



Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee

April 2021

Year-Round Recreation Since 1971

Vol. 50 Issue 4

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Monthly Events

Hike the River's Edge in Butler

Sunday, April 11 Date, 1:00 pm

There are few things more calming than walking along a gurgling river. It's even better before mosquito season. Stroll with us at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 11, as Gary Braun leads a leisurely hike on the path along the Menomonee River in Butler's Frontier Park.

This is one of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee's early spring hikes. Wear waterproof boots as it may be muddy. If there is too much recent snow or mud, we'll postpone it for a week to April 18.

Meet in the parking lot at the Butler Senior Center, 5251 N. 127th St., Butler, Wis. We'll walk down steps or take the curving, paved path down to the river. From there we'll walk on wood chips at first and then on dirt. After 20 minutes the path gets narrower with more tree roots.

There are no restrooms nearby. Since this is an in-and-out hike, you can turn around at any time, however.

Call to let us know you're coming and to find out if we had to change the date: 414-527-0040.

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Next Month,
Look For:

***Milwaukee River
GPS Paddling Trip
May 1***

***Milwaukee River
GPS Paddling Trip
May 2***

***Milwaukee River
GPS Paddling Trip
May 8***

***Nashotah Park
Hike
May 15***

***Sculpture Bike
Ride
May 16***

***Milwaukee River
GPS Paddling Trip
May 16***

keep us all safe.



The Butler hiking path follows the Menomonee River.

**Fire and Fun at Lapham Peak
May 21**

**Milwaukee River GPS Paddling Trip
May 22**

**Pike Lake Hike
May 23**

**Mirror Lake Area Rivers GPS Paddling Trip
May 28 - June 1**

Stute Springs & Homestead Hollow Nature Trail

Saturday April 17, 12:30 pm

During our hike we will see the old buildings that remain on the Stute family farm. Take a walk up "The Big Hill" for an impressive view of the area, and hopefully see spring ephemerals and other signs of the season.

Stute Springs & Homestead Hollow Nature Trail is located on Co. Rd. Z near Eagle, Wisconsin. Since the Stute Spring lot is small, we will park at the Emma Carlin Trailhead just down the road and will walk to Stute Spring entrance at 12:30 pm.

[Click here for description of the trail area.](#)

Please call, text or email me if you will be attending. Cathy Ward 262-227-4551 cward4@att.net

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Riveredge Nature Center Hike

Friday, April 23, 10:00 am

Join us for a spring hike at Riveredge Nature Center on Friday, April 23 at 10 a.m. There are 10 miles of trails on 379 acres of woods, prairies, and wetlands, including 1.5 miles along the river. This beautiful sanctuary in Ozaukee County started in 1968 and has grown into a major environmental education Center. Meet in the parking area near the main building and we'll head out as a group for an hour or two. If you'd like some more social time after hiking, bring a lunch to eat socially distant outside.

The trail fee is \$5 if you are not a member of Riveredge. The Center will be open for restroom use; masks are required inside and are suggested for hiking in a group.

Contact Us:

Email nordicskiclub.mke@gmail.com

For membership information, call Pat Doornek 414-906-0629

Nordic Officers

President
Carol Doebler

Vice Presidents
Renee Couture and Steven Fabina

Secretary
Paula Brookmire

Treasurer
Dave Herrewig

Board Members
Julie Amundson
Paula Brookmire
Renee Couture
Carol Doebler
Steven Fabina
Dorothy Riesing
Ellen Riley
David Rosenberg
Mary Wozniak

Program Committee

Directions:

The address is 4458 C. Hwy Y, Saukville (it is actually in the village of Newberg). Take I-43 north from Milwaukee and exit on Hwy 33 West (Exit 96-Saukville/Port Washington). Go through Saukville and continue west on Hwy 33 for 7 miles. Turn right on Hwy Y (Hawthorne Drive). NoNo’s Restaurant is a good landmark for the turn. Travel on Y for about 1 mile. The parking area is on the right.

Email or call Mary Mueller at mjmueller.uef@gmail.com or 414-477-5710 to let her know you plan to attend.

