Løype

News of the North Star Ski Touring Club

www.north-stars.org

Volume 49 ♦ Number 4 ♦ January/February 2017

January Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
St. Peter's Catholic Church
6730 Nicollet Avenue, Richfield
(park in lot on west side of church)
6:30 p.m. - Social Time
7:00 p.m. - Business & Program

Program: "Border to Border: Skiing Across Finland"

North Star member Stephanie Croteau skied the Rajalta Rajalle-Hiihto last winter. She will share her adventures of skiing across Finland, 440 km in 7 days, just below the Arctic Circle from the Russian border to the Swedish border. Come hear her story of skiing across Finland's winter wonderland.

February Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
St. Peter's Church — Same time

This month's program is presented by Citizens Climate Lobby. Each one of us can address climate change, and working together we can make this happen. Citizens Climate Lobby is building constructive, working relationships with members of Congress to seek passage of Carbon Fee and Dividend, a climate change solution that bridges the partisan divide. This approach will reduce greenhouse gas emissions 52% below 1990 levels within 20 years while growing the economy and saving lives. Come find out more about this exciting plan.

Cover photo by Chip Treen

Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll at Bally Creek near Grand Marais, January 2016.

Back cover photo by Sally Richards

Wednesday Wanderers at Lebanon Hills, left to right: Sally Richards, Frank Janezich, Larissa Krioukova, Roxy Knuttila, Audry Nordwall, Dana Siskind and Liz Rasmussen.

Løype

North Star Ski Touring Club
P.O. Box 4275, St. Paul, MN 55104
www.north-stars.org.

The *Løype* is the official newsletter of the North Star Ski Touring Club. *Løype* is the Norwegian word for "track" or "ski trail." It speaks to us not only of the trails we love to ski but of the larger track, the concept of ski touring, that guides the progress of this club.

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World Wide Web	**http://www.north-stars.org**
Electronic mail	**nsstc@north-stars.org**

The *Løype* welcomes contributions from NSSTC members and non-members. The *Loype* is published every other month beginning with the July/August issue. Send articles and digital photos by the first day of the month preceding publication to: **loype.news.editor@north-stars.org.**

Submit activity schedule items online (preferred method) by the first day of the month preceding publication of the *Loype* (i.e. December 1 for the January/February issue); or send an email with full event details to **schedules@north-stars.org.**

ADVERTISERS: Contact advertising manager Alberta Adams at 651-490-0277, or **ads@north-stars.org**, for rates, mechanicals and deadlines.

Opinions expressed in the *Loype* are not necessarily those of the North Star Ski Touring Club or its editors.

President's Corner

Marketing plan will hopefully steer our club into a prosperous future

By Bruce Nelson

Bruce Nelson

The North Star Ski Touring Club's marketing plan is done and work will soon be underway on implementation. Your board funded development of the marketing plan with money from the North Star Grant Fund. The plan's objectives, which track closely with those of the grant fund, are to increase membership, improve our overall visibility and awareness, and enhance the club's marketing communications capacity. The draft marketing plan includes the following elements.

Positioning/Framing Cues

- NSSTC is Minnesota's sociable and recreational health source of cross-country ski touring adventures and other silent sports. Help audiences understand that there are welcoming options for joining others in healthy and energetic outdoor activities.
- Our club empowers passionate cross-country skiing and silent sports enthusiasts to become the next generation of inspiring and knowledgeable trip leaders. Help audiences understand that the club offers an established trip-leading program that provides training and learning beyond the outdoor experience.
- NSSTC's 50-year history is Minnesota's history, and a guiding star for cross-country skiing. Help audiences understand that Minnesota's cross-country ski industry is linked closely with our club's own history.

Strategies

- Position NSSTC as a welcoming resource for year-round outdoor silent sport activities that benefit the social and recreational health of the club's primary target audience of individuals 40 years of age and older.
- Develop a trip leader recruitment, mini-curriculum and recognition program by mining the knowledge of past leaders. This is to be done for the benefit and opportunity of future leaders.
- Raise awareness of NSSTC's 50th anniversary to underscore its impact on the development of the cross-country skiing industry in Minnesota and the continuing social and recreational health benefits today and in the future.

The full text of the marketing plan is available to members on the NSSTC web site, www.north-stars.org, under Resources -> Document Library.

Our new club web site takes off

Our Club Express-powered web site has now been in service nearly two months and members are taking advantage of its many new features. With a couple computer clicks you can sign up for a trip and communicate with trip leaders, link to weather or trail condition info, renew your membership, and read the current *Loype* (as well as past issues).

Be sure to save your member ID and password to make it easier to return to the "members only" parts of the web site. These include the membership roster, detailed trip descriptions, and subgroups of members with shared interests. Trip leaders can enhance their event description, post reports and photos, track who has paid or still owes money, and conveniently communicate with their trip participants.

All members are encouraged to sign in, complete their member profile and try out the many Club Express features. We are interested in learning from user experiences and suggestions. Feel free to contact Ron Brand at ron2132@gmail.com or membership@north-stars.org. Ron will do a web site demo and Q&A session at the January 10 general meeting.

In November all members were emailed instructions for logging into their personal profile and navigating Club Express features. If you think you did not receive the email or have misplaced it, first check to see if it went into your junk email or spam filter. If you still cannot locate the email, contact Membership Coordinator Sally Richards at 651-452-2247 or sallyrichards@gmail.com.

Do you know that the "Quick Events" tool on our web site allows you to post last-minute ski outings? This is very handy if new snowfall creates good conditions for a day trip to your favorite park. Simply click on the "Trips/Events" tab at the top of the home page, then "Trip Planning Info," then the link to "Submit a Quick Event."

North Stars came out to play, and work, in another warm and delightful autumn

One of the benign effects of global climate change, which the vast majority of North Stars accepts as fact rather than theory, is the recent trend towards long, warm and most delightful autumns in this part of the country. We've seen this weather for at least the past four autumns and have learned to embrace it. It is a great time to be outdoors whether playing, working or just soaking it all in.

Kathy St. Peters and Lois Laitinen led their annual hiking trip to the North Shore the weekend of September 29 to October 2. Twelve lucky people enjoyed three days of hiking the Superior Hiking Trail in the Tofte-Lutsen area. Temps were in the low to mid-60s, the sun broke through the morning clouds each day, and there was nary a drop of rain (unlike last year). Fall colors, beautiful as always, were at least a week away from peaking — another trend towards fall arriving later even in this part of the state. No one was complaining, though, about being able to hike in shorts and a T-shirt this late in the year.

On the Slim Lake Trail at du Nord, left to right: Ray Boll, Rob Andersen, Nancy Bloms, De Andersen and Jerry Bloms. Photo by Dave Siskind

Hikers on Britton Peak, left to right: Richard Perry, Ann Morrissey, Bruce Jacobson, Lee Wenzel, Mel Peterson, Carol Wahl, Lois Laitinen and Kathy St. Peters. Photo by Richard Perry

In addition to Dave Siskind's comments about our fall trail-clearing trips on the next page, Craig Freeman has this to say about the Camp du Nord trail-clearing trip the weekend of October 6-9:

It's funny how a little adversity makes an outing more memorable. When the North Stars headed out from Camp du Nord Friday morning to clear the North Arm ski trails, there was snow on the ground. The sky was cloudy with occasional drizzle, and it was cold. We braved the elements and nipped and sawed our way through all the trails in need over the course of two days.

