



**December 2023**

**Year-Round Recreation Since 1971**

**Vol. 52 Issue 12**

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**Holiday Picnic at Lapham Peak**

*Saturday, December 2, 10:45 am*

Our annual holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 2nd, at Trecker Lodge. We will once again enjoy a well-received "soup dump" and talk with fellow Nordics about the upcoming ski season. Drop off a can of soup or your favorite unfrozen soup to add to one of three soup pots: a red-based soup, a white-based soup, or a vegetarian soup to heat on the stove while you enjoy a morning hike on a Lapham Peak trail.

***Remember to also bring your own bowl and spoon.***

The stove for the soup drop-off and the start of the hike will be at Trecker Lodge in Homestead Hollow of Lapham Peak. The hike will be lead by Dorothy Reising and begin around 10:45 am. Desserts are welcome and much appreciated. Contact Carol (below) with any desserts/cookies you would like to add to the food at the party. Crackers, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. This year we will dine inside Trecker Lodge.

If you have any questions or ideas about desserts, please contact Carol, [tortoiseski@wi.rr.com](mailto:tortoiseski@wi.rr.com)

- When: Saturday, December 2, 10:45 am for the hike
- 12:15 -12:30 pm will be the approximate start time for serving the soup.

**Coming Up:**

***Winter Picnic & Ski Lessons***  
***January 14, 2024***

***Fish Fry***  
***February 16, 2024***

***Annual Online Elections***  
***March 13 -24, 2024***

**Contact Us:**

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

For membership information, call Pat Doornek

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where: Lapham Peak State Forest, off Hwy C near Delafield, Wisconsin</li> <li>NSCM Party location: Trecker Lodge, Homestead Hollow, Lapham Peak</li> </ul> <p>Required: You'll need a Wisconsin State Park sticker. A daily park sticker costs \$8.</p>	414-906-0629
<p><b>Ring In The New Year With Your Fellow Nordic Skiers</b>  <i>December 29, 2023 - January 1, 2024</i></p> <p>Here is your opportunity to ski for 4 days straight, what better way to bring in the 2024 new year. On Friday December 29, 2023, a group of adventurous X-C skiers will begin their intrepid journey on a Lamers Bus. You can be one of them, yes you!</p> <p>On the way up to the Keweenaw Peninsula we'll ski at WinMan or Brown County Reforestation camp (whomever has the better snow!). On Saturday, we'll ski at Michigan Tech (no races here!). There will be an optional group dinner on Saturday night, December 30.</p> <p>Sunday, you have the option to ski at Maasto Hiihto or Swedetown. At Maasto, the rebuild of the Swedetown Creek trail through the gorge is now complete with five new bridges and and one incredible 550' boardwalk. Maasto will be using the new grooming machine NSCM helped support. (A Yamaha Wolverine RMX with track pods). As in previous years, Maasto volunteers will host a lunch for a nominal fee. Two guides will be present to provide a guided tour via snowshoe or classic skiing.</p> <p>On Monday, we'll ski at Swedetown, then head back home to Milwaukee. For more details, check out the NSCM website at <a href="https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425659">https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425659</a>.</p>	<p><b>Nordic Officers</b></p> <p><b>President</b> Carol Doebler</p> <p><b>Vice Presidents</b> Renee Couture and Ellen Riley</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Paula Brookmire</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Pamela Gestwicki</p> <p><b>Assistant Treasurer</b> Dave Herrewig</p> <p><b>Board Members</b> Julie Amundson Paula Brookmire Renee Couture Carol Doebler Steven Fabina Dorothy Riesing Ellen Riley David Rosenberg Mary Wozniak</p>
<p><b>Valley Spur Ski Trip</b>  <i>January 19 - 21, 2024</i></p> <p>The "Valley Spur" ski trails are known as one of the premier ski destinations in the upper Midwest. Snow, snow everywhere due to Valley Spur's unique location a few miles from Lake Superior in Michigan's, "UP", snow belt. The 47 miles of well groomed, well designed picturesque trails in the Hiawatha National Forest put Valley Spur over the top! All levels of skiers, from beginner to advanced, welcome! And that's not all! There are intersecting snow shoe trails which reliably put smiles on all those who participate.</p> <p>Ready to take a break from all this fun, no problem. Adjoining the trails is a cozy, trailside lodge where friends can meet up in front of the wood burning stove and enjoy a cup or two of hot soup and homemade break provided by a Valley Spur "friend."</p> <p>So, break out the skis and join in on the fun! Get the "early bird" price, sign up now: NSCM Valley Spur ski weekend, January 19 - 21, 2024. Depart on Friday, 8:00 am with a stop at the Green Bay Reforestation Camp (if there is snow), ski 2 days at Valley Spur.</p> <p>Trip price goes up on December 21. Overnight at the Comfort Inn on the shore of Lake Superior in quaint Munising. Questions: contact trip leader, Jane Stoltz @ 414-378-1691 or, email, 1jmsoltz@gmail.com. Click here to access the trip reservation form: <a href="https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425705">https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425705</a>.</p>	<p><b>Program Committee Members:</b>  Paul Keber, Chair  (262) 547-4827  Chris Pantazon  Barb Tremel  Becky Yakes  Joanne Ziarek</p> <p><b>Public Relations Chair:</b>  Paula Brookmire  (414) 527-0040</p> <p><b>Clinics Chair:</b>  Carol Doebler</p> <p><b>Website Chair:</b>  Katie Bivens  <a href="mailto:katiebivens@ymail.com">katiebivens@ymail.com</a></p> <p><b>Historian:</b>  Paula Brookmire  (414) 527-0040</p>
<p><b>NSCM Trip to Vermont</b>  <i>January 27 - February 3, 2024</i></p>	<p><b>Newsletter:</b>  Send Articles to:  <a href="mailto:newsletter@nordicskiclub.org">newsletter@nordicskiclub.org</a></p>

<p>There is still one room available for anyone interested in this ski trip. Vermont is well-known as a fabulous place to cross-country ski. We will be near the lovely Green Mountains, from which Vermont gets its name. Here is your opportunity to experience the beauty of Vermont in winter. The trip will consist of eight days and seven nights, with opportunity to ski on six days.</p> <p>We plan to stay at the Comfort Inn Trolley Square near Rutland <a href="#">see here</a>. The rooms include TV, refrigerator, microwave, etc. The hotel has a pool and there is a restaurant next door.</p> <p>Some nearby ski areas include:</p> <p>Mountain Top Inn with 60 km of trails, 10 miles away <a href="#">info</a></p> <p>Rikert Outdoor with 55 km of trails, 30 miles away <a href="#">info</a></p> <p>Fox Run Nordic with 15 km of trails, 25 miles away <a href="#">info</a></p> <p>Viking Nordic with 26 km of trails, 35 miles away <a href="#">info</a></p> <p>Woodstock Nordic Center with 45 km of trails, 31 miles away <a href="#">info</a></p> <p>Mountain Meadows XC Center with 40 km of trails, 12 miles away <a href="#">info</a></p> <p>The cost of the trip should be about \$1,000 for members and \$1,100 for non-members although the prices may change. This includes air fare from Chicago's O'Hare airport to Burlington, VT, rental car for every 3 people and lodging.</p> <p>Please contact Stan Rosenstiel at <a href="mailto:mrstanmr@yahoo.com">mrstanmr@yahoo.com</a> or 262-694-2206 if you are interested or for more information.</p>	<p><b>Facebook Chair:</b> Ellen Riley <a href="mailto:ellenriley612@gmail.com">ellenriley612@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Facebook Link:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Nordic-Ski-Club-of-Milwaukee-NSCM-111282934088979/">https://www.facebook.com/Nordic-Ski-Club-of-Milwaukee-NSCM-111282934088979/</a></p> <p><b>Membership Chair:</b> Pat Doornek 414-906-0629</p> <p><i>New memberships or renewal forms may be mailed to:</i> Pat Doornek 3463 N. Newhall St. Milwaukee, WI 53211</p>
<p><b>Minocqua Ski Trip</b> <i>February 9-11, 2024</i></p> <p>Join us for some great skiing at Minocqua Winter Park, one of the premier cross-country ski areas in the Midwest, with 86 km of beautifully groomed and scenic ski trails as well as 15 miles of snowshoe trails. The chalet serves a variety of food, and homemade soups. The ski shop, which has expanded into a new addition to the chalet, has all the latest ski gear, waxes, and clothes, and rents skis and snowshoes. We plan to ski at Nine Mile Forest near Wausau on the way up, with 30 km of ski trails, 11 km of snowshoe trails, and a large chalet with ski rentals.</p> <p>Accommodations are at the AmericInn in downtown Minocqua with a swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool, free continental breakfast, and a microwave and refrigerator in each room.</p> <p>Contact trip leader John McCarthy at 414-412-0331 or <a href="mailto:johnnymac1952@gmail.com">johnnymac1952@gmail.com</a> for more information. Click here to access the trip reservation form: <a href="https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425732">https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425732</a>.</p>	<p><b>Contact Us:</b></p> <p><b>Volunteers</b></p> <p>The Nordic Ski Club runs on volunteers. Please contact Renee Couture at <a href="mailto:acoutrr@att.net">acoutrr@att.net</a> if you are interested in learning more.</p>
<p><b>ABR Ski Trip</b> <i>March 1-3, 2024</i></p> <p>Save the Date! The first weekend in March, you can expect excellent skiing conditions at ABR in Ironwood, MI. Last season they had 253 inches of snow!</p>	<p><b>Club Membership</b></p> <p>Membership Renewals due Oct. 1. Renew online. Then pay through PayPal or mail check to Pat Doornek.</p> <p>Dues - Individual \$25 Household \$35 Must be a current member to book ski trips at member rate.</p> <p><b>Web Tips</b></p> <p>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 <a href="http://www.nordicskiclub.org">www.nordicskiclub.org</a> and</p>

