

The
Easy Glider
 Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

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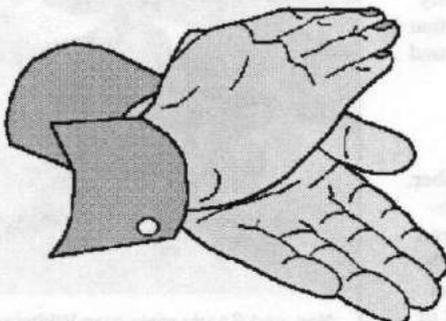


2002-2003 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for membership approval at the April meeting.

- President **Tim Musser**
- Vice-President **Joan Short**
- Treasurer **David Leroy**
- Secretary **Mike McMullin** *McMullin*
- Weekend Trips **Jan Diehl**
- Day Trips **Dennis Major**
- Membership **Wanda Pritulsky**
- Programs **Richard Levin**
- Summer Trips **Nan Reisinger**
- Newsletter **Bill Stine**

Our thanks to committee members, Dennis Major and Nancy Kauhl, for a job well done!



April Meeting

Election of Officers & Trip Planning

7:00 p.m. on April 2nd

Please attend this most important meeting of the year. We'll elect new leadership and set the schedule next season's trips.

The election is easy! The Nominating Committee already provided us with an outstanding slate of officers. All we have to do is confirm their choices and welcome our new officers to their posts.

The more difficult tasks are deciding what ski trips to run next year, setting the schedule and selecting trip leaders. Our decisions are crucial to the success of next year's season! We need your help!

First, this is your chance to bring your trip ideas in front of the membership. Bring the information you've gathered about your trip idea with you to the meeting. You don't have to have all the answers at this meeting. You do need, however, a description of the area, possible accommodations and rough pricing. Club leadership is not usually receptive to vague trip ideas. They do respond well to someone who has done some homework.

Or, second, you may have some ideas about how to better arrange or run some of our traditional trips. Maybe you have ideas about rearranging our usual schedule to take better advantage of holidays or prevailing weather conditions. This is your chance to be heard!

Finally, we need trip leaders. It's always a bit of a struggle to find enough people to lead the trips we want to run. It's important. It's not really that hard. And, there are people and resources to help guide your efforts. Please consider helping in this critical role. You may even have fun doing it!

See you there!

Black Forest Trip Report

by Tim Musser

On February 8, 9 and 10, the "K'nG Hiking Club" visited the beautiful Black Forest region of Pennsylvania. The snow cover was thin, well, OK, non-existent. But, everyone came prepared with hiking shoes. The Black Forest Inn provided us with pleasant accommodations and we practically had the place to ourselves.

Saturday was a beautiful day with clear, blue skies and temperatures in the 40s. We decided to hike the southern section of the Black Forest Trail, which had several lovely vistas of the Pine Creek Valley. With about twelve miles of trail and over 3,000 feet of climbing, the hike turned into quite a challenge. While taking our lunch break on top of Hemlock Mountain, with an awesome view, we spotted a large, black hawk soaring easily in front of us. Suddenly, out of nowhere, appeared an even larger bird with a tell-tale white head and tail. These two magnificent birds-of-prey put on an aerial dogfight, much to our delight. After a few minutes of this, the hawk flew off and the eagle did a final fly-by directly over our heads. Unforgettable!

Sunday was overcast and they were calling for rain, so we chose a shorter loop and did the 5.6 mile George Will Trail. The precipitation held off 'til we got back and were eating lunch.

Evenings were spent in the "biggest little town in the world", also known as Cross Forks, socializing with the locals. Following the motto, "When in doubt, hit it hard", much lager was consumed.

Participants: Bernie Webber, Al Hoch, Rick Begley, Tim Musser

Can You Really Spend a Week Skiing Lake Placid?

by Bill Stine, et al

Well, for starters, the scenery was beautiful and the snow bountiful, if a bit sticky at times. As befits this particular winter, the weather was warm and often sunny. The Philo House, where we stayed, with all the comforts of home and the great company, is an easy way to enjoy the Adirondacks.

