



The
Easy Glider
 Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: **Bill Stine** (william.t.stine@gte.net)

Issue: **March 2003**

www.kickngliders.org



Come One, Come All!

2003 Awards Banquet!

Thursday, May 1, 6:00 pm

- * Celebrate a Great Season!
 - * Visit With Friends!
 - * Win Door Prizes!
 - * New, Animated Slide Show!
 - * Eat Well!
 - * Meet New Members!
 - * Make & Receive Awards!
- (Make your nominations on the enclosed form.)

We're having an Awards Banquet to celebrate the end of a great skiing season. Members and guests are encouraged to join in this gala celebration. Share stories of the fun and great times we had this season. Bring pictures to share. Recognize the accomplishments, or mishaps, of others on your trips.

The Menu?

Chef Ted's Soup Pot - Daily Creation
 Dinner Salad, choice of dressings
 Hot rolls
 Entree: Crunchy Almond Chicken or
 Pan-Seared Salmon

Parsley Red Potatoes
 Chef's Fresh Vegetable
 Coffee or Hot Tea
 Bavarian Cream Custard

When?

May 1
 6:00 - 7:00 Cash Bar
 7:00 - 8:00 Dinner
 8:00 - ? Program

Where?

Hardings Restaurant
 3817 Gettysburg Road
 Camp Hill

Cost?

Adults \$20.00
 Children under 12 \$12.00

Reservations?

Use the enclosed form to make your reservations.

Reservation deadline: April 17

Questions? Call or e-mail Bill Pickering at (717)232-1326 or billkaypick@aol.com



Election of Officers & Trip Planning

7:00 pm, April 1st

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

Then we get to decide what ski trips to run next year, set the schedule and select trip leaders. Our decisions are crucial to the success of next year's season. We need your help!

This is your chance to propose new trips. Bring information you've gathered about a trip idea with you to the meeting. You don't have to have all the answers. But, you must have a description of the area, possible accommodations and rough pricing.

Or, you may have an idea about how to better run one of our traditional trips. This is your chance to be heard!

See you there!



Nomination of 2003-2004 Officers

Nominating Committee

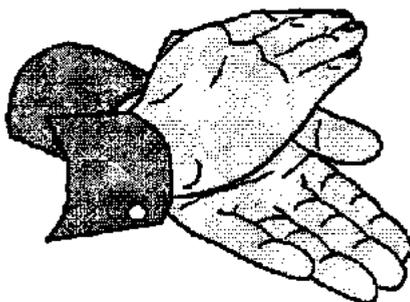
We are pleased to offer the following slate of elected officers for the 2003-2004 season:

President	Joan Short
Vice-President	Rick Begley
Secretary	Nan Reisinger
Treasurer	David LeRoy
Weekend Ski Trips	Jan Diehl
Day Ski Trips	Dennis Major
Programs	Richard Levin
Membership Chair	Mike McMullen

Also volunteering for appointed staff positions are:

Newsletter Editor	Mick Marhevca
Newsletter Publisher	Chris Champion

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Stine & Tim Musser,
Nominating Committee



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Feb 25, 2003

Mike McMullen

Tim Musser convened the February committee meeting at Joan Short's house.

Wanda Pritulsky reported that after reminders there were still 30 non-renewing members. After discussion it was decided to re-institute the procedure of sending out only one renewal form annually, to be included in the May newsletter. After the Ox Roast, when a large number of members renew, the next newsletter will include the red star on the address label to indicate those memberships that have not been renewed. The membership rolls will then be purged of all non-renewed members at the end of December. Dave LeRoy reported that in 2002 we had \$1300 in membership income and this year \$1150.

Sandy Stine and Tim Musser volunteered for the nominating committee for next year's officers. Since the membership is scheduled to vote at the April meeting, the slate of officers is needed for publication in the March newsletter.

It was decided that a separate monthly meeting for planning the Summer schedule was not worthwhile and that Tim would poll those attending the March meeting for ideas instead.

43 of the 50 Kick N' Gliders passes purchased at Crystal Lake have been used as of February 20th.

The treasurer's report was submitted and accepted. Dave LeRoy made a motion that the cost of membership be raised to \$15 individual and \$20 for families to partially offset the cost of the Crystal Lake passes, which have made the club cash flow negative for the year.

