

MADNORSKI News

News for members of the Madison Nordic Ski Club

Nov 2009 Vol. 29 No. 3

Board Members Bring Diverse Skillsets to Their Roles



Rob Lucas and Bill Coady

This past year has been a great time for me as co-president of MadNorSki. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated board.

It was fun to be part of the excitement that the first snowfall brought to the group last Thursday, as the board met to plan December's meeting and potluck. What a group of Nordic nuts gathered in one place-feeding off the excitement of that first snow! Whenever your first ski comes, there is still plenty of time for some good food and socializing at the December meeting.

The entire board is looking forward to seeing all of you there and to meet some of our 40+ new members.

Craig Heilman, wine connoisseur, musician and beloved webmaster has been busy behind the scenes doing all the programming magic that makes our website so useful and user friendly. He will be working with newsletter editor Ben Neff (coincidentally another wine connoisseur), and newsletter editor, who is leading the club on to its next communication metamorphosis.

We have good news from our esteemed treasurer, adventure racer and banker, Pam Schneider, that the budget looks to be on track (something I wish our politicians could manage). Food broker, humorist and all around good guy Gordie Bartholomew is staying on as Social Director to keep our meetings running smooth.

Tom Woody-AKA Mr. Everything

athletic and Vice-president (remember he is only two heartbeats away from the Presidency) has been doing trail maintenance and now is bringing the beer for the meetings-which could soon move him into the oval office! Reg Bruskwitz along with Margie Sprecher have got the handle on membership and are the first smiling faces many a new MadNorSki member meets as they walk into a meeting for the first time. Remember your first meeting and chat up a new member at the potluck!

Paul Matteoni keeps crunching the numbers and fighting the vagrancies of the weather as he organizes the trips-the last few years have been a whammy of either no snow or too much local snow-but he keeps on plugging along.

Yuriy Gusev, our CXC ambassador and liaison with all things US ski team, has been working with the city to set

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Ski the BirkieTour with MadNorSki

Paul Matteoni

The Madison Nordic Ski Club is coordinating carpools to Cable and the BirkieTour, January 22-24. Reserve time on your calendar for this inaugural event. As you may have heard, the BirkieTour (<http://www.birkie.com/page/show/110429-birkieturn>) is an untimed, non-competitive, "open-track" event open to skiers age 13 and older.

After driving up Friday, we'll stay at the Telemark Lodge for both Friday and Saturday nights. Saturday, you can start your BirkieTour right outside the lodge.

You have choices of 51K, 48K, 43K, 27K and 22K distances. Mini-aid stations will provide water and HEED Electrolyte drink at Timber Trail, Boedecker Road, Gravel Pit, and Mosquito Brook. Complimentary food (soup, chili, hot dogs, hot chocolate) will be available at OO and Hatchery Park for all participants. Return bus transportation will be available every half-hour from Hatchery Park and OO carrying skiers back to Telemark Resort.

Depending on your carpool arrangements, either leave on Sunday morning or spend time skiing nearby. Telemark Resort grooms 16 trail loops totaling 65 K for skiers of all abilities (<http://www.telemarkresort.com/>

[xcskitele.html](#)). Nearby ski trails include Rock Lake, North End, and Namekagon ski trails.

Fees for the BirkieTour are at a sliding scale, based on date. The cost starts at \$24 for Birkie Foundation members registering before January 10.

MadNorSki is negotiating a special rate with Telemark Lodge. The club will also attempt to match those looking for a ride with members driving. If you are interested in participating, check the MadNorSki web site's "events" page (<http://MadNorSki.org/page/news/events/>) or drop an email to trips@MadNorSki.org.



December

14 Club Meeting- Pot Luck; 7:15 p.m. Social at 6:30 p.m. Birkie stories. Lussier Family Heritage Center

January

7 Board Meeting
11 Club Meeting- Waxing for Racing and Recreation; 7:15 p.m. Social at 6:30 p.m. Lussier Family Heritage Center

February

7 Board Meeting
8 Club Meeting- Waxing for Racing and Recreation; 7:15 p.m. Social at 6:30 p.m. Lussier Family Heritage Center

March

4 Board Meeting
8 Club Meeting- Season Wrap-Up, Pot Luck; 7:15 p.m. Social at 6:30 p.m. Lussier Family Heritage Center

Member Email Addresses Needed to Inform, Not to Spam

Reg Bruskwitz

MadNorSki uses electronic media for most communication with members including the newsletter, yet we do not have email addresses for some club members. You may have not included the address on the paper membership form, or asked us not to use your PayPal address, perhaps because you think it will land in the hands of spammers, advertisers or other lower forms (it absolutely will NOT)! Some families would like more than one email

address included in mailings, but we have only one.

