

Backtracks: A North Star Retrospective 1987–1997 Compiled by Lucy Osojnicki

1987–88

We started the year on the right foot by making the decision to include singles and main club trips on the summer events schedule. It turned out that a vast majority of trips fell under the "main club" banner, which should provide more continuity for our club over the years.

If you've noticed a little better membership service this year, it can be traced in part to the club's purchase of our own computer system. Tom Rice and Rita Wetzel, with the assistance of many others, were instrumental in bringing this about.

We brought back to life our annual 10K run this year and decided that we as a group wanted to make it a fitting memorial to the late Ernie Engamoen. John Kimberly and Ted Cardozo helped resurrect the run while Ted, Linda Johnson, and the City of Lake Elmo made possible the idea of a memorial. We now have Ernie's Run at Sunfish Lake Park, hopefully an annual event.

Pete Hawkins and family, along with Ron Brand and Ted Cardozo, oversaw our participation in Winterfest this year and shepherded a massive ski swap. We were able to make a sizeable contribution to Ski for Light and, just by being there, made the NSSTC even more visible to the cross-country skiing community.

We had another great winter schedule put together by Charlie and Jeanine Evenson and Jan Jorgens. For the first time in the history of this club, we had two major trips: Lee Mayer's travel-by-train journey to Montana and Gary Tillery's Royal Gorge excursion (which had to go without Gary).

The following members led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips: Demi Miller, Tom Dunlap, Inez Wick, Al Porter, Chip Treen, Julie Holmen, Don Youngdahl, Steve Marquis, Sara Ylvisaker, Bryant Dunshee, Audry Delano, Bruce Nelson, Lois Langholz, Chuck Holst, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Clare Fossum, Vicki Chelgren, Dick Neumeg, Jim Ruhl, Karl Ludescher, Ted Cardozo, Don Nelson, Bob O'Hara, Lucy Grams, and Gail Lundeen Brand.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1988 were led by: Steve Marquis, Chuck Holst, Paul Sundquist, Brian Patterson, Tom Rice, Tom Renner, Dave Stevens, Tom Sneed, Terry Quam, Inez Wick, Bruce Nelson, Terry Grove, Barb Watts, Marge Oehlke, Lucy Osojnicki, Mark and Becky Lystig, and David Siskind.

As part of our twentieth anniversary celebration (kicked off in October by Bob Tokar), the annual VJC was to feature a wood ski division. Although the elements (poor ski conditions and a terribly cold and windy race day forecast) forced cancellation of the VJC, the enthusiasm for this "classic only" event, especially the wood ski race, remains high. Although the race/tour was cancelled, Bill Rolshouse, Jerry Gray, Jinny McWethy, Bonnie Feig and many others did much in the way of advance preparations.

On this year's board: Dick Neumeg, President; Nancy Nelson, Secretary; Sam Meddaugh, Treasurer; Mel Peterson, *Loype* Editor; Bob O'Hara,

Programs; Ann Morrissey, Membership Chair; Jim Ruhl, Singles President; Charlie and Jeanine Evenson, Trips Coordinators; Jan Jorgens, Singles Trips Coordinator; Gary Tillery and Herb Lancaster, Trail Development Co-chairs; Tim Knopp and John Holmquist, Government Liaisons; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary. Other volunteers included Vicki Chelgren, Cider & Cookies Lady; and Betty Driscoll, *Loype* mailer.

1988-89

The expanded summer events schedule included a variety of bicycling and canoe outings up north and elsewhere. Hiking, team sports, orienteering and socials add to what has made this a year-round club. Trail clearing trips to the usual northern locales were well attended. A mid-summer *Loype* helped promote this expansion of our schedule.

The winter schedule had 20 weekend trips, a week on Lake Superior's North Shore (Kwagama Lodge, Ontario), led by Chet and Donna Mirocha, and another in the Banff area (Calgary, Alberta), led by Herb Lancaster, plus mid-week trips to the North Shore and Gunflint Trail systems in Minnesota. The winter-long abundance of snow north of the Twin Cities made for excellent, well-attended day trips. Some metro-area day trips that would have been cancelled for no snow were moved north to places such as Kathio, Savannah Portage, and Jay Cooke State Park.

The following members led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips: Bob O'Hara, Chip Treen, Jim Ruhl, Inez Wick, Rita Wetzel, Judy Curtis, Linda Weber, Don Youngdahl, Audry Nordwall, Barb Wahman, Al Rasmussen, Steve Marquis, Chuck Holst, Bruce Nelson, Dennis Honigs, Amy Brooks, Ted Cardozo, Pete Hawkins, Judi Patterson, Meg Schaefer, Eric and Mary Jo Duncan, Roger Geis, Lucy Grams, Gail Lundeen Brand, Mike and Nancy Carlson.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1989 were led by: Chuck Holst, Jerry Norris, Inez Wick, Rita Wetzel, Mike Wolesky, Ted Cardozo, Chip Treen, Susan Fuller, Craig Stowell, Tom Sneed, Linda Weber, David Siskind, Arne Stefferud, Scott Cooper, Dave Stevens, Sam and Kristen Meddaugh, Loren Bach, Terry Grove, Jan Jorgens, Mark and Becky Lystig, Bruce Stenswick.

