

## **Backtracks: A North Star Retrospective 2007–2017 Compiled by Lucy Osojnicki**

### **2007–2008**

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North Star Ski Touring Club! On the board this year: John Driscoll, President; David Miller, Vice President; Marcy Otypka, Past President; Will Short, Singles Chair; Clare Fossum, Secretary; David Siskind, Treasurer; Lucy Osojnicki, *Loype* Editor; Eric Ramstad, Trips Coordinator; John Schorer, Singles Trips Coordinator; Jean Moede, Programs; Linda Flick, Publicity; Larry Koehler and Bob Smith, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Barb Mahowald, Special Projects; Connie Wood, Safety Education; Marcia Switenki, Advertising; Mel Peterson, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Mark Sorlie, Tools Supervisor; Ellen Watson, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Connie Donnelly, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Will Holway, Webmaster; Becky McPeck, Website Coordinator; Anne McKinsey, e-*loype* Editor.

Connie Donnelly was our sixth Tim Knopp awardee. She joined the club in 1972 and skied the second VJC that same year. She served as club president twice, led many ski trips, including Camp Northland, and served as club historian for many years.

*Loype* changes this year: The number of *Loype* issues mailed was reduced from 8 to 6 per year, making it a bimonthly newsletter. We decided to post the electronic version of the *Loype* on our club website, starting with the July-August 2007 issue. We made the decision to use all-digital technology for printing the *Loype*, with all-color covers for our November-December and May-June issues.

To commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club, the NSSTC donated \$2000 plus labor to the Three Rivers Park District to purchase and plant native trees and shrubs as a windbreak along one of Elm Creek's ski trails. Forty dedicated North Stars were recruited for this effort, which was organized by Thor and Audry Nordwall. The Spring Banquet this year featured a retro ski fashion show to display the changes in ski wear over the past 40 years.

The forest fire in the BWCAW in the spring of 2007 consumed 75,000 acres of forest and destroyed many homes and cabins. It was sad to see one of our favorite canoe and ski areas so devastated, but the process of forest renewal had already begun. Then at the beginning of August 2007, the 35W bridge near the University of Minnesota collapsed, making it trickier to get to our club meetings at University Lutheran Church of Hope. If that wasn't enough, flooding on the Root River the third weekend in August washed out roads and bridges, and a portion of one of our

favorite bicycle trails—the Root River Trail near Lanesboro. No one expected 17 inches of rain in 14 hours.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Dana Siskind and Inez Wick), National Forest Lodge (led by Cal and Joyce Schadel), Audubon Center (led by Ruth Hiland), Gunflint Lodge (led by Bob Smith), and the North Shore trails (led by Jim Bauer).

The NSSTC extended trips for 2007–2008 were many and varied, and included hiking the Italian Dolomites in September, led by Will Short; and hiking north and west Ireland in September, led by Becky McPeck and Roxanne Hanley. Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll led the club's first ski trip to Methow Valley, Washington in February; Maureen Smith and Janet Jensen led the club's first ski trip to Canmore, Alberta in February; and Solveig Olson led her annual ski trip to Norway in March.

The following North Stars led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Michigan: Jane Norman and Carol Wahl, Fran Howley, Jerry Alexander, David and Dana Siskind, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, Cathy Marquardt and Marcia Switenki, Barb Wahman, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Cindy Porter and John Christensen, Bob Jorgensen, Rick and Sheryl Erickson, Julie Holmen, Larry and Cindy Koehler, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Pam Meyer and Connie Wood, and Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2008 were led by: Al Mayer, Ella Mogilevsky, Anne McKinsey, Basil Loney, Terry Quam, and Kathy St. Peters.

We continued to staff an information booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November, and we continued our excellent tradition of volunteering by maintaining a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February.