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Monches Ice Age Trail Hike

Saturday, April 24, 9:30 am

Got spring fever? Ready to see signs of spring and new plant life? Come hike with us. We’ll leave at 9:30am from the north entrance to the Monches Segment of the Ice Age Trail at the intersection of Highway Q and Highway E. [Click here to check out a map of the area](#)



You can park on the road on Highway E facing south, or there is a parking lot north of the intersection on Highways Q and E, on the east side of the road. The trails are narrow and the terrain uneven. This segment of trail is approximately 3 miles. You can walk the roundtrip 6 miles or perhaps have a car waiting for you at the south end of the trail at Kilbourn just off of Silver Spring Rd (Highway VV). The distance is your choice. This is tick season, hats, long sleeves, and post hike tick checks after hiking are strongly recommended. Please call Julie with questions at 262-468-8223.

Members:

Paul Keber, Chair
(262) 547-4827
Chris Pantazon
Barb Tremel
Cathy Ward
Becky Yakes
Joanne Ziarek

Public Relations Chair:

Paula Brookmire
(414) 527-0040

Clinics Chair:

Carol Doebler

Website Chair:

Katie Bivens
katiebivens@ymail.com

Historian:

Paula Brookmire
(414) 527-0040

Newsletter:

Send Articles to:
newsletter@nordicskiclub.org

Facebook Chair:

Ellen Riley
ellenriley612@gmail.com

Facebook Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/Nordic-Ski-Club-of-Milwaukee-NSCM-111282934088979/>

Membership Chair:

Pat Doornek
414-906-0629

New memberships or renewal forms may be mailed to:

Pat Doornek
3463 N. Newhall St.
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Contact Us:

Volunteers

The Nordic Ski Club runs on volunteers.
Please contact Renee Couture at acoutrr@att.net if

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Nordic Spring Cleanup

Sunday, April 25, 10:00 am

Please join us for a spring cleanup on Sunday, April 25 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. at South Shore Park (2900 South Shore Drive; Milwaukee). We will meet at the Pavilion and walk south along the beach and bike trail while picking up all those discarded COVID masks and other trash.

Because this is not part of Milwaukee Riverkeeper's cleanup, we need to bring our own bags & gloves. Riverkeeper's citywide cleanup is on Saturday, April 24, which conflicts with the Nordic's Monches IAT hike.

See more info at this link: [2021 Annual Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup](#)

We may reschedule if the weather is too rainy and/or windy. For more information or to RSVP, call Linda Hunn at 262-951-6905.

P.S. The bike trail continues to Grant Park if anyone wants to do a bike ride or walk afterwards.

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2021 Birkebeiner

By Paul Keber

The 2021 Birkebeiner XC Ski Marathon was very different from past years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of a Friday Korteloppet race and a Saturday Birkebeiner race, race dates were Wednesday, Feb. 24 thru Sunday, Feb. 28 to limit the number of skiers each day. Skaters could race on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday and striders could race on Friday or Sunday. The race started near Telemark, went to OO on the original Birkie trail and returned to the start on the striding Birkie trail 45 km later. Korteloppet racers did the same route but headed back to the start sooner to do their 26 km race. Each racer had to drive to parking lots near the race start and listen to a radio station telling them when they could head to the starting line. Spectators were not allowed, and after the race you had to return to your car and leave. Racers were asked to have a COVID test before arriving for the race, and had to wear face masks before the start of the race, at all aid stations, and at the finish line. Because of the different race dates, race times could not be used for comparisons or to be used for wave placements in future Birkies.

Here is Michael Dix's description of his in-person Birkie:

"I picked up my bag on Saturday before the race at the Birkie Ridge parking area a few miles from the start. As you'd expect, it was very well organized and fast. I could park quite close to the start and waited in my car - tuned in to the announcer on the radio. The warm temps made it comfortable, but the parking lot was already turning into a mud hole.

Compared to normal times the race was lonely. Very few spectators, no Native American drummers or anything like that. The snow was good, firm and fast, but it slowed down later in

you are interested in learning more.

Club Membership

Membership Renewals due Oct. 1. Renew online. Then pay through PayPal or mail check to Pat Doornek.

Dues -

Individual \$25

Household \$35

Must be a current member to book ski trips at member rate.

Web Tips

Adjust your profile settings so that fellow Nordic Members can see your name, address and phone numbers. Select "Members Only" to protect the information from the general public. That is the default for new members. Go to www.nordicskiclub.org and login to your profile. The login is in the upper right-hand corner. From there, the Member Tab will appear on the menu. Full instructions are located on that page in a PDF file.