Unsung heroes who do a lot of work with little recognition are: Judy Nyagi who plies us with cider and cookies at meetings, Bob Julian and crew who apply labels and mail the *Loype* each month, and Julie Norwall who picks up our mail and sorts it all out. Others on the sidelines were Tom Rice, Rita Wetzel, Mel Peterson, and Pete Hawkins who convinced us we needed another computer; and Mel, Marcy Otypka, and Julie Holmen who came up with a marvelous slate of officer nominees for next season. And let's not forget Wayne Lindskoog and his committee who get the frustration prize for doing all the groundwork for another VJC Tour that evaporated with the snow.

I hope I speak for the entire Executive Committee when I say that we really enjoyed our monthly board meetings. Hard decisions were made, most of them unanimous. This was a dedicated group. It is a good thing that our Constitution limits us to two years per job, or there could be burnout. Some

positions require special skills, others a lot of time; the position of *Loype* Editor needs both. It is always exciting see what a new editor will bring to the job. John Holmquist, you have been great (and don't edit this out!).

Other board members included Ted Cardozo, President; Donna Mirocha, Secretary; Barb Schaepe, Treasurer; Ann Morrissey, Membership Chair; Linda Johnson, Inez Wick and Mike Wolesky, Trips Coordinators; Dennis Honigs, Singles President; Ron Brand, Publicity Chair; Herb Lancaster and Gary Tillery, Trail Coordinators; Gratia Hart, Programs Chair; Dick Neumeg, Past President; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary; John Kimberly, Special Projects.

We lost Tim Knopp this year and will never find another like him.

1989–90 and 1990–91

In May we held the transition meeting on a deck overlooking White Bear Lake, at the home of Past President Ted Cardozo. Outgoing Board members reviewed some of the highlights of their term; incoming Board members talked about their plans and hopes for the upcoming year.

Our post office box was moved from downtown Minneapolis to its present location in the Midway area of St. Paul to make it easier to pick up mail. When our telephone answering machine broke down, it was time to set up a voice-mail system for the NORDIC CONNECTION. This made it easier to update messages, and it reduced the costs.

Our Trips Coordinators, Rita Wetzel and Chip Treen, organized a trip leaders' seminar to review Club guidelines and share tips to make leading trips easier. They put together a winter trips schedule that reflected the evolving interests of our members. About 150 trips were scheduled from November through April. Most were main club trips. The singles schedule included old favorites and something new—"Weekend Additions" (spontaneous Friday and Saturday night events).

There were three extended ski trips in the winter of 1990. Ted Cardozo led 20 people on a hut-to-hut trip in the mountains of Colorado, Thor and Audry Nordwall led a trip to Switzerland, and Lee Mayer led a trip to Essex, Montana, near Glacier National Park.

The following members led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips in the winter of 1990: Bob O'Hara, Chip Treen, Inez Wick, Donna Mirocha, Chuck Holst, Linda Weber, Don Youngdahl, Judy Curtis, Rita Wetzel, Barb Wahman, Dan Reed, Arne Stefferud, Ron Brand, Jan Jorgens, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Meg Schaefer, Judi Patterson, Eric and Mary Jo Duncan, Lucy Grams, Gail Lundeen Brand, Nancy Carlson, and Terry Quam.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1990 were led by: Judy Curtis, Rita Wetzel, Mike Wolesky, Diane Plunkett, Ted Cardozo, Jerry Norris, Inez Wick, Chuck Holst, Jim Gustafson, Dave Moe, Lora Lakin, Gary Follett, Marcy Otypka, David Siskind, Chip Treen, Doug Bailey, Tim LaBore, Jim and Alberta Adams, Dave Stevens (Quetico - 11 days), Loren Bach, Kathy Kelly, Sam and Kristen Meddaugh, Bruce Nelson, Mark and Becky Lystig, Scott Cooper, Gail Elliot, Judy Curtis.

The extended trips for the winter of 1991 included Windy Lake Lodge, Ontario, led by Chet and Donna Mirocha; Devil's Thumb Ranch, Colorado, led by Ted Cardozo; and bicycling in the Ozark Mountains, led by Al Mayer.

The following members led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips in the winter of 1991: Charlie and Jeanine Evenson, Bob O'Hara, Chip Treen, Jim Gustafson, David Siskind, Linda Weber, Gregg Kelley, Don Youngdahl, Inez Wick, Judy Curtis, Jane Norman, Jo Beth Woodward, Ralph Fernandez, Barb Wahman, Mary and Gary Munkholm, Arne Stefferud, Jane McGrath, Bruce Stenswick, Diane Majewski, Rita Wetzal, Len Salverda, Fran Howley, Larry Suchy, Lorene Anderson, Chuck Holst, Ron and Gail Lundeen Brand, Al Porter, Mary Jo Duncan, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Meg Schaefer, and Judi Patterson.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1991 were led by: Chuck Holst, Jerry Norris, Inez Wick, Bill Weber, Dave Moe, Lora Lakin, Jan Jorgens, Basil Loney, Al Mayer, Gary Follett, Marcy Otypka, Cheryl Nordquist, David and Dana Siskind, Tom Borden, Arne Stefferud, Suzanne Hanson, Scott Cooper, Ted Cardozo, Laura Baker, Diane Majewski, Bruce Nelson, Judy Curtis, Dave Stevens, Dale Hedke, Rita Wetzal, Neil Roper, Mark and Becky Lystig, Tom Rice, Cheryl Shillerberg, Jim Bauer, Phyllis Mostrum, and Lorene Anderson.

