



The *Easy Glider*

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Pete Oswald (editor@kickngliders.org)

Issue: April, 2007

From the President

March 20, 2007

Another ski season has come to an end. This also brings to an end my presidency of Kick 'n Gliders as my term expires April 30, 2007. This is my last message as president. In preparation for next year I encourage you to be sure to attend the election of officers meeting to be held on April 3rd. In addition to electing officers for the coming year, we will also be planning trips for the 2007/2008 ski season. We want input from all members regarding ski locations, accommodations, costs, and dates for proposed trips.

This has been a wonderful experience for me serving as president. Thanks go to the many members who contributed so much to making my job so easy. I have received numerous positive comments from members over the year regarding the operation of the club and activities we have offered. As I told folks who commented, I am only a figurehead. It is the dedicated work by the membership that deserves the credit.

I think it is fitting to review some of the positive aspects and activities that have taken place over the past year. Of course, the reason for our existence is the organization of ski trips and the

camaraderie of skiing together. Thanks go to Peggy Hampton for organizing extended trips and to trip leaders Dave LeRoy & Nancy Kauh, Bill Hoffman, Rich Levin, Peggy Hampton, Joan Short, Bill & Sandy Stine, Fred & Tanya

Richter, Dave & Jan Powell, Bill & Kay Pickering and Carolyn Hoffman. The day trips were organized by Nan Reisinger with leaders Bill Hoffman, Peggy Hampton, Nan Reisinger, Jamie Hackman, Jeff & Marilyn Grove, Wanda Pritulsky and Joan Short.

The line officers have been invaluable in their support and assistance. Thanks go to Bill Stine, Vice President, Dave LeRoy, Treasurer and Jan Powell, Secretary. They have kept the club running efficiently with their hard and often continuous work.

Pete Oswald has done a bang-up job in providing interesting and well laid out newsletters as the editor of The Easy Glider. And, the best part is, they were out on time! Bill Pickering has planned and organized all the programs and social events throughout the year. Attendance at our events has been increasing thanks to the fine programs. The person who keeps the membership rolls and tries to hold us all together is Mike McMullen. Thanks Mike for keeping the membership up to date and providing the People to

Ski With booklet. Rick Begley hosted our annual Oktoberfest. There was a fine turnout and it got our fall and winter season off to a good start.

Our webmaster Jesse Jepsen has done a terrific job. Jesse took over the website a year ago and has revised and kept the website up to date. If you have not visited the site recently, do so. Jesse encourages us,

especially we older paper pusher non electronic communicator types, to get more into the modern world. Let's make more use of the fine site we have available to us, thanks to Jesse's efforts.

Other special occurrences this year were the purchase of a digital projector for the club to use during programs and special events. Thanks again to Jesse Jepsen for purchasing the projector for us at a great cost savings. We built and erected a shelter at Crystal Lake Nordic Ski Center. Thanks to Dave LeRoy & Nancy Kauh for providing the design and to all who helped in the gathering of materials, fabrication of components and the erection on the hill in the woods at Crystal Lake. In addition to providing the shelter at no cost to Crystal Lake we also contributed \$500 to help cover trail maintenance. We also contributed

\$100 each to organizations that maintain ski trails that we utilize. Those are the Catamount Trail, the Jack Rabbit Trail and the Tourathon Trail.

We also instituted a policy of giving out a \$25 gift certificate to Wildware Backcountry at each of our membership meetings. That gives you even more incentive to attend the April 3rd meeting.

As you can see, we had quite an eventful year. It has been my pleasure and honor to have served as president. A nicer, more congenial group of folks I have never been associated with. I'll continue to work for and support the club in other ways next year. I hope you will consider doing the same.

Dave Powell

2007-2008 Slate of Officers

President	Bill Stine
Vice President/President Elect	Peggy Hampton
Secretary	Marilyn Grove
Treasurer	David LeRoy
Trip Coordinator	Nancy Borremans
Program Coordinator	Tanya Richter
Membership Chairman	Michael McMullen
Immediate Past President	David Powell
Day Trip Coordinator	Nan Reisinger
Newsletter Editor	Peter Oswald

Dennis Major was the winner of the gift certificate at the March meeting.

Two unlabeled "Random snow pictures" showing deep drifts were obtained from the Internet. They were not

indicative of any snow conditions on recent K 'n G's trips!

Correction: In the March newsletter, the April meeting date was reported as Tuesday, April 2. The correct date is Tuesday, April 3.

Garnet Hill Trip Report

Bill Stine

Question: *Would we have enough snow for good skiing on our Garnet Hill trip?* Snowfall in the northeast got off to a slow start this year but areas near Lake Ontario had just made the national news with five-day snowfall amounts in the ten foot range. North Creek, NY, and nearby Garnet Hill, did not benefit from that bonanza, however.

Answer: Yes, in spades! Just a couple of days before our trip the backlash from a nor'easter dumped three feet of the fluffy, white stuff on the area. The real question, now, was whether Garnet Hill could manage to tame the trails with their grooming gear! Also, would the Pennsylvania parking lots, previously designated I-81, I-78 and the PA Turnpike, with their alternate-road traffic snarls allow travelers to make the drive to North Creek?

Pete, Sandy, and I arrived at Hudson House about an hour-and-a-half behind plan, finding that Ralph Scott, who drove from Connecticut, had arrived before us and was already on the trails. We scrapped our own afternoon skiing plans due to the late hour and organized the house and scouted our dinner locations. Those who managed to get to North Creek in time gathered at Black Mountain Motel for a

delicious dinner. People continued to drift in but several were quite late. We were thankful that they were quiet when they got there well after midnight.

By Saturday morning all were rested enough to head out for some skiing at Garnet Hill Lodge.



As advertised, the trails were in excellent condition! Everyone had a good time, touring easy or difficult trails, as we desired, enjoying a light lunch in the Lodge and luxuriating in the free shuttle from the bottom of the trail system. Later, Dave lead several of our number downtown to the first annual Chocolate Fest where we were treated to local bluegrass while nibbling on chocolate-dipped fruit and marshmallows washed down by our favorite beverages. We had a hearty dinner of baked ham, sweet potatoes and green beans prepared by the Stines followed by a delicious cake and pudding concoction by Wanda.

Sunday found us hankering for a back woods-style journey. Ralph had scouted the top end of the Siamese Ponds trail and Dave &



Nancy had scouted the bottom end. Both ends looked promising, having been tracked by snowshoers. So we staged a vehicle at the end of the trail and set off from the Old Farm Road

end with our sights set on finally skiing the ten-plus miles of this



trail. After only a mile or so, though, the snowshoers diverted from the main trail to head for Puffer Pond. Too deep to break trail on skis, we said, "What the heck ..." and followed the snowshoe track. The trail heads downhill, though, and some skiers experienced difficulty snowplowing and climbing in the narrow track. Those folks headed back to the ski center while five of us continued toward Puffer pond. The snow-laden woods were beautiful! We finally turned around after breaking only about three feet of trail beyond the end of the snowshoe tracks. It was way too much for this skier!



On our way back out toward the parking area we noticed that the Overlook Trail had been broken so we decided to do that, too. We made our way up to the overlook at the old Hooper Mine on the Garnet Hill property. We had a



beautiful view that periodically disappeared in light snow showers. Before heading back to the house, we stopped to ski the trails at Cunningham's Ski Barn. Unfortunately, we were disappointed with these trails. Although we were not charged, the normal fee for trail use is \$15, the same as for Garnet Hill. The trails are apparently groomed by simply driving a snow cat around without actually grooming or track setting the surface. That evening we all enjoyed a dinner of black bean chili, corn bread and salad by Kim & Matt and pies and brownies by Jeff & Marilyn.

Monday morning found our tired but happy crowd dispersing, some directly for home while others went via Utica, skiing the Egypt Road BREIA trails at Alder Creek along the way. A few of us headed north, instead, bound for Ottawa and yet another K'nG trip. This was a great year at Garnet Hill. No, we still didn't manage to complete the Siamese Ponds trail, but there's always next year!



