



October 2022

Year-Round Recreation Since 1971

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50th Anniversary Slides, Lapham Update, Ski Trip Signup Meeting

Friday, October 21, 6:00 pm

Welcome to the second half-century of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee! Get ready for ski and snowshoe season at our October 21 Friday evening meeting. Members who couldn't make it to the 50th anniversary celebration August 28, 2022, can view the 50 years of history slide show, which will run in the background. Plus, we'll show new photos from the August event (see recap story in the Nordic Ski Club October newsletter). Snowmaking guru John McCarthy also will give updates on the progress of Lapham Lodge and snowmaking at Lapham Peak State Forest, which last season provided 95 days of reliable snow for ski trails. October 21 is also NSCM's ski-trip signup meeting (see story in the Nordic Ski Club October newsletter). We'll provide time to share club history, memories and funny stories. We encourage veteran club members to attend. The club also will provide free sandwiches, veggies (if you sign up in advance) and a few surprises.

WHAT: Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee season-opening meeting

WHEN: Friday, October 21, 6 to 10 p.m.

WHERE: Elks Lodge 400, 2301 Springdale Rd., Waukesha

ENTER: from lower-level back parking lot

Coming Up:

Hike at Forest Exploration Center, Wauwatosa November 6

Work Day at Lapham Peak State Forest November 12

Loew Lake Ice Age Trail Hike November 18

Holiday Hot Soup Party at Lapham Peak December 4

Keweenaw

FOOD: Small sub sandwiches, veggies. Cash bar.

SIGN UP: Food is free if you register online by Oct. 19 at: [Ski Trips Signup Meeting](#).

WEAR MASKS-while masks are not required, we recommend them (see Covid story below)



Eleven Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee presidents gathered at the club's 50th anniversary on Aug. 28, 2022, in New Berlin, Wis. Back row, from left: Ralph Ehlinger, Bob Randall, Gary Hansen, Paula Brookmire, Carol Doebler, David Harrison, Patsy Coccia, Jim Dieball. Front row, from left: Bill McNamara, Georgia Link, Kathy Wacker.

Ski Trip Signup Procedures

In-person registration Friday, October 21, 7:00 pm

Online registration opens Saturday, October 22

The earliest opportunity to sign up for 2021-2022 NSCM bus ski trips is at the in-person registration on Friday, October 21 beginning at 7:00 pm, during the membership meeting. Both members and non-members are encouraged and invited to register for our trips. Ski trip flyers are available on the club website and were in a September email sent to members. Don't mail in reservation forms if you plan to sign up at the in-person registration. Please note that you must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to participate on any bus ski trip. The club will continue to practice social distancing (if possible) and the use of face masks, as recommended by the CDC and Wisconsin authorities.

To prepare your registration, complete the reservation form for each ski trip and include a separate check payable to NSCM for the deposit amount. If you want to have the "trip letter" mailed to you, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with each reservation. Otherwise, the "trip letter" will be emailed to you. Note that "four-to-a-room" means that there are four people and two beds in a room, with two people sharing each bed.

At the October in-person registration and meeting, one member of a household membership can bring all the reservation forms for their household. You can bring reservation forms for others who cannot attend the meeting. The signup priority will remain the same as in previous years. It is listed in the Ski-trip Reservation Policy of the "Important Facts For Ski Trip Reservations" document that can be found on the NSCM website Events page.

Online ski-trip registration opens on Saturday, October 22. Online reservations require payment of the total amount if you elect to pay online. You can also mail a check to the trip leader for the deposit amount. Online registration is generally available until 1 week prior to the departure

***Peninsula Bus Trip
December 30-
January 2***

***Ski Lessons and
Winter Picnic at
Lapham Peak
January 15***

***Valley Spur Bus
Trip
January 20-22***

***Minocqua Winter
Park Bus Trip
February 10-12***

Contact Us:

Email nordicskiclub.mke@gmail.com

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

Nordic Officers

President
Carol Doebler

Vice Presidents
Renee Couture
and Ellen Riley

Secretary
Paula Brookmire

Treasurer
Dave Herrewig

Board Members
Julie Amundson
Paula Brookmire
Renee Couture
Carol Doebler
Steven Fabina
Dorothy Riesing
Ellen Riley
David Rosenberg
Mary Wozniak

Program Committee

date or until the trip fills. Save time, paper, postage, and gas---sign up online!

