

MADISON NORDIC ski club Newsletter



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everyone

DECEMBER 1997

Vol. 17, No. 2

XC events

December 8	MNSC Potluck and Raffle, 7 p.m.
December 8	KidSki Coach's Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Shorewood Community Center
December 13	Minocqua Winter Park bus trip Info: Don Fariss
Dec. 26	Deadline for the next newsletter
Dec. 26-27	Car Camp Christmas Weekend Info: Nancy Wiegand
Dec. 27-Jan. 3	New Year's trip to Lutsen Info: Leslie Taylor or Pete Anderson
January 6-February 17	Elver Park Race Series Info: Brian Watzke
January 8-11	Seeley Hills Classic Trip Dave or Margaret Peterson
January 11	Devil's Head Day Trip Info: Peter Berbee
January 29-31	Black's Cliff Resort Info: Liz McBride
February 6-7	Badger State Games Info: Mike or Sue Capp
Feb. 13-16	Stiemke's/St. Germain Info: Dave Calhoon
Feb. 27-28	Iola Winter Carnival Info: Pete Anderson
Jan. 3-4	River City Ski Fest Info: Dale Niggeman

Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 PM
Shorewood Community Center
901 Swarthmore Ct.

December meeting is the annual potluck and raffle

Join the club for this popular annual potluck and raffle. Bring a dish to pass – and your checkbook, to renew your dues.

Come, contribute and enjoy the potluck on December 8. To participate in the raffle, you must have joined or renewed membership *before the raffle*. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting, and you must be present to win! To expedite the distribution of prizes, please register for a raffle ticket only if you plan to stay the full evening. *Arrive early – stay late!*

Membership notes

BY G.RAE VAN SLUYS

Thanks to new member Trudi Buffington and MNSC race director Brian Watzke for helping with the November 10th kick-off meeting registration at which 100 memberships were processed — one third of the anticipated annual total! We have 33 new members, which explains why the registration table was so busy. Renewing members can avoid the congestion by filling out the membership form in this newsletter and bringing it with cash or check to the December 8th meeting for instant renewal. (Sorry, we don't accept credit cards.)

Your membership is valid until the date indicated on your mailing label, but you must be renewed/registered for 1998 before or on December 8 to be eligible for prizes at the raffle. Registrations after 12/8/97 can be mailed (using the form in the newsletter) before 12/31/98 to continue receiving newsletters and other ski club benefits.

Trips, trips and more trips!

Check with MNSC trip leaders to see which trips still have openings. Bring your checkbook in case there's still room, because you need to leave a \$50 deposit to guarantee your space on a trip.

Minocqua Winter Park, one-day bus trip December 13

Picture this: It's December, busy holiday time and you're aching to get on good snow because El Niño has struck Madison with a drought, but you can't spare a whole weekend for a road trip.

The answer is simple: Bring your checkbook to the December club meeting and reserve yourself a seat on the club's first ever one day bus trip to Minocqua's Winter Park on the best trails in the Midwest. We'll leave UW's parking Lot 60 on Saturday, December 13th at 7:00 a.m., arrive at 10:30 a.m., ski their immaculate 50 km of trails, play, eat and warm up in their spacious chalet. We depart at 3:00 p.m. and arrive in Madison before 7:00 p.m.

You'll get to try out the newest skis & boots for free because Dec. 13 & 14 are Demo Days at Winter Park. We will also try to schedule a group ski lesson with MWP's

talented certified instructors for those who are interested. In addition, we'll be able to show ski videos (or whatever) on the bus ride. Possibly the trip's best feature will be the amount of socializing you can do on the bus with other club members.

The bus will cost \$960. Splitting that among 30 participants (the minimum to run this trip) will cost everyone \$32. However, if we fill the 46 passenger bus, the shared cost could be as low as \$22. Please note there is also a trail fee at MWP. Look for Don Fariss at the trips table at the December meeting.

Car Camp Christmas Weekend Dec. 26-27

This is a beautiful way to fully enjoy the winter wonderland of the Northwoods! Join Nancy Wiegand for car camping at Clear Lake Campground Dec. 26th & 27th. Day ski at area trails and have supper in a restaurant before sleeping "under the stars" (or in a tent or van). Bring a warm sleeping bag and high boots or gaiters to be able to walk around off the plowed road. To get to Clear Lake campground, go east on County J from the north end of Minocqua/Woodruff, then south on Highway 47 a couple miles. It's the first campground on the left (east).



