

The Easy Glider

Kick 'n Gliders Nordic Ski Club

Editor: Pete Oswald (editor@kickn-gliders.org)

Issue: December, 2007

The President's Corner

Bill Stine

Yeah, you've all heard it ... again and again and again. "The web changes everything!" Often repeated but in many ways it's really true.

But, you ask, how can that be true for me and for my cross-country skiing?

As of a couple of weeks ago we have a completely reworked website for the club. The look is cleaner and the navigation, hopefully, is easier. There are more pictures that, hopefully, will live up some of the pages. There's a new forum to discuss club-sponsored trips on the Message Board and it's now clear how to return to the rest of the website from the Message Board. And, the content is up-to-date.

But, for the most part, the content is the same as it's been, mostly static stuff that is updated only year-to-year. The message board is the one place where you, personally, can instantaneously update information to be shared with other members but, except for yours truly, no one's even posted anything there in almost a year! Maybe we're just a bunch of Luddites.

So, how can we make this technology work for us. So that we can better enjoy the sport. So that we can communicate our

enthusiasm to the world. So that we can help others learn that there are ways to enjoy the wonders of winter without the noise, crowding, smoke and stink associated with certain other winter activities.

We could use it to:

- ⊗ share our knowledge of places to ski,
- ⊗ promote our club to encourage others to join,
- ⊗ arrange ride-sharing for ski trips,
- ⊗ help create more opportunities for local skiing ... when, and if, it actually snows here, and
- ⊗ lots more ... just use your imagination!

I'm sure you could think of lots of ways if you thought about it. Let me/us know and we'll see what we can do. Better yet, go online at <http://www.kickn-gliders.org/>, go to the Message Board, follow the instructions to register and share your ideas there, where the whole club can see and respond to your idea!

So, how can we use the web to make my cross-country skiing experience better? Mainly, that's for you to decide.

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Reminder of new address of Kick 'n Gliders

**KICK 'N GLIDERS
P.O. Box 1353
Mechanicsburg PA 17055**

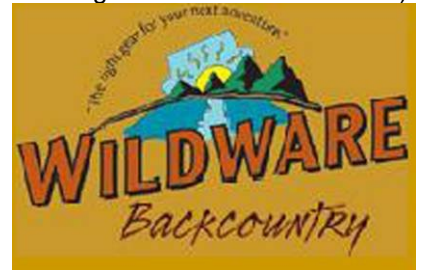
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**Trip report on the
November 5 meeting**

Wildware offers 10% discount

While the rest of the nation wrestled with tough voting decisions, 40 plus Kick 'n Gliders met at Wildware Backcountry for the first business meeting of the 2007-2008 ski season.

President Bill Stine ("W") opened the meeting with reports from committee chairs (see trip information and upcoming meetings in this issue).



Our monthly program presenter was Andy Clements. Andy is Wildware Backcountry's new owner having rescued the business from possible extinction when past owner, Kathy Watts, considered closing the store.

Small outdoor shops competing with large box stores, national outdoor sellers, as REI and EMS, and the Internet are in a very competitive business requiring filling niche markets. The niches are continually changing and require an adaptable attitude with a large dose of clairvoyance.

Andy opened his gear and clothing talk by offering K'nG members a 10% discount on Wildware purchases. "W" will give Wildware an up-to-date club roster so that all members will need to do is let the cashier know that they are members.

Andy shared information about skis, hydration packs and layering clothing. Wildware will cease carrying some vendors and carry more of the better sellers such as apparel as from Patagonia and Mountain Hardware.

Fourteen Kick 'n Gliders reconvened at Your Place for salads, mini-bolis, beverages, and good conversation.

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The Gift Certificate Drawing is Back!!!!

In a continuation of last year's popular practice, there will again be a drawing for a WildWare Backcountry \$25 gift certificate at each membership meeting. The catch is, you must be present to win. All members in attendance are eligible. Just one more excellent reason to join us at our meetings!

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Christmas Party A reminder

WHO: All Kick 'n Glider Members

WHEN: Wednesday, December 19, 2007, 7:00 PM

WHERE: Bill and Sandy Stine's home

Bill and Sandy are delighted, once again, to host the annual Kick 'n Glider Christmas Party at their home in Lancaster. Join your fellow Kick 'n Gliders for this festive holiday gathering. It's a chance to meet new members, swap stories about past exploits on the ski trails, and plan for an exciting 2007-08 ski season. As usual, bring a dish to share and bring your favorite beverage.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of PA 283 and US 30 near Lancaster:

- Follow US 30 west
- Take the first exit, Harrisburg Pike (Park City)
- Turn LEFT onto Harrisburg Pike
- Pass under the RR overpass and go to the 2nd light
- Turn RIGHT onto President Ave
- Turn RIGHT onto Valley Rd (4th Street)
- Turn RIGHT onto N. School Lane (1st street)
- 627 N School Ln is the 4th house on the RIGHT (Tudor style, brick sidewalk)

Any problems? Call 717/392-1675

The Christmas Party is a good time to loosen up and sign up!

Bring your checkbooks to sign up for the trips that you would like to go on!

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This a reminder that our **Tuesday, December 4th 7:00 p.m.** meeting at Wildware Backcountry will be a combination business meeting, social and swap meet with lite refreshments and a chance to sell unneeded gear to other club members. So start gathering those ski boots and poles you haven't used for three seasons!

This meeting is also a great opportunity to bring friends who might be looking for gear or thinking about joining the club.

For a preview of the gear that will be available at the swap meet, please send Bill Stine a list of items you're going to bring. When he gets a decent sized list he will post it on the Club's [website](#) and send an e-mail note that the list is posted.

Swap Meet Guidelines

1. Responsibility for each transaction rests totally between the buyer and the seller.
2. All sellers must be members of the Kick and Gliders.
3. Kick and Gliders, its officers and members, and Wildware, its owners and employees, bear no responsibility for any transaction in whole or part.
4. All sale items must be directly related to any sport requiring the user to move without the aid of a motor or for camping.
5. Sellers are limited to a maximum of 7 items. If there is space available after everybody wishing to sell something has displayed their items, a seller may bring additional items or larger items inside to display. (As this is our first swap meet, we have no idea what to expect.)
6. Bulky items, large items or items in excess of the 7 maximum should remain in a vehicle. Pictures and/or descriptions may be displayed at the swap meet.
7. Sellers must note all rips, dents, dings, defects, scratches and imperfections in the item being sold.
8. All items displayed inside must be clearly marked with asking prices and sellers' names.
9. All sale items must be clean and ready for use. The room is small. Please cooperatively use the space.

Bill Stine

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Still room at the Inn!

Hey everybody there's still room for the Crystal Lake weekend, January 25th to 27th. So, check your calendars and sign up now. Just two hours north of Harrisburg, a great place to ski, good comradery and we now have a [gourmet Italian chef on board who will be preparing our Saturday night dinner.](#) What more could you ask for??

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As of November 20, we have space on the Craftsbury, Black Forest, Lapland Lake, New Hampshire, Crystal Lake and Laurel Highlands trips. The following trips are close to full, so call the trip leader to see what kind of space (male, female, couple, etc) may still be available:

Port Leyden Call Tim xxxxxx at 717-###-####

Garnet Hill Call Bill xxxxx at 717-###-####

Rocky Point Call Bill xxxxxxxx at 717-###-####

Quebec Call Bill xxxxx at 717-###-####

The Pulaski and Lake Placid trips are full, but there is always the waiting list. To get on this list, you must submit the deposit amount to the club – refundable, of course, if you are not included on the trip.

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Telemark, anyone???

If you've been curious about learning how to Telemark, I noticed that NATO (North American Telemark Org.) is having a one-day "Primer" session nearby at Blue Mountain Ski Area (north of Allentown, PA) on Friday, January 25, 2008. NATO also has a 2-day Workshop on January 26 and 27 at White Grass, WV. Here is the web site:

<http://www.telemarknato.com/schedule.html> and the write-up: "Intensive and fun one-day on-snow technique clinics for beginners to expert skiers. The Telemark Primer covers basic Telemark and cross-country downhill turns including step, jump, smooth telemarks, and freeheel parallel. Personalized small groups and individual coaching plus video taping and lots of skiing."

The Lake Effect Pulaski trip weekend starts on January 25 so maybe a long weekend with a detour to Blue Mountain first.

Jesse Jepsen

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Report on Trail Clearing Work Party at Crystal Lake, November 17

I was doubting my own sanity a bit for departing at 6:45 a.m. for a 2 ¼ hour drive to Crystal Lake, knowing that there would be: 1) no snow; 2) cloudy, cold, windy weather predicted; and 3) hours of manual labor ahead. Heck, my own shrubs need pruning, garden needs mulching and oh yeah, what about Christmas shopping and that big Penn State vs. Michigan game this afternoon?

At the top of the mountain, there was a fresh dusting of snow on the trees. Upon pulling up to the CLC ski shop, about 8 other familiar ski enthusiasts were suiting up for work in the woods and gabbing about plans for trips, new skis, new ski rails and how neat they will be. YES, XC Season has returned!

The main job of the work party was to prune back the mountain laurel and brush that had grown to drape over the up-hill banks narrowing the ski trails and secondly to remove rocks that are loose and sticking up in the trail. My detachment cleared most of Birchview trail (west of the lake). The other group cleared Sunset trail and a new glade area beyond

Boardpile. Pruning loppers and pole chain saws were the tools of choice.

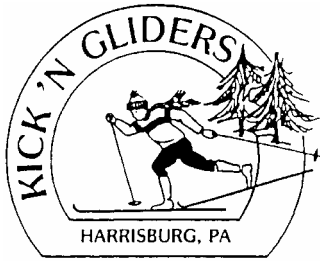
Shortly after we started to work, the coats came off as it was plenty warm with virtually no wind. It was easy to converse while we worked and I was able to have some good exchanges with John Manifold (the current caretaker and past designer of the CLC trail system) regarding future plans and recent developments at CLC. John has ordered a bigger/better grooming rig and upgrades to the Polaris snow cat to pull the groomer better. He has plans in his head for new trails out beyond Birchview and Whipple Mill. While discussing XC ski history, he touched on long-ago ski trips down to White Grass skiing with Chip Chase, explaining the origin of the area's name (your suspicions are confirmed).

Anna provided a hearty and tasty lunch served in the new Napavi cabin. We went out for another 2 ½ hour session on the trails. On the return to the ski shop, it was gratifying to see how much we had accomplished on the trails targeted for the day. We really only made a small dent in a huge undertaking...many more hands helping would have been nice.

In summary, it was a pleasant day in the woods combined with some good camaraderie resulting in a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in understanding more closely how things work at CLC. Penn State lost anyway so maybe I didn't miss too much and got a good workout instead. I feel that we can't take CLC for granted these days as it seems to be in a tenuous state of solvency combined with uncertain organizational ownership and direction...they flat out need all the help they can get. There will be a second "official" work party on December 9th. Everyone is invited and welcome to join.

Jesse Jepsen

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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