



Løype

News of the North Star Ski Touring Club

www.north-stars.org



Volume 50 ♦ Number 3 ♦ November/December 2017

Winter Trips Sign-up Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 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. - Sign-ups begin

This is your chance to meet trip leaders, ask questions and sign up for one or more of the outings on our winter trip schedule. The schedule appears later in this newsletter. Be sure to bring along trip waiver forms (leaders will also have them) and your checkbook, along with your enthusiasm!

As an added bonus, Nancy Nelson, volunteer coordinator for the World Masters Championship in January, will stop by. She will talk briefly about this fabulous event happening at Wirth Park in Minneapolis from January 18–26.

We will also have people there to answer questions about our (still) new website. You can ask about the trips calendar, Quick Events, trip submissions, trip registration and payment, as well as helpful features like trail and weather information, popular trip sites, club policies, document archives, and photo galleries.

December Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

St. Peter's Church - Same Time

Program: "Historic Biking of the Minneapolis Lakes" Al Mayer. See page five for details.

Cover photo by Madeleine Kerr

Making tracks on Hegman Lake.

Back cover photo submitted by George Vania

George Vania and Sam Meddaugh on a 1980s Colorado hut-to-hut trip.

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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Løype Mailing: Dana Siskind & Friends, 612-929-0205

e-Løype Editor: Fran Howley, 612-869-8971, eloype@north-stars.org

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e-Løype Submissions..... eloype@north-stars.org

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 *Løype* 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 *Løype* (i.e. December 1 for the January/February issue); or send an email with full event details to schedules.trips.coordinator@north-stars.org.

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

Winter trips schedule, North Star outreach, North Star grant awarded

By Bruce Nelson



Bruce Nelson

Winter trips schedule

The heart and soul of NSSTC is our winter trips schedule, beginning on page 11 of this issue.

Don't miss your opportunity to experience the adventure and camaraderie of a weekend ski trip to a scenic area you've never visited. Trip leaders will be arranged around tables at the

November 14 club meeting to answer your questions and get you signed up. Or go online to www.north-stars.org and click on "Trips/Events" to see a complete listing of outings, and to sign up. You can sign up for some trips online and for others by using the familiar method of mailing the leader a check and waiver form.

To our many trip leaders, we offer thanks for your initiative and organizing so that many members can experience an event-filled ski season. Special thanks to our trips coordinators, Ann Rhea and Jim Young. A note to leaders of weekend trips: be sure to check that your registrants are indeed club members, which is easy to do in Club Express. And certainly thanks to all who led the many club trips this past summer. Extra special gratitude goes to Barb Wahman for making scores of contacts with members, urging them to lead day trips this winter.

An exciting feature of both our online Club Express calendar and the e-Loype is that a day trip can be added at a moment's notice if snow conditions are just right.

Attention trip leaders: another feature of Club Express that will save you time is the ability to find your trip on the calendar, then simply click on "registrations" to quickly make a list of all participants. This list can then be used for your trip's communications.

North Star outreach

North Star volunteers have been busy letting the world know we're here! At two Minneapolis Open Streets events this summer—June 4 on Lyndale Avenue and September 24 on Nicollet Avenue—the North Star "snowstorm" tent was successful in raising community awareness. Thanks to Dana Siskind and her team for organizing, and to the many volunteers for recruiting potential new members.

On November 17–19 we will again be at the Outdoor Adventure Expo at Midwest Mountaineering. Volunteers will be needed to staff our booth. Fran Howley is coordinating volunteers so please contact her if you can help.

Our practice has been to give partial-year gratis memberships to persons who leave their names and contact information at our booth. If you are one of these gratis members, please attend our meetings, sign up for our trips, and, most importantly, pay our modest annual dues next spring to renew your membership and stay involved.

North Star Grant awarded to the Banadad Trail Association

On August 22 the NSSTC Board approved a \$5,000 grant from the North Star Grant Fund to the Banadad Trail Association (BTA) in Grand Marias. Our grant will be matched with \$5,000 of cash and in-kind service from BTA to construct a wood-heated storage/maintenance shed for grooming equipment. The equipment will groom and maintain the 38 km of skiing/hiking trails developed and maintained by BTA. The BTA will promote NSSTC on its website, www.banadad.org, and in its electronic newsletters for a five-year period. Thanks to Tom Rice for working with BTA to submit this proposal and to our North Star Grants Review Committee, chaired by Arne Stefferud and including Diane Boushek, Cathy O'Dell, and Kathy Kelly.

Marketing/Communications contractor

As I write this article in late September your board is advertising for a marketing/communications contractor. The job of the contractor will include developing a club brand and improving our social media exposure. The plan is to better connect the club with the larger cross-country skiing community, with a long-range plan of enhancing membership growth and assuring club viability.

Club finances

The 2018 club budget, which will be presented for approval at the December membership meeting, is being drafted by our treasurer, Chip Treen. Our financial picture is still in transition to our fiscal year, which used to be October 1–September 30 and now coincides with the normal calendar year.

DNR gives green light to proposed timber harvest on the North Arm Trails

by Mel Peterson

In a letter sent to club president Bruce Nelson in late September, the Minnesota DNR announced that it has decided to move ahead with a "forest thinning" on a heavily used portion of the North Arm Trails near Camp du Nord. The letter continues, "This will be done with a minimal, short-term disruption to trail use via commercial thinning on 62 acres."

The DNR's decision came after the submission of 74 public comments, including two letters of opposition from the North Star Ski Touring Club and a public hearing this summer at Camp du Nord which attracted 35 concerned citizens. After considering this public input, the DNR still believes that "forest management (including timber harvest), ecological values, and recreation are not mutually exclusive." It goes on to argue that state law requires the DNR to manage our forest lands for all of these purposes.

The public comment period has closed and the DNR seems resolved to move ahead with the proposed timber harvest. While we don't know when the project will begin, the DNR is assuring us that the thinning will have "minimal trail impact." We and others have huge concerns about how to properly gauge this impact. The DNR anticipates that approximately one mile of trail will be temporarily closed in two different sections to protect trail users when active winter harvesting is occurring. It is suggesting short-term closures of one day to a couple weeks, with alternative trail routes available. Closures will depend on the final thinning design. And the DNR promises that after the harvest it will work with the logger to complete any trail restoration that may be needed.

While we are very unhappy with the DNR's decision, it appears the agency adhered to regulatory policies in

reaching this decision. I'm not sure we have any available legal avenues to either protest the decision or ask the DNR to put a hold on implementing the proposed timber harvest. It has, however, offered to assemble a North Arm Project Input Group to offer input to the final thinning design. This group will include three to five people representing key community groups, including Camp du Nord, the North Star Ski Touring Club, and local trail users. The final design will include the placement of skidding trails and haul routes, ways to further reduce trail user impacts, and identification of reserve trees that are not to be removed from the forest. One member of our club is invited to be a part of this group, which should be assembled by the time you read this.

We will surely have more information for concerned club members in the very near future, and we promise to do our very best to help preserve the character and integrity of the beloved North Arm Trails within the framework of the DNR's thinning proposals. Watch for updates in the weekly e-Loype and in future issues of the *Loype*.

Do anything fun with the North Stars since the last issue of the *Loype*? Bicycling, hiking, skiing—we'd love to hear about it. Or perhaps you took a trip worth talking about—something that would make a great North Star trip in the future. We know you have many interesting stories just waiting to be committed to paper and shared with a larger audience. And don't forget the photos.

The deadline for submission of articles and photos for the January-February 2018 issue of the *Loype* is December 1. Please be sure to send all material to loype.news.editor@north-stars.org by that date.



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Open Streets 2017: Nicollet Avenue by Dana Siskind

We set up the NSSTC "snowstorm" tent again on a very hot, windy day (Sunday, September 24). The fact that we were representing the North Stars was very evident as we were all wearing the new "volunteer" vests with our name, logo, and website. Thank you, Mel, for ordering these. Lots of people went by and a few remembered us from last time (June 4 on Lyndale Avenue). One woman even hoped we were giving free trial memberships again and signed up right away! Actually, we had 41 people sign up for the trial online memberships. Many were families, some with young children learning to ski at school, but whose parents had never skied. Other families were new to the area. Maybe we should offer basic cross-country ski lessons again?



Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible. Snowflake production: Carol Wahl, Inez Wick, Maya Dahlberg, Fran Howley, Susan Haataja, and Ella Mogilevsky. On-street presence: David and Dana Siskind, Theresa Quigley, Maya Dahlberg, Elizabeth, Sam, and Joe Dittrich, Mel Peterson, Bonnie Palmquist, Steve Schmidt, Connie Campbell, Ella Mogilevsky, Lance and Linda Oberg, Sally Richards, Lucy Osojnicki, Fran Howley, Molly Henke, Paul and Liz Rasmussen, Janet Jensen, Trish Kragh, Inez Wick, and Keith Sjoquist.

Photo above: Mel Peterson models the new volunteer vests.