Please contact a member of the Program Committee if you have any questions.

Brady's Rocks Ice Age Trail Hike

Saturday, October 15, 10:00 am

Let's hike part of the Eagle segment of the Ice Age Trail to Brady's Rocks. This segment is an out and back hike of about 3 miles, although we can continue further on the trail thru prairie fields before returning the way we came. Brady's Rocks consists of dolomite bedrock outcroppings of the Niagara Escarpment. A nicely shaded loop trail at Brady's Rocks contains a unique fern population. The hiking will consist of mostly level and open terrain with a few hills and woods.

Directions: From Milwaukee, take I-94 west to Hwy 67 (Oconomowoc exit 282) and go south over 11 miles to the Ice Age Trail Hwy 67 parking lot on the west side of the road 0.2 miles after you pass Road X. Call Paul at (H)262-547-4827 or (C)262-309-1918 with any questions.

Halloween Nordic Trails Hike

Saturday, October 29, 10:00 am

Lions, tigers, and bears, Oh My!! Oh no, just your fellow Nordic comrades hiking on the Nordic Trails in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Costumes are optional, but encouraged! Please meet at the Nordic Trails parking lot at 10:00 am. This trail, on County Highway H south of the Village of Palmyra, provides hiking through a variety of vegetation, hardwoods, pine plantations, open meadows and Kettle Moraine terrain. There are six different trails of varying lengths and degrees of difficulty, providing great hiking for all levels of ability. A warming shelter will be open with parking and vault toilets. As a group we usually navigate about 4 miles. The trails are connected; so there are some options for the distance you would like to hike. For location and more details regarding the trails, please check out this link: [Nordic Trail, Wisconsin Trail Guide](#). For a glimpse of the trails please check out the [Nordic Trails map](#). If there is enough interest, we can go out for lunch at The Backyard Bike Shop café in LaGrange. Their renovation is complete. For a peek at their menu and location, please check out their [CAFÉ — Backyard Bike Shop](#). Questions? Call Julie at 262-468-8223.

Nordic Ski Club Celebrates 50 Years of Cross-Country Skiing in Wisconsin

Our club created many of the cross-country ski trails in southeastern Wisconsin, taught at least 10,000 people to ski and ran popular races for many years. Plus, since the mid-1970s we have been one of the few clubs running annual motor coach trips up north to cross-country ski. The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee has had a major impact on skiing in Wisconsin, noted historian Paula Brookmire at the August 28, 2022, 50th anniversary celebration of NSCM. The club continues to have an impact with its support of the snowmaking project at Lapham Peak State Forest in southeastern Wisconsin, funding for youth skiing, and grants to ski venues in northern Wisconsin and Michigan.

More than 95 people signed up for the 50th celebration, held at Matty's Bar & Grille in New Berlin. Some had to cancel days beforehand because they got Covid, but 86 people attended.

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](#)

Facebook Chair:

Ellen Riley
ellenriley612@gmail.com

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

Contact Us:

Volunteers

The Nordic Ski Club runs on volunteers.
Please contact Renee Couture at acoutr@att.net if

Paula Brookmire presented a slide show going back five decades that she had worked on for many years. It included photos from the club's first children's race, in 1976, and from the club's 10th, 20th, 30th and 45th anniversaries. Activities pictured ranged from canoeing and camping to dancing and snowshoeing, from hiking and biking to playing softball and volleyball. The club's Milwaukee Nordic Children's Races, Kettle Moraine Nordic adult races, Esker Odyssey races and their awards and race pins and T-shirts brought back memories. Popping up on the screen were pictures of most of the club's 24 presidents. Perhaps most fun were photos from favorite ski trips over the decades: to Telemark, Minocqua, Wausau and Michigan's Marquette, Munising and Keweenaw ski areas. You could see how club logos and newsletters had evolved. The program included an 11-minute club history by Paula plus awards, recognitions, dinner and anniversary cake. See stories below on grants presented and lifetime memberships awarded. Key awards given were:

- **Golden pinecone award** to past president Bill McNamara for his leadership and work with children's races. Bill stopped at our event on the way to his retirement party after 41 years with Derse Co. He also acknowledged his late wife, NSCM past president Judy McNamara, and all the volunteer work she did for the club.
- **50-year club member awards** went to past presidents David Harrison (NSCM's first elected president), Gary Hansen and Ralph Ehlinger.
- **Snowflake award** to John McCarthy for more than 15 years of volunteer work to bring snow making to Lapham Peak State Forest. A civil engineer, John helped design the water system (reservoir pond, trenches, piping, etc.) and helped facilitate getting snow guns, a new trail-groomer and a building to house it. He also is involved in plans for a new lodge at Lapham.
- **Let It Snow recognitions** (ski caps) to NSCM members who also are members of Lapham Peak Friends Snow making committee: Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Paul Keber and Rita Keber as well as John McCarthy.
- **Recognitions:** everyone who had served on the NSCM board, its committees, its newsletter, or helped with races or led bus and carpool ski trips, or taught skiing, or provided technical help was recognized. That was almost everyone.
- **Thank yous** to everyone who helped with this event: Paula Brookmire, coordinator, Chris Allen, Renee Couture, Steve Culver, Carol Doebler, Dave Herrewig, Sally Heuer, Ralph Ehlinger, Gary Hansen, Paul Keber, Mary Mueller, Pat Pomahac, Dorothy Riesing, Ellen Riley, Mary Wozniak, Cathy Ward, Kathy Wacker, Cathy Yekenevicz, Joanne Ziarek, Nancy Zoltowski and many others.



John McCarthy (Left) received the Snowflake Award for more than 15 years of his volunteer work to bring machine-made snow to Lapham Peak State Forest cross-country ski trails. The award was presented by the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. John and other members of

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@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

Lapham's Snowmaking Committee also received Let It Snow caps for their volunteer work. Next to John, from left, are Joanne Ziarek, Anne Riendl, Rita Keber and Paul Keber.



Past presidents Gary Hansen (left) and Ralph Ehlinger received awards for 50 years as members of the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee. So did David Harrison (photo below), the club's first elected president.



Grants for Lapham Lodge

Paul and Rita Keber of Waukesha were surprised on August 28, 2022, with support from the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee for a project they have spearheaded. The Kebers gave a major kickoff donation to build a new lodge at Wisconsin's Lapham Peak State Forest. The 5,000-square-foot lodge would benefit cross-country skiers by providing a large gathering place, changing rooms, indoor restrooms and a staging area next to trailheads. It also would support young people learning to ski and be available for teaching and other programs. The Nordic Ski Club board voted in July 2022 to give two grants, taken from club assets, to the lodge project. The lodge meets the original mission of the club: to support and expand cross-country ski trails and facilities, and to help people learn to ski. The first grant, for \$2,000, would be in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, starting October 1, 2022. The second grant, of \$3,000, would be given in the NSCM's 2023-2024 fiscal year.

On September 22, 2022, the lodge project received a \$1.3 million grant from the US Economic Development Administration. The grant goes to Lapham Peak Friends, which is coordinating the project, and the Wisconsin DNR. According to the Waukesha Freeman, the federal grant "brings the total amount raised for the project to \$2 million, leaving \$400,000 to be raised via fundraising." The goal is to start construction in spring 2023. For information on how to donate individually to the lodge, go to www.laphampeakfriends.org/lodge/.