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New Year's trip to Lutsen Dec. 27-Jan. 3

Since last year's family trip to Lola was so much fun, this year we're branching out: the North Shore of Lake Superior, with deep snow and big terrain, and, of course, The Lake. Though details aren't worked out yet, we'll spend about a week, from about Dec. 27 through about Jan. 3. We'll also have downhill skiing for the gravity dependent and for those needing a break from the nordic fun. More details from Leslie Taylor (277-1066) or Pete Anderson (222-1928).

Seeley Hills Classic Trip January 8-11 or 12

Repeating last year's very successful trip, Dave and Margaret Peterson are again leading a trip to Cable from January 8 through 11 or 12. This trip coincides with the Seeley Hills Classic Race, a classic style only race on the Birkebeiner Trail, starting and ending at OO. The race, on Saturday, January 10, has two options: 22K or 42K. For those who don't care to race, and on the other days of the weekend, there is beautiful classic skiing at Rock Lake in the Chequamegon National Forest or skate and classic skiing on the Telemark trail system or on the Birke trail itself.

We have reserved two, four-bedroom townhouses at Telemark. The lodging cost will be about \$26 per person per night for three nights. But there is a bonus: because we have reserved for three nights, a fourth night is free for anyone who can stay over Sunday night. As in the past, we'll share meal expenses and preparation.

There is only space for 14 people plus the trip leaders. So the first 14 to put their deposits down are in. The leaders will try to coordinate car pooling for those wishing a ride, or wanting riders to share expenses. For more information, speak to Margaret or Dave at the meeting, or call 271-6931.

Devil's Head Day Trip January 11

Peter Berbee is organizing a day trip set for January 11 to Devil's Head resort. This day trip is for experienced XC skiers who would like to improve their downhill technique. Call Peter at 233-8721.

Black's Cliff Resort January 29-31

By the way, this trip is not on SuperBowl weekend this year. Liz McBride (233-1294) leads this trip.

Badger State Games February 6-7

On Badger State Games weekend, February 6-7, the club will be staying at an unusual B&B set in Old Wausau, just 10 minutes drive from Nine Mile. It is a large 1900's house with five bedrooms and a self-contained suite. It has a large basement with a pool table and TV, and plenty of room to wax. A buffet breakfast is provided but we also have free run of the kitchen, so we could do our own pasta feed Saturday night. For more information contact Mike or Sue Capp, 238-2480.

Stiemke's, St. Germain Feb. 13-16

A fun-filled cross-country ski excursion on President's Day weekend to Stiemke's in St. Germain, from Feb. 13-16. Dave Calhoon leads this trip.

lola Winter Carnival Feb. 27-28

And great fun was had by all last year. The Lola Winter Sports Club really knows how to treat its guests well. They have real races for the kids, with 2-year age groups and trophies, a great warming house, wonderful trails, and even introduced our kids to jumping. The Lola Winter Carnival for kids is set for Feb. 28. Trip participants will stay at the kid-friendly Norseman Haus in Lola on Feb. 27-28. Pete Anderson (222-1928) can fill you in.

Barnebirkie

The plan here is to get lodging together for a bunch of families and do the whole Barnebirkie/Birkie thing. Info: Pete Anderson (222-1928). On all these family trips, the idea is to build a strong skiing community for the kids and for the adults to take turns minding them so that we all get out to ski. Great for single parents.

XC opportunity

The River City Ski Fest Jan. 3-4

With classical and skate races and workshops. This is a great opportunity to have the club lead a day trip to Wisconsin Rapids. Look for Dale Niggeman at a ski club meeting for more information about this event.

MADISON NORDIC ski club



*For the latest
info on snow
conditions &
upcoming
events and to
leave messages
for the club:*

H O T L I N E

233-MADK
(233-6235)

KidSki is about fun and learning on skis

BY PETE ANDERSON

Kidski continues! We will again be meeting weekly, each Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. at Odana Golf Course, from January 8 to February 12.

We hope to also have an arrangement with Blackhawk Ski Club which should pretty much guarantee snow. If Odana is snowless on Thursday, we will meet on Fridays at Blackhawk.

Kidski is all about fun and learning on skis. Kids play games, run low-key races, go on tours and do other wintery activities.

Anyone interested in coaching should come to a coach's meeting at 6:30, right before the general club meeting, also at Shorewood. This will be our only organizational meeting.

If you're at all interested in checking it out, come and see for yourself. If you can't come to the meeting, but are interested in coaching, or want any other information, give me a call at 222-1928.

SKIING MAKES ME HOT!



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ski area in Wausau.
JAN 25: Superbowl Sunday
women's ski day. On-snow
instructional clinic at Elver Park
in Madison, WI.

Surfing the Slopes with Joe King

BY MADELINE URANEK

I've never even met this guy, but he's introduced me to skiing all over the world, enticed me to do cabin-to-cabin skiing in Gatineau Park in Quebec, and has enabled me to compare my slow Birkie times with those of lumbering housewives in Italy's version of the same race.