<p>The Nordic Ski Club has been coming to this premiere cross-country ski area for more than 20 years. Our first year as visitors, there were 40 km of groomed trails; now there are 101 km of trails. Bring or rent snowshoes to enjoy some of the 16 km of the most diverse and scenic snowshoeing you'll find in the Midwest.</p> <p>Eric Anderson and his wife Angela Santini have been running ABR (Active Backwoods Retreats) for many years. Now, they plan to retire on April 1, 2025. Eric will continue to be actively involved with trail grooming.</p> <p>Eric and Angela have set up the Anderson Bluff &amp; River Trails Foundation to sustain ABR's legacy for future generations. They are generously donating their land to the Foundation, which will operate ABR Ski Area as a non-profit. Long term plans including connecting ABR Trails to other trails in the Ironwood area. For more information, visit <a href="https://andersonbluffsrivertrailsfoundation.org/">https://andersonbluffsrivertrailsfoundation.org/</a></p> <p>Our five-hour bus ride from Milwaukee is divided with a mid-day stop at Nine Mile Forest near Wausau, with 30 km of both skating and striding ski trails and 11 km of snowshoe trails. The chalet offers ski rentals.</p> <p>We are again staying at the Quality Inn hotel in Ironwood. Some restaurants are within walking distance of the hotel, and there are more dining options in nearby downtown Hurley.</p> <p>Saturday's group dinner will again be at the Elk &amp; Hound Restaurant on the Gogebic Country Club grounds in Ironwood. Last year, we were hosted in the main dining room of the historic clubhouse, built in 1922. We promise an unforgettable evening!</p> <p>Take advantage of this last blast outstanding skiing opportunity. Sign up before January 31 to receive the Early Bird discount. Contact Trip Leader Sally Heuer: <a href="mailto:smiles@metrodish.net">smiles@metrodish.net</a> or 414-403-7911 with any questions.</p> <p><i>Click here to access more details and the trip reservation form:</i> <a href="https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425758">https://www.nordicskiclub.org/event-5425758</a>.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<h2>A Full Season of Events</h2> <p>While our club bus ski trips are great ways to get to know Nordic Ski Club members, we have lots of other opportunities. You can make new friends or get together with current friends at these coming events offered by the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dec. 2, Saturday:</b> Holiday soup party and hike at Trecker Lodge in Lapham Peak State Forest (see article in this issue)</li> <li>• <b>Jan. 14, 2024, Sunday:</b> Nordic Ski Club winter picnic lunch at Trecker Lodge in Lapham Peak State Forest, W329 N846 County Rd. C, Delafield. Cross-country ski lessons are offered starting at 10:00 am for those who pre-register and pay a donation. Lunch is offered free to club members who register ahead of time. We expect snow, whether it's from Mother Nature or thanks to the snowmaking project at Lapham Peak. More details in our January newsletter.</li> <li>• <b>Feb. 16, Friday:</b> We're planning our annual fish fry and member meeting on a Friday night, as you might expect. It's always a popular event.</li> <li>• <b>March 13-23,</b> online annual meeting and board elections. Since the pandemic, this has been an online "meeting" that you can do on your own schedule.</li> <li>• <b>April 19, Friday, end-of-the-year member meeting,</b> Elks Lodge 400, 2301 Springdale Rd., Waukesha. We expect this to be a fun way to look back at our ski trips, including our Vermont trip. Plus, you won't want to miss updates on the Lapham Lodge project</li> </ul>	<h2>Add Photos To The Nordic Website</h2> <p>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? <a href="mailto:katiebivens@ymail.com">katiebivens@ymail.com</a></p> <p>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, <a href="mailto:pkeber@milwpc.com">pkeber@milwpc.com</a></p>

(which our club has donated \$5,000 to) and the success of Lapham Peak snowmaking for 2023-2024 winter season.

- **Ski outings, hikes, bike rides, paddling events, campouts, etc.** are offered monthly (year-round). NSCM members get regular email blasts with details for fun.