Photo at left: Sam Dittrich attracts new junior members with candy bars.

Photos by David Siskind



December program features historic biking

Join us as we take a trip via photography with one of our own, Al Mayer, showing photos taken from his bicycle. He'll lead us through Theodore Wirth Park, then he'll take us southward along the shores of the Minneapolis lakes, showing pictures of what we would see now and what it looked like 25 years ago when he first started biking these areas. Knowing Al, he'll also find some photos showing what the lakes area looked like back in the early 1900s.

Al has been leading bicycle trips since 1975, first for fellow employees at Prudential, and starting shortly after 1989, for the North Stars. He has been heading up the club's Wednesday Wanderers group since then. With Al's background knowledge and sense of history this will be a fun and interesting walk along some great trails. It will give us all some terrific ideas for hiking, biking, and also skiing in the Theodore Wirth area.

See page two for time and meeting place.

Editor's Note

A huge thank you to all who sent in articles and photos for this issue of the *Loype*. Without your contributions there would be no *Loype*. Thanks also to Margie Schally for excellent proofreading.

Correction: In the last issue of the *Loype*, I stated that Ann Morrissey and Bruce Jacobson were married in 1992. The actual year was 1990. Please accept my apologies, Ann and Bruce.

I am turning the Volunteer Spotlight column back over to its original owner, Kathy Kelly. I borrowed it for the September-October 2017 issue to provide a shining example of what one member can do for the club.

Volunteers needed at Midwest Outdoor Adventure Expo, November 17–19

We are seeking 20 to 25 volunteers to staff the NSSTC exhibit booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo the weekend of November 17–19, 2017. The Expo site is under the big tent in the parking lot at Midwest Mountaineering, 309 Cedar Avenue South near the West Bank of the U of M. (See the Expo ad on page 7.)

Can you help staff a two-hour shift telling others about North Star club membership and the activities we offer? The Expo draws thousands of like-minded people and is an important opportunity to share our story and attract new members. Our booth will be well stocked with a photo display, brochures, trip schedules, past *Loype* newsletters, and membership forms. We want to have a

volunteer team for each two-hour time slot starting Friday afternoon.

We would also love to pair up newer and more veteran members on each shift. We need to fill two-hour shifts from 1:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, and from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm on Sunday.

To sign up for a shift or for more information about volunteering, contact Fran Howley at 612-869-8971 or franmhowley@gmail.com. You can also use our web-site, www.north-stars.org, to sign up and indicate your preferred time slot. Look for reminders about volunteering for this important winter event in coming issues of the e-Loype. Please help!

A WINTER FESTIVAL AT WIRTH PARK, MPLS JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 4, 2018 LOPPET.ORG



Trips Coordinators' Report

The Winter trips and events schedule has many options near and far

By Ann Rhea and Jim Young

This coming winter we have many choices for winter trips and day events from one day, a few days, or a weekend. Many of the extended trips already have waiting lists. If you are interested in one of the closed extended trips, send your name to the trip leader immediately. The wait list trips include: Bearskin, Methow Valley, and Ski Norway.

If you are interested in a shorter, closer trip there are lots of choices in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. They will open on November 1. The trip leaders will be available to answer your questions at the November club meet-

ing on November 14. They are currently listed on the North Star website and in the *Loype*. Watch the eLoype for weekly updates.

There are still some open dates if you would like to lead a trip/event, whether it be one day or several days. Consider hiking or snowshoeing in addition to a ski event.

Many thanks to all of our leaders for their time and effort to give our club lots of options. If you have an idea for something fun, send us an email and we will work with you to find an available date on the schedule.

Recruit a new member today. Here's how:

Spread the word. You get together with friends and coworkers for lunch or dinner, right? Well this is the perfect opportunity to let them know what a great club we have. Tell them how much fun you had on your last ski trip, hiking trip, or bike ride.

Give the gift of membership. What a perfect gift for that hard-to-please relative or friend; the gift that keeps on growing and never wears out.

Bring those lost sheep back into the fold. Ever wonder what happened to that nice person you

used to bike and ski with? Give them a call, ask them what they've been up to, update them on the activities of our club, and bring them along on the next club outing.



Ski Tourer's Pledge

I will protect the land and the natural resources of the land on which I ski.

I will make it my personal business to leave the land in such a condition that, except for the tracks of my skis upon the snow, no one will ever know I was there.

I will always treat the land gently so that I may return in the future and be welcomed as an old friend.

Leo Hannan, Anchorage Alaska.

Wednesday Wanderer Words

Who is this North Star?

By Al Mayer



Al Mayer

In past issues of the *Loype*, I challenged readers to see if they could identify the Wednesday Wanderer described in a WWW article. I think it's time to do it again.

I'll start out by describing this person as a woman who enjoys the outdoors and grew up as an outdoors person. Does this help

to narrow it down? Probably not, since this more than likely describes 98% of North Star women. So, here are some specifics: She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, moved to Massachusetts when she was three, and to Nebraska when she was 13. After graduating from high school there, she returned to Massachusetts to attend Wellesley College where she did pre-med, then went to medical school in Cleveland, Ohio, and for an internship at Baltimore City Hospital, Maryland.

Upon completing this internship she headed for Sierra Leone, which enabled her not only to continue a medical career but also to follow a romantic interest. Sierra Leone, also known at the time as "The White Man's Grave," is one of the wettest countries in West Africa. While there she contracted malaria five times during the rainy season.

Malaria and parasitic diseases were common infections, and scalp lacerations due to coconuts landing on a person's head was a common injury. In the village where she worked with a local doctor, the area's second largest tribe, the Mende, were known to have good teeth because they brushed regularly with the fibrous stem of a plant, while the largest tribe, the Fulani, had poor teeth directly related to Fulani shopkeepers owning candy stores.

Following 15 months in Sierra Leone, she visited her romantic interest in Niger, one of the driest and poorest countries in West Africa at that time. There malaria was much less common but leprosy was a very common infection. Treating injuries caused by camel bites was not unusual.

When she realized that her romantic pursuit was going nowhere, she returned to the U.S. and pursued a residency in Family Practice, a new specialty at that time. She was the first woman to complete that residency program at Hennepin County Medical Center. Because she was inter-

ested in continuing to work cross-culturally, she applied for work at the newly formed Indian Health Board Clinic and got the job. The first location of the clinic was on the second floor of a former funeral home. The director of the clinic joked that they'd give her a hammer and a saw, and after treating the patient she could transfer him to the funeral home on site! When the director's father became her patient, the director informed her that his father, when asked what he thought of her in comparison to the medicine man, said, "She's trying!" You can see that a sense of humor and a commitment to "giving back" to the community were two strong values in the Native American community.

In 2010, she was diagnosed with leukemia and retired from her medical practice. Following her recovery, she often relates how much she appreciates the support she received from fellow North Stars during this difficult period. She is now again a North Star who continues to pursue her love for the outdoors, remains an avid skier, biker, and hiker, and in recent years has hosted a WW White Elephant Christmas Party. If you still have not determined who this interesting WW person is, see picture on page 17.

More Shining North Star Moments

Following are some new shining North Star moments posted at the August picnic.

My first trail clearing experience at du Nord! Cabin by the beach, lost with Eric, French braid pigtailed, dancing with Terrence, good friends, good food, adventure.
Maya

The summer picnic is GREAT. Joanie

Windy Lake Lodge, Norway, North Stars on our beach, Deep Portage, Camp du Nord, Wednesday Wanderers, trail clearing at gunflint with umbrella.

When Gary proposed to me at Palisade Head on our way to the North Shore trail clearing October 2005! Judy Tate

New Friends! Skiing in Switzerland! Running trips with Jane Norman! Skiing at Stokely!

Trail clearing, Gunflint Trail—great food and accommodations! Pat N.

I love to hike! Sam

Trail development news by David Siskind

As I write this in September, this fall's trail work trips are yet to take place. When this arrives in members' hands, those three October trips will have happened: du Nord, the North Shore, and Banadad. Sincere thanks to all who pitched in and continued the long-term North Star tradition of building and maintaining trails for cross-country skiing. Special thanks to the leaders of these trips: Dana Siskind, Inez Wick, Frank Janezich, and Tom Rice.

I highly recommend this activity for all North Stars in 2018 as a fun team weekend in the north woods and a welcomed contribution supporting the activity we all love so much. My term as trail development coordinator will end this coming spring. The board, I am sure, would welcome a volunteer to head this activity next year. I will likely continue on as tools supervisor unless someone else desires taking over this easy job. Again, thanks to everyone who volunteered.

Growing up with the North Stars by Belinda Manolis

Some of my fondest memories of being raised skiing with the North Stars over the years were the fall trail clearing trips to Camp Northland, bushwhacking in the BWCA following my Dad and other fellow North Stars such as Al Porter, sharing bunk beds with my sister Amy (and sometimes other kids our age such as Gracia Hart's daughter and son) at the Trees for Tomorrow Environmental Learning Center in Eagle River, Wisconsin, and being in the woods skiing with friendly people and with the loving support of my parents.

