



The *Easy Glider*

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

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Issue: January 2022

Up-coming Events

February 1, 2022 - Meeting at Centre Street Grille

7:00 pm – Business Meeting followed by *Sailor Dave Powell* cruises aboard the “*Nina*”. Due to technical difficulties, this program was not available at the January 4 meeting.

In 2009, Dave Powell, longtime Kick 'n Glider member, served for 6 weeks as a volunteer crew member aboard the very accurate Columbus replica ship, the *Nina*. The *Nina* cruises every year on all navigable waterways, mostly in eastern North America, although she has visited the western waters as well. Come hear Dave tell of his adventure.

February 16, 2022 - Social at T.J. Rockwell's American Grill & Tavern

7:00 pm – Meet at T. J. Rockwell’s American Grill & Tavern, 800 Mt. Gretna Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17011

March 1, 2022 - *** Meeting Cancelled ***

March 16, 2022 - Social at Marzoni's Brick Oven & Brewing Co.

7:00 pm – Meet at Marzoni’s Brick Oven & Brewing Co., 4925 Ritter Rd., Mechanicsburg PA 17055 (717-766-6289).

April 5, 2022 – Meeting at Centre Street Grille

7:00 pm – Business Meeting – This is our annual meeting for Elections, followed by 2023 Trip Planning. Come with ideas and information for next season’s ski trips.

April 20, 2022 – Social at Blue Bird Inn

7:00 pm – Meet at Blue Bird Inn, 2387 Cornwall Rd., Cornwall/Lebanon, PA 17042



Program Meetings - Directions

Program Meetings: Program Meetings are typically held at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Center Street Grille at 4 Center St, Enola, PA. Meetings are held upstairs. 717-732-6900.

NOTES:

As of the beginning of September, 2021, the Center Street Grille has no COVID restrictions. We recommend that those attending the meeting follow CDC guidelines, wearing a mask regardless of vaccination status.

Attendees interested in eating at the Grille prior to the meeting should gather at 5:30 for dinner.

Directions from PA-283 at Exit to I-283

1. Follow I-83 S toward Harrisburg
2. Take exit 42 toward Lemoyne onto Lowther St
3. Turn right onto S 3rd St
4. Turn right onto Market St
5. Take the 1st left onto S Front St / S Enola Rd
6. Turn left onto PA-944 W
7. Turn left onto PA-944 W / Wertzville Rd
8. Turn left onto Center St
9. Destination will be on the left

Directions from I-81 N at PA-581

1. Follow I-81 N (1.2 mi)
2. Exit 61 for PA-944 / Wertzville Rd (0.2 mi)
3. R onto PA-944 E / Wertzville Rd (2.1 mi)
4. R onto Center St. Destination on left. (135 ft)

Directions from I-83 and I-76, PA Turnpike

1. Follow I-83 N (1.8 mi)
2. Exit 41B for Lemoyne (0.5 mi)
3. L onto Lowther St (0.2 mi)
4. L onto S 3rd St (0.5 mi)
5. R onto Market St (0.4 mi)
6. L onto S Front St (2.0 mi)
7. Continue onto US-11 N / US-15 / 501 N (1.0 mi)
8. L onto Enola St (259 ft)
9. Slight L onto South St (0.1 mi)
10. R onto PA-944 W (0.4 mi)
11. L onto PA-944 W / Wertzville Rd (0.6 mi)
12. L onto Center St. Destination will be on the left. (135 ft)

Extended Trip Status

If you want to go on a club trip to get your skiing fix for the year, there may be some spaces available because we have had some cancellations. Details of the trips are included in the *Season Schedule and Guide* (it has a green cover) or on our website (www.kickgliders.org). If interested, check with the trip leader and send your money to the club address to get on the waitlist. Remember that all participants are subject to the club's Covid Policy (see September's *Easy Glider* for details.)

Reminder: Get Your Shots!

Events - Past, Not-to-be, & "Ancient"

Craftsbury #1 - New Year's Trip

Twenty-four Kick 'n Gliders welcomed the new year in Craftsbury, Vermont. As usual, there were some changes to the facilities at Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC). The first noticeable difference was that the office where we check in had been remodeled. We now enter the office from the end of the building closest to the dining hall. In Cedar Lodge, the bathrooms on each floor had been rebuilt and reconfigured; one dorm room and the old bathrooms were turned into five individual bathrooms, each with a shower, that are accessed off a short hallway perpendicular to the main hallway.

