

MADISON NORDIC ski club Newsletter



Cross
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JANUARY 1998

VOL 17, NO. 3

XC events



January 6-February 17 – Elver Park Race Series
Info: Brian Watzke

January 13 – Elver Shelter Meeting (see story, page 3) 

January 16-18 – Family trip to Iola
Info: Pete Anderson



Trips, trips and more trips!

Check with MNSC trip leaders at the January meeting 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.

Seeley Hills Classic Trip

January 8-11 or 12

Margaret or Dave, 271-6931.

Devil's Head Day Trip

January 11

Call Peter at 233-8721.

Black's Cliff Resort

January 29-31

Call Liz McBride at 233-1294.

Badger State Games

February 6-7

Call Mike or Sue Capp, 238-2480.

Stiemke's, St. Germain

Feb. 13-16

Call Dave Calhoon at 831-9039.



Monday, January 12, at 7 PM

Shorewood Community Center, 901 Swarthmore Ct.

January meeting: Dennis Kruse on Worldloppet Races

Have you ever dreamed of adding a memento from another Worldloppet race to your collection of Birkie bibs? Perhaps you long to ski the original Vasaloppet in Sweden, or check out the chocolate at the Engadin Ski Marathon in Switzerland. Then this is the program for you!

Dennis Kruse is the owner of Seeley Hills Ski & Bike, located in the heart of the greater metropolitan Seeley downtown area, just a couple of miles off the Birkie trail. Most of you will remember the interesting talk Dennis gave last year about the Birkie and developments on the Birkie board. He graciously volunteered to come back and talk to us again, and, at our January meeting, he will share with us stories and images from his Worldloppet racing experiences. Dennis has skied all the Worldloppet races, so his talk should be entertaining and informative. He will also bring us news of the (American) Birkebeiner.

President's Column

BY DAVE CALHOON

Happy New Year! First, some follow-up from our December meeting. Most importantly, I'd like to thank all the donors who made our raffle such a great success. From A to Z, they are: Active Endeavors, Erehwon, Fontana, Mike Ivey, Planet XC, REI, Sepp Sport, Vauhti Wax, Williamson Bicycle Works, and Pamala Zill. Please let them know you appreciate their support.

In all the excitement of the raffle, I forgot to allow Dale Niggemann the chance to conduct the final round of his wax bench assembling contest. So, we went with the first round results. Also, I should have mentioned that most of the slides we showed during our backcountry talk were taken by John Kotar.

(continued on page 2)

President's Column

(continued from page 1)

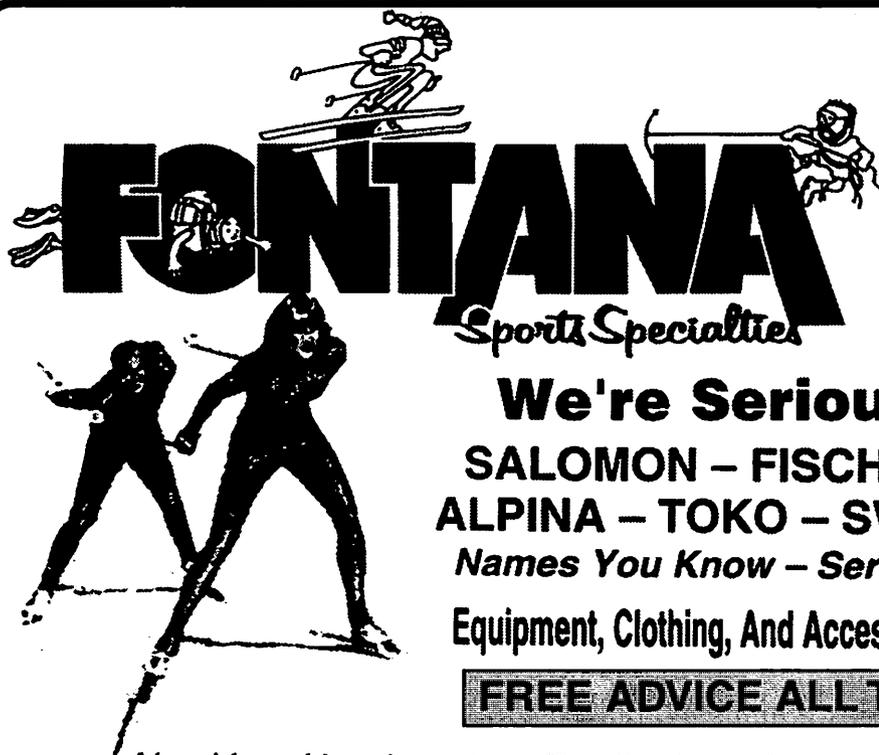
About 20 of us hopped on the bus to Minocqua Winter Park on Saturday, December 13. The Board decided to subsidize this trip the first year in the hope that it would take off and become self-sustaining. Despite a scary trail condition report of a 3-inch base (that turned out to be 3" of packed snow), the trails were in good shape. I spent most of my time comparing notes on demo skis with Dave Robb, and, surprisingly, we usually agreed! We had a great time skiing and a lot of fun on the bus chatting, watching videos, eating, and drinking, while letting the bus driver worry about dodging other motorists. Let's fill the bus next year!

