



Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee

February 2022

Year-Round Recreation Since 1971

Vol. 51 Issue 2

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Monthly Meeting And Events

Fish Fry Meeting

Friday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. doors open

The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee will hold its February Fish Fry meeting at the Elks Lodge of Waukesha. Many Nordics enjoyed the venue in the past.

Ben, of the Elks Lodge, is working with us on the food. This year, we will experience a buffet-style Fish Fry, including a vegetarian option of Zucchini Lasagna, "We did this a few months ago for a group and it was well received", Ben stated. The cost will be \$16 per person, which includes a tip going toward Special Olympics. He requests we let him know the number of those attending; both to insure quantities of food, as well as limit waste. The Elk's Lodge is a volunteer organization: careful planning and minimal waste helps to maximize funding of its programs.

Buffet-style Fish Fry offerings include: fried fish, baked fish, broasted chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, rye bread, butter and sour cream. (Note: after all are served, you will be able to go for seconds. This might be an opportunity to try something else.)

The fish fry meeting will be held in the lower level at the Elks Lodge No. 400 in Waukesha starting about 6:00 p.m. Enter the lower level from the parking lot in the back of the building. You can purchase drinks at the Lodge's bar.

Questions? Email Carol at: tortoiseski@wi.rr.com

[Register here for Fish Fry](#)

Location: Elks Lodge Waukesha #400
2301 Springdale Road, Waukesha

Next Month,
Look For:

Valley Spur Ski Trip
Friday - Sunday,
March 4 - 6th

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

Enter via LOWER LEVEL parking lot

Date/Time: Friday, February 25
door opens at 6:00 p.m., buffet 7:00 p.m.

Havenwoods Snowshoe or Hike

Saturday, February 5th, 10:00 am

Join snowshoe enthusiasts to explore the trails at Wisconsin's only urban state forest on Saturday, February 5th at Havenwoods Environmental Center. This state park, located at 6141 N. Hopkins St. in Milwaukee, requires no sticker. There are more than 6 miles of trails on 237 acres of woods, grasslands, and wetlands in the city of Milwaukee. Check out [Havenwoods State Forest Map \(widencdn.net\)](#).

Meet at the Nature Center at 10 a.m. to snowshoe or hike the trails if snow conditions are poor. Masks inside the building are recommended.

Directions: Havenwoods State Forest is on the north side of Milwaukee, one block west of Sherman Boulevard on Douglas Avenue. From West Silver Spring Drive, turn north onto North Sherman Boulevard. At the second stoplight, turn left (west) on Douglas Avenue. After one short block, you will be at the Havenwoods entrance. Continue up the hill to the parking lot and nature center.

Email Mary Mueller at mjmueller.uef@gmail.com with questions or to let her know you plan to attend.

Minocqua Winter Park Ski Trip

Friday - Sunday, February 11 -13th

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 for all skill levels as well as 11 km of snowshoe trails. Free ice skating is also available if you bring your skates.

The chalet offers indoor restrooms, serves grab and go lunch items (typically soup, hot dogs, walking tacos, sandwiches, normally vegetarian options, hot and cold drinks and snacks) and has a topnotch ski shop which rents skis and snowshoes and offers cc ski lessons.

Minocqua Winter Park will be following the CDC and Oneida County guidelines regarding COVID-19. Currently masks are not required in the lodge.

On the way up, we plan to ski at Nine Mile Forest near Wausau with 30 km of ski trails, 6 km of snowshoe trails and chalet with ski and snow shoe rentals. They have a concession stands with snack type food and drink.

As of early January, both parks have plenty of snow for outdoor fun.

Accommodations are at the Best Western Plus Concord Inn in downtown Minocqua with swimming pool, whirlpool, free continental breakfast, bar/lounge, and microwave and

Treasurer
Dave Herrewig

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

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(262) 547-4827
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Barb Tremel
Cathy Ward
Becky Yakes
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Paula Brookmire
(414) 527-0040

Clinics Chair:
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katiebivens@ymail.com

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(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

refrigerator in each room. Six local restaurants reside within a couple blocks of the hotel.

For more information look under the club website: [Minocqua Ski Trip](#)

or contact trip leader Alan Siegl at 262-744-4929 or e-mail acesiegl@yahoo.com for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: Un-booked rooms have been released. Please call the trip leader if you still want to go on the trip before signing up. The trip leader can contact the hotel and see if any rooms are available and/or put you on a waiting list in case someone needs to drop out from the trip. There is no guarantee additional rooms are available.



