



October 2020

Year-Round Recreation Since 1971

Vol. 49 Issue 10

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Biking in Cuba —In-Person Meeting
Friday, October 23, 7:00 pm

The music and mood of bicycling through Cuba will highlight the Oct. 23, 2020, meeting of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. This Friday night event will be the club's first in-person group meeting since February. Catch up with club members and get updates on winter events while still keeping socially distant. Learn about the club's outdoor holiday event that will substitute for our annual dinner party. The club already had reserved Greenfield Park Pavilion and was happy to learn in late September that Milwaukee County, which had closed park buildings through September, was opening up some buildings in October. County safety restrictions include: a limit of 44 attendees, a requirement that all wear masks, chairs spaced at least 6 feet apart, and no food or beverages. We also will create good air exchange for the meeting.

Because of limitations, we ask that you register online if you plan to attend. [Click here to register](#). After socializing, we'll have a slide show and presentation by club members who bicycled through Cuba in November 2018.

Where: Greenfield Park Pavilion, 2028 S. 124th St., West Allis
What: Bicycling Through Cuba slides and talk by NSCM club members
Date: Oct. 23, 2020
Time: 7 p.m. socializing; 7:15 p.m. presentation
Coordinator: Sally Heuer, smiles@metrodish.net



Members of our group near Trinidad, Cuba

Next Month, Look For:

Glacier Hills County Park Hike November 7

Contact Us:

Email nordicskiclub.mke@gmail.com

For membership information, call Pat Doornek 414-906-0629

Nordic Officers

President
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Zoo's Adventure Africa Exhibit Behind the Scenes Virtual Tour

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 pm

The Milwaukee County Zoo's Adventure Africa elephant exhibit was opened to the public in 2019 and is the new home for the zoo's elephants and other African animals. It was constructed to meet the new AZA standards and provides substantial enhancements compared to the previous elephant area including many "enrichment" features for the elephants.

John McCarthy will present a 45 minute behind the scenes tour via Zoom at **7 pm on October 14** so you can have an African adventure from the comfort of your home. John is a civil engineer and project manager with the consulting engineering firm of Graef in Milwaukee. He has been with the firm for 44 years and led the civil engineering design for this exhibit.

In this informative and entertaining presentation, you will learn about the many challenges his design team faced including how to protect vulnerable utility lines running through the yard and the special soil mix required because it seems that elephants like to dig and to throw rocks!

You must register online by Tuesday, October 13 if you wish to "attend" this free Zoom meeting to obtain the confidential link to the program. [Click here to Register](#)

A link to the Zoom program will be sent to registered participants via e-mail the morning of October 14.

By the 7:00 start, please click on that email link. It will take you to the club's Zoom video-conferencing account. A Zoom box will pop up on your screen asking you to open. Click on open and you will be invited to the presentation. Then a box will ask you to select video, and you should click on that video button. Select "speaker view." Viewers will be muted till the end of the program, when you can click on the "unmute" button to ask questions. You do not have to have a Zoom account to join the program. You can access it via your computer or, for many people, your phone.

Pay Dues Now, Get \$10 Back in 2021

Please help us by renewing your Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee membership this month. Our cross-country ski club has year-round events, including hikes, camping trips, bike rides, ski outings, and social get-togethers. When you renew or join now, you'll get \$10 back in 2021 if you register for our 50th anniversary party June 13, 2021. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, our club is following safety guidelines, but we're still holding outings. Our June 13th banquet will be in an outdoor venue that is covered.

You should have received reminders about your dues via email. But if you have not received anything, or you're not a member and want to join, please click on this link for a printable membership application: [/Resources/Documents/Nordic_MemberForm.pdf](#)

Or go to our website page: <http://www.nordicskiclub.org/application> and click on the "Printable Membership Application and Waiver" link on that screen to download our member signup form.

Our membership year coincides with our fiscal year: Oct. 1 through Sept. 29. So renewals are due Oct. 1. If you renew online via AffiniPay (the payment plan our website uses instead of PayPal), you will not be charged any fee for using your credit card. If you prefer to pay by check, make sure you make it out to NSCM and mail it with our filled-out membership form-- including waiver on the back that you have signed -- to Pat Doornek, 3463 N. Newhall St., Milwaukee, WI 53211. Dues: Individual \$25; household \$35. Note: Even lifetime members

Dave Herrewig

Board Members

Paula Brookmire
Renee Couture
Carol Doebler
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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

Historian:

Paula Brookmire
(414) 527-0040

Newsletter:

Send Articles to:
[newsletter@nordicskiclub.org](#)

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

need to fill out a membership form and waiver each year to stay active.

Wauwatosa Forest Hike

Friday, October 2, 9:30 am

What a surprise to find this tall-tree, 60-acre, filtered-light forest in the heart of Wauwatosa, west of Milwaukee. Walk this easy, one-mile, newly graveled path at the Forest Exploration Center off Swan Blvd. You'll travel through a maple-spruce woodland with remnants of old beech trees. The non-profit Forest Exploration Center's goal, in conjunction with Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources, is to create "a model of sustainable forestry and educational outreach." Morning, after rush hour, is the best time to trek through this second-growth forest.

Gary Braun will lead Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee hikers starting at 9:30 am on Friday, October 2. After the forest walk, Gary will direct you to a nearby treeless trail (about 3 miles) circling the water-retention area near Underwood Pkwy. He will not accompany you on this easy path, where you'll find fields of wildflowers. Porta Potties and parking are at the starting point, 1800 Forest Exploration Dr., Wauwatosa, which branches off from a round-about at Swan Blvd.

Please call Gary Braun beforehand as the hike may be cancelled due to inclement weather: 414-527-0040 or cell 414-236-8460.

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.



In September this Wauwatosa forest was still green.

Nashotah Park Hike and Picnic

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 am

Join your fellow Nordics for a hike at Nashotah Park in Waukesha County on Saturday, October 3rd @ 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 for social distancing. 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. If the weather is comfortable, bring a box lunch and a lawn chair and we will continue the fun. You will need either a daily park sticker (\$5 per car) or a Waukesha County annual sticker. If you have any questions, please

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 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

call Chris @ 414-852-4155. Directions to the park can be found at: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/nashotah>

Program Committee or Paul Keber, pkeber@milwpc.com

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Hidden Lake Park Hike

Sunday, October 11, 1:00 pm

Hike through a newly opened park in Brookfield, Wis., that overlooks a private, hidden lake. On Sunday, October 11, the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee will start a leisurely hike at 1 pm. Because this park off Lilly Road has limited parking, we will park nearby and walk to Hidden Lake Park.

The path is all paved but is steep at one point as you head up a large cliff to view the lake 100 feet below. The path, cut through formerly rough terrain around an old quarry, is relatively short. So we will continue the hike through low-traffic neighborhoods around Center Street.

You can decide how long or short to make it; we'll give you directions back. We'll meet in the north end of the parking lot at Elite fitness center, 13825 W. Burleigh St. (set back from the road) just east of Lilly Rd. Then we'll walk a few blocks to the park and eventually circle back to our starting point. Note that there are no restrooms along our route. Please call hike leader Paula Brookmire to let her know you're attending: 414-527-0040.

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Monches IAT Hike

Saturday, October 17, 10:00 am

Let's hike the Monches segment of the Ice Age Trail. Much of the Monches segment traverses maple forest and parallels the Oconomowoc River. This segment is an out and back hike for a couple of hours. Meet at 10 am at the Ice Age Trail parking lot on County K just north of County Q. For those who are interested after the hike, we can drive a short distance to a nature conservancy with a short uphill climb to a lookout deck with a great view.

From Milwaukee, take I41/45 north to County Line Road (County Q) and go west 11.3 miles to County K; turn right and the parking lot is a short distance on the right. Call Paul at 262-547-4827 (H) or 262-309-1918 (C) with any questions.

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How to Celebrate the Holidays Without Our Club's Annual Party

Christmas isn't cancelled, but our club's annual holiday party is. Large indoor groups still aren't a safe idea during the pandemic. So the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee board has another way to celebrate. We're planning a house-to-house scavenger hunt for clues to club history. At each home you'll get a clue and a holiday treat provided by the club. The clues will be left in marked containers outdoors so everyone will keep socially distanced. We'll do this over three days in December to give you plenty of time.

The winner is the person or family who gets the most clues in the shortest time, as judged by the date on your email that you'll send with all your answers to scavenger hunt coordinator Paula Brookmire. That winner will get a special holiday gift certificate. When you sign up ahead of time with Paula at pbrookmire@gmail.com, she'll email you a list of scavenger hunt questions. Plus, she'll send you the list of club members holding the clues and their addresses. Our holiday party was originally scheduled for Dec. 18 at Seven Seas restaurant. Instead, we'll be using our holiday deposit for our June 13, 2021, 50th anniversary banquet at Seven Seas.



Hank Kulesza in Polish attire

Member Profile: Hank Kulesza

By Paula Brookmire

As the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee approaches its 50th anniversary in 2021, one club member stands out. He is possibly the longest active member. He joined in the mid- '70s, he recalls. The club was founded in 1971. He spent decades directing club activities and going on cross-country ski trips. And he still joins club outings. Low-key and soft-spoken, he was an early member of the club's rather loud kazoo band. He is Hank Kulesza.

Hank is a lot of things people may not expect. He's a Vietnam vet. He's a folk dancer. He has a B.S. degree in forestry from Pennsylvania State University, yet his career was in electronics for a company called Quotron. He loves orienteering (navigating through the woods using a detailed contour map and compass) and is a founding member of Wisconsin's Badger Orienteering Club. And he has provided years of leadership in the ski club. "I was on the board of directors and on the program committee, both for over 15 years, and was newsletter editor for too many years to remember," he says.

Likewise, he has led too many events to list. "I used to lead Wednesday night skiing at Whitnall Park, and the best part was going to Jean Hancock's afterward for pizza, popcorn and hot cider. I led day ski trips to Gov. Dodge State Park and even led a weekend bus trip to [the now defunct] Telemark resort. Staying at the low-cost Telemark Hostel was an adventure. You slept in old

Army bunk beds with a common shower. Everybody had a chore to do. Breakfast was simple but filling. But it had its own charm. One of main attractions was skiing right out of the door." That was also the trip the bus got stuck during a side excursion and had to be towed out of a snowbank.

Hank was a member of the National Ski Patrol for years and patrolled Scuppernong ski trails in the southern Kettle Moraine with a radio. In warm weather Hank was on the Nordic Ski Club softball team, even coaching one year. Most years the team made the playoffs, but Hank was on the team that won the ski-league championship in 1992. He also regularly led club outings to live theater shows and other social events.

His memories include things that went wrong. On one trip to the Valley Spur cross-country ski trails south of Munising, Mich., Hank's binding broke on one ski. He found a way to loop some fabric over both his boot and ski. "It didn't work well. Every stride was a half-stride as my broken ski binding got stuck in the snow. Yet I made it back to the bus for a change of skis." Then there was the Dave Fowler Porcupine Mountain trip when the bus got stuck in a motel parking lot. "Club members had to shovel it out and then leave early since a big storm was heading our way." Wisconsin's Minocqua Winter Park was a favorite destination. "One of the trips there had the coldest day I've ever skied. It was 25 below zero, with a wind chill of below 50 degrees. Connie Nagel, Dennis Drake and I were skiing in the woods, where it seemed warmer. Again, we made it back."

Skiing in Innsbruck, Austria, is a wonderful memory. Hank's first trip there was organized by Chris Kegel (now deceased) of Milwaukee's Wheel & Sprocket store, which has had ski discount nights for the Nordic Ski Club over the years. "I would take a one-hour train to the Seefeld Olympic ski area and ski on trails that were like a highway system. I had such a wonderful adventure that I went back the following year and stayed at a Seefeld B & B where I could ski right out the door."

Most ski-club members know that Hank is Polish. But many don't know he is an avid volunteer—at Milwaukee's Polish Fest, the Polish Center of Wisconsin and even Chicago's Polish Museum of America. He also volunteers at the VA Hospital and at Folklore Village, a folk arts and cultural center near Dodgeville, Wis., where he's a board member and is helping restore an 1882 historical church. That project has helped to keep him sane during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, he says.

Hank has made friends in the Nordic Ski Club. "You tend to bond with people during hair-raising experiences," he says -- like whitewater rafting on the Wolf River or making it down a steep ski trail with a sharp curve at the bottom. While Hank wasn't a racer, he did ski in the club's popular [in the 1980s] Esker Odyssey race at McMiller Sports Center in Wisconsin's southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. The ski trails there were designed in the 1970s by club members. Other of his favorite cross-country ski trails close to Milwaukee include Lapham Peak State Park upper trails, the Nordic Trail (named after our club) and Zillmer Trail in the northern Kettle Moraine. Why has he stayed in the club so long? Like most club members, he stays active. In summer 2020 Hank took up sailing. "I love the outdoors," he says, "and the club is friendly."

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