



Seward Nordic News

The quarterly newsletter of the Seward Nordic
Ski Club

2009-2010 Fall Edition

Announcements

Divide Ski Area Trail Work Day, Saturday, October 10th at 10am. Support our trail grooming efforts through volunteer trail work and vegetation control. Meet at 10am at the Divide parking lot at mile 12. Bring a lunch and safety gear such as work gloves, helmets, and eye protection if you have them. Useful items will also include chainsaws, hand saws, pruners, shovels, pickaxes, and wheelbarrows. If you would like to be part of the “support crew”, food and coffee will definitely be enjoyed!

Membership Social, Saturday November 7th, 6pm to 9pm. Come on out for our first social event of the season at Rez Art Coffeehouse. We'll have live music, homemade soups and breads, and beer and wine for a cash donation. There will be a silent auction and door prizes with outdoor gear, handicrafts, and other items. This is a great chance to meet and catch up with other skiers, renew your membership, and pick up your trail pins and patches.

Ski Swap and Warren Miller Movie, November 13-14. Mark your calendars for the big annual event of the year! The 2009 Warren Miller movie “Dynasty” will show on Friday and Saturday nights. Buy and sell used outdoor equipment, enjoy our chili and bake feed, or purchase new ski equipment from Barney's Sports Chalet on Saturday. Our rental gear will also be distributed at this event. More details to follow in upcoming announcements.

Manitoba Ski Hut Committee- Members Wanted! The Alaska Mountain and Wilderness Huts Association is planning to reopen the historic Manitoba Mountain cabin and construct an adjacent public use hut at the base of Manitoba Mountain. Manitoba Mountain is a popular backcountry ski location near the Summit Lake area. The Association has approached the Seward Nordic Ski Club about managing the hut, either individually or in a joint effort with other ski organizations. This arrangement has great potential for reduced price accommodations for local skiers, and the hut could serve as a location for future ski club events. Bob Barnwell is chairing a committee to investigate this opportunity. If interested, contact him at rwarnwell@yahoo.com or 224-5129. For more information about the project, visit: <http://www.alaskahuts.org/proposal.html>.

Calendar

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| | (More upcoming Seward events to be announced) |
| November 7 | <i>Membership Social, Resurrect Art Coffeehouse</i> |
| November 13-14 | <i>Warren Miller Ski Film, Seward High School Auditorium</i> |
| November 14 | <i>Ski Swap, Seward High School</i> |
| January 31 | <i>AMH Anchorage Cup Pia's Classic 5K/10K/15K, Anchorage</i> |
| February 7 | <i>Alaska Ski for Women, Kincaid Park, Anchorage</i> |
| February 21 | <i>AMH Anchorage Cup Sven Johansen Freestyle 10K/30K, Anchorage</i> |
| February 27 | <i>Anchorage Ski 4 Kids Day</i> |
| March 7 | <i>Tour of Anchorage 25K/40K/50K, Anchorage</i> |

Share in SNSC's Vision for Seward's Skiing Future

By Ray Robinson

Every year at this time I start to daydream about winter and brainstorm about the future of cross-country skiing in Seward. This conjures up images from an inspiring trip that my wife and I took through Ely, Minnesota a couple of winters ago. After skiing a 10k circuit of groomed trails, we sat in the club-owned warming hut amongst other enthusiastic skiers of all ages. We learned that the town of about 4000 people enjoyed dozens of kilometers of groomed trails, some of which were lighted in the evenings for skiing after work and school. The local ski club sponsored volunteer ski classes, weekly social ski events, and several annual fun races. Perhaps most inspiring of all, on every Sunday as many as 110 children participated in a Junior Nordic Ski program, with fun activities on skis for every age level.

