



The Easy Glider

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Peter Oswald (editor@kickngliders.org)

Issue: January, 2014

Please Note: Our meeting Place has changed!
Meetings are now held at [Center Street Grille](#), 4 Center St, Enola PA, 717-732-6900.

The Center Street Grille is on the east side of Center Street just south of Wertzville Rd (PA-944).

Directions from 581 and Rt 15 interchange:

- Go north on Rt 11/15 about 1.7 miles to N. 21st St stop light
- Turn left on N 21st St and go 0.3 miles to Center St stop light
- Turn left on Center St then continue northward (changes to E. Penn Dr) 2.7 miles to Wertzville Rd stop light
- Turn right onto Wertzville Rd, go 0.1 mile to first right
- Turn right on Center St; Center Street Grille is on the left.

Directions from I-81 and Rt 11/15 interchange:

- Go south on Rt 11/15 about 0.5 mile to Valley Rd stop light
- Turn right on Valley Rd and go 1.8 miles to Salt Rd
- Turn left onto Salt Rd and continue southward (changes to E. Penn Dr) 0.9 miles to Wertzville Rd stoplight
- Turn left onto Wertzville Rd, go 0.1 mile to first right
- Turn right on Center St; Center Street Grille is on the left.

2014 Upcoming events

Jan 7, 7:00 pm Tuesday Program Meeting, - Grand Canyon Raft Trip. Dave Powell, Cheryl Capitani, Bart Richwine and Lisa Baer will share their 2012 thirteen day experience of hiking, rafting and kayaking down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

Arrive early to dine with other KnGs before the meeting or stay and dine after the meeting

Jan 22, Wed 7:00 pm, Carrabba's Italian Grill
5250 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
www.carrabbas.com

No Program Meeting is scheduled in the month of February due to a conflict with the Quebec trip

Feb 19, Wed 7:00 pm, - Fenicci's of Hershey
102 West Chocolate Ave, Hershey, PA 17033

March 4, Tuesday 7 pm program meeting - Alaska Chronicle by Bill and Sandy Stine.

March 19, Wed 7 pm – Place to be announced

Tuesday, April 1, 7 pm - Last general meeting of the year - Election of new officers and begin trip planning for the 2014-2015 season.

Native American Life in the Susquehanna Basin was the topic for our meeting December 3 by our returning and popular speakers, Steve Runkle and his wife. They brought a wide array of artifacts depicting the lifestyle of the time including weapons and clothing. Steve donated to the Club

Publication 229, *Native American Waterbody and Place Names Within the Susquehanna River Basin and Surrounding Subbasins*, September 2003, that he compiled as Consulting Hydraulic Engineer for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

OUR MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Editor's note: The following is a redaction of the President's Report given at the December 3 General Business Meeting:

In one of my first actions as President of Kick 'n Gliders I was called on to give the invocation at our biannual End-of-Season Banquet last April 17. It drew some laughter when, during the invocation, I expressed our gratitude that we could still kick and glide our way across the snow during succeeding winters. But the laughter had, I'm sure, a rueful component, owing to the undeniable shared awareness that our membership, on the whole, is very experienced, and, of course, growing more experienced every year. As I was checking the club calendar for this report, I did a little math, and realized that we are now two-thirds of the way through my administration. It therefore seems necessary--even pressing--to bring up an issue we all have been mulling for quite some time: out on the trails there is getting to be as much snow under our hats as under our skis.

I am proposing that we focus on measures we can take as a group to bring a new generation into the Club so that Kick 'n Gliders will continue along the uniquely successful trajectory we have set and that should be our legacy to future members. I have some ideas that I would like to share with you in the hope that with everybody's input and effort a new multiyear commitment might be made to bring more, younger members into our ranks

It would seem to me that one of the major hurdles to incorporating younger couples into our roster of skiers could be the expense and uncertainty involved in bringing children on a ski trip. I am not thinking here of the need to bring children to the sport who will become future members of the Club. We don't have the luxury of time for that

process to achieve fruition. Rather it is the need to bring young adults into the Club who would be ready in a few years to assume leadership roles in Kick 'n Gliders. (I don't mean to place an expiration date on any current members nor discount the present and future contribution of current members who are many years away from joining the silver skis set) What, then can be proposed as a plan to facilitate the participation of young couples with children in cross country skiing with Kick 'n Gliders?

I would like to concentrate on one of our trips, the upcoming trip to Craftsbury. This trip has been run by Dave Leroy and Nancy Kauhll with enormous success and heavy participation by our members for--it seems like--ages. I don't need to enumerate the special qualities of this venue as there is probably no member of our Club who has not enjoyed, or at least been regaled with exhaustive reports on the great experience afforded by Craftsbury Center.

