



The
Easy Glider
 Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

April 1998

Elections & '97-'98 Ski Trip Planning - April 22

Election Time ...

Elections will be held at our next meeting on April 22, 1998, at 7:00 pm at Wildware. (Please note: This date is different from the date published in the Season Guide Book.)

The slate of nominees to serve as officers next year is as follows:

Elected Positions -	
• President	Nan O'Donnell
• Vice President/President Elect	Dennis Major
• Secretary	Bill Pickering
• Treasurer	David LeRoy
• Trip Coordinators:	
Weekend Ski Trips	Jeff Butt
Day Ski Trips	
Summer Trip	Jim Brandon
• Program Coordinator	
• Membership Chairman	Nancy Kauh
Non-Elected positions -	
• Publicity Chairman	Roberta Strickler
• Newsletter Editors	Bill & Sandy Stine

NOW IS THE TIME! '98-'99 Ski Trip Planning

Participate in planning the ski trips for the '98-'99 season. Bring your ideas for future trips. Learn the ropes about planning and leading

trips. Volunteer to be a trip leader! In order to get serious consideration for a trip you'd like to promote, assemble information on ski areas, facilities, total costs, up-front costs and other pertinent information and bring it with you to the meeting. Consider volunteering to lead the trip.

Message from the (Outgoing) President

This past winter, when I mentioned my plans to go cross-country skiing, a large number of people expressed sympathy about the poor snow fall and the effect of El Nino. But, looking back over this ski season, I marvel at the wonderful skiing opportunities Kick 'N Gliders have experienced. Either we have perfected the skill of scheduling our trips (!) or the snow gods have been smiling upon us. We have had a very good year!

For those of you who are still skeptical, allow me to review our season:

We had a smaller than usual (only 20) group on the New Year's trip to Craftsbury, Vermont; we wished more of you had joined us for four wonderful days of great snow, spectacular views (especially from the trails at the Trapp Family Ski Center in Stowe), good food, a roaring bonfire and getting to know six "new" skiers in our group.

Although temperatures in Harrisburg were warm in mid-January and many communities in Canada were still recovering from the big Ice Storm, there was snow in Garnet Hill and (the same weekend) for the Tug Hill Tourathon races. Twelve Kick 'N Gliders enjoyed the ski trails and accommodations at Garnet Hill; three more participated in "casual" races at Tug Hill.

Even in Pennsylvania, we had some snow. The group that went to Crystal Lake, either for the weekend stay at Laughlin Lodge or just for the day, found perhaps the best snow and the best weekend for skiing in the state. Snow conditions were marginal in Eagles Mere two weeks later, but a good time was had at Cozy Dell.

Lake Placid again proved to be an Olympic experience. Throughout the day, thirteen Kick 'N Gliders spread out to pursue numerous activities in the snow, on the ice and climbing the mountains and, in the evening, gathered around the TV to watch the Olympic Games events from Japan. We skied on some "new" trails as well as some tried-and-true. Snow conditions on the road up Whiteface were exceptionally good but seeing lots of ice storm damaged trees was sobering.

Snow conditions in Pennsylvania deteriorated and the trip to the Black Forest was cancelled; a cancelled trip is a rarity for this club. But we made up for lost time the following week in Inlet. Twenty four people enjoyed wonderful snow conditions and camaraderie; half of us skied all the way to Big Otter Lake (16 miles round trip)! A number of people treated themselves to new skis on sale and are anxious to return to Inlet for next year's ski season.

The trip to Turin and the Pioneer Lodge was a delight. Three days of fresh snow, at least eight inches of the best powder some of us have ever skied and pretty scenery. What a way to finish the year!

We also returned to Wildware for our meetings this year. It was nice to be back "home" and close to the attractions of the outdoor gear for sale. I especially want to thank Wanda Knuth for such a fine schedule of programs. Besides the usual trip fare and discussion of clothing, we enjoyed a session on sports massage. We learned the history of our favorite ski center, Crystal Lake, and how the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy works. We vicariously traveled to Alaska (twice!), the canyons of Escalanti in Utah and South Africa.

I hope to have convinced you that, in spite of the mild winter in Harrisburg, the Kick 'N Gliders have had an eventful year. Start thinking about next year. If you really want to ski, the snow is available; you just have to travel a ways to reach it. So plan ahead and save a few vacation days to join us!

Nancy Kauh!l

Programs Past

March 3: Canyons of Escalanti

Many thanks to Rick Begley for sharing the pictures and slides of his mountain bike trip. The fully provisioned and guided trip explored the nation's newest national monument, located between Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park in Utah. The rides ranged from canyons to ridges with spectacular views to slick rock. Knowing how much Rick loves the wilderness, we all took pity on him as he showed pictures of the picnic lunches that just seemed to appear in front of them just as the clock struck noon ... table cloths and all. The location was remote enough so that they never really happened upon anyone else on the trails. Beautiful, and still unspoiled!