Participants: Bill & Sandy Stine (Leaders), Jeff & Marilyn Grove, Matt London & Kim Lausch, Pete Oswald, Nan Reisinger, Dave LeRoy & Nancy Kauh, Wanda & Jim Pritulsky and Ralph Scott

APRIL MEETING AND SOCIAL SCHEDULE

Past Meeting Report:

The Community Room at Wildware was again full for our March Meeting. Fred and Tanya Richter

showed pictures and talked about their 2006 Summer in Utah at Natural Bridges National Monument. There are numerous national parks and monuments in eastern Utah and they had an opportunity to visit and hike to many interesting sites. Their pictures of the cliff dwellings, narrow canyons, and beautiful rock formations had us in awe. While they were in Utah, they were visited by the Stines and Powells.

Coming Events:

Tuesday, April 3, 2007 7:00 PM
Wildware Backcountry Community Room

Everyone is invited to this last program meeting of the 2007 ski season. This is the meeting where we review the success of this year's trips and plan a schedule of trips for next year. If you are interested in leading a trip to a new (or old) destination, (or if you are just interested in where K'nG will ski in 2008), this is the meeting to attend.

If you are thinking of a new trip, you should bring information about the facilities (cost and availability) and the ski area. If you need more details about the kind of information you should have, please contact either Peg Hampton or Dave Powell.

There will be a brief business meeting and the election of new Officers before we start working on next year's trip schedule.

Wednesday, April 18, '07 7:00 PM
Pizza Grille on Old Gettysburg Pike, Shiremanstown

This is absolutely the last meeting of the Kick and Gliders until we meet again in the Fall. This is a chance to reconnect with the new friends you made on ski trips in 2007 and to talk about the trips you want to go in 2008.

Lake Effect Wonderland - The Journey Home from Ottawa

Sandy Stine

As we said goodbye to the beautiful trails of Gatineau Park, a few of us had our sights set on skiing the trails in Pulaski, NY. This is the highly publicized area that received ten feet of snow over a five-day period! We were not disappointed. Under a crystalline sky, Nan Reisinger, Pete Oswald, Bill and I found the trails at Chateaugay perfect though we did have to spend some energy breaking trail through the most recent foot or so of snow.



Sandy and Nan break trail

Later, we were joined by Fred & Tanya for a delicious dinner at the Drift Boat Inn in Pulaski. What a pleasant surprise to find a restaurant in this area with good food, reasonable prices and, most of all, a delightful ambiance.

On Saturday morning Fred & Tanya headed home while the rest of us headed for Highland Forest just south of Syracuse. The trails there were outstanding, the snow-laden forest



awesome and the sky sapphire blue. It was gorgeous! We had a

delightful six-mile ski on the Southside Loop Trail, constantly marveling at the beauty surrounding us.



Southside Loop Trail

We were back on the road by mid-afternoon, next stop home! What a week it had been perfect skiing conditions the entire time. Those snowbirds in Florida don't know what they are missing!

Inlet Trip Report

Ron Page

Once again Bill and Kay Pickering pulled off a successful trip to Inlet, NY. Sixteen hardy souls made the six-hour drive to our usual digs at Rocky Point and enjoyed a variety of skiing conditions that seemed to change hourly. Most importantly Pick arranged for a lunar eclipse that we spotted occasionally through the clouds.

Along with Bill (Kay was sick and not able to attend) on the trip were Bill & Sandy Stine, Ron & Lois Page, Frank & Jean Geiger, Bill Pickering, Dave LeRoy, Nancy Kauh, Murray Sperling & Emily Tierney, Nan Reisinger, Pete Oswald, Tom Gibson, Dave Walborn and Chris Brubaker.

Saturday morning saw 6 inches of new snow that clung to the trees branches creating beautiful Currier and Ives like scenery when the sun managed to find its way though the clouds. Assembling in the parking lot at the Cascade Falls parking lot, the group was full of complaints as

Bill Stine cajoled everyone into posing for the requisite group picture for the K'nG archives.



Kick, glide and duck was the order of the day as the trail was laced with branches loaded with snow and hanging low. Large trees were occasionally found blocking the trail, causing the group to literally crawl under them. Other smaller trees were



mere limbo poles. At one point, Dave LeRoy had to break out his ever present saw and lop off a few branches before we could proceed

Although the Cascade trip took about an hour longer than normal, most of the group then went on to McCauley Mountain. The faster skiers went up and over, while the slower skiers only had time to do the lower, flatter route. That evening we were treated to a wonderful chicken dinner compliments of Bill & Sandy Stine and their condo mates.



Bill Pickering standing knee-deep!

