

The Easy Glider

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Jan. 1998

ALASKAN ADVENTURE

7:00, Tuesday, February 3

Live a winter adventure vicariously through this week's program speaker. Listen ... and view the photographic evidence ... of Lancaster's John Stehman and friend's 1996 winter mountaineering trip. The locale is the mountains and glaciers of Alaska's Wrangle / St. Elias Range, largest national park in the U.S. Located in southeast Alaska, winter comes early to the park and brings unpredictable weather with it. Relying on a bush plane for transport in and out of the park proves risky as the plane is delayed several days for the return trip.

This is the real thing, folks. Don't miss it!

PROGRAMS: FUTURE AND PAST

Hats off to Program Coordinator, Wanda Knuth. She's done an excellent job of getting informative and interesting presenters at every meeting this year. Make it your business to attend! Meetings are held at 7:00 in the canoe shed at Wild Ware.

Programs Future

February 18: Rails to Trails Conservancy

Lori Kieffer Yeich will tell us how the conservancy works and how trails are developed, from dream to reality. Lori will also focus on trails within one hour of Harrisburg that would be suitable for Kick 'N Gliders for skiing on those snowy weekends that we all know will be here soon. With a BS in biology from Juniatta College, a MS in Recreation and Parks from Penn State and her work at the Philadelphia Zoo and as a recreational director, Lori has lots of information to share.

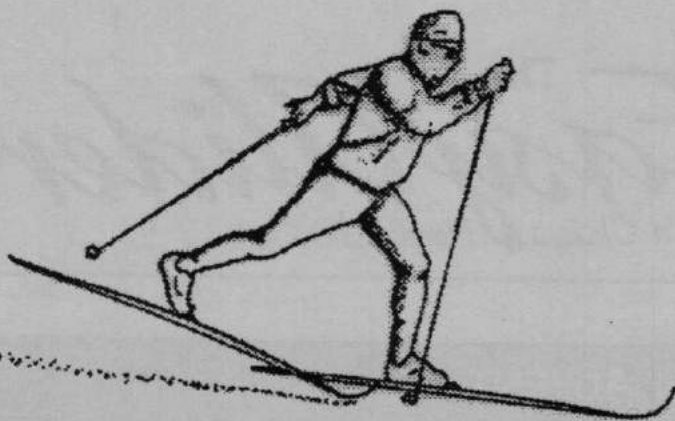
Programs Past

Sojourn through the Last Frontier, Alaska

Charlie Cole and Wanda Knute shared slides of their Alaskan adventure. Wanda joined Charlie, after he fished for salmon for a week, for two weeks of travel through central Alaska. Highlights included fishing for king salmon, touring Denali National Park and Mount McKinley, a glacier cruise on Prince William Sound, an exhilarating 3,000 ft. climb up Exit Glacier to Harding Ice Field, and eating fresh halibut. The pictures of Mount McKinley and the surrounding glaciers in the Denali Range were truly spectacular!



The Mysteries of Bena at Crystal Lakes



Roberta Strickler taught us more than we ever thought we'd know about Crystal Lake Camps at the January 6 meeting. A few notes for those of you who weren't able to attend...

In the early 1870s there was a steam-powered sawmill at Whipple Mill. Road access to the property came with a hard left off the road we know now, down Bear Creek Trails to the site, where now you see Whipple Mill Cabin on Bear Creek. In the 1890s, there was a hotel at the current site of Camp Genessee. (We pass through Genessee, at the top of the hill, in the big field where the Loyalsock Trail runs, just before we enter the woods to come into the about-900-acre Crystal Lakes property.) The

hotel, Essick House, burned down shortly after the turn of the century. However, in its heyday, this property was a well-known resort community, much like Eagles Mere. Folks came from Williamsport and Lycoming County on a train that stopped in Tivoli. There, you got off the train and came up the hill by horse and buggy.

Laughlin Lodge the original building on the Crystal Lakes property, was built about 1900 as a hunting lodge and it was named BENA, which means ruffed grouse. After the hotel fire, the Genessee and Crystal Lakes properties were purchased by a William Price. To get to the hunting lodge, Price created the current road location into the existing center of Crystal Lakes. To do so, he had to raise the Catfish Swamp ... so that today we can swear at Bill Price by name when we have to take off our skis to cross the Main Road to access the east loop of Catfish Trail.

About 1931, J. Page Laughlin of the steel company Jones & Laughlin bought the Crystal Lakes property and owned it for about 20 years. He built Towanka, White Pine, and Kya (all log cabins now standing). Mr. L lived in Towanka and Mrs. L lived in White Pine. In 1949, Joe Alford Sr. bought the property and established the summer camp for children. In 1961, Joe Sr. retired and the camps were taken over by the current owners, his son and wife, Joe and Dottie Alford. Because Dottie is a native of Maine, she started the ski business. The ski facilities were expanded and modernized by John Manifold. Manifold and his wife, Sally, were Crystal Lakes campers.