Dave LeRoy read a postcard received from Bernie after he had completed a little more than 100 miles of his ski tour of the length of the Catamount Trail in Vermont. His one comment was that essentially none of the trail was groomed and that they had to do lots of bushwhacking. He also reported that someone had given him transportation off the trail to acquire climbing skins, which proved indispensable. Sandy Stine suggested that an effort be made to get newspaper coverage of Bernie's significant achievement and it was decided to pursue that through available contacts.

The issue of general club visibility was brought up and the Trip Coordinator will investigate ways to get club information included in newspaper activity lists.

It was decided, since there is no means of making practical use of the emergency contact information on the membership form, that the section be dropped from the form.



Bernie Webber poses with a few fellow "End-to-Enders".

Postcard from the Catamount

White River Junction, VT
Feb 10, 2003

Bernie Webber

"Hello Skiers,

We have skied 11 days & covered 109 miles. On the 4th day after skiing I was driven to Rutland to purchase skins. Without them I could not have continued the trip.

So far I have not seen any groomed trails. We are either doing major bushwhacking through 2 to 3 feet of snow or using snowmobile trails that are crusty & icy. Most days include long, steep uphill climbs & lots of side stepping down hills. It's been very cold.

One thing the group has in common: We are all nuts!

See you in March."

The above postcard, featuring Vermont glade skiers on the front, gives you a preview of what Kick 'n Glider, Bernie Webber, was experiencing on his 300-mile, end-to-end ski of the Catamount Trail. A few club members were fortunate to pay a surprise visit to Bernie on Feb. 18 at Bolton Valley. The group was still in good spirits and going strong.

Bernie is now back home in Lebanon. Watch future issues of The Easy Glider for more details on Bernie's epic ski!



Tod Herrick leads glide at Crystal Lake.

Crystal Lake Trip Report

Feb 7-9

Dennis Major

We arrived at various times on Friday night, with most of us bringing food for supper in the New Kiya kitchen. What a difference a year makes! The new building has a full kitchen/dining room and a connected family room. So although we couldn't get all seventeen around the big kitchen table at once, we could flow between the two rooms for togetherness without it quite being Times Square on New Year's Eve. The new cabin is modern and handsome, full of wood floors and white drywall, but keeping the hunkhouse style of the camp. The Herrick and Brown families were next door in the updated Nosoni lodge, with house parents Dave and Nancy Leroy.

The few inches of new snow did a great job of freshening up the trails. The skiing was terrific all weekend. We even had a light but steady snow on Sunday. We separated into several groups as usual. The Browns took some lessons and the Herrick family skied steadily along with five year old Olivia getting the most-improved since last year award. Rick Close thought he should get it for keeping up with Rick Begley's combat assault skiing on Saturday. As if he would win with a grin, while Olivia's hundred-watt smile swung the vote easily. We were treated to several spectacles during the trip: Bill Hoffman's five plates of Lasagna on Saturday night and Terri Brown's demonstrated abilities in putting her foot (literally) in her mouth and wrapping her arm around herself at least twice.

We were able to stay in the lodge until five PM on Sunday, so most of us were able to ski into the afternoon. We left during the afternoon with a warning that there was a truck blocking the road. It was gone by the time we got to that point, as some of us spent time helping the Herrick's SUV back on to the road from off the edge. There were about twenty of us pushing, pulling and giving advice, without result. A local young guy with a four wheel F-150 came along with a chain and pulled them onto the road smartly, with barely a wheel spun. Off we all went.

Great little ski trip at Ol' C. L. Next year in Hughesville!



Some of the gang at Stowe.

Stowe Trip Report

Feb 14-17

Bill Stine

Eight Kick 'n Gliders arrived at Stowe's Timberholm Inn on Valentine's Day, tired of driving but delighted with the cozy atmosphere of the inn and the gracious hospitality of the Inn's Hosts, Darrick and Rick. Adding snacks and salad fixings, we made a supper out of the Inn's afternoon soup and planned our weekend around a lively fireplace in the living room. We were joined by last-minute, informal trip participant, Ralph Scott, who stayed at another nearby Inn.

Saturday dawned clear but chilly; that is, if you count -14°F as chilly! We'd elected to ski the Stowe Resort trail system the night before and the protection of the wooded trails was especially appealing considering the weather. So, after the first of our

breakfasts of rich, delicious egg casseroles, we headed for the trails. Despite the cold, we had a great time on this well-designed and beautifully groomed trail system. We spent most of the morning making a big loop around the trail system. While most of us opted for the warmth of the hut for lunch, the really hardy folks took a ride up the lift to ski the Toll Road trail. When the afternoon high peaked at about 0°F, we went back out to do a smaller loop and then returned to the warmth of the Timberholm for conversation, fabulous soup and Sandy's quiche and even a dip in the outdoor hot tub!

On Sunday the weather relented a bit ... the high went all the way up to 5°F! We dropped a couple of cars at the Edson Hill Ski Trail parking area and loaded the rest of us into two other cars and headed out some very secondary roads to Mud City Loop. There, we found the

Catamount Trail and made our way back to Edson Hill. This was a relatively easy, pretty section of the trail, that made it's way through wooded hills. Even though the sun shone brightly, though, you couldn't stop for more than a couple of minutes before feet and fingers began to get cold! The trail finished on the 1½ mile, 500-foot descent through the Edson Hill trail system. More hot tub time, afternoon soup and Nan's casserole topped off our return to the Inn to complete the day!

Monday was warmer! While a couple of folks decided to try the downhill slopes of Mount

Mansfield, most of our number opted to ski Mountain Road across the notch and down to Smuggler's Notch ski area. Only three miles each way, skiers were rewarded with some beautiful views, the opportunity to watch the ice climbers scale their objectives and conversation with numerous "glade skiers" who kept appearing out of the woods beside the road only to glide back down the mountain to the chair lifts. Sandy even recognized a trio of EMS employees from the Lancaster, PA, location! Later that day Nan, Pete, Sandy and Bill skied the northern half of Stowe's Recreation Trail. Tonight we all enjoyed a Caribbean buffet dinner at the Northeast Culinary Institute in Montpelier.

On Tuesday, as Pennsylvanians struggled to dig out from a couple of feet of snow, four of our number decided to sample the delights of Bolton Valley's trails. We hoped, also, to surprise Bernie Webber who's Catamount Trail End-to-End group was supposed to find their way to Bolton



Nan Reisinger leads charge on Catamount Trail.

that day. We spent the morning going to the top of the Bolton system, skiing some backcountry trails, checking out the beginning of the Bolton-Trapp section of the Catamount and having an absolute blast coming back down the Gardner trail!

Returning to the lodge for lunch we were fortunate to encounter Bernie. He told us some tales about some great skiing and the intricacies of climbing skins. Best of all, we got to meet some of the people he'd been skiing with. It's an interesting, eclectic group. They had just completed their first 200 miles with another 100 miles to go. We look forward to Bernie's tale if we ever get it down on paper!

Later, we skied some of the groomed trails in the Bolton system, opting, at the end, to send Bill back for the car while Nan, Peter and Sandy skied on down the Catamount to where it crossed the road. Next year we vowed to leave a vehicle at the base of the mountain, ride the Wilderness chair lift to the top of Bolton's cross-country system and do a one-way ski to the bottom. It's almost a skinny skier's dream come true!

Thanks to Nan for putting together a great trip! This is the second year in a row the club had a Stowe trip and we've expanded our knowledge a bit beyond the trails at Trapp. It's a long drive, but the location's got a reputation for great snow and lots of trails. Put this one in your skiing plan for next year!

Participants: Nan Reisinger, Pete Oswald, Wanda & Jim Pritulsky, Norma & Jim Brandon, Bill & Sandy Stine and Ralph Scott.

Turin Trip Report

Feb 21-24

Bill Stine

Early arrivals to Turin were greeted by warm temperatures and two to three feet of snow on the ground. As chance would have it, both groups independently chose the same trail system to ski. New to all of us, we noticed each other's vehicles but never actually saw each other! Most of the BREIA (Blackwater River Environmental Improvement Association) Jackson Hill trails are nicely groomed and roam

through woods in relatively level terrain. However, there are some more challenging, ungroomed trails on the east side of the system that were quite an adventure for those of us who were fools enough to try them!

That evening, we all headed for the "Steak and Brew" for our traditional Friday dinner, complete with tableside preparation of a flaming rendition of Bananas Foster.

Saturday morning found us headed for our favorite trails, the ones at Carpenter Road. We found lots of snow, but the going was a bit icy on the exposed areas of the inbound leg along Seymour Road. (A note for future visitors might be to try the alternate trail head at Douglas Creek, about a mile farther along Carpenter Road.) Once we got onto West Loop, though, the skiing was fine and we had a great time! Our best memory of this day happened as we passed the huge bolder about halfway



Pete Oswald demonstrates his downhill technique.

into the Jack's Track trail. It was covered with more than two feet of snow and was just too much for Tim Musser and Pete Oswald to resist. Pete was first up and first down. Coming off the bolder, his ski tips never even tried to float on the snow and Pete did the coolest face plant any of us could remember! Later, a light rain started to fall, dampening our clothes, but not our spirits, as we finished a memorable day of skiing.