On Saturday, Feb. 16, Bill and Sandy Stine, Phyllis Zitzer, Beth and Dennis Major and Ed and Theodora Kreuser visited the Visitors Interpretive Center at Paul Smiths, a perennial favorite. Skiing conditions at the VIC were very good on the Tamarack and Esker ski trails. We all enjoyed the facility's excellent visitors' center where we ate lunch and learned a bit about the natural history and wildlife of the area.



"Glide" poses at trail entrance to Ausable Lake and Rainbow Falls.

The exclusive Ausable Lake Club owns all the land traversed by a trail that leads to Lower Ausable Lake and that provides access to a considerable amount of wilderness area. Fortunately, the club allows public access to the trail all year long. They even employ friendly, professional rangers on its staff! However, there hasn't been enough snow in Keene Valley for the last six or seven years to ski the trail. On Sunday, however, that discouraging record was finally broken. Although the new powder and warm temperatures made for sticky skiing, it dressed the trail beautifully. Joined that day by Dave LeRoy and Nancy Kauh, we made it to the lake in time for lunch. We then doffed our skis, crossed the picturesque bridge across the stream and hiked the last half mile to the bluish, frozen cascade of Rainbow Falls. The deep, fresh snow made for a truly delightful trek. Of course, the fact that it had been an uphill climb from the road to the lake meant we had a great, downhill cruise on the way back!

While many of us had been skiing ungroomed trails, a few of our number, including Tom Nash, Stacey Richter-Nash, and Ed and Theodora, preferred the crisply groomed ski surfaces at the Olympic Sports Complex at Mt. Van Hoevenberg. So, on Monday, most of the rest of us relented and joined our

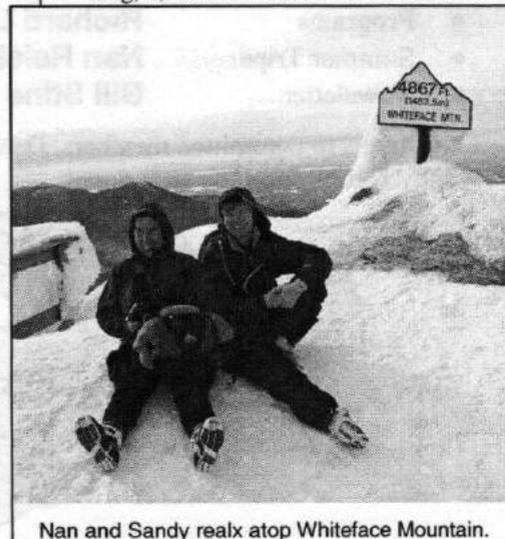
fellow Kick 'n Gliders at that venue. And what a day it was! The sun shone down and the temperatures were comfortable. Many of us did the Women's 5 K and Upper Notch trails and the Perimeter Loop, adding a few shorter loops in between, before lunch. But, hats off to Tom Nash who borrowed skinny, waxable skis and combi boots from Bill. On his second attempt, ever, at the technique, Tom managed to ski-skate that

same circuit ... finishing before lunch!

Meanwhile, intrepid explorers that they are, Dave LeRoy and Nancy Kauh tried two skiing venues that the club had never done. The first was the trail to Connery pond and the second, The Peninsula Trails, set on a peninsula that extends into Lake Placid (the lake). Both were enjoyable, short skis on easy,

mostly level terrain.

Near the top of Whiteface Mountain stands a stone structure known as Whiteface Castle. At the very tip-top, looking way down on the alpine ski slopes, stands a weather station. That weather station is one of the area's trophy destinations for x-c skiers. And, on Tuesday, four Kick 'n Gliders got to add that trophy to their collection. The weather and snow conditions were as perfect as they get at the top. All Pete, Nan, Sandy and Bill had to do was provide the stamina for the five-mile-long, 2,500-foot-vertical ski to the castle



Nan and Sandy relax atop Whiteface Mountain.

and the nerve to climb the last 260 vertical feet on icy, snow-covered steps to the weather station.

Was it worth it? You bet! The view was breathtaking. In the foreground was Lake Champlain and Burlington, VT. Behind that was Mt. Mansfield near Stowe, and the ski slopes cut into the mountain at Bolton Valley. Beyond, and to the right of Mt. Mansfield, we could even see the White Mountains of New Hampshire! The photos we took will never do it justice. The final cap on the experience was the five-mile glide back down the mountain. Conditions were such that we



Side-stepping up a hill at Adirondack Loj trails.

didn't even have to snow-plow! We just stood there, gliding along, and enjoying the scenery!

