



**May 2022**

**Year-Round Recreation Since 1971**

**Vol. 51 Issue 5**

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**An Easy River Hike Along the Menomonee River in Wauwatosa**  
*Sunday, May 1, 2022, 1:15 pm*

This is a hike with options: dirt path vs. paved path, hill or no hill, short or long. We meet at the northwest corner of Hartung Park at the intersection of Menomonee River Parkway and Keefe Avenue in Wauwatosa. Note: You'll want the parkway on the east side of the river (there's also one on the west side). For directions and more information, click on this link: <https://www.wauwatosa.net/discover-tosa/parks/hartung-park> (there is no street address). Park along the river parkway across from the park. There's usually a Port-a-Potty at the park, but the hike leader's house is nearby, too.

We'll hike through this hilly park to a high spot with a four-story view of the park and then to the labyrinth (which you can walk later if you want). Then it's south along the parkway past Burleigh to Center St. To make it longer, continue south to North Avenue. We can walk the dirt path close to the river, or, if the path is muddy, we'll take the paved bike path next to the parkway. On the return north, at Burleigh St., one option is to walk along the west side of the river up to Hwy. 100 and over the river back to the parkway and where we started at Hartung Park. The park is the only hilly spot, and you can skip the hills, if you want. Estimated time is 1-1/2 hours of slow walking or longer if you take the longer routes. At any time, you can turn back since it's easy to find your way. Paula Brookmire is the trip leader. Call her at 414-491-4636 to let her know you're coming or email her at [pbrookmire@gmail.com](mailto:pbrookmire@gmail.com).

Next Month,  
 Look For:

*June 5*  
**Rock River GSP Paddling Trip**

*June 11*  
**Conservancy for Healing Hike**

*June 15*  
**Milwaukee River GSP Twilight Paddle**

*June 17*  
**Fire and Fun at Lapham Peak**

*June 18*  
**Mukwonago River GSP Paddling Trip**



*Wauwatosa's Hartung Park in the fall.*

**Newburg to Waubedonia Milwaukee River GSP Paddling Trip**

*Saturday, May 7, 10:00 am*

Join the Glacier State Paddlers for a fun day canoeing or kayaking on the Milwaukee River from Newburg to Waubedonia Park west of Fredonia. This is a tried-and-true pleasant trip. The trip will start on the Milwaukee River on the west end of Firemans Park by Main Street (Cty Rd MY) in Newburg. You can get there by taking Hwy 33 either east from West Bend or west from Saukville. We will meet at 10:00 am and shuttle vehicles from the start before beginning the trip. The trip distance is about 11 miles. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage for the trip and gloves to protect your hands. Call GSP trip leader and Nordic member David Rosenberg at 414-975-2298 to reserve a spot on the trip and to get additional trip details. Identify yourself as a Nordic Ski Club member.

**Grafton to Thiensville Milwaukee River GSP Paddling Trip**

*Saturday, May 14, 10:00 am*

Join the Glacier State Paddlers for a fun day canoeing or kayaking on the Milwaukee River from Grafton to Thiensville. The first half of this 10-mile trip will have some twisty turns, and the second half will be easy. The trip will start at Lime Kiln Park just south of Grafton and will end at Village Park in Thiensville. You can get to the start by taking the Hwy 60 Grafton exit off I-43. Turn left and go west 1.5 miles, then turn left on Hwy 57 (Wisconsin Ave). After 1.75 miles, turn left on W. Falls Rd and after 0.25 miles turn right on Green Bay Rd and the park which will be a short distance from there. We will meet at 10:00 am and shuttle vehicles from the start before beginning the trip. The trip should take a little over 3 hours. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage for the trip and gloves to protect your hands. Call GSP trip leader and Nordic member David Rosenberg at 414-975-2298 to reserve a spot on the trip and to get additional trip details. Identify yourself as a Nordic Ski Club member.

**Thiensville to Kletzsch Park Milwaukee River GSP Paddling Trip**

*Sunday, May 15, 10:00 am*

Join the Glacier State Paddlers for a fun day canoeing or kayaking on the Milwaukee River from Thiensville to Kletzsch Park in Glendale. The trip will start on the Milwaukee River by Thiensville Village Park in Thiensville. You can get there by taking I-43 north to Mequon Rd and going west about 3 miles. Turn north (right) on Cedarburg Rd which becomes Main St and after 1/3 mile turn right onto Green Bay Rd. Take the first right at Elm St that will lead to the park. We will meet at 10:00 am and shuttle vehicles from the start before beginning the trip. The

**June 19  
Bark River GSP  
Paddling Trip and  
Picnic**

**June 24  
Summer Solstice  
Concert at Lapham  
Peak**

**June 25  
Bugline Sculpture  
Bike Ride**

**July 1 - 5  
Black River Falls  
Campout and  
Paddle**

**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

trip distance is about 9 miles. Please bring a bag lunch and beverage for the trip and gloves to protect your hands. Call GSP trip leader and Nordic member David Rosenberg at 414-975-2298 to reserve a spot on the trip and to get additional trip details. Identify yourself as a Nordic Ski Club member.