Sunday started with warm temperatures and gentle rain showers. The weather convinced some of us, lazy after Diane Gaylord's cooked-to-order breakfast, to spend the day reading or driving to Old Forge and Inlet in search of other ways to enrich the local economy. We found



Lower trail, BREIA Alder Creek.

ways, all right, at the Mountain Man, Old Forge Hardware and a few other locations. But, that same rain seemed only to encourage others as Dave & Nancy, Chris & Cindy, Fred and Tim headed out to ski Centennial Scoot and Mill Road along Fish Creek. Returning to the Pioneer Lodge with our treasures, we found six very happy skiers who'd had a great time flying out and back on Mill Road which was flat, freshly-groomed and fast! The rain even made



way for them, pausing and finally turning to wet, fast snow. We retired early after a delicious dinner by the Pioneer Lodge crew.

Monday meant a long drive home, but not before most of us skied out the BREIA trails at Alder Creek. We first skied these trails last year. Picturesque, free and groomed weekly, they total only about four or five miles ... just right for a couple of hours on the way home. There's even a fine warming hut complete with a cast-iron stove to change clothes before the drive.

Thanks to Dave and Nancy and the folks at Pioneer Lodge for a fine weekend!

Attendees: Dave LeRoy and Nancy Kahl, Bill & Sandy Stine, Chris & Cindy Champion, Steve Schwalb, Tim Musser, Fred Burgess, Joan Short, Nan Reisinger and Pete Oswald.



Trail's start/end, Cascade Lake.

"Overs & Whimps"

Inlet Trip Report

Feb 28 - Mar 3, 2003

Perspective: Bill Stine

We started this trip Friday evening with dinner at the Old Mill Restaurant in Old Forge. Filled to the brim, we retired to our two condos at Rocky Point to plot the weekend's skiing agenda. We finally acknowledged that, due to a variety of injuries and disparate skiing experience and ambition, we'd probably end up skiing in two groups. We did agree, though, that we'd begin the skiing with a trip around Cascade Lake on Saturday morning.

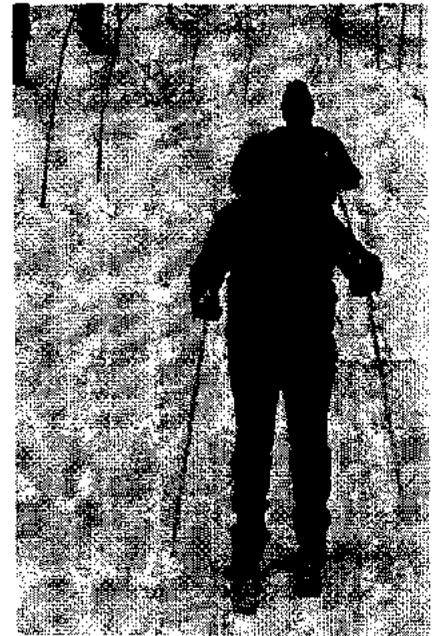
And that's just what we did. Conditions were good, with full snow cover everywhere. (We've sometimes skied this trail in the past by hopping from

snow patch to snow patch.) The waterfall at the head of the lake was especially pretty this year and, once again, we found a series of igloos in the meadow near the outlet of the lake. (I love the winter weather, but I'm not sure I want to spend the night in an igloo!) Returning to the trail head, we had lunch before the more ambitious group headed to the Moss Lake trail. This trail is used a bit more than Cascade so the trail was smoother, at least around Moss lake itself. We also skied the extension that skirts Bubb Lake and ends at Sis Lake. The last portion was especially fun. Less-used and narrow, the trail bumps around small hills and dips. That evening the Stines prepared a ham dinner that was well received by all. We topped it off by taking in an old Peter Sellers movie and looking at pictures of club ski trips, both new and old.