His name is Joseph King. He created Madnordski, Madison's Nordic Ski page on the World Wide Web, which lives at the Internet address

<http://danenet.wiclip.org/madnord>

"It became clear in 1994 that the Web was becoming a public, interactive medium of the future where just 'some guy' could put up information that the whole world could come to," says Joe of his initial foray into Webland. "The Internet, at least then, was an extension of freedom previously unimaginable since the emergence of democracy."

A second curiosity motivated King "One of the reasons I started a Web page, one I admit that has failed miserably, was that anyone could contribute his own story. Magazines like Bicycling and Runners

World have become so much about events and equipment that over the years they've eliminated more and more of the human element."

Democracy, freedom, humanity, the mythos of skiing: who is this guy? I was particularly intrigued that Joe took the task upon himself, neither being asked nor asking. It made me reflect that the desire and ability to link our passions to unknown recipients is one of life's powerful motivators.

King started the Madnordski page in 1994.

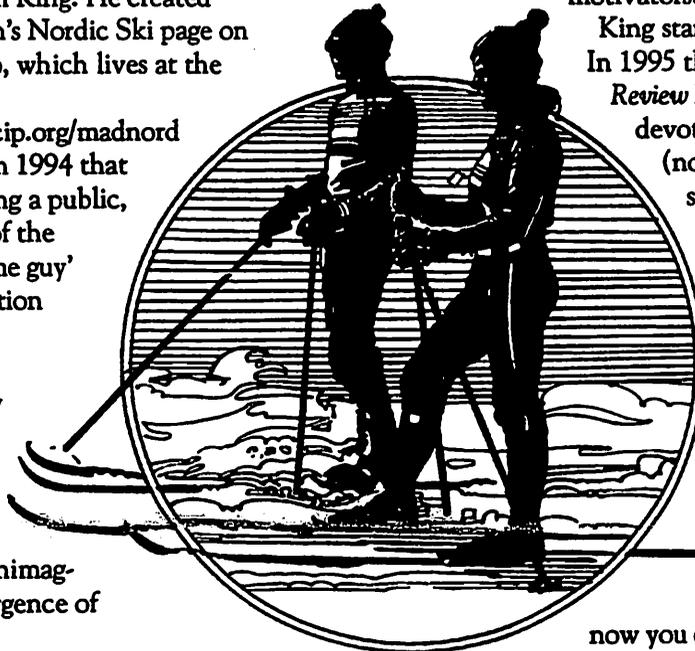
In 1995 the page was written up by *Web Review Magazine* as the "only web page devoted entirely to Nordic skiing"

(nordic skiing including cross-country skiing, skijoring, and the ski & shoot biathlons). If you look now at the list of links to other ski pages that just Joe alone has now collected, you see how fast the Internet has moved.

Joe's award winning page will let you share ski stories (there are quite a few), reader comments, places to ski, and links to other ski pages. New this year is the "Events" calendar. When you see Joe's page is missing an event,

now you can simply and quickly fill it in yourself. Soon Joe will begin updating the "Conditions" part of the page. Before leaving your home or office, just click and find how the skiing is.

(continued on page 7)



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Tuesday race series at Elver

BY BRIAN WATZKE, RACE DIRECTOR

Bring your checkbook or cash to the December meeting to pre-register for the race series. The races will begin on January 6 and run every Tuesday night through February 17.

Pre-registration allows you to avoid long waiting lines on race night. Series prices are \$20 for adults and \$12 for juniors. Individual race prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for juniors. There are seven races scheduled for this season.

The course is usually about 4.5K for the shorter race and 9K for the longer, with both races starting at the same time. Skiers may use either freestyle or classical technique but usually the majority choose to skate.

When we have enough snow for some nice deep tracks we could have a special classical race again like we did two years ago. I started the striders off a couple minutes

before the skaters that night.

Also plan on signing up to volunteer on one of the race nights. If you help with registration you could still race that evening. Course marshalls will receive a free race or partial refund of series price.

Because the races are held at night and on a course

also open to non-racers, it's important to have volunteers around the course to show the way to newcomers. Last year we had a few lost racers. It will probably only be necessary for a racer to volunteer once every two years.

If snow conditions are questionable call the Hotline (235-

MADK) to find out if the races will be held. Sometimes I can't be sure until I get to Elver Park in the late afternoon. Every effort will be made to hold a race even in marginal conditions (except for very icy or sub-sub zero conditions). Last year, on nights when the course wasn't fully snow covered, we were still able to hold time trials on the better portions of the lighted trail system.



