

The *Easy Glider*

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

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...Lets Forget the Last Issue of the Easy Glider

Before you begin reading this issue, a brief apology for the inchoate newsletter you received this February last. You expect more write-ups, you need more information, and you demand better quality. Forgive me, please.

Now get out your reading glasses, make a batch of fresh, warm chocolate chip cookies, pour a glass of milk and settle in to read about all our trips this season and other important club news.

**Monthly meeting
03-17-04 7p.m.**

- Officer Nominations
- 2004 Trip Destination Discussions
- Rails to Trails Presentation

Nominations? Nominations... Haven't I heard about that in the news lately?? MSNBC is covering the nominations. Fox News has their take on the nominations. Kick 'n Gliders will have their aspiring officers nominated at the March 17 meeting. The poling place will be Wildware Outfitters. Please remember, to avoid violation of Federal Election Regulations no single contribution to an individual campaign fund may exceed \$2000. Elections will be at the April Meeting.

We will also begin initial 2004 Trip Destination discussions during this meeting. If you have a location in mind and are willing to lead a group of happy Nordic Trail breakers, bring your ideas. Final destination choices will be at the April Meeting.

After our regular business meeting we will have a presentation by Tim Poole of the Pennsylvania Chapter Office of the Rails to Trails program. Converting vacated train track beds and other paths into upgraded trails for recreation, such as hiking, cycling and cross-country skiing, is the organization's primary objective. Many of our members are avid cyclists and are familiar with Rails to Trails. Others are not. Mr. Poole's presentation will clarify their program's organization and purpose. He will also make us aware of projects within drivable distances of our members. A video produced by Rails to Trails will be shown during the presentation.

Pre-trip Craftsbury 2005 Information

Craftsbury 2004-2005 Trip-leader, Dave LeRoy, reports that he recently completed reservations for the 2004-2005 New Year's trip to Craftsbury, Vermont. The competition for space at this popular ski touring center has gotten more intense and the owners decided to accept reservations for the following year starting on December 19, 2003. In an attempt to be first in line for the New Year's weekend, Dave stayed up well past his bedtime and e-mailed his reservation request at 2 minutes after mid-night on the big day. We were informed that we were not first in line, but in fact tied for second place. The good news is that our request for 30 spots on the weekend starting December 29, 2004 and ending January 2, 2005 was accepted. To insure that everyone gets a chance at the 30 spots, Dave will accept reservations for this trip starting immediately. To take advantage of this opportunity, send \$100 per person to the club address and state whether you are interested in the few rooms available with double beds.

2004 Trips Summaries

Crystal Lake - Jan 10, 2004

Leaders: Joan Short & Peg Hampton

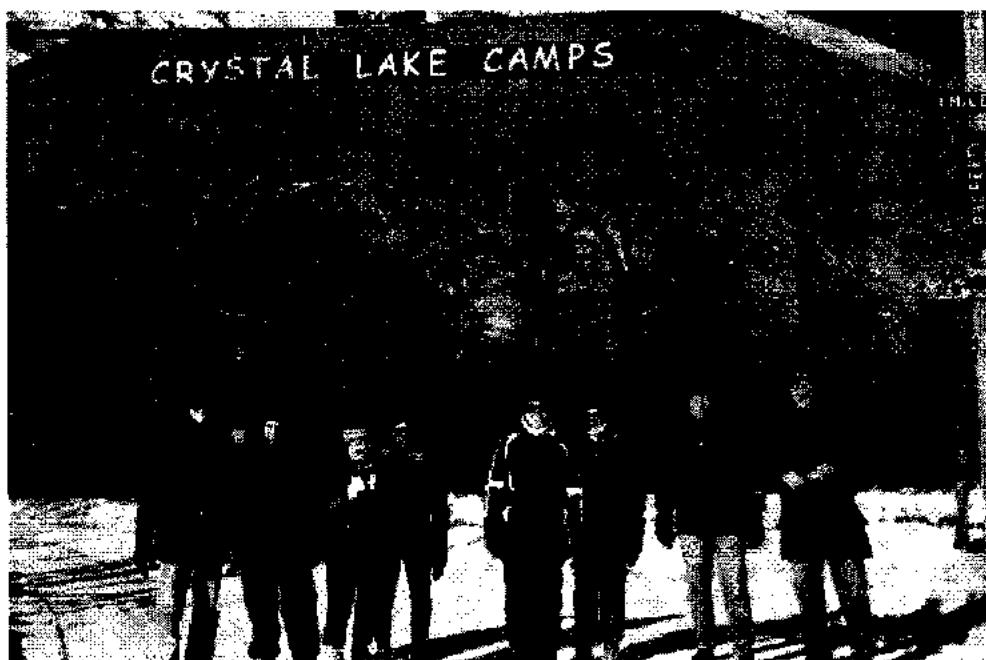
Participants: Rich Levin, Joe Rutolo, Roberta Stricker, Linda McGreevy, Becky Cotich, Steve Sells, Bill Hoffman, and Kathy & Steve Seidl

