



# The *Easy Glider* Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

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## Up-coming Events

### February 21, 2024 – Social at Black Gryphon

6:30 pm – Meet us at the Black Gryphon Bar & Grill, 54 Mt. Gretna Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Please RSVP to Ed Cook at tedsdad@aol.com so he can alert the restaurant how many to expect.

### March 5, 2024 – Meeting at Centre Street Grille

5:00 pm – Meet for dinner prior to the meeting. If interested in dinner, RSVP to Ed Cook at tedsdad@aol.com.

6:30 pm – Business Meeting followed by program presented by Kate of Friends of Acadia.

## Last Chance Trips

We still have a couple of openings available on two trips: Craftsbury #2 and the trip to Ellis Cove – *if* you act quickly! If interested, contact leaders (for Craftsbury #2 contact Glenn Barnes at glenn1998\_11@yahoo.com or 201-625-2744 and for Ellis Cove contact Nancy Kauh, kauh1bbh@pa.net or 717-418-9659).

# Past Event Reports

## Boonville - Tug Hill Week

January 18 - 26, 2024

Trip Participants: Mike & Pam McMullen., Lisa Baer & Bart Richwine, Sue Berg & Mark Kern, Bill & Sandy Stine, Bill Morrow, Larry Wasser, Karen Northeimer & Jesse Jepsen (Trip Leader)

Twelve intrepid KNG skiers had a banner 6-day stint on the East side of Tug Hill staying at the comfy Lodge at Headwaters. We hit the snow conditions and temperatures just right and avoided crowds. The last 2 days were soggy and all but 2 of us departed



early. This trip combined the 4 days originally scheduled for Tailwaters in Altmar for a total of 8 days which worked very well except for rain-soaked conditions the last day and a half.



We arrived at The Lodge at Headwaters and found plenty of snow on Thursday. Several of us did a ski at BREIA Potato Hill or at the Canal Trail. There was about a foot of snow and a decent base. Happy hour at the Stine's room was followed by



an uncrowded casual convivial continuance at Kratzy's. Friday, we skied all of Osceola Ski & Sport Resort which had about two feet of snow and nicely groomed trails with temps around 20. We dined at the Junction at Alder Creek for the Friday fish fry and there were very few snowmobilers around.



Temps dropped for Saturday to around 5 degrees so we delayed departure for BREIA

Jackson Hill until 10:30. Bart and Lisa left for the trails early and set a fire for us in the warming hut (Thanks!). We hit most of the upper trails and, after a cozy and WARM lunch break, several of us for the first time skied down the steep trails to the Canal Trail where Bill and Sue picked us up



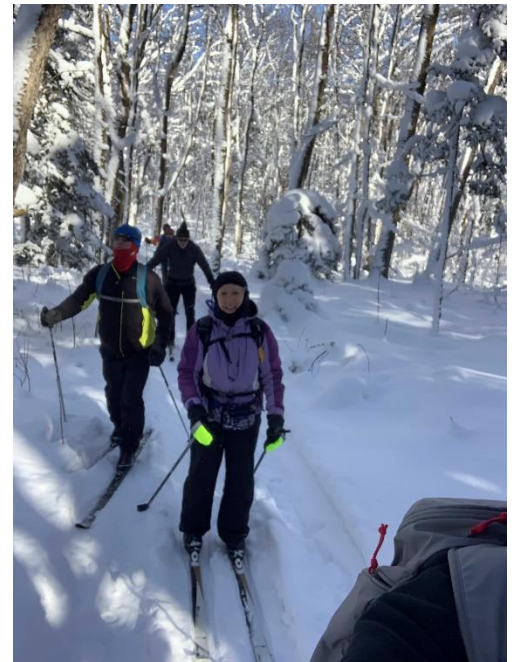
(Thanks!). Garamone's in Forestport was again a crowd pleaser where we enjoyed great food, excellent service and a private room that allowed us to relax and confab comfortably.







Sunday was cold again but gloriously sunny so we opted for our favorite back country venue, Carpenter Road. We were treated to two-foot snow depth and puffy snow-blasted trees and scenery. Several exclaimed that it was the most picturesque ski they could remember. Bart gained the nickname “Brent Senior” for his



trail breaking efforts for most of the ski (a reference to Brent Linde, AKA “The human Pisten Bully”). After returning to Headwaters Lodge, many gathered in the lobby for a lively football playoff party with other lodge fans to root for the Bills (mostly). It got very quiet in the Lodge at the end. Most got take out from Flatlander Deli.