Membership Chair Julie Norwall streamlined the computerization of our membership list and *Loype* Editor John Holmquist learned to use the new publishing software we purchased to produce our newsletter. Contributors could now send the editor a disk.

Donna Mirocha, Secretary, skillfully kept minutes of the Board meetings and general Club meetings. In February she began to provide abbreviated minutes for the *Loype*. Barb Schaepe brought considerable experience with accounting to the job of Treasurer. She deposited income, paid Club expenses, and provided quarterly reports that brought good news of a balanced budget.

John Kimberly, Special Projects, coordinated *Ernie's Run*, the NSSTC booth at The Arctic Blast winter kickoff event, and the annual Spring Banquet. Inez Wick, Vice President, served in my absence at meetings and brought enthusiasm, stories and skills to several special projects. Inez, along with Rita Wetzal, wrote a menu guide, *The Care and Feeding of the North Star Ski Touring Club*, for lodge and resort owners and trip leaders. She also met with the "Soup Group, Trail Committee" and took honors as the most prolific trip leader. Jim Bauer, Trails Chair, worked with several other Club members to organize trail work outings during the fall.

Mike and Nancy Carlson, Program Chairs, put together several interesting programs for our monthly meetings. A couple of meetings focused on prevention and treatment of injuries related to Nordic skiing. Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary, was the primary telephone contact for information about the Club and maintained communication with other clubs and friends around Minnesota and beyond. Arne Stefferud's first year as Government Liaison included keeping the Board informed of state trail plans and educating us about trail policies and issues.

After several years of discussion, the Board approved several amendments to the Club's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and By-laws in order to reflect the evolution of the Club in the areas of education, volunteer trail work, and the year-round schedule of activities. This set the stage to seek a change of status with the IRS as an educational and charitable 501C(3) organization. If approved, this new status would make contributions tax deductible and could reduce postage costs.

1989–90 Board members: Ron Brand, President; Inez Wick, Vice President; Donna Mirocha, Secretary; Barb Schaepe, Treasurer; Rita Wetzal, Trips Coordinator; Chip Treen, Single Trips Coordinator; Jan Jorgens, Singles President; Julie Norwall, Membership Chair; John Holmquist, *Loype* Editor; Jim Bauer, Trails Chair; Nancy and Mike Carlson, Program Chairs; Jerri Johnson, Publicity; John Kimberly, Special Projects; Jake and Pat Stein, New Member Coordinators; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary.

1990–91 Board members: Ron Brand, President; Inez Wick, Vice President; Pat Stein, Secretary; Solveig Olson, Treasurer; Rita Wetzal, *Loype* Editor; Barb Wahman, Trips Coordinator; Lorene Anderson, Single Trips Coordinator; Judy Curtis, Singles President; Julie Norwall, Membership Chair; Jim Bauer, Trails Chair; Jack Lynch, Programs; Marcy Otypka, Publicity; Jerri Johnson, Advertising; Bob Julian, Special Projects; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary.

The contributions of other Club members should be noted in this history. Several members were named by me to "appointed" positions. Pete Hawkins chaired the Nominations committee which included Jean Moede and John Kimberly. Tom Rice continued to help with computer consultation on the membership database and the membership survey. Ski lessons were provided by Norm Oakvik, Ted Cardozo, Chet Mirocha, and Bob O'Hara. Several other club members assisted including Tom Rice, Dick Neumeg, and Al Porter. Bob Julian organized a group of volunteers each month to mail the *Loype*.

1991–92

Connie Donnelly, club President for 1991-92, summarized this year for us in January of 2008.

This was my second term as President of the NSSTC, the first being 1983-84.

The ski season got off to an early start due to the famous Halloween Blizzard of 1991. The flip side of that: the 5th Annual Ernie's Run, scheduled for November 2, was called off. There have been ski races cancelled for lack of snow, but never has a fun run been cancelled for too much snow!

John Holmquist, our Special Projects chair, had a very busy year. In addition to organizing Ernie's Run, he fielded three work crews to clean up our designated stretch of 35W for the Adopt-a-Highway program. He also coordinated club participation in the La La Palooza Loppet on January 25. The North Stars provided the bulk of the on-snow volunteers for this event. Finally, he was in charge of our annual Spring Banquet at the Sheraton Midway Hotel.

Al Porter was our Trail Development chair. Six weekend trail clearing trips were scheduled in September and October along with two day trips. Thirty-one people signed up for the Camp Northland trip. The trail fund coffers were so full that the board authorized \$1500 to be spent on a special project. Al appealed to members for suggestions.