As a physician, I see the amazing physical and psychological health benefits that cross country skiing can offer to people of all ages and abilities during our long winter. As an outdoor enthusiast, I see the enormous, largely untapped potential for groomed and backcountry skiing right in our backyard. As a naturalist, I see how cross-country skiing can enhance appreciation for, and stewardship of, nature. And, as a community member, I see an endless variety of ways that skiing can bring people together in the name of healthy winter activities.

My wife and I love this community, and along with other Seward Nordic Ski Club volunteers, we share a vision for Seward's skiing future that looks similar to Ely, Minnesota. When we moved to Seward 3 years ago, we found a very dedicated group of community members working hard to secure funding and organize volunteer efforts to provide consistently groomed trails. As support has flourished, the Club has also attempted to expand the scope of ski education and activities to meet growing community interest. The Club has also expanded the availability of rental skis at an affordable cost.

The growth and success of the Club have not been without some "growing pains". As the size and scope of the Club have expanded, our core volunteers have struggled to find a balance between maintaining our operational functions and developing new ideas that fulfill our vision. Fortunately, several other community members have brought their own creative energy to the Club. We owe much of our progress this past year to these individuals, and we realize that further growth of the Club depends on similar contributions from others. Before I highlight the exemplary efforts of these folks, I offer you a question and a challenge....What is your vision for the future of skiing in Seward? Do you have an idea or talent that you can bring to the Club?

Mark Luttrell created an artistic and geographically precise set of maps detailing the Divide Ski Area and skiing options in the greater Seward and Moose Pass area. He received assistance with GPS technology from Christina Kriederman and Fritz Klasner.

Alan Heavirland designed a beautiful set of wooden signs for the Divide Ski Area. We will be painting and applying finish treatments to these signs and will hang them up this fall.

Sam Young displayed his boundless energy by sponsoring a series of moonlight ski and snowshoe events. Since the lunar calendar didn't provide enough group exercise for Sam, he also organized a daytime snowshoe trip on most Sundays of the winter.

All of the above volunteers came to us with their ideas, and we are very appreciative of their contribution to the promotion of outdoor winter activity in Seward. And again, I ask you- in what direction would you like to see the Club grow? What skills do you have to contribute? Is there a class you would like to teach, or a new event you would like to organize? We can support your efforts with advertising, funding, volunteers, and lots of praise. Send us an email, or come on out to one of our meetings. We are all ears!

News

Pasta Feed: Hundreds of hungry racers, support crews, and tourists dropped in for a spaghetti dinner at the annual Mount Marathon Pasta Feed on July 3rd. Ski Club icon Deborah Dixon brought her experience to organize the overall event as she has for the last several years. Rebekka Federer did an outstanding job of coordinating all of the volunteers, who are listed below. A special thanks also goes out to Susan St. Amand, who again was our high school cafeteria liaison keeping the kitchen running smoothly. The Pasta Feed is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and this year our efforts raised a record \$2646. The Ski Club is very thankful for our dedicated volunteers!

Cathy, Tom, Austin Gillespie
Rachel James
Jennifer Bell
Janine Niebrugge
Dano Michaud
Cindy Ecklund
Bill Barnes
Lana Esposito

Lori Landstrom
MaryLynn and Bob Barnwell
Phyllis Shoemaker
Cathy Byars
Marion and Jolie Glaser
Katie Peck
Heather Shank

Becky Buchanan
Sharon Ganser
Carlyn Nichols
Natalie Sook
Julie and Ray Robinson
Karen and Duane Chase
Jennifer Desermia

Divide Ski Area Signs Painted: Rain didn't stop us from laying down the first several coats of paints on Alan Heavirland's artistic Divide Ski Area signs.



Jenn Haugh and Julie Robinson paint Alan's signs for the Divide Ski Area

The main ski area sign will be posted on a roofed kiosk along with a map and trail information. Each loop will have an entrance sign and directional arrows. Trail hazards will be marked. When combined with our trail map, we hope that the signage will make the trails more accessible to skiers of all ability levels. Ray Robinson, Darin Bell, and Bob Barnwell will be organizing a sign hanging event before the snow starts falling.