My parents put in the extra effort it takes to get a family outfitted with ski equipment and out the door. They taught us how to ski and love this lifelong sport. The best part is that we have taught our children to ski, and now we all love the sport and can go skiing together.

Editor's Note: Belinda is the daughter of Pete and Kathy Hawkins.

Below: Kathy Hawkins skiing with daughters Belinda and Amy in the 1980s. Knickers and knee-high socks!

Photo by Pete Hawkins.



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Labor Day bike, hike, and picnic by Fran Howley and Ella Mogilevsky

Carol Wahl hosted a wonderful event on Labor Day, sharing her home and gardens with 63 North Star members. Pat Nelson and Fran Howley led a 23-mile bike ride from Carol's home in south Minneapolis, through Edina, over the new boardwalk trails, on to the Hyland Park area and back.

Ella Mogilevsky led a hike of just over three miles through the neighborhoods around Carol's house, including the Grass Lake neighborhood. The lake attracts coyote, deer, muskrat, fox, eagles, and many ducks. More than 300 surrounding acres drain into the lake, including the surface of Highway 62. The residents of the Grass Lake

neighborhood plant flowers and place Adirondack chairs on the boulevard between the street and the lake. They are put there for the public's enjoyment.

The weather was perfect for the ride, the hike, and for the excellent pot luck feast that we all enjoyed.

Carol hosted this event for the first time this year; Ella Mogilevsky hosted it in past years and assured us that it never rained. Carol had never hosted an event of this size before and was quite surprised at the turnout. We hope that she (or another North Star) continues the tradition.



Above: Labor Day bikers. *Photo by Russ Lowthian*



Above: Labor Day hikers. *Photo by Lucy Osojnicki*



Left: Larry Cutkomp, Barb Wahman, Lucy Grams, Jack Lynch, and Lee Mayer. 1986 Sweden trip. *Photo by Jinny McWethy*

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To view the NSSTC Trips Policy online, visit the North Star website, www.north-stars.org. Click on the "Trips/Events" tab at the top of the home page, then click on "Trips/Events Policy."

November 2017

Nov 1, Wed {WW} Bike/Hike/Ski. This event in the metro area will be determined by the weather and street and/or trail conditions. Please watch the e-Loype and the website calendar for details. Leaders are Jeanne Papin and Jane Laub.

Nov 4, Sat {A} Hike Elm Creek Park Reserve. This will be the 10-year anniversary of the North Star tree-planting project at this park, which was a service event to celebrate our 40th season. (The actual planting date was Nov 3rd.) The club donated \$2,000 plus labor to plant a windbreak along the ski trail between Mud and Goose Lakes. We'll plan on hiking 2-3 hours around the perimeter of the park and will certainly include that portion where the North Star planting occurred. It is maturing into the deep, thick woods that Three Rivers Parks envisioned. Plan to meet at the visitor center at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a lunch, water, and hiking poles. FFI: John Driscoll, 612-418-9680.

Nov 8, Wed {WW} Metro Area Hike. Time and location TBD. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly emails for details closer to date of the event. FFI: Frank Janezich, fjanezich@gmail.com, or Roxie Knuttila, rknuttila@gmail.com.

Nov 9, Thur {A} Pole Walking at Theodore Wirth Park. Prepare for the ski season. Bring your poles and climb the hills of Theodore Wirth Park by using your arms and legs. Meet at the Wirth Lake Beach on Glenwood Ave at 10:00 a.m. and prepare to walk at 10:15. We'll walk for 1½-2 hours. Optional lunch at a local restaurant. FFI: Rita

Manninen, 763-227-3342 (cell).

Nov 12, Sun {A} Hiking at Sunfish Lake. Join us for one or two hours of hiking through one of the east metro region's premier parks, Sunfish Lake Park in Lake Elmo. Prepare for some big climbs and descents. Some parts of the trail may be slippery when wet; wear good footwear and bring poles. Meet in the Sunfish Lake parking lot at 1:30 p.m. The park is located on Highway 14 (old Hwy 5), east of 694. FFI: Linda Johnson or Bob Julian, 651-484-9414.

Nov 14, Tue {A} Winter Trips Sign-Up Meeting. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield. Trip leaders will be present to accept registrations for winter outings. See page two for full details.

Nov 15, Wed {WW} Hike Nine Mile Creek. Al Mayer will lead a hike that covers about three miles, half on dirt paths and half on paved trails. Meet at Moir Park in Bloomington at 10:00 a.m.; hike at 10:15. Sally Richards and Ann Rhea will extend the hike by continuing on to the Minnesota River, then heading west to where Nine Mile Creek enters the river. If it's still in business, you will be able to ferry yourself across the creek and back again, making for a six-mile hike. We'll go to David Fong's on Lyndale Ave for lunch after the hike. Directions: Head south on 35W from 494, get off at the 106th St exit; go west on 106th, cross Nine-Mile Creek, then turn right at the next corner onto Morgan Ave; follow Morgan north for three blocks to Moir Park. FFI: Al Mayer, 612-817-6814 (cell) two hours before the hike.

Nov 17, Fri {A} Learn to Ballroom Dance. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at DanceLife Ballroom, 6015 Lyndale Ave S in Minneapolis, for a one-hour lesson followed by dancing from 8:00-9:30. Everyone has fun, even first-timers! No

experience necessary. Lesson fee is \$10. Meet at 5:15 at Saigon Uptown, 3035 Lyndale Ave S, if group dinner before dancing is desired. FFI: Lois Laitinen, 651-714-1252 or laiti001@umn.edu.

Nov 18, Sat {AK} Kids Explore Minnehaha Park. Hey, kids! Let's explore Minnehaha Park. The falls are beautiful and the creek goes all the way from the falls to the Mississippi River. There are lots of fossils and sand caves along the way to explore (maybe even find treasures). And there is a sand beach at the river. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. between the falls and the pavilion. Be ready for hiking, maybe some climbing, and lots of fun. Bring your picnic lunch as we will be hungry when we get back. FFI: Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205, or Elizabeth Dittrich, 952-935-5153.

Nov 21, 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.

December 2017

Dec 2, Sat {S} Singles Holiday Party. Come celebrate the holiday season with fabulous friends, food, and festivities at the biggest North Star singles event of the year! Time is 4:30-8:30 p.m. Same venue as last year: DanceLife Ballroom, 6015 Lyndale Ave So in Minneapolis. Registration details to follow closer to the date. FFI: Florence Fadell, ffadell@comcast.net.

Dec 3, Sun {A} Ski or Hike East Metro.

We will ski or hike, depending upon snow conditions, an east metro area park. Possibilities include Battle Creek West or East, Sunfish Lake, and Lake Elmo Regional Park. Please check the e-Loype on Nov 29 or call Saturday evening, Dec 2, for the Sunday morning meeting time & place. Come for an hour or two of morning fun and exercise. If we are hiking, wear good footwear and bring poles as trails may be slippery. If skiing, a MN Ski Pass is required. FFI: Linda Johnson or Bob Julian, 651-484-9414.

Dec 6, Wed {WW} Hike Louisville Swamp.

Meet at the main trailhead parking lot, 3801 145th Street W in Shakopee, at 10:00 a.m.; begin hiking at 10:15. The trail is 6.9 miles long. Bring water and a bag lunch. Directions: Head south on US Highway 169 toward Shakopee and Jordan; remain on 169 as it bypasses Shakopee; two miles beyond the junction with MN 41, look for a Louisville Swamp sign on your right, where you should also see a sign for the Renaissance Festival; turn right at this sign, cross a major set of railroad tracks, then turn left after crossing a second set of tracks to enter the parking lot. FFI: Eric Ramstad, 612-721-7643 or ramstaderic@gmail.com.

Dec 7, Thur {AK} Holiday Lights

Hike. Join us on this annual event. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. and stroll through a south Minneapolis neighborhood, looking for the best light displays and finding treats at a nearby restaurant. Watch the e-Loype for details on where to meet. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Dec 10, Sun {A} Ski or Hike William O'Brien State Park.

We'll spend a few hours skiing or hiking, depending upon snow conditions, at this scenic park. Every bone in my body says that we'll be skiing. Meet in the visitor center at 11:00 a.m. and be on the trails at 11:15.

Bring a bag lunch although we may stop for hot coffee in nearby Marine on St. Croix on the drive home. You will need a vehicle permit (available at park office) and a MN Ski Pass if you choose to ski. FFI: Mel Peterson, 651-776-4330 or alphamel52@comcast.net.

Dec 12, Tue {A} December Club Meeting.

Meet at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with business and the program starting at 7:00.

Dec 13, Wed {WW} Holiday Party.

Ski or hike, followed by lunch at the home of Carol Krush, 4127 Wentworth Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55409. Meet at Carol's house at 10:00 a.m. if hiking. If there is snow, a group will meet at Hyland for skiing. Check the e-Loype the week before for last-minute info. Bring a bag lunch; microwave available. Carol will provide hot cider and decaf coffee. We'll have some holiday fun with sharing "White Elephant" gifts. FFI: Carol Krush, 612-229-5282 or carol.krush@gmail.com; or Sandy Lundgren, 612-822-7370.

