where you will find solitude, incredible scenery, and the opportunity to climb on the shores of the world's largest freshwater lake!

Headquarters

New for 2017! Our headquarters will be moving to the [Central Community Center](#) in Munising, located at 413 Maple Street. Most off-ice activities will take place here including: registration, class meeting spot, gear demos, gear sales, and shuttle pick up. Have questions about the festival? The Central Community Center is where you will find the answers. Maps, schedules and official Ice Fest memorabilia will also be found here.

Spectating & Photography

If you are traveling up to Munising and looking to watch the climbers or exploring the possibility of catching the action on film- for your safety please do not walk under or around the ice while climbers are climbing. Ice can and will fall during the ascent and could easily injure a spectator/photographer. The best location for catching a glimpse of the climbers is along Sand Point Road. Take the shuttle from the American Legion Hall parking lot and the driver will drop you off right at the trailhead. A short but steep walk will take you to the base of the climbs. We ask that all photographers please remain at the bottom of the climbs at the demo area. If you are interested in improving your climbing photography, check out our rigging course.



Useful Numbers and Web Sites

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Visitors Center

906-387-3700

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore Headquarters

906-387-2607

Michigan State Police Munising

906-387-4550

Down Wind Sports Ice Conditions / Gear

906-226-7112

Michigan Ice Fest

michiganicefest.com



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The Ultimate Ice Fest Tick List

When coming to a new area that you haven't climbed at before, selecting a few routes can be a daunting task. Wasting time deciding on routes can be frustrating so the staff of Michigan Ice has compiled a list of what we believe is the "Ultimate Munising Tick List". Our staff have been climbing at Pictured Rocks for decades and have narrowed the list down to our all-time favorites. Whether you are a seasoned Ice Fest veteran or a first time visitor, make sure you put time on your schedule to check a few of these climbs off during your visit.

NEW THIS YEAR: FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES TAUGHT DURING ICE FEST ON THE DRYER HOSE OR THE AMPHITHEATER!

The Dryer Hose (Life's A Pitch) - WI 4, 23 meters

Climbing up the approach trail and catching the first glimpse of the Dryer Hose can be awe inspiring. "THE classic route" in Munising's front country, it's a must do climb on everyone's tick list. The Dryer Hose is a large freestanding pillar that forms in a typical Pictured Rocks sandstone bowl. The base is usually cauliflowered leading to vertical ice.

The Amphitheater - WI 5, 20 meters

This climb rarely touches down, which makes it a fun day to try to connect the pillars from the back to the front curtain to top out. It's a pumpy climb requiring lots of skill. If you top rope the climb, have fun flying through the air if you fall off the ice, it's a big swing!

Sweet Mother Moses - WI 4, 23 meters

This climb is another Munising classic. Like the Dryer Hose? SMM is almost an exact replica of the Hose! This beautiful pillar stands dead vertical and usually forms large "bat wings."

Dairyland - WI 5, 50 meters

This is it, the mother of all Munising backcountry climbs! Although it's not the hardest, it's the biggest, fattest, and most inspiring climb in the park. The climb forms in two HUGE pillars fed by a creek above, flanked at the top by massive bat wings. From the frozen lake to the top of the cliff, it is over 200 feet high, with 150 feet of actual climbing. The usual approach is to rappel down the climb from above and lead back out.

Twin Towers - WI 4+ to 6, 45 meters

Two columns form the climb Twin Towers which is just south(west) of the arch on Grand Portal Point. Access the climb by snowshoeing the Mosquito Beach Trail until it reaches the cliff's edge. Follow the cliff line east for about a mile.

HMR - WI 5, 60 Meters

Featured on the cover of the area's guidebook, this climb rises majestically above Lake Superior. This vertical beauty is considered by most the quintessential route in PRNL. Steep, exposed and with a difficult approach, climbers who put the effort in will be rewarded with one of the best grade 5 climbs in the country.

All of these classic routes and more can be found in An Ice Climbers Guide to Munising Michigan, available for purchase at the Michigan Ice Fest headquarters.



Park Service Rules & Etiquette

Over the years, ice climbers have developed a great relationship with the National Park Service in regards to climbing within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Not all climbing areas have good relationships with government agencies... but we do. Much of that has to do with climbers who have always been respectful of the Park Service regulations. The staff at Michigan Ice appreciates all climber's assistance in fostering this relationship. The following rules and regulations have been set forth to help preserve this beautiful area.

- Munising Falls is closed to climbing due to hazardous rock fall.
- Pets are not allowed at any of the climbing areas.
- Alcohol is not permitted at any of the climbing areas.
- No fires are allowed outside of designated campsites.
- If you have any questions please call the park service at 906-387-3700.
- There is no parking allowed along Sand Point Road. Please park in the designated parking lot at the end of Sand Point Road.
- Winter camping within Pictured Rocks is available only in the designated lakeshore backcountry sites and requires a permit. Overnight camping in parking lots is not permitted.

Ice Fest can be a busy time at Pictured Rocks. Classic climbs with easy access can be very popular this weekend. The social nature of the event is part of what makes Ice Fest great so please be kind, share your climbs and do your best to make everyone else's weekend as good as yours. We also have many classes going on throughout the weekend. We ask that you avoid the climbs where these are taking place. The locals love the ice climbers and we'd like to keep it that way.



Rab



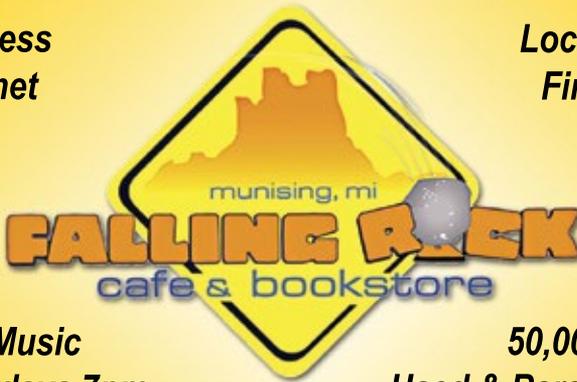
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Pro Tips: Ice Tools

by:
Brett Merlin



Ice tools are incredibly refined engineered products and have gone through dramatic evolutions in technology and geometry in the past 15 years. Modern tools are lightyears better than what was previously available, and there are many great choices on the market. Simply put, now is a great time to be an ice climber!

Shopping for the perfect ice tool can be a bit tricky. Tools come in variety of different shapes, styles and geometries. The best ice tool for you is probably the one that penetrates ice most easily and has the most natural swing. Ice comes in a wide variety of different forms and conditions. Temperature, shape, density and consistency are common variables for every pitch of ice. Find a tool that climbs well throughout the entire spectrum of ice conditions. Any ice tool will climb well in soft, warm, “styrofoamy” plastic conditions. But will it climb well in hard dense and brittle cold conditions? This is the hardest type of ice to climb and where your tool needs to perform the best. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore often has some of the coldest and most brittle ice conditions in the country. This makes the Michigan Ice Festival arguably the best place to test ice tools!

Here are three key points to consider when shopping for tools:

The angle at which the pick penetrates the ice- Hold the tool up against a 90 degree wall, as though you were going to strike it. How does the tip of the pick touch the wall? Is it on the bottom tooth of the pick or the top shoulder of the pick? If it is on the top shoulder of the pick, it is more likely to fracture the ice and it may require you to modify your natural swing to more of a non-intuitive “downward hack” to compensate for the pick angle geometry. If it is on the bottom tooth of the pick you are less likely to fracture the ice and when you pull down on the tool the pick will naturally and continually drive down and into the ice.