COC had instituted a number of policies to help prevent the spread of Covid among guests to their campus. The Activity Center was closed to all guests, but a window was available to rent skis, buy wax, and get maps of the trail system. Guests were asked not to congregate in common rooms, like the lounge at the end of Cedar Lodge and the fitness room in the basement. All guests were



asked to wear masks indoors, with the exception of while we were sitting to eat in the dining hall. Meals were served at two seatings, much as they had been years ago, and the number of tables and chairs in the dining hall were limited. The coat closet in the dining hall was not available to us – instead it was full of stacks of chairs! Although we were told that COC was fully booked, the hallways in Cedar Lodge were quiet and we later learned



that COC was limiting capacity. That meant that the Kick 'n Gliders only shared the dorms and dining hall with a few other guests. We took advantage of that and continued with our traditional hallway happy hour.



Snack on the hat!



COC makes snow when possible and they even stockpile some snow through the summer! They spread the manmade snow around a few of the inner loops near the ski center and those trails were in good condition when we arrived. The outer trails had some snow but also had spots that were icy or thinly coated. Our experienced skiers ventured out on some of those trails and enjoyed them, but most of the skiing occurred on the inner loops with the manmade snow. With guests on campus and those who came in for the day, lots of skiers skied on the inner trails and as the weather stayed warmer (and damper) than usual, the conditions deteriorated somewhat over the course of our stay.

There were a few ski teams that came in by bus for the day, and there were some Olympic athletes training at COC, too. Susan Dunklee, US biathlete, was spotted doing her training with her coach as she prepared for the upcoming Olympics. (For more information about Susan, check out this article on the Team USA website: <https://www.teamusa.org/News/2021/November/17/Older-Athlete-Community-Inspires-Olympian-Susan-Dunklee-In-Her-Final-Biathlon-Season>.) Dave and I found that guests seemed more willing to talk to others on the trails. We had a very interesting conversation about bridges in Vermont with a woman who works as an architectural historian. Another couple just recently moved to Craftsbury from Maryland; she was originally from Russia! We also met an in-law of the Murphys, of Murphy's Field, who was staying at the house across the road for the holidays. And we really enjoyed watching the young kids with their excitement and confidence, in spite of their "slower" or "more cautious" parents.

Many of us who frequent the New Year's trip to Craftsbury look forward to ringing in the new year while standing around a large bonfire and throwing old Christmas trees on it at midnight. But COC wasn't offering the bonfire this year. Instead, they provided a firepit and stack of firewood outside of the Cedar Lounge. We built a fire after dinner on New Year's Eve and managed to enjoy it for an hour and a half before the spotty rain showers chased many of us inside. Did it really matter that we "celebrated" the new year at 8:00 pm?





Originally, 34 Kick ‘n Gliders had signed up for this trip. Several had to drop out for medical and family reasons, not the least of which were concerns about the rising COVID cases. The twenty-four who made the trip had a good time. But the weather forecast for travel day was threatening freezing rain, and a lot of our group decided to leave on Saturday. There were only 8 of us remaining for breakfast on Sunday, a quiet end to a quiet trip. *By Nancy Kahl*

Laurentians Trip Cancelled

This popular trip to the Laurentians in Canada. Scheduled for January 29 to February 5, 2022, is not a past event but, unfortunately, was cancelled on January 6, 2022. Trip Leader, Bill Stine, and David Walborn, leader of the overflow trip for those bumped in our August lottery, made the heartbreaking decision to cancel because the logistics of meeting the requirements for COVID-19 PCR tests within 48 hours of entering Canada were becoming uncertain due to the rising numbers of Omicron cases and high demand for PCR testing. A few days later, the US government issued a travel advisory, stating “do not travel to Canada due to COVID-19”. Thanks to our conscientious trip leaders for keeping up on the trends and being willing to make the tough decisions.

Dalmatia Ski Outing

This is a past event that took place many years ago – in February 1994, in fact! From the February 20, 1994, journal entry of member Roberta Strickler:

“Bob Ettlinger (at left with white head band) sent a letter to the Kick ‘n Gliders’ newsletter suggesting we offer a day trip to his farm at Dalmatia (near Halifax). He promised to serve his favorite variety of ice cream to anyone making the trip.