Dec 17, Sun {A} Annual Holiday Ski and Potluck.

This long-running event is known for its good food and socializing. **RSVP required!** We need to limit the group size to the first 35 people who contact us to reserve a spot. Socializing begins at 4:00 p.m. To ensure there is enough food for everyone, we request that singles bring enough for 6 people and couples bring enough for 12. For those interested in skiing before the party, plan to meet at the Hyland Lake Visitor Center in Bloomington for a 1:30 start. Three Rivers Parks daily or annual passes are required and can be purchased at the visitor center. The potluck is at 6513 Limerick Drive, Edina, MN 55439. FFI: John Driscoll, 612-418-9680, or Kathy Kelly, kkelly6788@gmail.com.

Dec 19, Tue {A} Food Group Volun-

teers. 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.

Dec 20, Wed {WW} Holiday Cheer.

Meet at Anne McKinsey's house in Bryn Mawr at 10:00 a.m. for a seasonal activity: hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing (TBD depending on weather and conditions). Return to Anne's for lunch; soup, cider, and coffee are provided. Participants are invited (but not required) to bring Christmas cookies to share. Following lunch, gather around the piano to sing carols, holiday songs, and piano bar favorites. More information will be provided by email and in the e-Loype before the event, when RSVPs will also be solicited. FFI: Anne McKinsey, amckinsey@boreal.org.

January 2018

Jan 1, Mon {AK} New Year's Day Ski and Soup/Potluck.

Join us to celebrate the New Year with fun and friends. Meet at 2:00 p.m. for an easy ski with soup and conversation afterwards at 4:00. The skiing will be at Crosby Farm Park with soup at the Nelson home, 1918 Portland Ave in St. Paul. Soup will be provided; bring a potluck dish/dessert to complement the soup. Choose both the ski and potluck, or come to either. Happy New Year! FFI: Bruce Nelson, 651-647-4326.

Jan 3, Wed {WW} Ski, Snowshoe, or Hike.

Mel Peterson will lead this out-

ing at a venue with the best snow conditions, hopefully in the east metro. As always, he's in search of natural snow and some quietude. Watch the e-Loype and WW email the week of the outing for detailed information. FFI: Mel at 651-776-4330 or alphmel52@comcast.net.

Jan 5-7, Fri-Sun {AK} Ski Deep Portage Conservation Reserve. Please join us for our 29th annual North Star trip to the north woods near Hackensack, Minnesota, 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 check for the total amount/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 5-12, Fri-Fri {A} Ski at Stokely Creek. Join a group of North Stars back to Stokely Creek, January 5-12, 2018. There are many reasons North Stars return to Stokely Creek again and again. Ski miles and miles of beautifully groomed trails, beginner to expert, in the scenic, rolling, wooded wilderness of Algoma Highlands in Ontario near Lake Superior. No cars, traffic, or even

roads in sight for a whole week! The estimated cost for room, food, trail fees, taxes and gratuities is \$1,000 plus your travel expenses. We currently have four couples and four singles for a group of 12. We need 10 rooms to get a 10% discount. Stokely has offered a free breakfast upon arrival. Cancellations and refunds will be according to Stokely policy. (See website at www.stokelycreek.com.) We will take registrants until Stokely no longer has rooms. Send \$500/person deposit (check payable to Lee) and your waiver to Lee Wenzel, 8666 Westwind Circle, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Trip roster available.

Suggested travel choices:

* Driving. It looks like there will be two and maybe three cars driving up, with some folks skiing across the U.P. and visiting relatives.

* Commercial bus to Sault Ste. Marie and limo or shuttle to Stokely. The bus leaves here about noon on Jan 4, and Duluth at 7:45 p.m., with a 10-hour ride to Sault Ste Marie, MI, followed by a shuttle to Stokely. We could carpool to Duluth. Bus and shuttle cost is about \$100 depending on ticket options. Return bus leaves at 12:15 a.m. on Jan. 13. Details from Lee but you are responsible for your own tickets.

* Flying to Sault Ste. Marie and a limo to Stokely. Looks like about \$500 round-trip through Detroit. Or you can charter a private plane if you wish!

FFI: Lee Wenzel, 952-944-2699 or Lee@WenzelAnalytics.com.

Jan 9, Tue {A} January Club Meeting. Meet at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with business and the program starting at 7:00.

Jan 10, Wed {WW} Ski Outing. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event.

Leader is Fran Howley, franmhowley@gmail.com.

Jan 12-15, Fri-Mon {AK} Annual MLK Maplelag Weekend. Ski, snowshoe, and other activities. North Stars have been going to Maplelag for more than 45 years. Barb Wahman is back as co-leader...so watch out! Al Porter can't be there but he is always with us in spirit on the trails. Barb's friend, Tammy Lambas, will again co-lead 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 up to 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:** \$340 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. If you have lodging buddy preferences, please let us know. Upon arrival on Friday, please give Tammy a check (payable to Maplelag) for you or your group's remaining balance. Online registrations and payment are not being accepted. FFI: Barb Wahman, 651-483-0327 or barbwahman@gmail.com; Tammy Lambas, 612-913-4227 or tblambas@gmail.com.

Jan 16, 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, Wed {WW} Ski Lebanon Hills. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event. Leader is Jeanne Labore, jeannelabore@gmail.com.

Jan 18, Thur {WW,A} Ski, Snowshoe or Hike—and Lutefisk Dinner. Ski, snowshoe or hike at William O'Brien State Park, followed by a lutefisk dinner at Christ Lutheran Church in Marine on St. Croix. Meet at 10:15 a.m.; ski from 10:30 to 12:15. Drive to the nearby church and meet at 12:30 for the delicious lutefisk dinner. They have Swedish meatballs for the timid. Join us for both events or just one. No reservation necessary, just show up! Cost is \$20/person for the dinner. A state park sticker is needed for Wm O'Brien (\$7 daily, \$35 annual). FFI: Audry Nordwall, audlee564@hotmail.com, 651-968-6748 (cell phone day of event).

Jan 20, Sat {AK} Kids Explore Hyland Park. How many of our little people have tried skiing? Sam and Joey are both learning and they love it! Hyland Park in Bloomington makes its own snow and has ski rentals down to toddler sizes. Meet in the visitor center at 1:00 p.m. and join us for some great fun. Be sure to bring water bottles and trail snacks since skiing takes lots of

energy. Wear layers of clothing because skiing really makes you warm, too. FFI: Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205, or Elizabeth Dittrich, 952-935-5153.

Jan 21-24, Sun-Wed {A} Ski Trip to Laurentian Environmental Center.

The Laurentian Environmental Center is a wonderful facility north of Virginia, MN. The trip starts with a Sunday lunch and ends with Wednesday brunch; otherwise, three meals per day (bag lunch optional). Housing is spread out among several cabins with bunk beds, each with a toilet & shower. There is also a sauna. Skiing out the door and at several nearby areas. Cost is only \$173 per person. Additional LEC details at <http://laurentiancenter.org>. Deposit of \$50/person via Club Express, or mail your check (payable to the leader) and club waiver to Bruce Nelson, 1918 Portland Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104. FFI: Bruce Nelson, 651-647-4326 or brucen1918@gmail.com.

Jan 24, Wed {WW} Ski Lake Elmo.

Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event. Leader is Jan Rupert, janrupert@aol.com.

Jan 26-28, Fri-Sun {A} Ski Suomi Hills from Camp Hiawatha.

Join us for the 29th edition of this perennial favorite featuring the exceptional skiing at Suomi Hills and several other great trail systems in the Grand Rapids area. Although there is another small price increase this year, this trip is still very reasonably priced at \$126 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 \$35 per person due by Jan 19, after which it is nonrefundable without a replacement. Mail trip waivers and deposits (checks made out to Pete

Hawkins) to Pete Hawkins, 3008 County Road I, Mounds View, MN 55112. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON THE WAIVER so I can send you the trip letter electronically about two weeks before the trip. FFI: Pete at pmh706@gmail.com or 763-786-3792.

Jan 26-28, Fri-Sun {AK} Ski at Kathio State Park & Candlelight Ski. This is a 30-year North Star tradition! Come to beautiful Kathio State Park and ski through the park by candlelight Saturday night. Kathio is a perfect weekend getaway offering skiing at all levels as well as ski rentals, ice skating, and snowshoeing. For the young-at-heart there's a super sledding hill, too. After the candlelight ski on Saturday enjoy stargazing with an astronomer, bluegrass music, and hot cider. Then head back to the camp for socializing while the kids watch a movie. Lodging at Camp Onomia is close to the cities, cozy, comfortable, and offers single rooms. 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. 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 cavell.colleen@gmail.com or 952-927-4703.