The fall colors were beautiful. North Stars were aided by other du Nord volunteers. To celebrate our accomplishments we threw a dance for everyone Saturday night. Terrence Smith called the songs and his band of ten musicians made for a raucous and fun night. A large group — ranging in age from children to . . . well, you know, however old — danced till late in the evening. As an added bonus we celebrated Thor and Audry Nordwall's 28th wedding anniversary.

This will be the trail-clearing weekend that we'll talk about in the future. Remember when . . .

Okay, so maybe it wasn't always warm and sunny. But it will be an autumn long remembered by many of us. ***-MP***

Left photo submitted by Sally Richards: Sally conquers another fallen tree at Camp du Nord. Right photo by Dave Siskind: Gayle Jentz and Julia Andrix on Thor's Trail at du Nord. A future cover photo?

Trail Development

It was another successful season of trail clearing for North Star volunteers

By David Siskind

David Siskind

We had three weekend trail-clearing trips scheduled. All trips went well although a few more helpers for each would have been nice.

Camp du Nord was first with sixteen persons out of a hoped-for twenty. Dana Siskind and Inez Wick were the trip leaders but Dana, with her arm in a cast, was only there to supervise and Inez couldn't even attend because of work issues. So we had fourteen able-bodied North Stars plus other camp volunteers joining our crews. Dana and Thor Nordwall served as on-site organizers and supervisors.

There was snow on the ground on our first day and wet trail conditions on the North Arm trails. I managed to get a shoe imbedded in a bog and sat down on my butt trying to retrieve it. Despite the cold and wet conditions, we managed to do most of the work camp director Scott Olson had scheduled. Terrence Smith and wife Marge provided the music and dance Saturday evening, helped by a musical crew from Widjiwagan. We had a big dance participation thanks to all of the people in camp that weekend. The food was great and the accommodations for the North Stars were in three of the new cabins in the Northland Village.

The Banadad Trail was next, led by Tom Rice and myself. We had six people out of a maximum of nine desired. Again, there were other helpers that weekend with the Banadad Trail Association's annual meeting (and potluck that followed) also going on. This long trail in the BWCAW created problems of accessibility and a lot of walking was required. Fortunately, the weather was perfect: sunny, warm and dry.

The Banadad Trail crew. Front, left to right: Sally Richards, Julie Jenks and Priscilla Russell. Back, left to right: Andy Jenks, Tom Rice, Bryce Richards, Terry Grove and David Siskind. Photo submitted by Sally Richards

The trail's west end had been cleared previously and a crew of youths from the Minnehaha Academy ski team was expected later for what still remained to be done. There was much removal and cleaning up of downed trees, including some from last year's storms. Ted Young, our host, remarked that this was the most thorough job of trail clearing he'd seen in his 35 years there. The North Stars were housed in the Little Ollie Cabin and the B&B. Ted's wife, Barbara, prepared the most wonderful meals, making this a first-class weekend.

The third October trip, led by Frank Janezich, was to the North Shore trail system in the Tofte-Lutsen area. Here is his report:

"Eighteen North Star volunteers participated in our club's 34th year of trail clearing on the North Shore of Lake Superior. We teamed up with volunteers from the Norpine Trail Association and Sugarbush Trail Association. Six of us stayed at each of the following three resorts: Cascade Lodge, Solbakken Resort and Lutsen Resort.

"We were led by trail association members to a number of trails to cut trees that had fallen across the trail, remove overhanging branches, remove raspberry plants encroaching upon the trail, move a few boulders and repair water drainage culverts. Because the spring and summer seasons were quite wet we were limited to hiking only certain trails. The temperature was in the 40s and the light rain that fell for a few hours each day did not deter us from our trail work.

"On Saturday night we gathered at Solbakken for a dinner party provided by local merchants. It was a nice opportunity for all three trail crews to visit, greet old friends, and make new ones."

A hearty thanks to all who participated in this longtime North Star tradition of cleaning up trails in anticipation of the coming ski season.

Wednesday Wanderer Words

The new Cedar Avenue bridge beckons birders, bikers and hikers alike

By Al Mayer

Al Mayer

It was a long wait, but it finally happened — the reopening of the Cedar Avenue bicycle and pedestrian bridge across Meadow Lake. Some of you may remember how great it was when a new bridge was built across the Minnesota River in 1979, replacing the older swing bridge. Not only did this opening ease vehicular traffic crossing the river. When, at a later date, they hung a bicycle bridge on the east side of the bridge, it provided a way for cyclists and pedestrians to cross the river and get to the old part of the Cedar Avenue bridge which crossed Meadow Lake.

Since the bike bridge across the Minnesota River was not part of the bridge's original structure, it is recognized as a separate bridge in the National Bridge Inventory. Using this bridge to get to the bridge across Meadow Lake worked very well until 2002, when the Meadow Lake crossing was deemed unsafe and was closed.

The bridge remained closed until October of this year. It wasn't long after the opening of the bridge was announced that Gary Solberg organized a North Star ride that utilized this crossing to get to the south side of the Minnesota River, where he connected with Fort Snelling State Park trails and the Black Dog Trail. This opening of the Meadow Lake bridge is not only a boon for bikers and hikers, it is also great for birders. According to Molly Henke, who has led many early morning birding expeditions there along with Becky Lystig, this is one of the premier bird-watching locations in the state.

I was not able to make Gary's ride but did manage to go there following a Wednesday Wanderers event at Lebanon Hills. I couldn't believe how many people I saw coming and going while I was in the parking lot at the north end of the bridge. Many had cameras and were apparently there just to check things out. While there I also walked the reconditioned birders boardwalk just south of the bridge to the edge of Meadow Lake, and I noted how access to the Hogback Ridge and Bluff Trails has also been greatly improved.

And there is another point that might be of interest. The next time you are there, see if you can spot the red and green lights that hang under the bridge to mark the navigation channel.

I hope this article also serves as a special thank you from the North Stars to all who worked so diligently to restore this link to our great system of trails.

Thanksgiving: A season for doing and giving

On Tuesday, November 15, nineteen North Star volunteers showed up at the Food Group facility in New Hope to work on an assembly line to pack fresh produce into boxes which were later distributed to food shelves throughout the metro area. This is the largest turnout ever for this monthly volunteer effort by our club.

At the beginning of the production line a team assembles and tapes cardboard boxes and sends them down a roller conveyor. Meanwhile, line workers are busy unpacking produce from bulk containers and putting the designated number of items into each box as it rolls by. At the end of the line, another team is required to tape the boxes shut and stack them on a pallet in a prescribed pattern. While all this is going on, another team is responsible for breaking down the bulk containers in which the produce was received and putting them into the compactor.

During this three-hour period these volunteers packed 630 boxes of produce, which in total weighed 9,450 pounds (almost five tons). The Food Group estimates that this translates to 7,875 meals.

