



The Easy Glider

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Mick Marhevka (editor@kicknogliders.org)

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Nominees listed

The Nominating Committee has selected the following members for next year's Board of Directors:

President: Rick Begley

Day Trips: Dennis Major

Vice-President: Jan Diehl

Programs: Richard Levin

Secretary: Dave Powell

Weekend Trips: Peggy Hampton

Membership: Mike McMullen

Newsletter Editor: Peter Oswald

Publisher: Chris Champion



The final approval will be done through a membership election April 21 at Wildware Outfitters located on Peiffer's Lane.

Final Trip Schedule for the 2005 Season

The Program Meeting on April 21 will also include final discussions on the 2005 Trip Schedule.

If you want to suggest a new destination, or want to lead a trip to a destination that we currently frequent, please plan on attending this meeting.

Each trip considered will be required to have as a minimum:

- Trip Leader
- Date
- Potential housing contacted and available on assigned date.
- Proposed Cost

New Members

Though the current skiing season is all but over, please welcome these new members and add them to your copy of *People to SKI With*

David Albright
135 Clearview Place
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Email: blugils@earthlink.net

Deanna Klinger
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Trip Reports

Stowe, Vermont

**February 13 - 16,
2004**

*Norma and Jim Brandon, Beth
and Dennis Major, Nan
Reisinger, and Peter Oswald*

We got an early start Friday morning for Stowe. Not to be locked into the same travel route, we are always looking for new roads. We crossed into Vermont on Rt 17 (above Crown Point, NY) crossing Lake Champlain on a bridge-not a ferry. This took us eastward over the mountains north of Mt Ellen for a great view of the valley below to the west. When you descend on the east side you pass the base of the Mad River Glen Ski area. Big, big vertical drop. Very impressive. Then onto Stowe via scenic Rt 100 where Pete and I arrived at the Timberholm B&B about 4:30.

We found Norma and Jim relaxing by the fireplace enjoying a glass of wine and some hearty barley soup. They had arrived Sunday and, by then, were well into the routine. Norma skied three days with friends from the Susquehanna Downhill club (who were also having an outing in Stowe), and with some new found friends who were also staying at the Timberholm B&B. But not everyone has time to play. Jim had to leave this lovely setting early Monday morning to fly to San Francisco on business. He returned late Tuesday night. On Friday Norma and Jim snowshoed up Smuggler's Notch. They really had a full week.

Back to our arrival. The soup and the fire were so inviting we quickly unloaded the car and checked in so that we, too, could have some soup and wine. Beth and Dennis arrived about 6:30, unpacked, and also settled in for soup and wine. After we all got caught up on travel time, routes taken, etc. etc., Pete, Beth, Dennis and I went out for a light Mexican meal.

Saturday dawned clear and comfortable, with temperatures in the 30s and lots of fresh powder. We all loaded into cars and set up a drop car at Edson X-country Ski Center. We then drove around to the back side of the mountain and skied the Catamount Trail back to the dropped car. It was a beautiful day with snow beginning to fall around noon. We were sad to find the last third of the great downhill at the Edson X-Country center had been torn up for logging. It was so bad we had to remove our skis and walk. Lots of points lost.

After returning to the B&B it was more hot soup...creamy herb potato, cheese, crackers, veggies, and shrimp dip, and, of course, more wine. After several hours of snacking and relaxing no one felt like going out for dinner-we were pretty full anyway-so we spent a relaxing evening around the fire reading and chatting.

Saturday night a cold front had moved in so we woke up to a temperature of -3, but clear with little wind. After a hearty breakfast the Majors, Pete, and I went to the Stowe Ski Touring Center for the day. The trails were in great shape-freshly groomed and lots of powder.

After several loops Beth and Dennis decided they had had enough and took off for Stowe and some shopping. Pete and I enjoyed several more hours of skiing. It was just too good to quit. Pete even continued with a pole that he had broken during a spectacular face plant. He recovered too quickly for Dennis to get a picture. After a good day we returned to the B&B for a relaxing soak in the hot tub. Then soup, snacks, and wine. Well, you get the picture.

Monday and another cold, sunny day with a vividly blue sky. After breakfast we loaded our cars, Brandons set off for home while the Majors, Pete, and I skied up to Smuggler's Notch. There were no ice climbers visible, but we did see the Vermont Army National Guard's tracked troop carrier that seems to be there every time we ski this area. After a 1 1/2+ mile climb we turned around and enjoyed the long downhill back to the cars. Then, after changing to travel gear, we were on our way home.