On Monday, some did one lap and others did two laps around BREIA Egypt Road Rim trail and Glacier trail loop. Again, good conditions, great weather, and few people. We stopped to chat with two cheerful and informative BREIA staff who were patrolling the trails. They explained that the decision to not groom the four Gully trails was related to staffing and equipment. Also, they actually do review the sign in log books to gauge usage and thus where to prioritize grooming efforts.



Tuesday brought warmer temperatures of 32 at Boonville so Sandy decided we should go to McCauley Mountain in Old Forge where it was 28 and the snow was noticeably drier. We had a good ski with maybe a bit more climbing than we might have signed up for but were rewarded with finding a good ski loop for future reference. McCauley was officially closed that day so we skinned them out of the \$5 trail fee. So the REAL reason for choosing McCauley was to gain a “sport



shopping” session at the Mountain Man Outfitters where they have all the good stuff. It was early in the season so not many sale items but a few purchases were made. We enjoyed leftovers and takeout and again dined in at the Headwaters lobby lounge and dining room for a low-cost evening in.

Everyone but Jesse and Karen blasted off back to PA by Wednesday morning. We skied a 5+ mile out and back on the Canal Trail with above freezing temperatures and moist snow. It was surprising to see many ducks that had not flown south for the winter. Thursday and Friday morning were rain days so we visited the Broadway Café and the



Woodland Brew Pub with really good food and interesting conversations with locals. Put both of these on your list of places to go next time as they were surprisingly good, especially the Café!



Final thought is that a week in Boonville staying at the inviting Lodge at Headwaters makes a lot of sense given the extent of the ski venues and dining options within easy proximity. Also, we

realized that we only spent \$20 on trail fees for the one day at Osceola (KNG Skinflints unite!). Plan to sign up next year for the “closest with the mostest”!

*~by Jesse Jepsen*

## Lake Placid

January 26 – February 1, 2024

Participants: Ed Cook; Jesse Jepsen and Karen Northeimer; Gil, Mary Ann and Brent Linde; Lin Pomeroy; Gary Musser; David Walborn; and Bill Hoffman, leader.

Ten KnG'ers converged on Spruce Lodge in Lake Placid for our annual trip to that favorite venue. This was the first time that I've reserved this house, but it was used for the L.P. overflow trip led by Bill Stine a few years ago. The house has a theoretical capacity of 11 or 12, but realistically it's full with 10.

There seemed to be a decent snowpack, but the area had received rain for two days just prior to our arrival, which pretty much ruined things for us. While the rains were not heavy or continuous, still, major damage was done, and no significant snow occurred during the rest of our time there. So we made the best of a less than ideal situation.



Saturday we skied at the VIC. As usual, we split into small groups; most people did between 5 and 9 miles. Other than the trails close to the lodge, conditions were adequate, though not great. The admission fee was reduced to \$10 owing to the compromised conditions. There is now a food concession every day except Monday and Tuesday, but people can still bring their own food.





On Sunday we tried a new venue, Scotts Cobble, a golf course near Cascade. We could not give the place a fair trial due to icy conditions. As a golf course, most of the trails are in the open and exposed to wind. As a result, despite grooming early that morning, we were skiing on boilerplate. Most of the group quit after a few minutes and were able to get their trail fee (\$20 on weekends) refunded. The Lindes, Gary and I stayed almost an hour longer, at which point Gary and I called it quits. The Lindes



remained, with Gil switching from his one-blade sled to skis in the afternoon. The others tried Cascade but found similar conditions there.

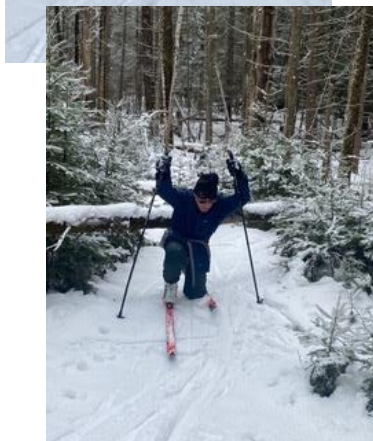


There is more than a day's worth of skiing at Scotts, but the trails are not (as yet) marked or signed. High Peaks Cyclery now operates the center, so perhaps things will get better in the future. There is a nice lounge on the second floor of the lodge, which doubles as a clubhouse for the golf course.