Because the races are held at night and on a course also open to non-racers, it's important to have volunteers around the course to show the way to newcomers. Last year we had a few lost racers.



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Surf the slopes with Joe King

(continued from page 5)

Conditions and stories, however, are only as good as the ski community that supports them. Joe says, and I concur, we need to give him a helping hand. Please take a few minutes this winter to enliven Madnorski's discussions and reports, update its events, and freshen its condition reports. Tell us your story.

Joe's favorite place to ski is Indian Lake County Park, just north of Madison. He doesn't race. He doesn't work out. A Ph.D. geneticist, he got into skiing to overcome an aversion to winter developed from six years of living in Georgia. "Now I can't wait for winter."

"Lots of things surprise me," says King. "You forget that world-wide is really...world-wide. Like the first year I did this, I was amazed at getting so many hits in July. I looked at where they were coming from. Sure enough, Australia, where the ski season was in full bloom."

King also helped create the Soglin web page when Paul Soglin ran for Congress, and together with fellow skier Brett Hulsey, created the notorious Klugwatch web page. Garnering reviews from across the nation, that particular page took an unflattering look at Congressman Scott Klug. King also contributes from time to time to the Bicycle Community Page, created by Scott Rose. You ski / bike types might check him out there at

<http://emporium.turnpike.net/~jking/biking/cotswolds.html>

Madison Nordic Ski Club could tap into the page to increase membership (offering free newsletter samples), and to garner needed support for ski-friendly policies. In the meantime, the ski community thanks Joe King for a great service, and for intriguing links between our backyard slopes and backyards in the Rockies, the Alps, and Himalayas.

MNSC board members

Contact us if you have questions or info to share...

- President Dave Calhoon
- Vice President Jimmy VandenBrook
- Treasurer Kathy Zuelsdorff
- Social Chair Madeline Uraneck
- Publicity Chair Sharon Klawitter
- Tour Chairs Errol Hartman/Pamala Zill
- Race Chair Brian Watzke
- Membership Chair Gail Van Sluys
- Newsletter Editor Melody Marler

Contribute to the newsletter

The Madison Nordic Ski Club Newsletter is published monthly from November to March. Please submit articles or ads via e-mail to marler@globaldialog.com, or on 3.5-inch diskette (Macintosh or IBM, almost any software is OK, please also send a printed copy).

Mail submissions to:
Melody Marler
1403 Middleton Street
Middleton, WI 53562

If you have a last-minute submission, you may fax to 827-8701, and call 831-5229 to let us know you've faxed something.

Deadline: 25th of the month preceding the issue.

Madison Nordic Ski Club Membership Form

Sign me up for the 1997-98 cross-country ski season!

- Renewal
- New Member
- Individual \$15
- Family \$20
- Kidski \$25 plus club membership

Name(s): _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to: Madison Nordic Ski Club, P.O. Box 55281, Madison, WI 53705



FOR SALE or WANTED

For rent:

Snow country house for rent with all comforts of home, located in Montreal, Wis. \$50 per night, weekly rates available. Call Mark, 608-924-6000.

For sale:

Kids ski package – Karhu 100 cm skis, SNS bindings, Salomon SRIII boots size 28, poles – excellent condition, \$50. Call Morgan at 238-2577.

For sale:

Women's Salomon skating boots, size 40, worn 3 times, \$125. Women's Salomon diagonal racing boots, size 40-2/3, less than one year old, \$100. Call Nicki, 831-3630.

For sale:

Fischer Junior Sprint striding skis. Excellent condition. NNNII bindings. Ideal for 70 to 110 pounds. \$45. Call Connie at 273-0533 eves.

For sale:

Atomic Arc classical racing skis, 203 cm. Flexed for about 150 lbs. Moderately long wax pocket. Hardly used. Fresh Wintersteiger stonegrind. Profil bindings. New \$400, now \$250/negotiable. Pete Anderson 222-1928.

For sale:

Jarvinen classical race skis, 10 years old, but good shape. Too stiff for me at 150 lbs. \$40. Pete Anderson 222-1928.

Submitting ads:

All MNSC members may use this space to advertise ski-related items. To make sure your ad is included, send it via e-mail to marler@globaldialog.com or mail typewritten ads to: Melody Marler, 1403 Middleton Street, Middleton, WI 53562.

MSCR offers ski lessons

Madison School-Community Recreation will offer ski lessons this winter. Look for more information at the December meeting.

Thanks to Tim Wadlington for securing most of the ads for this season's issues of the newsletter!

**MADISON
NORDIC
ski club**

P.O. Box 55281
Madison, WI 53705



Next meeting:
Potluck & raffle

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
Shorewood Community Center