Sunday morning most of the group opted for the "Truck Trail" and took off through nine inches of fresh powder. They skied out to the fork in the trail, had lunch and made their way back. Another group did the Moss Lake



Trail and then had some perfect conditions at Fern Park. After stopping at the Red Dog Saloon everyone enjoyed the lasagna dinner capably prepared by Nan Reisinger and her condo mates. After dinner Bill Stine showed slides of our two days of skiing, followed by 2007 slides of past K 'n G trips.

With much fun and kidding around, most descended upon Fern Park for a short ski before heading back to Harrisburg. Another six inches of power had fallen during the early morning hours and conditions were fantastic. Blowing snow with white outs made the trip home slower than usual, but no one cared. It had been a great weekend. (We escaped just in time—Wind chill readings for Tuesday were minus 20.)

Winterpark, Colorado

March 10 - 16, 2007

I'm never sure why really great trips have to start so early in the morning but such was the case as the ten Kick 'n Gliders' members (Carolyn Hoffman, Dave LeRoy, Nancy Kauh, Dave and Jan Powell, Nan Reisinger, Tim Musser, Bill Pickering, and Bill and Sandy Stine)



met at Harrisburg International Airport between 5 and 5:30AM to go to Winterpark, Colorado for a week of skiing. Despite the early departure we were in good spirits and the day went well. Our drive from Denver was spectacular, crossing Berthold Pass at 11,315ft, with breathtaking views of the mountains.



Tim on top of Blue Ridge Trail

We arrived at Snow Mountain Ranch, Tabernash, Colorado, which is located in the heart of the Rockies at an elevation of 8,750ft. in the midst of a 'snowstorm'. This in itself was enough to get our blood flowing, thinking of the fresh powder that would be awaiting us in the morning. Our very large cabin accommodated us well with a bedroom for each person and couple and was very efficient for our group.

Snow Mountain has 100 km of groomed trails offering something for every level of skier. We decided to ski at the Ranch the first day giving ourselves time to get acclimated to the altitude. I say that with tongue in cheek since the group I skied with went 16 miles and climbed 2000

vertical feet and it was only the second time this winter that this skier had been out. None the less it was an awesome day. Try to imagine.....eating your PBJ sandwich at 10,000+ feet overlooking the Rockies; I'm feeling very confined these days eating lunch within the four walls of my kitchen.

It was our good fortune to have as



Dave and Tom

our guest for several days Tom Szwedko who is one of the founders of the K & G Club. He has resided in Leadville, Colorado for the last 18 years and is very familiar with the Nat'l Forests and the trails. He acted as our guide and took us to some great backcountry trails where we had three days of adventurous skiing. One trail in particular will long remain a favorite with Bill Stine; the Zimmerman Lake Trail which zipped along twisting and turning its way through the woods and meadows and up and down small and not so small hills.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Kawuneeche Visitor Center in Rocky Mountain National Park and ski some nearby trails.

You might be wondering what our weather was like, THINK SPRING, afternoon temperatures were usually near 50 degrees, in fact, one member of our group was actually seen skiing toplless for a short time! Most of the week the snow conditions were very good though, as there was an excellent base that was packed on

the groomed trails. Some of the backcountry trails became challenging by midweek however, and most of us sank in the soft snow a time or two. This led to some 'funny' situations as we tried to pull ourselves out of 3 or 4 feet of snow. It was especially challenging for some skiers who are barely 5ft tall.

On Thursday we went to nearby



Jan after a steep downhill

Devil's Thumb Ranch that offers another 100 km of groomed trails. There had been an inch or two of fresh snow during the night and the trails had been groomed just before the snow so the conditions were nearly perfect; we all agreed it was a fabulous day of skiing.

There was no shortage of good things to eat as we worked tandemly each evening preparing such exotic entrees as Boston Scrod with Shrimp in a white wine sauce, vegetable primavera pasta, and lemon chicken. On our last evening we ate at the Crooked Creek Saloon where we enjoyed a good meal and mingled with some of the locals.



Trip leader Carolyn Hoffman

Well as with all good things they must come to an end so we reluctantly packed our things and started our journey home. But, the memories of spectacular mountain vistas and enjoyable camaraderie will remain with us for a long time.