At the next club meeting on December 14, we will have a list at the registration table of members for whom we have no email address. If you would like another address added, or you know someone who has not been getting *MadNorSki News*, please pass the word. Or, if you want to add an address you can send me a note at: bruske@surgery.wisc.edu



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Brock Woods:
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Mark Plane: mwplane@wisc.edu

Madison Parks Trails Liaison

Pete Anderson: pjander@wisc.edu

Middleton Parks Trails Liaison

Jim Coors: jgcoors@wisc.edu

Elver Park Programs/Snowmaking

Yuriy Gusev: yuriy@rsss.usa.com



2009-10 Board

Co-Presidents

Rob Lukas: rucas@netzero.net
Bill Cody: bill.coady1@gmail.com

Vice-president

Tom Woody: woodyt@charter.net

Treasurer

Pam Schneider:
pam.a.schneider@micorp.com

Membership

Reg Bruskwitz:
bruske@surgery.wisc.edu Margie Sprecher:
margies@tds.net

Race Director

David Bell; davepbell@sbcglobal.net
Tom Gallagher;
tom.gallagher@dwd.state.wi.us

Advertising

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Social Director

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gordybart@gmail.com

Webmaster

Craig Heilman: craigh@bugsoft.com

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Youth Instruction

Bill Rattunde
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Youth Instruction

Chris Lawn: chrislawn@tds.net

Trips

Paul and Karen Matteoni:
paul_matteoni@hotmail.com

Board Members from page 1

up programs to provide Nordic skiing to area youth as well as an expanded Winterfest. Yuriy will fill us in at the meeting, and as always, offer plenty of chances to become active in the local ski scene.

Brock Woods, Trail Liaison, naturalist, and voice of reason, has been overseeing the installation of pamphlet boxes at Nordic areas around the county—a project that he has made happen. Dave Bell, our racing director and cyclo-cross racer extraordinaire, has a full slate of ski races planned at Elver Park this year—he's looking for an intern so if you'd be interested in learning how to run races, here is a great chance. Louise Jones, (second generation MadNorSki) is our youth chair and she reports we have over 20 skiers out for the high school team and 12 middle schoolers. A positive trend is the number of high school skiers who have moved up from the MS team. Dick Steinle, our Advertising /Promotions swagmeister has been making the rounds in order to bring some goodies to the meetings for you to bring home. Walt Meanwell brings his talents as a visionary as well as our chief ambassador for the club and, Jimmy Vandenbrook, our Director of Instruction and his team continues to

provide lessons to over a hundred skiers each winter.

It has been a privilege to work with Bill Coady as a co-president, we're both busy people and we seem to be able to communicate and generally share a similar vision on where we want to take the club. We often talk about club business as we bike, canoe, or rollerski—not a bad way to multi-task. With Bill's level head and sense of humor the club has a great hand on the tiller. We've been working on strengthening the infrastructure: the lessons, races, trips, youth programs, and social venue that enables the club to support it slogan "Cross country skiing for everyone". Now its time to enjoy the winter—I hope to see you out there skiing.

Pole Tip Sharpener

Dorn Hardware (Midvale and W. Beltline hwy) now has the Smith Diamond handheld sharpener. A few strokes will put a good point on your ski poles' carbide tips and you can use the fine side on your kitchen knives. Cost is \$19.99.

The Juniors Agree, It's Time for Snow

Louise Jones

What happened to November? When did our team get so big? Really? We're skiing next week! If you've been anywhere near the Middle School or High School team recently this is what you've likely heard.

With December 1st come and gone our High Schoolers have a month of dry-land training and roller skiing under their belts and our Middle School team has settled into practicing two days a week.

With colder temps and a little help from Mother Nature Blackhawk has started making snow and by the time you're reading this we'll be out on skis slipping and sliding through those first few hill intervals on snow. Kidski will be starting after January 1st and already has 22 students signed up. With the help and enthusiasm of Chris Lawn and Amanda Stone we have nearly quadrupled our numbers from last year.

To sign up for a program or see what we've been up to lately look under the Youth pages on the MadNorSki website. We look forward to seeing you on the trails!

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The Evolving Format of the Club Newsletter

Ben Neff

Last year saw the disappearance of the traditional paper format for our beloved newsletter, *MadNorSki News*. While the portability of a printed publication gave our members the convenience to read each issue cover-to-cover during their drive north without having to worry about battery life or screen reflections, it came with several inherent problems that were solved by a PDF posted to MadNorSki.org. These issues included long lead-times for article submission due to printing and mailing timeframes, making contributions about 4 weeks old by the time they were read. The printed format required was costly to print and mail, and consumed paper. The board felt our membership was better served by not consuming those resources and wanted to do all we could to reduce the club's carbon footprint.

We have been using the PDF format for about a year. In that time, I've been evaluating the performance of a static PDF format in the digital age of Facebook and other mediums. A PDF still requires layout time and software and has other limitations.