The temperature was 6 degrees when we left Camp Hill, and was minus 2 degrees when we pulled in to Crystal Lake at 10 AM. We met Dottie, the gracious and helpful proprietor of the Crystal Lake Outdoor Center, and checked into the Kiya Lodge.

Unfortunately, we had to substitute a 5-½ mile hike for skiing because the trails were closed due to inadequate snow. Our hike took us over some of the Loyalsock Trail where we stopped at the location of the former Grand View Hotel (built in 1898 and burned in 1916.) We passed the historic Wind Whistle Inn. Returning to the ski center, some folks rented skates and skate skis for Sunday. (Dottie has ice skate blades that have NNN bindings.) Roberta got a lesson skate skiing on the lake. Then everyone headed back to the lodge for much needed warmth with wine and cheese. Camaraderie trumped the poor snow conditions with lively conversation and good food. The water line to the kitchen sink was frozen so the whole gang headed into the bathroom to wash and dry dishes. It was a unique event!

On Sunday morning, the temperature was a balmy 22 degrees with little wind. We were able to get out on the lake to try out those rental ice skates and skate skis. Some of us got to practice kick and gliding with no distractions like trees, creeks, or hills. We headed out in the afternoon for another hike of 3.6 miles. Roberta gave the rest of the group a tour of some of the "primitive" cabins and their distant out-houses. It made us grateful that we only had to go downstairs at Kiya to use the facilities.

Thanks to everyone for making the trip a success.!



Lake Placid Trip Report

From: Bill Hoffman

Nine Kick'nGliders gathered over Martin Luther King weekend for excellent, if cold, skiing at Lake Placid. The stalwarts included the Majors, McMullens, Dave Leroy and Nancy Kauhl, Fred Burgess, Bill Pickering, and your not-so-humble servant, Bill Hoffman.

Daily snowfall supplemented the 9-12 inches of existing, loose snow topping a solid base of another 12 inches. Usually, it snowed at night, but on Sunday we skied the entire day in a light snowfall. That day, the temperature got into the low 20s, the warmest of the weekend. The other mornings were all at 0 or below, and it did not get out of the teens (Monday's high was in the single digits). But this was an improvement over several days earlier in the week when the thermometer stayed in negative territory all day.

Saturday we skied at Mount van Hoevenberg, where we saved a few bucks by getting a group pass and throwing one ticket away. The wide, immaculately groomed trails make this my favorite of all the places I've skied in 20 years. We spent the morning as a group on the perimeter trail. After lunch, the stalwarts (McMullens and Fred) took to the hillier trails on the east side of the center while the rest of us played on the intermediate trails on the west side.

Sunday found us doing the Fish Pond truck trail, a 5.3-mile in-and-out ski to, well, Fish Pond. This trail, about 8 miles west of Saranac Lake, starts off flat but after a mile and a half becomes rolling. With a good base and the inch or so of snow that fell overnight, the trail was eminently doable even for novice skiers (of which there were none in the group). Six of us made it all the way to Fish Pond, where we ate lunch standing up. There are no picnic tables (or comfort facilities) there. Dave, Nancy, and Bill P. skied at a slower pace, and upon meeting the first of the returnees, turned around themselves. The result was that the last skiers got back to the cars only about half an hour after the first ones. There are some trails branching off the truck trail, waiting to be explored another year.