Pick thickness and shape- The thicker and more blunt the pick, the harder it will be to penetrate ice, and the more ice it will displace due to the increased surface area. A higher volume pick will require more force to be generated to achieve the proper pick penetration. A narrower and beak like pick will focus the force of your swing into a smaller surface area, penetrate ice more easily, and displaces ice. Tools with this narrower pick profile are often quieter and more efficient to climb on. They also may require you ease off on the force of your swing.

Volume of the Grip- ALWAYS TEST TOOLS WITH YOUR ICE CLIMBING GLOVES ON! Consider how the grip feels. Is the grip too big or too large in diameter for your hand? Is the grip too small for your hand? Can the grip be modified to fit your needs? Remember, some grips crush your pinky finger when you are hanging straight arm while others allow for more comfort and more breathing room. A tight support grip may also reduce blood circulation in your hands making the screaming barfies even worse! And please remember, when feeling the grips on tools in the shop don't forget to wear an ice glove to determine how you fill out the volume. Rarely do we ice climb barehanded outside, especially in the U.P.!

Ultimately, finding the right ice tool comes down to personal preference. Try as many tools as you can on the ice, climb on them side by side (left hand with one model, right hand with another) on the same climb to understand what you like or don't like. Look for what feels right to you. Form an opinion on what you like and why. Remember, now is the best time in history to be an ice climber!



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Film: Meru

In the high-stakes game of big-wall climbing, the Shark's Fin on Mount Meru may be the ultimate prize. Sitting at the headwaters of the sacred Ganges River in Northern India, the Shark's Fin has seen more failed attempts by elite climbing teams over the past 30 years than any other ascent in the Himalayas.

To undertake Meru, says Jon Krakauer, the bestselling author of *Into Thin Air*, "You can't just be a good ice climber. You can't just be good at altitude. You can't just be a good rock climber. It's defeated so many good climbers and maybe will defeat everybody for all time. Meru isn't Everest. On Everest you can hire Sherpas to take most of the risks. This is a whole different kind of climbing."

In October 2008, Conrad Anker, Jimmy Chin and Renan Ozturk arrived in India to tackle Meru. What was meant to be a seven-day trip with the equivalent amount of food became a 20-day odyssey in sub-zero temperatures, thanks to the setback of a massive storm that showered the mountain with at least 10 feet of snow. Like everyone before them, their journey was not a successful one. But they had reached further than anyone else, beaten back just 100 meters below the elusive summit.

Heartbroken and defeated, Anker, Chin and Ozturk returned to their everyday lives, swearing never to attempt the journey again. But they faced sudden physical and emotional challenges back home, too, challenges only exacerbated by the siren song of Meru, one that Anker perhaps heard the loudest. By September 2011, Anker had convinced his two lifelong friends to undertake the Shark's Fin once more, under even more extraordinary circumstances than the first time around.

MERU is the story of that journey—one of friendship, sacrifice, hope and obsession.



WATCH MERU FOLLOWED BY A **Q&A** WITH **CONRAD ANKER** | **SATURDAY FEB 18**
MATHER AUDITORIUM

Film: Jeff Lowe's Metanoia

Jeff Lowe's *Metanoia* explores the life and climbs of legendary alpinist, Jeff Lowe. In 1958 at the age of 7 he was the youngest person to climb the Grand Teton with his father, Ralph and older brother, Greg. Jeff became the most talented technical climber of his generation. For 40 years he practiced living in the present moment on some of the most beautiful rock faces in the world, from the Wasatch Mountains and big walls of Zion National Park in Utah to the Swiss Alps and on to the great Himalayan peaks. For the past decade Jeff has suffered from a relentlessly progressive neurological deterioration for which the doctors have no name. As he gets into his adapted van from his wheelchair, Jeff now moves with the same precision and attention to detail as he used to climb.

Jeff Lowe's "unimaginable climb" up the notorious North Face of the Eiger in 1991 is the hub of this biographical documentary. Acclaimed NY Times best selling author, Jon Krakauer, was the photographer for Jeff's famed 1st ascent. Jon will narrate the greater, more compelling story behind that climb and what lies beneath Jeff's high adventure lifestyle.

The indomitable spirit that brought Jeff Lowe through countless challenges in the mountains, finds new expression far from the vertical arena. Lowe's characteristic composure and resilience remain intact. In particular, the lessons from his 1991 solo Eiger ascent are still with him in his wheelchair today. Twenty years have passed. Jeff's extraordinary first ascent – *Metanoia* – has never been repeated. American and international audiences are about to discover one man's extraordinary grand circle that is completed in the shadows of the Wasatch Mountains of Utah.

Jeff Lowe's **Metanoia**

noun / me-ta-'noi- a / Greek Origin
a fundamental change of thinking;
a transformative change of heart



“*Metanoia* is an inspiring account of a visionary climber's life, yet it is so much more than a climbing film. It is a tale of heroism and redemption, set against the colorful canvas of mountains.”

Avery Stonich – National Geographic

www.jefflowesmetanoia.com

Ana Dablam
Himalaya Nepal 1978



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**JEFF LOWE
& HIS WIFE CONNIE**

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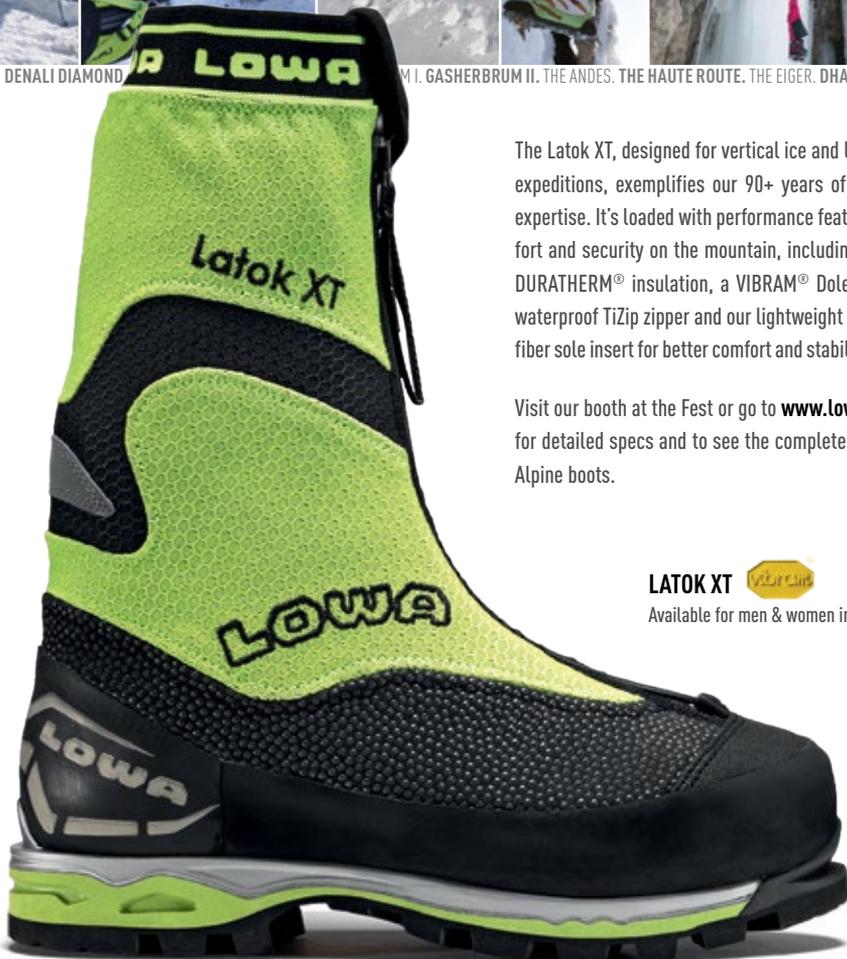
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Classes & Clinics



Ice Climbing can be an intimidating sport. It's hard to look at a frozen waterfall and think, "I'm going to climb that," but you can. We promise.