Over the coming weeks I'll be working with our Webmaster, Criag Heilman on evolving *MadNorSki News* into a more user-friendly and dynamic format. Directions that are being considered are an HTML email or a blog. The ability to submit trail reports from your cell phone or follow us on Facebook may be options in the future.

Stay tuned for developments and let me know your thoughts: ben.neff@tds.net.

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Vendor Fair Night

Dick Steidle

Vendor Fair night had a great showing of club members old & new. There were many new faces there from around the Madison area. I hope some of you were able to mingle and meet. If you see a few of these new folks next meeting take time and introduce yourself.

There were table raffle items being given away by the vendors that night. Names were called out after club announcements. Some of you picked up your table prize and some did not.

If your name was called and you didn't pick up your item, I might have it.

Here's a list of names of winners who I have table raffle gifts for, so come and see me at the next club meeting.

-Gearwest- 2-\$10.00 each, Mike Schoonveld, David Fahey, Christina Motta,

Craig Heilman , Nancy McCartan

-American Birkie Poster- Paul Letta

-American Birkie Calendar- Jim Walden

-Bike Doc \$20.00 gift card- Chris Pappathopoulos?. Mike Conway

- New Moon \$20.00 gift card- Brock Woods

- John Burns XC Ski Fit DVD's- Sara

Knutson, Frank Grenzow

- Rutabaga - they will email you if you were one of their many winners.

Remember when you're in patronizing those retailers to say a word of thanks for coming to our vendor fair and sharing their goods and time with us! I hope you all found something you needed, wanted, and can use for the upcoming season.

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FONTANA SPORTS

Web Site: www.fontanasports.com

Dates: October 30 - November 1, 2009

FINN SISU

Web Site: www.finnsisu.com

Dates: November 6-8, 2009

BICYCLE DOCTOR

Web Site: www.bikedr.com

Dates: November 13-15, 2009

RIVERBROOK BIKE & SKI

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Keeping Up-To-Date With MadNorSki

Craig Heilman

The Madison Nordic Ski Club board uses several means to try and keep you, the membership, informed about what the club is up to as well as what area events might be of interest.

If you're reading this, you're aware of the newsletter, the *Madnorski News*, put together by our illustrious editor Ben Neff and the club website at <<http://www.madnorski.org>>. The newsletter is produced approximately 6 times per season, starting with the issue you are now reading, the Fall issue. The newsletter is posted on the website (at <<http://www.madnorski.org/page/membership/newsletters/>>) and we then notify you that it's available via a "members only" email list. The email addresses on this list are obtained from either the email address you used when you joined or renewed your membership via PayPal or from a separate membership database we

maintain that includes those members who don't renew online. As you can see, your email address is one of the primary links we have to you so please make sure to let us know when your address changes so that we can keep in touch. Address changes can be emailed to our membership coordinators at "membership@madnorski.org".

Another way to stay in the loop with the club is by monitoring the website. We have news postings and a calendar of XC worthy events as well as a wealth of other information such as local ski trail descriptions, skiing conditions, the racing schedule and links to our all important vendors who deserve our support. It can be difficult to monitor the website regularly for updates but we've made it a bit easier to keep up with news and events by providing a RSS news feed. Simply direct your browser to either the news (<<http://www.madnorski.org/page/news/news/>>) or events (<<http://www.madnorski.org/page/news/events/>>)

page and look for the little orange "news" icon and label "news feed" in the bottom right-hand corner of the window (you may have to scroll the window). Click on the label or icon and you will then be given the option to subscribe to a "feed" of all Madnorski news and events. Most browsers will ask you how you want to read the Madnorski feed so you simply pick the method you'd like to use and then you're done! For example, in Safari on a Mac, you can choose to browse your feeds in Safari Bookmarks or you can have your feeds show up in Apple Mail (this is what I do). In Apple Mail, my feeds show up at the bottom of the mailbox column on the left side of the screen. Firefox gives you a similar choice of applications to read your feeds. How does this help you stay informed? Once you are subscribed to the Madnorski feed, you will see a very short message whenever the News or Events listings on the website are updated. If you are reading your feeds in a mail program, the messages show up just like a regular email message. Bingo!—you can now stay fully up to date with the club.

A third, albeit less formal, way to keep in touch is by subscribing to the XC mailing list. This is a list where club members and non-members alike can post messages of interest to local nordic skiers. You need to be a member of the XC list to post messages but you don't need to be a Madnorski member to join the list (although we certainly hope you ARE a club member). As the directions for joining the XC list are on the website, I won't repeat them here but will simply point you to the page: <<http://www.madnorski.org/page/resources/xclist/>>.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions or comments on the website, feel free to email me at webmaster@madnorski.org.