Jan 27, Sat {AK} Kids Explore Maple Grove Ice Oval. Maple Grove's Central Park, at 12000 Central Park Way, has an ice oval with ice made smooth by a Zamboni. There are railings for little kids to grab and hockey or figure skates to rent for about \$6. The skating is free and there is a nice warming house with a fireplace and snack bar. We'll meet at 1:00 p.m. in the

warming house. FFI: Corliss O'Donnell, 763-559-8945, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Jan 29-Feb 1, Mon-Thur {A} Ski Camp du Nord. We are doing another mid-week trip to YMCA Camp du Nord near Ely. Ski the North Arm Trails (the ones we worked on in October) near camp or venture into the BWCAW on skier-groomed trails (we may need to break these open). These trails are classic skiing only, but if skating is important you can drive into Hidden Valley in town. We have reserved three of the new cabins in Northland Village Limit of 14, with an option for additional cabins if we have enough trippers. Each cabin has a fully equipped kitchen, a fireplace in the living room, and a bathroom with shower. We will be cooking our own meals since the camp requires a minimum of 30 for their food service. Total cost is about \$150 (last year's trip was quite a bit less than that). Send a signed waiver and deposit of \$100/person (check payable to the leader) to David Siskind, 5812 Thomas Circle, Minneapolis, MN 55410. FFI: David or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Jan 31, Wed {WW} Ski Afton State Park. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the trail center; ski/snowshoe/hike at 10:15. Bring a bag lunch; we'll eat in the trail center. A MN Ski Pass and state park vehicle permit are required. Both are available at the park office. To get to the park head east of St. Paul on I-94. Exit Manning Ave/S Hwy 95 and go south. Take Hwy 95 to County Rd 20/70th St S and go east. The road ends at the park. FFI: Jean Moede, 651-227-4763 or moede001@umn.edu.

February 2018

Feb 2-4, Fri-Sun {A} Weekend at 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, Boulder Mountain, Spirit Mountain, Magney-Snively, and After Hours in Brule, WI. There are many ski options to choose from. Cabins at the center are comfortable dorm-style (two people per room) and delicious meals are served in the center's dining room. Limit of 40 people. Cost of \$122 per person includes two nights' lodging, two breakfasts, a bag lunch for Saturday, and Saturday night dinner. To register send your trip waiver and deposit of \$61/person (check payable to trip leader) to Dan Jacobson, 1803 Princeton Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105-1918. Final payment of \$61 is due when you arrive at the Forestry Center. FFI: Dan Jacobson, 651-698-2925, or Martha Hoffman, 651-696-1089.

Feb 4-9, Sun-Fri {A} Ski Trip to Bearskin Lodge on the Gunflint Trail.

This trip is currently full but you are encouraged to add your name to the waiting list. Send an email to Fran Howley, franmhowley@gmail.com, to join the list. Enjoy five days in two townhouse units and one cabin. Lodges and cabin have full kitchens and are located pretty close to the sauna, wax room, and hot tub. Ski on 70K of groomed trails designed for beginner to advanced skiers; many trails are groomed for diagonal and skate skiing. It is also possible to drive to the Banadad Trail or the Gunflint Lodge trails for variety. Cost of \$375/person includes four dinners, two people per room with shared beds for couples and twin beds for singles, trail passes, and all the fun we can pack in! Cost does not include breakfasts, lunches, and snacks/drinks. Full details can be found on the club website, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Fran Howley, 612-869-8971 or franmhowley@gmail.com.

Feb 7, Wed {WW} Ski Outing. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event. Leaders are David & Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Feb 9-12, Fri-Mon {A} Ski Minocqua, Wisconsin. Skiing options include Winter Park Nordic Center with both classic and skate-ski trails, Escanaba, Raven, Razorback, Madeline Lake, and Schlecht Lake ski areas. This long weekend, arriving Friday and departing Monday, will give us time to explore multiple ski areas in this wonderful location. Lodging is at Black's Cliff Resort, seven miles south of Minocqua. We have two four-bedroom, two full-bathroom lodge units. Each lodge has a variety of king, queen, and single beds, a shared living area with sofas, dining area, fireplaces, and full kitchens. Each day we will drive to ski areas in and around Minocqua. Trip costs, estimated at \$170, include 3 nights' lodging, 3 breakfasts, and dinners on Saturday and Sunday nights. Participants will be asked to help with meal preparations and to bring an appetizer to share. Alcoholic beverages, Friday night dinner, Saturday and Sunday trail lunches, and ski passes at some areas are not included in trip costs. The group size is 14-16 people. Your signed trip waiver and deposit of \$150 per person (check made payable to Arne Stefferud, 1780 Frank Street, Maplewood, MN 55109) are due starting November 1 or at the trip sign-up meeting. Balance of trip costs will be collected in Minocqua. FFI: Arne Stefferud, alstefferud@gmail.com or 651-332-3872; Susan Von Mosch, susanvm099@gmail.com or 651-488-2139.

Feb 10, 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 also makes its own snow and has ski rentals down to toddler sizes. Let's see which trails we like best. Meet in the visitor center at 1:00 p.m. and join us for some great fun. Be sure to bring water bottles and trail snacks since skiing takes lots of energy. Wear layers of clothing because skiing really makes

you warm, too. FFI: Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205, or Elizabeth Dittrich, 952-935-5153.

Feb 13, Tue {A} February Club Meeting. Meet at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with business and the program starting at 7:00.

Feb 14, Wed {WW} Ski/Snowshoe/Hike. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event. Leaders are Carol Krush, 612-229-5282, and Clare Fossum, 612-721-9258.

Feb 15, Thur {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 great place to ice skate if you want to come early. We'll end the evening sitting by the fireplace with hot chocolate or other treats from the concession stand. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

Feb 16-19, Fri-Mon {A} Ski Central Wisconsin at Timm's Hill. Join us for our 20th 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 one of two nearby exceptional ski areas. All levels of skiing are available for both skating and diagonal stride. Snowshoes also available for a change of pace. Cost of approx. \$200 includes three nights lodging, breakfasts Saturday through Monday, and a Saturday social gathering and dinner. Sunday dinner will be a potluck served in the hand-built log lodge, where Julie will also prepare the Monday group breakfast. Saturday and Sunday break-

fasts are served on-site at the Hill of Beans Coffee Shop/Cafe. Lunches and Friday dinner 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). Limit of 16 people. Send signed waiver and \$100/person deposit (check payable to trip leader Julie Holmen) to 1341 N St. Albans Street, St. Paul, MN 55117. Balance due Jan 15, 2018. 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 16-19, 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 about a 10-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 are not included. Limit of 24 people. No refunds after February 2, 2018 unless your spot can be filled. Send waiver and check for \$150/person to Mary Kay Burmesch, 5920 Christmas Lake Rd, Excelsior, MN 55351. Please include your e-mail address on the waiver. FFI: MK Burmesch, 612-247-5793; co-leader is Jean Abelson.

Feb 20, 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.

Feb 21, Wed {WW} Ski/Snowshoe at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Meet at the Schulze Lake Visitor Center, 860 Cliff Rd in Eagan, at 10:00 a.m.; on the trails at 10:15. To ski here you must purchase a Dakota County ski pass at the center. Bring a bag lunch for afterwards. FFI: Bryce & Sally Richards, 651-452-2247 or 651-210-3807 (cell), or sallyrichards@gmail.com.

Feb 22 - Mar 2, Thur-Fri {A} Methow Valley in Mazama, Washington. *This trip is currently full but you are encouraged to add your name to the waiting list. Send an email to Craig Freeman, freemancraig@hotmail.com, to join the list. This will be the club's third trip to the Methow Valley, located in Washington's North Cascades. 200 kms of groomed skiing and bounteous, home-cooked meals. Cost of \$1,850 is pretty much all-inclusive. Full details can be found on the club website, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Todd Mongrain, todd_mongrain@msn.com, or Craig Freeman, freemancraig@hotmail.com.*

Feb 23-25 or 26, Fri-Sun or Mon {A} Ski the North Shore of Lake Superior/Silver Bay. 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 TBD per night. If you

choose the option of staying Sunday night as well, the room rate is TBD. Rates will be confirmed and posted ASAP. 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.

Feb 28, Wed {WW} Ski Outing. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event. Leaders are Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, brucejannm@gmail.com.

March 2018

Mar 7, Wed {WW} Ski/Snowshoe/Hike. Watch the e-Loype and WW weekly mailings for details closer to date of the event. Leader is Gary Solberg, gary_solberg@yahoo.com.

Mar 10-19, Sat-Mon {A} Ski Norway (with pre- or post-trip options). *This trip is currently full but you are encouraged to add your name to the waiting list. Send an email to Solveig Olson, solveigjolson@gmail.com, to join the list. Solveig Olson has been leading this annual trip since 1996. The destination, as always, is Sjusjoen—the “#1 cross-country skiing destination in Norway.” Optional participation in the Norwegian Birkebeiner with*

more options for adding a week before or after the trip. Estimated cost of \$2,800 for the ten-day trip. Full details can be found on the club website, www.north-stars.org. FFI: Solveig Olson, solveigjolson@gmail.com.

