



The Easy Glider

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Pete Oswald (editor@kicknogliders.org)

Issue: December, 2010

Holiday Party!

7:00, Wed, Dec 22

Bill and Sandy are delighted, once again, to host the annual Kick 'n Glider Christmas Party at their home in Lancaster. Join your fellow Kick 'n Gliders for this festive holiday gathering. It's a chance to meet new members, swap stories about past exploits on the ski trails, and plan for an exciting 2011 ski season.

As usual, bring a dish to share and your beverage of choice.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of PA 283 and US 30 near Lancaster:

- Follow US-30 west
- Take the 1st exit, Harrisburg Pk (Park City)
- Turn LEFT onto Harrisburg Pk
- Go to the 2nd light after RR overpass
- Turn RIGHT onto President Ave
- Turn RIGHT onto Valley Rd (4th street)
- Turn RIGHT onto N School Ln (1st street)
- 627 N School Ln is 4th house on RIGHT (Tudor style, brick sidewalk)
- Any problems?

- Call 717-392-1675

Breaking News!

Craftsbury Trip

The deadline for the Craftsbury Trip has been extended! There are 2 rooms available on this trip and you can claim a bed in one of them by sending your \$100 deposit to Box 1353, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055, by Friday, December 10.

We are calling this the Procrastinators Special and since procrastinators are legion, remember that the first come-first served rule is applicable here. So get your check in the mail now!

Checks handed to Dave at the Kick 'n Glider meeting on December 7 will be counted as being postmarked on that date. It has already started snowing in Vermont and it is waiting there for us!

Nancy Kahl and David LeRoy

December Meeting Harrisburg Mall

The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu to be topic of December Business Meeting

At the December 7 business meeting David Walborn will speak about Cuzco, Machu Picchu, and the forgotten royal highway that once connected the imperial capital to the "lost city of the Incas."

David grew up in Argentina and subsequently lived in the Andes of Bolivia and Peru where he worked with native people on the outskirts of the Quechua empire and visited Machu Picchu on several occasions. He will share his experiences in the Inca heartland and endeavor to illuminate the proposition that, "Machu Picchu is the most beautiful archeological site in the world." to the satisfaction of the membership present at the meeting.

Starstruck

by Bill Stine

As promised, Dr. Nolan R. Walborn treated nearly forty Kick 'n Gliders to a grand tour of the heavens with a focus on the lifecycles of stars. Dr. Walborn is the brother of our Programs co-chair, Dave Walborn, and a well-known stellar spectroscopist employed by Hubble Space Telescope Science Institute located in Baltimore. He used a series of spectacular and informative telescopic photographs to help share his knowledge of the lifecycles of stars. Dr. Walborn was a first-class speaker; one who demonstrated deep understanding of the stars and projected his enthusiasm for his subject all while managing to inform and entertain a rapt audience. Dr. Walborn was ably assisted by his son, Andrew, who celebrates his thirteenth birthday this week! Many thanks to them both!

You can see many spectacular photos of areas that Dr. Walborn discussed at <http://hubblesite.org>. Check out the "Picture Album" in the "Gallery" section of the site. Or, you could simply Google "Hubble images" for a dizzying selection of alternatives.

This was the Kick 'n Gliders' first program meeting of our 2010/2011 season. And, it was our first meeting to be held in our new location in the Community Room of the Harrisburg Mall. The room is very spacious with nearby

restrooms and soda vending machines. It is equipped with tables as well as chairs. Although the room is fully open to a subterranean lobby, other mall visitors who entered it to use the facilities presented only a minor distraction. Thanks to Program co-chair, Pam McMullen for leading the effort to arrange this new meeting place!

After the meeting we repaired to the Underdog Sports Bar & Grill, a few blocks down the street at 3100 Paxton St, for talk and refreshments. It provided just the right atmosphere, a broad selection of food, fast service and even individual checks! As Arnold said, "We'll be back."

An open letter to Andy Clemons at Wildware:

As you are probably aware, sometime in the 1980's, Rick Fox and Dennis Watts started a little outdoor store called Backcountry in an upstairs above Evanoff Roofing on a back street east of Harrisburg. Rick Fox told us that, in the beginning, their limited amount of merchandise was displayed horizontally on large tables to spread it over the available space.

In order to promote this venture, they created a newsletter called Backcountry Journal and sponsored free Sunday Hikes and XC Skiing

Lessons. Because the name Backcountry had already been registered, a contest was held to come up with a new name and Wildware was selected. The store always had experienced outdoor people to wait on customers in a totally laid back atmosphere. Wildware backed up their merchandise and did not hesitate to send tents and other gear back to the manufacturer for free repairs. They were largely responsible for introducing XC skiing to the Harrisburg area.

We remember riding in the old Wildware van to locations throughout Pennsylvania to access the Loyalsock Trail and the Pennsylvania sections of the Appalachian and Tuscarora Trails for the Sunday hikes.

The Sunday hikes grew to weekend treks to Assateague Island, the Adirondacks and far-away AT locations. These, in turn, grew to week-long backpacking trips to the Adirondacks. This became the birth of the Penn's Woods Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and several of its members became Adirondack Forty-Sixers, climbing the 46 highest peaks in the Adirondacks.

Wildware supported a rock climbing club and other organizations. The Kick and Gliders was one such organization, actually an outgrowth of the free XC lessons. In those days, brief meetings were held at Wildware followed by XC skiing (in the dark) in the fields that were then

undeveloped across the road from Wildware. The ski club grew to become an active and well-known and respected organization in the area. Our meetings were held at Wildware up until it closed.

At its peak, Wildware had stores in Ithaca, NY, and State College, as well as two stores in the Harrisburg area. They were active in the effort to prevent a pumped storage facility from being built in Stony Valley. A dam would

have flooded a large area which would have been filled with water at night with the water released to generate electricity to meet peak demands during the day, a plan creating an ugly and virtually unusable body of water.

The ownership of Wildware changed a number of times over the years, but their mission and reputation as the place to go for quality outdoor gear, good advice and service remained the same. Now that

the store has reached the end of its lifespan, we recognize the contribution that Wildware has made to the enjoyment, safety and fitness of thousands of outdoorsmen and women in this area. We thank you for continuing the heritage of Wildware in recent years.

David LeRoy, speaking for the membership of the Kick 'n Gliders





KICK 'N GLIDERS
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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