North Stars helping those less fortunate feed their families. Photo courtesy of the Food Group

This dedication to hard work for a good cause makes the North Stars one of the Food Group's top producers. Many thanks to all those North Star members who take advantage of this opportunity to volunteer each month and help make us proud of our club. ***- Al Mayer***

Nominations being accepted for Tim Knopp Award

NSSTC is what it is today because of our founding members and the efforts of thousands of volunteers. If there was one key figure, it was Tim Knopp. What we are today is a reflection of the effort he gave us during our first twenty years as a club. To fully appreciate his impact we have to remember that back then there were no public facilities for cross-country skiers in the U.S. outside of New England.

As a U of M forestry professor specializing in public recreational trails, Tim used his local, national and international contacts to proactively organize and lobby for trail projects for all seasons. By the time he died in 1989, Tim was moving beyond the basic loop trail systems and lobbying for point-to-point trails — as well as for multi-day trips modeled on the hut-to-hut trekking systems in Scandinavia and the American mountain west.

Tim was the first chairman of the VJC ski race sponsored by NSSTC. The VJC ran through the towns of Victoria, Jonathan and Chaska. It was a big event and both the American Birkebeiner and Mora Vasaloppet were built on the foundation laid by Tim and a little ski club of 180 members.

Tim served as club president from 1971-1972. He persuaded the Hennepin County Park Reserve to develop ski trails rather than snowmobile trails — trails we enjoy today in parks such as Baker, Murphy-Hanrehan and Elm Creek. He then compiled a book listing all the cross-country ski trails in the Twin Cities area. Tim also created and named the *Loype*, which means "track" in Norwegian, and he designed the NSSTC logo of five skiers in a row.

Our founders believed in sharing their knowledge about skiing with anyone who was interested, regardless of skills. Tim was our trail coordinator for many years. The groundwork for the club we have today, and the trail systems we now take for granted, were laid by Tim's steady, continuous efforts from 1970 to 1989.

As a way to continue honoring Tim's legacy and to provide ongoing recognition of our present-day leaders and volunteers, the club created the annual Tim Knopp Award in 2003. Previous recipients of this prestigious award are: Inez Wick, Norm Oakvik, Al Mayer, Pete Hawkins, Greg Fangel, Connie Donnelly, Bob O'Hara, Thor & Audry Nordwall, Tom Rice, John Holmquist, Bruce Jacobson, Fran Howley, Kathy Kelly & John Driscoll, and Dana & David Siskind.

Please send us your 2017 nominations by February 1. Our nominating committee consists of Lois Carlson, Al Fox and Inez Wick.

When considering a nominee's qualifications, think of someone who you believe has made a significant contribution to the club and/or to cross-country skiing. Achievements might include leading trips, serving as a club officer, or working on activities in support of and promoting the club. All past letters of nomination have been saved and those nominees will be considered along with new ones.

To submit your nominee's name, send a letter describing the person's achievements by February 1, 2017 to:

Cindy or Larry Koehler
12017 Summerset Lane
Burnsville, MN 55337

Or you can submit your nomination via email to clkoehler@usfamily.net.

Good grief! What's to become of a skier when winter is not what it used to be?

By John Holmquist

This article first appeared in the May 2000 ***Loype****. It is being reprinted here in part to honor the memory of John (see article on page 14) but especially because his insights and sentiments are as relevant today as they were seventeen years ago. Due to space considerations this article is excerpted from the original.*

The oxymoron "Good grief!" has been in the language forever, but we can thank that round-head kid, Charlie Brown, for its popularity. I'm writing this down in late February, just days after Birkebeiner 2000 was rained out, and I feel a kinship with the round-head kid.

The American Birkebeiner was postponed once but had never been cancelled for no snow. In its first fifteen years we worried about blizzards and cold snaps, not rain. Being familiar with what goes into the Birkebeiner, I grieve for its organizers. Most of their preparations for this year will not carry over to the next. I grieve for the loss of the pageantry that has become part of it, for loss of the camaraderie on the trail that makes each running unique. I grieve for the loss of waking up the morning after with that welcome kind of tiredness. And I grieve for the loss of that feeling of accomplishment, and for loss of that metabolic burst that earns me the right to graze, guiltless, through indecent quantities of forbidden food groups (for at least the rest of that day).

Most of all, I grieve for the future of our world here in the snow belt where skiing transcends mere sport to become a way of life. Racing is just one corner of it — Nordic skiing in microcosm — a test bench for our tour-skiing equipment and techniques.

Weather conditions have always been our big unknown — a metaphor for the challenges of life. We deal with the cold by learning how to dress and pace ourselves, how to keep from breaking anything, and how to take care of each other if we do. Changing weather and snow conditions teach us how to wax, and how to adjust our technique when we miss the wax. We learn hard lessons in durability, and the better we manage it the closer we come to achieving the fantasy of the Complete Skier.

Thoreau said, "My true security is in knowing what I can do without." But what if we are without snow? In these parts, a winter landscape devoid of snow is a different animal. With temps 30-plus degrees higher than normal, it can in fact be down-right eerie.

We North Stars have a tradition of enjoying ourselves regardless of what the weather gods dish out. On the morning of Birkebeiner 2000, after a week of cloudy drizzle and rain, the sun shone in a clear sky with mild temperatures. Not surprisingly, skiers appeared on the trail and slogged through wet snow with puddles at the bottoms of hills. They walked over bare spots and gathered on hilltops in congenial groups. A few of them did the entire course.

I'm also thinking of Marches and Aprils past when, even following months of good skiing, we'd go from snow patch to snow patch, our klister coated with dirt and pine needles, not wanting it to be over. All of this is a tribute to the Nordic spirit (yes, we've had dry winters before). However, recent episodes seem to be more than random warm spells. Does the Birkebeiner (both this one and the Norwegian model) face a succession of Chinooks that will make it no longer viable?

Long-range forecaster Bruce Watson, using 200 years of records, says that warm Februaries are a current trend. Paleobotanists and others are reading cores from the Greenland ice cap to learn more about weather and climate

(continued on page 16)

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January 2017

Jan 1, Sun {A} Ski Willow River State Park. Start the new year in style! Meet at 10:45 a.m. and begin skiing at 11:00. Gorgeous classic skiing along the Willow River and on the many wooded, hilly trails. The park's address is 1034 County Road A, Hudson, WI 54016. A state park permit is required. Take Exit #4 off I-94 and drive a few miles north to the park entrance. Follow the main park road all the way down to the river and park in the large lot, where we'll meet. There is no heated trail center but satellites are available. Plan on a few hours of skiing with lunch afterwards in Burkhardt. FFI: Mel Peterson, 651-776-4330 or alphamel52@comcast.net.

Jan 4, Wed {WW} Ski, Snowshoe or Hike. Location and activity will depend upon weather and snow conditions. Check the e-Loype or WW email for details closer to date of the event. FFI: Jane Batcheller, jkbatcheller@gmail.com.

