



**December 2020**

**Year-Round Recreation Since 1971**

**Vol. 49 Issue 12**

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**Deadline is Nov. 28 to Register For Our Holiday Scavenger Hunt**

To participate in our holiday history scavenger hunt and maybe win a prize, act now. Only ski-club members who register by Saturday, Nov. 28, can join the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee's outdoor scavenger hunt (by car). It's a safe way to have fun during the pandemic. This is a house-to-house scavenger hunt for clues to club history—in honor of the club's 50th anniversary in 2021. At each of eight homes you'll get two clues and a holiday treat provided by the club. Clues will be left in marked plastic bins outdoors from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. over three days: Dec. 1, 3 and 4. At some homes during certain hours, club members may offer you hot chocolate and greet you from the door to keep socially distanced.

We're holding this over three days so that if we have a snowstorm and it's hard to drive, at least one of the days will work. The scavenger-hunt winner is the person or family who gets the most clues in the shortest time, as judged by the date on your email that you'll send with your answers to scavenger-hunt coordinator Paula Brookmire. That winner will get a \$20 holiday gift certificate to a venue of your choosing.

Please [register here](#) through our club website no later than Nov. 28. We will email you the scavenger-hunt questions and a list of club members holding the clues, with their addresses and directions.

Please make sure you have paid your club dues before registering for this scavenger hunt.

Clue No. 1: To get you started, list the full names of the people in this photo who were on a club hike this fall. If this photo does not come through in your email, you can see it in the newsletter on the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee website.

Next Month,  
 Look For:

***2021 Winter Picnic  
 and Ski  
 January 9th***

**Contact Us:**

Email [nordicskiclub.mke@gmail.com](mailto: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



### **Zoomin' New Year's Eve**

*Thursday, December 31, 7:00pm*

Join me for a ZOOMIN' New Year's Eve gathering. Bring your noisemakers and ugly Christmas sweaters. My plan is to have a liquid libation handy. We'll go just an hour, from 7 to 8 p.m., unless some of you want to party longer. We can connect safely and still "see" each other thanks to the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee's Zoom videoconference account.

Instead of a game as an ice breaker, let's all share one JOY that we have had during this challenging year. Think of it as the Silver Lining in our Covid Cloud.

If you're interested in celebrating with me, Mary Wozniak, and other members of the ski-club board, please register on our website through [this link](#) by Wednesday, December 30. A Zoom link will be forwarded to you on Thursday, New Year's Eve day.

If you have questions, email me at [mkwoz@yahoo.com](mailto:mkwoz@yahoo.com). Until then, Happy Holidays and please stay safe.

### **2021 Winter Picnic and Ski**

*Saturday, January 9, 10:00am*

Save Saturday Jan. 9th for our annual picnic and ski event at Lapham Peak State Park. However we've had to re-invent it this year! Since we can't use the indoor shelter due to the pandemic, we've decided to host an outdoor picnic at the Mike Fort Shelter near the Homestead Hollow parking lot.

Remembering back to some fun times on past Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee ski trips when we had no shelter, we decided to bring back our community "soup dump." We thought this would be a great alternative this year. So here's how it works:

1. *Bring one can of soup per person to the shelter before you ski starting at 10 a.m.*
2. *Bring either a white-base soup, a red base or a vegetarian soup.*
3. *We'll have three pots.*
4. *Bring your own mug or bowl and spoon.*
5. *We'll provide some hot chocolate and cups and perhaps oyster crackers or bread.*
6. *Go skiing or hiking, whatever the weather dictates. Be back between noon and 1pm to eat*

### **Board Members**

Paula Brookmire  
Renee Couture  
Carol Doebler  
Steven Fabina  
Dorothy Riesing  
David Rosenberg  
Alan Siegl  
Mary Wozniak

### **Program Committee 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](mailto:katiebivens@ymail.com)

### **Historian:**

Paula Brookmire  
(414) 527-0040

### **Newsletter:**

Send Articles to:  
[newsletter@nordicskiclub.org](mailto:newsletter@nordicskiclub.org)

### **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 [acoutr@att.net](mailto:acoutr@att.net) if

and visit-- with mask and social distancing.  
7. After lunch, go ski again if you wish!

We have a few volunteers with propane stoves, pots etc. but if you wish to help, contact Renee C. at [coutr@gmail.com](mailto:coutr@gmail.com)

The Board has decided to not give any lessons this year due to the complexity with Covid-19 and another event at Lapham that day. Still, some of our teachers are willing to help, and if you see an experienced NSCM skier on the trails, don't hesitate to ask for some tips!

Of course you will need your annual State Park sticker, which you should purchase online ahead of time. You can get your 2021 sticker starting Dec. 1, 2020. If you only want a daily pass for @ \$8.00 you may end up waiting in line at the entrance booth. Since there is a race that day as well, the entrance could be quite busy. Some special events have brought in too many people, and they have had to close the park until others leave. We can only hope that doesn't happen that day! The restrooms have been open and should remain so. Hope to see you on Jan. 9th if not before!



Warm up with soup after skiing January 9, 2021, with the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. We'll have a soup picnic at the Homestead Hollow Mike Fort Shelter starting at noon. Yes, we'll eat outdoors and keep socially distanced for Covid-19 safety.

*The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee (NSCM) continues to practice social distancing and the use of face masks, as recommended by the CDC and Wisconsin authorities. Know that your participation in any event is at your own risk. Before attending any NSCM outing or event, please check with the event leader. Use good judgment and continue to keep us all safe.*

## Your Membership Dues Help the Club Survive

Are you one of the many people who have not renewed your Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee membership? Dues were due in October. The Program Committee, the board and other volunteers are working hard behind the scenes to plan creative events.

If you're disappointed that the coronavirus pandemic cancelled our bus ski trips up north, think about cross-country ski outings closer to home. We hope to have several day trips.

If we're to have bus trips in the future, we need you to continue your membership now. We can't keep in touch with you unless you're registered as a member. Remember, too, that our cross-country ski club has year-round events, including hikes, camping trips, bike rides, and social get-togethers. These are all organized by volunteers. So we need you to renew or join now.

Memberships are a small cost (\$25 individuals, \$35 households). You'll get \$10 of that cost back in 2021 when you register for our 50th anniversary party next summer.

In light of the pandemic, our club is following safety guidelines, but we're still holding hikes,

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:pkeber@milwpc.com)

ski and snowshoe outings, Zoom videoconferencing events and creative outdoor activities. These include a holiday scavenger hunt, a New Year's Eve Zoom party, and a January soup picnic.

You should have received reminders about your dues via email. But if you have not received anything, or you're not a member and want to join, please click on this [Member Application link](#). From this website page you can either sign up online, or click on the "Printable Membership Application and Waiver" link to download our member signup form.

Our membership year coincides with our fiscal year: Oct. 1 through Sept. 29. If you renew online via AffiniPay (the payment plan our website uses instead of PayPal), you will not be charged any fee for using your credit card. If you prefer to pay by check, make sure you make it out to NSCM and mail it with our filled-out membership form--including waiver on the back that you have signed-- to Pat Doornek, 3463 N. Newhall St., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Note: Even lifetime members need to fill out a membership form and waiver each year to stay active.

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### **Snow Chasing – Winter 2021 – Are You Interested?**

Cross country skiing this winter will probably be much different than previous winters. With COVID-19 precautions, skiers will want to maintain social distancing and preferably ski close to home in order to avoid overnight stays and indoor restaurant dining. If skiing conditions are good in SE Wisconsin, perhaps you would like to ski locally and socially distant with NSCM members. Local ski trail conditions can be found at Friends of [Lapham Peak Trail Conditions Reports](#).