## **2008–2009**

On the board this year: David Miller, President; Tonya White, Vice President; John Driscoll, Past President; Will Short, Singles Chair; Lee Wenzel, Secretary; David Siskind, Treasurer; Lucy Osojnicki, *Loype* editor; Eric Ramstad, Trips Coordinator; Pat Nelson, Singles Trips Coordinator; Jean Moede, Programs; Colleen Cavell, Publicity; Bob Smith, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl, Special Projects; Connie Wood, Safety Education; Marcia Switenki, Advertising; Mel Peterson, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Mark Sorlie, Tools Supervisor; Ellen Watson and Jim McWethy, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Connie Donnelly,

Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Will Holway, Webmaster; John Schorer, Website Coordinator; Anne McKinsey – e-loype Editor.

Bob O'Hara was our seventh Tim Knopp Awardee. Bob joined NSSTC in the 1970s and has served as trip leader, ski coach, teacher, and board member ever since. He has given ski lessons to our members, and has led the annual Giant's Ridge trip for the past 25 years. He has been a high school Nordic ski coach since 1972, and was elected to the Nordic ski coach hall of fame in 1996.

The North Star website was updated and new features added—like the Message Board which allows members to post messages and communicate activity updates.

Extended trips for 2008–2009 included hiking the Italian Dolomites in September, led by Will Short and Julie Holmen; skiing Vermont and New Hampshire in February, led by David Miller and Carol Wahl; skiing Switzerland in February, led by Al Volkers and Anne McKinsey; skiing Stokely Creek, Ontario in February/March, led by Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey; and skiing Norway in March, led by Solveig Olson.

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan: Tonya White, David and Dana Siskind, Audry Nordwall and Ella Mogilevsky, Barb Wahman, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, John Christensen and Cindy Porter, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Larry and Cindy Koehler, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Julie Holmen and Roxanne Hanley, and Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2009 were led by: Cathy Marquardt, Russ Lowthian, Ellen Watson, Terry Quam, and Kathy St. Peters

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), National Forest Lodge (led by Joyce and Cal Schadel), Banadad Trail System (led by Tom Rice), Audubon Center (led by Bob Smith), Gunflint Lodge (led by Bob Smith), and the North Shore (led by Jim Bauer).

We continued our excellent tradition of volunteering by maintaining a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February, and we once again staffed an information booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November,

## **2009–2010**

On the board this year: David Miller, President; Inez Wick, Vice President; John Driscoll, Past President; Bonnie Rolstad, Singles Chair; Lee Wenzel, Secretary; Sam Meddaugh, Treasurer; Russ Lowthian, *Loype* Editor; Jerry Norris, Trips Coordinator;

Clare Fossum, Trips Coordinator; Pat Nelson, Singles Trips Coordinator; Martha Hoffman, Programs; Colleen Cavell, Publicity; Bob Smith, Trail Development; Tom Rice, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl, Special Projects; Connie Wood, Safety Education; Marcia Switenki, Advertising; Chip Treen, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Mark Sorlie, Tools Supervisor; Ellen Watson and Jim McWethy, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Connie Donnelly, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; John Schorer, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-loype Editor.

Thor and Audry Nordwall won the eighth Tim Knopp award which was presented at the 2010 Spring Banquet. Audry has led many week-long ski trips for the North Stars, including Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, and British Columbia. Thor was instrumental in the development of the North Arm trail system in the BWCWA. Their cabin (Torsbake) near Ely has hosted many a trail clearing and New Year's Eve event. They spearheaded the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary project at Elm Creek.

The Board approved a substantial contribution to the Minnesota Youth Ski League for upgrading the Jinny McWethy trailer, which is used for storing and transporting youth skis and equipment.

On the North Shore, more paved trail had been added to the Gitchi-Gami bicycle trail which will eventually extend from Two Harbors to Grand Marais. The Gunflint Trail Association presented a "carbon-offset" check to Gunflint Green-up for the purchase and planting of young trees in the area burned by the 2007 Ham Lake forest fire. To date, 100,000 new trees have been planted.