Jan 6-8, Fri-Sun {AK} Ski Deep Portage Conservation Reserve. Please join us for our 28th annual North Star trip to the north woods near Hackensack, MN, north of Brainerd. With more than 18K of groomed ski trails just outside the door, including a short loop in easy terrain, Deep Portage provides perfect conditions for children and beginners just getting started, with plenty of challenges for more experienced skiers. Enjoy a full weekend of forested hills, good food, an indoor climbing wall and, on Saturday night, music and dancing with Terrence Smith. Comfortable accommodations include dorm rooms with showers and toilets, plus plenty of common spaces for socializing and/or relaxing with a book. Cost is $137 per person for two nights and five meals ($112 for children 13 and under, no charge for kids 5 and under). To reserve your place, send a check for the total amount per person, along with a signed trip waiver, to Margie Schally, 1619 Hague Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104. FFI: Margie Schally, 651-642-9755, mlschally@gmail.com; or co-leader Dave Siskind, 612-929-0205, dsiskind@earthlink.net.

Jan 10, Tue {A} January Membership Meeting. Program: "Border to Border: Skiing Across Finland." North Star member Stephanie Croteau skied the Rajalta Rajalle-Hiihto last winter. She will share her adventures of skiing across Finland, 440 km in 7 days, just below the Arctic Circle from the Russian border to the Swedish border. See page 2 for meeting details.

Jan 11, Wed {WW} Ski Afton State Park. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the ski shelter; ski/snowshoe/hike at 10:15. Bring a bag lunch and we'll eat in the shelter. A state park sticker and Great MN Ski Pass are required. Both are available at the park office. Directions: East on I-94 to the Manning Ave/Hwy 95 exit; go south on Hwy 95 to County Rd 20/70th St S; turn left (east) and proceed on Cty Rd 20 to the park. FFI: Jean Moede, 651-227-4763 or moede001@umn.edu.

Jan 13-16, Fri-Mon {AK} Annual MLK Maplelag Weekend. Ski, snowshoe and other activities. North Stars have been going to Maplelag for more than 45 years. Al Porter and Barb Wahman are taking a break this time as leaders; instead, Al's daughter, Cindy Porter, and friend Tammy Lambas will be co-leading this year's trip. Enjoy the camaraderie, hospitality and gourmet meals (including the never-empty cookie jars). There is superb skiing on impeccably groomed trails right out your door — with over 70K of trails, including more than 15K of skating trails. They also have many kilometers of snowshoe trails. This will be a carpooling trip with NEW MEMBER PRIORITY. There is a hot tub that accommodates over 30 people, plus a steam room and both an indoor and outdoor sauna. Massage therapists are also available and are very popular. There will be a Saturday night dance and a variety show on Sunday night. Cost is $335 for adults, $135 for kids 8-14, $99 for kids 4-7, and kids 3 and under go free. The trip includes nine meals if you arrive in time for supper on Friday. Send trip waiver with a $100/person deposit (check payable to Tammy Lambas) to 5644 Sheridan Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55410. *There will be no refund of the deposit once the down payment has been mailed to Maplelag around mid-December*. FFI: Tammy Lambas, 612-913-4227 or email her (preferred) at tblambas@gmail.com.

Jan 15-22, Sun-Sun {A} Ski SilverStar in British Columbia. ***This trip is full with a long waiting list.*** Trip details can be found on the club web site, www.north-stars.org.

Jan 17, Tue {A} Food Group Volunteers. We are looking for volunteers to work one day a month at the Food Group facility in New Hope, 8501 54th Ave N. We usually volunteer from 9:30 a.m. to noon, packaging produce. Directions: I-94/694 to Boone Ave exit, south on Boone to 54th Ave N, turn left; the Food Group building will be on your right. From MN 100 head west on CR 9 (42nd St), then go north on Boone to 54th and turn right. From US 169 take the 49th Ave exit and head east to Boone; north on Boone to 54th, turn right. FFI: Al Mayer, 952-545-4232, or on my cell phone (612-817-6814) one hour before we are scheduled to work.

Jan 17, Tue {AK} Hike Wood Lake. Join us for a midwinter hike at Wood Lake Nature Center, 6710 Lake Shore Drive in Richfield. If there is enough snow we could turn this hike into a moonlight ski. Bring a flashlight for the trails and meet us in the parking lot at 6:30 p.m. We'll have treats following the hike at one of the restaurants on 66th St. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205

Jan 18, Wed {WW} Ski Lebanon Hills. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the Schulze Lake Visitor Center, 860 Cliff Rd in Eagan, for skiing and/or snowshoeing. Bring a lunch to enjoy afterwards in the bright and comfortable community room. Hot beverages are available for purchase. A Dakota County trail pass is required. FFI: Jeanne LaBore, 612-386-2329 or jeannelabore@gmail.com.

Jan 19, Thurs {WW,A} Ski, Snowshoe or Hike William O'Brien State Park + Lutefisk Dinner. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at the park's visitor center, 16821 O'Brien Trail N in Marine on St. Croix. Ski/snowshoe/hike from 10:45 to 12:15. Join us to ski or just come for the wonderful lutefisk dinner (meatballs for the timid) at 12:30 at Christ Lutheran Church, 150 5th St in Marine. Price is approx. $18. FFI: Audry Nordwall, 651-766-5857 or nord564@hotmail.com.

Jan 20-22, Fri-Sun {A} Glendalough State Park and Spidahl Ski Gaard. The Battle Lake area is just beyond Alexandria, only 2-1/2 hours from the Twin Cities. Two great trail systems to ski are Glendalough State Park with 11 km of groomed trails and Spidahl Ski Gaard with 24 km of classical and skate-ski trails for beginner to intermediate skiers. Meals, which are not included in the price, will be at nearby restaurants. You will need a state park sticker and Great MN Ski Pass to ski Glendalough, and the Spidahl trail fee is $9. Cost estimate is $125 for double occupancy. Limit of 25 participants (flexible). Send trip waiver and deposit of $50/person (check payable to trip leader) to Bruce Nelson, 1918 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104. FFI: Bruce at 651-647-4326 or brucen1918@gmail.com.

Jan 21, Sat {AK} Kids Explore Centennial Lakes. This is one of our favorite places to go ice skating. Bring your skates and join us at 10:30 a.m. at the pavilion (warming house) at 76th St and France Ave S in Edina. They also have skates to rent (even in small sizes) as well as balance aides (chairs, sleds, etc.). Bring a bag lunch if you wish or they have snacks and great hot chocolate there. Jason's Deli is also close. FFI: Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205, or Elizabeth Dittrich, 952-935-5153.

Jan 25, Wed {WW} Katherine Abbott Park in Mahtomedi. The activity will depend upon weather and snow conditions. Check the e-Loype or WW email for details closer to date of the event. FFI: Jan Rupert, 612-388-0037 or janrupert@aol.com.

Jan 27-29, Fri-Sun {A} Ski Bayfield. ***This trip is full with a waiting list — but you are encouraged to add your name to the list.*** Full trip details can be found on the NSSTC web site, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Chip Treen or Laura Baker, ctreenmn@gmail.com or 651-429-2412.