Barb Wahman, Trips Coordinator, and Lorene Anderson, Singles Trips Coordinator, did a spectacular job of putting together two 18-page trip schedules (November and May). The western trip, led by Lee Mayer, went via Amtrak to the Izaak Walton Inn in Essex, Montana. Some skiers ventured into Glacier National Park for some back-country skiing. Other extended trips included a lodge-to-lodge ski trip on the North Shore, led by Jinny McWethy and Jack Lynch, and a hiking trip in Norway, led by Solveig Olson.

The following North Star members led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips this year: Chip Treen, Judy Peterson, David and Dana Siskind, Don Youngdahl, Judy Curtis, Rita Abrahamson, Loren Bach, Kathy Kelly, Clare Fossum, Dale Hedtke, Jim Ruhl, Cheryl Nordquist, Ralph Fernandez, Barb Wahman, Jane McGrath, Bruce Stenswick, Chuck Holst, Rita Wetzell, Lorene Anderson, Larry Suchy, Marcy Otypka, Rita Manninen, Gratia Hart, Len Salverda, Laura Baker, Jo Beth Woodward, Jane Norman, Connie Donnelly, Sally Duncan, Arne Stefferud, Meg Schaefer, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Al Porter, Mary Jo Duncan, Bob O'Hara, Mike and Nancy Carlson, Inez Wick, Gail Lundeen Brand, Linda Johnson, Ken Johnson, and Celeste Brosenere.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1992 were led by: Basil Loney, Sue Noskey, Roxanne Adams, Tim LaBore, John Tripp, Carol Evans, Jerry Norris, Inez Wick, Scott Cooper, Gary Sieber, Linda Johnson, Lora Lakin, Cheryl Nordquist, Jim Ruhl, Jack Toenniges, Lucy and Dave Thomas, Linda Ruckert, Terry Quam, Sam Meddaugh, Marc Diamond, Len Salverda, Ken Johnson, Larry Roth, Lynn Marie Stroman, Warren Mitlyng, Stephanie Paul, and David Siskind.

The North Star Classic Ski Race took place on February 1 at Aamodt's Apple Orchard. This 10K race was for members only and featured a special wood ski division. Fifty skiers finished the race which was organized by Jinny McWethy and Ted Cardozo. Charlie Evenson came in first with Belinda Hawkins as the first woman finisher.

Kathy Hawkins was our Publicity chair. The nominating committee consisted of Lucy Grams, chair, Arne Stefferud, and Linda Johnson. Membership chair, Bruce Nelson, reported in February that our numbers were eleven hundred, paid and growing. Jack Lynch did a fine job of presenting a variety of programs which he introduced with his inimitable panache. Solveig Olson, Treasurer, and Linda Peterson, Secretary, were indispensable to the smooth running of the club. Judy Curtis, Singles President, moved out of town in early 1992. Her term was completed by Rita Abrahamson.

Dana Siskind, Vice President, presided over the December meeting and co-chaired the Presidents' Day Weekend Camp Northland trip along with yours truly. Thinking that the V.P. didn't have enough to do, the board decided to add organization of the August picnic to her job description. Gary Follett, our computer savvy *Loype* editor, had the most demanding job of all and handled

it very well.

Other volunteers and non-elected board members were as follows: *Loype* related—Joan and Lew Elkins, mailing; Jerri Johnson, advertising; Donna Mirocha, data entry; Tom Rice, graphics/forms design. General—Ron Brand, Past President; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Louise Cameron and Fran Howley, New Member Coordinators.

It was an outstanding year for the North Stars, thanks to the weather and to the hundreds of volunteers who led trips, staffed races and booths, and to all the members who participated in the events.

1992–93

This season marked the 25th anniversary of the North Star Ski Touring Club. Mother North Star, Jinny McWethy, offered in the pages of the *Loype* a personal retrospective of the club from one who has been there from the very beginning. Her columns were both entertaining and enlightening, and brought back fond memories to those lucky enough to have been with the club for many years. I think she chronicles so well the many ways that the NSSTC and the sport of ski touring have changed. It is safe to say that we remain one of the oldest, largest ski touring clubs in all of North America.

We end this season with about 1600 members. This is the largest membership base the North Star Ski Touring Club has ever enjoyed.

Two of the mainstays on our North Star calendar are Ernie's Run and the North Star Classic, heir apparent to the VJC. Both were relatively small, but successful, events. John Hollister, on wood skis, was the first North Star to cross the finish line, with Meg Schaeffer finishing first among women. The North Star Classic remains one of the few classic-only race/tours in the Twin Cities, and holds a special appeal for most of us.

As young families continue to become more active in our ranks, we will see, I believe, more and more of an expressed desire for affordable weekend trips. The fifth annual trip to Camp Onamia was a great success, with around seventy people filling the camp and a lengthy waiting list to boot.

This year's extended trip calendar included two week-long excursions to the Canadian Rockies near Banff—one led by Diane Plunkett and Sheila Merzer, the other led by Bruce Nelson. Cold weather and lots of sunshine provided the kind of exhilarating skiing we have come to expect in the mountains out west. The singles division organized trips to Thunder Bay and Whitefish, Montana (led by Rick Erickson and Rita Abrahamson) that were well attended. But the trip with the hardest ticket to get was the singles New Year's weekend trip to Telemark, attended by 20 lucky skiers with another 50 on the waiting list.