Monday, a cold and brutally windy day, found us doing the one-way 5-mile ski on the eastern end of Jack Rabbit Trail. We spotted all but one of the cars at the end. Those dropped off at the start began skiing immediately because it was too cold to wait 45 minutes for the car shuttles to return. This trail is about 1-1/2 miles up and 3 down, with a flat half mile at the end if you ski west-to-east, the only sensible way to do it, especially today with the strong west wind. Still, we met four westbound skiers, who perhaps didn't know what we knew. Conditions were a little fast but there was enough depth to snowplow in order to control your speed on the longest descents. It was too cold to eat lunch outside, so we returned to our house and polished off the ziti florentine parmesan left over from Sunday dinner. Dave, Nancy, and Fred ventured out in the afternoon to ski from Connery Pond to Whiteface Landing, a 3-mile jaunt. Several others aided the local economy while I tried, unsuccessfully, to get the failing heater core in my car repaired. I wound up driving home without the benefit of heat.

Tuesday found all but the charge d'affaires leaving for home after breakfast. I decided to ski on the trail to Marcy Dam. Whatever new snow had fallen overnight was blown away by the wind, but there was a good base and no icy spots. I had sole possession of the trail for the hour I was out. I would have stayed longer, but knowing I faced the risk of the car breaking down, I did not want to leave for home too late. (No, the car did not break down.)

Not all our adventures occurred on the ski trails. We returned Saturday afternoon to find a flood in the basement. Seems a water pipe serving the hot tub had frozen and burst. I immediately called the manager, who lives a few houses away. He told me where to shut off the house and tried to get a plumber. When that was unsuccessful, he came over himself and cut off and capped the line serving the hot tub. This enabled us to turn the main line back on, so we could flush the toilets, take showers, and make dinner. Without Gary's service, we faced not only the likelihood of having to eat out, but move. Even though the Management Company would have covered the cost of alternate lodging, and maybe meals, there was no assurance, on a holiday weekend, of finding accommodations for all of us in one place or at a location convenient to skiing venues. We had nothing but praise for the way the problem was handled.

Just as the skiing was first-rate, so was the eating. That's very important to some of us, both in quality and quantity. Dave and Nancy set the tone on Saturday night with their "awesome chicken" (their name, more than accurate). I followed Sunday night with the aforementioned ziti florentine parmesan. It took all the casserole dishes I could find in the house to contain the quantity I prepared. Several comments were heard to the effect that "we'll never eat all that". I knew better. Only the smallest bowl was left over, and we ate that for lunch on Monday. Monday's dinner, beef stew, was deftly prepared by Pam and Mike. It filled an army-sized kettle, but we made short work of it. Even if we had skied as much as, or as hard as some in our group are capable, no one would have left the dinner table hungry. Dessert each night consisted of Turkey Hill Ice Cream, available locally. A half-gallon was devoured at each meal.

There was unanimous consent for me to book the house for MLK weekend next year, which I have done. Whether I or someone else runs the trip, a great weekend is in store.

Laurel Highlands Trip, January 23-25

The snow conditions in the Highlands were less than perfect right up to the last minute. Even so, several of us decided to go up early and we arrived to blizzard like conditions. We could not ski the trails at Forbes State Forest that we had intended to because of road closures due to drifting snow but we discovered yet another section of trails in Forbes unexplored on past trips. The trails were beautiful, the snow was plentiful and there was a much-appreciated warming hut at the parking area.

By Friday night everyone had arrived and we dined on Nan's Chili and various other snacks and retired fairly early to get an early start Saturday.

Saturday morning we awoke to 8 or more inches of fresh powder the likes Pennsylvania does not see often enough. We skied Saturday in Forbes Forest on pristine powder with a couple hardy souls breaking trail much of the time. The snow was so light it was not a chore but a pleasure and the scenery was unbeatable.

Saturday night we all dined at one of two cottages we had rented at Penns Scenic View. The lasagna was pretty darn good if I do say so myself. The burnt garlic bread was another story. We enjoyed each others company a little later into the night Saturday and finalized our plans to ski at Laurel Ridge State Park on Sunday.