On Sunday morning the group split up with some heading for the trails at Fern Park while the rest made our annual pilgrimage to the Big Otter Creek Truck Trail. We all had fun but some of our less experienced skiers suffered bottom bruises coping with the steeper downhill trails at Fern Park. After a few skiers nursed their bruises at the Red Dog Inn over lunch and the Truck Trail bunch returned, we repaired to the Pickering condo for snacks followed by pasta and grilled sausage and chicken. More pictures,

more wine and more talk and we were all headed off to bed, trying to figure out how ambitious we'd be with the well-below-zero temperatures forecast for Monday.

True to the forecast, we found our thermometers registering in the -10° range on Monday morning. Much of our brave resolve softened and most of the crew eschewed skiing for other go-home activities like stops at Mountainman and Old Forge Hardware. Bill and Sandy did, however, stop to ski at the BREIA trails near Alder Creek. They skied a short loop, hoping to meet some of the rest of the group. Instead, they found a grooming crew working on the trails and starting the wood stove in the warming hut. After a conversation about how BREIA works (privately funded), they returned to the freshly groomed trails, taking in the steep trails that lead to the beautiful stream-side section. Returning, finally, to the warming hut, they savored



Peggy & Bill on Cascade Lake Trail.

the warmth of the fire while changing clothes for the drive home. A perfect ending to a great weekend!

Perspective: Ron Page

Inlet, NY--the destination for one of Harrisburg's Kick 'N Gliders Cross Country Ski Club's annual trips. What two downhill skiers are doing with them is anybody's guess. In reality, Lois and I go since we were invited by our good friends the Pickerings. Our accommodations for the weekend are at the Rocky Point Resort found along the shores of Fourth Lake. These condos are also the destination of 70-75 snowmobilers who seem to be revving up their engines from dawn to midnight. The condo next door to us had 12 snowmobiles parked outside when we arrived.

One of the first things you notice about Inlet and all the towns in the area, is that there must be a law prohibiting residents from shoveling their sidewalks. In fact, there are grooming machines plying the trails in and around the towns to make sure the ride doesn't get too bumpy for snowmobilers. It would be a shame if they did because the snowmobilers would not have place to drive. These folks seem to use their machines to go everywhere. You see them at gas stations, restaurants, bars, stores--all over--and on the lake.

I always had the impression that all snowmobiles were made by either Skidoo or Bombardier. Not so! Polaris, Arctic Cat, Yamaha and many others are seen around the area. They come in a kaleidoscope of flashy colors, including your basic black. They are hauled in all kinds of trailers, some of which hold as



Sandy signs in at Otter Creek.

many as six machines. The bottom line of this discussion is that there has to be a sizeable investment of cash to enable that family who snowmobiles together . . .

But I digress. This is a cross-country trip. Ten of us made the trip and five of us stayed in each of the two condos the group had rented. It became quickly obvious that our condo consisted of the "Wimps" and the other condo the "Over Achievers." This was clearly evident Saturday morning when the "Overs" were dressed and ready to leave before the declared 9:00 AM departure time. They went on ahead to our Cascade Lake Trail destination and were skiing off into the woods as we arrived.

After much fooling around getting organized, the "Wimps" took off down the same trail. About eight-tenths of a mile the trail becomes a 3.8 mile circular route around Cascade Lake. A note in the snow told us to go clockwise which we did without ever seeing the note. One of our members managed to fall twice on the first gentle downhill and then, believe it or not, again on the flat part. The skiing was wonderful and the scenery spectacular as we made our way around the lake. At one point we came across several igloos that had been built by campers. Unfortunately their roofs were caved in and we did not get to experience the thrill of going inside. A second highlight was the spotting of a tall skinny building in the woods. The women skied over to it so as not to pass up an opportunity.

An hour or so into the trip, we heard a lot of noise ahead and the "Overs" popped into view coming the other way. Lots of comments were made and ski conditions passed back and forth before saying goodbye and moving on. Reaching the lake inlet, we stopped for some

refreshments and admired the 25-foot frozen falls. Of course, being the "Wimps," we were starting to feel the strain of the trip. Pickering announced, "The good news is we are half way. The bad news is we are half way."

As we moved back onto the trail, we kept finding snow notes left by the other group. I wonder if they had gotten bored skiing and had nothing better to do. Hunger set in and our legs seemed to get heavier and rubbery. This led to a few more falls, and several times some of the group walked down a slope. I was the designated canary and if I fell, Lois walked down that stretch of trail. At the end of the circuit was a fairly steep straight hill. I had no trouble with it, but Lois fell just as she neared the bottom. She bent two fingers back and twisted her ankle slightly. Naturally, it was my fault. I reminded her of the canary, but she wasn't listening.