The predicted light snow for Sunday night failed to produce more than a dusting, not enough to



improve ski conditions. After morning phone inquiries by Jesse, we opted for the VIC, where conditions had deteriorated from Saturday, as the 5-10-degree drop in temperatures had frozen what little soft snow existed then. But this was our best option for the day. The trails were groomed early in the morning but with virtually no powder, there's not much the groomers could do. We practically had the place to ourselves, but nobody put in a full day on skis. Ed opted for a day off, probably a wise decision.



By Tuesday morning, we were all pretty bummed out about the poor local conditions. Someone found a Facebook post from a person or people who had left Lake Placid and found great skiing at Garnet Hill from the storm that missed us Sunday night. So everyone except me made the 75-mile drive to Garnet. I needed to do laundry and make dinner, but I had previously stated that I was going to ski the former railroad from Lake Placid to Saranac Lake that is now a rail trail. Being level, there would be no treacherous hills to negotiate. I started from the fire station at Mill Pond Rd. and Old Military Trail. This allowed a ski of at least 4 miles without any road crossings that would require taking skis off. I knew that with the poor conditions I was not going to ski 8 miles anyway. This former rail line went all the way to Utica, and was the way people arrived at Lake Placid by train in pre-automotive times.



Tracks have been removed at least as far as Lake Clear. The Jack Rabbit Trail follows this alignment from Lake Clear to Lake Placid.

Lin, Jesse and Karen opted to leave Wednesday, the latter two going to Jesse's sister's house in Franconia, NH, which received about 3 inches of snow from Sunday's storm. All of them are doing the North Conway trip in about a week, where we are hoping for better conditions than we've had at Placid.

Because of the conditions, our local options were very limited. Mt. Van Hoevenberg reported that their "legacy" trails (presumably, the older ones near the former lodge) were closed, thus creating a strong disincentive to spend \$24 (the lowest daily rate) for access to only part of the facility. Things were so bad we did not even investigate Heaven Hill, Henry's Woods, the Peninsula trails, or Dewey Mountain.



On Wednesday Ed skied at Van Hoevenberg and pronounced it adequate but not great. Some trails were still closed. The Lindes went to Cascade. Gary, David and I opted for a day off.

A notable feature of this trip was the consistent weather. The temp varied less than 15 degrees, from a high of 35 when we arrived to not lower than 20, even at night. And there was no significant wind, and no sunshine. The upside is that we liked the house and will try to rent it for next year.

*~by Bill Hoffman*

## Cazenovia

February 1 - 4, 2024

Participants: Ron Henry, Jean Geiger, Gwen Hunter, David Walborn, Gary Musser, Diane Falkowski and Bill Hoffman, leader.

Seven KnG'ers converged on the Brae Loch Inn in Cazenovia, NY, on the first weekend in February for our annual stay there. Someone forgot to tell the snow gods to do their thing. Consequently, the only skiing we were able to do was one day at Osceola. This was decided after David and Ron had gone there the day before (to the "old" Osceola, formerly owned by Hugh Quinn) and pronounced the conditions mostly good. The next



day we all went to the "new" venue, Osceola Ski & Sports Center, where we found virtually no powder and





a base of about 6 inches. After lunch, the sun made a partial appearance after being AWOL for a week. This softened the trails that got exposure enough to make snowplowing possible, but those in the woods remained firm.

For the past several years we have not had good snow at the venues around Caz, which led me to consider finding another location closer to Tug Hill for the future. This idea was not met with universal agreement among those on the trip, so I will need to ponder it further prior to the trip planning



meeting in April. The dearth of snow could be an accident of nature, because we don't go there at the same time every winter, and lake effect is very fickle. Even Osceola has not had anywhere near its normal snowfall so far this season.

Those of us who didn't ski on Friday spent an enjoyable couple of hours at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse.

*~by Bill Hoffman*

## Susquehannock Lodge

February 1 - 4, 2024

As usual, the Potter County, Susquehannock Lodge trip had 3 memorable aspects: Fantastic food, very good skiing, terrific sledding. Our expectations had not been that high as most of the north was facing warm weather. We began the Friday morning with a new soft suspension sled testing and its new steering set up for the 2 skis. It handled the bumps fantastically. Brent maneuvered the single runner sled with expert control of its major slalom leaning turns. It is only a short drive up to the 2424 ft elevation where we skied several trails in the woods and along the grass field of the old airport.

Saturday and Sunday we found very good conditions at Patterson Park which is only a 20-minute drive. We joined in with a local skier who was also delighted with the relatively thick snow.

Evening meals topped the charts with salmon, black rice, beef and many delicacies. We 5 individuals interspersed some hiking, book reading and great conversation. We hope to see more of you on next year's trip.

*~ by Gil Linde*





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