Mar 13, Tue {A} March Club Meeting. Meet at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 6730 Nicollet Avenue in Richfield. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. with business and the program starting at 7:00.

Mar 20, 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.

April 2018

Apr 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 cellphone (612-817-6814) one hour before we are scheduled to work.

Apr 19, Thur {AK} Hike the Hare to the Turtle. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the big

bronze rabbit at Minnehaha Pkwy and Portland Ave S in south Minneapolis. We will walk along Minnehaha Creek enjoying the spring flowers before heading to the Turtle Bakery on 48th St and Chicago Ave S for refreshments. After this it is a short walk to return to our cars. FFI: Inez Wick, 612-825-3596, or Dana Siskind, 612-929-0205.

September 2018

Sept 10-24, Mon-Mon {A} Bike the Danube River. *This trip is full! To add your name to the waiting list, send an email to Chip Treen, ctreenmn@gmail.com. Join us for two weeks of relaxed cycling in the fall along the lovely Danube River. Experience castles, lovely overlooks, a bit of sobering history, great food, world famous vineyards and great company. We leave the Twin Cities on Monday, September 10 and return from Vienna on Monday, September 24. FFI: Chip Treen or Laura Baker, 651-429-2412 or email ctreenmn@gmail.com.*



Carol Krush is the Wednesday Wanderer mystery person described in Al Mayer's column on page 8.

Photo by Al Mayer

Member Profiles

We continue with profiles of members who have given much of their time to our club over the years. These four pages are profiles of members who joined in the 1970s. Look for more member profiles in subsequent issues of the *Loype*.

Pete and Kathy Hawkins

Longtime members Pete and Kathy Hawkins joined the club in 1976 when their children were young. They have been active in the club ever since, and we have enjoyed watching their children and grandchildren grow up with the club.



Pete and Kathy at the 2017 annual spring banquet.

Photo by Lucy Osojnicki

They joined the club because they wanted

to learn how to ski and become more active. Kathy described their first ski outing as exhausting and exhilarating. She said that she and Pete fell constantly but had the most fun they could remember in a while.

Pete has served in numerous positions over the years including trips coordinator (1978–79), president (1986–87), chair of the nominating committee, and special events organizer.

Kathy has served as secretary (1983–84), publicity chair (1991–93), and programs chair (2000–2001).

Pete resurrected the annual ski swap in November of 1985, and in 1987 he and his family organized the club's participation in Winterfest, including a massive ski swap. Many North Stars have benefitted from the cross-country ski lessons Pete gave to members over the years.

Kathy and Pete led a ski trip to the Laurentian Mountains in Quebec in 1980 and again in 1985, Devil's Thumb Ski Touring Ranch in Colorado in 1982, and Stokely Creek in Ontario in 1994. They have also led ski trips closer to home including Remote Lake and Camp Mishawaka, and they've led the Camp Hiawatha / Suomi Hills trip for over 25 years.

Their trips are well organized and very enjoyable. Both Kathy and Pete spend numerous hours preparing to host trips so their trip participants feel welcome, included, and prepared for the daily ski expeditions. They are consummate hosts who continue to invite new skiers into the club with their welcoming personalities.

Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll

Kathy, a member since the early 1970s, and John, a member since the early 1990s, have served the club in a multitude of functions.



Kathy and John at the 2017 annual picnic. *Photo by Lucy Osojnicki*

Kathy served on the board in numerous positions including secretary (1978–79), trips coordinator (1992–1994), vice president (1996–1998), president (1998–2000), past president

(2000–2002), strategic initiatives chair (2016–17), and is currently serving on the board as an at-large member.

Her husband John is also a veteran board member. He served as singles president (1998–2000), vice president (2004–2006), president (2006–2008), and past president (2008–2010).

Kathy and John have served on many committees for the North Stars and have worked on countless special projects.

This talented couple pooled their generous spirits and multiple outdoor skills when they married in 2006. Together they led a number of adventurous trips including Stokely Creek in Ontario in 2003, and the first trip to Methow Valley in Washington State in 2008. In 2010 they led a group to Silverstar Mountain Resort and in 2014 to Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado where they volunteer for YMCA of the Rockies every year. In 2017 they headed back to Silverstar Resort in British Columbia. In addition to these extended trips, they have led many weekend winter and summer trips for the North Stars.

As proficient skiers they have guided, instructed, and encouraged many novice skiers to enjoy the sport. And as an expert canoeist John has introduced the fine art of “reading the river” and paddling safely (but not always dryly) to members who enjoy the glorious summers of northern Wisconsin. When not otherwise gliding on snow or water, this tall, good-looking couple cut a dramatic swath across the dance floor.

Bruce Nelson and Barb Watts

Bruce Nelson joined the North Stars as a young single in 1972. He organized many contra dance events at Tapestry Folkdance Center and led numerous weekend ski trips for the North Star singles, including the club's first trip to Giant's Ridge.



Barb Watts and Bruce Nelson at the 2017 summer picnic. *Photo by Lucy Osojnicki*

He also led two extended ski trips to Banff. In the summer, Bruce led bicycle rides and trips such as bicycling Minnesota's Glacier Ridge Trail and two bicycle trips from St. Paul to Milwaukee.

Bruce served the club as programs chair from 1984 to 1986, membership chair from 1991 to 1993, and is serving his second year as president.

Bruce, along with his wife Barb Watts, continue to lead overnight ski trips and summer trips for the club, including the ski trip to the Laurentian Environmental Learning Center.

Barb Watts joined the North Stars in 1987 and served as singles trips coordinator from 1994 to 1996. Barb met Bruce at a combined North Star/Single Sierran Halloween party in 1986, and they married in 1997.

Barb led the Black River Falls ski trip for many years, as well as many local bicycling and hiking outings. On a ski trip, you will find Barb curled up with a good book or knitting needles in the evenings. She is currently serving as the club's bookkeeper.

Barb and Bruce volunteer with the Social Justice program for their church, helping with various service projects. They are generous with their time and talents and we are lucky to have them as members. Be sure to check the winter schedule for trips and events led by Barb and Bruce.

Mel Peterson

Mel Peterson is a longtime member of the North Star Ski Touring Club, having joined in 1977. He has served as club president (1992–93 and 1993–94), vice president (2016–2017 and 2017–2018), *Loype* schedule editor (2007–2008, 2008–2009, and 2017–2018), and *Loype* editor



Mel Peterson at Silverstar, January 2017. *Photo by Susan Von Mosch*

(for more years than anyone can remember). In searching the North Star History, we discovered that Mel has served as editor for a total of 10 years: 1981–82, 1982–83, 1985–86, 1986–87, 1987–88, 2004–2005, 2005–2006, 2006–2007, 2015–2016, 2016–2017. Mel has also performed other volunteer work for the club, such as trail clearing, serving on the nominating committee, volunteering at water stops at the City of Lakes Loppet, and helping staff the North Star booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo.

In addition to being an excellent editor, Mel is a superb writer whose articles have appeared in the *Loype* throughout the years. Look for a reprint in this publication.

Mel loves to ski and he loves to bicycle. We can always count on Mel to lead several bicycle rides in western Wisconsin every year—Hudson, Somerset, New Richmond, River Falls, Spring Valley, Downsview, and, of course, his annual Memorial Day ride in May, his annual Summer Solstice Ride in June, and his annual "Kind of Laid Back Ride" in July.

His most famous ride, however, was his "women only" ride. He said he couldn't sleep the night before, envisioning a plethora of women showing up for the ride. Only four women showed up, and Mel blamed it in on the "bestial heat" that day.

Mel leads one-day ski outings that are close enough to get there and back in one day, such as Kathio State Park, Jay Cooke State Park, and Willow River. Later, these changed to "If There's Snow We'll Go"—finding the best skiable snow within a one-hour drive of the Twin Cities. Mel says that his favorite skiing memories are from the many weekends spent on club trips to Camp du Nord with its single-track, skied-in trails of the North Arm Trail System.

Member Profiles Continued

Terry Quam

Terry Quam was an avid skier, bicyclist, canoeist and



Terry Quam biking in Austria, 2011
Photo by Priscilla Russell

kayaker. You would never find Terry indoors on weekends, no matter the weather. His red van was well equipped—with cots and sleeping bags, and ski, bicycle, canoe, and kayak racks. A true outdoorsman, he lived to do the things he loved best. He was fond of fast luxury cars

and owned many BMWs, but only one Porsche. Terry was also an avid bridge player, hosting many bridge parties at his townhouse through the years.

Terry joined the North Star Ski Touring Club in 1978 and became active immediately—his first club trip was the Gunflint Lodge trip in the winter of 1978. He served as club Treasurer in 1981–82 and 1982–83, and could always be counted on to lead several overnight ski, bike, canoe, and kayak trips every year. Terry co-led a Superior Hiking Trail trip every fall—something we always looked forward to. And, of course, Terry led many in-town bike rides and ski outings for the club.