The Visitors' Center at Adirondack Loj is the usual gateway to the wilderness areas near Mt. Marcy and Avalanche Pass. On Wednesday, however, we decided to try the designated ski trails within the square mile that is Loj property. For \$7 per car, we parked and skied. And skied! We did most of the trails on the property and loved them all. A couple of the trails share the well-used route to Marcy Dam and were rather wide and well packed. Most were little used, however, and were simply ski-tracked. The trails mostly require only intermediate skills. They twist and wind through the woods with short ups and downs. However, most of them contain at least one startlingly steep hill! Though mostly short, the hills had some tight turns and we had to resort to side-step tactics, and even walking, on several of them! We had a great time at the Loj trails and highly recommend them for a short day of skiing.

On the way back to town a few of us stopped at the Olympic Ski Jumping Facility for a look around. You can walk around the area and drive to the top of the hill for free, but four of us paid the modest fee to ride the chair-lift up the hill and then the elevator to the top of the 120M tower, itself. How people get the nerve to glide down that slope was far beyond any of us. We only know that you'd have to start young to be that foolish!

By Thursday, most of us were tired and actually welcomed the light morning rain as an excuse to bolster the local economy with sightseeing and shopping excursions.

Yeah, so enough about the skiing, already. What about the meals?

You couldn't ignore the Valentine's Day table decorations. Theodora's roses, Nancy's heart-shaped balloon and Sandy's tiny cards all enhanced the festive mood. The gourmet meals, themselves, were fun ... "Around the world in exciting flavors!" On Saturday Phyllis set the pace with baked salmon filets. Sunday evening found us dining on an excellent Chicken Cacciatore by Theodora. (Asked for the recipe, Theodora confessed she doesn't use one!) On Monday

we were treated to Beth's family-secret, church-cookbook ham balls. If it's Tuesday, then it must be the Stine's pork and sauerkraut. Wednesday was Nan's and Peter's shot at Tacos; scrumptious and zesty. Finally, Dave and Nancy lead the effort on Thursday to use up the leftovers ... and a very tasty effort it was! Kudos to all!

Can you really xc-ski a whole week at Lake Placid? Yes, you certainly can! So many trails, so little time. The week just flew by!

Inlet Trip Report

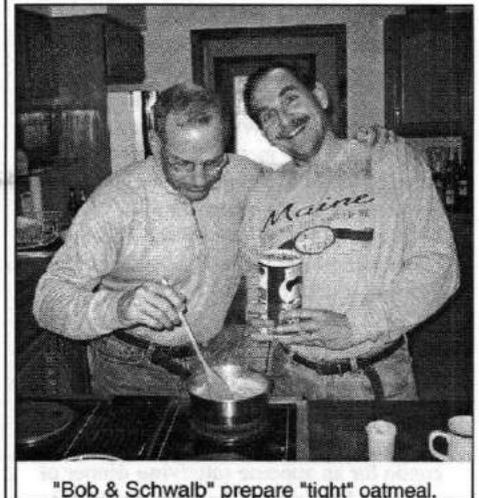
by Bill Stine, et. al.

Sunday was a slog wherever you went. All had fun skiing and snowshoeing at a variety of places including Cascade lake, Old Forge Golf Course and Windfall Pond. The dinners were a great match for the natural beauty of the Adirondacks in the winter.

Participants: Bill & Kay Pickering, Ron & Lois Page, Dave LeRoy, Nancy Kauh, Bill & Sandy Stine, Bob & Sue Gaston, Steve & Laurie Schwalb, Marci & Glenn Pickering, Chris & Cindy Champion, Richard Levin & Fred Burgess.

About five inches of new snow fell Wednesday and Thursday to set the stage for the Club's annual trek to the condos of Rocky Point Lodge in Inlet, NY. With the leadership of Kay & Bill Pickering, excellent companionship of trip participants and snow cover averaging nearly a foot and a half, the trip was a wonderful, if slightly soggy, weekend of skiing!