Carolyn Hoffman

A Very Brief History of Skiing

(Excerpted from the Climb to Conquer*)

submitted by Fred Richter

Skiing, somewhat ironically, became popular in the United States during the 1930s. The U.S. had produced some skillful skiers, but the Europeans were the stars and the professional instructors of the depression era skiing boom. A big reason for the growth was the invention of the continuous-loop rope tow.

The first rope lifts were in Woodstock, Vermont in 1934, but within three years there were hundreds of tows. "They were cheap and relatively easy to install; many were powered by Model T Fords, which could come down off the blocks in summer and be driven away." The first chairlift was built in 1936 at Sun Valley, Idaho using technology for loading banana boats. "Cross-country and downhill skiing were essentially one and the same; it was the arrival of lift-served skiing that ultimately separated the two. "

Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Civil Conservation Corps cut ski trails. The glamour of skiing trickled down and became accessible to the middle class.

In Europe, ski troop successes in Finland and Norway, fueled proponents here for an army ski division. Using many of the

instructors from the new ski resorts, a ski corps was established. The first division patrol operated out of upstate New York training on the Lake Placid 1932 Olympic trails. The 44th Division trained at Old Forge under the guidance of a Norwegian Olympic skier.

While at Old Forge, snow-shoers, who considered their mode of transportation more versatile, challenged the army skiers to a race and set the course. The skiers won every race proving that skis were faster for general snow travel.

After the war, the ski division's men powered the skiing industry's new resort development at places like Aspen and Vail. War surplus camouflage white skis and poles and cold weather clothing were common gear during the post-war ski boom. Vastly improved outdoor equipment like Vibram soles and better cold weather gear came out of the war as well. Many of the army skiers led the movement back to free-heel bindings and were responsible for the re-surging popularity of cross-country and backcountry skiing.

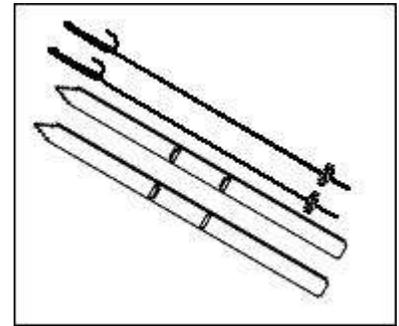
Not only were the returning men the entrepreneurs who fueled skiing resort development, but were also the men who opposed them. David Brower, who headed the Sierra Club and started Friends of the Earth, and Paul Petzoldt, who led the push to enact the Wilderness Act and brought Outward Bound to the United States, were 10th Mountain Corps members as was Bob Bowerman, the famed University of Oregon and the US Olympic Track Team coach and Nike co-founder.

*The story of World War II's 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops by Robert Shelton, Scribner, 2003

Tom Szwedko, a resident of Colorado and one of the founders of the K 'n Gs, sent this after skiing with the club during the Winterpark, CO trip.

Thanks to everyone for his or her hospitality. Gee, it brought back old memories and I almost felt like I was transported back to Harrisburg Kick 'n Gliders days. Sorry you hit Colorado during Global warming meltdown. It's still near record high but suppose to start cooling off by Wednesday. I hear the ski season is still going in PA and east with, I heard 18 inches new snow at Coudersport and 30 inches on the ground up high in Cannan Valley, WV and some snow near Harrisburg? Well I'm back to Leadville for last few days before I leave for Alaska Thursday. Today I skied up to near 12,950ft on Mt. Arkansas for a 1,875 vt ft run down. Yesterday I skied up Mosquito pass road and ridge above to about 13,370ft for a 2,150' vt run down. There's still some powder up high. Have a great 30th Kick 'n Glider season this coming year. If you are ever interested in getting a trip to Leadville area, let me know. We probably have a lot more variety of backcountry than Snow mountain area and more accessible higher terrain. We have more high mountain vistas. There is also the groomed 14 mile loop around the city (Mineral Belt Trail) and Colorado Mountain College groomed trails (connected) and Ski Cooper groomed trails at Tenn. pass.

Tom Szwedko



You may want to put a protective layer of wax on your skis before you put them away for the season...regardless of whether or not they are waxless. If you have metal edges, this can prevent rusting of the edges.

The skis might have a more durable base next season because they will absorb some of the wax into the base during the summer.

Notes



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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