The best way to get over that intimidation is with instruction. That's why we offer classes and clinics. Whether you're a first timer looking to try out ice climbing or an experienced climber wanting to fine tune your skills, you will learn a lot from our experienced and professional teachers.

New this year! We are limiting our class size to 8 participants which will give climbers much more personalized instruction and more ice time! Classes include demo gear and space is limited in most classes.

Below you can see a small sample of our classes.

For information on all of our classes see:

www.MichiganIceFest.com

Introduction To Ice Climbing

What better way to shorten your learning curve and learn proper ice climbing technique than an introduction course! Learn equipment selection, tool placement, stance, and ice climbing technique.

Women's Introduction To Ice Climbing

This all women's version of our introduction course is a great way to learn proper ice climbing technique in a fun and supportive atmosphere.

Backcountry Adventure

This class is designed to introduce the intermediate ice climber to the backcountry formations along Pictured Rocks Lakeshore/Grand Island. Student must have basic knowledge of ice climbing techniques such as rappelling.

Light & Fast Alpinism

This advanced clinic covers the most important aspects of the light & fast approach to climbing with a short classroom session followed by an intensive field session where we work on the implementation of the skills, strategies and tactics that are most useful for you.

New for 2017

Ice Climbing Teaser

Curious about ice climbing? Just want a taste of what this is all about without the commitment of a full day class? This teaser is just the thing. Try it out in the company of an experienced guide.

Intermediate Ice Climbing

Improve your ice climbing technique! This intermediate course will focus on improving footwork and developing efficient tool placements. Participants should have prior ice climbing experience.

Advanced Leading On Ice

This class is designed to introduce the intermediate ice climber to advanced techniques leading on steep ice. Advanced lead techniques will be discussed and practiced. The course is perfect for experienced climbers with solid ice climbing skills.

Kid's Climb

The kids will learn about ice climbing in a safe and super fun environment that includes lots of time on the ice!



That's A Lot



If there is picture perfect winter town in the Midwest, Munising has to be it. The 146th snowiest town in the United States, Munising sits on the south shore of Lake Superior, a virtual snow making machine. Lake effect snow happens when a cold air mass travels from Canada, across a somewhat warm Lake Superior. The air will pick up water vapor from the lake, which then rises up through the colder air above, freezing it, then is deposited as snow on the shores in Munising.

One of our most asked question has to be: snowshoes or no snowshoes? If you are planning to climb along the lakeshore, throw them in the car just in case. Looking to get on the seldom climbed routes near Miners Lake? Snowshoes are your only option! By mid season there is usually a packed trail leading out to the climbs from Sandpoint to Dairyland but it is not that uncommon for the Lake Superior region to receive snow storms of 30 plus inches!

While snowshoes are the perfect tool to access climbs in the front country, to get out to the backcountry, skis are the preferred method of travel. Faster and less effort, means more climbing time and that's really what we're all after. The backcountry approaches can vary from long to really long so grab your skis and start early.

Looking to get out on Grand Island? Walking, snowshoeing and skiing are all common modes of transportation, but it can be quite the pull to get out to the West Shore and darn near impossible to the north side. Seasoned climbers utilize snow machines to make seven mile trek out to the West Shore enabling more valuable time on the ice. Don't have a machine? Many local businesses in Munising offer rentals.

HEED OUR WARNING! The most dangerous activity you will encounter on your climbing trip will be traveling to Munising in the winter! During the long winter season, major snow events and sub-zero temperatures are fairly common. Snowfall totals from storms are often measured in feet, not inches, and lake effect storms along M28 are very common. Please drive carefully.

YOU MAY NEVER WANT TO LEAVE



of Snow!



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Join the Party, the After party!

Ice Fest is a social event - Always has been, always will be. We love seeing our friends, having a beer, and sharing our adventures from the past year. That's one thing that will never change. Due to our change in venue for 2017, we are going to have to change how we do it. Moving to the school has made it so **no alcohol will be allowed at our headquarters**. Have no fear though, we like enjoying a beer after a hard day climbing as much as you do. So every evening we'll be gathering at a different location in Munising to celebrate the climbing life!

If you're looking for a quieter place to hang out and socialize, need some advice for the following day's climb, or are looking for a screaming deal on that new pair of ice tools, our headquarters will remain open during the parties and some of the staff from Down Wind Sports will be on hand to help you out with their local knowledge and gear expertise.

COME TO THE AFTERPARTY AT THESE MUNISING LOCATIONS

WEDNESDAY - SHOOTERS BAR

Munising's original brew pub, Shooters Firehouse Brewpub is an homage to the volunteer fire department. A typical Upper Peninsula establishment, this will be the perfect place to welcome climbers after a long day of travel or your first day on the ice!

THURSDAY - EAST CHANNEL BREWERY

Munising's newest brewery, the East Channel Brewery offers a variety of unique beers "made with water from the freshest lake in the world!"

FRIDAY - 387 (FORMERLY SYDNEY'S)

We are going home! For decades Sydney's was the home of the Michigan Ice Fest and to be honest we kind of miss them. Based on participant feedback, last year's after party was just too darn crowded. This year we are going to gather upstairs at 387, the new name of Sydney's, and laugh and tell stories just like we use to! The Ore Dock Brewing Company will be there with some free beer as well as a cash bar. Come meet our athletes, catch up with old friends, and enjoy one of the finest beers brewed right here in the U.P.

SATURDAY - 387 (FORMERLY SYDNEY'S)

You asked for it and this year we are going to deliver! Saturday 387 will be closing down for the 2017 Michigan Ice Fest and we will be taking over the building! Ice Fest participants will have access to the entire building providing plenty of room for everyone. Once again free beer from the Ore Dock and, YES, a band and dancing!



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SCHEDULE

7PM - Mather Auditorium
Slideshow - Vince Anderson
Presentation Sponsored by Patagonia

8PM - Mather Auditorium
Slideshow - Tim Emmett
Presentation Sponsored by Mountain Hardwear

9PM - Community Center
Poster Signing with Vince Anderson, Tim Emmett & Ari Novak

9PM - East Channel Brewing Co.
Climber's After Party

Wednesday, February 15th

7AM - Community Center
Backcountry Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

9AM - Community Center
Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

10AM - Community Center
Demos Available

6PM - Community Center
All Demo Gear Must Be Returned

8PM - Shooter's Brew Pub
Climber's After Party

Thursday, February 16th

7AM - Community Center
Backcountry Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8AM - Community Center
Wave #1 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8:30AM - Community Center
Wave #2 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

10AM - Community Center
Demos Available

5PM - Community Center
Slideshow - Ari Novak
Presentation Sponsored by Trango

6PM - Community Center
All Demo Gear Must Be Returned

Friday, February 17th

7AM - Community Center
Backcountry Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8AM - Community Center
Wave #1 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8:30AM - Community Center
Wave #2 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

9:00AM - Community Center
Wave #3 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

9:30AM - Community Center
Demos Available

1PM - Community Center
Half Day PM Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

