



The *Easy Glider*

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Nancy Kahl (editor@kickngliders.org)

Issue: January 2023

Up-coming Events

February 7, 2023 – NO MEETING

Many of us plan to be away skiing. Join us later in the month or at the March meeting and we'll share our adventures with you.

February 22, 2023 – Social at Herby's El Mexicano

6:30 pm – Meet at Herbies El Mexicano Restaurant, 720 Main St., Bressler/Steelton, PA 17113. RSVP to Andrea Hospodar at ahospodar10@comcast.net.

March 7, 2023 – Meeting at Centre Street Grille

5:00 pm – Meet for dinner prior to the meeting. If interested in dinner, RSVP to Andrea Hospodar at ahospodar10@comcast.net.

7:00 pm – Business Meeting followed by program, "Skiing the Tuckerman Ravine headwall on Mt. Washington, NH", presented by Cory Schaeffer.



Meetings are held upstairs at the Center Street Grille 4 Center St, Enola, PA 717-732-6900

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. Take Exit 61 for PA-944 / Wertzville Rd. (0.2 mi)
3. Turn right onto PA-944 E /Wertzville Rd (2.1 mi)
4. Turn right onto Center St.
5. Destination will be on the left.

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

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

President's Message

Remember the old Farmers' Almanac? Well, it's still being printed and still making the remarkable claim that, despite predicting the weather up to two years into the future, the Almanac is correct 80-85% of the time.

The *Farmers' Almanac* publishers deny using satellites or even groundhogs. They say they use a procedure developed in 1818, when the almanac was first published.

This year, returning from Craftsbury on New Year's Day as the temperature soared to 50 degrees, leaving the folks headed to Quebec concerned about the snow cover, thoughts of the Farmers' Almanac came to mind.

Maybe we should be checking the Farmers' Almanac before all those dedicated, extended trip leaders put all that energy into organizing their trips. Perhaps, as we check ahead and find that January 2024 will be unseasonably warm, a water-skiing trip might be more appropriate.

But now the good news: The Farmers' Almanac for the rest of the winter says we'll "have plenty of snow, rain, and mush- as well as some record-breaking cold temperatures. We are warning readers to get ready to 'Shake, shiver and shovel!'"

This bodes well for the rest of the winter. We'll see. For now, wishing all our ski trips are blessed with fluffy snow so we can shake, shiver, shovel and ski.

Fred & Tanya

Late Season Opportunities

A Rocky Point Trip opening for a single male

Once again, the Rocky Point Inlet trip, February 24-28, should be a great one. In addition to a wide selection of skiing venues, Saturday the 25th has the [Inlet Frozen Fire and Lights](#) celebration, which includes the Cardboard Sled Races in Fern Park.

This trip meshes nicely with the Laurentians trip before (just 4 ½ hours away) and the Boonville #2 trip following, which is nearby. If you're interested, just shoot a note to [Pam](#) or [Mike McMullen](#) stating your interest and get your check for \$400 to Treasurer, Dave LeRoy.

Craftsbury 2 - March 5-9, 2023

Looking for snow? Here's your opportunity. Due to health issues, Craftsbury 2 has openings for the following:

- * single female
- * either 2 individuals of the same gender or a couple

Craftsbury is one of the few venues that has the capability to both make their own snow and harvest other snow. This will be your last chance for the season, to enjoy skiing with your club friends. If interested contact Marthamcgraw@gmail.com.



Thank You Received

We recently received a nice thank you note in response to the club's donation to the Barkeater Trails Alliance (BETA). BETA is the organization that maintains trails in the Lake Placid vicinity, including the Jackrabbit Trail and the Hays Brook Trail.

"Kick 'n Gliders, Thank you so much for your generous gift! We hope you are kicking and gliding into a new year. Thank you again for your support and keep spreading the winter joy. Jamie McGiver, Outreach Coordinator"



Sad News from Crystal Lake

Unfortunately, the news from Crystal Lake Ski Center is discouraging for those of us who look forward to skiing close to home. Crystal Lake sent out the following message to their loyal supporters:

“We are so grateful for your dedicated interest in Crystal Lake Ski & Outdoor Center through your participation in ski activities over the years. Your support means the world to us!

We want to give you an update on things here as the winter approaches. At this time, we are expecting to not be open for the season due to being acutely understaffed.

While we consider options and explore creative avenues, we want you to know a few things:

- We will not be hosting lodging groups this season. We will revisit our lodging activities this upcoming fall, and look forward to welcoming you onsite in September and October!
- As the winter unfolds, we will look at each approaching week and stay in touch about the possibilities of opening for skiing at a given time.”



Past Event Reports

Craftsbury #1 - December 28, 2022 - January 1, 2023

When we arrived at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center (COC) Wednesday, December 28, there was excellent cross-country skiing conditions. From there things went downhill (no pun intended). The outdoor temperature steadily rose and the snow steadily disappeared. The COC groomers did an outstanding job of keeping trails open and, even as we left New Year’s Day after rain and unseasonably warm temps, Lemon’s Haunt and Murphy’s Field remained skiable.





Skate-skier zips past Sandy Stine on Sam's Run.

When the skiing became difficult, the ever-creative Kick 'N Gliders found many other things to do to amuse themselves:

Some snow-shoed –

Others sat on the porch and caught rays.