The Kebers are longtime members of both the Nordic Ski Club and of Lapham Peak Friends. The NSCM grant money goes directly to Lapham Peak Friends for the lodge. The new lodge

would face the Evergreen parking lot and would be much larger than the old lodge, which has one small gathering room. A symbolic, oversized check for the lodge was presented by NSCM president Carol Doebler (at right in photo) and vice president Ellen Riley to the Kebers at NSCM's 50th anniversary celebration on August 28, 2022. NSCM has assets to give these grants thanks to income from XC ski races the club held during the 1970s and 1980s. The races ended after several bad snow years, long before snow making efforts started. The club has supported snow making as a reliable way to have snow for teaching youth programs, for holding races and for providing recreational skiing all winter, thanks to a two-foot base of snow created at the start of the season. NSCM's October 21 meeting (see top story) will have updates on both the lodge and snow making.



Nordic Ski Club vice president Ellen Riley (second from left) and president Carol Doebler (right) present an oversized check to Paul and Rita Keber. The check will go to Friends of Lapham Peak for a new lodge the Kebers are spearheading there.

We Need Your Dues Now to Help With Bus Trips, Events

If you love our motor coach ski trips up north and meetings that often feature free food, please renew your Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee membership now, at the start of our fiscal year. It's not just about the money. We count on your renewals to update us on your contact information. If we can't contact you, we can't tell you about trips, hikes, camp outs, etc. We also need you to agree to our liability waiver every year, which is part of your renewal and keeps our insurance up to date. Finally, we need a certain number of members just to hold our ski trips and to keep going. Dues are due in October.

Bus trips and coming events: We have four bus ski trips up north planned this season, and signups start in person on October 21 (see story in this newsletter). Enjoy food and fun at our meetings on October 21 (see above), December 4 (outdoor holiday event at Lapham Peak), January 15 (annual winter picnic at Trecker Lodge, Lapham Peak) and in April. Remember, too, that our cross-country ski club has year-round events, including bike rides, snowshoe outings, picnics, camp outs, paddling events, hikes, etc. These are all organized by volunteers. Membership rates have not gone up in 20 years (\$25 individuals, \$35 households). If you have not received reminders about your dues via email or you know someone who is not a member and wants to join, please click on this link [Member Application](#) that also includes a link to a "Printable Membership Application and Waiver" form. Or go to our website: www.nordicskiclub.org and click on Membership/Member Application to download our member signup form. If you prefer to pay by check, 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. Note: Even lifetime members need to fill out a membership form and waiver each year to stay active. You can do that online or by mail.

Lifetime Memberships Awarded

It has been six years since the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee awarded a lifetime membership. The last one went to Katie Bivens, who was the longest serving NSCM president (10 years). In 2022 the NSCM board decided to award these lifetime memberships to people who have been members for 20 to 44 years and who also actively volunteered consistently over the decades.

Patsy Coccia: Patsy and her husband, John Sekula, joined NSCM in 1980 and immediately became very active. She was on the NSCM board for two years, was active on the program and newsletter committees, led bus ski trips and headed the trails committee. Patsy went on to become the club's 15th president, serving from 1989 to 1991. She dropped out of the club around the year 2000 and rejoined in 2021.



Patsy Coccia

Renee Couture: As of 2022, Renee has been an NSCM member for nearly 40 years. An artist, a teacher and a musician, she was a member of the club's Kazoo Band. Her service includes about 20 years on the Program Committee planning events and at least 10 years on the board of directors as of 2022. She has been one of the club's two vice presidents since 2018. She has led bus ski trips, other weekend trips, outings, and board-games nights. She helped organize holiday parties, fundraising auctions and the 50th anniversary celebration.



Renee Couture

Carol Doebler, current president (in her sixth year in 2022). Carol joined the club in the early 1990s and has been a continuous member except for 1995 when she had baby Prescott and dropped out for a year. She has been particularly active in the last 15 years, when she has served continuously on the board of directors. Carol also has chaired the clinics committee, the

newsletter committee and been a member of the Lapham Peak snowmaking committee. She's also led hikes and other outings and was active on the 50th anniversary committee.