5PM - Community Center
Slideshow - Anne Gilbert-Chase
Presentation Sponsored by Patagonia

6PM - Community Center
All Demo Gear Must Be Returned

7PM - Mather Auditorium
Film - Jeff Lowe's Metanoia
Followed by Skype conversation w/ Jeff Lowe & his wife Connie

8PM - Mather Auditorium
Slideshow - Josh Wharton
Presentation Sponsored by Black Diamond

9PM - *Community Center*
Poster Signing with Anne Gilbert-Chase & Josh Wharton

9PM - 387 (formerly Sydney's)
Climber's After Party
Free Beer Provided by Ore Dock Brewing

Saturday, February 18th

7AM - *Community Center*
Backcountry Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8AM - *Community Center*
Wave #1 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8:30AM - *Community Center*
Wave #2 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

9AM - *Community Center*
Wave #3 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

9:30AM - *Community Center*
Demos Available

10AM-4PM - *Curtains Demo Area*
Walk Up Climbing at the Curtains

1PM - *Community Center*
Half Day PM Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

4PM - *Mather Auditorium*
Film - Meru
Followed by a Q&A with Conrad Anker
Presented by The North Face

5PM - *Falling Rock Café & Bookstore*
Book Signing - 60 Meter to Anywhere with Author Brendan Leonard

6PM - *Community Center*
All Demo Gear Must Be Returned

7PM - *Mather Auditorium*
Slideshow - Will Gadd
Presentation Sponsored by Arc'teryx

7:45PM - *Mather Auditorium*
Slideshow - Conrad Anker
Presentation Sponsored by The North Face

8:30PM - *Mather Auditorium*
Legendary Gear Raffle

9PM - *Community Center*
Poster Signing with Will Gadd & Conrad Anker

9PM - 387 (formerly Sydney's)
Climber's After Party

Sunday, February 19th

7AM - *Community Center*
Backcountry Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8AM - *Community Center*
Wave #1 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

8:30AM - *Community Center*
Wave #2 Classes Meet for Gear Pick-Up

9AM - *Community Center*
Demos Available

9AM - *Community Center*
Book Signing - 60 Meter to Anywhere with Author Brendan Leonard

10AM-3PM - *Curtains Demo Area*
Walk Up Climbing at the Curtains

4PM - *Community Center*
All Demo Gear Must Be Returned

5PM - *Community Center*
Ice Fest Headquarters Closes
Thanks for Coming to Ice Fest 2017!



Schedule is subject to change.
Most recent schedule can be found at Ice Fest Headquarters

Map of Munising



 **To Grand Island Crossing**

Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore 

Superior St.

East Channel Brewing Company

Spruce St.

Elm St.

Chocolay St.

Mather Auditorium 

Varnum St.

PLEASE VISIT OUR LOCAL SPONSORS

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- Munising Visitors Bureau
- Pictured Rocks Inn & Suites
- Terrace Motel
- Northstar Hotel
- Holiday Inn
- Pictured Rocks Cruises
- Explore Munising
- Falling Rock Coffee Shop & Bookstore
- 387
- UP Scale Art
- Shooters Brew Pub
- Scotty's Motel
- Subway
- Roam Inn
- Uncle Ducky's Paddler's Village
- East Channel Brewing Company
- Pictured Rocks Bed & Breakfast

Terrace Motel



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Our Home: Munising, MI

Munising is a small town located on the south shore of Lake Superior on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The name is derived from the Ojibwa word 'Munissi', meaning island. Munising translates to "near the island", referring to Grand Island which is situated just off shore in Munising Bay. The city is the gateway to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, which is comprised of over 40 miles of stunning Lake Superior shoreline, as well as the Grand Island National Recreation Area. These two parks are abound with colorful sandstone cliffs that tower 50 to 200 feet above the frigid waters of the lake and offer climbers a dramatic and beautiful setting for climbing that is unlike anywhere else in the world.

Munising is a small town with a lot of character and outdoor recreation opportunities are certainly not in short supply. The area not only boasts world class climbing in the winter but hiking, kayaking, fishing, and scuba diving in the summer! No matter what the season, Munising provides a beautiful playground for those who want to explore.

Family member not a climber? While Munising is famous for its ice climbing here are several activities located in and around Munising to keep everyone happy for the weekend of the festival!



Nordic Skiing

Valley Spur, a favorite Alger County destination is located on M-94 approximately 5 miles from Munising in the Hiawatha National Forest. The 45 km cross country ski trail system is groomed daily or as the need arises from December through March so that the trails are always ready. All trails are groomed for both skate and classic skiing.

Snowshoeing

Winter at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore brings solitude and beauty to the north woods. The benefits of snowshoeing are many, including the opportunity to see nature in a relatively deserted environment. With dozens of waterfalls and towering cliffs, Pictured Rocks is a snowshoer's paradise.

Snowmobiling

Munising, Michigan is known as the "Snowmobile Capital of the World", and offers amazing trail riding. Alger County has hundreds of miles of marked and groomed trails that allow riders to travel through some of the most pristine and beautiful areas nature has to offer. Rentals are available.

Alger County Historical Society

The Alger County Historical Society opened the Heritage Center in 1993 in the former Washington Grade School. Exhibits feature historic Grand Island, Munising Woodenware Company, barn building, homemaking, and saunas. There are also a fur trader's cabin and blacksmith shop on site.





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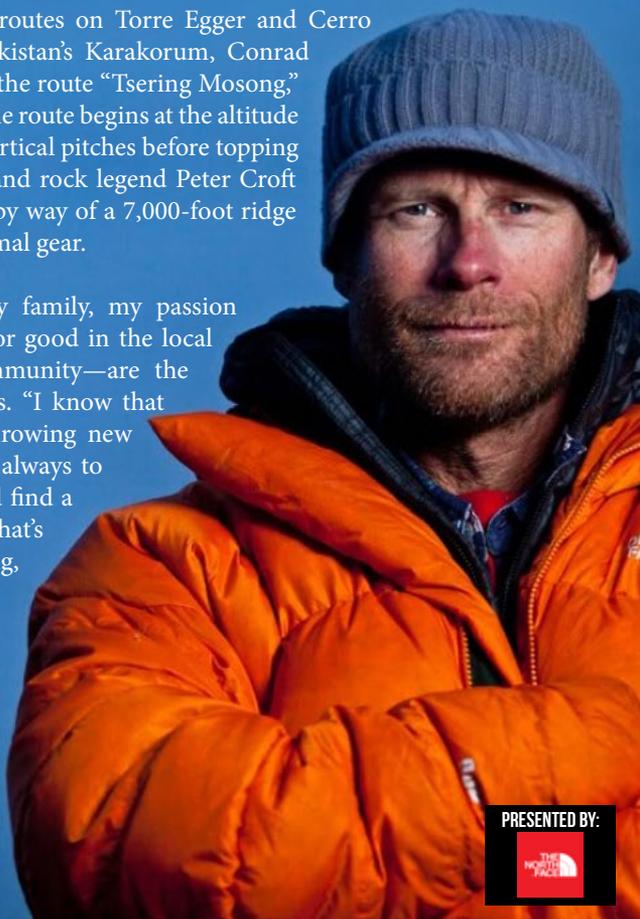
1990 Yalu-Annapurna Expedition
Photo: WB Dwyer

Conrad Anker

Conrad Anker is a climber's climber, at home on a faraway alpine wall or the sparkling ice of his home canyon, Hyalite, located in the Gallatin Range of southwestern Montana. Over decades in the mountains, he has come to value the rarified air of Antarctica, the Himalaya and Montana equally; inspired by the value of immersion in other ecosystems and cultures, he's become more fully enmeshed in both the physical and communal landscape of his hometown of Bozeman. Conrad came to climbing by way of his family, learning a deep appreciation for the outdoors from his California childhood, an appreciation and respect that has deepened as climbing took him around the world.