Jan 30-Feb 2, Mon-Thurs {A} Ski Camp du Nord. This is the second year for a midweek trip to YMCA Camp du Nord near Ely. Join us to ski the North Arm Trails (the ones we worked on in October) near camp or venture into the BWCAW on skier-set trails (we may need to break some of these open). These trails are classic skiing only but if you like to skate-ski you can drive into Hidden Valley in town. We have reserved three of the new cabins in Northland Village; limit of 21 people. There may be an option to reserve the fourth cabin as well if we have enough interest. Each cabin has a fully equipped kitchen, a fireplace in the living room and a bathroom with shower. We'll be cooking our own meals (the camp requires a minimum of 30 people for food service). Total cost is about $160, perhaps less. Send a signed waiver and deposit of $100 per person (check payable to the leader) to David Siskind, 5812 Thomas Circle, Minneapolis, MN 55410. FFI: David or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

February 2017

Feb 1, Wed {WW} Ski Hyland Lake Park Reserve in Bloomington. Snow is never a problem at Hyland Hills. Ski at 12:20 p.m. (because peak daytime temp on average is 4-5 hours before sunset, which is at 5:20 today). Meet at the Hyland Visitors Center as early as 11:30 a.m. to socialize, enjoy your pre-ski energy snack or brown bag lunch, and possibly form into fast and not-so-fast groups (or those wanting to ski more or fewer kilometers). We will select trail leaders/sweeps or just default to Plan B. FFI: Nick Mavrogenis, 763-571-8350.

Feb 3-5, Fri-Sun {A} Ski Cloquet Forestry Center. Stay at the Cloquet Forestry Center and ski or snowshoe on trails at the center; or drive to groomed cross-country trails at nearby Jay Cooke State Park, Fond du Lac State Forest, Spirit Mountain, Magney-Snively and the After Hours trail system in Brule, WI. There are lots of ski options to choose from. Cabins at the center are comfortable dorm-style (two people per room) and delicious meals are served in the dining hall. Limit of 40 people. Cost of $122 per person includes two nights' lodging, two breakfasts, a bag lunch for Saturday and dinner that evening. Registration is encouraged on Club Express if this option is activated. Or you can send your trip waiver and

deposit of $61/person (check payable to Dan Jacobson) to 1803 Princeton Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105-1918. FFI: Dan Jacobson, 651-698-2925, or Martha Hoffman, 651-696-1089.

Feb 3-5, Fri-Sun {AK} Kathio State Park Candlelight Ski. A 28-year North Star tradition! Come to beautiful Kathio State Park and ski through the park by moonlight and luminaries. Kathio is a perfect weekend getaway offering skiing at all levels, ski rentals, ice skating and snowshoeing. For the young-at-heart there's a super sliding hill, too. After the candlelight ski on Saturday enjoy stargazing with an astronomer, bluegrass music and hot cider. Lodging at Camp Onomia is close to the cities, cozy, comfortable, and offers quiet places to be alone or to socialize by the fire. In the past we have visited the Mille Lakes Ojibwe Indian Museum and have done some geocaching with GPS units at the park. As always, bring a good book and/or your knitting. Don't forget the kids! The cost, which includes four meals, is $101 for adults and $80 for youths 4-17 years of age. Send trip waiver and deposit of $50/person or $100/family (check payable to leader) to Colleen Cavell, 6009 Wooddale Ave, Edina, MN 55424. FFI: Colleen at 952-927-4703 or cavell.colleen@gmail.com.

Feb 4, Sat {AK} Kids Explore. Jan Rupert is going to plan this event, probably sledding and/or hiking at Katherine Abbott Park in Mahtomedi. Watch for details in the e-Loype closer to the date. FFI: Jan at 612-388-0037.

Feb 5-10, Sun-Fri {A} Ski Trip to Bearskin Lodge on the Gunflint Trail. ***This trip is full with a waiting list — but you are encouraged to add your name to the list.*** Full trip details are on the club web site, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Fran Howley, 612-869-8971 or franmhowley@gmail.com.

Feb 7, Tue {AK} Hike Centennial Lakes. Join us for a brisk walk around Centennial Lakes Park in Edina (76th St and France Ave S). Meet at 6:30 p.m. in or near the warming house (pavilion). This is also a great place to ice skate. We'll end the evening with hot chocolate or other treats from the concession stand, sitting by the fireplace and watching the skaters and ice sculptures. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Feb 8, Wed {WW} Ski Wild River State Park. Ski and snowshoe trails right from the heated ski center. Meet at 10:00 a.m. and be on the trails at 10:15. The park is 55 miles from Minneapolis and is reached via I-35 north to the North Branch exit. Turn right and follow Highway 95 through town, then follow the brown signs to the park. Trails are groomed; be sure to bring a bag lunch. FFI: Will Short, 612-728-1911 or wshort@isd.net.

Feb 10-12, Fri-Sun {A} Ski Minocqua, WI. ***This trip is full with a waiting list — but you are encouraged to add your name to the list.*** Full trip details can be found on the NSSTC web site, www.north-stars.org.
FFI: Arne Stefferud, 651-772-4367, alstefferud@gmail.com; or Susan Von Mosch, 651-488-2139, susanvm099@gmail.com.

Feb 14, Tue {A} February Club Meeting. This month's program, "Working Together to Address Climate Change," is presented by Citizens Climate Lobby, an organization committed to building constructive, working relationships with members of Congress to find real solutions to the many threats of global climate change. The meeting is at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Ave in Richfield, at 7:00 p.m. Social hour begins at 6:30. See page 2 for more details.

Feb 15, Wed {WW} Ski Fort Snelling State Park. Meet at the nature center at 10:00 a.m. and begin skiing at 10:15.

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Bring a bag lunch to eat after a great morning of skiing. FFI: David or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Feb 17-20, Fri-Mon {A} Ski Wolverine/ ABR. Join us for four great days of skiing & snowshoeing in the U.P. during President's Weekend. We will stay at Wolverine Village (www.wolverinevillage.com). Wolverine Nordic Center is across the street and ABR is a ten-minute drive. Wolverine Village has several cabins, a dining hall, a separate bathroom/ shower building, laundry facilities and a waxing room. Share cooking and cleanup in the dining hall. Cost of $150 includes three nights' lodging and all meals from Friday dinner through Monday lunch. Ski passes not included. Limit of 24 people. No refunds after February 2, 2017 unless your spot can be filled. Send waiver and $150 check to Stephanie Croteau, 3212 Edmund Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55406. *Please include your email address on the waiver.* FFI: Stephanie Croteau, 612-354-2025, or MK Burmesch, 612-247-5793.

Feb 17-20, Fri-Mon {A} Ski Timm's Hill. Join us for our eighteenth annual trek to Wisconsin's highest point. The lodge, High Point Village at Timm's Hill, is located 200 miles from the Twin Cities in gently rolling hills and forests of north-central Wisconsin. Ski directly from your cabin (see them at www.highpointvillage.com) or drive to two well-maintained nearby ski areas. All levels of skiing are available for both skating and diagonal stride. Snowshoes are also available for a change of pace. Cost of approx. $200 includes three nights' lodging, breakfasts Saturday thru Monday, and a Saturday social gathering and dinner. Sunday dinner will be a potluck. Dinner is served in the hand-built log lodge with breakfasts served on-site at the Hill of Beans Coffee Shop/Cafe. Lunches are on your own. Each cabin has a fully-equipped kitchen and the cafe offers soups and sandwiches until 3:00 p.m. (and is open until 7:00 on Fridays). Friday dinner is not included in trip cost. Limit of 16 people. Send signed waiver and $100/person deposit (check payable to Julie Holmen) to 1341 Saint Albans Street N, St. Paul, MN 55117. Balance due January 15. We have routinely had excellent snow but trip will go regardless of snow conditions. FFI: Julie Holmen, 651-489-1173 or julie-holmen43@centurylink.net.