The "Wimps" had had it and returned to the condo not to venture forth for the afternoon trip. Of course, the "Overs" went on and did another five miles on the Moss Lake Trail in the afternoon. Bully for them.

Sunday morning it was snowing when we left the condo for Fern Park. (The "Overs" had already left for the Otter Lake Truck Trail.) Most of the trails had been groomed at one time, but the 3-4 inches of snow revealed only a shadow of a track. Our trail seemed to be all uphill no matter which direction we went. My

quick mind led me to believe the only way out was going to be downhill and those skis were still in the car. The snow falling was wet. The snow we were skiing on was wet. Since A and B were equal, C must be true--we were wet!

The map was helpful, but became soggy with its frequent use. Somewhere near the top of the hill we got onto an ungroomed trail and had to plow new ground so to speak. I had the point and managed to do fairly well amidst the complaining of the troops following me. At one point going down a narrow

incline, I slid off to the side and couldn't get up, the snow was so deep. I got my skis off and sank into the snow up to my waist. What a job getting through that point. The troops began getting unruly. Soon we made it back to the semi-groomed trails and the spirits rose a little. The group was very tired and several began to lose some confidence making our going even slower.

Three hours after we started we got back to the car, having covered 4-5 miles, and suffering through several dozen falls. It was at that point, I took matters into my own hands. Into the cars and off to the Red Dog Saloon for burgers and beers. I won the group back. Once again, the "Wimps" were through for the day.

Monday morning saw the temperature at -9 degrees and a wind chill of -27 degrees. Everyone except for two of the "Overs" opted to head home. The other two were last seen at Alder Creek somewhere in the wilderness.

Attendees: Bill & Kay Pickering, Dave LeRoy and Nancy Kuhl, Bill & Sandy Stine, Rich Levine, Ron & Lois Page and Peggy Hampton.



Glide Roosts near Brockway Summit above Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe Trip Report

March 15-21

Bill Stine

Sierra cement. That's what they call the snow that falls in the Lake Tahoe area. And that's what fourteen sleepy skiers intended to experience as they boarded Northwest flight 671 at 6:45 am out of BWI. Seven flight hours and a one-hour,



Tim gazes into Royal Gorge.

four-Grand Cherokee convoy later they began to find out.

We located the rental office and headed for our two rented houses in Kings Beach on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, about a mile west of the Nevada border. While some of us shopped for supplies at the local Safeway, the more ambitious folks headed a couple of miles north to Brockway Summit to ski the multi-use trail to the overlook for a first-hand view of the lake. Over homemade chili that evening they told us that the conditions were great and that we'd really enjoy the skiing. By 8:00 pm, all were snug in bed.

We started out Sunday to do an easy ski in deference to our sleep-deprived bodies and the unknown effects the altitude (6,000 - 7,000 ft) might have on our endurance. Dave and Nancy had identified a public trail just west of Truckee that followed the Coldstream Valley inside a railroad track horseshoe bend. Relatively flat and just above 6,000 feet, the ski was easy and pleasant. However, at that altitude there were bare spots in sunny places on south-facing areas. We still had fun, though, eating our lunches track-side at the bend and waving to passengers in the three trains that wound their way up the horseshoe curve while we were there. Those with energy to spare stopped for a repeat of the Brockway Summit trail on the way home.

Royal Gorge is the largest commercial ski center in the United States, boasting

330 km of groomed trails. Just on the far side of Donner Pass (as in the infamous wagon train) and only 25 miles from Kings Beach, it was high on our list of places to ski. Monday would be our day. It was everything they claimed it to be. The grooming was superb with trails eighteen feet or wider, trackset and very well marked. Most of us started the day with a ten-mile loop on intermediate trails that took us to the Mariah Point lookout where we could gaze down more than 2,500 feet into the ski area's namesake gorge. The view was breathtaking, with the snow-covered Sierra peaks stretching out to the horizon, and lush, spring-time green in the gorge.

The weather? Just wait a minute ... it'll change! Even though the temperatures were in the 40s, we had a few snow squalls that put quite a crimp on visibility. Then,

moments later, the sun would blast down on us again. Sunburn was the order of the day, as many of us never gave sunscreen a thought.

That afternoon some of us, including this author, took the afternoon off. It may have been the altitude, but I was tired! Others tried ski skating while a third group set out for other trails and

lookouts. Royal Gorge ... it's huge, it's beautiful and we barely touched it. But, hey, there always next year?