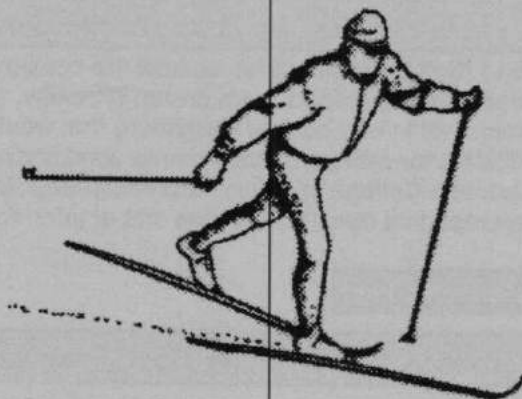
TRIP REPORTS

Well, the first three weekend trip and one day trip are history, but not forgotten. All were big successes, in spite of the relatively light snowfall in the northeast so far this year. As your newsletter editor gets reports from trip participants they will appear in this newsletter. Please, if you lead or are on a trip, get someone to write it up and send to Bill Stine to publish. See me at a meeting, wtstine@armstrong.com or send snail mail

Snow, Stowe, and more Snow

Perfect Skiing conditions for four days crowned

the New Year's trip to Craftsbury Outdoor Center in Vermont. Our day trip to the Trapp Family Touring Center in Stowe provided great trails and spectacular views along with a lovely warm-up lodge with cocoa and a place to eat trail lunches. First time trippers Jeremy Martini; Amanda, Brenda and Tim Firestone; Sally Eberly; and Patty Gillingham got the hang of it in no time. They probably think that the snow we seek is always like this! Thanks to the old timers for helping out and making sure that everyone had skiing companions for the day. And as always, the bonfire on New Year's helped me shuck the old and get ready for the new. Joan Short



Jan 24 Crystal Lake Day Trip

Thirteen day-tripping Kick 'N Gliders, lead by Barbara and Paul Kase, joined the thirteen Laughlin Lodge weekend Kick 'N Gliders for a day of skiing on Saturday, January 24. The weather was great. The skiing was good, with about half the trails sufficiently covered with snow. Though the snow was fast, skiers had to keep sharp watch for the occasional rock. Along the way we took a peek at the inside of Laughlin Lodge. Roberta is right, it really IS a neat place! Finally, about a dozen of us topped off the day with dinner at Ted's Landing.

WHERE THE SNOW IS

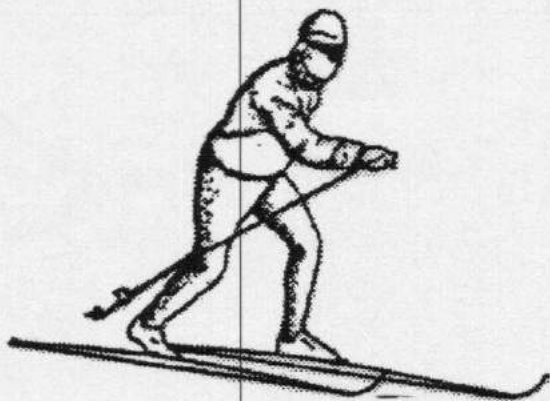
So, you want to ski this weekend! How can you find out what the conditions are? The following from Phyllis Zitzer:

Phone numbers for snow conditions:

- Lapland Lake X-C Center, Northville, NY (518)863-4974 or 1-800-453-SNOW for taped report
- Garnet Hill Lodge and X-C, 13th Lake Road, North River, NY (518)251-2150
- Lake Placid: Mt. Van Hoevenberg Olympic Nordic Trails & Touring Center (518)523-2811; and Cascade Ski Touring Center (518)523-9605
- Old Forge Area: McCauley Mountain - for downhill and X-Country: (315) 369-3225
- Tug Hill X-C Center in Osceola, NY will have snow; call (315) 599-7377
- Crystal Lake for a taped ski report at (717) 584-4209, or (717) 584-2698

As of Last weekend:

- NEW YORK HAD PLENTY OF SNOW: So sign up for trips that still have openings, or go exploring on your own.
- Lapland : "conditions are best of season - 28" base, still snowing."
- Garnet Hill: "STILL SNOWING; conditions are great!"
- Lake Placid: "all areas are open."
- Tug Hill: You can always be sure to find snow.



A complete list of phone numbers you can call for information on cross country ski conditions will be available at the next Kick 'N Gliders meeting. If you can't come, call Phyllis Zitzer, and she'll be glad to send it to you. (717) 921-9006(h) or 772-8582(w). Email to: pjzitzer@aol.com.

UPCOMING TRIP NEWS

While most of the remaining trips are full, you can always set yourself up as a standby. People's plans DO change! See the annual Trip Guide for details.

Inlet

This trip is proving so popular that Dave LeRoy reserved yet another condo (I think that makes four.) and there is still some room.

Tug Hill

Dave LeRoy only reserved half of the Pioneer Lodget for this trip. The remainder the lodge is still unreserved so there is lots of room! We have always found good skiing at Tug Hill in mid March.

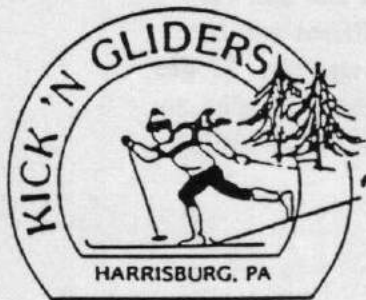
CALENDAR

MEETINGS	WEEKEND TRIPS	DAY TRIPS
Tuesday, Feb 3	Feb 6-8 EAGLE'S MERE	Feb 7 or 8 Eagle's Mere
Wednesday, Feb 18	Feb 13-17 LAKE PLACID	Feb 14 Crystal Lake
Tuesday, Mar 3	Feb 27 - Mar 1 BLACK FOREST	Feb 21 Luke's Trail
Wednesday, Mar 18	Mar 6 - 9 INLET, NEW YORK	Feb 28 Crystal Lake
Tuesday, Apr 7	Mar 20-23 TUG HILL	Mar 7 Laurel Ridge
Wednesday, Apr 15		Mar 15 Crystal Lake

ALASKAN ADVENTURE

DON'T MISS IT!

Regular Meeting: 7:00, Tuesday, February 3



KICK 'N GLIDERS
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED