

DAILY BULL



The Daily Bull is probably not suitable for those under age 18 and should not be taken seriously...

...like farts!

(A Few Of) The Best Places To Snowshoe in the Keweenaw

by Nathan "Invincible" Miller ~ Daily Bull

Now that the weather has finally got itself together, it's time to get outside and enjoy the wonderful area we happen to live in. After all, there's more to life than walking to class every day! I've been out to a gazillion places in the Keweenaw and I'm always pleased to learn about more hidden gems. Here's a few of my favorites I'd recommend visiting this winter!

Pilgrim River Watershed Project: Imagine hundreds of acres of nearly untouched forest, a beautiful 3+ mile trail over rolling terrain, and a year-round river that is beautiful in all seasons - right outside of town too! The Pilgrim River Watershed Project has helped protect public access to hundreds of acres south of Houghton yet receives a fraction of the visitors the Tech Trails or Maasto Hiihto get. The trail starts off of Paradise Road where it meets up with Pilgrim Road, just behind the guardrail on the right side.

Little Mountain: Located south of L'Anse is Little Mountain, which has a great trail that leads to spectacular views from the only "summit" for tens of miles. While it's a ways from Houghton, it's well worth the drive and can be combined with other adventures in that area. Head south on US-41 south through L'Anse, then look for Golf Course Road on the right just past the steakhouse. Follow this until it dead-ends, then up the short trail to the top.

see Jimmy John's on back

Wear your broomball bruises as badges of honor.



Baby Winter Storm Names

Also by Nathan "Invincible" Miller ~ Daily Bull

Starting with the 2012-2013 winter season, the Weather Channel will name noteworthy winter storms "to better communicate the threat and the timing of the significant impacts that accompany these events." No longer are we naming adorable tropical depressions and hurricanes – now we're naming snow storms.

When I first heard of this ploy, I was skeptical. Will people really pay more attention to potentially dangerous winter storms if they're named Nemo or Virgil? Doubtful. If anything, it will only hasten them into the dustbin of baby names. Who in their right mind would name their kid Virgil, especially after it dumped 5-7 inches of snow across the upper Midwest and caused unimaginable chaos for idiots who can't drive on white roads? Not me, that's for sure. Plus Virgil is an old man's name.

Naming blizzards seems to be yet another case of America taking a stupid pill. Were we really having problems trying to sort out every winter storm that struck the nation? Most of the time they don't cause that much damage anyway. Face it: a foot of snow doesn't really make me tremble in my boots like a category 5 hurricane does. This is just an excuse for the Weather Channel to try and make real life like reality TV – immature and nothing but drama. No thanks.

Not convinced that it's not about the ratings? Check out a few of the names they've got lined up for this year: Brutus, Draco, Gandolf, Khan, Magnus, Q, Triton, Xerxes, and Zeus. Talk about a Winter of Terror. The

see Subway on back

The typewriting machine, when played with expression, is no more annoying than the piano when played by a sister or near relation.
-- Oscar Wilde

Pic o' the Day!

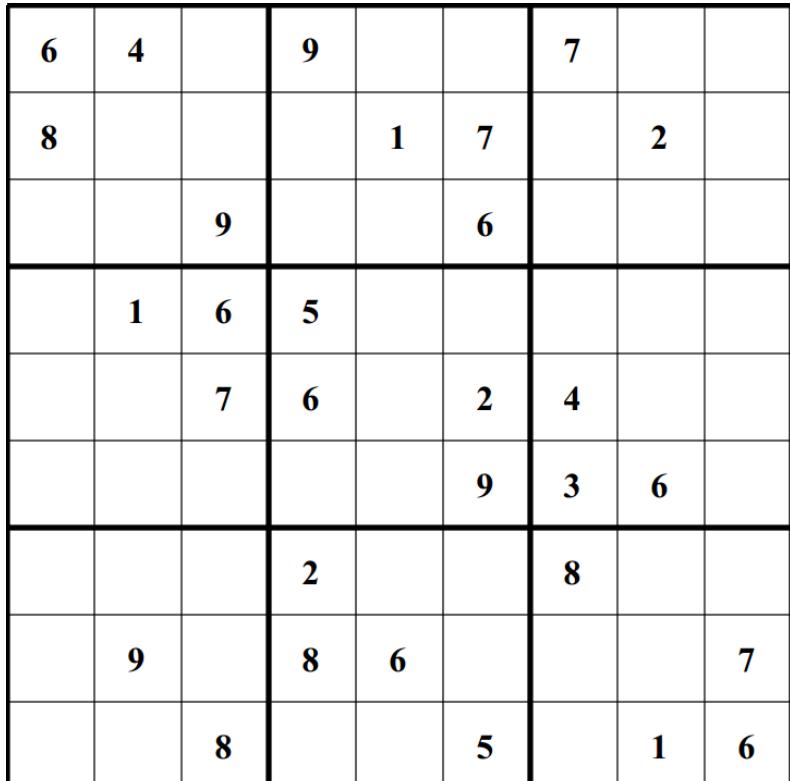
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Surprise Sudoku Thursday!



