



The *Easy Glider*

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Nancy Kauh (editor@kickngliders.org)

Issue: September 2023

*** New Mailing Address ***

Please note: We have changed our mailing address as of September 1, 2023, to Kick 'n Gliders, PO Box 8884, Lancaster, PA 17604-8884.

Up-coming Events

October 4 and/or 5, 2023 – Ox Roast Preparation

1:30 pm – Nancy Kauh has offered to host the annual Ox Roast again but is asking for help to prepare for this favorite event of the ski club. If you can come to her home in Perry County on either Wednesday or Thursday afternoon, prior to the Saturday Ox Roast, to help set up tables and chairs, gather some firewood (bring work gloves), or hang some lights to prepare for the event, please contact Nancy at 717-582-2562. Let her know which day you plan to help so she can plan tasks appropriately.

October 7, 2023 – Ox Roast

1:00 pm – When there is a nip in the air and hints of color in the leaves on the trees, it is soon time for the Ox Roast! This kick-off event of the Kick 'n Gliders' ski season will be held at Black Birch Hollow, Nancy Kauh's home in Perry County, on October 7, 2021. You are welcome to arrive as early as 11:30 am for conversation and snacks; the fire will be burning and the meat will be roasting in anticipation of eating dinner. ***We will plan to eat between***

2:30 and 3:00. Should it rain, come anyway! There is plenty of room inside the house for a crowd.

COVID policy: For the comfort of all who attend, please be fully vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus.

What you are expected to bring: Your favorite potluck dish to share (salads, baked beans, veggies or desserts are good choices; chips, nuts or a chunk of cheese are fine if you're kitchen challenged), your beverage of choice, **\$10** event fee (to cover the cost of the meat and paper products), lawn chair if the weather is nice and your checkbook if you want to make deposits/payments on any of this season's ski trips.



What will be provided: Meat ("ox" roasted over an open fire and sausages on the grill), ice, paper plates, plastic cups, utensils, napkins, and coffee. Some serving utensils will also be available.

Want to help? Your help keeping the fire going, grilling sausages, or set-up and clean-up will be much appreciated. If you are willing to help with any of these, please offer when you make your reservation so the host can plan accordingly.

Reservations: Let Nancy know (717-582-2562 or kauhlbbh@pa.net) **by October 5, 2023**, if you are coming, who/how many you are making reservations for and what potluck dish you plan to bring. If you need directions to Black Birch Hollow, let Nancy know and she'll email them to you.

November 3, 2023 - Memorial Service

1:30 pm – KNGers are welcome to attend the memorial service for David LeRoy at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church, 444 Silver Spring Road, Mechanicsburg, PA. The service will be followed by light refreshments.



New Officers

The Executive Board met (via ZOOM) on July 25, 2023, and appointed Bill Hoffman as Interim Treasurer and David Walborn as Interim Assistant Treasurer following the June 2023 death of our long-time Treasurer, David LeRoy. As a result of this change in leadership, the club has relocated our post office box to Lancaster, as noted earlier in this newsletter.



Lottery Required for 3 Trips

The early trip registration period ended on August 14, 2023, and three trips were overbooked and required a lottery. The overbooked trips were North Conway, Inlet, and Gatineau. A lottery was held on August 30. The North Conway trip now has a waitlist of 6 people, Inlet has a waitlist of two people, and Gatineau has a waitlist of three people.

Openings Remain on Many Trips

Although the early trip registration period filled several trips, openings still remain on a number of wonderful trips planned for the upcoming ski season. With temperatures still feeling a bit like summer, it may be hard to think about skiing, but help our trip leaders with their planning and schedule a ski outing or two with us for the winter ahead.

Trips with openings include: Craftsbury #1, *Headwaters*, *Tailwater*, *Cazenovia*, *Susquehannock*, Stowe, Craftsbury #2 and Ellis Cove. Italicized trips are not run through the club treasury and require you to make your own reservations. For all other trips, send your deposit to the club at the **new** mailing address.



Paul Smith's College Future in Question

Will changes affect the VIC ski trails?

As described in the June 2023 Easy Glider, Paul Smith's College, located in the Adirondacks near Lake Placid, is facing an uncertain future, which may affect the ski trails at the VIC at Paul Smith's. Recently, the merger with another organization that Paul Smith's College had proposed was not approved by the state and federal governments. The College is now trying to determine what their next move will be in trying to continue, especially since they are a significant employer in the Adirondack Mountain region. We are, of course, concerned about the VIC, and our favorite trails there. We hope a plan to maintain the wonderful ski trails that we love can be found.



