



# Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee

March 2021

Year-Round Recreation Since 1971

Vol. 50 Issue 3

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## Monthly Meeting and Events

### Go On A Photo Journey of Fall & Spring Hikes & Ski Outings

*Monthly Meeting, Friday, March 26, 7:00 p.m.*

With little snow up through December, 2020, the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee offered lots of hikes, some in places we had never been. More are planned for spring. Meanwhile, when the snow came, it turned into one of the best winters for cross-country skiing in southeastern Wisconsin. On Friday, March 26, we'll take you on a photo journey of great places to ski and hike, with a preview of some spring hikes. Stroll through forests and fields and along rivers with us in this Zoom online event. It all starts at 7 pm with announcements, a cash-prize drawing for a volunteer event leader, and a few words from one of the Nordic Ski Club Korteloppet Scholarship winners.

If you have photos of hikes you've been on and would like to include in this show, please email them (with date, location and other details) by Friday, March 5, to Paula at [pbrookmire@gmail.com](mailto:pbrookmire@gmail.com). Register for this show by Thursday, March 25 [using this link](#) or look for an email invitation with a link to register.



*Wide paths, deep snow and crisp tracks made cross-country skiing at Lapham Peak State Park a joy this winter. Paula Brookmire photographed this skier on February, 9, 2021.*

Next Month,  
Look For:

***River's Edge Hike***  
***Sunday, April 11***

***Stute Springs & Homestead Hike***  
***Saturday, April 17***

## 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



Hikers are flanked by fall color on a NSCM walk October. 11, 2020, in the newly opened Hidden Lake Park in Brookfield. Photo by Paula Brookmire.

## Circumnavigating Isle Royale by Sea Kayak

Friday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.

I hope you will enjoy hearing about a trip Joy and I did four years ago. This will be a reprise of the presentation that Bruce Monroe and I delivered at Conoecopia 2017.

In 2016, Joy and I, with solid paddling skills, decided to up our game and attempt a full-blown expedition. We teamed up with two friends, loaded two tandem sea kayaks, and headed off to paddle all the way around Isle Royale. 150 miles and 13 days later, we ended up with a successful trip – we were (and are) still talking to each other!

Isle Royale is known for its remote wilderness setting and its incredible beauty. This 70-mile long island, sitting 25 miles off the Minnesota/Canada border in Lake Superior, is also a great objective for a full-blown kayak expedition. Its remote location mandates that paddlers have decent wilderness skills and a clear-eyed assessment of their own strengths and weaknesses. The cold, open waters of Lake Superior brew their own weather, and we spent a lot of time studying weather patterns and navigation strategies. With no options for re-supply in mid-trip, we had to plan on “living out of our boats” for two weeks. That focused a lot of attention on good food planning and careful gear selection.

Don has been outdoors (especially in the Midwestern US) all his life. After a couple of decades in the outdoor industry (climber and mountaineer, photographer, skier, sea kayaker and author), he settled in as an energy analyst and green building specialist. Don now focuses his outdoor time on sea kayaking, and XC skiing during the few months when paddling is less convenient. His paddling journeys have taken him from Alaska to North Carolina. A native of Wisconsin, he is especially fond of the Apostle Islands, the Wisconsin River, and Pamlico Sound.

This will be a Zoom presentation, so **please register for this show by Thursday, March 11 using this link** or look for an email invitation with a link to register. A Zoom link will be forwarded to you on Friday, March 12.

## Hike the River's Edge in Butler

**Treasurer**  
Dave Herrewig

**Board Members**  
Paula Brookmire  
Renee Couture  
Carol Doebler  
Steven Fabina  
Dorothy Riesing  
Ellen Riley  
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)

**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*

Sunday, April 11

It usually sounds like a bubbling brook, but with this year's snow, it may be more of a rushing river. Stroll with us on Sunday afternoon, 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. And if there is too much recent snow, we'll postpone it for a week to April 18. Look for more details in April.

*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.*



*There was no snow in sight on December, 27, 2020, on the river's edge path in Butler's Frontier Park. A club hike there is set for April 11.*

### **Vote in March with Email Ballot**

*Wednesday, March 10 to Saturday, March 20*

With the coronavirus pandemic, we can't hold in-person voting for our board. So for the second year in a row, NSCM will conduct our annual meeting and elections via email. 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 April 25, 2020, annual meeting**
- **electing Julie Amundson to a two-year term as a new member of the board of directors**
- **voting in four board members who are re-running for two-year terms\***
- **voting to adjourn**

Balloting runs March 10 through 20. Look for announcements, recognition of volunteers and other news in your email, just as it 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 Friday, March 5 to President Carol Doebler. For the nomination to be valid, you must get permission from the

*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 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

person you are nominating and you must get another club member to second your nomination. **Email these by Friday, March 5 [so we have time to get them on the ballot] to [tortoiseski@wi.rr.com](mailto:tortoiseski@wi.rr.com).** To this same email, you can send any resolutions to propose -- with a club member seconding them.

**\*Note** that the Nordic Ski Club has staggered elections. This year five people will be elected to the nine-member board; next year four people will be elected. This keeps continuity and stability so we don't lose all board members at once. Julie Amundson has been nominated to serve on the board for the first time (see story at end of newsletter) for a two-year term. Current board members Renee Couture, Carol Doebler, Stephen Fabina, and David Rosenberg are up for re-election to two-year terms, starting Saturday, March 20, 2021, on the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee board of directors. They will join the four board members whose terms continue through March 2022: Paula Brookmire, Ellen Riley, Dorothy Riesing and Mary Wozniak.