Late Friday afternoon, Fred, Bill and Sandy met on the front trails of Inlet's Fern Park. We skied to the top of the trail system and played with the bumps and dips of Lakeview Loop before coming back down. The new snow was delightful. It provided excellent control and was probably the fastest snow the Stines experienced all season. We were also pleased to note that the trails had been newly marked with color-coded trail signs. Then it was off to the Old Mill Restaurant in Old Forge to meet the rest of the trip attendees for the traditional Inlet kick-off dinner.



"Bob & Schwalb" prepare "tight" oatmeal.

We hit the trails early on Saturday with a brightly shining sun and warm temperatures. Most of the group headed directly for the trails at Fern Park for a warm-up ski. While the weather was delightful, the bright sun did render the previous evening's fast snow "sticky" for a while. A bit of F4 and some perseverance, however, got us through and we all had a good time. Especially fun were the trails coming back down the mountain! After the morning tour the Fern Park group split up. Some went to Old Forge to shop. Some tried skiing the Black Bear Trail across the road from the condos. Others, including Glenn, Bill & Sandy, Bob and Steve, headed for Fern Park's Perimeter Trail.



Bob breaks trail behind Fern Park on Perimeter Trail.

(Read about Saturday and Sunday skiing lead by Dave LeRoy in the "Barking Birch?" article by Fred Burgess, next.)

We hadn't done the Perimeter Trail for several years because of a multitude of fallen trees and a general lack of signage delineating the trail. But, we'd been told that the town had finally cleared the trail and replaced the marks so we thought we'd give it a try. We had a blast! True, there were a few melted areas. True, some of the hills were a bit "technical". But they made for an extra bit of challenge and even more fun! The six-mile route passes through a wide variety of forest and terrain and left us each a bit tired but truly satisfied with the experience.

That evening we gathered at Bill & Kay's condo for apres ski snacks and then headed to the Stine/Schwab/Gaston condo for an appetite satisfying dinner of chili and brown rice. Laurie's chocolate wine was the hit of the evening.

With rain threatening Sunday morning, several of us, including Glenn, Chris & Cindy and Bill & Sandy, decided to brave the forecast and ski between the rain drops. We started by trying the trail to Queer Lake. Although it started out ok, it quickly became clear that it was not laid out for skiing. There were simply too many steep, narrow hills. Abandoning that trail, we headed for the tried-and-true trail around Cascade Lake. All went well until a brief downpour of rain and sleet finally struck us early in the afternoon ... just half a mile from the parking lot and the dry comfort of our vehicles. Meanwhile, Bob & Sue and Steve &

to return to the condos to dry off and relax and to visit the shops to enrich the local economy.

Dinner that night was Marci's Chicken Kiev. It was delicious ... a match, even, for the natural beauty of the Adirondacks in the winter!

While some headed directly for home on Monday morning, others decided to get in a final shot at the trails. Glenn, Chris & Cindy skied the loop around Moss Lake. Dave & Nancy and Sandy & Bill skied a few miles on the Otter Lake Truck Trail. And the ever-ambitious Fred did both!

Barking Birch?

by Fred Burgess

Dave LeRoy and Nancy Kauhle proved to fellow Kick 'n Glider Fred Burgess that barking up the wrong tree can be a painful experience March 2-3 in the Adirondacks.

Fred's series of incorrect decisions began Saturday morning when he declined housemate Chris Champion's offer of pancakes for breakfast. It was only later that Fred

learned that Chris made the best apple pancakes west of the Garden of Eden - and that some carbo-loading would have been advisable in view of the ordeal he, Dave, Nancy and Richard Levin were about to undergo.