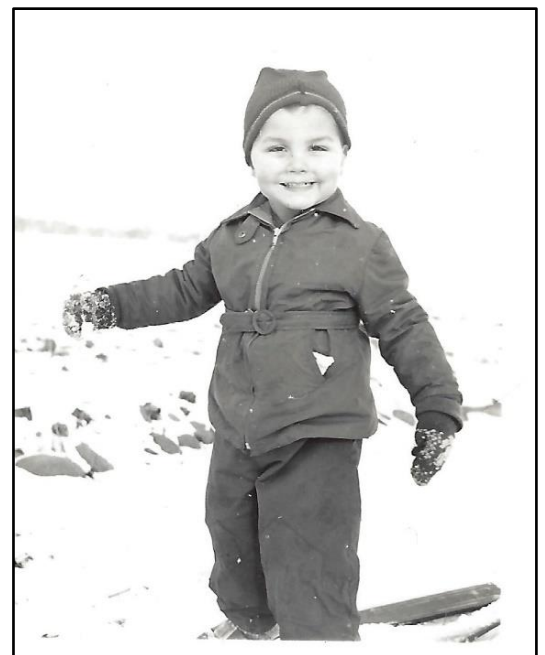
Club Loses a Longtime Leader

After nearly 8 decades, skier ends his run

A boy's glee glows from the black-and-white photo even after nearly 80 years.

He's not much older than a toddler, and only a small corner of the snowy picture attests to the source of his delight: There, without a doubt, are skis.

Dave LeRoy grew up to be a bridge engineer fond of outdoor pursuits such as bicycling, hiking, canoeing and, most especially, cross-country skiing. He was one of the



pillars supporting the Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club from

1978 till his June 22, 2023, death, and he never tired of encouraging friends, co-workers and mere acquaintances to try the sport.

“Dave was warm, smart and funny, and interested in so many things,” club member Beth Major writes. “He gathered us together and took us on adventures.”

“He was a strong leader, a great storyteller, a lover of the outdoors – as a Central New York boy ought to be – and a friend to many,” club member Ed Cook adds.



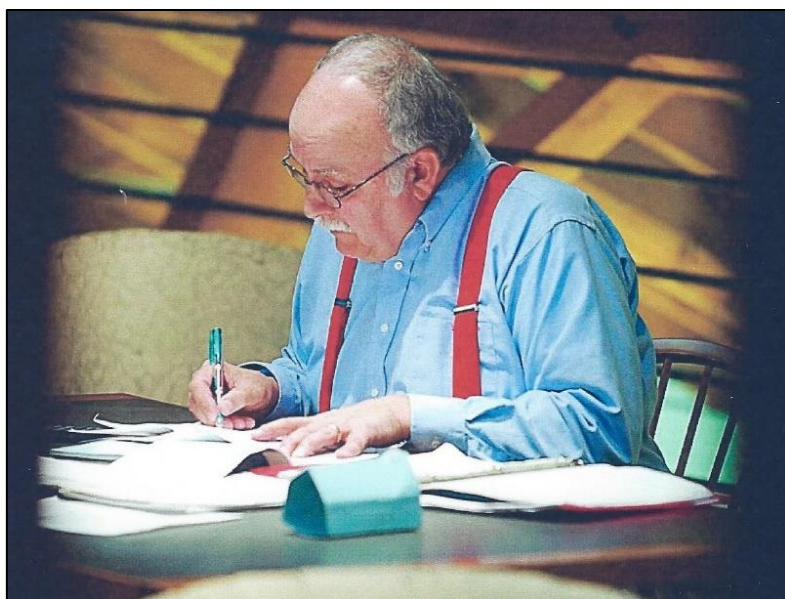
Dave grew up near Cortland, N.Y., moving to the Harrisburg area in 1963 after college. He was employed by the engineering firm of Modjeski & Masters for 39 years, retiring in 2002.

By then he already had served as club treasurer for decades. It was arguably a thankless job, and certainly one that required many hours of number-crunching, mind-numbing work. Not that he minded.

A Sentinel reporter encountered him in 2006 at Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg, where he was working on treasurer tasks -- or, as the newspaper reporter wrote, “flexing gray matter trying to close out the books as treasurer of a cross-country ski club.”

