

## Ice Cleared for Polar Plunge; Winterfest in BR

Written by Steve Frank

Saturday, 26 January 2013 09:38

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Blowing Rock Winterfest ramps up their celebration of all things cold today, with a day full of activities in and around town, in and outdoors. The hole has been cut in the ice on Chetola Lake for the annual Polar Plunge, and a number of brave souls have volunteered to 'take the plunge' for their favorite sponsor. The Saturday Schedule includes: **RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION** - 10am-4pm Purchase your raffle tickets for a chance to win fantastic prizes that include trips, hotel packages, ski packages and equipment, restaurants, etc. Don't forget the Silent Auction. - Located in the Blowing Rock School Cafeteria on Morris Street. Proceeds benefit Mountain Alliance, a program to promote leadership and bring outdoors to youth.

**THE POLAR PLUNGE** - 10am Watch the fearless contenders take the Plunge into Chetola Lake. Sponsored by Chetola Resort. The #1 spectator sport in Blowing Rock. Don't miss it! New Polar Plungers are welcome. It costs only \$25 to jump. Proceeds to benefit Samaritan's Purse, Watauga Humane Society and Western Youth Network.

**SATURDAY JAM BRUNCH @ CANYONS** - 11:30am 'til 2:30pm with music by Mountain Radio. <http://www.canyonsbr.com/brunch.html> for more info. Free!

**CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** -11am - 3pm Parents are invited to accompany their children for activities such as crafts, reading and snowflake decorating and more. Activities scheduled in the American Legion Hall, just behind Memorial Park. Brought to you by Watauga Youth Network (WYN). The children's presence is requested at the wedding of Chilly and Crystal in Memorial Park at 3pm. No rsvp's required!

**HOT CHOCOLATE** – 10am Downtown Blowing Rock

**BLOWING ROCK ART AND HISTORY MUSEUM** - \$3 discount on regular adult admission during WinterFest.

**HAY RIDES** -11am Downtown Blowing Rock - Brought to you by Country Boy Landscaping, pickup/load at the Blowing Rock Chamber 132 Park Ave.

**CHILLY CHILI COOKOFF!** D-e-l-i-c-i-o-u-s! -11am-3pm-ish CASI-sponsored Chili Cook-off! Taste a wide variety of chili concocted by the pros. Restaurants as well as individuals will be serving up spicy or mild, chunky and smooth for your tasting pleasure. Located at the Blowing Rock School Gymnasium on Morris Street. Tickets available at the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, online, or at the door.

**SATURDAY JAM BRUNCH** - 11am-2:30pm -Canyons Restaurant and Bar, 8960 Hwy. 321, Blowing Rock. No cover. (828-295-7661).

**ICE CARVING DEMONSTRATION** - Noon - 4pm Have we got a treat for you! This year watch the US Army Special Forces Ice Carving Team turn blocks of ice into enchanting works of art.

**FREE** - Downtown Blowing Rock - Memorial Park

**WINTERFEST WINE TASTING** - 2pm - Held again this year at The Historic Green Park Inn. Enjoy tasting a wide selection of fabulous local, regional and international wines.

Representatives will be on hand to talk about the characteristics of the many different wines which will be available for purchase. The WinterFest Wine Tasting is immediately followed by the Wine Auction. Purchase Tickets at the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce or Online.

**A WINTERFEST WEDDING!** - 3pm - Your presence is requested at the wedding of Chilly and Crystal, the WinterFest SnowFolks! In Memorial Park. Brought to you by ACES (Association of Consultants & Event Services).

**WINTERFEST WINE AUCTION** - 4pm The Historic Green Park Inn - Let the bidding begin! An outstanding selection of wines and other items will be auctioned at the 15th Annual WinterFest

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Wine Auction. A big crowd always turns out so come early.

DUSK BONFIRE -Weather permitting in Memorial Park. Make your own toasted marshmallows or s'mores. All supplies provided.

WINTERFEST MELTDOWN! Caribbean Cowboys at Canyons Restaurant - 9:00pm. Terrific Jimmy Buffet Cover Band. \$8 Cover.