Sadly, Terry died way too young due to a genetic kidney disorder. But you can be sure that he got in as many skiing / biking / kayaking / canoeing miles as possible before his health started to fail. We miss your smiles and hugs, Terry, as well as your willingness to come to the rescue of fellow North Stars in need.

“A group of us were skiing at Mille Lacs / Kathio and had come to a paved road that was bare of snow. With soft wax on my skis, I was about to take them off to cross the road when Terry pulled up. He said, “Y’know, you can save time by taking off just one ski and hopping across.” I thought to myself, “What a bright idea!” and promptly took off my left ski and hopped across on my right foot. In the snow on the other side I removed my ski to scrape the road crud off the bottom, waiting for some choice remarks from a smooth Norwegian about those inept Swedes. I looked back and Terry stood there saying nothing, probably trying to process what he’d seen. Finally, still speechless, he just broke into that thousand-watt smile and never mentioned it.” ~John Holmquist

David and Dana Siskind

David and Dana Siskind are longtime North Star members



David and Dana Siskind biking the Gateway Trail in 2016
Photo by Sally Richards

whose contributions to the club are numerous. David joined the club in 1972, and Dana joined in 1986 when she married David. David has served on the board as treasurer (2007–2009), president (2010–2012), and trail development coordinator (2016–2017). Dana has served as vice president (1992–93) and trips coordinator (1993–1995). Both have served on committees and performed other volunteer work for the club.

David has presented programs for the NSSTC monthly meetings, and his excellent photographic skills have been put to good use through the years. You will see many of his outstanding photographs in the *Loype*. He co-leads the Banadad trail clearing trip in the BWCAW every year. Hand tools are used for trail clearing as power tools are not allowed in the BWCAW.

Dana and David started going on the Deep Portage family trip when daughter, Elizabeth, was young. They then led the trip for about 15 years. David now co-leads it with Margie Schally. Dana and David have led the Camp du Nord ski trip for the past eight years, now a midweek trip rather than a weekend trip. They have also led weeklong ski trips for the club—twice to Sun Valley, Idaho, and once to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Skiing isn’t their only passion. They lead bicycle trips and have bicycled through Europe, Canada, and the United States. David has written a book about his bicycling adventures.

Dana, along with Inez Wick, has led the Camp du Nord trail clearing trip for the past 21 years. Dana and Inez lead evening hikes every month of the year, and have done so for the past 10 plus years. Dana also leads “Kids Explore” events each month of the year. She has been responsible for mailing the *Loypes* for the past 20 years or more.

You won’t find a more generous and dedicated couple when it comes to giving of their time and talents to the club.

Arne Stefferud

Arne Stefferud, a North Star member since 1976, has



Arne Stefferud at the 2017
spring banquet.
Photo by Craig Freeman

served the club as government liaison since the untimely death of Tim Knopp in 1989. In that role, Arne has represented the NSSTC and all cross-country skiers in the metro area on the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association (MRTUA) since 1992. MRTUA reviews and recommends the awarding of grants for state and local

trail projects to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Recent examples of grants awarded are: \$45,000 to the Superior Hiking Trail Association for the replacement of damaged bridges, boardwalks, steps, and signage on the trail. \$50,347 to the City of Champlin to develop a portion of a paved pedestrian/bicycle trail connecting Elm Creek Park with the Mississippi River. \$75,000 to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to partially finance purchase of snowmaking equipment for cross-country ski trails at Theodore Wirth Regional Park. \$150,000 to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to develop 3.3 miles of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail.

Arne also served the club as MinnTour representative in 1979-80, as programs chair in 2015-16, has served on the nominating committee, and has led overnight ski and summer trips for the club since 1989. He has also chaired the North Star Grant Fund Committee since its inception in 2015.

Arne loves the ski trails at Camp du Nord and the North Shore, and he has found excellent skiing in Norway, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, and Canada.

An avid canoer and kayaker, Arne enjoys kayaking around the Apostle Islands and the Canadian shore of Lake Superior.

In June 2015, Arne retired from a 40-year career in parks and natural resources planning and administration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Metropolitan Council. We North Stars have been very fortunate to have someone looking out for our interests (ski and bike trails).

Clare Fossum

Clare joined the North Stars in 1977 and has been an



Clare in January of 2014.
Photo by Lucy Osojnicky

active member ever since. She has served on the board as secretary (2006-2008) and trips coordinator (2009-2011), and as hospitality chair (2013-2014). Clare has led many overnight ski trips for the club since the 1980s, as well as day hikes, bike rides, and ski outings.

Clare saw a notice for our club in a ski shop. Looking for friends to ski with, she called the number on the notice and signed up for a ski trip. She now has many friends to ski with.

The destination for many of the overnight ski trips Clare led was Gooseberry State Park. Lodging was at Gooseberry Trailside Resort. She discovered Gooseberry Trailside many years ago when they and other resort owners on the southern part of the North Shore offered free overnight lodging to cross-country skiers on their way up to Bluefin Bay and points north. This enabled North Stars to explore that area (and hopefully return). Clare loved the fact that skiing was just out the door and led the trip for many years.

Clare led the first trip to Camp Onomia / Kathio State Park. It later became a family trip led by various North Star families over the years.

After retiring she led midweek trips to the ABR trails and the UP early in the season where there was always snow when we had none in the Twin Cities.

Clare's favorite North Star extended ski trips are Solveig's Norway hiking trips, Ann & Bruce's trip to Stokely Creek in Ontario, and the Lone Mountain trip. She loves to travel and especially likes to visit England and the Continent.

When asked what she likes most about the club, Clare mentioned the long-term friendships she has made and being outdoors and active.

Many thanks to Ellen Watson, Rita and Gerry Manninen, and Dana Siskind for their contributions to these member profiles.

North Star singles learn to tango by Gail Lundeen Brand

Although not a “silent sport” as such, dancing was always popular with the North Star singles. With great enthusiasm and little knowledge, Vicki Chelgren and I took it upon ourselves to introduce the tango to the North Star Singles in the early 1980s. Thinking big, we rented a high school auditorium and, if my memory serves me right, we did a pretty good job of filling the place up. Vicki obtained a huge speaker system, which was manned by her friend and future husband Steve Andrewjeski. We hired a professional dance instructor. I’ll never forget her name—Pearl Bailey. She was a pro at breaking the ice, and soon all of us were out on the dance floor. What fun! I still have a photo somewhere of me and my future husband Ron

dancing the tango. It is easy to look good dancing when it’s a still photograph. I look back on those wonderful times and wonder if young adults are having as much fun as we did. I hope so!

Editor’s Note: I also remember a group of North Star singles taking ballroom dance lessons from Mrs. Lampe at the University of Minnesota. There were about 20 of us, evenly divided between men and women. When it came to the tango, I can still hear Mrs. Lampe calling out “slow, slow, quick, quick.” After lessons we would go over to Annie’s Parlour for burgers and malts.

For participants of silent sports by Jane Batcheller

Kathy Overby had just introduced me to the cross-country ski trails of Winter Park in the Minocqua, Wisconsin area when we discovered a flyer with this heading on my windshield. Always wanting to support businesses that support cross-country skiers, I kept the notice. The next summer Kathy and I planned a bike trip in the same area and checked out the resort the flyer was advertising.

Mercer Lake Resort was a lovely family-run resort right on the shores of Mercer Lake with a collection of knotty pine lined cabins. The family had just purchased the resort and was trying to make it by renting only to participants of silent sports. (All of the other resort owners thought they were crazy.) Wanting to support such an enlightened endeavor, I reserved the whole resort for Martin Luther King weekend in the late 1980s. I then turned to my friend and in a slightly panicked voice, asked “Where am I going to find 24 people to come to this resort?” Kathy, a longtime member of the North Star Ski Touring Club, suggested I join the NSSTC. On one of my first trips with the North Stars, I met singles president Judy Curtis and told her about this wonderful resort and the ski areas in Minocqua. She suggested I run it as a singles trip.

To my surprise and delight the trip filled quickly. The first few years I led the trip solo and then realized that it would be a good idea to have a co-leader in case I couldn’t participate for some reason (and also to help with the organizing, groceries, planning, et cetera). The only other person I knew well by that time was Irene Dombeck, so she was my co-leader for the next few years. In 1998 and 1999, when I spent the year in Australia, she recruited Linda Flick to help lead the trip. This was the year one of the cabins

burned down, and there was some scrambling to find new lodging. In 2000 I led the trip again with Jim Ruhl, after which I was ready to pass it on. Jim and Lee McCollough took the reins and led the trip for the last year in 2001.

The resort had a lodge we were able to use for our communal Italian dinner and live music for singing and dancing. We hired a local musician who performed for many years and provided great singalong tunes as well as music that was easy to dance to. We used the resort lodge until they converted it to a cabin, and then we rented the ski lodge at Winter Park for our annual Saturday night dinner and dance.