Feb 21, Tue {A} Food Group Volunteers. A monthly gathering at the Food Group facility in New Hope. We usually work from 9:30 a.m. to noon, packaging produce. See January 17 listing for details.

Feb 22, Wed {WW} Ski or Snowshoe at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Meet at the Schulze Lake Visitor Center, 860 Cliff Rd in Eagan, at 10:00 a.m.; start skiing at 10:15. To ski here you must purchase a county ski pass at the center. Bring a lunch. FFI: Sally Richards, 651-452-2247 or 651-210-3807 (cell), or sallyrichards@gmail.com.

Feb 24-26 or 27, Fri-Sun or Mon {A} Ski the North Shore of Lake Superior. The North Shore has all the skiing you could want with a number of trail systems within 15 miles of Silver Bay. We'll be staying at the AmericInn in Silver Bay, where we have a block of rooms (approx. 14) set aside at group rates. Skiers must make their own reservations with the hotel by Jan 23; call 218-226-4300 and tell them you are with the North Star Ski Touring Club. The room rate for Friday and Saturday is $119.95 per night. If you choose the option of staying Sunday night as well, the room rate is $99.95. Each room has two queen beds with a small refrigerator. You will need to find your own roommates in advance. We again have a meeting room (with a bigger fridge than in the rooms) in which to gather, have meals and play games. It's a real plus. Amenities included in the price: warm breakfasts (coffee and hot water are always available in the lobby), a pool, hot tub and sauna. We'll cater a Saturday night pizza/salad dinner, with a program yet to be decided. This is a NEW MEMBER PRIORITY TRIP so 20% of the spots are reserved for these folks. Please send a signed waiver, with any food restrictions clearly stated on the form, and a deposit of $25 (check made payable to Corliss O'Donnell), to Corliss at 6679 Kingsview Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Corliss O'Donnell, 763-559-8945.

March 2017

Mar 1, Wed {WW,S} Ski, Snowshoe or Hike. The weather and trail conditions will determine the outing. Please see the e-Loype closer to the date for further information.
FFI: Ann Morrissey or Bruce Jacobson, 651-698-4210.

Mar 3-5, Fri-Sun {A} Ski Suomi Hills at Camp Hiawatha. Join us for the 28th edition of this perennial favorite featuring the exceptional skiing at Suomi Hills and several other great trail systems in the Grand Rapids area. Even with a small price increase this year, the trip is still reasonably priced at $115 for food and lodging for the weekend. The camp features a new dining hall, a hot sauna and a retreat center to facilitate socializing. Due to the hilly terrain and remote trails, this trip is not recommended for novice skiers. Limit is 50. Deposit of $30 per person due by Feb 17 after which it is nonrefundable without replacement. Send trip waivers and deposits (checks payable to Pete Hawkins) to Pete Hawkins, 3008 County Road I, Mounds View, MN 55112. *PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS* on the waiver

Monthly activity schedule {A} All members, {AK} All plus kids, {S} Adult Singles, {WW} Wednesday Wanderers

so I can send the trip letter electronically about two weeks before the trip. FFI: Pete at pmh706@gmail.com or 763-786-3792.

Mar 4, Sat {AK} Kids Explore Elm Creek Park. How many of our little people have tried skiing? Sam and Joey are both learning and they love it! Elm Creek makes its own snow and has ski rentals down to toddler sizes. Meet us in the visitor center at 10:30 a.m. and join us for some great fun. Be sure to bring water bottles and trail snacks since skiing takes lots of energy. You might also want to bring a bag lunch or plan to purchase food at the visitor center. FFI: Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205, or Elizabeth Dittrich, 952-935-5153.

Mar 4-12, Sat-Sun {A} Return to Stokely Creek. ***This trip is full with a waiting list — but you are encouraged to add your name to the list.*** Full trip details can be found on the NSSTC web site, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Rick Charboneau, 612-716-1082 or charb002@hotmail.com.

Mar 8, Wed {WW,S} Ski, Snowshoe or Hike Hyland Park Reserve. Please see the e-Loype closer to the date for further information. FFI: Connie Campbell, 612-928-9415.

Mar 11-20, Sat-Mon {A} Ski Norway. ***This trip is full with a waiting list — but you are encouraged to add your name to the list.*** Full trip details can be found on the NSSTC web site, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Solveig Olson, solveigjolson@gmail.com or 612-377-2483.

Mar 21, Tue {A} Food Group Volunteers. A monthly gathering at the Food Group facility in New Hope. We usually work from 9:30 a.m. to noon, packaging produce. See January 17 listing for details.

Mar 21, Tue {AK} Hike Wood Lake. Spring is here! Let's check out Wood Lake Nature Center, 6710 Lake Shore Drive in Richfield, for any hints that winter is losing its grip. Bring a flashlight for the trails and meet us in the parking lot at 6:30 p.m. We'll have treats following the hike at one of the local restaurants. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Spring Banquet: April 23

This will be our 50th anniversary banquet! It will be held on a Sunday evening at Keller Golf Course in Maplewood. Full details in the March/April *Loype*.

In memoriam

One of the realities of a club celebrating 50 years of existence is the sad fact that some of our elderly, longtime members are passing on in life. 2016 was an especially difficult year for North Star as we lost eight members. We would like to remember them here, thank them for their many contributions over the years, and wish them Godspeed on wherever their next journey might take them. Much of what we love about our club today is the result of the time and efforts given by these good people. They will be truly missed.

Sally Duncan
Bill Handsaker
Leslie Hollister
John Holmquist
Kathy Horton (who died much too young at the age of only 62)
Glen Olson
Jack Toenniges
Bob Tokar

John Holmquist, a gentle man, was truly a giant in the history of our club

By Mel Peterson

John Holmquist, who served as our president from 1984-86 and held numerous other board positions over the decades, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2016 after a lengthy illness. He was 88 years old and is one of many members to pass away in what can only be described as a year of great loss for our club.

I choose to write here about John because I knew him well. We often skied together, we biked in the fall of the year and talked about nothing but the coming winter, and we drove together to a number of citizen races with my old buddy Kirk Meyer. One of my fondest memories is sharing beers and laughter in a remote northern Minnesota cabin after a weekend of wilderness skiing. There was a mutual admiration, I think, although I looked up to my friend as the kind of man who, try as I might, I would never become. He had it all together. He was something special.

John, a light and slender man, was truly a giant in our club. If Jinny McWethy was our beloved Mother North Star, John was our gentle father figure, both wise and soft-spoken, who steered our ship for decades and kept us on course. He loved to cross-country ski (indeed, he loved to race) and he had a passion for our club.