Extended ski trips for 2009–2010 included the Laurentian Mountains in Val David, Quebec (trip leaders Jane Norman and Pat McNeal), Silverstar Mountain Resort in British Columbia (trip leaders Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll), Canmore in Alberta (trip leaders Janet Jensen and Maureen Smith), and Sjusjoen, Norway (trip leader Solveig Olson).

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Pat Nelson, Jean Moede, Jack and Roxanne Hanley, David and Dana Siskind, Cathy Marquardt and Marcia Switenki, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, Audry Nordwall, Ella Mogilevsky, Margie Schally, Connie Wood and Pam Meyer, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Cindy Porter and John Christensen, Larry and Cindy Koehler, Duane Arndt, Julie Holmen, Clare Fossum and Martha Hoffman, Jim Klatt and Cathy Manning, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Mark Fickes, and Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2010 were led by: Ella Mogilevsky, Jeanne Papin, Ellen Watson, Jean Moede, Audry Nordwall, Larissa Krioukova, Terry Quam, and Kathy St. Peters.

The North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), Banadad Trail System (led by Tom Rice), Audubon Center (led by Bob Smith), Gunflint Lodge (led by Bob Smith), the North Shore trails (led by Jim Bauer), and Jay Cooke State Park (led by Julie Nelson and Inez Wick).

We continued our excellent tradition of volunteering by and maintaining a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February. This year, the North Stars entered the Loppet's Snow Sculpture competition and produced a very fine looking troll. Once again, we staffed a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November

Six North Stars participated in Ski for Light International Week at Soldier's Hollow, Utah. This all-volunteer organization pairs blind adults with sighted cross-country skiers who serve as their guides and ski instructors.

### **2010–2011**

On the board this year: David Siskind, President; Jane Batcheller, Vice President; David Miller, Past President; Bonnie Rolstad, Singles Chair; Chip Abernathy, Secretary; Sam Meddaugh, Treasurer; Russ Lowthian, *Loype* Editor; Jerry Norris, Trips Coordinator; Clare Fossum, Trips Coordinator; Pat Nelson, Singles Trips Coordinator; Martha Hoffman, Programs; Stephanie Croteau, Publicity; Bob Smith, Trail Development; Tom Rice, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl and Fran Howley, Special Projects; Fran Howley, Safety Education; Marcia Switenki, Advertising; Chip Treen, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Mark Sorlie, Tools Supervisor; Ellen Watson and Jim McWethy, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Connie Donnelly, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; John Schorer, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-*loype* Editor.

Tom Rice was the recipient of the 2011 Tim Knopp Award. Tom has offered lessons on skiing, bicycle maintenance, and bicycle safety to members. He has worked on trail development, trail clearing, and has led trail clearing trips every year. His computer skills have come in handy too—creating the first member database and helping develop the club's website.

Extended trips for 2010–2011 included Thunder Bay, Ontario in January (David and Dana Siskind, trip leaders), the French Pyrennes in February (Al Volkens and Anne McKinsey, trip leaders), Stokely Creek, Ontario in February (Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, trip leaders), and Norway in March (Solveig Olson, trip leader).

The following North Stars led midweek or weekend overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: David Siskind and Margie Schally, Fran Howley, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, Martha Hoffman, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Duane Arndt, Colleen Cavell, Mark Fickes, Tom Stranc and Clare Fossum, David and Dana Siskind, Jim Klatt and Cathy Manning, Rick Charboneau, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Larry and Cindy Koehler, Stephanie Croteau and Jean Moede, Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2011 were led by: Lee Wenzel, Bruce Collins, Cathy Manning, Jim Klatt, Jeanne LaBore, Ella Mogilevsky, Jeanne Papin, Jane Norman, Ellen Watson, Bryce and Sally Richards, Terry Quam, Kathy St. Peters.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), Banadad Trail System (led by Lowell Johnson), Audubon Center (led by Bob Smith), Gunflint Lodge (led by Eric Ramstad), the North Shore (led by Jim Bauer).

We continued our excellent tradition of volunteering by maintaining a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February. The North Stars entered the Loppet's Snow Sculpture competition again this year and took first place with an original rendition of Rapunzel in her tower. In March, North Star members contributed over 200 hours of volunteer time at the Junior Olympics, held in Theodore Wirth Park.

The NSSTC again staffed a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November.

The NSSTC constitution was amended to allow board members to serve two consecutive terms (four years) instead of one.

The Midwest Sport/Ski Council, of which NSSTC is a member, invited North Star members to apply for three open board positions.

Longtime North Star member, Thor Nordwall, turned 90 in 2011, and 100 North Stars turned out to help him celebrate.

## **2011-2012**

On the board this year: David Siskind, President; Jane Batcheller, Vice President; Kate Fitzgerald, Singles Chair; Chip Abernathy, Secretary; Sam Meddaugh, Treasurer; Russ Lowthian, *Loype* Editor; Ellen Watson, *Loype* Assistant; Jean Papin, Trips Coordinator; Marnie Johnson, Trips Coordinator; Inez Wick, Programs; Keith Sjoquist, Programs; Stephanie Croteau, Publicity; Tom Rice, Trail Development; David Miller, Past President.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl and Fran Howley, Special Projects; Fran Howley, Safety Education; Marcia Switenki, Advertising; Chip Treen, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Mark Sorlie, Tools Supervisor; Linda Johnson and Jim McWethy, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Chris Shaffer, SNO Coordinator; Connie Donnelly, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; John Schorer, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-loype Editor.

John Holmquist was recipient of the 2012 Tim Knopp Award. John joined the North Star Ski Touring Club in 1968 and has served in several capacities over the years, including President, Trips Coordinator, Government Liaison, *Loype* Editor, and Special Projects. John skied the first VJC and the first American Birkebeiner. The Birkebeiner Foundation designated John a "Founder" for skiing the first 10 races. He completed 24 in all.

Pat Lawrence took over as club historian when Connie Donnelly retired after many years of service in that position.

North Stars received an outstanding volunteer award for putting in more than 1000 hours of service at the Emergency Foodshelf Network of the Twin Cities. Kudos to Al Mayer for organizing this effort.

Extended trips this year included Sun Valley, Idaho, in January (David Siskind and Walt Coombs, leaders), Essex, Montana in February (Ellen Watson and Joan Fittery, leaders) and Norway in March (Solveig Olson, leader).

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Arne Stefferud, Sandy Schreyer, Judy and Joe Murray, David Siskind and Margie Schally, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, Audry Nordwall, Ella Mogilevsky, Margie Schally, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Margaret Elkins, Larry and Cindy Koehler, Colleen Cavell, Rita Manninen and Julie Nelson, David and Dana Siskind, Julie Holmen, Jim Klatt and Cathy Manning, Chip Treen, Martha Hoffman, Cathy Manning, and Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2012 were led by: Jeanne LaBore, Kathy St. Peters, and Lois Laitinen.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), Suomi Hills (led by Tom Rice), Gunflint Lodge (led by Eric Ramstad and Carol Wahl), Audubon Center (led by Bob Smith), and the North Shore trails (led by Jim Bauer).

We continued our excellent tradition of volunteering by maintaining a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February. North Stars entered the

Loppet's Snow Sculpture competition again this year with an original rendition of Godzilla. The North Star sculpture did not win or place this year, but it was a favorite with the kids. North Star members were invited to volunteer at the International Paralympics Nordic Skiing World Cup held at Wirth Park in February this year. The North Stars again staffed a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November.

