



**July 2022**

**Year-Round Recreation Since 1971**

**Vol. 51 Issue 7**

**In this Issue:**

*Sunday, August 28th*  
**Nordics' 50th Anniversary Dinner**

*Monday, July 4th*  
**Fireworks From Fairground**

*Friday, July 8th*  
**Retzer Nature Center Beer Garden**

*Saturday, July 16th*  
**Waukesha to Dousman Bike Ride and Picnic**

*Sunday, July 17th*  
**White River GSP Paddling Trip**

*Wednesday, July 20th*  
**Milwaukee River GSP Twilight Paddle**

**Nordic Ski Club Presidents Part 1  
 2022 back to 1990**

**Monthly Events**

**Favorite Memories at the Nordics' 50th Anniversary Dinner in August  
 Register by Thursday, June 30, for Discount**

Remember that Memorial Day Weekend rafting trip in 1991 when Paul Keber fell out of the raft? Artist Renee Couture preserved it in ink with her "Man Overboard" drawing of trip leader Karen Schimian pulling Paul out of the river (see below). It's just one of many Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee events we'll be harking back to at our 50th anniversary celebration August 28, 2022. If you register and pay by June 30, 2022, the member cost is only \$28.50. If you wait till July, the cost will be \$5.50 higher. Early registrations also help us plan something special for you. Get set for awards, recognitions, mementos, surprises, dinner, cake and a snow-themed cocktail for our club.

While anyone can attend the event, club members get the best deal: \$10 off the \$38.50 price for dinner and anniversary cake.

The event runs from **2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, August 28th** and it will be somewhat casual, summertime chic but not shorts. We'll start right on time with appetizers at 2 p.m. and the program soon after so we don't have to compete with music on the patio at Matty's Bar & Grille. Our venue is a pleasant, open-air tent. Matty's is on College Avenue a mile east of Moorland Rd. in New Berlin. We hope to have about 100 people, including many past presidents and club members.

Dinner includes a choice among three entrees: beef tips and gravy with mashed potatoes, chicken parmesan with penne pasta and red sauce, or baked tilapia with mashed potatoes. Coleslaw and rolls are available for all three entrees. Appetizers include a seasonal fruit plate,

Next Month,  
 Look For:

***Lulu Lake GSP  
 Paddling Trip  
 August 7***

***Fox River GSP  
 Paddling Trip  
 August 14***

***Milwaukee River  
 GSP Twilight  
 Paddling Trip  
 August 17***

***South Shore Nike  
 Ride & Beer  
 Garden  
 August 18***

***Lapham Peak Hike  
 August 20***

***50th Anniversary  
 Celebration***

fresh vegetables with ranch dip, and spinach and artichoke dip with tortilla chips.

You can [register and pay online via this link](#) or on our website, [www.nordicskiclub.org](http://www.nordicskiclub.org). If you prefer to pay by check, make it out to NSCM. [Print this registration form](#), fill it out and mail with check to Paula Brookmire, 10106 W. Keefe Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53222. Remember, prices go up as of July 1, and reservations end August 1. Questions? Email Paula at [pbrookmire@gmail.com](mailto:pbrookmire@gmail.com).

### The CrossTrainers!



The above is Renee Couture's depiction of club members on the Memorial Weekend Rafting Trip. Yes, that is Karen Schimian pulling Paul Keber back into the raft.

### View 25 Fireworks From Fairgrounds July 4

*Monday, July 4, 8:30 pm*

It's the 15th year of our Nordic Ski Club outing to view a multitude of fireworks from the bleachers at Wisconsin's State Fair Park. The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee will meet at the grandstand bleachers in the fairgrounds in West Allis on Monday, July 4. Here you can get a 180-degree panoramic view of fireworks from more than 25 other cities and parks plus the West Allis fireworks right in front of you. Usually a concert band plays about 8:30 p.m., and the West Allis fireworks start about 9:30 p.m.

We plan to sit in the comfortable blue seats high in the bleachers at State Fair Park. For those with difficulty walking, there is an elevator in one of the pillars that can take you to the upper levels. If you don't find us near the top rows of the section directly overlooking the band, call Paula at 414-491-4636. Gary Braun and Paula Brookmire have been leading this outing for 15 years.

Meet us by 8:30 p.m., while it's still light. We'll wave flags and wear red and blue. Wear red and/or bring a flag.