That journey has taken him from the northern realms of Alaska and Baffin Island to the farthest southern reaches of Patagonia and Antarctica, where in 1997 he, with Alex Lowe and Jon Krakauer, climbed Rakekniven, a 2,500-foot wall in Queen Maud Land. That climb led to both a film and magazine piece by the National Geographic, an organization that Conrad continues to collaborate with. In Patagonia, Conrad climbed the three towers of the Cerro Torre group, ascending new routes on Torre Egger and Cerro Standhardt. Across the globe in Pakistan's Karakorum, Conrad climbed the west face of Latok II via the route "Tsering Mosong," Balti for "long life." For perspective, the route begins at the altitude of Denali's summit, then climbs 26 vertical pitches before topping at 23,342 feet. In Pakistan, Conrad and rock legend Peter Croft climbed Spansar Peak, a first ascent by way of a 7,000-foot ridge the pair ascended in a day with minimal gear.

"I've learned that these things—my family, my passion for climbing and for being a force for good in the local community and in the larger community—are the source of happiness for me," he says. "I know that life will keep changing and keep throwing new challenges my way, but my intent is always to embrace them and explore them and find a way to turn them into an experience that's rewarding. Even when we're suffering, whether it's in the mountains or because of something going on at home, trying situations are a way to understand our human condition. You have to try to rise above the adversity. I like doing that."



PRESENTED BY:



MEET CONRAD!

SEE HIS
PRESENTATION &

SEE THE FILM
MERU

SATURDAY FEB 18TH
MATHER AUDITORIUM

Will Gadd



Will Gadd is one of the top outdoor adventure athletes in the world (Outside, Men's Journal and Explore.). Will is best known for wild outdoor adventures in multiple different sports, but he's most proud of his ability to complete those adventures safely and share them with others. He has appeared in, hosted or produced more than 100 global television projects. He is an award-winning writer (New York Times, Men's Journal, etc.), film maker, and dad. His book on ice climbing is the top publication in its field, and has been translated into five languages. Gadd's presentations on "Risk and Reward" and related topics take him all over the world to speak to audiences ranging from Nike and Enbridge to at-risk youth. He is a National Geographic "Adventurer of the year" and recently became the first person to climb a frozen Niagara Falls. He is an ACMG guide and will be teaching classes at the Michigan Ice Fest.

A FEW CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ice and Mixed Climbing.** First person to climb Niagara Falls, and recently returned from climbing the last ice on top of Africa's highest peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro, and winning the 2015 Ouray Invitational against a field mostly half his age. Climbed his first waterfall at age 12. Climbed icebergs in Labrador and underground ice in Sweden. He's waiting for Hell to freeze over with excitement.
- **Paragliding.** Two-time World distance record holder (263 miles/423K), first to fly across the Andes, over the Grand Canyon, only pilot to cross the US on a paramotor. Author of over 20 articles on flying technique and adventures.
- **Mountaineering.** Grew up in the Canadian Rockies climbing with his parents, climbed everywhere from Northern Canada to South America, Nepal and Europe, recently opened one of the hardest alpine routes in Canada with friends (Howse of Cards).
- **Rock Climbing.** Up to 5.13, sport and traditional. Three-time Canadian national sport climbing champion. TV and commercial work.
- **Kayaking.** Kayaking since he was 14 years old. First descents across North America. Film and TV work.
- **Telemark, Nordic and Alpine Skiing.** Raced cross-country in high school, avid backcountry skier ever since then. Started skiing at age three.
- **Caving.** Numerous expeditions to caves in Canada and the US. Lots of vertical experience. Likes the dark.
- **Mountain Biking:** 20 years of hopping logs and rolling around the mountains.
- **Football.** Absolutely pathetic.

MEET WILL! | SEE HIS PRESENTATION or TAKE ONE OF HIS CLASSES

FRIDAY FEB 17TH
MATHER AUDITORIUM

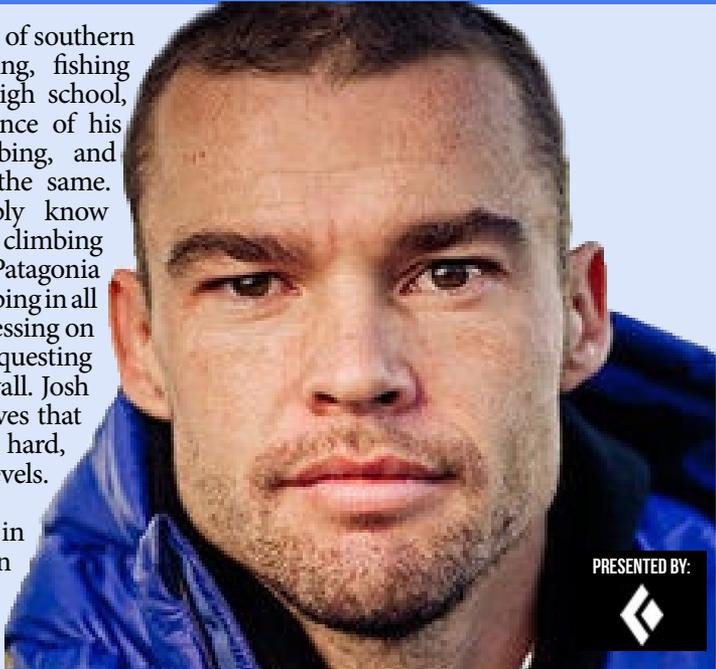
PRESENTED BY:



Josh Wharton

Josh grew up in the woods of southern New Hampshire; exploring, fishing and riding his bike. In high school, partly through the guidance of his father, Josh found climbing, and things have never been the same. Although people probably know him best for his alpine climbing adventures in Canada, Patagonia and Pakistan, he loves climbing in all its various forms, be it obsessing on a boulder's micro beta or questing into a Himalayan alpine wall. Josh particularly enjoys objectives that require him to truly work hard, and push himself to new levels.

Josh makes his home in the small mountain town of Estes Park, Colorado, with his wife Erinn and daughter Hera.



PRESENTED BY:



MEET JOSH!

SEE HIS
PRESENTATION

&

SEE HIM FEATURED IN THE FILM
METANOIA

FRIDAY FEB 17TH
MATHER AUDITORIUM



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Tim Emmett



Tim is famous for his infectious enthusiasm. One of the UK's climbing elite, Tim is as happy on rock as ice; his versatility has seen him finish within the top 10 at the 2002 World Ice Climbing Championships as well as completing a series of hard ice routes, classic Alpine routes and notorious Scottish winter routes. In 2012, Tim completed the hardest ice climb in the world at Helmcken Falls, Canada. Always with an eye on something new, Tim has put up new routes as far a field as Mongolia, Cuba and Sri Lanka. He is a true pioneer of Deep Water Soloing with trips to Vietnam and Thailand as well as venues closer to home in Europe. Tim is a published author, popular international speaker, and an accomplished wingsuit pilot.

MEET TIM!