My memory of this trip was that it was always great fun. The skiing was usually outstanding with heaps of newly groomed snow. There were many different ski trails in the area that could accommodate any level of skier. My favorite was schussing down the expert hills of Raven and Escanaba Lake. These two incredibly beautiful, wooded classic ski trails have remained my favorites for many years. The Raven expert loop was eventually changed because of the number of injuries one of the hills caused. (Fortunately none of the North Stars were among the injured.) My trip participants through the years were fun-loving, enthusiastic, cooperative, and helpful. They all contributed to wonderful experiences through the approximately 14 years of this trip.

North Star singles trip memories by Jane Norman

I cannot recall what year it was that Judy Curtis, singles trip coordinator, led a trip to Maplelag over Presidents' Day weekend. Jo Beth Woodward, Trish Cullen, and I (not yet members) signed up for the trip. We were considering joining but wanted to see if we liked the club first.

The weekend arrived with the weather forecast way below zero and windy, with little chance of a warmup. When we arrived that evening by bus the temperature was -35 degrees F. After a warning not to put too much wood in our stoves, we made our way to our cabin which wasn't much warmer than outside. That night it was impossible to get much heat from the stove and everything liquid froze. I've never been so cold.

We woke to -30 degree weather, making our way to the main lodge to warm up and decide on the day's activities. We skied some short runs, spending the rest of the day in the outdoor hot tub, drinking hot beverages, and eating cookies from the bottomless cookie jar.

Sunday night was the talent show, and Judy had planned a skit for the North Star men—something about dressing as women. Well this wasn't going to happen. We, the Russians cabin, came to her rescue. We were going to help Ann Bancroft select her ski team for her trek across Siberia. We kept ourselves warm while skiing the next day as we laughed and planned our skit, not to mention the fun we had choosing the ugliest clothing and oldest equipment from the Maplelag attic.

The skit went well; we got everyone laughing and having a good time. In the end we decided we needed a token male to join us, and to his surprise most of the crowd chose Terry Quam. He was a good sport, but years later he said he didn't remember a thing.



We joined the NSSTC, and all three of us are still members today. There's something about going on a trip that brings people closer together and challenges one's ability.

After joining, we became active in the singles division, running two to three trips a year to our favorite places. We started the progressive dinners at Garmisch, Superior Shores, and Itasca. On Friday nights we would have get acquainted parties where we played "Get Acquainted Bingo," "Two Truths and a Lie," "Story Line," and other games. This helped put new people at ease, and over the years singles became couples as they found members who shared their interests.



In those days we usually took from 25–30 people on a weekend trip, and we always skied. I had learned early on that you don't let the weather stop you. I remember one Superior Shores trip where the high was going to be -25 degrees F. We asked who wanted to ski and all but two said yes. So after a pep talk about dress and the need to keep moving, we passed around the Vaseline and off we went. We had a fast and a slow group. I agreed to lead the slow group which included one person who was sure her hands were frozen. After some arm exercises, we sped up; most had never skied so fast, but they stayed warm. We concluded our ski at the old Gooseberry shelter where one man, upon seeing our frosted faces and beards, opened his window and yelled "You people have got to be crazy." No, not crazy, just happy to be enjoying the great outdoors.

Left: Singles group at Garmisch; after Christmas ski trip.

Above: Ellen Watson, Pat Lawrence, Jean Iwen, Colleen Cavell, and Mike Fredricks; dinner on the Grandpa Woo, North Shore.

Photos by Jane Norman.

Kids Explore Parker's Lake by Dana Siskind

We had a great turnout (six kids and seven adults) for our fall explore at Parker's Lake in Plymouth. As Jan drove into the parking lot, her grandson Cameron said "I remember this place, it was really cold!" This time it was really hot! But that did not stop us from playing on the playground and hiking part way around the lake. We found a great place to skip stones and find shells (at least three different varieties). One boy found some large colored leaves on the ground—two different kinds of oak. To bring this explore and summer to a perfect ending, the kids changed into swim suits and had a great time at the beach—swimming, making sandcastles, and eating watermelon. A perfect way to spend a hot afternoon!



We explore a different park each month and would love to have you and your young person (child, grandchild, or friend) join us. Most of the kids at this time are between three and ten years of age. We can adapt activities to different ages and even break into two groups if there are enough

kids. The children become the leaders; we make suggestions but they make the decisions as to what is worth exploring and observing.



Left: Sam and friend Max make sandcastles while the others take a swim. *Photo by Dana Siskind.*

Above: first row: Joe, Dougie, Cameron; second row: Sam, Max, Francisco; back row: Maya, Charlie, Jan. *Photo by Mary Peterson*

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

By Dana Siskind and Inez Wick

From March/April 2013 issue of the *Loype*:

Skiing was just part of the fun at Kathio State Park in January. There were luminaries in the evening, music and refreshments at Kathio's Interpretive Center, socializing at the campfire, and spending quality time with everyone. The group visited the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, kept open for our skiers. The Ojibwe history was depicted with a "four seasons" room showing Ojibwe life as the seasons change. The park volunteer gave a brief history and instructions on setting up coordinates for a GPS. The fabulous sledding hill was fast and furious this year.

From the January/February 2014 issue of the *Loype*:

In November the kids explored Wood Lake Nature Center with a larger group than in the past. The boys who were the fastest runners saw a deer. The floating bridge is always fun, trying to see just how deep it is in the murky

water. The kids built some great lean-to forts with sticks against trees in the nature playground. Best of all was warming up with treats in the nature center and admiring the snakes and turtles on display.

Dana Siskind, founder of Kids Explore, works diligently at getting other leaders to share the kids' events. She really appreciates the other leaders who have helped with her mission. She would love to hear from other parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts... and have them organize a kids' event. Call her at 612-929-0205.

One final thought: Remember when an abbreviated version of the board meeting minutes appeared in the *Loype*? To keep North Star members in the loop, let's post the monthly board meeting minutes on our website.

North Star singles at Little Falls by Jean Iwen

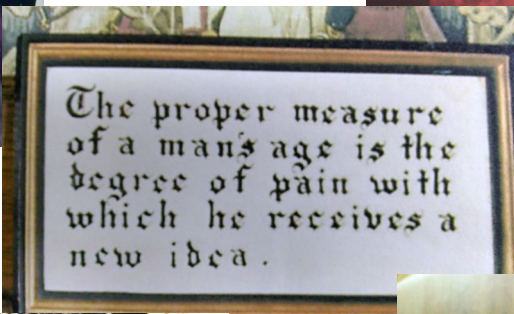


Left: North Star singles dress in period costume for a catered dinner at the mansion.

Below: Framed quote in the mansion's library.

Right: Carol Krush and Greg Ryan in the mansion's ballroom.

All photos by Jean Iwen



Below: Hike to Ripley Esker

Photo by Jean Iwen



North Star singles enjoyed three trips to the Musser and Weyerhaeuser mansions in Little Falls, Minnesota in the early 2000s. Linden Hill, the nine acre campus on the Mississippi River, was left to the city of Little Falls by the families of the lumber barons.



Above: Anne McKinsey and Al Volkers in period costumes.

Left: September bicycle ride.

Photos by Jean Iwen.

Jam-packed singles house party by Gail Lundeen Brand

Peggy Roser and I sponsored a North Star singles house party in the early 1980s. I think it was to meet and greet new members. Since my apartment was on the small side, Peggy agreed to host the event at her house. We kept it simple and straightforward. Bring something to share and a bottle of wine.

The week prior, Peggy called me in a panic. "I think this is going to be a large turnout," she said. "Wonderful," I replied. The response was "No, Gail—I think this is going to be a really, really big turnout. My phone won't stop ringing. This is going to be huge." The announcement was in the *Loype* and although Peggy was extremely nervous,

there was nothing to be done but go forward.

Peggy's worried predictions were an underestimation of the turnout. I have never been in a house that packed. I suppose it was like a Tokyo subway during rush hour. People came to the front door, looked in, and left because there was no way to squeeze in. It was impossible to turn around. It was easy to meet new people because you were nose to nose with them and there was no way not to talk. I am surprised that no one called the police or the fire marshal.

Rev 12/15/16

NORTH STAR



SKI TOURING CLUB

Membership Form

NOTE: The cost of membership covers all individuals at one address; it is not a per-person cost

NEW ☐ RENEW ☐ NUMBER ON MAILING LABEL _____ CHANGE ☐

Name _____

Additional Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone (_____) _____

☐ I DO NOT want my personal information listed in the membership directory
☐ DO NOT mail me the hardcopy newsletter; I will go online and save the club money

☐ 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 electronic e-Loype OR

☐ I wish to receive the weekly e-Loype

How did you find us? North Star Website ☐ North Star Brochure ☐

SkinnySki Website ☐ Midwest Mountaineering Expo ☐

Friend ☐ Sugarbush Trail Association Website ☐

Other ☐ Specify _____

Mailing Type (circle one) Bulk Rate First Class Rate

1 year\$20\$25

2 years\$38\$48

3 years\$56\$71

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



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."



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