He was the recipient of the prestigious 2012 Tim Knopp Award for his dedication to both skinny skiing and our club. In addition to his two years as president, John served on the board over the years as trips coordinator, special projects chairman, government liaison and esteemed *Loype* editor. It was he who ushered the design and production of our newsletter into the electronic age.

After skiing in his first VJC ski race in the early 1970s, John became addicted to racing and at his peak did one or two races a week-end. He also held the distinction of being a "Birkie Founder" — an honor given to those few who completed the first ten races of the American Birkebeiner 55K race from Hayward to Cable, WI. Each member of this elite group was given a racing bib with the word "Founder" clearly printed on the front. John did about 24 Birkies altogether before health issues forced him to retire from racing. He was well into his 70s by then, and while he stopped racing the man was no slouch on skis.

He was also, in the opinion of many, the finest and most gifted writer to ever grace the pages of the *Loype.* His writing seemed both effortless and flowing as it welcomed the reader into what John had to share. And what he had to share was always worth taking the time to read. Whether he was being impishly funny or deadly earnest, John just knew how to make his point in a warm and congenial manner. To get a sense of his writing style, and his insights into the issues of the day, please read on page 8 the excerpt of an article he wrote for the *Loype* in 2000.

A calm and pragmatic man, John was always one of the first to be consulted when issues arose and we needed a steady, valuable voice in the discussion. His soft voice echoed loudly.

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Water access furnished summer cabin 17 miles northeast of Ely, MN. 100ft from BWCA boundary on Moose Lake, a BWCA and Canadian Quetico (Prairie Portage) direct access lake. Spectacular view from deck and dock up the famous Moose Lake chain toward the Canadian wilderness

Cabin is A-frame style with side bedroom addition: 1BR + loft, kitchen, 3/4 bath. Furnished, electricity, telephone, wi-fi, certified septic system.

Access by boat from public landing or outfitter across lake. Perfect for paddlers, BWCA lovers; in quiet bay with 3 other occasionally-used cabins. Great fishing, swimming from dock, talkative loons of course. $139,000.

Contact Robin and Jim McWethy jbmcwethy@gmail.com 952-473-0671

John at the Birkie, circa 1994. Photo by David Siskind

John had a passion for many things in life: skiing, biking, running, reading, gardening, a wide variety of music, and his beloved Prospect Park neighborhood in Minneapolis. He was a community activist who for many years edited the neighborhood newsletter. In later years he even took up tap dancing.

A geological engineer by trade but a man who in his lifetime learned to wear many hats, John was often called by friends the closest to a Renaissance man that they had ever met. Can any man receive a greater compliment?

A memorial service for our good friend was held on December 10, 2016. It was very well attended and provided us an opportunity to say farewell to a truly great man upon whom the foundation of our club is largely built.

Al Porter, left, and John share a story at the 2008 NSSTC spring banquet. Photo by David Siskind

John's son has asked that we share the following statement with you: "I would just like to thank everyone in North Star for their years of friendship and camaraderie with my father. Skiing was his passion and he spent some of his happiest times on the trails and with his friends in North Star."

John Holmquist: leader extraordinaire

By Lucy Osojnicki

I first met John Holmquist in 1985 when he was club president and I was serving as singles trips coordinator. I don't think I've ever met a more capable leader. John had all the qualities one would expect in a president. He was perceptive, responsive, personable, decisive, open-minded, creative and inspiring. He possessed integrity and had excellent communication skills.

I did not get to know him better until I started going on his annual fall Mississippi River hike. When the hikes disappeared from the North Star schedule, I asked John if he would be willing to lead the hikes again if I agreed to co-lead them. Thus began a partnership that began around 1998 and lasted until 2013.

Joan Barnett, John and Solveig Olson at his 83rd birthday party in 2011. Photo by Lucy Osojnicki

The hikes all started at Boom Island Park in Minneapolis and went downriver to the Stone Arch Bridge, or sometimes as far as the University of Minnesota. After crossing the river we would head back upriver to Saint Anthony Main, where we treated ourselves to lunch. On a nice fall day we would sit out on the patio next to the Aster Café.

Sometimes John forgot something important (like his wedding anniversary) and had to back out. But I still led the hike (the advantage of having a co-leader). As John's health started to decline, he would still show up at the start of the hike but would turn around at the Hennepin Avenue Bridge.

John was a geological engineer by occupation but a writer at heart. I always enjoyed reading his column in the *Loype* and also his letters to the editor in the Star Tribune. He was just so insightful and intelligent. With his positive attitude and pleasant demeanor, one couldn't help but like the guy.

The last time I saw John was the day of our annual Mississippi River hike, October 16 of last year. I went right from the hike to visit John at Augustana apartments in downtown Minneapolis. He was resting but got up to visit with me for a bit. I felt bad that I never got back there to visit him again, but glad for that one visit. He was truly one special person. Look for a memorial hike next year.

Good grief! *(continued from page 8)*

patterns dating back thousands of years. The news is troublesome. Some findings suggest that we have been living through a period of abnormally benign weather — a period that coincides with the agricultural and industrial revolutions, now fed by technological advances, that have brought huge world increases in human population — whereas the long-term worldwide norm is a more violent pattern of wider swings in weather. The record from the Greenland ice cap also shows that drastic changes can happen so swiftly as to give us no time to adapt.

There's more. Today the reality of man-made climate change has found consensus among scientists. It is denied only by the scientific fringe, and by those who would profit from ignoring the problem. (Not the insurance industry; they are clearly worried at the prospect of huge claims resulting from future "acts of God.")

"Global warming" is a glib term that seduces us with thoughts of February golf in Duluth and Bemidji. Non-skiers like it. Even some skiers would swap their skis for sandals and Bermuda shorts if that's the deal. However, the more accurate term is "climate change" and the eventual reality is more likely drought, flood and social upheaval. Most of the world's atmospheric conditions that can go wrong seem to be following Murphy's Law, with the help of our burgeoning populations and lifestyles. *El Nino* and *La Nina* have probably been around forever, but are only now becoming the villains in the melodrama of weather catastrophes.

I'd love to be proven wrong about this. If the next quarter century returns us to normality, with an annual four months of blue-wax skiing in the Twin Cities, I will happily accept the fate of Cassandra.

The odds are overwhelmingly against that. And, in the overall picture I've drawn, the plight of skiers and skiing is nothing compared to the larger consequences for all life forms. As for the man-made part of the problem, there are things we can do to mitigate it. In fact, if we took the right steps in a timely fashion we would enhance our world economy.

Any mitigation would take time, but the payoff could be nothing less than the avoidance of world chaos. Good grief! We might even bequeath to our children and grandchildren a ski season with real snow.

Remember when . . . . looking back at trips and events from the past

By Dana Siskind and Inez Wick

A perusing of old *Loypes* brings to life some of these events from the recent (and not-so-recent) past:

- In the summer of 2000, Ginner Ruddy and Pat Lawrence led a long weekend trip to Bayfield and Madeline Island -- an event where monkey masks played a part.