Enter off 84th St. north of Greenfield Ave. There is a parking charge. To avoid it, park near 85th St. and Washington St. (one-quarter mile north of Greenfield Ave.) and walk into the west entrance of the park and to the grandstand. The restrooms are open and available to use.

To R.S.V.P. call (414) 527-0040.

**August 28**

### **Peninsula State Park Camping Trip September 2-5**

#### **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 Ellen Riley

##### **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 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



Paula Brookmire and Dianne Dagelen wave flags on July 4, 2021

**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)

**Facebook Chair:**

Ellen Riley  
[ellenriley612@gmail.com](mailto: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

**Retzer Nature Center Beer Garden**

Friday, July 8, 6:00 pm

FELLOW NORDICS, SUMMER IS HERE AND DO WE HAVE AN EVENT FOR YOU!!!!!!

Join other Nordics on Friday, July 8 to enjoy beer and food at Retzer Nature Center. Raised Grain Brewing Company is teaming up with Waukesha County Park Systems to host Beer Gardens throughout the summer.

Retzer Nature Center is located at S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188. ([Waukesha County - Retzer Nature Center](#)) At Retzer Nature Center there is no entrance fee.

Join your fellow Nordics for some outdoor fun and fresh air. At Retzer Nature Center you can enjoy a sunset hike on their 7 different hiking trails from .25 to 2.6 miles in length ([Waukesha County - Retzer Trails Map](#)).

There will be a food truck selling brick oven pizza.

Are you a fan of the stars? The Planetarium will be hosting a laser light show to music, the cost is \$5. For more details and ticket information please look at this link:

<https://hdplanetarium.ticketleap.com/>

The NSCM gathering will begin by 6pm, however the beer garden opens at 4pm. Yes, there is something for everyone. Questions call Julie 262-468-8223.

**Contact Us:**

**Volunteers**

The Nordic Ski Club runs on volunteers. Please contact Renee Couture at [acoutr@att.net](mailto:acoutr@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

Different venue where I can sit and talk with fellow Nordics	✓
Options if I don't want to sit and talk => hike	✓
⇒ Watch the planetarium	✓
Hang out, enjoy the fresh air and scenery	✓
Eat some wood-fire pizza	✓
Don't like pizza, I can bring my own dinner	✓
Have some Raised Grain Beer	✓
Don't like beer but prefer hard seltzer	✓
Play yard games	✓

## Waukesha to Dousman Bike Ride and Picnic

Saturday, July 16, 9:30 am

Join Paul and Rita for a 33-mile bike ride starting at their home on the NW side of Waukesha. We will proceed thru city streets to the Waukesha bypass bike trail and from there to the Glacial Drumlin bike trail and some lightly traveled roads heading to Dousman. We'll take a break at Cory Municipal Park in Dousman with modern bathrooms that are open. We will head back on the Glacial Drumlin bike trail and the Paul Sandgren Recreational Trail to the Lake Country Trail bike trail, taking a break at Cushing Memorial Park in Delafield before heading back to Waukesha. The first half of the ride will be fairly easy with several big hills on the way back.

A Wisconsin State Trail Pass is required on the Glacial Drumlin bike trail. A daily pass costing \$5 can be purchased from a machine in Wales if you don't have an annual pass.

After the ride, join Paul and Rita in their backyard for a picnic lunch. Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide hamburgers, chicken, and drinks. Be ready to start the ride at 9:30 am. Bike helmets are not required, but are strongly recommended. For additional information and directions to our home, call Paul at 262-547-4827. During the ride Paul can be reached at 262-309-1918.

## White River GSP Paddling Trip

Sunday, July 17

Join the Glacier State Paddlers for a fun day trip on the White River. The river is small and interesting. Small boats work best and prepare to get your feet wet. The trip starts at Riverview Park in Lyons located at 1588 Mill St. (Burlington mailing address). Beginning time will be determined closer to the day of the trip. Plan on paddling for 3 to 4 hours. The preferred ending take-out is at Mormon Rd & Hwy 11 west of Burlington. Depending on the number of vehicles involved, the trip may be extended a mile or so into Burlington for more parking.

Please bring a bag lunch, beverage, and gloves to protect your hands. Contact GSP trip leader Gary Johncox by texting (preferred) at 262-332-0432 or email [thecreekchub@hotmail.com](mailto:thecreekchub@hotmail.com) to reserve a spot on the trip and to get additional trip details. Identify yourself as a Nordic Ski Club member.

## Milwaukee River GSP Twilight Paddle

Wednesday, July 20, 6:00 pm

Enjoy a summer evening with a twilight paddle on the Milwaukee River. Join other Nordics and Glacier State Paddlers members Wednesday evening on July 20 starting at 6:00 pm and ending at dusk, so please bring a flashlight. We'll paddle the Milwaukee River through downtown Milwaukee. Launch site is the Kiwanis Boat Landing at 2135 N Riverboat Rd - on river side of street with street parking. Come 15 minutes before the 6:00 launch to help get canoes and kayaks into the water. Let GSP trip leader Debbie Luetzow know you are attending by calling or texting her at 414-333-0064. Identify yourself as a Nordic Ski Club member.

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@ymail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pkeber@milwpc.com)



*Nordic Ski Club past presidents were photographed at the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from left: Bill McNamara, Bob Bivens, Gary Hansen, Dave Harrison, Jim Dieball, Paula Brookmire and Katie Bivens*

## **Nordic Ski Club Presidents Part 1 - 2022 back to 1990**

### Carol Doeblner, 2017-2023, current president

Carol joined the club in the early 1990s and has been a continuous member except for 1995 when she gave birth to her son Prescott. She is into her sixth year as president. As of March 2022 she has been on the board of directors 15 years. Carol also was newsletter editor, clinics chair, service auction coordinator, and she has led hikes, picnics and other outings. She is an avid paddler (kayak and canoe), is on the snowmaking committee for Lapham Peak Friends and is a master gardener for the University of Wisconsin Extension. Carol has shepherded the club successfully through the Covid years, when for the first time we had to cancel club bus trips, in 2021 --and then brought them back in 2022.



*President Carol Doeblner received a plaque honoring the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which runs from 2021 to 2022. The Milwaukee County Historical Society presented the award.*

### Katie Bivens 2007 - 2017

Katie has the distinction of being the longest serving Nordic Ski Club president. Katie brought the club into the digital age by expanding and refining our website, overseeing three revamps in 10 years. To save money and time, she put the newsletter online, both via email and on the club's website. In the spirit of the original club members, she helped bring back a party atmosphere with food and fun at monthly meetings (January picnic, February fish fry, March potluck) and lots of non-snow activities such as board-games nights, dinner outings and summer events. She also encouraged fundraising to give back to trails and outdoor recreation venues. Katie learned to cross-country ski in the club. She met NSCM president Bob Bivens on a club

bike ride in 2003; they married in 2006.

### Bob Bivens 2002 - 2007

Bob joined NSCM in October 2000, about a year after he underwent a bone-marrow transplant for leukemia CML. His brother donated the marrow, and the transplant has been successful for more than two decades. Some of his early experience with cross-country skiing was with a ski group at The Milwaukee Journal, where he worked in circulation. Later Bob became a Milwaukee fire paramedic lieutenant, a steward in Firefighters Union Local 215, a basketball and football referee, and a referee group vice president. An avid bicyclist, he organized the paramedic Bike Response team for Summerfest and other festivals and organized bike outings for NSCM and the Bay View Bicycle Club. He kept NSCM running for five years during a transition time.



*Past Presidents Bob and Katie Bivens*

### Jim Jablonowski 2001 - 2002

Jim was known as a great teacher of cross-country skiing. As a father of six, he was patient and clear in breaking down the steps to skiing. He skied his first American Birkebeiner Race in 1983 and continued for the next 23 years. Jim was a computer consultant professionally. In his volunteer work for the club, he chaired the ski-wax and bike tune-up clinics for two years before being elected president in March 2001. His goal was to get more people active in the club. Jim's other passion was bicycling, and he died in 2006 doing just that. In warming up for his first bike race at the Senior Olympics, he cycled four miles in 16 minutes. He stopped by the side of the road with shortness of breath, and a brief time later he died.



*Past President Jim Jablonowski*

Paula Brookmire 1999 - 2001

Paula learned how to ski in 1980, first joined NSCM in 1982 and became an active member in 1990. She has been club historian for 26 years, public relations director for 20 and on the board of directors for 15. She has served in all four NSCM officer positions, and has continued as club secretary for years. A former journalist and editor, she has been a newsletter contributor for decades. After leaving The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, she started a career as a neuromuscular therapist in 1995. She has led eight bus ski trips up north, several day ski outings and hikes, and various other events. Paula met her husband, Gary Braun, in the Wisconsin Go Hiking Club. He joined the Nordic Ski Club when Paula was president, and he became vice president. They married in 2006, just months after Katie and Bob Bivens married.

Fred Schimian 1996 - 1999

Fred served three years as president during a crucial time when the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was considering altering some of the cross-country ski trails at McMiller Sports Center to make room for a gun range. The Nordic Ski Club had donated to help build a ski lodge at McMiller, and that lodge would be turned over to the gun range. Fred fought hard against it but lost. Eventually the lodge was closed to skiers, and it took years before a separate, prefab shelter was built for skiers. Gary Hansen went to high school with Fred and didn't think Fred to be that athletic. So Gary was surprised when Fred joined NSCM and became a good skier. Fred was passionate about saving ski trails and promoting cross-country skiing, even more so than promoting our club, noted Gary. Fred eventually moved to Iola, Wis., for the ski trails. He died years ago.



Fred Schimian Past President

Gary Hansen 1973-'75, 1982-'83, 1994-'96

Gary has been a continuous member of the Nordic Ski Club for 50 years, since 1972. "They asked for someone to do a newsletter, and my wife volunteered me," he says. Gary served as club president in three decades. His enthusiasm for cross-country skiing came through in his ski clinics, where he taught hundreds of Wisconsinites to ski. He also was involved in the club's many ski races. Like many of the early club presidents, he was a good writer and served as longtime newsletter editor for the Nordic News. Gary had to give up skiing after a motorcycle crash in 1985 injured his leg and foot. Still, he has continued as an unofficial club historian, helping with the 10th, 20th, 30th, 45th and 50th club anniversaries.

### Bob Randall 1992-'94

Bob was interested in linking with other outdoor sports clubs, in continuing with club-run ski races, and in encouraging member involvement in a service auction to support groups such as visually impaired skiers. Bob led ski trips and taught clinics on bicycling and rollerblading. He led rollerblading outings for NSCM, and that's how he really got to know Kathy Wacker, who eventually became his wife. Kathy had served two terms as president, first in 1981-'82. Ten years later Kathy was still on the board of directors when Bob became president. "Bob offered to teach me rollerblading", Kathy says. "The rest is history". Besides skiing, Bob loves bicycling, kayaking and playing tennis.



Past President Bob Randall

### Jim Dieball 1991-'92

A physics professor at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Jim joined the Nordic Ski Club in 1977. He wanted to learn about skiing the American Birkebeiner race. He ended up skiing that premier race for 28 years. He also met the woman who would become his wife, Georgene Voutila, and they married in 1983. He was on the board of directors much of the 1980s and 1990s and was elected president in 1991. He was active on the program, clinics and race committees. Jim also loves kayaking, bicycling, hot air ballooning and snowmobiling. He still grooms his own trail system in Crivitz, north of Green Bay.

### Patsy Coccia 1989-'91

In 1980, Patsy and her new husband, John Sekula, joined NSCM in the fall. They immediately became very active. She was on the NSCM board for two years and she headed the trails committee. Patsy and John were both active on the program and newsletter committees. Patsy is a great manager, says John, and she led several bus ski trips up north. Patsy became the club's 15th president. She remained active in the 1990s but dropped out of the club around the year 2000. She rejoined in 2021. Patsy loves to hike, canoe, dance, bicycle, and snowshoe. She and John have visited all of the national parks in the U.S. (more than 60).



*John Sekula and his wife, Patsy Coccia, who was club president from 1989 to 1991*

Nordic Ski Club Presidents Part 2, from 1988 to 1971:

The second half of this article will run in the August 2022 NSCM newsletter. It will feature presidents Wayne Hall, Georgia Link, Judy McNamara, Connie Nagel, Kathy Wacker (who served two separate terms), Gary Hansen (who served three separate terms over three decades), Bill McNamara, Ralph Ehlinger, Alan Wagner, T. James Kennedy, David Harrison and James McCredy. If anyone has memories of Georgia Link, Bill McNamara, Hall, Wagner, Kennedy or McCredy, please send them to Paula Brookmire immediately at [pbrookmire@gmail.com](mailto:pbrookmire@gmail.com).

*Article by NSCM historian Paula Brookmire*

---

*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.**