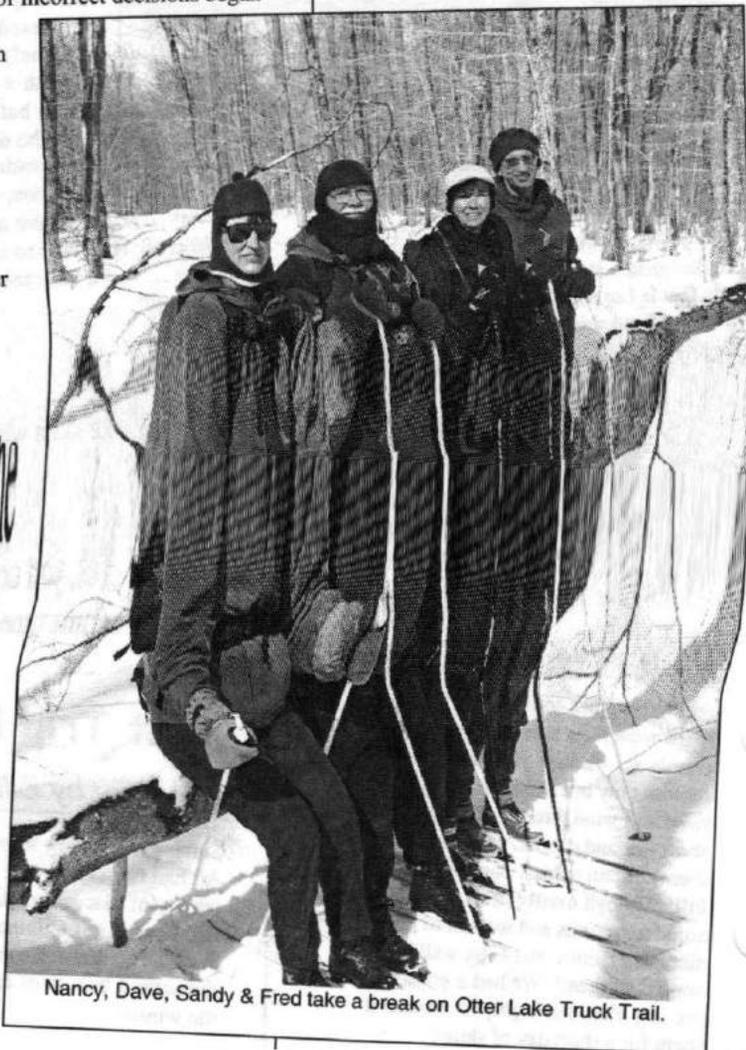
at a key junction the signs seemed to direct skiers to the right because so many trees had fallen across the trail straight ahead.

By that point the fearsome foursome had grown weary because so much snow was sticking to their skis, thanks to the warming weather. So, it was with heavy heart as well as heavy feet that Fred, who was in the lead, insisted they turn to the right. They went no more than a quarter mile before they came to an ice bridge over a rushing stream about three feet below. The bridge was blocked by a tangle of fallen branches and saplings, and no other path across the stream was evident.

"We're not going to be able to get through there," Fred said.

"Never say never to me," Dave responded, deftly worming his way through the tangle. Nancy followed onto what appeared to Fred and Richard to be a precarious perch in danger of plopping into the freezing torrent at any moment.

Only until Fred and Richard expressed reluctance to follow (perhaps "expressed panic" is the better way to put it) did Dave finally allow that Fred probably had chosen the incorrect path when he turned right. Sure enough, when they retraced



Nancy, Dave, Sandy & Fred take a break on Otter Lake Truck Trail.

their tracks and skied around the fallen trees, Dave spotted the correct trail and directed the group to safety.

Richard learned his lesson from this. Fred did not.

The next day he again chose to accompany Nancy and Dave, who opted to ski the road to the Santanoni Great Camp. Much of the snow cover was melting, and rain was threatening, so Fred figured the old road into the camp would be the best bet for skiing that day. Little did he know that Nancy had ulterior motives.

She carried with her plastic garbage bags into which she deposited birch bark she found along the old road. She was intent on using the bark for the centerpieces she will have at her wedding reception this spring.

The three made an uneventful trip into the camp, then skied back toward the safety of the car as the skies turned darker and darker. Noting that Nancy was toting a bag full of birch bark over her shoulder like some kind of back-to-nature Santanoni Santa, Fred offered to help Nancy collect bark from an obviously dead birch at the edge of the road.

The bark technically hadn't yet fallen off the tree – which is what the law requires before “harvesting” – but that seemed to be a minor point in light of the approaching storm.

So Fred skied to the base of the dead tree – which was precariously balanced at the top of a steep embankment – and reached ever so high in an attempt to get the most tantalizing strip of bark. Abruptly his skis went out from under him and he plopped into the depression in the snow at the base of the trunk. Only his head and the bottom of his skis could be seen by Dave and Nancy.

It took Fred so long to climb out of his hole – taking care not to slide down the embankment – that everyone got drenched before they could reach the car.

Then, in the parking lot, a park ranger cast a suspicious eye at Nancy's bags of birch by-products. Fred already was preparing his plea: “Please officer, I promise never again to bark up the wrong tree.”