Pete and I traveled as far as Oneonta, NY, and spent the night there. Tuesday we went to Corning, NY for a tour of the Corning Museum of Glass. Very worth while. We had planned to just spend 2 or 3 hours, but there was so much to see we stayed almost five. There are great interactive exhibits in the Science and Innovation part of the Museum. We both learned new things about glass. They had a great demo on glass blowing. There is an area for visitors to make their own glass item, but we ran out of time.

It was a small group but we had a wonderful time, good skiing and great company. It is hard to beat winter in Vermont.

Nan Reisinger

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Black Forest

February 20 - 22

On Feb. 20, 21 & 22 five hearty souls embarked into the Black Forest of Pa. upon arriving we found plenty of snow to go around. On Friday two of us embarked on the Francis X. Kennedy loop with much success and joy. The snow was perhaps 2 foot deep with a thick crust but the temperature was warm enough to make the snow skiable. Two others of us went snow shoeing at a nearby state park also with much success and joy. That evening we dined on steak & brew at the Inn and fun was had by all.

Saturday we woke up to a slight drizzle, which immediately changed into flurries, after we invoked the Kick "n" Gliders snow god. Our man with the maps thought it would be fun to do the entire Sentiero DiShay loop (~ 14 miles). Of course there was a cut-off for those who did not want to do the entire trail. The snow was even softer than the day before so the "lead dog" was doing most of the work. However the scenery was spectacular and with the snow gently falling things were heavenly. At the "halfway" point (already 8 miles into the loop) 3 members of the party decided to take the "short cut". Actually this was just a reuse to get them to set track for us. Well we all made it back alive, but there were a few tired puppies in the pack. More food and brew were consumed that evening and all had fun.

On Sunday we decided to do the relatively easy George Will trail (~6 miles). We had about 3/8th of an inch of fresh powder, which was idea for animal tracks of which we saw many. Once again the weather was beautiful and everyone survived the "big hill" with flying colors. All our skiing was done directly from the Inn so we didn't get in our cars the whole weekend 'till we left Sunday.



There were many more amusing antidotes but you'll just have to go along next year and find out for yourself.

The five survivors from this trip include Joan Short, Nan Reisinger, Pete Oswald, Rick Begley, and yours truly Tim Musser.

Pinchot Lake State Park, Conewego Day Use Area

January 31, 2004

EVENT: Cross Country Skiing

LEADERS: Glenn Pickering, Rick Begley

SKIERS: Barb Sears, Cindy Dohrman, Rachel Kameron, Al Padilla, and Rich Bolden

DESCRIPTION: Since local conditions were good, the trip was changed from the originally proposed Lykens trailhead and opened to the Carlisle Bikers. It was a cold, but bright sunny day (14 F) with a brisk wind blowing across the lake. We headed into the woods and to get out of the wind and eventually hooked up with the lakeside trail and proceeded towards the dam. Snow coverage was very good and the trail was moderately technical. The grassy spillway on the dam was in great shape and we set about making first tracks on this fun down hill plunge. Our freshly made tracks in the firm fluffy cold snow made the trek back to the parking lot a real treat. The out and back to the dam took about 2 hours. Some of us then skied an additional hour through the campground and the old toboggan hill to finish off the day. The skiing here is very good when there is over a foot of snow and a heated restroom is available.

Turin Trip Report

March 12 - 15

By Nancy Kauh

Fifteen Kick 'N Gliders descended upon Turin, New York, on Friday, March 12, 2004, for the last ski trip of the season. Nearly half of the group got a jump on the skiing at the BREIA (Black River Environmental Improvement Association) trails at Jackson Hill in the afternoon. As we gathered at the Pioneer Lodge, those of us who have been there before noticed the large empty spot at the end of the ramp where the barn used to be (see related story) as well as the "tree" house on stilts which is Dean Gaylord's hideaway, equipped with bunk beds, electricity and a ceiling fan. The entire group enjoyed dinner at the Steak and Brew as we planned our ski outing for the following day.

We hit the trails at Carpenter Road on Saturday morning. The skiing on the western trails was very nice and had not been skied recently. Once we crossed the road the trail wasn't as pleasant with large frozen ruts. Some hunters with beagles were hunting snowshoe rabbits in this area and one of the dogs decided to follow the skiers. When we skied out to the parking lot, the dog was there to greet us and Roberta Strickler and Bernie Webber decided to set out to find it's owner. After some chasing their tails, they did find the owner who was relieved to have his dog back.