### **2012–2013**

On the board this year: Inez Wick, President; Lee Wenzel, Vice President; Kate Fitzgerald, Singles Chair; Andrea Johnson, Secretary; Sam Meddaugh, Treasurer; Margie Schally, *Loype* Editor; Jeanne Papin, Trips Coordinator; Marnie Johnson, Trips Coordinator; Ellen Watson, Programs; Jane Norman, Programs; Stephanie Croteau, Publicity; Frank Janezich, Trail Development; David Siskind, Past President.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl and Fran Howley, Special Projects; Fran Howley, Safety Education; Marcia Switenki, Advertising; Chip Treen, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Donna Mirocha, Data Entry; Paul Rasmussen, Tools Supervisor; Liz Rasmussen and Jim McWethy, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Chris Shaffer, SNO Coordinator; Pat Lawrence, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; John Schorer, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-*loype* Editor.

Bruce Jacobson was the recipient of the 2013 Tim Knopp award. Bruce has headed the Tim Knopp award committee and has done all the behind-the-scenes work over the past 10 years. He has held numerous board positions over the years including President, Vice President, and Trips Coordinator. Along with his wife, Ann Morrissey, Bruce has led the Stokely Creek and Cable Wisconsin trips for many years. Bruce joined the NSSTC in 1978, and has been an active member and leader ever since.

Publicity Chair, Stephanie Croteau, set up a Facebook page for our club, led the redesign of our website, and made it easy to purchase North Star clothing online through Zazzle.

President Inez Wick met with the City of Lakes Loppet Foundation to discuss ways the two organizations could work together. We decided to collaborate with them to offer joint membership in our two organizations. Anyone who joins either club gets a discount and enjoys the benefits of either club.

Extended trips this year included Norway (led by Solveig Olson), Stokely Creek (led by Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey), and Methow Valley (led by Todd Mongrain and Jane Batcheller).



The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Margie Schally and David Siskind, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, Martha Hoffman and Susan Haataja, Audry Nordwall, Margie Schally, Ella Mogilevsky, Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll, Colleen Cavell, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Margaret Elkins, Inez Wick and Lee Wenzel, Julie Holmen, Cathy Manning and Jim Klatt, Stephanie Croteau and MK Burmesch, Jeanne LaBore and Sharee Marcus, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, and Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2013 were led by: Jane Batcheller, Paul Anderson, Lee Wenzel, Inez Wick, Ellen Watson, Kathy St. Peters, and Lois Laitinen.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), Gunflint Lodge (led by Eric Ramstad and Carol Wahl), Audubon Center (led by Bob Smith), and the North Shore trails (led by Jim Bauer).

North Star members once again staffed a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November, and maintained a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February.

## **2013–2014**

On the board this year: Inez Wick, President; Lee Wenzel, Vice President; David Siskind, Past President; Andrea Johnson, Secretary; Gary Quam, Treasurer; Margie Schally, *Loype* Editor; Dan Jacobson, Trips Coordinator; Gary Follett, Trips Coordinator; Jan Rupert, Programs; Carol Krush, Programs; Stephanie Croteau, Publicity; Frank Janezich, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl and Fran Howley, Special Projects; Fran Howley, Safety Education; Alberta Adams, Advertising; Chip Treen, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Paul Rasmussen, Tools Supervisor; Clare Fossum and Jean Moede, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Chris Shaffer, SNO Coordinator; Pat Lawrence, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Stephanie Croteau, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-loype Editor.

Fran Howley was the recipient of the 2014 Tim Knopp Award. Fran served in many capacities since joining the North Stars twenty years earlier, including Trips Coordinator, President, the voice of the Nordic Connection, e-loype Editor, Safety Chair, and Spring Banquet Coordinator. She also served on the nominating committee, assisted with the revision of our club constitution, led many trips, served as beginning ski instructor for our club, volunteered with "Ski for Light" and initiated the Singles Night Out events.

Thanks to Publicity Chair, Stephanie Croteau, an NSSTC summer brochure was created to advertise our summer activities in outdoor sports stores once the ski season is over. Stephanie also led the redesign of our business card to pass out to prospective new members.