  The first day featured a dreary full day of biking. A small group of pirate castaways decided to connect with their primate beginnings and paid a visit to Monkey Business, a local establishment that won't be easily forgotten. An array of monkey masks was deemed necessary to purchase for our pirated and fellow castaways. Greunke's restaurant hosted the evening fish boil, where the pirates donned their masks and proceeded to take over the outside bistro.

  The next day the group biked on Madeline Island. After Irish music and a play later in the day, the tired bikers caught the last ferry back to Bayfield.

  "K" is for kayaking and that is what they did on their final day. Many were first-time kayakers. With some apprehension they followed their guide onto a calm and inviting Lake Superior. Three hours of paddling along the shoreline, safe in their gently rocking kayaks, allowed everyone to see nesting wildlife, scenic inlets and incredible rock formations. After a seaside lunch, handshakes, hugs and well-wishing sent the North Stars on their way home in the bright midday sun.

- Mel Peterson wrote this update in the October 2000 *Loype* about the Kirk Meyer Memorial Bike Ride on Sunday, October 8: "Because of the anticipated large turnout, it appears that the Voyageur Café in Marine will be inadequate as a breakfast stop. So we are planning a light catered brunch at the interpretive center in William O'Brien State Park, just north of Marine. We'll have muffins, sweet rolls, juice and coffee for all riders. If you do not plan to ride but would like to still be a part of the festivities, just meet us at the center between 11:30 and noon for the brunch."

  Something like 50 people turned out for the ride. We can only say, after all these years, that having that many show up to ride in honor of Kirk is an amazing tribute to our great friend.

It was another great weekend at the Outdoor Adventure Expo

The NSSTC booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November drew an estimated 300-plus outdoor enthusiasts to speak with our volunteers about the club. 64 people filled out a "trial membership" form for a complimentary membership expiring in April of this year. The event provided us great visibility to prospective members and was a good opportunity to connect with other organizations.

We have been setting up and staffing a booth at the Expo pretty much since it was launched decades ago. This is annually one of our best opportunities to reach out to winter enthusiasts and show them what our great club has to offer. It is especially fun to visit with our friends from northern Minnesota who come down for the event.

A huge thanks goes to coordinator Ron Brand and these twenty North Star volunteers who set up and staffed the booth for the weekend:

Diane Boushek
Jon Clark
Stephanie Croteau
Jerry Hall
Fran Howley
Gail Lundeen Brand
Gerry & Rita Manninen
Paul O'Brien
Mel Peterson
Sally Richards
Jim Ruhl
Cal & Joyce Schadel
Dana Siskind
Arne Stefferud
Kathy Steinberger
George Vania
Ellen Watson
Inez Wick

A great fall day and a great turnout!

It was never more evident than on Sunday, November 13 that North Stars enjoy the outdoors. On this great autumnal day, when the thermometer hit the low 60s, more than 50 North Stars participated in the day's scheduled activities.

These included a getting-in-shape-for-the-coming-ski-season hike (Mel Peterson's hilly training hike with poles at Afton State Park); getting in one more fair weather bike ride (Gary Solberg exploring a new section of the Nine-Mile Creek Trail in Edina); and "it's just a great day to be outdoors" leisurely hike, led by Al Mayer, on the boardwalk along both sides of Minnehaha Creek in St. Louis Park.

This spectacular day reaffirmed what many of us in North Star already know: If you schedule it (and the weather cooperates), they will come, oftentimes in great numbers.

Where is my membership directory?

The January/February issue of the *Loype* traditionally contains the annual membership directory. It is not in this issue, for good reason, and we apologize to those who may be inconvenienced by its absence. Let us explain.

The capabilities of our new Club Express-powered web site allow us to post the directory online (and save on printing costs as well). You will find it at www.north-stars.org. Simply click on the "Membership" tab at the top of the home page and follow the link to the directory. We think you'll be pleased with how easy it is to access and peruse.

NORTH STAR SKI TOURING CLUB

Household Membership Form

NEW ☐ **RENEW** ☐ **NUMBER ON MAILING LABEL** _____ **CHANGE** ☐

Name _____

Additional Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

E-mail _____

Telephone (_____) _____

☐ I do not want my phone number listed in the printed membership roster

☐ I already receive the Wednesday Wanderers weekly e-mail OR
☐ I wish to receive the Wednesday Wanderers weekly e-mail

☐ I already receive the weekly e-Loype OR ☐ I wish to receive the e-Loype

How did you find us? North Star web site ☐ North Star Brochure ☐
SkinnySki web site ☐ Midwest Mountaineering Expo ☐
Friend ☐ Sugarbush Trail Association web site ☐
Other ☐ Specify_____

Mailing Type (please circle)

	Bulk Rate	First Class
1 year	$20	$25
2 years	$38	$48
3 years	$56	$71

Rev 8/1/16

I am interested in:

- ☐ Singles Division
- ☐ Leading Trips
- ☐ Assist Trip Leaders
- ☐ Trail Work
- ☐ Special Projects

Membership Amount

$_____

Trail Fund Donation

$_____

Total Amount Enclosed

$_____

While you are encouraged to register and pay your membership dues online at www.north-stars.org, you can also mail this form and a check to:

NSSTC, Inc.
P.O. Box 4275
St. Paul, MN 55104-0275

NORTH STAR SKI TOURING CLUB

Trip Reservation and Waiver Form

Use this form if you are signing up for a scheduled multi-day club trip

Trip date(s) _____ **Destination** _____ **Number of places** _____

Membership expiration date _____ *(Check the address label on your Loype)*

Deposit enclosed _____ *(Make checks payable to the trip leader)*

***NOTE**: Trip deposits will be refunded only if the cancelled reservation can be filled and no additional cost is incurred by trip leaders or other participants. Any refunds will be made after the trip is completed. Any non-refunded deposits will be applied to trip expenses.*

Name _____ **Name** _____

Home phone _____ Day phone _____ This is my (our) first trip _____

Street address _____ This is a new membership _____

City, state, ZIP _____ E-mail _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

WAIVER: I acknowledge that the following activity, _____, has inherent risks, hazards and dangers for its participants, including risk of injury or death, and in consideration of my participation I agree for myself, my heirs, successors, executors and subrogees to hold harmless for any claim for any damages or injuries to myself or any minor child or ward of mine the North Star Ski Touring Club (NSSTC), its members, trip leaders and officers, and further agree to defend and indemnify NSSTC from any claim or injuries to said minor child or ward of mine.

Members of this party have the following physical or medical conditions or dietary needs the trip leader should be aware of:

_____

(Name, signature and date are required for adult members of party)

Name _____ Signed _____ Date _____

Name_____ Signed _____ Date _____

Name(s) of minor children _____

(Minors must have parent or guardian sign)

Signed _____ Date _____

Leaders: After trip, mail completed forms to NSSTC Safety Coordinator, P.O. Box 4275, St. Paul, MN 55104.

Rev 1/14/12

Do you need to print extra copies of the form above or our day activity waiver?
You can find them on the NSSTC website, www.north-stars.org.
Click on the "Resources" tab at the top of the page, then click on "Document Library."

NORTH STAR
SKI TOURING
CLUB

Box 4275, St. Paul, MN 55104

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