501(c)3 Status Renewed: After wading through a sixty-five page application and endless additional correspondence with the IRS, Treasurer Julie Robinson renewed SNSC's tax-exempt, 501(c)3 status. This was a critical step for the club to continue receiving grants and donations from small businesses. Thanks for all of your hard work, Julie!

Website changes: Ski club member Paul Tougas is teaming up with our website committee to rebuild the SNSC website. We are changing to a format that is more user-friendly for website visitors and easier to maintain by the committee. There may be some differences in look and layout, but the content of the website will remain with future additions planned. Thanks for your knowledge and guidance, Paul!

Wanted: Ski tour leaders, basic X-C ski instructors: Is cross-country skiing a social activity for you? Do you want to share your knowledge of a trail or ski technique? Informal activities led by local volunteers are the best way to boost X-C skiing participation in the community.

If you would like to lead a ski tour for experienced skiers in any of our groomed areas or in the backcountry, simply send us an email with the details- meeting time and place, what food/clothing/gear to bring, and anticipated skill level. We'll provide the advertising to make your tour happen.

We also recognize a growing need to provide basic instruction to new skiers. If you are interested in volunteering for this challenge, please contact us! You do not need to be an expert. These folks are learning how to dress, how to hold the poles, and how to get up when they fall.

Member Spotlight: Alan Heavirland

In this edition we get to know Alan Heavirland, Seward's local wood and stone artisan that designed and crafted our beautiful new signs for the Divide Ski Area.



Alan grew up in Minnesota and moved to Alaska in 1998, working as a sea kayaking guide over four seasons. His hobbies include skiing, white water rafting and kayaking, fishing, sailing, mountain biking, and kite skiing.

Alan grew up doing carpentry with his dad and brother. He is particularly fond of artistic carpentry and has a wide reputation for his custom signs, stone tile showers, and bathrooms. Alan owns Kayak Carpentry, a general contracting business that focuses on bringing natural designs from the outdoors into your home. If you are interested in seeing some of his work or having him make a sign for you, contact him at 907-362-2628.



Alan and his wife, Alison, also own the Alaska Paddle Inn which is a beautiful B&B on Lowell Point. Alison offers massage therapy on site. The AK Paddle Inn shows off some of Alan's custom carpentry skills, displayed on the web site: <http://www.alaskapaddleinn.com> The Inn is open year round, except when Alan and Alison are rafting down the Grand Canyon or are out on another adventure.

Seward Nordic Ski Club Board of Directors

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President Duane Chase
Vice Pres. Tom Gillespie
Secretary Jennifer Bell
Treasurer Julie Robinson

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Bob Barnwell – Website
MaryLynn Barnwell – Instruction, Junior Nordic
Darin Bell - Website
Ann Ghicadus- Equipment storage, fundraising
Jenn Haugh- Website
Carlyn Nichols – Ski Rental Program
Dennis Perry- High School Ski Coach
Ray Robinson – Membership, Newsletter
Herb Wottlin – Grooming, Grants

Trail Meisters '08-'09

Jennifer and Darin Bell
Debra Burdick and Joe Hinton
Hal Cavitt
Duane and Karen Chase
Laura Cluberton
Deborah and Jerry Dixon
Lana and Fred Esposito
Rebekka and Terry Federer
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Andy and Julie Wilder
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Sam Young

Thank you to our business sponsors '08-'09



Kayak Carpentry
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Great Harvest
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City of Seward
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Sons of American Legion
Alaska Ski Education Foundation
Seward Seahawk's Athletic Booster Club
Seward Chamber of Commerce
Kayaker's Cove
Sunny Cove Sea Kayaking
Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking
World Cup
BP Fabric of America Fund

Mission Statement

The Seward Nordic Ski Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting Nordic skiing for all ages, developing and maintaining a network of groomed trails, and sponsoring community ski activities and educational opportunities.

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