SEE HIS
PRESENTATION

THURSDAY FEB 16TH
MATHER AUDITORIUM



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Additional Guides and Athletes



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Vince Anderson

Vince is a third generation native of Colorado who climbed his first mountain at age five, started skiing at eight, and has called the mountains home his entire life. Today Vince passes on his famed experience to young mountain guides as an instructor for the American Mountain Guides Association.

Come See Vince's Slideshow! - Mather Auditorium, Thursday 7pm

Ari Novak

Ari Novak is an ice climber and mountaineer based out of Bozeman Montana. His passion for adventure has led him to climb and explore across Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Central America. Novak is a published photographer as well as the director of the Cody Ice Festival.



Sponsored by Trango



Sponsored by Adidas

Ben Erdmann

Ben's initial introduction to recreational climbing was through frozen waterfalls in Pictured Rocks, seeding his pursuit of the cold and sheer wall. Splitting his year between the extreme poles of the Western Hemisphere, he winters in Patagonia and summers in Alaska where he continues to explore remote walls and craggy summits.

Carlos Buhler

Carlos Buhler is one of the most accomplished mountain climbers in the world. His climbing career spans forty-five years with major ascents on five continents. He is "arguably the best American Himalayan climber there is. We are fortunate to have Carlos returning this year to instruct at our clinics!



Sponsored by Lowe



Sponsored by Patagonia

Anne Gilbert-Chase

Anne Gilbert started rock climbing in college, but it wasn't until she moved west to spend time in big mountains that she fell in love with every discipline of climbing. Since then she's climbed around the world, including India, Patagonia, France, Spain, Alaska and Canada. She calls Bozeman, Montana home where she works as a registered nurse at the local hospital.

Additional Athletes



Scott Bennett

Sponsored by CAMP USA



Kendra Stritch



Jeff Witt

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Karsten Delap

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Mark Wilford

Sponsored by La Sportiva

This is just a sampling of the incredible athletes that are planning to teach and present at this year's Ice Fest. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for announcements about athletes and other exciting news.

Pro Tips: Warm Hands

by:
Bill Thompson

Lets face it, it doesn't matter how long you have been climbing, or how good you are, at some point in your climbing career you have had the screaming barfies. The screaming barfies have been known to turn the toughest climber into a puddle of humanity crying to be untied from the sharp end. The technical term for TSB is reperfusion. It's the restoration of the flow of blood to a previously ischemic tissue or organ which causes the extreme pain experienced when the blood flows back into your hands after freezing them while climbing. Picture yourself on a cold day, mix in a bit of first time climbing nerves, throw in over squeezing your tools, keep your hands over your head to force the blood out, and you got yourself the perfect formula for the *SCREAMING BARFIES!* But there's hope...

Glove System

Having experienced two of the coldest winters in recent history, The Michigan Ice Fest staff has compiled a system that works even in the deep cold of the Upper Peninsula. Our guides tend to bring 3 pair of gloves on an outing to Pictured Rocks.

Glove 1 - A thick belaying glove

One of the most common mistakes is to climb in thick gloves with the thought that they will keep your hands warmer. We only use our thickest gloves to belay or when we're waiting around to climb. Thicker gloves tend to make the climber over grip the tools which in turn encourages cold hands.

Gloves 2-3 - Thin climbing gloves

A proper pair of ice climbing gloves will be fairly thin and preferably have grippy palms. The thin gloves will allow you to hold the ice tool much easier, without having to squeeze too hard. This reduces the strength required to climb and also makes it substantially easier to aim your swings. Many experienced climbers actually find that their hands stay warmer with gloves that offer good dexterity because they aren't squeezing the tools and forcing blood out of their fingers. When you're not wearing your climbing gloves you can "pre heat" them inside your jacket until you're ready to get climbing.

Depending on the ice conditions and how much your hands sweat, having a second, or even third pair of thin gloves will keep your hands dry and warm!

Want to do more to prevent the screaming barfies? Follow these valuable tips to keep the barfies at bay.

- Use a multiple glove system
- Focus on a relaxed grip after each swing to allow for optimal circulation in extremities
- Drop your hands and shake out often to encourage continued blood flow.
- Stay Hydrated and well fed

At this year's Ice Fest Down Wind Sports will have a huge selection of gloves from virtually all of the leading manufacturers including Arc'Teryx, Black Diamond, CAMP USA, Patagonia, Mountain Hardwear, RAB and more! Be sure to stop by headquarters and get a feel for how these gloves will improve your climbing experience!



Ice Fest 2017

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Pictured Rocks Climbing Academy



During the filming of the Imax National Parks Adventure, Conrad Anker stated that he couldn't believe that there were no local kids tearing it up at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. That comment led to the collaboration between The North Face and Michigan Ice to develop a youth climbing program for the central Upper Peninsula! During the 2016 Michigan Ice Fest, The North Face sold TNF beanies, and MIF Logoed Yeti beer colsters and raised over \$1000.00 to kick off the Pictured Rocks Climbing Academy!

Pictured Rocks Climbing Academy is a free program available to central Upper Peninsula youths ages 12-17 where mentors guide a small group of four participants through a four step program designed to advance the participants rock and ice climbing skills. Our goal is to develop, advise and foster a youth climbing community in the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

At this year's Ice Fest you will be able to meet the recipients of this climbing program and who are the future of Michigan Ice! We are so proud to be teamed up with TNF getting area youth involved in the climbing life. Be sure to stop by the TNF booth as we will be doing another fund raiser for the PRCA!



Sue Nott Scholarship

Sue Nott was a native of Vail, Colorado, and began climbing rock and ice at the age of 20. As she grew as a climber she focused on alpine climbing all over the world with destinations like India, Alaska, and the mountains of Patagonia just to name a few. It was her drive, focused direction and experience that lead her to become one of the world's top women alpine climbers, but it was her lust for life and infectious energy that left a permanent impression on everyone she met. Whether it was teaching a clinic, traveling abroad, in a restaurant or even competing against others, her warmth, energy and good natured spirit affected everyone. For two years Sue was an instructor for the Michigan Ice Fest, teaching our women's courses. Unfortunately, Sue was killed while attempting the Infinite Spur on Mt. Foraker in Alaska during the spring of 2006.

Sue dreamed big, lived a large life, and wanted you to be a part of it. She was always there to encourage and cheer you on with whatever you were doing, no matter who you were. For those of us lucky enough to share some time with her, we will be forever changed and will forever miss her.

For nearly ten years Down Wind Sports has awarded the Sue Nott Scholarship to inspire, and introduce young females to the sport of ice climbing. One scholarship will be awarded every year for female's age 9-17 years old. The scholarship will include admission to the ice fest, instruction in the women's course, as well as some other surprises!



2016 scholarship winners on Stage Saturday Night

Applicants need to submit:

1. A one page written letter explaining why they are interested in ice climbing and the Michigan Ice Fest.
2. A copy of their most recent report card. Applications will not be based on the best grades but students should be trying hard and making an effort at school.
3. A letter of support from someone other than the applicant's parents.

Deadline for application is January 1st 2017. Please Submit to:

DOWN WIND SPORTS
514 N. Third
Marquette, MI. 49855
ATTN SUE NOTT SCHOLARSHIP

Applications will be presented to a panel and will be responded to in writing by Jan. 10th 2017

#Photo Contest

Over the years we have seen some incredible photos of Ice Fest and the climbing at Pictured Rocks - and we think that it's a shame not to reward such creativity. Based on how much fun we had with last year's photo contest we are going to give it another shot!