Skiing at the concession area on Sunday worked out wonderful, giving everyone the opportunity to ski at his or her own level and to stay or start home as desired.

The trip participants were; Wanda & Jim Pritulsky, Nan Reisinger & Pete Oswald, Norma Brandon, Roberta Strickler, Steve Sells and Lisa Baer & Bart Richwine.

I hope they all enjoyed the trip as much as I did!

Wanda

Pulaski Trip Report

By Beth Major

Pulaski was a popular trip again this year, with lots of skiers signed up, but we almost didn't make it. Yes, skiers, there can be such a thing as too much snow. On the eve of the trip, the 1880's House called to say that there were whiteout conditions there and route 81 was closed. What to do? Should we cancel a ski trip on account of snow? Trip leader Dennis Major consulted with snow-country veteran Dave LeRoy. Cancel? "Of course not. It's never been done and it would set a bad precedent," said Dave. So off we went into the blizzard.

We made route choices based on frequent cell phone communication with people already on the road. Those who stayed on route 81 to Pulaski had a hard time of it and spent over an hour sitting in traffic at the Pulaski exit. We managed to avoid that by driving the last 25 miles or so on route 11. Everyone made it through the storm. I don't have much faith in astrology, but Dennis's horoscope for the day really nailed it:

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You are clearly relieved to greet the weekend, but there are certain steps you must take to get there. The unexpected does occur, but you will be prepared to handle it. Communication remains key. Tonight: Where the gang is.

We had unexpected company at the B&B: a pair of Canadian snowbirds on their way to Florida sheltered overnight with us. They were surprised that we all arrived in spite of the storm that had stranded them. The LeRoy-Kauhls and Pickering's graciously shared a room for a night to make space for the unexpected Canadians.

Saturday morning we swept a foot of snow from our cars and set out for the Tug Hill Tourathon trails. The Pulaski road crews were doing their usual amazing job keeping the roads open, so we had no trouble driving there. Skiing there was another matter. We broke trail in 2' of fresh snow the whole way. Supermen Rick Close, Bart Richwine and Mike McMullen all took long pulls at the front of the line. We were not the only ones who appreciated their work. As we left the parking lot that afternoon, other skiers asked "are you the guys who broke trail?" thanked us and shook hands with the very deserving Rick and Bart.

One of the delights of the 1880's house is the terrific dinners, but this year, Patty had to improvise to feed us. The expected Cornish game hens didn't arrive because of the storm, so she served us a wonderful pork roast instead. The house parrot was vacationing in Florida with the B&B's owner, Linda Tarbox, but we were entertained instead by Patty's otherwise well-behaved Weimaraner which ate Carol & Fred's cookies. They were, after all, on the floor, and therefore fair game as far as the dog was concerned.

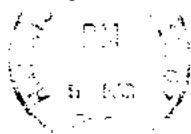
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On Sunday, Nan and Pete returned to the Tourathon trails, while the rest of us drove to Selkirk Shores State Park for a short ski and a look at frozen lake Ontario. It was hard to tell where the snow-covered lake ended and the grey sky began. Rich Levine's Camelback took direction from the lake, and promptly froze up. (A good reason to carry beer instead of water, right, Tim?) We skied by the cabins Dave LeRoy's family vacationed in when he was a boy and a few ventured out onto the snow- and ice-covered pier. Some of us returned to the B&B to change and to have just one more mug of Patty's fine soup before we hit the road for the uneventful drive home.

Master Schedule 2003 - 2004

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<u>02/29/04</u> Inlet, NY	<u>3/1/04</u> Inlet, NY	<u>2</u> Social Meeting Tokyo Diner 7 PM	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Tug Hill, NY	<u>13</u> Tug Hill, NY
<u>14</u> Tug Hill, NY	<u>15</u> Tug Hill, NY	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Program Meeting Rails to Trails Program - Wildware - Peiffer's Lane 7 PM	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>4/1/04</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Social Meeting TGI Friday's 7 PM	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Program Meeting Election of New Officers Wildware Peiffer's Lane 7:00 PM	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>

April Meeting: Just a reminder: The April meeting is important. The new Board will be elected. Next year's Schedule will be set.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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