

Winter 2008 KNSC Newsletter

1) *Maasto Hiihto/Churning Rapids is back on the multi-pass!* We've rejoined the pass system with Tech, Swedetown, and Chassell trails. Being back on the multi-pass will assist Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club in growing our financial assets and in raising the visibility of our trail system. We thank all the individuals who worked so hard to make this happen.

2) *Fall work bees:* Throughout September, October, and even into November, we had crews of volunteers working on trail maintenance most Saturdays as well as a few other days. Thanks to everyone who participated! We estimate that over 1000 volunteer hours were put in on clearing trails, lopping trees, installing culverts, bridge maintenance, removing fallen trees, and moving part of the trail system to deal with flooding due to a brand new beaver dam. We would not be able to continue providing access to such top-notch, beautiful classic Nordic trails without the people who so generously gave of their time and energy this year. If you enjoy using our trail system, consider planning to volunteer your time during next year's work bees. Watch for email announcements or contact Arlyn Aronson if you would like to be added to the work bee volunteer list for 2008.

3) *Some "friendly" beavers prompt trail re-routing:* Sometime in October, beavers in Churning Rapids secretly built a dam near trail 10, flooding it near the Long Bridge, where Ruby Marsh drains into Spring Creek. We couldn't believe they didn't consult with us first! The new pond forced us to re-route the trail at least for the 2007-08 winter ski season. We hope skiers find this new trail a welcome and interesting loop to do. This reroute actually added a few K's to our trails.

4) *Winter 2007-08 chalet hours:* Once again this winter, we will be providing public access to the chalet at the county fairgrounds. The chalet will be open during daylight hours every day of the week. The chalet has bathrooms, a waxing bench, and a seating area where you can warm up and eat a snack after a great ski out on the trails.

5) *Monthly Meetings:* The Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 in the chalet at the county fairgrounds. We appreciate your input and the best way to implement your ideas is to attend a meeting. Ever wish we groomed more trails, groomed for skating, had some races, etc? If there's something you'd like to see happen, you can make a difference! If you would like to volunteer, take part in decision making, or just try the awesome homemade treats we share at meetings, please join us. Contact any of the board members with your questions or concerns:

President, Ruth Archer:	482-4957	raarcher@yahoo.com
Secretary, Glen Archer:	482-4957	gearcher@mtu.edu
Treasurer, John Diebel:	482-9659	john.diebel@sbcglobal.net
Groomer, Arlyn Aronson:	487-9229	arlyn@superiortandems.com
Wayne Stordahl:	482-0292	
Jay Green:	487-5411	jbgreen45@charter.net
Kathy Halvorsen:		kehalvor@mtu.edu

6) Future vision

Board member Jay Green has volunteered to head a committee to draft a 5 or 10 year plan for the Club. Jay plans to hold meetings open to all interested parties. Initially, all ideas will be explored, probed, searched, discussed, distorted, dissected, and directed to a plan or discarded. Two or more alternative plans or one long list of visions will be offered to the Board and they will proceed as they see fit. Anyone with ideas or a passion for KNSC is encouraged to participate. The first meeting is anticipated to be in mid-February. It will be posted to the Keweenaw Trails list server. For those not “served” call Jay at 487-5411 or email jbgreen45@charter.net

7) Future equipment acquisitions.

While gliding along the trails it is hard to think of anything but the beauty of the gorge or the wonder of skiing in the Keweenaw. It's hard to imagine that in several months we'll again be organizing crews to ready the trails for another ski season. To make that whole process less time consuming and labor intense for our volunteers, KNSC has been “making a list and checking it twice” to obtain appropriate brushing equipment. This list includes two Honda brush cutters (see below) and a “brush hog” type mower which can be pulled by a 4-wheeler. This past fall, literally miles of trail were hand-mowed with brush trimmers. While effective, this required unrealistic amounts of volunteer effort and time. A tow behind “brush hog” would allow one volunteer to mow much of the trail system, leaving problem areas for the trimmers and hand tools.

8) Keweenaw Community Foundation

This past December KNSC was graciously awarded a \$500 grant from the Keweenaw Community Foundation's Cross Country Skiing Endowment for power trimmers/brush cutters and safety accessories. Special thanks go out to Jay Green, who submitted the paperwork and won us this generous award. The Club purchased two Honda trimmers/brushcutters from Superior Rent-All, who gave us an end-of-season price plus an additional discount. Safety equipment will soon follow. These machines are heavy duty weed-whackers which can cut down even small saplings. Thank you, Keweenaw Community Foundation and Superior Rent-All. Please support the KCF's Keweenaw Cross Country Skiing Endowment by dropping by 326 Sheldon Ave, Houghton, calling 482-9673, or by emailing them mail@k-c-f.org



Keweenaw

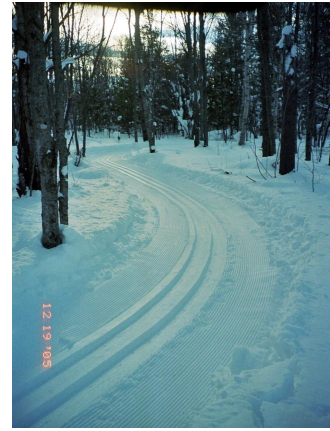
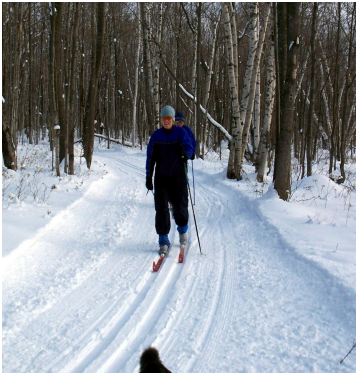
community foundation

For **good**. For **ever**.

9) Barneløpet Kids Fun Ski Event

Co-sponsored by the Sons of Norway and Portage Health

February 16th, kids 3-13 are welcome to come to the Barneløpet (Norwegian for kid-trail). Registration starts at 10:00 at Maasto Hiihto at the county fairground chalet. Start times are from 10:30-12. The registration form is online at our Keweenaw Trails website or can be attached filed to you if you email a board member. The first 50 participating kids receive a medal. This is a non-competitive, fun event to get kids out skiing and enjoying our trails. Parents are welcome to accompany them on the ski. Distances are 1,2, and 4 K and kids can skate or stride. Registration is \$5.00 per child or \$10.00 per family.



Dear Member:

Ever wonder how those beautiful tracks and corduroy got there? Most often, it is a coordinated effort by two groomers, one preparing the snow while the other follows and sets tracks. This is especially helpful for heavy snow and minimizes the time our trails remain ungroomed. Sadly, one of our sleds is now 15 years old and staring retirement in the face.

We are starting a capital campaign to replace this snowmobile and associated equipment. While KNSC is seeking support from various businesses, we will need to count heavily on you, our valued skiers, who will directly benefit from these purchases.

We understand that many folks cannot donate time to the trails in the form of work bees or attending meetings. Now there is another way you can make a difference: with a generous donation. You might agree that purchasing a snowmobile, our primary tool for trail grooming, is the most important piece of equipment for quality trails. It is also the most costly piece of we must purchase at about \$9000. Also needed, but less important, are a utility ATV for trail work and an equipment storage shed.

Vote with your wallets! The amount of your financial support will dictate what we can do to maintain the trails in the future. Please help out however generously you are able. Remember, KNSC is a 501(c) (3) organization, so your donation is tax deductible. We enclose a return, self-addressed envelope for your use.

Thank you in advance,

The Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club Board