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## Club Dues Must Be Paid Before Going on Ski Trips

Several Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee members have not renewed their memberships by paying club dues. To get the membership price for our bus ski trips, you must pay your dues before the trips start. Our low dues of \$25 per individual or \$35 per couple is a bargain given that we offer free food at member meetings. Our October 13, 2023, meeting featured pizza, veggies and sweets.

It's not just about the money. We count on your renewals to update us on your contact information. If we can't contact you, we can't tell you about trips, hikes, campouts, etc. We also need you to agree to our liability waiver every year, which is part of your renewal and keeps our insurance up to date. Finally, we need a certain number of members just to hold our ski trips and to keep club activities going.

We have four bus ski trips up north planned this season plus a plane trip to Vermont. We have several member meetings scheduled (see coming events article) plus outings and events year-round.

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## Intricacies of the Ice Age Trail

At least eight members of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee have traversed the thousand-plus miles of Wisconsin's famous Ice Age Trail. Two of them gave slide presentations at the club's Oct. 13, 2023, member meeting. Jane Stoltz completed the trail in 2009. "Things have improved since then," she noted. "There are a lot more boardwalks than when I hiked."

Fred Paasch also showed slides from his trek on the trail, which included both walking and bicycling. His pictures featured amusing hazards such as tilted boardwalks, creeks with no bridges and slippery stones, and confusing signs with arrows pointing in opposite directions. Then there was a photo of him wearing a hat with netting, long sleeves and gaiters--all to protect from insects such as flies and ticks. "I would not hike in the summer again," he said. "Most of my hiking was in spring or early fall."

Nordic Ski Club President Carol Doeblner, who has done parts of the trail on and off for years, said she preferred the trail in winter. "No ticks." She added: "The Ice Age Trail is one of the top trails in the nation." All speakers agreed the trail has lots of beautiful scenery and many places to stay along the route.

The speakers noted that there are Ice Age Trail chapters in areas along the trail who help maintain it. Sometimes chapter members will help you shuttle from place to place. They're called Trail Angels. There can be long distances of road that you have to walk between trailheads, which can be boring.

Jane noted: "I didn't really enjoy the road miles until a friend told me to look up." Ah, the sky. Fred said he biked many of the road miles and also biked the Sugar River Trail and the Gandydancer Trail. So, technically, he's not a member of the Ice Age Trail's Thousand-Miler Club. You're supposed to traverse the trail on foot: walking, snowshoeing or skiing. Nordic Ski Club members or past members who are Thousand Milers (and the dates they completed the

trail) are: Kathy Clavette (6-1-06), Anne Riendl (6-1-06), Craig Sanford (8-25-06), Jane Stoltz (4-24-09), Betty Schraith (10-4-14), Barbara Johnson (10-25-16) and Lois Gresl (4-11-23).

--Paula Brookmire

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## Help Plan a Fish Fry

Got a favorite fish fry place? Share it. Volunteer to organize the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee's annual February Fish Fry. It takes very little effort. You just need to find a place that can accommodate 20 to 25 club members in one area for a Friday fish fry on February 16, 2024.

We'll help you write an article on the event for our February newsletter and also arrange for people to sign up ahead of time. Meanwhile, for leading/organizing an event, your name will be put in our April volunteer drawing. Twice a year (April and October), the club draws names from the group of club members who have led club events or volunteered for the club in the previous six months. Two winners get \$50 each. (If you can't find anything for February 16, the alternate date would be February 23.)

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## Covid and Bus Trips - When to Cancel

Covid-19 and other respiratory viruses are still a concern for Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee bus ski trips. Many ski-club members are in the older age group that is more likely to have serious symptoms if they get a respiratory infection such as Covid-19, RSV, the flu, whooping cough or even a cold.

That's why the club requires that participants who get sick in the days before a ski trip or on the day of the trip to cancel. You will be refunded all recoverable costs of bus trips with a maximum loss of \$60. Please do not expose other trip participants to contagious diseases. You don't want to be responsible for sending someone to the hospital or to days (or weeks) of serious illness.

While NSCM does not require that members get the new Covid-19 booster, we strongly recommend it. Most of our members indicated in 2022 that they were vaccinated against Covid-19, and the NSCM board voted in June 2023 to no longer require Covid vaccinations for our bus trips. We have not surveyed members to see how many have gotten the 2023 boosters. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends Covid boosters as well as flu shots. And you may want to consider vaccinating for RSV, a virus that is showing up in seniors.

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*The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee (NSCM) continues to follow recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Wisconsin authorities regarding Covid-19 safety. 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.*

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