I bumped into Russ Hefty, of the Madison Parks Division, at Odana on Sunday, December 28. He was there emptying out the collection tube for trail passes, and I asked him how it was going. He reported that, at that point, collections had far exceeded the city's expectations. They had by then collected over \$4,000! I also talked to Russ in the Parks Division offices the next day, and he told me that he was surprised at the large number of season passes sold. About half the passes sold by the 29th were season passes. In fact, they sold so many, they ran out! So if you're waiting for your season pass to arrive in the mail, bear with them — they have to get more made up!

Russ said that, by and large, reaction to the trail fees has been positive. He has even had some people tell him that it's about time the city started charging for trail use. My guess is that, while most of us aren't eager to start paying trail fees where we haven't had to before, we recognize that the age of user fees is upon us. And, we can hope our financial support of the trails will give us more clout with the city and county.

Russ also gave me an update on the Elver shelter proposals. (See article by Mike Ivey, p. 3.) He showed me the plans for four proposals. Three of them involve building a new, larger shelter near the present one, to serve both skaters and skiers. The fourth involves building a shelter at the top of the sledding hill. Russ also said that the public hearing which originally conflicted with our January meeting has been moved to Tuesday, January 13, at 8:00 p.m. at Huegel School, 2601 Prairie Road (near Elver). A presentation outlining the various proposals will be given first, with the opportunity for public input to follow. I strongly encourage everyone to attend this hearing and let the Parks Commission know how you feel about the proposals. We'll try to start our races on time that night, and, if you're doing the 10K race, you'll have to ski fast to make it to the beginning of the hearing. Do you suppose 60 sweaty skiers in body suits would make an impression on them?

And finally, as racing season begins, a word of advice to all you racers out there: *Remember, this is supposed to be fun!*



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MadNorSki New Year

BY DR. TOAD

For those of you who might have missed it—and just about every one of you did—the place to be at midnight on New Year's Eve was not inside, in some hot, smoky bar, or at a crowded, stuffy party, but out in the cold, crisp, clear night air in the middle of the Wisconsin River aboard the Merrimac ferry.

Those of us who did make it enjoyed champagne and ginger snaps, "Auld Lang Syne," and the lights and fireworks of Devil's Head Ski Resort, all while standing on the deck of this magnificent craft as she chopped her way across the ice-jammed river on this historic crossing.

So be forecasted! Make your plans now! If El Niño returns next winter, I hope to see many more Club members on board next New Year's Eve.

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DEC 6-7: On snow clinic.

Technique instruction. 9 mile ski area in Wausau.

JAN 25: Superbowl Sunday

women's ski day. On-snow

instructional clinic at Elver Park in Madison, WI.

Elver Shelter Meeting is Jan. 13

BY MIKE IVEY

A public meeting on the siting of the new Elver Park shelter has been rescheduled again. It's now set for Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 8 p.m. at Huegel School, 2601 Prairie Road.

The city Parks Department is trying to decide where to build a new shelter, which is being funded in part by a anonymous \$300,000 donation. The two proposals are:

A: The top of the sledding hill. This plan calls for building a new road and parking lot on top of the hill. There would be no ski facility, just an unheated picnic shelter.

B: Near the pond at the base of the big hill. This plan would include a heated, four-season shelter for skiing and skating. It would use existing parking lots.

Obviously, from a skier's standpoint, proposal B is better.

Let's get a big turnout at the meeting to show the city we mean business. You don't have to speak. Just show up and fill out a form showing your support for the heated ski shelter.

If you can't make the meeting, call your city Alderman at 266-4071 and leave a message on the voice mail system.

I can't emphasize enough how crucial it is for club members to lobby for a ski facility. If we don't show up at the meeting and the shelter is built in the wrong place, we can only blame ourselves.

Call the
**MADISON NORDIC SKI CLUB
HOTLINE**

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

233-MADK (233-6235)

Trip Update: Family Skiing and Races in Iola

BY PETE ANDERSON

The family trip to Iola has been rescheduled for the nights of January 16- 18. On Saturday, nearby Standing Rocks has its race, as well as a kids race, and on Sunday, Iola has kids and adult races.