2016 Winning Photo by Danielle Meirow

Here's how it works:

1. During the weekend of Ice Fest (February 15th -19th) snap some photos. Photos of climbing, socials, approaches, whatever as long as you feel it represents your Ice Fest experience.
2. Post your photos to social media (Facebook or Instagram) with the hashtag **#michiganicefest2017**. You can enter as many times as you want. Please make sure your privacy settings allow us to see your photos. If we can't see them, you can't win.
3. When the event is over, all of the photos tagged with **#michiganicefest2017** will be judged by a panel of Ice Fest staff. Photos will be judged based on some seriously strict criteria like exposure, composition, creativity, and coolness.
4. The panel's ten favorite photos will be shared on the Michigan Ice Fest Facebook page and the photo with the most likes at the end of one week will be the winner. You must attend the Ice Fest to be eligible and photos need to be taken during the event.

Pretty easy. It doesn't cost you a dime and we know you're posting all of your sweet Ice Fest shots anyway, so you might as well try and win something. The prize will include a registration for the 2018 Michigan Ice Fest and a class of your choice at next year's event. On top of this already stellar prize, we are throwing in gear and clothing from some of our event sponsors. So when you get to Munising make sure you pull out your phone or camera and take your best shot at winning the Michigan Ice Fest 2017 photo contest!



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Book Signing with Brendan Leonard

Denver-based Brendan Leonard is most known for the funny and inspirational adventure essays he's published on Semi-Rad.com since 2011, but his path to the mountains started in a much darker place. Join him for a "motivational stand-up comedy show" inspired by his new book *Sixty Meters to Anywhere*, one of Amazon's "Best Books of the Year So Far" in 2016.

"Ultimately, this is a book about finding an identity, and that is a universal story" --Gear Junkie

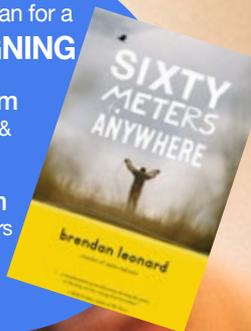
Leonard's writing has appeared in *Backpacker*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal*, *High Country News*, *Adventure Cyclist* and dozens of other publications. He is a contributing editor at *Adventure Journal* and the podcast *The Dirtbag Diaries*, and he has co-written and coproduced films that have won awards at the Banff Mountain Film Festival and the 5Point Film Festival.

"I think we all need to spend more time doing things we love, going to places that make us feel small, remembering to laugh at ourselves, and getting a little cold, tired, and scared every once in a while." Join Brendan for a motivation and inspirational tale, *Sixty Meters to Anywhere*, as Brendan shares his personal journey. Expect to laugh, learn, and to be inspired.

Join Brendan for a
BOOK SIGNING

Saturday • 5pm
Falling Rock Café &
Bookstore

Sunday • 9am
Ice Fest Headquarters



READ MORE OF BRENDAN'S WORK AT SEMIRAD.COM

A First Timer's Perspective

by:
Adam Robarge
Ore Dock Brewing Company



I awoke to the ring of an unwelcoming alarm. The kind of ring that wakes you the morning of a presentation you aren't prepared to give or the physics exam you'll never be prepared to take. The excuse reel started to roll: My dog took off in the woods. I thought I was signed up for tomorrow's class. My car wouldn't start.

I'd been in town three days representing Ore Dock as the official beer sponsor of Michigan Ice Fest. I'd seen the photos. Ice climbers resembling action figures kicking into frozen waterfalls draped hundreds of feet over sandstone cliffs. I'd heard the stories. Lake Superior in all her furious winter-glory swallowing ice axes whole, forcing single-tool ascents. Today, it was my turn.

There were plenty of other first timers and no shortage of professional athletes equipped with the most jaw dropping of Instagram feeds. All of them happy to share tips on navigating their icy world. It's the kind of gathering that just by getting there meant you could belong.

Within no time the staff from Down Wind Sports had me set up and decked out for the day's adventure. I was encouraged to learn that not having any previous rock climbing experience was actually a good thing. "Technique is all about your core," I kept hearing. Did I mention I work for a brewery?

We traded introductions before boarding the shuttle that led us through the frozen streets of Munising and into Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Rather than contemplating the arctic conditions or any possible safety concerns, I stared out the window wondering if I could do this.



Kick Responsibly

The ice you climb this winter may be the beer you drink this summer.

www.ore-dock.com



Marquette, MI

After finding our ice and receiving final instructions from our guides, it was time to climb. Throwing my axe and kicking into the ice as I began my ascent may as well have transplanted me to another planet. I clutched my ice tools as if they were winning lottery tickets and did all I could to pull myself up the climb. Exactly everything you're not supposed to do. I was done for.

Attached by rope to a world-class climber continuously relaying instruction and words of motivation from below, I realized I actually wasn't stranded atop some icy world of defeat. Resting in my harness, I focused upon putting those words into motion. I soon found myself confidently stepping in, then up, to the top of the climb. Worked over and warmed up I sat back for the short decent, eager to again try what I had learned, what I had just discovered.

A collective thread seemed to weave its way through the group. Clearly more than a few of us boarded that shuttle with thoughts of self-doubt. As we stood in the snow awaiting our next turn, impervious to the cold, it was obvious those thoughts had morphed into an intense feeling of accomplishment.

The ice that day has long since vanished as summer took center stage. Now, with the arrival of autumn, the winds along Superior's shore are starting to shift. And though the leaves have just begun to fall, they've got me thinking of snow. They've got me thinking of ice. This year, I'll be waiting for that alarm to ring.

Down Wind Sports will be on hand at Ice Fest Headquarters to make sure you have everything you need to make your first time, or your next time, as good as it can be.

From apparel to keep you warm and stylish to the latest and most technically advanced climbing gear available, they can help you make the most out of any adventure.

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Guided Climbs and Tours

The Michigan Ice Fest does offer a guide service for those who are looking for an adventure before or after the Ice Fest.

Michigan Ice Fest Guides (MIFG) are the premier provider of guided Ice Climbing Courses and Private Guided programs at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Grand Island. Climbing above a frozen Lake Superior in a remote location is an exhilarating experience providing a lifetime of memories.

Contrary to popular belief, you do not need to have tremendous upper body strength to be able to climb ice. The skill requires balance and efficient technique which our guides will provide during our informative ice climbing courses.

The MIFG offer a wide range of guided trips to suit the needs of our clientele. From the classic front country climbs to the wild backcountry ice routes, there are ample opportunities for beautiful climbs to test your ability and experience the Upper Peninsula's winter wilderness. Course locations will be determined the day of your guided climb and will be determined based on weather and ice conditions.

Private Guiding in the Front Country

This course is designed to introduce the beginner to the sport of ice climbing. What better way to shorten your learning curve and learn proper ice climbing technique than to take a class from one of our professional instructors! Learn equipment selection, tool placement, stance, and ice climbing technique. All classes are taught in the front country along Sandpoint Road. Climbs range in height of 20-60 feet.

Private Guiding in the Back Country

This course is designed to introduce the intermediate ice climber to some of the larger formations along Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore / Grand Island. Upon entering this class the student must have knowledge of the basic gear and techniques including rappelling, associated with ice climbing. Course locations will be determined the day of your guided climb and will be determined based on weather and lake/ice conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PRIVATE GUIDING GO TO
WWW.MICHIGANICEFEST.COM



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THE
MICHIGAN  **ICE FILM**

This is a story of place, a scrappy corner of Midwestern flyover land that happens to be home to one of North America's largest concentrations of climbable ice. The film weaves the stories of the region's original climbing pioneers with tales from some of climbing's more well known athletes with a connection to Michigan.