### Facts & Friends on NSCM Facebook

A good way to see friends and get more facts about the club is to check out the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee's new Facebook page. Did you miss the beautiful rime ice in January? Besides the photos here, you'll find others on our club's Facebook page. You'll find lots of cross-country ski photos from Lapham Peak State Park, where conditions have been superb this season. Find out about the groups that NSCM made grants to this year. We encourage you to post photos of you and friends cross-country skiing or snowshoeing this year. Please remember to post a caption with the photo that includes where and when (full date) it was taken, first names of people in photo (we do not use last names unless you have permission from the people to use the last names). Include other details, such as weather and trail conditions. Ellen Riley, the club's Facebook chair, will monitor posts. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/Nordic-Ski-Club-of-Milwaukee-NSCM-111282934088979>.



*Nordic Ski Club member Elly Miller skied with a background of rime ice at Lapham Peak State Park on January 8, 2021.*



*Rime ice, or frozen fog, covered trees for days at Lapham Peak State Park. This was taken January 8, 2021, just off the parking lot near Evergreen Lodge.*

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)

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## **Member Profile: Julie Amundson**

*By Paula Brookmire*

Surviving a disaster can bond people and create nostalgia years later. Julie Amundson has led numerous trips and outings for the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. She's had her share of disasters or near disasters.

There was the New Year's bus trip--or should we say "non-bus" trip of 2018-2019. Turns out the bus that took a group of 50 to the snowy Keweenaw Peninsula of upper Michigan did not have good tires. While the bus made it up north, the driver soon had to find a new bus. He and club member Paul Eiche, Julie's partner, drove to pick up a second bus and transfer all 50-plus pairs of skis and snowshoes. Then, the last night of the four-day trip, Jim the bus driver was told by the hotel to turn off the bus engine at night to reduce fumes. Usually you keep diesel engines running all night in very cold weather. Sure enough, the bus froze. The next morning they couldn't get the door open. A front-end loader was used to put someone atop the bus to get in through a hatch. On the way down, he accidentally tapped a window and it broke. The bus was unusable. Unable to get to ski trails, trip participants played cards or watched football while waiting hours for yet another bus. Then skis were transferred again.

On the 2020 New Year's Keweenaw trip, "We got stuck in the parking lot at Swedetown Trails—more than once," recalls Julie. On another cross-country ski trip, two club members didn't get back in time and missed the bus. But their names were checked off as being on the bus. So they were left at the trails (temporarily). On a Labor Day camping trip that Julie led to Peninsula State Park in Door County, three people kayaked to a nearby island but only two came back. As darkness fell, so did Julie's spirits. She reported the missing man to park rangers. Then, hours later, the guy walked into the campground, unharmed. He had gotten tired and had to rest before kayaking back.

Yet Julie loves leading club trips. It's such a good way to get to know people and make friends. She has led the Keweenaw trip five times and also led a bus ski trip to the Porcupine Mountains in Michigan (where lack of good snow pushed them to drive to a trail system closer to Lake Superior). Julie often leads yoga sessions on the weekend cross-country ski trips, and she's given yoga and exercise sessions at club meetings. She has a B.S. in exercise physiology and a master's degree and clinical doctorate in physical therapy. She works in the Watertown (WI) Hospital clinic and also assists in an anatomy lab at Marquette University. She earned her first two degrees at different campuses of the University of California and her doctorate at Des Moines University. "I moved back to Wisconsin in 1994 and started skiing again."

Even though her father grew up in a little Norwegian community called Strum, WI, and he enjoyed the Norwegian tradition of cross-country skiing, Julie never skied as a child. "On my 18th birthday, I bought myself a pair of skis," she recalls. She did mostly back-country skiing where you create your own trails. It wasn't until she went to California and skied at Lake Tahoe that she discovered groomed trails with parallel tracks for classical skiing and a packed-down area for skate skiing. "That's what I like about cross-country skiing. You can skate or stride, depending on conditions. I do both. And other than skis and boots, you don't need a lot. It's not complicated. Once you've learned to layer with clothes that wick sweat away from your skin, you're good to go."

Julie Amundson joined NSCM in 1999. She had met longtime club member Arlene Wisotske at Riveredge Nature Center, and Arlene recommended the club because she'd be with others who loved the outdoors. "It was a safe place for a single woman to mingle with others who had the same interests." Julie went on her first bus ski trip with the club that winter, to Stokely Creek in Algoma, Canada. "It was so flipping cold. Yet I remember the fabulous food at Stokely and the great companionship." Julie met Paul Eiche on that trip. "It wasn't until a few years later that we started dating. We've been together about 19 years now."

Besides leading club trips, Julie was on the program committee from 2002 to 2008, and she's now running for an uncontested position on the club's board. She will most likely be elected in March to a two-year term. "I like the fact that NSCM is a ski club but there are other activities throughout the year. In winter you can snowshoe, hike or ski and usually find someone to go with you. The lesson of COVID is how much the outdoors has to offer. You know, cross-country skiing is one of the most beneficial forms of aerobic exercise." Julie admires the club's financial and sweat-equity donations over the last 50 years to ski venues and other ski groups. "It never really hit me how much our club matters until I was on a kayak trip led by Dan Clausen." He owns the Minocqua Winter Park Ski Shop and is a professional ski instructor. He has been giving lessons and selling equipment to NSCM members for decades, as the club has made bus trips to Minocqua annually. "There have been years when it has been really lean, and your club bringing 50 to 100 people up here really has helped us," Dan said to Julie.

Every two years NSCM awards grants to promote skiing. In 2021 grants went to Minocqua Winter Park, Swedetown Trails Club, the Lapham Peak Snowmaking Project, Valley Spur Friends, and the Peak Nordic Ski Club youth program. Julie likes being part of a club that encourages people to enjoy nature, especially the "silent sports" of skiing, snowshoeing and hiking.



*Julie Amundson and Paul Eiche have fun at the December 2017 Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee holiday party.*

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