Other extended trips included a bicycle trip to/from Duluth and Bayfield, led by John Sisson, and a canoe trip in the Quetico, led by David Stevens and Jerry Norris.

The following members led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips this winter: Chip Treen, Judy Peterson, Cheryl Nordquist, Roxanne Adams, David and Dana Siskind, Mike Carlson, Phyllis Mostrom, Chuck Holst, Jane Norman,

Jo Beth Woodward, Don Youngdahl, Loren Bach, Kathy Kelly, Ann Morrissey, Bruce Jacobson, Jane Batcheller, Barb Wahman, Ralph Fernandez, Rita Abrahamson, Vicki Barton, Dan Reed, Ken Johnson, Dale Hedtke, Amy Brooks, Ruth Weaver, Jim Ruhl, Linda Johnson, Judy Nyagiro, Larry Suchy, Mel Peterson, Gratia Hart, Len Salverda, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Arne Stefferud, Stephanie Paul, Al Porter, Laura Baker, Bob O'Hara, and Rita Wetzel.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1993 were led by: Jane Norman, Jo Beth Woodward, Basil Loney, Cheryl Nordquist, Roxanne Adams, Lora Lakin, Monica Stein, Eileen Eckblad, Chuck Holst, Kristen Nielsen, Mark Strand, Dave Garron, Larry Roth, Linda Ruckert, Terry Quam, Marc Diamond, Dale Hedtke, Ted Cardozo, Bruce Nelson, Warren Mitlyng, Stephanie Paul, Lucy Thomas, Judi and Dave Case, Dick Langton, David Siskind, Pam Svihel, Dan Goldblatt.

Perhaps the most significant event this season was the founding of the Minnesota Youth Ski League. The real purpose of this league is to get kids on skis at an early age, to give them qualified instruction in a supportive environment, and to ultimately promote ski touring as a lifestyle sport. The North Star Ski Touring Club is proud to be a sponsor of the MYSL. We believe that we are making an investment of both time and money in an organization whose philosophies closely resemble ours. The well-being of the North Star Ski Touring Club ultimately lies in its youth. It should also be noted, as I conclude this accounting of the North Star season, that a new trips sign-up policy was instituted in November and seems to have worked quite well.

As a proponent of cross-country skiing all across the state, this club continues to be involved in a host of skier-related issues. This past year has seen us initiate some serious dialogue with the National Park Service regarding the potential for ski trails in Voyageurs National Park. The future of the park remains muddled at this writing, but it is clear that the interest of ski touring will be represented in any long-term planning. We as a club have voiced our objection to plans for a golf course at Giants Ridge that would threaten the existing ski trail system. And through Arne Stefferud, our government liaison, we have been monitoring trail issues around the state as well as the general well-being and administration of the Minnesota Ski Pass. We continue to be as visible as possible as the state's largest ski touring club.

On this year's board: Mel Peterson, President; Dana Siskind, Vice President; Linda Peterson, Secretary; Amy Brooks, Treasurer; Gary Follett, *Loype* Editor; Bruce Nelson, Membership; Kathy Hawkins, Publicity; Al Porter, Trail Development; John Holmquist, Special Projects; Jeanine & Charlie Evenson, Programs; Rita Abrahamson, Singles President; Loren Bach and Kathy Kelly, Trips Coordinators; Roxanne Adams and Sue Noskey, Singles Trips Coordinators; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Louise Cameron and Fran Howley, New Member Coordinators; Connie Donnelly, Past President; Leigh McMullen, Advertising; Joan and Lew Elkins, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Graphics/Forms Design, Tom Rice.

1993-94

The end of the season finds this club as healthy as ever. We have nearly 1300 members, a year-round activities schedule that is the envy of most everyone around, and a treasury so well-stocked that we were able to spend \$5,000 on five different state-wide trail projects. Never before have we had this kind of deliberate asset reduction, and I need to thank Ted Cardozo and his committee for a very exhaustive, responsible job.

This year saw the purchase of 15 first-aid kits to better prepare for the hazards of the trails that we explore. Jack Lynch and Ken Johnson did all the work on this one and deserve all the credit. The kits have been well received by the club, and many of our trip leaders are using them on a regular basis. Long overdue, they represent another good investment by this club.

Another major club purchase was a high-resolution laser printer for the *Loype*, making it possible for the editor to proof the layout at home. It was only six or seven years ago that our newsletter was handled largely by a commercial publishing company. Chuck Holst is the latest in a series of editors who have directed this movement toward desktop publishing. He has continued a tradition of putting together an interesting, polished publication that by itself makes your membership fee worthwhile.

Our trip coordinators assembled a fine array of warm and cold weather activities. This year's extended winter trips went to Lake Tahoe (led by Sue Noskey and Rick Erickson), Norway and the Winter Olympics (led by Solveig Olson), and Stokely Creek (led by Pete and Kathy Hawkins). Tom Rice led a bicycling trip in Colorado and Wyoming. All were successful, and reaffirmed the desire of members for new experiences wherever there is good snow. We continue to see a demand for affordable family trips, which led this year to the scheduling of two trips to popular Camp Onamia.