But the officer thought better of approaching the three, probably because they were so soggy he figured they already were being punished.

So, as it turned out, his bite was no worse than Nancy's bark – at least from Fred's point of view.

Tug Hill & the Pioneer Lodge

by Bill Stine

Let's face it. Tug Hill skiing is usually reliable and fun on this, the traditional last trip of the season. But the hospitality and meals at the Pioneer Lodge are without equal!

The Lodge would be worth the visit even if you didn't ski! And, this year was no exception.

Hostess, Diane Gaylord, sister, Eileen, and mother-in-law, Fran, turned out three excellent, cooked-to-order breakfasts and two outstanding dinners. We even managed to surprise Dave & Nancy with a champagne toast, complete with skier figurines atop the cheese cake dessert in honor of their upcoming marriage. No one, not even Bernie, lost weight on this trip!

Of course, the Friday dinner at the Steak and Brew is getting to be a real tradition, too. With their excellent food and flamboyant, tableside preparation of selected dishes, it is yet another great draw for this increasingly popular trip.

This tiny restaurant even managed to seat all fifteen of us at a single table!

But, then, we really did come to ski, didn't we?

Friday, on the way to Turin, Bill & Sandy and Fred decided to take a look at the



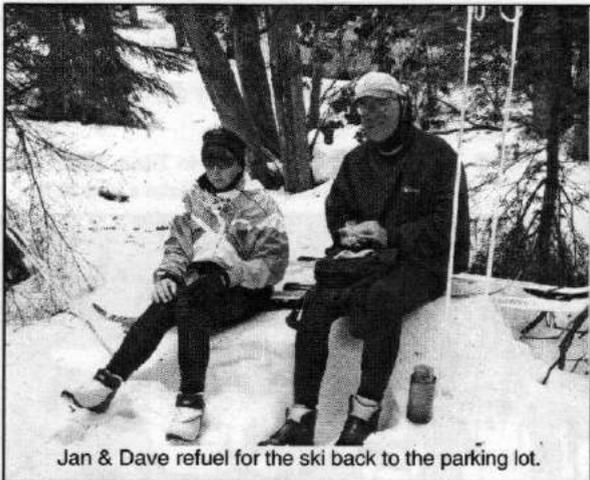
Fording a "water hazard" on Carpenter Road trails.

new Alder Creek trails. Maintained by BREIA (Boonville Recreation and Environment Improvement Association), the club had never used these trails before. We were favorably impressed as a place for the group to ski for half a day on the way home.

About noon, we joined Jan & Dave and Pam & Mike at Pioneer Lodge and drove off to check out conditions at the nearby Carpenter Road trails. The smell of pine prevailed as we skied through the pine branch tips and cones that littered



Yet another posed shot ... the "Glide" on Otter Creek Truck Trail.



Jan & Dave refuel for the ski back to the parking lot.

portions of the trail after the previous week's wind storm. The snow was fine, but the litter did slow our progress in places. The tiny pine cones acted as effective little brakes on the bottoms of our skis. We also encountered a water hazard on the trail back to the parking lot. There, the stream draining the adjacent marsh turned a ten-foot section of the trail into a shallow ford. Each of us coped with the situation a bit differently ... some more successfully than others. But, the final mile back to the parking lot was downhill through wide open cornfields. It was fast and fun and easily made up for the little obstacles we'd encountered along the way.

The next morning, we made our way back to Carpenter Road. Unfortunately, heavy rain the night before, followed by below freezing temperatures rendered all the snow in the area as hard as concrete. Yes, the surface was fast, but even those with metal edges had trouble controlling their skis. Nevertheless, we entered the trail area but after a mile or so a few of our number changed their minds. The rest continued to ski the area, covering some trails we hadn't covered the afternoon before and honing our skills in

the challenging conditions which sometimes resembled a deranged ice rink.