WATCH IT TODAY ON VIMEO ON DEMAND



Munising In the Summer

If you thought Ice Fest was a blast, you should try Munising in the summer! There are a multitude of fun outdoor opportunities for you to enjoy! With backpacking and kayaking in the Pictured Rocks, fishing on blue ribbon trout streams, or maybe hiking to one of the numerous waterfalls. Munising is truly a year-round destination. Check out these other fun things to do that take place in Munising during the summer months.

Valley Spur Bike Route

This trail network offers 26 miles of biking trail. Four separate loops have been marked, ranging from three miles to 12 miles in length. Ranging from easy to difficult, their trails are perfect for the whole family.

Ladies of the Lake - August 17-20th 2017

Ladies of the Lake is an all women's sea kayak symposium that takes place annually in Munising and is designed to help introduce women to the sport and to improve their paddling skills and confidence on the water. Tours of Pictured Rocks, classes, clinics and socials are the highlights of the weekend.

Pictured Rocks Boat Cruises

For over 50 years, Pictured Rocks Cruises has been guiding visitors to the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Their boat cruises are 2 1/2 to 3 hours and will travel into and alongside the most visually stunning 40 miles of shoreline on all of the Great Lakes! If you love the park in the winter time- be sure to come back and visit during the summer and fall!



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The Michigan Ice Fest would not happen if it weren't for the gracious support that we have received over the years from our friends in the outdoor community, as well as the small businesses that make up Munising, Michigan. Please take some time to visit our sponsors that have made the Michigan Ice Fest the longest running ice climbing festival in the country!

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UP Scale Art

Thank You

When first organized, the Michigan Ice Festival provided an opportunity for Midwest climbers to gather and celebrate on the amazing ice formations in the Upper Peninsula. We were a small, motley crew for sure. A family of sorts. We are so proud of how the Fest has grown over the years to an international event with climbers traveling great distances to experience the magic of climbing high above the waters of Lake Superior. Our family has grown, but the essence of event remains the same.

We are proud that over the years Ice Fest has been able to expose thousands of first time climbers to the sport of ice climbing and the possibilities at Pictured Rocks. In addition to new climbers, we see many of the same faces year after year. This varied and incredible cast of characters is the heart of the Ice Fest experience.

If you haven't experienced Ice Fest yet we hope that you will consider joining us this year and being part of the Michigan Ice Fest family. Be sure to keep up with what is happening with the Michigan Ice Fest through our blog at michiganicefest.com or on our facebook page!

Thank you!
Michigan Ice Fest Organizers



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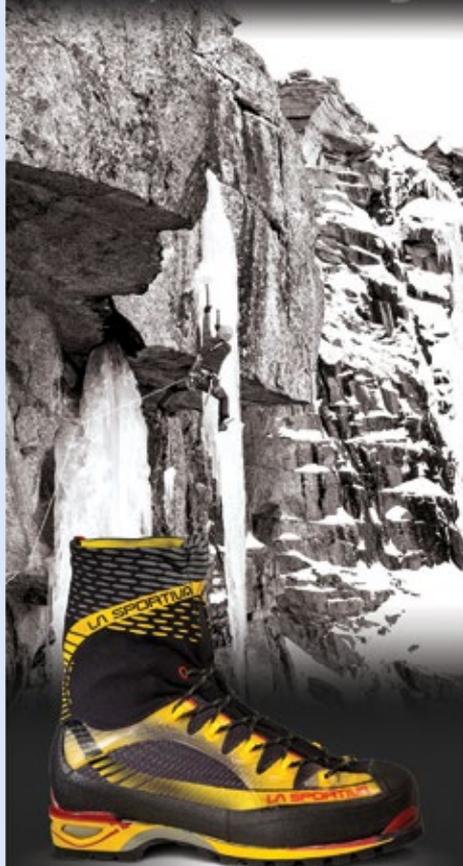
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ABOUT THE SHOT

Conrad Anker gets a cold welcome to Munising during the IMAX filming of National Parks Adventure. The team endured over two weeks of -20 degree temperatures in pulling off the film project.

PHOTO CREDIT MAX LOWE



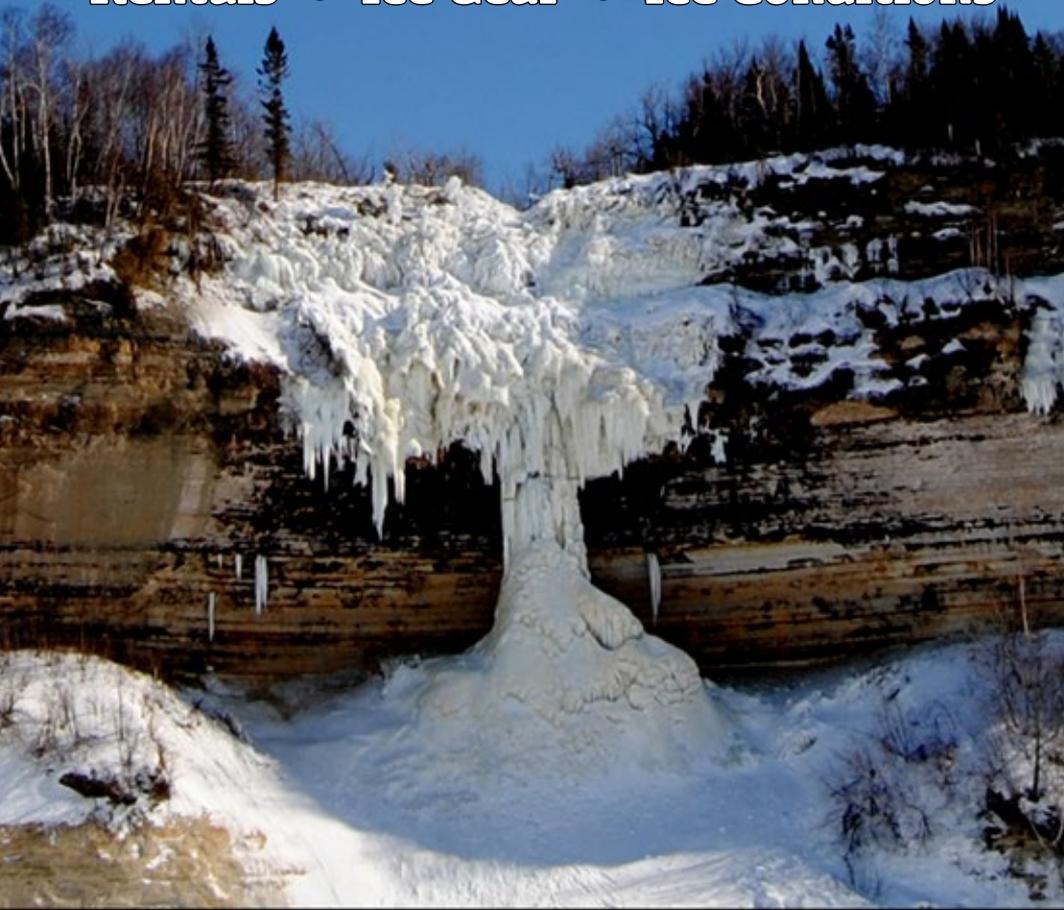
SISU Shot

Sisu /sē-soo/ - a Finnish word that cannot be translated properly into the English language, loosely translated to mean stoic determination, bravery, resilience, perseverance and hardiness. A trait common with Midwest climbers.

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