Here’s how the reporter quoted Dave’s assessment of the work: “Not having accounting training, it’s like a puzzle... a good mental exercise.”

That rosy assessment was not unusual for Dave.





“A day outside on skis beats any day spent indoors,” he once said during a late-season Tug Hill ski trip that offered only marginal conditions but did nothing to discourage his ardor.

His upbeat demeanor will long be remembered by club members.

“David’s cheerful and welcoming approach to ski club matters will certainly be missed,” Martha McGraw writes.

“Dave had a happy, kind, helpful smile all the time,” Lin Pomeroy adds. “He was willing to help anyone he could.

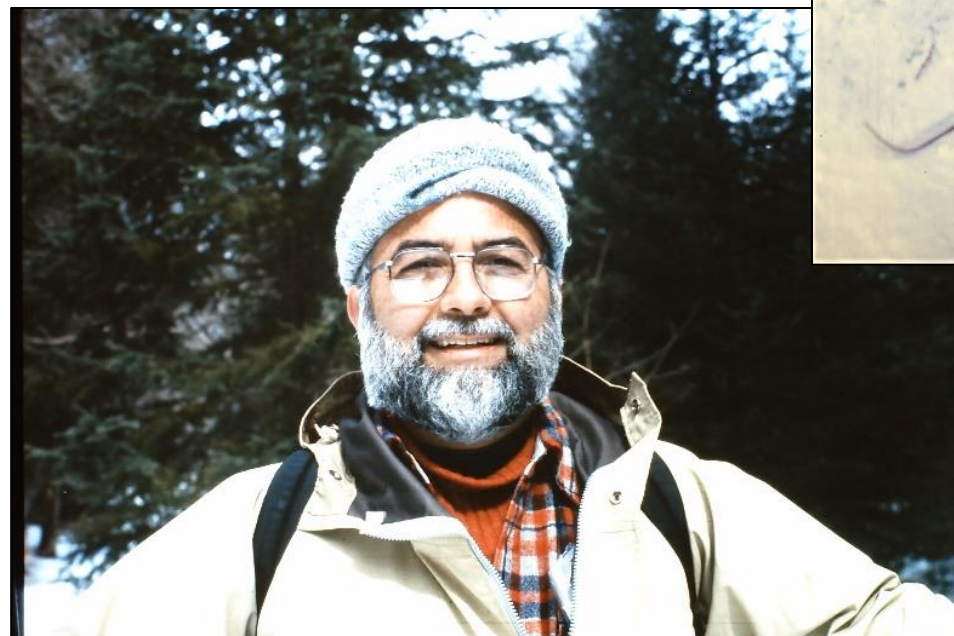
He read his books and could talk history for hours.”

She especially

remembers chats about the Adirondacks, which loomed large in his life and the lives of his friends.

“He introduced me to the Adirondacks many years ago, and it has become a favorite place for me,” Cheryl Capitani writes.

“David loved the Adirondacks, and he loved sharing it



with friends,” Carol Wilcox adds. “(My husband) and I will always cherish our times with Nancy and David... cross-country skiing in the winter (and) paddling the many Adirondacks lakes, ending the day around a campfire.”

Dave's wife, Nancy Kauhl, says he was a great ambassador for cross-country skiing. His love for the sport went a long way to helping convince many folks that learning to ski was worth some discomfort.

Nancy recalls that she fell down so often on her first ski trip with Dave that "I couldn't even sit down the next day at work."

That trip was to northern Pennsylvania's Crystal Lake, a favorite ski venue for Dave.

Kay Pickering says he also introduced her and husband Bill to skiing at Crystal Lake. They traveled to a lodge there and, after a good night's sleep, Dave helped the couple put on boots and skis and handed them ski poles. "He said we would ski out the door of the lodge to go to breakfast," Kay recalls. The Pickerings got as far as the corner of the building before falling.



Dave helped them up and said, "No big deal. Just follow me," Kay says. "And off we went, skiing to breakfast."

Bill later learned that he had broken his thumb in that first fall.

It didn't take fractured bones to make a lasting first impression on other club recruits.

"The first KnG trip Sandy and I attended was one Dave led to Pioneer Lodge" in Turin, N.Y., Bill Stine writes. Dave first took them to the deep snow at Whetstone Gulf State Park.



"We all struggled up the 300-foot climb and proceeded to ski right on the canyon's rim on 2-plus feet of packed snow" back down to the bottom, "ducking tree limbs that overhung the trail," Bill says. "It was terrifying!"