What I am proposing is that the Craftsbury trip become a special event marketed to couples with children based on the following attributes:

1. The trip takes place during the traditional Winter Holiday school break.
2. Craftsbury Center provides good and fairly priced rental equipment.
3. There are reasonably priced (and sometimes free) lessons available to all levels of skiers.
4. There are no extraneous costs involved (and no possibility to incur them).
5. The cost of lodging at Craftsbury breaks down for children as follows:
 - a. under the age of 6.....free
 - b. age 7-12.....1/4 the regular price
 - c. age 13 and above.....1/2 the regular price

The Club could therefore promote this trip by doing the following:

1. Institute a "skiership" for children of first time participants of, say, \$50.00 each child.
2. Provide for some form of limited child-care depending on the age of the children so that the parents can do some adult skiing if their children can't keep up.
3. Maintain a bank of child-sized base layers to avoid the annual cost of resizing clothing.

4. Set aside a small block of our reserved rooms at Craftsbury for new families. Preference for new families could be extended beyond the mid-July initial signup deadline meaning that some members might have to be wait-listed until the extension expires, and new families have been afforded this expanded window to join the trip.

The “skiership” could be funded by:

1. A voluntary \$10.00 contribution on paying annual dues.
2. A luxury tax of \$5.00 per trip assessed on anyone signing up for more than 3...4 trips.
3. Or both of these. (You shouldn't exclude any possible revenue stream when redistributing wealth.)

These are only my initial thoughts on the membership challenge facing not only Kick 'n Gliders, but voluntary associations across the nation. It has been observed that young adults today face an increasingly difficult economic landscape and, as a group, are less likely to enlist in service or devotee organizations. If it appears that, with the preferential treatment I have proposed, we would be providing incentives that were completely lacking and even unnecessary during our passage, the response would seem to be: the survival of Kick 'n Gliders may very well depend on such extraordinary measures.

In any event, these are but preliminary proposals. Their implementation would require approval by the Executive Committee and an affirmative vote by the Club membership. Hopefully, at the very least, the conversation has been engaged, and perhaps even more effective initiatives may now ensue.

David Walborn

KnG Joins the Social Media Age

by Bill Stine

Just a few days before Christmas our club joined the social media age.

We did so with the announcement of a new Facebook Page and a Twitter account. (Actually,

the page and the account existed for some time before we announced them. We simply didn't promote them.) Creation of the page and account are in line with President David Walborn's, initiative to attract new, active members to the Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club.

It is a matter of survival for us to attract new, active members. Although we're VERY successful as a Nordic ski club, it's also clear that we're a graying organization. In order to remain viable over the long run, we need new members who will help carry forward our values and traditions. A social media presence can help make our club more visible to others, especially younger people. After a mere 24 hours online, the Facebook Page had already garnered “Likes” from a number of people who are not currently club members.

Of course, these new presences should also serve to make it easier for members to interact. They should be really handy to help arrange spur-of-the-minute activities and share discoveries and insights.

“Hey, conditions at Crystal Lake look great for tomorrow. Anyone want to share a ride?”

“Looking for a ride to the Laurentians trip. Can anyone help me out?”

“Where's a good place to buy a new pair of fast, waxless track skis?”

“Found great skiing at Nolde Forest today! Give it a try!”

Any of the above could be shared on either Facebook or Twitter.

You might say that our website does all those things, but it really doesn't. It's a great repository for relatively static information but it's no good at interacting with other members. We once had a bulletin board component to the website but it simply never caught on. Facebook and Twitter are much more acceptable to a wide variety of users.

So, “Like” us on Facebook ASAP (“Likes get our page noticed in that world.”) and follow us on Twitter. Keep us viable and share more than ever with fellow club members.

Membership

The membership chair welcomes back Wanda and Charlie Cole, renewing members and welcomes new members, Beth Pyle and Nancy Tammi, to the Kick 'n Gliders. We hope to see them on the trails with us.

Club Hats Are Coming

Those who sent payment for one of the newly designed Kick 'n Glider ski hats, will be happy to know that they have been ordered and should arrive by the middle of January. We did not quite reach the minimum number of orders but Nancy Kauhler ordered a few extra. If you did not previously order a ski club hat and are interested in getting one, please send \$20 to the club PO box. If we get more interest than we have hats, we will order more (there is no minimum requirement for re-orders within the first year).

Ski Shop in Palmdale

Just found out that Outfitters Ski Shop is now selling XC ski gear. At this point he is just offering a start-up set in men's and women's, Alpina brand, and only in one model. Skis, poles and boots for around \$300. If you know anyone looking to buy a start-up set without having to travel, please share this info. They are on Main Street (Rt. 422) in Palmdale (between Hershey and Palmyra), roughly across from the Meineke shop.

Andrea Hospodar

"Ruthie is quite nice and Sam is a wonderful fellow!"