“Norma Brandon, Joan Short, and Barbara Kase gathered our skis and fit ourselves into Jim Brandon’s red SAAB. We went to Chunky Monkey in Dalmatia where Bob Ettlinger wowed us with great long meadow hills and interesting terrain plus great food and a beautiful blue-sky day.



“Left to right in the photo: Bob Ettlinger, his girlfriend, Joan Short, Barbara Kase, woman and man who were friends of Ettlinger. Roberta Strickler took the photo.”

Vermont's Catamount Trail

By David LeRoy

Many of us remember that a cross-country ski trail extending from Vermont's northern border at Canada to its southern border at Massachusetts was created. We also remember that the indomitable Kick 'n glider Bernie Webber skied the entire length of this trail at a time when it was still in the development stage. Bernie suffered the problems of sections which were little more than bush-whacking as well as accommodations as primitive as unheated basements. Bernie survived and said he would never do it again. But a couple of years later he was back doing a section of the trail.



One of the problem areas on the Catamount Trail was passing over Rogers Branch near Albany, Vermont. The Catamount Trail Association led a special drive to raise funds to bridge this creek that was located deep in a chasm. The bridge was finally built using two steel I-beams to support a wooden deck and railings. On the railing was a metal plaque listing those who participated in its cost, including the Kick 'n Gliders. Later we heard that the bridge had been damaged by those who wanted to use it with vehicles wider than the space between the railings permitted.

This bridge has a special place in the hearts of Nancy and me because we befriended Colleen Goodridge, the lady who owns a sawmill along the trail near the Rogers Branch bridge. Her specialty is white cedar. Colleen agreed to create the tongue and groove siding as well as framing timbers that Nancy and I used for the house we are building. When at Craftsbury for our annual New Year's ski trip this year, we visited Colleen and walked to the Rogers Branch bridge. We found the bridge to be intact with its deck widened to 4.5 feet to accommodate ATV's. And the plaque giving Kick 'n Glider's (and others) credit for our contributions is still in place on the railing. Fortunately, snowmobilers prefer other routes than the route crossing the bridge so skiers can use the Catamount Trail without having to compete with them in the area of the bridge.



When at Craftsbury, you may want to drive a few miles over to Vermont Route 14 south of Albany and look for the sign for Goodridge Lumber, park in their lot, say hello to Colleen and check out the Rogers Branch bridge.

Did you know...

...some of our favorite ski venues were recently highlighted in an article by the New York Times which appeared in the Lancaster LNP on December 26, 2021. “Hit the Cold Trails” by Cindy Hirschfeld mentioned Pineland Farms in New Gloucester, Maine, a venue that the Kick ‘n Gliders have not experienced but maybe we should check it out sometime!

The article also mentioned Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont; Craftsbury Outdoor Center; Jackson XC in New Hampshire; and Mount Van Hoevenberg in Lake Placid, New York. Below are a few highlights:

Trapp Family Lodge

“It’s hard to talk about cross-country skiing without mentioning Trapp’s, as it’s familiarly known. When Johannes von Trapp (of “Sound of Music” fame) added Nordic trails to his hotel’s amenities in 1968, along with rentals and a ski school, he created North America’s first full-service cross-country center.”

Craftsbury Outdoor Center

“A novel method ensures early season snow coverage: making snow the winter before when temperatures allow for optimum efficiency, then storing it under layers of special blankets and damp wood chips.”

“Up for another challenge? Thanks to a competition-caliber range installed a few years ago, Craftsbury also gives lessons in biathlon, which combines skiing with rifle shooting.”

Jackson XC

“For a European-style skiing experience, look to this 100-kilometer trail network that winds throughout the town of Jackson, past the base of Black Mountain downhill ski area and into the surrounding White Mountain National Forest. The iconic red covered bridges, however, clearly ground it in New England – you can actually kick and glide through one of those bridges, across the Ellis River.”

Mount Van Hoevenberg

“What better place to learn to cross-country ski in an Olympics winter than at a venue created for the 1980 Winter Games? Especially since Mount Van Hoevenberg’s skiing and sliding facilities just received an \$80 million investment... The Nordic upgrades, in particular, include a huge new day lodge with a café, a snow-making system, additional ski trails and a new biathlon range.”

These descriptions get me excited for the upcoming club trips to these venues. How about you?





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In this Issue of Easy Glider:

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