Both adult races have outstanding trails and terrain, and the Iola kids race is one of the few to feature a decent distance and a technical trail. Iola will also have its usual tour and hot dog roast out on the trails.

Additionally, they also promise to make their jumping skis available and get us started on some jumps. This was a big hit last year - don't miss it!



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KIDSKI Update

BY PETE ANDERSON

Kidski is happening at 4 PM on Thursday, Jan. 8, and all subsequent Thursdays through Feb. 12. We're looking forward to a great year, and have a bunch of new coaches in addition to those who've been around for a while. And yes, we have some creative alternatives if the world is not covered in frozen crystals of water. It's hard not to have fun when you turn a tangle of kids loose outdoors.

New for this year is a backup plan. If we don't have snow at Odana on Thursdays, we'll go to Blackhawk Ski Club on Fridays at 4 pm. They have no rental skis, so you'll have to provide your own. Check the Kidski hotline (222-1928) on Thursdays for the latest. We'll post details as soon as the city lets us know if Odana is usable.

Also new is a racing program. Any kid with an interest in competition is welcome to show up for this. We'll go where the snow is, so you'll need your own gear. We meet Fridays at 4 pm, which may coincide with the recreational program if it occasionally moves to Blackhawk. Unlike the recreational program, which plays lots of games, we plan to mainly do trail skiing. Goal is to work on technique, think about racing, and actually do some coaching. We may coordinate trips to a few races (such as the club trip to Iola).

Norway Trip Looks Like a Go

BY MIKE IVEY

The trip to Norway is filling up. ~~As of press time, there were 14 people with paid deposits, including 10 club members. We need 20 skiers to make it happen. The dates are Feb. 26-March 6. We leave Madison on the Thursday after the Birkie and return on a Sunday. That means you only have to use 7 vacation days from work for an 11-day trip.~~

Cost of the trip is \$1,765, which includes airfare, hotels

and meals. It's a great price on a great trip. You also get two nights in Oslo, with a side trip to Lillehammer. For more information call Mike Ivey at 233-8014 or 252-6431.

Planet XC wax bench folding contest held at December meeting

BY CLAIR KRUEGER

The Madison Nordic Ski Club December meeting featured a wax bench folding contest sponsored by Dale Niggemann and Planet XC. The contest consisted of contestants trying to fold up the new Planet XC wax bench as fast as they could. Dale agreed to give the three fast times a percentage discount on the purchase of a Planet XC wax bench. The three winners were: Julie Kreunen with the fastest time of 08:21 seconds, for a 20 percent discount. Clair Krueger was a close second with a time of 08:34 and was presented with a 15 percent discount. Brian Herring took the third slot with 08:67 seconds, for a 10 percent discount. Thanks to Dale for sponsoring the event, and kudos to all of those who participated.

**MADISON
NORDIC
ski club**

HOTLINE

233-MADK (233-6235)

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 Sale: Norway ASNES MARKA hickory X-c skis, 72" (190 cm). New Salomon bindings. Price \$85. Contact Joan Mulligan at 231-2577.

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: For the littlest skier in your family, a complete ski package: Valtonen no-wax 100 cm skis, Finn Grip Polar 75 mm Nordic Norm bindings, Soho children's size 10 boots, and Exel Mini 90 cm poles, in excellent condition, \$50. This is the same package Vladimir Smirnov started on. Call Dave Calhoon, 831-9039.

For sale/trade: Jarvinen prizm classical no-wax skis, 215, NNN bindings. Best offer, or will trade for shorter no-wax skis. Call Trey, 233-9025.

For rent: Big 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.

MNSC board members

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

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- Vice President Jimmy VandenBrook
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- Race Chair Brian Watzke
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Contribute to the newsletter

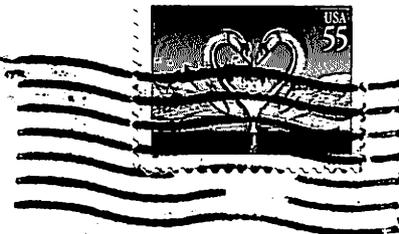
The Madison Nordic Ski Club Newsletter is published monthly from November to March. Please submit articles or ads via e-mail to marler@globaldialog.com, or on 3.5-inch diskette (Macintosh or IBM, almost any software is OK, please also send a printed copy). Mail submissions to: Melody Marler, 1403 Middleton 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



P.O. Box 55281
Madison, WI 53705



Next meeting:

Monday, January 12, 7 p.m.
Shorewood Community Center