If you've ever been to Craftsbury Outdoor Center, you will recognize the reference to Ruthie's Run and Sam's Run. It was great to get back to Craftsbury, rekindle with old friends, and meet new friends for the 2013-2014 Kick 'n Gliders

Nordic Ski Club's New Year's trip in Vermont. Along with many repeat participants, we had a few familiar faces from the past return to join us and a few rookies to the trip who found that everything was new and fun! On Sunday, Dick Ruben, one of the early, founding members of the club, who has lived in Vermont for 9 years, came with his partner Joan, to join us and ski for a few hours. It was fun getting together with all of the Kick 'n Gliders.

Most of us arrived at Craftsbury on Saturday, December 28, and were happy to hit the ski trails even though the temperatures were a bit warm (high 30s). The crew had been busy preparing the trails after the warm temperatures and ice storm that hit northern New England the week before our arrival. The grooming crew worked wonders on the marginal snow so that all trails were very skiable.

As always, there have been some up-grades at Craftsbury. Two new buildings are being constructed along the edge of the practice field which will house the new ski shop/lounge and fitness center with ski waxing room below. Dual-flush toilets have been added, which was a nice feature with all of the vegetarian fare offered at mealtime. But the one that appealed the most? Nice wi-fi upgrade!

Although the forecast for Sunday night called for rain and falling temperatures followed by several inches of snow, all we got was rain which turned to ice. The trails that had "blown" (man-made) snow spread on them (remember Lemon's Haunt from a couple of years ago?) were the easiest for the groomers to prepare for us to ski and they did a wonderful job. Many of the trails were skiable after the snow dried a bit and the groomers worked their way around the trail system (Craftsbury now has *three* Pisten Bullys in the grooming fleet). Some folks complained about the snow (some hard, icy spots) but all in all it was a great trip. For a number of us, there was good skiing the first two days and snowshoeing the second two days. The very reasonably-priced equipment rentals made it easy to try both snowshoeing and skate skiing.

The dining hall staff prepared lots, perhaps too much, good food, although it was not the usual

fare for many of us. The Outdoor Center prides itself on sourcing a lot of the food from local sources and much of that is vegetable-based. There was a lot less meat and potatoes, pancakes and French toast for breakfast (in fact, none of the latter), and many more bean-based and gluten-free, nut-free offerings. There were some unusual items such as beet burgers. And the local ice cream (four delicious flavors) was a hit. New Year's Eve dinner included shrimp.

As in the past, the New Jersey Outdoor Club had a contingent sharing the facilities with us. Ken did not have a picture show this year (boo-hoo) but Bill Stine showed "Ski Soup" video (his collection of Kick 'n Gliders pictures from 2011-2013) one evening. The camaraderie was a plus. One of our group enjoyed their first time on snowshoes lent by friendly New Jersey folks! We all met promptly at 5:00 in the second floor hallway for happy hour – always memorable. Were we really afraid we weren't going to get enough supper, or is it just that we are a very friendly group?

New Year's Eve dawned bright and cold (temperature hovering around zero). It was so cold that the groomers had to jump start the Pisten Bullies! But all looked forward to the big bonfire to be lit at 11:30 pm and the Christmas trees thrown on at midnight. And when it came time to settle up the bill, we found to our delight that Craftsbury Outdoor Center had not raised their rates for this year which meant everyone on the trip got a \$20 refund.

Ice and cold, ski and skate, eat and laugh – what more could we want? What a great way to bring in the new year – being outdoors, with great food and, most awesome, the people! Great place to be for ending 2013!

bits and pieces written by those on the trip

Manor Township Ski Trail info

The Manor Township Atglen-Susquehanna (Enola) Rail Trail is open for XC skiing for almost 6 miles. The trail surface is 12 wide and has been used by both classic and skate skiers in recent snows. The parking area off River Road is plowed.

The toilets are at the beginning/parking area and at 2.5 miles. There is a picnic table also in that area, so pack a lunch and make it a social outing. Watch the birds flying over the water and enjoy the views up and down the Susquehanna River.

The police and safety access road is beside the trail on the rock side and is plowed. Hopefully there will not be a need to drive on the trail by the public works department but that can happen if there again occurs tree or rock blockages that need to be cleaned-up.

I found the best snow to be closest to river and fence for classic skiing as a result.

Hopefully the dog walkers will use the plowed access road and let the skiers have a chance to use the fresh snow on the trail. (Signage supporting that idea does not exist but could/should be added.)

Finally, I find the best winter views are in the late afternoon before the sun sets and sky changes from a warm orange to a cold blue. This can be a very dramatic change and worth the time to see it. The sun sets on the York County side of the river, so we get the view benefit on the Lancaster County side. I have been skiing this area for 30 plus years and never get tired of the changing scenery.

Thanks to Manor Township officials, this trail and hillside river land will always be preserved for seasonal recreational uses.

Christine C. Brubaker

For Sale

Cross Country skis - \$65
Fischer Super Crown, 75 inches
Solomon bindings and carry bag

Terry Brown
Lancaster, PA
717-569-0224
terrycmt@comcast.net



KICK 'N GLIDERS
P.O. Box 1353
Mechanicsburg PA 17055

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