The Daily Bull

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from Jimmy John's on front

Paavola Wetlands: Owned and managed by the Keweenaw Land Trust, this public preserve has a number of winding trails that skirt the edges of a pond with active beaver lodges. This would make a great spot to get away from the crowds. What it lacks in extensive trails it makes up for in location – follow US-41 north out of Hancock, then hang a right on No. 9 Road about 2.5 miles out of town. The trailhead kiosk will be on the left side a little ways down No. 9 Road.

Lookout Mountain (Mt. Baldy): Maybe you've been there in the summertime when the trail is easy, but try winter on for size. Suddenly the 2.5-mile (one-way) trail up the ridge isn't quite so simple, especially after a thick winter storm. The views and snowdrifts will be worth it though! Head north to Eagle Harbor along M-26, then hang a right onto Front St/Eagle Harbor Cut-off Road. Just outside of town you'll find a drive to the unmarked trailhead on the left – no guarantees it'll be plowed, so don't get stuck!

Misery Bay: Want the danger and awe of Superior's ice carnage but don't want to head to Breakers or McLain's? Why not try Misery Bay? The beaches are bigger, the ice icier, and the crowds are almost non-existent this time of year. Be sure to look out for Dane Mattila, he may be jumping into the Lake "for science." Head south on M-26 to Toivola, then turn right and follow the signs for Agate Beach. Bring your swimming gear!

Estivant Pines: Got XC skis, snowshoes, and an entire day to kill? Estivant Pines is waiting! What is already a long haul to get to is exponentially longer considering you can't drive within a few miles of the trailhead in winter. Be prepared to slog your way down Manganese Road or Burma Road and along snowmobile trails to reach the nature sanctuary. Once you arrive, you've still got another mile or more until you hit the biggest trees. Don't forget to take a lot of snacks! ☺

from Subway on front

more normal names on the list include Athena, Helen, Jove, and Waldo, which are pretty far out there even for hurricanes. And let's not even talk about Orko, Ukko, and Yogi. Those are just stupid.

I remember a time when you only remembered a winter storm once every few years. The lucky few that made the cut were truly devastating. Everyone out east remembers the Blizzard of '96, when feet of snow fell across the entire eastern seaboard. Will we still remember 15 years on the devastating effects of winter storm Draco, which dropped a few inches of snow across much of the Midwest and caused the usual amount of temporary traffic snarls and flight delays in mid-December 2012? Definitely not.

It's my hope that the Weather Channel's little trend dies out before the trembling masses adopt it for good. The last thing we need are dimwits fearing a couple inches of the white stuff worse than they already do. I understand that not everyone in the U.S. drives as well in snow as your average Yooper, but at least they could try not to crash every time a few flurries come down.

If this naming of winter storms does take hold, I'm afraid there will be no stopping the rampant personalization of every weather phenomenon. Soon every tornado will be named, and every high tide given a title. Before you know it, we'll have Avalanche Thor, son of Magnus the Stormbringer of the Rockies and acolyte of Caesar making headlines across the country. Is this a world we really want to live in?

Editor's Note: Yes, yes it is. ☺