North Star members who led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips this year: Cheryl Nordquist, Beth Tappan, Al Porter, Toni Lehman, Kay Seppala, Barb Wahman, Ralph Fernandez, Bruce Jacobson, Ann Morrissey, Jane Batcheller, Diane Erickson, Jane Norman, Jo Beth Woodward, Mark Larson, Glenn Olson, Bruce Stenswick, Cathy Manning, Larry Suchy, Judy Nyagiro, Loren Bach, Clare Fossum, Bruce Nelson, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Arne Stefferud, Chuck Holst, Connie Donnelly, Dana Siskind, Roxanne Adams, Stephanie Paul, Cal and Joyce Schadel, Karen Hoskins, Len Salverda, Laura Baker, Gail Lundeen Brand, Bob O'Hara, Rita Wetzel, Ken Johnson, Warren Mitlyng, and Kathy Kelly.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1994 were led by: Terry Quam, Linda Ruekert, Monica Stein, Tom Rice, Roxanne Adams, Cheryl Nordquist, Basil Loney, Lora Lakin, Kristen Nielsen, Scott Cooper, Cathy Manning, Chuck Holst, Greg Fangel, Dana and David Siskind, Linda Weber, John Traynor, Larry LaFontaine, Verne Tollefson, Marc Diamond, Sue Noskey, Len Salverda, Cindy Porter, Gratia Hart, Dale Hedtke, Marcella DuBourt, Warren Mitlyng, Stephanie Paul, Dan Goldblatt, Walt Coombs, Lucy Thomas, Pam Svihel, Anne McKinsey, Linda Flick.

The Singles division continues to be a strong, vibrant element of the NSSTC.

I am impressed by the number of trips, their variety, and also the diversity of leaders and trippers alike. Cheryl Nordquist, Sue Noskey, and Roxanne Adams have been strong, vocal leaders and organizers for a number of years and deserve to be recognized and properly thanked for their efforts in getting new members involved.

The North Star Ski Touring Club also exists because of the strength of the volunteer base. We have a lot of people who give tirelessly of their time and talents to help create new experiences for others. Because of our volunteers, we have annual events like Ernie's Run, the North Star Classic, the La La Palooza Loppet, and summer picnics at White Bear Lake and Minnehaha Park. We are only as strong as our volunteers. Thank you all!

There has been some sadness, too. We as a club are getting older. We lost friends along the way. Herb Lancaster, a long-time member, died in January. Then Mother North Star, Jinny McWethy, died in April. We prayed for her in her battle against cancer. We hoped against all odds, shared in her suffering. We take solace in knowing that even after she has left us, this little club of hers, this child that she helped give birth to 27 years ago, survives and thrives. As she would want it, as it must. Let us never forget what Jinny has meant to the North Star Ski Touring Club. They are one and the same.

On this year's board: Mel Peterson, President; Dale Hedke, Vice President; Loren Bach, Secretary; Amy Brooks, Treasurer; Chuck Holst, *Loype* Editor; Cheryl Nordquist, Singles President; Warren Mitlyng, Membership; Kathy Kelly and Dana Siskind, Trips Coordinators; Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Programs; Karen Dingle, Special Projects; Becky Lystig, Publicity; Ken Johnson, Trail Development; Jinny McWethy, Corresponding Secretary; Roxanne Adams and Sue Noskey, Singles Trips Coordinators; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Louise Cameron and Jim Moravec, New Member Coordinators; Connie Donnelly, Past President; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Leigh McMullen, Advertising; Jayne and Bill Bichel, *Loype* Mailing.

1994-95

We had an excellent trail clearing schedule again this year. This past fall we did trail clearing at Camp du Nord, Suomi Hills State Park, Banadad Trail, A Place in the Woods, Sunfish Lake, and the North Shore Trail.

Our extended ski trips schedule was also well-rounded. Extended ski trips this season included Windy Lake Lodge, Ontario (led by Chet and Donna Mirocha), Izaak Walton Inn at Yellowstone National Park (led by Marc Diamond and Sue Noskey), and France-Czech Republic (led by Ted Cardozo and Mary Lou Schmidt).

We've never seen a better weekend trip schedule. Weekend ski trips included Itasca State Park, Camp du Nord, Superior Shores, Nemadji Hilton, Maplelag, Minocqua, Deep Portage, Gooseberry Falls, Giant's Ridge, Camp Onamia, A Place in the Woods, Shingobee Ski Area, Bayfield, Black River Falls, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Suomi Hills, Banadad, and Menogyn.

North Star members who led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips this year: Cathy Manning, Tom Cooper, Phyllis Mostrom, Gary Follett, Cheryl Nordquist, Jim Ruhl, Don Youngdahl, Barb Wahman, Jane Batcheller, Diane Erickson, Glenn Olson, Mark Larson, Clare Fossum, Dale Hedtke, Toni

Lehman, Kay Seppala, Inez Wick, Joyce Schadel, Judy Nyagi, Larry Suchy, Jane Norman, Jo Beth Woodward, Loren Back, Chip Treen, Laura Baker, Arne Stefferud, David Forness, Pat Gearhart, Cheryl Nordquist, Mary Carpenter, Greg Stoewer, Amy Brooks, Pete and Kathy Hawkins. Bob Woodruff, Deanna Wilkins, Ken Johnson, Bob O'Hara, Rita Wetzel, Gary Maher, Laura Baker, Gail Lundeen-Brand.