### **Nashotah Park Hike**

*Saturday, May 21, 9:00 am*

Join your fellow Nordics for a hike at Nashotah Park in Waukesha County on Saturday, May 21st @ 9:00 am. Let's plan on meeting in the parking lot by picnic area 1. We will hike the ski trails as they are plenty wide. We can discuss how many miles we'd like to do once we gather but most likely will plan on the 3-5 mile range. You will need either a daily park sticker (\$6 per car) or a Waukesha County annual sticker. If you have any questions, please call Chris Pantazon @ 414-852-4155. Please note that If rain is expected the hike may be cancelled. Directions to the park can be found at: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/nashotah/>

### **Nordic Trail Hike**

*Saturday, May 28, 12:00 noon*

Join other Nordics for a scenic hike on the rolling hills of the Nordic Trails in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. The hike will begin at 12:00 noon at the trailhead and will be about 7 miles, although a shorter distance can be chosen. To get to the trails, take I-43 southwest to Hwy 20 (East Troy) and go west on Hwy 20 to Hwy 12. Go west on Hwy 12 to County H (La Grange), then head north on County H several miles to the parking lot on the east (right) side of the road. A state park sticker is required for your car. Call Mike Craig at 414-552-5011 if you have any questions or to let him know you are coming.

### **New Berlin Trail Bike Ride**

*Tuesday, May 31, 9:30 am*

What could be finer than a grand finale finish to May, a 35-mile bike ride! The date is Tuesday, May 31. We'll be meeting at Greenfield Park and ride on the New Berlin bike trail to "cozy and classy" Mama D's Coffee in Wales. Indoor and outdoor seating available. It's an "out and back" ride on the trail, approximately 17 miles each way, equaling a grand total of 35 miles at ride's end. Park & meet fellow Nordics in the lot adjoining the pavilion & splash pool, ready to ride at 9:30 am. Bring water and snacks for the ride. Route terrain is mostly flat with a few, mostly gradual incline/declines on both rural and urban parts of the trail. An added bonus, route distance can be easily altered. The downside, be prepared for a number of stops as the trail crosses busy roads and highways. Oh well, all worth it due to a very enjoyable ride, good friends, and a delightful lunch! Contact ride leader Jane Stoltz via email by May 30 if you plan to join her: [ljmstoltz@gmail.com](mailto:ljmstoltz@gmail.com)

### **Join our Newsletter Designer Team!**

Our three-person newsletter design team is looking for someone to replace Mark B, who is retiring from his service at the end of this year. You can work from home! Learn about social events in advance! Your volunteer efforts are needed just four times each year. We'll train you on the use of the club's simple online software. All you need is a computer, printer and internet access. To learn more, contact Sally Heuer at 414-403-7911 or [smiles@metrodish.net](mailto:smiles@metrodish.net).

### **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 mailed to:*

Pat Doornek  
3463 N. Newhall St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211

### **Contact Us:**

#### **Volunteers**

The Nordic Ski Club runs on volunteers.

## Camp Out & Paddle at Black River Forest

July 1 – 5

If you like kayaking or canoeing with a group, sign up for a July 1-5 paddle on the Black River in northwestern Wisconsin. David Rosenberg, a board member for the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee, will lead a Glacier State Paddlers campout and outing over the July 4 holiday. You'll paddle down sections 3-6 of the Black River and camp at the large Black River Forest East Fork Group Campground. You can camp in a tent or a camper (no electrical hookup). Water is available and there are cement block toilets (showers a mile down the road at family campground). There's a fish fry on Friday, July 1. Total cost is under \$20 per person. Contact David at 414-975-2298 or [rosenbergdm@att.net](mailto:rosenbergdm@att.net). For a full schedule of paddlers' events, go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/%20939851256093491>.

## On August 28, the Nordic Ski Club Celebrates 50 Years of Outdoor Fun

Let's squeeze a half-century of fun into an August Sunday afternoon. That's what we have planned for August 28, 2022, with the 50th anniversary celebration for the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. Given the continuing surges of Covid-19, we have chosen an outdoor venue. But we'll be covered in a tent and will have TV screens to watch 50 years of history as we mingle with friends (see story at end). The signup will start in late June, as we have to plan ahead. The location is Matty's Bar & Grille on College Avenue in New Berlin. There will be awards, recognitions, prizes, dinner and a custom-made cocktail for our club. We hope to have about 100 people, including many past presidents and club members. Every club member gets \$10 off the dinner price, which will be reasonable. Matty's is a popular venue, which is why we need an early signup. Details in the June newsletter.

## New Club Officers

Ellen Riley was elected a vice president of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee on April 11. She replaces Stephen Fabina, who is staying on the board but stepping down as vice president. NSCM's board of directors were voted in on March 26 via online balloting. Per club bylaws, they chose officers at their next board meeting, April 11. The other officers are continuing in their positions: Carol Doebler has started her sixth year as president; Renee Couture continues as a vice president along with Ellen Riley; Dave Herrewig is treasurer; and Paula Brookmire, secretary. Board members elected to new two-year terms March 26 are Paula Brookmire, Dorothy Riesing, Ellen Riley and Mary Wozniak. They join the five board members whose two-year terms continue through March 2023: Julie Amundson, Renee Couture, Carl Doebler, Stephen Fabina, and David Rosenberg. NSCM has staggered elections for continuity.



*Ellen Riley skiing*

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 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

## Memories of the Club's First 30 Years

*In 2001 Paula Brookmire interviewed past president Gary Hansen for the club's 30th anniversary. Here is a shortened version of her article that appeared in the March 2001 Nordic News:*

Gary Hansen is the only member of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee who has been president three times. He served a total of five years in three separate decades: 1973-'75, 1982-'83, and 1994-'96. He was active in setting up many cross-country ski races and other events. He was the first editor of Nordic News and has served on and off over the decades as editor. He retired as editor in August 2000 after his latest four-year stint. His unique perspective on club history includes vivid memories from the 1970s. Here are a few:

**How did the club start?** In 1971 Jim McCredy transferred to Milwaukee from Minneapolis, where he had been a member of North Star Ski Touring Club. At the time, the only store in Milwaukee that had anything resembling ski equipment was Laacke & Joys. He went there looking for someone to ski with, and they put out notices of a meeting for people who like to cross-country ski. In December 1971, a club was formed. Some people got elected to a board, and McCredy was chosen president. The club's first name was the Kettle-Moraine Ski Club. They found that that name was taken by a downhill-skiing group near Greenbush. So our name was changed to the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. Our bylaws were developed by Atty. Ralph Ehlinger, who also got us incorporated. We had two goals: 1) learn to ski, and 2) promote the sport. I was not even a member when my wife, Karen, volunteered me as editor of a newsletter they wanted to start. That was 1972.

**Who were the early cross-country skiers?** We were people who were independent thinkers, liked doing things alone, liked cheap things, and were highly opinionated. Some were engineers or other technology professionals. We had a great many teachers. There was a core of 20 people, and we were all learning because nobody knew anything. Klaus Milinski Walden came in very early, and he brought his skiing skills from Germany. Knut Huebert, a Norwegian citizen working in the United States as an engineer, also helped show us how to ski. So did Jim McCredy. We learned fast. We had the advantage of good winters and enthusiastic people. The club got known for its expertise. We knew more about the sport, the equipment, where and how to use it than any of the people in town who were selling skis. I probably have given clinics to more than 2,000 people. Ralph also gave clinics. We were selling cross-country skiing as much as selling the ski club. We were the only cross-country club in town. People were interested in this new sport, which was less expensive than downhill skiing.

**The first 10 years** were by far the most exciting. From 1971 through '75, the club was growing. We had only two meetings a year: one in fall to drum up interest, and one in March as an annual meeting required by the bylaws. We filled Milwaukee's original Serb Hall at our fall meetings with as many as 500 to 1,000 people. Our early ski trips were all carpool ones. We would drive 3 ½ hours up to a place called Wolf River Lodge to ski for two hours. Trails weren't machine-tracked back then. We had to adapt to the worst of conditions -- a great way to learn. The first chartered bus trip that was not to a race was to Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River and nearby Anvil Lake in winter 1975-'76. Difficult terrain meant you learned how to ski or you crashed. We were the first chartered bus of cross-country skiers to go to Telemark Lodge in Cable, Wis., where the American Birkebeiner cross-country ski race originated; that was in the mid-'70s.

**Trail development.** Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources asked us to help design ski trails in the Southern Unit of Kettle Moraine State Forest. First was Pike Lake State Park in 1972. Dave Harrison, our second president, was the impetus for other trails in the 1970s,

especially the Nordic Trails (named after our club) and McMiller Sports Center trails. Dave redesigned hiking trails for skiing. At Nordic, for example, instead of skiing down a long, steep hill directly into a pond, Dave diverted the trail through the woods and along the pond. Trails were not groomed or tracked back then, but the DNR eventually started grooming them. The club also donated money for the original warming lodge at McMiller.

**Racing:** We got started into racing because some of us would drive up to the suburbs of Minneapolis, where the North Stars had a 15k race. Once we chartered a bus just for the weekend. Our first NSCM-sponsored races were in Green Bush in the northern kettle moraine. (We were the first ones to groom Green Bush, by the way. We bought an old Mercury snowmobile, and added a track setter for a race.) Then Klaus Walden had us move the races to the southern kettle moraine. Thanks to Ralph Ehlinger, we added children's clinics on Wednesday nights, followed by a race. Our annual kids' race, called the Milwaukee Nordic, was held first at Brown Deer Park and then at Dretzka Park. The public schools provided equipment. Ralph Ehlinger realized that a race was the carrot to keep the kids interested. David Harrison came up with the Esker Odyssey, which was a qualifying race for the Birkebeiner; it was 30 or 45 km on the McMiller trails.

**Peak years:** In 1973, I ran for president (after Harrison and McCredy). We must have had a whole \$100 in the treasury and maybe 20 members. At the end of my second term, we had 200 members and more than \$1,000 in the treasury. The next two presidents, T. James Kennedy followed by Alan Wagner, kept the club going. Then along came Ralph Ehlinger in 1977. He had \$1,000 and started spending the money like a drunken sailor. When he left, there was about \$10,000 in the treasury and we had increased membership from 250 to 1,000. In fact, our peak membership year was 1978-'79, when we had 1,000 plus members.



*Gary Hansen (front center) attended the Milwaukee County Historical Society's 2021 banquet honoring the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee and other groups celebrating key anniversaries. Other club presidents include Katie Bivens (left of Gary) and Carol Doebler (right). In back are David Harrison, Kathy Wacker, Patsy Coccia, John Sekula and Paula Brookmire.*

**Olympic ski team:** Ralph Haugen, a club member who had a bike and ski shop in Mequon; arranged for our club to sponsor a visit to Milwaukee by the US Olympic cross-country ski team to promote the sport. Ralph knew Marty Hall, the coach. I had the ski team in my basement for cocktails. And they were at one of our club meetings.

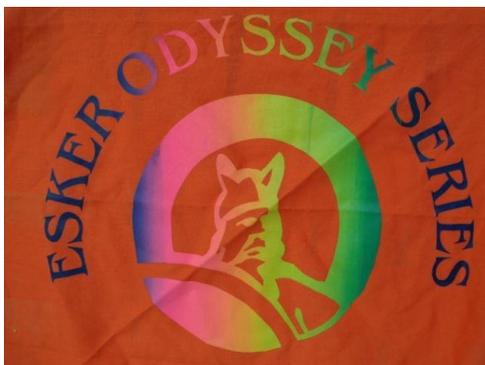
**The 10-year anniversary fiasco:** To celebrate in the winter of 1981-'82, we were going to ski 90 miles in three days, from Green Bush through West Bend, to Port Washington, to the Bavarian Inn (partly on the Milwaukee River). This was meticulously planned and doomed to failure. We started out by deciding to fly over the course to see what it looked like. Three of us

went out to Waukesha Airport and got in a small plane. Kathy Wacker (who became president in 1981) was the pilot. The first plane we got in, the door fell off when we went out the hanger. The second plane, Kathy hung a wing up ever so slightly on a snowbank. Ralph Ehlinger knocked down the snowbank, and we took off. That's when we found out that the river wasn't frozen over. So we changed plans and decided to ski just portions of our route, using the Ice Age Trail from Mauthe Lake to Kewaskum.

Some people camped overnight along the route. Then the weather took a nosedive and went to 30 below zero. It didn't stop the campers. But the cars... At West Bend, club member Nic Gengler spent the better part of the morning getting cars started. The next morning, no vehicles were starting. We had a TV crew following us. We were pulling batteries out of cars and putting them in bathtubs and warming them with water. We got down to the Bavarian Inn and found that it was so cold that the Inn wasn't open. So the banquet was postponed for a week. But nobody ever complained. Throughout the first 10 years, we did crazy things like that.

**Gary's history:** In 1985 I crashed a motorcycle and lost 30% of the range of motion in my left foot. That certainly has limited my skiing. In the early years, I had no fear or no sense, whatever fits the bill. I was probably the best at skiing down the hills. My wife at the time, Karen, became by far the best female technical skier in the club back then. She was referred to as Mother Nordic, partly because she always had extra food in the car for anyone who wanted it. After my third stint as president (1994-'96), I went back to being newsletter editor and also served on the board with Fred Schimian (president 1996-'99). I had gone to high school with him. Fred was very good at promoting cross-country skiing. To round out the first 30 years, historian Paula Brookmire, who had worked with me on the newsletter, served as president from 1999 to 2001. She organized the club's 30th anniversary (and the 45th and the 50th).

*In the 20 years since Gary was interviewed, he continues to help with club history, attends occasional club meetings and was at the Milwaukee County Historical Society's award dinner honoring NSCM in 2021.*



*For the club's Esker Odyssey race, it created colorful scarves.*

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*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.*

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