Then there were ethnic foods to sample -



Seven found 7 miles of muddy roads to walk.



There was always checker playing with large rocks as the pieces -



And, there was eating the fine foods the outdoor center offered three times a day.





Nan Reisinger shows Fred Burgess and Sandy Stine what it takes to be a rock star.

Thanks to Fred Richter, Fred Burgess, Nancy Kauhl, and David Walborn for contributing to this report.



Allegany State Park

This trip wound up being cancelled through no fault of the leader, but the outcome was positive. Only four people signed up, and one dropped out a few days before the trip. Even with four people (out of a maximum capacity of nine), the trip was going to run at a small loss. But that happens sometimes even with conservative budgeting.

When I arrived at the VRBO we rented in Salamanca—the same one we had last year—I could not get into the house. I had not received instructions from the host despite the automatic email that VRBO sends a few days before the scheduled arrival, which tell you to contact the host if the instructions are not in that email. They weren't. A phone call to the host the day prior could not go through—his voicemail box was full. I tried again when I arrived; same result. Then I called the number listed for the house and left a voicemail there, not knowing who would receive it. Almost two hours passed with no callbacks. Finally, I called VRBO, and after they tried unsuccessfully to reach the host, I said I wanted to cancel the reservation and get a refund. I was on the phone for almost an hour with VRBO. When booking with VRBO or Airbnb, the person making the reservation has to pay the cost. It cannot be paid out of the club's treasury because the club is not the contracting party.

Meanwhile, I had stopped at Wegman's in State College for most of the food needed for the three days and four nights, as the food stores in Salamanca are not nearly as well equipped. I had a cooler in the car so the perishable stuff was stored there, and it was cold enough overnight that I was not concerned about spoilage.

Right after I cancelled—VRBO had offered to find us another place nearby, but since there was no snow, that was pointless—the next-door neighbor came out with a key to the house. Apparently, he had been called by the host's mother, who lives about 10 miles away, after I left my message. But it was too late, and the other house that VRBO might have found could have been more expensive, resulting in an even greater hit to the treasury.

It was now 6PM on Sunday, Jan. 15. The three of us—Wayne Kirchgasser, Ron Henry and myself—had agreed to cancel the trip, as Allegany State Park had barely an inch of snow and the weather forecast was for warmer temps and rain over the next two days. So, we reserved two rooms at the Microtel in Olean for Sunday night. On Monday, Wayne evidently downhill at Holiday Valley and Ron and I drove home.

The non-perishable food and anything that will keep in the freezer will be taken to Lake Placid, and I will consume the rest at home. The end result is the club is not out any money (although I am, if for nothing else than a 500-mile trip to Salamanca and back).

This is the second year I have run this trip, and we have yet to be able to ski there. I am not sure if I will do it again, and after this experience with the VRBO host, I do not want to deal with him again (I learned from the neighbor that he was in Michigan at the time) even though the house is delightful. And when ASP has snow It's a great place to ski.

~Submitted by Bill Hoffman

Cazenovia

This trip was scheduled to directly follow the Allegany State Park trip. It too was under-subscribed, but that would not have caused it to run in the red. In all the years I've run this trip, I've always been able to cancel unfilled rooms without penalty, and we don't do any cooking so food expenses are not factored into the cost. I had emailed the Brae Loch Inn, where we always stay, last April to reserve the usual number of rooms. I should have known from experience that the Inn is not very dutiful in answering emails. About two weeks prior to the trip, I called to cancel the unsold rooms and give them the rooming assignments. It was then I learned that they did not have my email from April, and that I unknowingly had booked Robert Burns weekend, when they are always sold out. Whether it's Robert Burns the poet or Robert Burns the cigar that fills the house, I don't know, but that really didn't matter.

I tried the other inns and motel in town, but they were also booked. What's more, they were considerably higher priced than the bargain rate we have always had at the Brae Loch. So I looked farther afield, knowing that the Syracuse area at the time had no snow and wasn't likely to get enough for skiing before our arrival. Still, when you're dealing with lake effect, the picture can change dramatically in a day. There are lots of hotels in Syracuse that usually go begging for customers in the winter unless there's a major event at Syracuse University or a snowstorm closes the Thruway. I needed a hotel that serves a full

breakfast to replace what we would have had at the Brae Loch. I found such a hotel near downtown at about the same price as the Brae Loch, and reserved two rooms for the four people on the trip—Jeff and Marilyn Grove, Wayne Kirchgasser and myself. The rooms could be cancelled without charge until two days before arrival.

On Sunday, Jan. 15 (we were scheduled to arrive on the 19th for three nights) I made the decision to cancel, having gotten everyone's agreement. Even Osceola had marginal conditions and Winona Forest was even worse according to their website. With good snow, Osceola would have been worth the 50-mile drive from Syracuse, but otherwise not.

So as a trip leader I am 0 for 2 so far this year, but I've been very successful as a financial manager.

~Submitted by Bill Hoffman



Did you know...

...some of the coldest weather recorded in the Adirondacks occurred in February of 1934. Old Forge had a record low temperature of -52°F and the Ranger School in Wanakena measured -60°F. *Brrrr!!!*



KICK 'N GLIDERS
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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