Mike Craig on a 2009 NSCM ski trip to Minocqua

Valley Spur Ski Trip

Friday - Sunday, March 4 - 6th

Join us for our popular ski trip to Valley Spur near Munising, MI. We will ski at Valley Spur Ski Trail in the Hiawatha National Forest with 45 km of picturesque ski trails, 3 km of snowshoe trails, and cozy a log cabin.

There will not be a Taste & Glide and the log cabin will not be open to the public this ski season. However, the log cabin will be open only for our group as a private party along with a food event with soup, homemade bread, sweets, hot chocolate and coffee that is included in the trip cost on Saturday and optional for Sunday.

On the way up, we will ski at Brown County Reforestation Camp near Green Bay (30 km of ski trails, chalet, and 3 km of snowshoe trails) or at Valley Spur.

Accommodations are at the Holiday Inn Express near Munising with swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna, free continental breakfast, and microwave and refrigerator in each room. For more information look under the club website: [Valley Spur Ski Trip](#)

Save \$20 if you register by 2/2/22. We need to have a minimum of 25 people by Feb. 1 in order for this ski trip to go, so please don't wait to sign up.

Contact trip leader Stan Rosenstiel at 262-694-2206 or mrstanmr@yahoo.com for more information.

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 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



Valley Spur trip leader Stan Rosenstiel with his ski bag.

privileges are available. Then the upload and edit buttons are visible for you to add to the fun. Need help? katiebivens@ymail.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

Vote in March With Email Ballot

For the third year in a row, the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee will conduct our annual meeting and elections via email. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, some members may be uncomfortable voting at an in-person meeting. Thus, we will make the election safer by doing it online. The simple process takes only minutes. We need your response to help us keep the club running. Please make sure you have paid annual dues before voting on just a few items:

- approving the minutes of the March 20, 2021, annual meeting**
- voting in four board members who are re-running for two-year terms***
- voting to adjourn**

Balloting runs March 16 through 26. Look for announcements, recognition of volunteers and other news in your email, just as there would be at an in-person annual meeting.

Nominations: Our bylaws require that we take nominations for other people who want to run for the board, even though we have a full complement of volunteers willing to run. The only feasible way to do this is to have you email a nomination for the board by March 1 to President Carol Doebler. For the nomination to be valid, you must get permission from the person you are nominating and you must get another club member to second your nomination. Email these by March 1 (so we have time to get them on the ballot) to tortoiseski@wi.rr.com. To this same email address, you can send any resolutions to propose - with the name of a club member who is seconding them.

***Note** that the Nordic Ski Club has staggered elections. This year four people will be elected to the nine-member board; next year five people will be elected. This keeps continuity and stability so we don't lose all board members at once. Current board members who are up for re-election to two-year terms, starting March 26, 2022, are Paula Brookmire, Ellen Riley, Dorothy Riesing and Mary Wozniak. If elected, they will join the five board members whose two-year terms continue through March 2023: Julie Amundson, Renee Couture, Carol Doebler, Stephen Fabina, and David Rosenberg. Once elected the new board will choose its officers, as our bylaws direct. Current club officers are Carol Doebler, president; Renee Courture, assistant vice president; Stephen Fabina, assistant vice president; Dave Herrewig, treasurer; and Paula Brookmire, secretary.

Past-President Profile: David Harrison

By Paula Brookmire

"Opportunity knocks only once. So I open the door." That could be David Harrison's life mantra. Whether it's developing a new cross-country ski club or climbing some of the world's challenging mountains, playing clarinet in a symphonic band or becoming an artist in his 60s, he took on the challenge. While this retired English teacher loves traditional Wisconsin pursuits such as bowling and playing sheephead, he has been around the world from Siberia to Peru.

Most groups that celebrate their 50th anniversary* are not lucky enough to have their first elected president still involved. The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee, however, can boast that David Harrison has been a member since he was elected NSCM president in 1972. That was in November, just after the year-old club incorporated. A half-century later, in September 2021, David accepted a plaque from the Milwaukee County Historical Society honoring the club for its 50 years of contributions to cross-country skiing in southeastern Wisconsin. The club--and David in particular--voluntarily developed ski trails in the Kettle Moraine State Forests for the Department of Natural Resources. The club also promoted cross-country skiing, taught thousands of people how to ski, and ran ski races for years. David was in charge of organizing many of the adult races.

At age 78, David Harrison has put away his cross-country skis but is still downhill skiing at altitudes of 12,000 to 13,000 feet, despite having asthma and heart issues. As he says, "I'm fine skiing downhill, but don't ask me to climb the stairs in a ski condo." In his love for snow and sun, he is like many Nordic Ski Club members who ski into their late 70s and 80s.

David had never skied before when he saw a Milwaukee Journal story about a cross-country ski club forming in December 1971. David saw an opportunity. He met Klaus Milinski Walden, who also had joined the club. Klaus had brought his skiing skills from Germany. David soon was learning to cross-country ski and having lots of adventures. There was the time he, Klaus, Tom Mitchell and Elliott Coles decided to ski from Eagle River to Minocqua in northern Wisconsin. They didn't leave till 1 p.m. and water bottles were filled with wine. Wine was dehydrating. It got dark. They got lost. They got sweaty. They got chilled. "About midnight I noticed we were in trouble with hypothermia," David recalls. He remembered a dilapidated hut from a previous trip on the trail. The men found the hut and started a fire to get warm. They survived and made it back to their cars.

To improve ski trails, David and Klaus purchased a snowmobile, and Klaus rigged it with a weighted sled that could make parallel ski tracks. Klaus tracked Greenbush trails in the northern Kettle Moraine State Forest so the new ski club could have races there. In fact, this club from Milwaukee named itself the Kettle Moraine Ski Club until they learned another club had that name. So the name was changed to the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. Cross-country skiing was called Nordic skiing, as opposed to alpine (or downhill) skiing. Klaus and David decided that hiking paths near Eagle River, Wis., would make great ski trails. So they hauled the trail groomer to Anvil Lake and other Eagle River-area trails, and the crew starting tracking at night. It was DNR land, and they didn't want to run in to anyone. Of course, the snowmobile broke down. A DNR warden found it the next day and they were fined \$375 for trespassing. But when the skiers explained that tracked trails were more enjoyable and durable and would attract skiers, the DNR decided that the club members were doing it a service by grooming trails,

recalled David. The fine was reduced to \$75 and groomed trails became history in northern Wisconsin.

Former NSCM president Gary Hansen, who has been in the club since 1972, said in his typically humorous way: "The skiers back then were social outcasts. We were people who were independent thinkers, liked doing things alone, liked cheap things, and were highly opinionated. Dave Harrison was the least objectionable of the people at the time, and he was elected president."

David himself says, "I don't mix well with people. I've always done solitary things. I like skiing alone, even downhill skiing [which he took up nearly 30 years after cross-country]."

Nevertheless, David was a good organizer and detail person. In 1972 club founder Jim McCredy was asked by the DNR to create ski trails at Pike Lake State Park. Jim, Klaus, David, Knut Hubert and others made trails in time for the 1972-'73 ski season. (Klaus Walden's ashes were scattered there and his name put on a bench). Later, the club got involved in widening other hiking trails to accommodate skiing. David, who taught English at Hartland's Arrowhead High School for 32 years, would go out after school to hiking trails in the southern Kettle Moraine with a crude topographical map that Ron Novak of the DNR gave him. "I spent a lot of years out there, especially in the fall. I could see better after the leaves had fallen. I flagged where people could ski." He marked trails that could be widened or extended, such as the Emma Carlin Trail, the John Muir Trail (a former ski trail now used for biking), the Scuppernong Trails (used as ski trails for decades but no longer groomed for skiing), and the Nordic Trails. Due to David's work and the club's help in clearing the trails, the Nordic trails near East Troy, Wis., were named after the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. Eventually a ski lodge was put up there; today the trails are popular.

David also designed the trails at McMiller Sports Center near Eagle, Wis., and NSCM moved its Kettle Moraine Nordic adult races from Greenbush to McMiller. Also at McMiller, NSCM created the Esker Odyssey race, which became a qualifying race for the American Birkebeiner, the premier cross-country ski race in the Midwest. (David said he skied in 13 "Birkies," on encouragement from Klaus) "We had two races going at McMiller, and we had about 1,200 skiers coming in for the races," David said. David also served on the board of the U.S. Central Cross-Country Ski Racing Committee, which provided some protocols for racing. David, in the early days of computers, created a program to score races; he later sold the program to other racing groups. Then the weather gods struck. There were two years in a row of poor snow, and races had to be cancelled. Since races required hundreds of volunteers, the race program died.