March 18: African Photo Safari

So, as the last newsletter asked, "Would you eat in a boma?" Well, yes, if you didn't want a lion or hyena to sidle up along side you while you ate your dinner. Nancy Kauh!l's trip to South Africa was quite spectacular and quite a learning and social experience. This trip to visit Nancy's church's partnership church combined the visit, a conference, stays with local families, talks with local groups, sightseeing and a genuine, camera shooting, safari.

Is the Mala Mala Seven the latest singing sensation? Does a hammerkop pound nails? Are elephants forgetful? How close can a Landrover get to a pride of lions on the hunt? For the answers to these and other questions, join us to hear Nancy Kauh!l reflect on her trip to South Africa last June. She went to South Africa on a mission trip with several members of her church but also included a four-day safari on her itinerary.

Trip Reports

Crystal Lake - January 23-25

Apologies to Roberta ... she gave this to me ages ago and I neglected to publish it!

It was great! Every one of the 13 people showed up even though the ground in the valley was brown. We had snow. In fact, we had lots of snow. We had animal heads on the walls, bear skin rugs. We had FOUR bathrooms for 13 people. We had a broken ankle but the person still says it was the macho event of his life and worth every moment of coming down Boardpile at dusk with no thought of ever stopping....he did not know about the bears' den at the bottom. We had a ski lesson (free with the trip) that lasted ALL morning. We had a gourmet dinner. We had fire in the fireplace and beer on the porch. Plus candles in the candleabra. Perry got all the Harrisburg gossip and then went home. Perry, as soon as the sun came up, we saw the snow! We had homemade bread. We stretched morning and night. We had good friends, Kick n Gliders, who came up to ski with us on Sunday and brought news of the world. Laughlin Lodge is really a cool place. You would never know there is so much luxury, so much remote but no control, and only 2 hours from home! Put it on your calendar for next year. (This may be the shortest Easy Glider article I ever wrote!)

Roberta Strickler

Season Swan Song ...

Turin, Pioneer Lodge, March 20-23

Ahh, Tug Hill... This snow capital of the east and the folks at Pioneer Lodge delighted us again. As usual, the white stuff was up to our eyeballs ... well not quite, but there was a foot of base almost everywhere we skied and more on the western and higher areas. Snow fell all weekend.

The Stines, Fitz and Lausch arrived Friday afternoon and skied the lower Whetstone Gulf trail followed by a short loop of Carpenter road. While there, the light wind and fog conspired to decorate the trees with a beautiful coating of hoar frost. If only a bit of sun were available to illuminate it to full potential, but then, I'm not complaining. Afterwards we repaired to the Timberview bar, leaving our guns in the car as directed by the sign next to the door, to schmoose with a few snowmobilers and contemplate whether to return the next night for the beach party.

Saturday morning we woke to four inches of new powder, secretly relieved that we wouldn't have to break trail through the twenty inches that had been predicted. We worked off the usual outstanding breakfast provided by Diane, Fran and Laurie by skiing the six miles of Centennial Scoot and Bear Ridge trails successfully for the first time in three tries. The massive blow downs from the microburst of July, '95 were still very evident, but the trails had all been cleared and were fun. In the afternoon the familiar trails of Carpenter Road were in the best shape we could remember. Dave showed up for dinner in shorts, ready for the beach party at the Timberline ... but no one was anxious get up from the table at the end of the meal. So, we stayed at the Inn and shared a bowl of jelly beans. Turns out that can be an adventure. Sandy liked pink, Bill orange. Trouble was brewing among Fred, Tanya and Jack who all liked red ones. Kim annoyed some by accepting whatever colors showed up in her hand, including their favorites! Nancy and Dave did their best to keep the peace.

Sunday was Confusion Flats day, and we were fully prepared this year, Dave with the topo map, Bill with his compass, and Fred with his GPS and his traditional one-red-one-blue kneepads. Boughs of the small conifers that dot the flats were weighted down by the crystal snow. We actually managed to find all the blue markers that mark the trail, but we did do a couple of extra miles trying to locate them. And, we actually saw Little Otter Lake this time after missing it four years ago. The folks up front saw lots of ruffed grouse and Fred even claimed to recognize some coyote tracks.

We skied Rodman-Barnes Corners Ski Trails on the way home Monday for what may have been the best skiing of the trip. John Young trail, along the rim of the 250 foot deep Inman Gulf, was spectacular. And the section of tall pines along Whiteway Loop was awesome, with its rolling snowy terrain, high green canopy and uniform brown tree trunks all dotted with snow. The big hill down to Home Run topped off the day as we returned to our cars for the trip home.

Don't go away, Tug Hill ... we'll be back.

Bill & Sandy Stine



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED