



September 2021

Year-Round Recreation Since 1971

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Monthly Events

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.

Lake Wissota State Park Camping Trip

Friday, September 3 - Monday, September 6

Join us for a 4-day camping trip over Labor Day weekend at Lake Wissota State Park near Chippewa Falls. It is about a 4-hour drive from Milwaukee. Our group site 2 has a large covered picnic shelter with electricity and vault toilets. We will have access to shower facilities and modern bathrooms in the family campground. The Park has hiking and mountain bike trails and a beach on Lake Wissota. Several nice paved biking trails are near the park including the Old Abe State Trail and Chippewa River State Trail (state trail pass is required). There are dining opportunities in Chippewa Falls and nearby Eau Claire. You may want to do a Leinenkugel's Brewery tour in Chippewa Falls. Campfires will be held nightly, but do not bring firewood from home. Our traditional group potluck dinner will take place on Saturday night, so bring your favorite dish to pass.

The trip cost for the entire weekend is \$16 (non-members \$18). Please make checks payable to NSCM and mail to Paul Keber; 2000 Cobblestone Ct; Waukesha, WI 53188. Also include your email address where I can send a trip letter shortly before the trip. A Wisconsin State Park admission sticker is required for your vehicle.

Next Month,
 Look For:

***Winter Ski Trip
 Leader Training
 October 5***

***Local Bike Ride
 October 9***

***Ski Trips Signup
 Meeting
 October 15***

***Monches Ice Age
 Trail Hike
 October 29***

Contact Us:

Email nordicskiclub.mke@gmail.com

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

Contact Paul at 262-547-4827 or pkeber@milwpc.com for more information. Check out the following link for more park information: [Lake Wissota Wisconsin State Park System | Wisconsin DNR](#).

2022 Winter Ski Trips

Flyers for the 2022 Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee bus ski trips will arrive via email in mid-September. Early access to the trip flyers means you'll have lots of time before the October 15 signup meeting to review trip details and decide which ones to register for.

Lodging and motorcoach costs have gone up over the last two years. In addition, to prepare for possible fewer signups and more cancellations due to Covid-19, all ski trips were budgeted to break even with 35 participants, even though some trips likely will have more. That increased each ski trip price by \$10 to \$20.

The ski trips with their two-per-room member prices are as follows:

Thursday, December 30 - Sunday, January 2 – Keweenaw Peninsula, MI - \$364

Friday, January 21 - Sunday, January 23 – Hayward (Birkie Trail), WI - \$262

Friday, February 11 - Sunday, February 13 – Minocqua Winter Park, WI - \$324

Friday, March 4 - Sunday, March 6 – Valley Spur, Munising, MI - \$254

The club is taking safety precautions in light of the ongoing pandemic. Lamers will disinfect the bus, and we'll provide chlorine wipes for the restroom. Participants who get sick in the days before the trip or the day of the trip are required to cancel. Also, at its August meeting, the NSCM board voted to require all bus-trip participants to be vaccinated for Covid-19 (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).

--Paul Keber, chair of the Program Committee



Get ready for snow! Margot Schumacher was on a Nordic Trails outing Jan. 24, 2021.

Nordic Officers

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Carol Doebler

Vice Presidents

Renee Couture
and Steven Fabina

Secretary

Paula Brookmire

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Dave Herrewig

Board Members

Julie Amundson
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Program Committee Members:

Paul Keber, Chair
(262) 547-4827
Chris Pantazon
Barb Tremel
Cathy Ward
Becky Yakes
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(414) 527-0040

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Katie Bivens
katiebivens@ymail.com

Historian:

Paula Brookmire
(414) 527-0040

Newsletter:

Send Articles to:
newsletter@nordicskiclub.org

Facebook Chair:

Ellen Riley
ellenriley612@gmail.com



Pat Doornek skis at Minocqua Winter Park on a club trip in 2019.

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

Southern Kettle Moraine Hike

Saturday, September 25th, 10:00 am

Join Rita for a scenic 5-mile hike in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. The hike will begin at 10:00 am at the Southern Kettle Moraine Visitor Center & Forest Headquarters on Hwy 59 west of Eagle. We'll hike south to a backpack shelter, and then onto a nature trail to the Stute Springs and Homestead. From there we'll continue on the nature trail to the Big Hill, then back to the headquarters. Hiking poles are suggested due to several steep hills with some loose gravel.

To get to the Visitor Center & Forest Headquarters, take I-94 west to the Hwy 67 (Oconomowoc) exit, go south on Hwy 67 about 13 miles to the town of Eagle, then turn right on Hwy 59 and go about 3 miles to the Forest Headquarters entrance. Call Rita at 262-547-4827 if you have any questions or to let her know you are coming.

Chris' Slow Roll Ride

Sunday, September 26th, 9:00 am

Join us for this Kegel sponsored fun event in Milwaukee. It is a slow 10 mile, very social bike ride on the Oak Leaf Trail, followed by free food and beer (limited). We will be a small group in a much, much larger group, but if we meet before it starts, we should be able to spend the day as a group. See the website for all the other details.

<https://chriskegelfoundation.org/slow-roll>

You must register on the below web-site for the ride which gets you the free t-shirt and food. There is a VIP choice which includes a donation and more perks or a free choice. The ride is the same either way.

<https://chriskegelfoundation.org/slow-roll-signup>

Starting location: 750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (come early for easiest parking)

Pick up your free t-shirt at 9:00 am. We will meet at the General Douglas MacArthur Statue from 9:30 to 9:45 if possible (check out location on event linked map before coming – click on War Memorial, zoom in and look northeast). Look for familiar faces as there will be hundreds of

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

people on bicycles there.

We will cancel the ride if the event is cancelled. The best information is on the website including links to maps. During large congregation, masks are especially recommended. Call Alan Siegl at 262-744-4929 (cell) or acesiegl@yahoo.com with other questions.

October 15 Pizza Party & Program

Save room for free pizza and some fascinating news about Lapham Peak State Park when you sign up for the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee's October 15, 2021, meeting. The meeting will start about 6 pm at the Elks Lodge 400 in Waukesha. This also will be the annual ski-trip signup meeting (see story elsewhere in this newsletter). We urge people to sign up early for bus trips since the number of signups in October may influence whether we hold each trip. More details and a way to register for the meeting will appear in the October newsletter.

Survey: 97% of Members Vaccinated

Of the 76 Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee members who filled out a summer survey on Covid-19, 97% said they were fully vaccinated against the virus. That is reassuring for planning cross-country ski trips and events.

For example, 78% of the respondents (59 people) said they would feel safe attending the club's Oct. 15 free pizza party, ski-trip signup and program on plans for Lapham Peak. And 32 members said they were definitely planning to attend. See the preview article on that meeting in this newsletter.

"We had a very high response rate for this survey: 59%," said Paul Keber, head of the Nordic Ski Club's Program Committee. Of the 128 surveys emailed, 76 members responded.

Half said they planned to go on at least one of the four cross-country ski bus trips offered by NSCM this coming winter. Another 35.5% said that they might go on a trip. When asked which trips they might participate in, 48 people chose Wisconsin's Minocqua Winter Park (Feb. 1-13), which garnered the most interest. Choosing the other trips were 36 people for Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula (Dec. 30, 2021-Jan. 2, 2022), 33 for Valley Spur trails near Munising, Michigan (March 4-6) and 32 for the Birkebeiner Race trail in Hayward, Wis. (Jan. 21-23, 2022).

Thirty people said they were more willing to go on an NSCM bus trip now that NSCM's Covid-19 policy requires anyone signed up for a bus ski trip to cancel if he/she gets sick in the days before or the day of the trip. Another 39 people agreed that "I would go on an NSCM ski trip in any case, without regard to this policy."

The club has been planning a 50th anniversary banquet for December, and 71% of people said they would feel safe attending that, even if masks were not required and social distancing was not possible.

Only six of the 76 respondents said they had come down with the Covid-19 coronavirus.

The survey was written by a committee of health-care providers who are NSCM board members: Dr. David Rosenberg; Paula Brookmire, massage therapist; and Julie Amundson, physical therapist.

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@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

Obituary: Tom Link

Tom Link, a veteran member of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee, died August 3, 2021, in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"I was always impressed by his dedication to the cross-country skiing community in Wisconsin," said former longtime NSCM treasurer Cathy Yekenevich. "Tom was a leader and very supportive of his wife, Georgia Link, who was the club president in 1987-'88," she added. Tom skied in 20 or more American Birkebeiner Races in the Hayward, Wisconsin area.

"Tom Link was a very active member of the club in the 1980s and '90s," said Paul Keber, NSCM Program Committee chair. In 1991 Paul served on the board of directors with Tom, who continued on the board till March 1994 and was vice president in 1993-'94. "He led many events, including the first Lake Tahoe ski trip. He was also active in the clinics and race committees," said Paul.

Tom and Georgia ran the NSCM phone hotline for awhile. Tom led events such as Tuesday night ski outings at Dretzka Park and If There's Snow, We'll Go outings. One of his donations to the club's fundraising auction was a meal cooked on the grill by Tom.

Tom also was a US Army veteran and member of the Nelson-Kaminski American Legion Post 509. He leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Georgia; daughters Sharon (Rick) Alvord and Susan Helgesen; and son Russell (Jolene) Link. A Catholic mass was planned for him August 28 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Galloway, Wis. His obituary is on the Schmidt & Schulta Funeral Home of Wittenberg Facebook page.

Board Decisions on Ski Trips, Covid Safety

When the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee board created a Covid-19 safety policy earlier this summer, it did not want to introduce a lot of requirements for bus trips. That changed. Covid variants were shown to be more contagious and illness reports went up. Discussions with bus ski-trip leaders also showed that they did not want to deal with matching people in rooms where one person might be unvaccinated. So, to make things simpler and safer, the board at its August 9, 2021, meeting voted unanimously to require all bus-trip participants to be fully vaccinated for Covid-19. A summer survey of club members showed that more than 97% of those surveyed already are vaccinated.

Having both trip leaders *and* assistant leaders on every bus ski trip is a necessity, the board emphasized. The club's new Covid-19 safety policy requires any trip participant--including the leader--to cancel if they get sick in the days before or the day of the trip. So if a trip leader gets sick, the assistant leader needs to take over. If both get sick, Paul Keber, will be the backup assistant leader. He does all the initial scheduling for bus trips. As in the past, the board voted to give each bus ski-trip leader a \$150 stipend, in addition to the leader's expenses paid by the club for the trip he/she is leading. The board also voted to give \$35 to every bus trip assistant leader for the 2021-2022 ski season.

Also, the board decided that trips do not have to be packed in order to be viable. Even though we can take as many as 54 people on each trip, the board voted to finance the trips at a rate set for 35 participants. Some trips will have many more than that. A few might have less. That gives us consistency in running the trips. Nevertheless, people are urged to sign up early for bus trips, preferably at the Oct. 15 signup meeting. If little interest is shown in a trip, there is more chance that it could be cancelled. See story on our four winter ski trips near the top of this newsletter.

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