



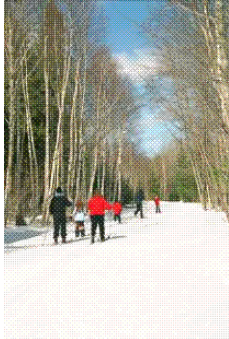
Norpine News

ISSUE 4

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Norpine News is the official newsletter of the Norpine Trail Association.

Norpine Trail Association
4874 West Highway 61
Lutsen, MN 55612
www.norpinetrails.org



Membership Update Bill Blank

We are closing in on our annual meeting which will be held on October 28, 2011, 7pm at Solbakken resort, near mile marker 96 on Highway 61. We hope you will consider joining us at our annual meeting, it should be both informative and fun! The Norpine Ski Trail Association is responsible for the upkeep of 57km of cross-country ski trails from Lutsen to the Cascade River and to Deer Yard Lake. It is a big job and one we hope all cross country skiers appreciate. The best way you can help is by joining, renewing and becoming involved in Norpine. We have one annual meeting and 2-3 other meetings during the year where we discuss various issues such as grants, equipment purchases and get updates from Michael O'Phelan,

our Trail Administrator. We also have some fun with one another clearing trails, skiing with one another and enjoying a beverage and treat during our meetings which are generally hosted at one of our homes. Our membership stands at 56 members. While membership is a first step, we also need people who are interested in serving as board members as our first change in the board members will be coming up before long.

So far, members have developed our website and newsletter, created and distributed brochures and replaced trail maps, made routed trail signs and have sponsored group skiing events. We were also involved in "Volksfest", a cross country skiing event held in Cook County. Mem-

bers also crafted legal agreements with our trail administrator, contributed time in obtaining our 501(c)(3) status on our first attempt, and have actively taken a role in applying for grants for equipment and trail maintenance. Please consider joining us in preserving and maintaining this precious asset. Membership information and registration can be found on our website at www.norpinetrails.org



Norpine Board+Trail Admin

New Norpine Logo

We are very happy to have benefitted by Betsy Bowen and her son. Betsy is a local artist well known for her woodcut prints and books characterizing the animals and life in the North Country. Thanks Betsy!

Thanks Sponsors!

We receive generous support from our sponsors who are featured on our website. Betsy Bowen Studios, Wood N Skis, Solbakken and Cascade all continue to support Norpine at the sponsorship level!

Fall Greetings From Our Officers and Board

**Please try
and Recruit
skiers to
join
Norpine!!!**

Bill Blank—President

Barbara Wolle—Vice President

Peter Harris—Treasurer

Pamela Faye—Secretary

Elger Lorenzsonn—Board

Veronica Weadock—Board

Bob Pranis—Board

Michael O'Phelan—Trail Admin

**Don't forget
to join us at
our next annual
meeting
this October**

Project Updates

2 Years ago we were thrilled to learn of a grant opportunity that would allow us to spend up to \$25,000 on trail improvements. After a long process of various governmental approvals, the work was finally able begin fall of 2011. As of this writing, we have placed over 700 yards of gravel onto the Deer Yard Trail roadbed which was in such horrible condition we could no longer do our summer brushing. We expect to be installing several new culvert/ditches on the lake side of the trail before the snow sets in. In addition, we are placing a culvert on Deertracks near Solbakken,

and are reducing the slope of the ski trail as it crosses over the Caribou Trail as this was an extremely dangerous slope to groom. We are also adding some material to the Deertrack western route to resolve a washout issue from a storm. In addition to these funded projects, we are working with the Forest service to provide a re-route around the beaver pond from the Pioneer loop sections to Deer Yard loop. For years we have wrestled with grooming across the beaver pond section which washes out all winter long and cannot be traversed in the summer. We can't wait to use the

new section all year long!



Above: portion of completed road. Side: 100's of boulders were removed from trail surface.



New-Pet Friendly Policy on 1 section of trail

At the Norpine Board meeting held March, 11 2011, the board was asked to consider making the trails pet friendly. There was quite a bit of controversy around this as we are aware of individuals who wish to ski the trails with their pet dogs, versus individuals who want nothing to do with dog friendly trails. After some discussion it was decided that the trails below the Jonvick Creek bridge would

be designated as "pet friendly" for the 2011-12. The trails in this area are known as Whitesides and Deertrack and can be accessed from the Hansen Hjemstad road near Solbakken Resort. We hope that pet lovers enjoy this trail section and use good judgment while being out and about with their pet. The rules that are expected to be followed are that any pet waste should be picked up by the owner and a leash should be readily available with the pet

on it, or highly trained to respond to the owner such that if any other skier is present on the trails, the pet will not become a nuisance or source of fear for fellow skiers. Finally, a bit of common sense to use with using the trails with a pet—Please do NOT use the trails with a pet until they have firmed up so that you do not destroy the tracks for other skiers. We truly hope you can enjoy yourself with your pet.

North Star Ski Touring Club Trail Clearing Event

We had wonderful July-Sept weather with no significant storm events. As I write this I am keeping my fingers crossed that the fall will be kind to us. Our brushing is very behind due to the State shutdown and our grant being delayed until just recently. We probably will not need to do much at Deer Yard due to the major trail renovations that will hopefully be accomplished this fall (see article on grants). The North Star trail clearing weekend

is presently scheduled for October 28-30 with Saturday the 29th being the major work day and our traditional pot luck dinner provided by area resorts that evening. The Norpine trail association meeting will also be held that weekend on Friday evening at 7pm. We are planning to clear excess overhanging brush on one day and work on the new Beaver Pond re-route one day. We may have one group working on branch tossing with

one of our staff using a new chain saw pole cutter purchased by Norpine this summer.