If the skiing in SE Wisconsin is not good or if you want a change of scenery, perhaps you would be interested in a car trip ski outing to places such as Nine Mile Forest near Wausau, Green Bay Reforestation Camp, Iola Winter Sports Center, Minocqua Winter Park, or ABR Trails near Ironwood, MI as well as other ski areas. Statewide XC ski trail reports can be found at [SkinnySki.com](#).

If you think you might be watching weather conditions this winter with an eye toward chasing skiable snow, and particularly if you wouldn't mind being the "point" or "contact" person for such a "pop up" event, contact Paul Keber at 262-547-4827 or [pkeber@milwpc.com](mailto:pkeber@milwpc.com). The idea here is to make this an easy way to coordinate a car trip to a ski destination that involves either a day trip or a trip with one or more overnight stays. Members would be responsible for their own transportation and lodging arrangements (if applicable), but could coordinate to ski together and lodge at the same hotel without advanced coordination required. An email blast to club members could be sent as little as a day or two before your trip.

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### **Skiing Up North This Winter**

If you're looking to cross-country ski up north in the 2020-2021 season, check first. I checked the website for Valley Spur trails in Hiawatha National Forest, south of Munising, Mich. While trails will be groomed, the indoor shelter there is closed in 2020, according to Friends of Valley Spur, which run the lodge and groom the trails. I'll check again to see if that changes in 2021.

At Minocqua Winter Park in Minocqua, Wis., the chalet is scheduled to be open at limited capacity, with a request that you use the chalet mainly to change clothes and use restrooms. There will be no food service but possibly packaged snacks. Several positive changes have been

made for safety during the coronavirus pandemic. Minocqua has set up two more changing shelters: a tent at the Silver Strider trail head (far side of the parking lot) and a garage near the tubing area. Porta Potties are set up at both spots. Also, the ticket office has an exterior window at the chalet so you don't need to go indoors. And you also can buy tickets online.

As for Wausau's 9-Mile Forest ski trails, as of mid-November their web page was not active. So you may want to check later.

These three locations are favorite spots for the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee to ski or snowshoe. Keep checking and consider leading a club carpool trip up north.

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## **Help Us Get Through Covid Volunteer for the Board**

It has been a challenging time for all volunteer groups, including the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. So our board of directors has been critical to dealing with crises caused by Covid-19. Now, we need new members. For those who love snow activities as well as warm-weather fun, this is a time to help support outdoor events. We have a good time getting to know members better at board meetings. And since we conduct most meetings through Zoom videoconference calls, you don't have to drive to a central place for an in-person meeting. We hold only 10 to 11 board meetings a year, and the meetings are usually an hour to 1 1/2 hours. So it's not a big time commitment. We usually meet the second Monday of the month.

Right now the board has one open position, and in March 2021 for our annual elections, we'll have a few more slots open on the nine-member board. Those who will continue on the board in March 2021 include Paula Brookmire (secretary), Renee Couture (VP), Steve Fabina (VP), Dorothy Riesing, David Rosenberg and Mary Wozniak. If you'd like to join the board, please contact President Carol Doebler via email at [tortoisieski@gmail.com](mailto:tortoisieski@gmail.com). Meanwhile, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we plan to do an online ballot again, as we did last spring. It's safer and we got a good response.

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## **Online Zoom Events**

With COVID-19 precautions, what better way to socialize with your NSCM friends while maintaining social distancing than to host an online Zoom event. You don't even have to leave your home to attend these events! Do you have an interesting vacation or topic to share? Pictures from ski trips, or maybe a fun game to play online with fellow club members? We can even set up breakout rooms to which participants can be assigned for set periods of time. Put your creative ideas to use entertaining NSCM members.

If you are interested in leading such an event, contact Paul Keber at 262-547-4827 or [pkeber@milwpc.com](mailto:pkeber@milwpc.com). Paul can set up the event to have participants register so that they can receive a link to the Zoom meeting. He can discuss presentation options such as a PowerPoint presentation or displaying pictures from your computer, or even showing videos.

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