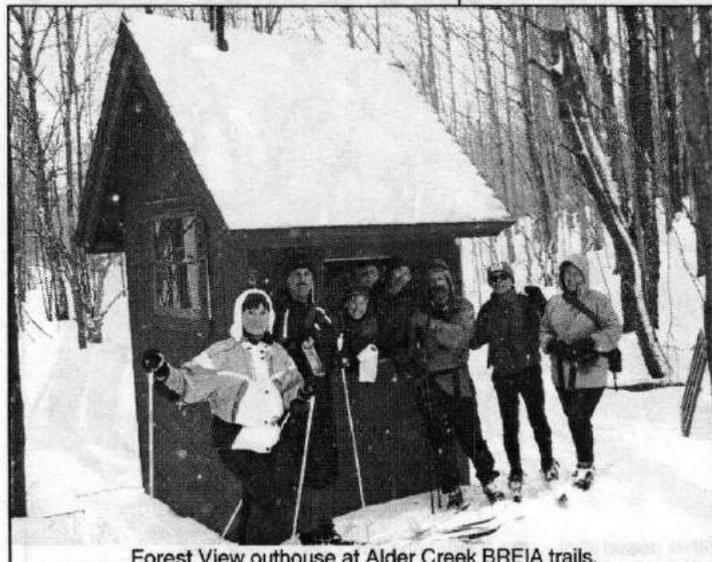
Beth was one of those who decided not to ski at Carpenter Road. Instead, she decided to give her new snowshoes a workout. And did she ever! She managed to break off the crampons on both brand new, big name snowshoes, rendering them useless. Sez Beth, "There's no shoes like snow shoes, and now there's no shoes!"

Coming off the trails, Dave & Nancy elected to check skiing conditions at other nearby skiing venues. Others of us headed up the road to ski the valley trail at Whetstone Gulf. There was no wind-blown litter and the sun was beginning to soften the snow. Though short, the trail is pretty, and the ski back to the parking lot is all downhill. Beth and Tim kept stopping to contemplate the rushing stream we were following as they dreamed about paddling their kayaks.

Dave & Nancy's research Saturday afternoon revealed that snow cover was spotty and that many of the usual Turin area trails were unusable. Instead, we decided to drive to the Big Otter Creek Truck Trail near Old Forge on Sunday, reasoning that if we couldn't ski the trail we'd at least be able to wander about the shops in town.

Not to worry! In spite of a muddy access road, the trail was in very good shape. Most of us skied five miles each way through the varied, wooded terrain, enjoying the soft snow and beautiful spring weather. Happy with our day's skiing, we decided to check out the gear at the nearby Mountainman Store. As Dave pulled out of the trailhead parking

lot, though, we heard a grinding, bumping noise. Looking the situation over, we thought that Dave & Nancy had decided to drag Adirondack rocks home under the van to build a fireplace for their new home! But superwoman, Nancy, quickly dispelled that notion. She wrestled the huge rock from under the van



Forest View outhouse at Alder Creek BREIA trails.

while Dave and others took notes.

We woke to a windy, Monday morning with a couple of inches of powdery, new snow! Although some of us had to leave directly for home, most of us were able to take advantage of BREIA's Alder Creek trails that we'd checked out on the way up. And so it was that nine of our number shared in the best skiing of the weekend. Conditions were nearly ideal. The fresh powder was an excellent cover for the frozen base that made even the technical stuff and the steepest downhill more forgiving. Peter got the prize for the most spectacular tumble, going head over ski tips at the bottom of the Gully II Trail. And, encountering a washed out trail bridge, we thought BREIA should get a quote for repairs from Dave & Nancy.

We all had second thoughts as we prepared for our eventual departure for home. With a snowy forecast for the coming week, it was tempting to stay a few more days. But, hey, it's springtime and the bikes and boats beckon!

Great Season!

Attendees: Dave LeRoy, Nancy Kauh, Bill & Sandy Stine, Fred Burgess, Nan Reisinger, Pete Oswald, Jan Diehl, Dave Powell, Pam Rosborough, Mike McMullen, Tim Burgess, Bernie Webber and Dennis & Beth Major.

GPS Primer

by Bill Stine

Several members attending February 5 meeting were disappointed that we could not do the segment on the use of GPS (Global Positioning System) receivers. It turned out that neither Bill Stine nor Peter Oswald, both of whom were prepared to present the information, were able to attend the meeting. Since there is no other time slot to make the presentation this season, I prepared the following article to give readers some basic GPS information. I hope it helps.

In addition, major GPS manufacturers, like Garmin and Magellan, maintain web sites with articles on GPS technology and the features of the models they make. Also, both Bill and Pete have up-to-date GPS instruments and are proficient in their use. Please feel free to contact them for additional information.