So, wanna go back Tuesday? Nah, there's just too many other places to visit! We did end up nearby, though. Dave and Nancy recommended a couple of public areas and we tried them both that day. Just three miles down the road from the Royal Gorge entrance is Clair-Tappan Lodge. Run by the Sierra Club, it offers inexpensive overnight lodging and meals. It also offers some great cross-country skiing. Ranging about 7,100 ft, the groomed trails run through the woods between Lake VanNorden and Boreal Ridge, interconnecting with the nearby downhill area and a set of commercial XC-trails. They were beautiful! with heavily snow-laden trees and a variety of terrain from easy, straight trails to steep, serpentine thrillers. We even made a small navigational error that got us onto a high interconnect trail that broke out of the woods and provided a beautiful view of the lake and nearby peaks. Back at the lodge, we marveled at the robust construction of the lodge. Framed and buttressed with huge timbers and topped with a steep roof, it is a structure designed to shed truly monstrous snow loads!

That afternoon we drove just a couple of miles to the Sno-Park at Donner Pass, proper. There we tried our hand at the trail up to Castle Pass. Ungroomed, the trail is heavily used by skiers, snowshoers and hikers, alike. It was here that the true nature of "Sierra cement" became evident. The packed snow was



Gliding along Blackwood Canyon.



Tim leads the way uphill at Clair-Tappan.

hard as a rock. The trail was beautiful: open meadows alternating with tall, snow-laden Ponderosa pines. Our intention was to climb in the main trail and follow a gentler downhill loop on our return. However, two miles and 650 feet vertical later we faced a 150 side-step climb up a hillside to find the return loop. It was late and we were getting tired. We opted, instead to ski back down the same trail we came up on. Dealing with the icy trails would have been a problem. However, there was lots of open meadow with tons of deep snow to use for traversing on our way out. For some that was a struggle; for others a blast.

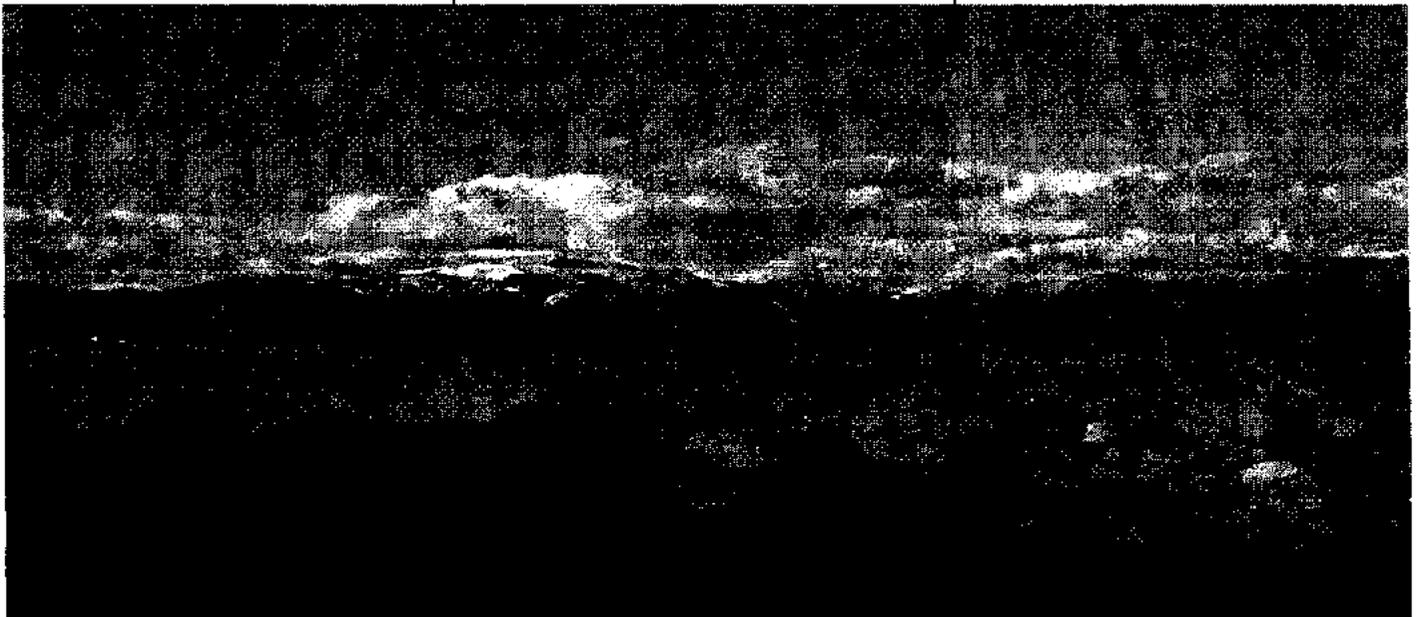
Truckee locals told us that their favorite xc-area was nearby Tahoe/Donner, so we