We certainly could not complain about dearth of summer trips either. Extended summer trips included a Grand Canyon rafting and hiking trip, led by Lois Laitinen; an Isle Royale National Park hiking trip, led by Bob Wussler; a BWCAW canoe trip, led by ?; a New England bicycle trip, led by Joan Christensen; a Quetico canoe trip, led by Dan Goldblatt; a Maine bicycle trip, led by Rick Erickson and Sheryl Grams; and a bicycle tour of the Canadian Rockies, led by Dana and David Siskind.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1995 were many and varied, including the Trempealeau Spring Bicycle Tour, kayaking in Lake of the Woods, bicycling the Bayfield area, mountain biking at Telemark, mountain biking the CAMBA Trails in Cable, kayaking around the Apostle Islands, bicycling the Root River trail, bicycling and hiking at Jay Cooke State Park, bicycling in southwestern Wisconsin, the Winnipeg Folk Festival, mountain biking in northern Minnesota, bicycling southeastern Minnesota, and hawk watching in Duluth.

The leaders for these trips were: Terry Quam, Jane Norman, Florence Fadell, Fran Howley, Vicki Johnson, Karen Hulstrand, Chuck Holst, Greg Fangel, Don Rowe, Marc Diamond, Dale Hedtke, Amy Brooks, Sandra Beck, Dave Stevens, Mark and Becky Lystig, Anne McKinsey, Pam Svihel, Warren Mitlyng, Sue Dingle, Cathy Manning, and Tom Lanman.

The club recruited volunteers for the La La Palooza Loppet, a ski race sponsored by Bridgeman's to benefit the Minnesota Food Shelves. We had a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Winterfest again this year. Although the new display board received rave reviews, memberships were down from last year. Ron Brand, Arne Stefferud, and Dale Hedke attended a DNR meeting to suggest revisions to the state's ski pass system. The position of Club Historian was created and Connie Donnelly was appointed to the position. The club donated \$300 to the Minnesota Youth Ski League in Jinny McWethy's memory.

On this year's board: Dale Hedke, President; Florence Fadell, Vice President; Loren Bach, Secretary; Chip Treen, Treasurer; Cheryl Nordquist, Singles President; Mel Peterson, Past President; Chuck Holst, *Loype* Editor; Don Youngdahl, Membership; Dana Siskind and Fran Howley, Trips Coordinators; Laura Baker, Programs; Jean Moede, Special Projects; Becky Lystig, Publicity; Ken Johnson, Trail Development; Barb Watts and Warren Mitlyng, Singles Trips Coordinators; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Gene Kremer and Jim Moravec, New Member Coordinators; Kristen Nielsen, Advertising; Paul and Liz Rasmussen, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry.

1995-96

Our trail clearing schedule gets better every year. This year we had eight

trail clearing trips on our schedule: Lake Maria, Camp du Nord, Kathio State Park, Banadad Trails, Sunfish Lake, Remote Lake, North Shore Trails and Wild River State Park.

We got off to an early start on winter ski trips with a choice of four days of skiing at Itasca State Park or four days of skiing in Colorado over Thanksgiving weekend. Extended ski trips this season included Lone Mountain Ranch (led by Sue Noskey and Kathy Tuzinski), Stokely Creek (led by Mary Wingfield), and Norway (led by Solveig Olson).

Weekend trips were plentiful this year with as many as three or four scheduled per weekend. In addition to the Thanksgiving weekend trips, we had winter camping at Jay Cooke State Park, skiing at Remote Lake, Telemark, Itasca, Camp du Nord, the North Shore, Nemadji Hilton, Tettegouche State Park, Black River Falls, Maplelag, Minocqua, Cable, Deep Portage, Camp Onamia, Bayfield, A Place in the Woods, Shingobee Ski Area, Kathio State Park, Suomi Hills, Lost Lake, Lutsen, and Giants Ridge; winter camping in the BWCAW, and dog mushing in Foley.

North Star members who led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips this year: Bob Woodruff, Cathy Manning, Amy Brooks, Dale Hedtke, Marian Schweich, Jane Norman, Jo Beth Woodward, Bob O'Hara, Rita Wetzel, Chip Treen, Jerry Norris, Pam Svihel, Dave Dubovich, Don Youngdahl, Laura Baker, Barb Wahman, Al Porter, Jane Batcheller, Irene Dombeck, Sandra Beck, Glenn Olson, Ken Driessel, Cal and Joyce Schadel, Toni Lehman, Kay Seppala, Arne Stefferud, Inez Wick, Dana Siskind, Judy Nyagi, Larry Suchy, Vicki Johnson, Mary and Gary Munkholm, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Fran Howley, David Forness, Gary Follett, John Bauer.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1996 were led by: Terry Quam, Lora Lakin, Jane Norman, Florence Fadell, Lucy Thomas, Sandra Beck, Jeff Siemers, David Siskind, Anne McKinsey, Dave Stevens, Marc Diamond, Cindy Porter, John Christensen, Fran Howley, Karin Grossman, Mark and Becky Lystig, Basil Loney, Dick Langton, Jim Ruhl, and Pam Svihel.

