

2022

Winona Forest Snowshoe Marathon

6 courses + 6 distances = One Great Marathon

Prelude: All marathon courses are marked very well. All intersections are signed. In all actuality, you do not need this course description to find your way. However, it is very easy to “zone out”. Focus at all times, and stay sharp. I’m excited to offer you this opportunity, get out there!

The Red Course

6.55 Miles

The Red Course, AKA the Stone Wall Snowshoe Course, has been identified as one of the most challenging snowshoe courses. “Relentless” is my favorite term. Find RED Start sign on Bargy Road near the timing shed. Take a right onto Bronze trail, you have 1 mile to get to the parking lot at CCC. Bronze will bring you to Rt 90 which you will cross, be careful crossing, and another .3 miles you arrive at Pussycat Trail, red arrow sends you left. Follow Pussycat back to CCC. Notice red arrow sending you right in parking area, find Stone Wall Trail.

A gradual downhill, brings you to Rt 90 road crossing. Stay straight on Stone Wall after crossing the road, see the red straight arrow. After crossing road, less than .1 mile, you leave trail, to a “trail-less” section of the course, where things get interesting. There is a red straight arrow guiding you to the “trail-less” section. You will want to follow only when we have good snow.

This is not an actual trail, but I marked it very well with red markers, you will have no trouble following. Enjoy this section, it is what snowshoe is meant to be. Embrace the burning quads and ripping calves as you encounter the steep climb back up to Stone Wall trail, following the red right turn arrow.

Follow Stone Wall until it ends at Frank’s Fancy. Right turn arrow onto Frank’s, cross creek, veer right, and go another .2 to Hessel Rd. Go straight across, seeing easy to follow red straight arrow. A short distance (100 meters) and you are turning left onto Stone Wall South, and more glorious single track. Eventually arrive at “Winter Route”

where you will go right. Follow ridge to left turn onto Frank's, crossing a creek on a bridge. From here, you will hop onto Otso's Ridge Trail, joining the Orange Course for just a quick climb, before entering a "trail-less" section. Easy to follow red markers will take you through the woods and eventually to Winona Way at Bernie's Bypass. Run Bernie's all the way until it ends.

Bernie's Bypass ends at Shady Shuttle, and for a brief time you join both the Blue and Orange Courses. Pay attention, the Red Course leaves Shady at a steep climb, to another "Trail-less" section. Prepare yourself mentally and physically, this is going to be awesome. Easy to follow red markers through this entire section, brings you to Tie. I'll leave out the details, I don't want to spoil it.

Follow right turn arrow onto Tie, and at another 200 meters Tie ends, you follow the right turn arrow onto Winona Way. (Orange Course overlaps here)

Another .2, you drop down a noticeable hill into a valley, and coming out, you will see an arrow directing you left onto Otso's Ridge Trail. Creek on your left, and a steep climb out of the valley, this awesome single track is a favorite, up, down, up again, about .5 miles total, your tested quads will bring you back to Frank's Fancy.

This looks familiar, you will follow straight arrow onto a portion you have done before, back over bridge, and turning right onto Stone Wall South. Follow Stone Wall South until it ends, you follow right arrow onto Frank's Fancy, cross Hessel Rd staying on Frank's, back over creek, take left onto Stone Wall. Again, you did all this earlier.

Note: you will not do the trail-less section on your return. No worries, just pay attention to red markers.

Following the Stone Wall Trail, and Red markers, you almost reach Rt 90, but just before you will follow right arrow sending you on Streamside. Creek is on your left, along with a few camps. You climb, and the trail almost ends when you take a sharp left, which pops you out onto Bargy Road, a wide snowmobile road. Arrow sends you left, down Bargy and a gradual downhill, to Finish at timing shed. Nice job! FYI - in 2021 Bob Bolton ran this same loop 4 times in about 5 hours.