thought that would be a good way to spend Wednesday! The staff there were very personable and helpful. The ski area is very open with large intermediate trail sections located on a hillside and easier trails mostly running up and down a small valley along Euer Creek. A group headed up the mountain intent on descending a double-black-diamond trail called "I'm OK Euer OK". But, when we got there, only Tim Musser had the nerve, skills and metal edged gear to attack the twisty monster. We shared lunch on the sunny deck outside the ski center, comfortable in mid-50s temperatures. That evening, we listened to live jazz while having dinner out at the Truckee Hotel.

Thursday would be our last day to ski. A few folks, who'd spent Wednesday visiting Reno, went to ski at Tahoe/Donner. The rest of us drove part-way around the lake to Blackwood Canyon. Starting at 6,250 feet elevation, we followed the road as it began gently up the canyon. Crossing the stream, the climb became steeper and increasingly beautiful. Halfway up we commemorated the fact that Sandy reached her goal of 300 skiing miles this season. At 7,450 feet we had lunch at a spectacular overlook. Most of us decided to head back, but a group of three, including Tim, Fred and Dennis, continued another half hour to a pass where the trail ended. There, they had a marvelous view of Lake Tahoe and took photos to commemorate the destination.

At 4:00 am Friday we reluctantly departed Lake Tahoe, the houses in Kings Beach and a great set of ski trails for the Reno airport. We'd all come to appreciate "Sierra cement", not a cause for fear but rather a great condition to ski!

Attendees: Bill & Sandy Stine, Dave LeRoy & Nancy Kauh, Bill & Kay Pickering, Mike & Pam McMullin, Kim Lausch, Matt London, Fred Burgess, Dennis Major, Bernie Webber and our fearless President, Tim Musser. This trip capped an outstanding skiing year. Sandy and I want to thank all who helped organize this trip, especially Jan Diehl who's foot injury caused her to reluctantly cancel her own participation in the trip.



Lake Tahoe from Blackwood Canyon.

High Point State Park, NJ

Day Trip: Feb 8

Fred Richter

Five of the six skiing Richters met at Stacey and Tom's home in Randolph, New Jersey and drove the 60 minutes (we took a short-cut returning to Randolph that took 75 minutes.) to High Point State Park.

High Point straddles the New York-New Jersey border and is only a long job from the Pennsylvania border. There is lodge with rentals and refreshments abutting a scenic lake and about 25k of semi-groomed ski trails. The terrain is varied with several long grades. Fortunately, the fluffy fresh snow slowed everything down enough to give us good control on the downs, a good bite on the ups and still gave us a good glide on the flats.

The state park surrounds the 30 foot monument that was constructed on the hill that is the highest point in New Jersey. (That's why they call the park High Point- get it?) We blazed the trail up the back side of the hill to the monument. The base of the monument is 1803 feet, where on this clear day we could see forever- the Delaware River and Water Gap, three states (Idaho, Arizona and Rhode Island-just kidding), lots of trees, fields of snow and high hills (called mountains in the East).

We met Ullr, the Norwegian god of cross country skiing as we prepared to leave and the park prepared for their ski festival the following day. That's why Norwegians ski so well, they have a god to help them. I briefly considered changing my name to Sven.

In sum, we had a very nice day with cooperative weather and happy trails.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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In this Issue of Easy Glider

- **2003 Awards Banquet:** May 1 at Hardings.
Make your reservation NOW! Deadline April 17!
- **Trip Planning Meeting:** This is an important meeting!
April 1 - Be there!
- **Election of Officers**
We have the nominees. Come elect them to their new jobs!
- **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**
- **Postcard from the Catamount** - Bernie Webber makes good!
- **Trip Reports** - Learn the scoop on what really happened at Crystal Lake, Stowe, Turin, Inlet and Lake Tahoe!
- **Day-Trip Report** - High Point State Park, NY, by New Zealand hikers, the Richters.