Six skiers decided to try another venue and drove across the valley to Centennial Scoot. The snow was not as deep here but it was fine snow and the trail was fun. We saw some unusual animal tracks but were unable to identify the maker.

The evening at Pioneer Lodge brought welcome showers, delicious and bountiful food, and some serious checker playing. Bernie and Fred Burgess battled it out for quite awhile (so I was told) before Bernie and Tim Musser headed down the street to shoot some pool.

Sunday morning we headed to Confusion Flats and they did not disappoint. There were several points along the way where skiers were headed in

every direction imaginable looking for those elusive blue trail markers. But we did find the trail and all made it to the midpoint where we had spotted some cars. Tim, Fred and Tom Gibson did entire loop including the northern most portion while Bernie, Dave, Cindy Dohrman and I completed the lower portion of the loop. Nan Reisinger and Peter Oswald traded skis for snowshoes and explored.

Monday morning we packed the cars and headed to Jackson Hill. The reports from those who had skied it on Friday were very compelling and we all had to experience the trails there. We somehow got disoriented for a while (visions of Confusion Flats came back to us); some of the group backtracked to known trails while a few did some bushwhacking, but we all ended up back at the cars within minutes of each other to end another successful ski season.

2005 Dues

Payments of your 2005 dues are now being accepted. The By-Laws specifies dues for the next ski season are payable on May 1.



Spectacular Fire Destroys Barn at Pioneer Lodge

Skiers on the recent Turin trip learned that, during the past year, a fire had destroyed the century-old barn at Pioneer Lodge along with 150 cows trapped inside. It was reported that, initially, a small fire of sawdust had spread to the barn but was quickly controlled. Heat sensors were used to confirm that the fire had been completely extinguished. However, a few days later, a second fire broke out, perhaps initiated by a short circuit caused by the water used to extinguish the initial fire. The second fire spread quickly, fanned by winds estimated to exceed 50 miles per hour. Firefighters worked to prevent the fire from spreading to the farmhouses at Pioneer Lodge and a neighboring farm, but were helpless to save more than one of the farm's 150 cows. It is not clear at this time whether or not the barn will be reconstructed. At this ancestral farm, characterized by a sign on the wall in the farmhouse "I love Cows", things will never be quite the same.

Submitted for your approval *by Roberta Strickler*

May 20, 1994

Vernal Equinox

1:49 a.m. EST

First Day of Summer & Last Day of winter

The roads were dry.

Total 14 inches of snow fell in the Endless Mountains this week.

The immortal turn of the screw: Which way to go?

The practical flip-flop, as characterized by Club Wise Man Pickering: winter is when cyclists ski to keep in shape & summer is when xc skiers tolerate cycling to keep in shape for their sport.

I chose an early trip to Crystal Lake, before the ominous "Sunny morning" hit all of the trails.

There I found Rick Begley and Fred Burgess. So we divided up. Rick hit the wide trails with his skating skis. Fred and I had not yet revised our instincts to bushwhack ravines in the Tug Hill Plateau last weekend. So we went off to find Porcupine, via Catfish, two trails that are somewhat "off the map." These days. Fortunately we also found a man out of the mountain. His name was Larry and he clearly was trying to lose us so he could ski alone. But Larry was heavier than either of us AND he had wide skis with metal edges.... so Larry was stuck with widening Fred's skinny-ski trail. And Fred was stuck with climbing up the hillsides looking for the trail.

Needless to say, we found the Porcupine. We cut it and enjoyed it for a full morning. When afternoon came, sun, rain and mud visited the Crystal Lakes and it was time for the tough to get going. A great day for an equinox.

While skiing the center leg of this trail, within a mile of the entrance road, I decided to submit this question to the rest of the Kick 'n Gliders. Think about it while you are dreaming over past trips of this glorious, snowy winter, and send in your vote for:

Where Would I Put My Mail Box IF I Were An Animal Choosing a New Home?

I would choose an address along the one mile corridor on either the south or north side of Camp Road in Crystal Lake. Here is why. That stretch is lightly skied and seems to be swept by endless winds coming off the nearby plateau at Camp Genesee. The underbrush is even and open, includes conifers, lots of native laurel, and the deciduous trees are rather open. So the trail is protected but the sky is always part of the scene because you are gradually moving up hill. The snow quality is even and often like baby powder abundant. That is where I would stake my mailbox. What place, along a ski route, would you choose?

- Ok, we'll think about this over the summer.



That's it for me. I've had fun. Thanks for reading along. Mick



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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