Dave Herrewig (left) and Carol Doebler

Dave Herrewig: Dave has been in the club 33 years as of 2022; his wife, Kathy, whom he met in the club, has been a member even longer. Dave has been treasurer for six years, a key position for the club. He has been attending board meetings for 10 years--first as a board member for four years and then as treasurer. He was newsletter editor for two years and worked a lot with Paula Brookmire. Dave has led many events and outings.

Cathy Yekenevicz. Cathy joined the club in 1978, making 2022 her 44th year as a continuous member. She was treasurer for decades, even returning to that volunteer job after president Paula Brookmire asked her in 1999 to fill a position that no one else would. Cathy helped with the 1980s ski race committee. She also stored many of the club's historical papers and artifacts for decades. Ill health has kept her from being active in recent years. She is now in an assisted-living home. She was one of the first people to register for the club's 50th anniversary celebration.



Cathy Yekenevicz

Ski Trip Leader/Assistants Training

Thursday, October 13, 7:00 pm

If you are leading a winter ski trip, want to be an assistant trip leader, or want to find out what's involved in leading or assisting on a ski trip, then mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 11. That's when our trip leader training session for next winter's ski trips will be held beginning at 7 pm at the Waukesha home of Paul Keber or on a Zoom meeting. You'll also discover the rewards of leading or assisting on a trip. Please contact Paul at 262-547-4827 or pkeber@milwpc.com to let him know if you will be attending and if you have any questions.

COVID and the Club

Our cross-country ski club has been fortunate. The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee ran four bus ski trips up north last winter and almost no one got COVID-19. We also had indoor gatherings January 8, February 25 and April 22, with almost no COVID cases afterward. Two things worked in our favor: Most club members have been vaccinated. And the new Omicron COVID variants BA.4 and BA.5, which are far more contagious than the delta variant, did not hit the Midwest till late spring.

Things changed. We planned an outdoor, tented venue for our August 28, 2022, 50th anniversary celebration. Our board thought the open air would reduce our risk, but we were seated closely together in the tent. Even a few days before the event some members got COVID and had to cancel. Within days after the event, we heard about a few attendees testing positive for COVID. Because we had little information at the time, we wanted to call people personally. A group of us started calling attendees to alert them and see if they had symptoms. Several of us doing the calling already were not feeling well. What we learned was:

1. Several members had coldlike symptoms but after our call tested for COVID and were positive; they were happy we called;
2. Quite a few people had been at other group events before August 28 or had been exposed to someone with COVID but didn't learn that till after our event;
3. Even several club members who were not at our event got COVID about the same time, probably from traveling;
4. By nine days after the event, we had communicated with almost everyone at our celebration, and 25 of the 86 people attending had tested positive for COVID;
5. Most had mild symptoms, but some of us had more severe reactions. One person ended up in the emergency room for an afternoon and took weeks to get better;
6. There is no one person who spread the virus, and many people most likely got it elsewhere. In a few cases, the spouses of people who got COVID did not get the virus.

COVID Policies for Bus Trips, Meetings: The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee board addressed COVID policies for the future at its September meeting. We decided to go ahead with our indoor meeting October 21 (story at top of newsletter). However, because we now have seen how airborne and highly contagious new COVID subvariants are, the board voted on the following policies for meetings and bus trips:

- NSCM strongly recommends but is not requiring that members get the new COVID booster shots that work against the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. If you had COVID in late August or September, however, wait about four months before getting the new booster shots. The people who benefit the most from these boosters are those over 60, those with serious health problems and those with weakened immune systems (Wall Street Journal). COVID still kills 300 to 400 people a day in the U.S. (WSJ 9-12-22).
- NSCM strongly recommends but is not requiring that members at meetings and on bus trips wear N95 or KN95 masks that fit snugly. Surgical masks do not provide

much protection against the Omicron variants. See the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website. Removing your mask to eat is a risk; at the Oct. 21 meeting we will provide plastic bags for the small sub sandwiches if you want to eat them later or outdoors.

- NSCM is continuing with the same COVID policy for bus trips as last season: All participants need to be vaccinated and masks are highly recommended but not required. If you get sick in the days before the trip, you need to cancel (see our detailed policy when you sign up for trips).

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.

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