Add Photos To The Nordic Website

As a member of the Nordics, you may upload photos to your personal photo album or to the public albums. Simply log-in so all member privileges are available. Then the upload and edit buttons are visible for you to add to the fun. Need help? katiebivens@gmail.com

If you are interested in leading a Nordic Event, or have a great idea for a member event, please contact a member of the Program Committee or Paul Keber, pkeber@milwpc.com

the day as it got too warm. The aid stations didn't have much aid. The first one wasn't even giving out water. The other ones had water and energy drinks, no cups but they would help you fill your bottle. Since it was an out and back race, you stopped at most aid stations twice.

The end of the race was the most different to me. Usually, I just stagger across Lake Hayward trying not slow down. The spectators there are always a nice distraction. This time the last few miles were rolling hills and turns so you had to pay attention to skiing. At the end they made a high hill with a tunnel under it for racers returning to the parking lots, so it was just like skiing over the bridge in town.

But then it's over. No celebration, no soup, no brat. Just a walk through the mud to the car.”

To limit the number of racers travelling to the in-person Birkie, a Virtual Birkie option was available to be done any day between Feb. 20 - 28. Lapham Peak was one of many virtual options to do a 43 km Birkie or a 26 km Korteloppet. Each skier had to keep track of their own distance and time. John McCarthy had created a list of different trails at Lapham with the number of loops needed to complete the 43 km Birkie or the 26km Korteloppet, and it was posted on a DNR website advertised by the Birkie.

Here is a list of NSCM members who skied an in-person or virtual Birkie or Korteloppet. My apologies if I missed anyone.

Michael Dix Saturday 45K Birkebeiner

Bob Garner Thursday 45K Birkebeiner

Mary Lou Geralts Thursday 45K Birkebeiner

Paul Keber Virtual 43K Birkebeiner at Lapham Peak on Thursday

John McCarthy Virtual 43K Birkebeiner at Lapham Peak on Monday

Anne Riendl Virtual 26K Korteloppet participant (not a complete race) at Lapham Peak on Saturday, Feb. 27

Barb Tremel Virtual 26K Korteloppet at Lapham Peak on Wednesday

Check out pictures and race accounts of the NSCM participants on the [NSCM Facebook site](#).



Barb Tremel's Virtual Korte at Lapham Peak



John McCarthy Virtual Birke at Lapham Peak

Online Club Election Results

Due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee could not hold an in-person annual meeting and board elections in 2020 or 2021. Instead, we held an online annual meeting and elections in March 2021. Active members of the club should have received an email blast with a ballot and all the information we would present at the March annual meeting. We gave members 11 days to vote online, from March 10 through 20. That last day of voting, March 20, is listed as the official date of the annual meeting.

We had a 40% response rate from Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee members. Out of 126 emails sent, there were 51 responses; all four ballot questions passed. Results: 1) The minutes of last year's annual meeting (March 2020) were approved. 2) The nomination and second of Julie Amundson to be put on the slate of nominees for board members was passed. 3) Elected to two-year terms on the nine-member board of directors were Julie, Renee Couture, Carol Doebler, Stephen Fabina and David Rosenberg. They will join board members whose terms end in March 2022: Paula Brookmire, Dorothy Riesing, Ellen Riley and Mary Wozniak. 4) The meeting was adjourned as of the end of the day on March 20, 2021.

At its April 12, 2021, meeting, the board will elect officers for one-year terms. As of March the following officers were willing to serve another year: President Carol Doebler, Vice Presidents Renee Couture and Steve Fabina, Treasurer Dave Herrewig and Secretary Paula Brookmire. We're currently conducting videoconference board meetings on the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. For questions about the board, contact Carol Doebler at tortoiseski@wi.rr.com.

Board Member Profile: Dorothy Riesing

By Paula Brookmire



Dorothy Riesing (left) and Renee Couture stop at the tea house in Minocqua Winter Park on a 2016 Nordic Ski Club trip.

Energy. Movement. Noise. Nature. Nurturing. Nutty. Nordic. So many words go with Dorothy Riesing. This enthusiastic member of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee (NSCM) board is an expert in games, fun, outdoor exercise, clogging, kids' activities and laughing.