Dave introduced Bill Hoffman to the club with a trip to Winona Forest in western New York.

"On the first day, Dave led the group on a 15-mile ski," Bill writes. "Only because I was 25+ years younger then did I survive. I

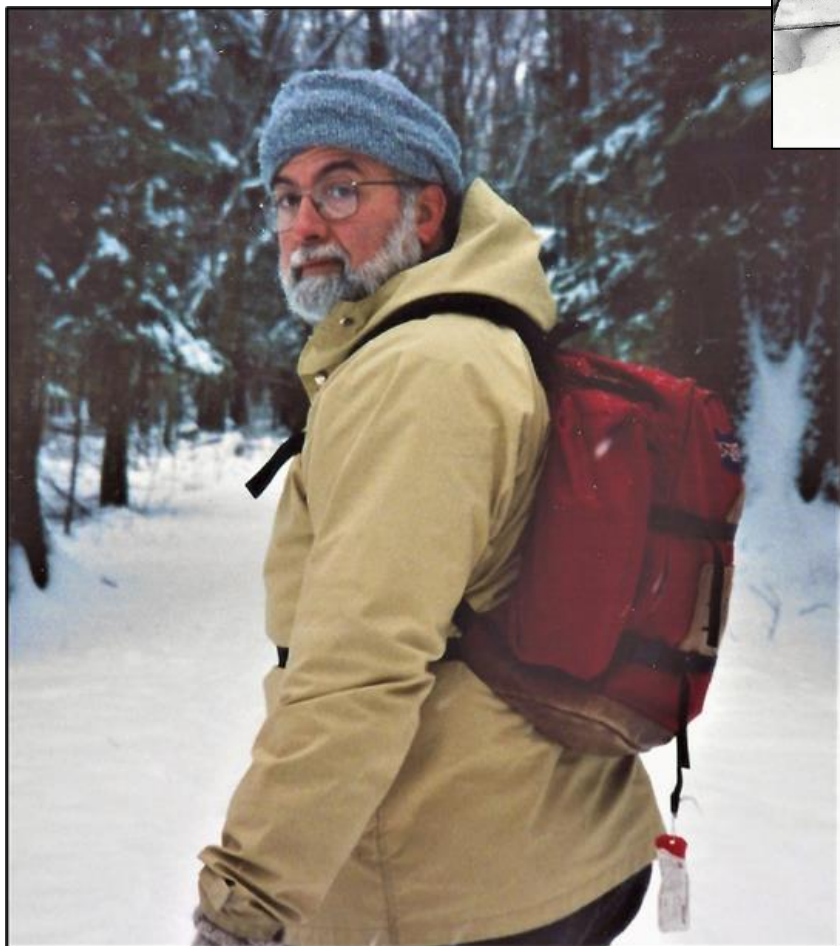
don't think I've skied 15 miles in a day since then, even though I'm a better skier now."

Dave's enthusiasm and charisma played a big role in convincing all of them to not just continue skiing but to become mainstays in the Kick 'n Gliders.

Dave was especially enthusiastic about off-trail skiing, Nancy recalls.

"He loved to bushwhack," she says. "The first time we did a hut-to-hut in the Adirondacks, it seemed like there were always obstacles. I learned so much from that trip about side slopes and maneuvering in deep snow. A lot of it was because he showed me how to get around in those kinds of conditions."

Dave realized backcountry skiing wasn't free of risks, so he had a penchant for preparing for emergencies. Club members marveled at the contents of the pack



he toted. Included were a saw, first-aid kit, trail food, poncho, extra ski tips, tools such as screwdrivers to tighten ski bindings if they came loose, extra gloves, an extra hat, ski baskets and repair kit, knee braces, ACE bandages, an extra layer of clothing, extra wool socks that could be used as mittens, flashlight, lighter, matches and even very large nails that he would transfer to an easily accessible pocket when crossing a lake in case he would plunge through the ice and would have to drag himself to safety.

Bill Stine characterizes it as a “bottomless backpack,” adding he saw Dave using the saw at least twice on fallen limbs that blocked the trail and were too large to move.



As one does with the passage of time, Dave slowed down as he got older. And, as was his wont, he impressed club members with skills, this time in terms of relaxing.