Three North Star members were part of an advisory group created to revamp Minnesota's Ski Pass system. Some of the recommendations were: an increase in fees, and requiring the Ski Pass only at State Parks and larger park systems such as Hennepin County and the City of Duluth. The NSSTC Board voted to require helmets to be worn at all in-line skating events (this was already a requirement for bicycling events). A committee has been meeting to discuss and make recommendations concerning liability insurance for the club and modifications to the waiver. Our trips policy was changed to clarify the handling of deposits. Our club has been involved in the development of new trails for Battle Creek Park in St. Paul. We expect to donate money for signs on the new trails. We voted to donate \$1500 to the Minnesota Youth Ski League this year. We were denied 501C(3) status (nonprofit educational organization).

On this year's board: Dale Hedtke, President; Florence Fadell, Vice President; Cathy Manning, Secretary; Chip Treen, Treasurer; Nick Mavrogenis, Singles President; Mel Peterson, Past President; Rita Abrahamson and Jack Bohnhoff, *Loype* Editors; Don Youngdahl, Membership; Fran Howley and Phyllis

Mostrum, Trips Coordinators; Dan Goldblatt and Joyce Schadel, Programs; Jean Moede, Special Projects; Pam Svihel, Publicity; Cal Schadel and Inez Wick, Trail Development; Barb Watts, Singles Trips Coordinator; Connie Donnelly, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Gene Kremer and Jim Moravec, New Member Coordinators; Kristen Nielsen, Advertising; Paul and Liz Rasmussen, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry.

1996–97

I'll take this opportunity to brag to the NSSTC membership about some of the numerous and innovative ideas which the Board has debated, organized, developed, refined, accomplished!

- Website: up-to-the-minute snow reports and club information
- Successful joint venture ski swap with MYSL
- Continued donations to the development of Battle Creek Park trails
- Active Trail Clearing program continued
- Sold the last (almost) NSSTC T-shirt
- Received a \$5000 grant from REI for marketing the NSSTC
- "Ski for \$1" offered at three sites, reaching about 300 skiers
- *Loype* continued to be professional, timely, interesting
- Expanded our advertising in the *Loype*
- Revived the Nordic Connection with bi-weekly updates
- Initiated "If There's Snow We'll Go"
- Initiated monthly "Singles Night Out"
- New member coordinator's number on Nordic Connection
- Flyer adapted for summer, indicating year-round activities
- Trip Leader trainings creatively and successfully planned
- North Star business card

I hesitate to stop the list because it represents only a portion of the labor of the board members. So many activities that previous boards had introduced were continued, modified, and expanded. The North Star Ski Touring Club survives because of the incredible dedication of its volunteers. The successes that have occurred in the last two years are the result of combined efforts, sweat, and yes, maybe a few tears. The incoming Board of the NSSTC is filled with talent and energy; I wish them much fun and success (especially in getting more snow to Minnesota next winter).

Extended ski trips this year were Vail, Colorado (led by Don Rowe), and Stokely Creek, Ontario (led by Mary Wingfield).

Other extended trips were a canoe trip in the Quetico, led by Jeff Siemers, and a hike/camel trek in Egypt, Jordan, and Israel, led by Donna Minter.

North Star members who led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips this year: Terry Quam, Cathy Manning, Fran Howley, Chip Treen, Greg Fangel,

Gary Follet, Jerry Norris, Rita Manninen, Don Youngdahl, David and Dana Siskind, Barb Wahman, Al Porter, Jane Batcheller, Irene Dombeck, Sandra Beck, Mike and Nancy Carlson, Linda Weber, Alberta Adams, Mary and Gary Munkholm, Arne Stefferud, Jane Norman, Jo Beth Woodward, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Karen Grossman, Lucy Thomas, Fran Howley, Greg Fangel, Bob Woodruff, Clare Fossum, Cheryl Nordquist, Amy Brooks, Dale Hedtke, Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 1997 were led by: Terry Quam, Lora Lakin, Basil Loney, Cathy Manning, Jerry Alexander, Lucy Thomas, Al Mayer, Judy McConnell, Maureen McKnight, Sandra Beck, Fran Howley, Rick and Darlene Charboneau, Jim Ruhl, Ken Johnson, Sherry Van Duyn, Jim Garrity, Kathy St. Peters.

On this year's board: Fran Howley, President; Kathy Kelly, Vice President; Karen Buggs, Secretary; Don Youngdahl/Robert Rudolph, Treasurer; Greg Fangel, Singles President; Dale Hedke, Past President; Jim Garrity and Gene Kremer, *Loype* Editors; Al Mayer, Membership; Bruce Jacobsen and Sam Meddaugh, Trips Coordinators; Pat Gearhardt and Judy McConnell, Singles Trips Coordinators; Cindy Porter and Nancy Sjoquist, Programs; Judi Lehman, Special Projects; Jane Batcheller, Publicity; Steve Lenius and Elaine Smith, Trail Development; Connie Donnelly, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Dana Siskind and friends, *Loype* mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Kathy Tuzinski, Advertising.