She laughs when she tells this tale of mixing makeup and cross-country skiing on a below-zero day: "On a trip to Munising, Mich., when we were skiing at Valley Spur, I don't know why, but I put on mascara, and my eyelashes froze. Then, as my head steamed up from skiing, the mascara ran down my face. I didn't realize it. So when I came across the club president on the ski trail, he gasped and said, 'What's wrong?' Apparently my face was drizzled in black."

It's no wonder that Dorothy spent 38 years eliciting smiles as activity director at Tudor Oaks Retirement Center in Muskego, Wis., and now volunteers there in her own retirement. She has a B.A. degree in music education and numerous classes in music therapy. Nor is it any surprise that she has been involved in 4-H Clubs all her life. She loves to sing, dance, act, bike, ski and camp. Turning 70 this month is not slowing her down. Consider all her volunteer gigs: Both she and husband Tom Riesing (whom she met on a blind date birdwatching) help teachers at the Indian Community School in Milwaukee. Since 2007 she has volunteered with ACAP (Adaptive Community Approach Program) to help special-needs adults put on musicals at the Waukesha Civic Theater. "I've been singing with the theater's Civic Broadway Singers since 2006," she adds. And she still leads a 4-H Club clogging group that she started in the early 1990s--the first one in Wisconsin. "I've always liked dancing and I've always liked to make a lot of noise," she says. Clogging fit the bill.

In November 2016 for an NSCM talent night, Dorothy did a clogging performance to "The Pink Panther" music. "The type of clogging that I do," she explains, "is similar to tap dancing, with metal double taps. It is often done down in the South and out West. In non-Covid summers, our group -- the Muckey 4-H Cloggers -- does a half-hour show six or seven times at both the Waukesha County Fair and the Wisconsin State Fair. The coolest thing we did was back in the mid-'90s. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra wanted us -- 24 kids and me -- to dance with them to a version of 'Rodeo' by Aaron Copeland. I did the choreography. Time was limited. So I completed it in one night in my bathroom--to reduce the noise."

The name of her clogging group is derived from the Muckey 4-H Club that Dorothy's father, Fred Washa, founded in Muskego in the late 1940s. "I've been involved in it my entire life, except for three years of college," she says. "We were the only 4-H Club in the country that had a used Greyhound bus. "We took high school and junior high kids on camping trips throughout the U.S. and Canada: to Maine, the Appalachian Trail, to Juneau, Alaska, and Prince Rupert, British Columbia. Mostly we went out all over the West, including the Grand Canyon."

On a Canadian Rockies trip, at a campground in Jasper, in Alberta, Canada, Dorothy's mom heard that Britain's Prince Phillip was coming to Chateau Lake Louise for the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Park Service. She insisted they make a side trip to Lake Louise." So we drove the bus down the scenic Canadian Icefields Parkway to the chateau. There was one parking spot left for a bus. We walked in and said, 'Is this where Prince Phillip will be coming?' They put us in the second row. Now we're in our camp clothes. Everyone else is dressed up. A string quartet is playing. When Prince Phillip passed by us, he was so close I could have touched him. There were hand-picked Canadian Mounties from all over Canada being honored. Prince Phillip spoke in both English and French." Dorothy's mom, Mary, was thrilled. The 4-H kids were impressed. And when their bus got back on the road, Prince Phillip's entourage passed them on the road.

Dorothy has been cross-country skiing since 1973. But even though NSCM started in 1971, she didn't hear about it till the 1990s. "I ran into Renee Couture biking in our Muskego neighborhood, and she told me about the club. I've known Renee's family since I was a child." Dorothy joined NSCM in about 1998 and has been going on bus ski trips ever since. Since 2018

she has been on the board of directors with Renee and, since 2019, with Alan Siegl, who was on one of their 4-H Club bus trips to Canada decades ago.

What does Dorothy like about the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee? "The people. Tom and I like their spirit of adventure. When you get older, it's hard to find people who like to do things outdoors --especially in winter. With the club, everyone does everything--hiking, biking, snowshoeing, paddling." Then there are games nights. Dorothy led one via Zoom in February. But it's hard to beat skiing. "I like the movement, especially of skate skiing. It's like dancing on snow. And I really like dancing."

It's also like being a kid again. "I recall as a child playing outdoors that the worst thing a parent could say was, 'You have to come in.'"



Dorothy and Tom Riesing attended the December 2018 Nordic holiday party.

**Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee Inc. (NSCM)
is a membership-based outing association
active year-round since 1971.**