On the Trail, Again ... But this Time with a GPS

So, you think you want a GPS to compliment your outdoor activities, including cross country skiing? You've got lots of company. New features abound and prices are tumbling. It seems that every outdoor store carries them and that everyone is buying them. But, do you really know what it will and won't do for you? Read on.

The main thing a GPS does is tell you where you are. It uses a series of special satellites to do so and reports the results in terms of latitude and longitude or some other map coordinate system. It can also tell you where you are in relation to a "waypoint" position you've programmed into the unit. Of course, that won't do any good if you don't have the appropriate map or a compass! These instruments still don't nail signs on trees for you to follow. Of course, the more expensive units actually can contain the maps you need internally and some even have built in magnetic compasses and barometric altimeters.

Most of today's GPS units are very easy to use. But, it is very difficult to describe how to use them because each manufacturer's units operate differently and there are variations among units from a single manufacturer. Get a friend to show you how their GPS operates or have a salesperson show you before you buy.

Some things GPS units won't do:

- Work when you can't see the sky. Satellite-to-GPS signals are line-of-sight. Buildings, heavy tree leaf canopies, canvas and mountains block that view. Antennas are getting better, but progress is slow.
- Route you safely. If you tell a GPS to direct you from one point to another, it won't know if there is a chasm in the way and will direct you right across it. Same is true for rocks when boating with a GPS.
- Carry spare batteries. If the batteries die, you may suddenly be lost. Nearby lightning strikes can also destroy a GPS without warning. It doesn't need to be struck directly and it doesn't matter if it's turned on or not at the time of the strike.

Some things ALL GPS units will do:

- Tell you where you are. They can use any of a multitude of coordinate systems. Just choose the system used to draw your map.
- Store waypoints and routes. Waypoints are locations you want to remember. You get to assign names to them. How many you can store and how cool the names can be depends on the unit. Routes are ordered lists of waypoints that you can use to describe the way to get from one location to another. Routes have names, too.
- Report the time. Once a GPS locks onto its position, it is effectively locked onto an atomic clock so the time it reports is very accurate.
- Report speed and direction of travel. GPS units calculate these things by comparing your location a few minutes or seconds ago with your current position. You can usually set the amount of time over which the calculations are made.
- Tell you what direction to go to get to a destination you've programmed into the unit and indicate your progress and how well you're doing. They do this with a variety of on-screen displays using maps or roadway views.
- Report problems with the system. GPS is subject to occasional problems. Messages about problems are displayed on the screen.

Some things MOST GPS units will do:

- Connect to your PC to feed a real-time navigation program in your car or boat.
- Store a record of where you've been. Want to know how far you've skied today? Just ask the magic box!

Maybe you want to download your route to your PC and display it on a map. No problem for most of the units out there today. Many have optional mapping software for your PC.

- Allow you to upload waypoints and routes to the GPS from your PC. Again, there is usually included or optional software for this purpose.

Some things SOME GPS units will do:

- Super accuracy. Ordinary GPS accuracy is about +/- 15 meters 95% of the time. A new capability, WAAS, dramatically increases accuracy to about +/- 3 meters 99% of the time, an almost ridiculous accuracy for most of our activities. Look for this to be much more common in the next year or so.
- Store maps internally and display your location directly on a map. This is an increasingly popular capability. Some maps are built in, some are downloaded from your PC. Detail level of the maps vary from crude to very detailed.
- Special purpose calculators. One way a manufacturer differentiates product lines is to offer activity specific features. Example: Garmin's hunting/fishing calculator and celestial information.
- Additional functions. Examples: Barometric altimeter, magnetic compass, calendar.

On the Trail with a GPS:

- Make sure you have spare batteries.
- If your unit can store detailed maps, make sure the appropriate maps are installed before you leave.
- Have maps of the area. Sure, the GPS may know where you are, but it probably won't tell you that there is a deep, wide stream between you and your destination.
- Turn the unit on before you leave the trail-head.
- Planning on bushwhacking? Create a route of important waypoints to help find your way to your destination and to find your way back.
- Record positions of the trail-head and other important places as waypoints so you can return to them if you get lost.

Have fun with your
GPS!



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