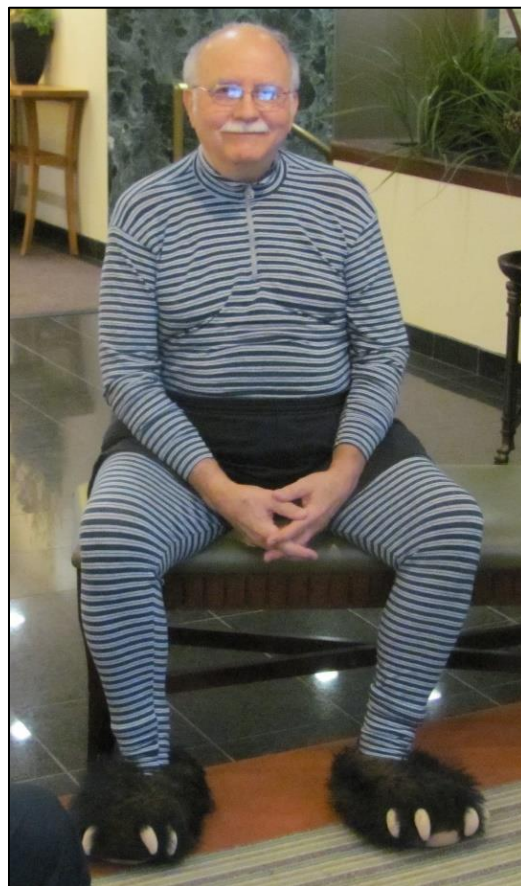
No ski trip to the 1880 House in Pulaski, N.Y., “was in full swing until Dave arrived in front of the

fireplace in his ‘bear feet’” – slippers that look like bear paws, Peggy Hampton writes.

Dave impressed Lisa Baer and Bart Richwine one evening after a day of skiing on a hut-to-hut trip in Maine. “Dave looked at his watch and said ‘It’s too early to go to bed, so I think I’ll take a nap,’” Lisa recalls. “He proceeded to fall asleep, and a couple of hours later woke up, looked at his watch -- and went to bed. Bart and I laugh about that to this day.”

To the very end, Dave adored the outdoors and insisted on spending plenty of time there.

We will miss Dave's knowledge and enthusiasm on the trails, and in front of the fireplace after a good day of skiing.



~Fred Burgess

Past Event Reports

July 13th Hike and Paddle at Gifford Pinchot State Park

On a very hot July 13, some hardy KnG'ers met at Gifford Pinchot SP for a hike and a paddle. Thirteen hikers did a 5+ mile loop on a shady and mostly level trail. Along the way we stopped for some wine berry snacking on a bush that the birds had missed. After the hike we had our lunch before launching our kayaks and one canoe for a paddle



down the lake. Lots of head wind, one dump (maybe a kayaker getting cooled off?) and hot sun. We had 11 boats and 12 paddlers at the start but some turned back. For the five that went the whole way to the bridge and back there was a cool treat of watermelon at the end. Nothing beats nice cool watermelon on a hot day. ~ Nan Reisinger



August 3rd Hike and Paddle at Little Buffalo State Park

Nan led an enjoyable 5-mile hike at Little Buffalo State Park on August 3. Bart and Lisa (being locals) showed us some of the more interesting features of the park including Shoaff's Mill. After a picnic lunch, we unloaded our kayaks and paddled the length of the lake and into the inlet where we saw many turtles sunning themselves. Participants included Bonnie Close, Cheryl Capitani, Andrea Hospodar, Diane Falkowski, Gary Musser, Lisa Baer, Bart Richwine, Nancy Kauhl and Nan Reisinger.

~ Gary Musser



Gary soaked up a lot of female attention!

August 5th Summer Evening at Nissley Vineyard

Seventeen gathered at the Nissley Vineyards Saturday evening, August 5th, and enjoyed the music of the "Josh Squared" band. The weather was perfect for picnicking, chatting and dancing. There was a large crowd. We set up a folding table and shared delicious picnic foods. In attendance were: Nan Reisinger, Pam and Mike McMullen, Joe & Barbara Allis, Bill & Sandy Stine, Ed Cook & friend Cindia, Emillie Tierney & Murray Sperling, Tom Hooper, Gary Musser & friend Diane, Cristina Truica, and Bill & Kay Pickering. The band played oldies and top 40 so we sang along and tapped our feet when appropriate. Ed commented that we all had a great evening out visiting with friends and listening to very good music.

~ Kay Pickering



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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