By the late 1980s, David Harrison stopped being as active in the Nordic Ski Club. In summers, when he was off of school, David had been doing wilderness backpacking trips by himself since the 1970s. "I started joining expeditions in 1983 with a trip to Peru. I was a good rock climber. Through experience I learned mountaineering and climbing mountains in snow and ice. A friend from the Chicago Mountaineering Club invited me, and I went on their expeditions to Alaska, British Columbia and the western U.S., particularly the Wind River Range." Later David met others with whom he organized trips to Bolivia, Siberia and Tajikistan. In 1990 he went with Russian engineers and artists to Siberia, and he said "he was the first American to climb the highest peak in the Altai Mountains, Baluka Peak," about 16,000 feet high. (See photo.)

His last mountaineering trips were in 2004: four weeks in Bolivia and four weeks in Kluane Provincial Park in the Yukon, Canada. The next few years after that, however, found him still in the mountains doing service trips for the Sierra Club to repair trails, bridges, and campground



Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee presidents (from left) David Harrison, Carol Doebler and Gary Hansen tour David's art exhibit on February 25, 2018.



In July 2006, David Harrison went on a Sierra Club service trip 9,000 feet up Canada's Mount Robson.



In 1990 David Harrison (in red shirt) climbed the 16,000-foot-high Baluka Peak in Siberia's Altai Mountains with Juri Fedotov.

New Year's Ski Trip Adventure

By Joanne Ziarek

On December 30, 2021, a group of 38 Nordics left at 8:00 a.m. for the Keweenaw Peninsula in Upper Michigan to ski and snowshoe. Everyone wore masks on the bus and in enclosed areas helping to keep us safe so no one got sick. Trip leader Julie Amundson called us “intrepid” and that proved to be fitting for our first bus ski trip in two years. As the trip leader, she had several extra tasks and responsibilities due to the pandemic and set a fine example for our upcoming bus trips. Our bus driver Shawn did a great job of getting us safely everywhere, though her GPS system was a bit “wonky” at times. It was Shawn’s first trip to the UP and she had wisely requested a bus with snow tires. She said she enjoyed herself even though she didn’t ski.

On the way up we stopped to ski at the WinMan trails for 3 hours and arrived at the Quality Inn & Suites in Houghton, MI., around 7:30. p.m. This hotel has a rather unusual layout as it’s built on a hill in six levels, but it’s centrally located making it convenient to walk to area dining establishments.

On Friday, December 31, we skied at Swedetown in Calumet, MI., which has a nice variety of well-groomed trails and generally we are blessed with lake effect snow, making for a magical, winter wonderland atmosphere. On Saturday, New Year’s Day, we again headed to Calumet, dropping off about 20 people at the Maasto Hiihto trails for snowshoeing and striding only. The rest of the group again skied at Swedetown in lake effect snow. The group at Maasto Hiihto was treated to guided snowshoeing and skiing, and both groups got to explore some special areas. The ski club there again provided delicious home-made soups, breads, & desserts for a nominal price.

Our group dinner was at The Library restaurant that evening and the service, the food, and the company were all excellent! On Sunday, January 2, the skiers were dropped off at Michigan Tech to ski the upper and/or the lower trails returning to the hotel in time for a 3:00 p.m. departure and a short stop in Green Bay for dinner.

Trip leader Julie had a well-planned schedule to drop off the Oshkosh group at 7:45 p.m. getting us back to the Milwaukee Park & Ride at 9:00 p.m. However, the bus decided to die as we were getting off the freeway south of Green Bay to drop off the five Oshkosh skiers. Shawn was on the phone with Lamers while a good Samaritan tow-truck driver stopped, as did a couple of sheriff’s cars. They directed traffic around us and, once it was determined that we would need to wait for a replacement bus, we were driven two-by-two to a nearby gas station/food stop for warmth and safety. It served to give us an unexpected opportunity to mingle and visit with each other to pass the time. For most of us it was likely our first ride in the back of a police vehicle! After quite some time the new bus arrived and everything was transferred from the stranded bus to the new one by helpful volunteers from the group. We arrived safely at midnight to scrape our cars & head home.

Since everyone stayed safe and warm it has become another ski trip tale to tell. If you’ve been on other bus trips to the UP, this is just another adventure to add to the list of stories you can tell! These little adventures show what a great group of people the Nordics are. So, if you’re ready for good skiing, lots of snow, good company among great skiing people, and another

possible adventure, plan to sign up for another Nordic bus ski trip.

*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.*

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