North Star members donated a total of \$3055 to the Terry Quam Memorial Fund. \$1500 went to the Algoma Highlands Conservatory, a nonprofit that protects the land used for ski trails at Stokely Creek in Ontario, Canada. \$1000 went to the Minnesota Youth Ski League for upgrading their ski trailer. \$555 went to the Norpine Trails Association, which maintains the North Shore ski trails. The MYSL ski trailer was unveiled at the Twin Cities Loppet this year. It features our logo and name with Terry's name under the logo. Four North Stars built the Terry Quam Memorial shelter at the junction of the Norpine Trails and Cascade Lodge Trails on the North Shore.

Extended trips for 2013–2014 included Switzerland in January (Anne McKinsey and Al Volkers, trip leaders), Glacier National Park in January (Joan Fittery and Heather Burns, trip leaders), Snow Mountain Ranch in February (Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll, trip leaders), and Norway in March (Solveig Olson, trip leader).

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Lee Wenzel, David and Dana Siskind, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Audry Nordwall, Ella Mogilevsky, Margie Schally, Margaret Elkins, Colleen Cavell, Martha Hoffman and Susan Haataja, Jeanne LaBore, Stephanie Croteau and MK Burmesch, Julie Holmen, Inez Wick, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Larissa Krioukova and Jean Moede, and Bob O'Hara.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2014 were led by: Paul Anderson, Dan Jacobson, Eric Ramstad, Lee Wenzel, Paul Anderson, and Tom Stranc.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), Banadad Trail System (led by Tom Rice), North Shore trails (led by Frank Janezich), and Loppet Foundation Trail Day work at Theodore Wirth Park.

We continued our excellent tradition of volunteering by staffing the North Star table at the Tri-Loppet Festival in June, staffing a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November, and maintaining a food and water stop at the City of Lakes Loppet in February.

The trip sign-up policy was changed to accommodate trips that need an earlier sign-up date than April 1. Trip leaders can begin accepting reservations on April 1 but no reservation slots need to be kept open until the spring banquet.

## **2014–2015**

On the board this year: Lee Wenzel, President; Diane Boushek, Vice President; Inez Wick, Past President; John Christensen, Secretary; Gary Quam, Treasurer; Margie Schally, *Loype* Editor; Dan Jacobson, Trips Coordinator; Gary Follett, Trips Coordinator; Jan Rupert, Programs; Carol Krush, Programs; Jeanne LaBore, Publicity; Lowell Johnson, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Carol Wahl and Fran Howley, Banquet Coordinators; Fran Howley, Safety Education; Alberta Adams, Advertising; Chip Treen, Schedule Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Paul Rasmussen, Tools Supervisor; Jean Moede, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Tom Stranc and Colleen Cavell, Singles Coordinators; Pat Lawrence, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Stephanie Croteau, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-loype Editor.

Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll received the 2015 Tim Knopp Award. Kathy joined the North Stars in the early 1970s and has served as President, Vice President, Secretary and Trips Coordinator. She led many ski trips, helped develop publishing guidelines for the e-loype, and wrote the Volunteer Spotlight column for the *Loype*. John joined the club in 1992 and has served as President, Vice President, and Singles Chair. He led many day canoe trips. Together Kathy and John led trips to Tettegouche, Bemidji, and Brainerd in Minnesota; Stokely Creek and Silver Star in Canada; Methow Valley in Washington; and Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado. They volunteer for the YMCA at the latter venue each year.

The North Stars joined Gear West in planning and executing their spring/summer series of Fitness and Waffles events, held every Saturday. North Star members were invited to volunteer by leading a hike, making waffles, or by simply participating.

Club founder, Norm Oakvik, died in February. He was a devoted coach and teacher to numerous youth and adult skiers. Norm was the 1953 North American Cross-country Ski Champion, a U.S. Olympic Nordic Combined Team Member, and a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in WWII.

Extended trips for 2014-2015 included Sun Valley, Idaho in January (David and Dana Siskind, trip leaders), Stokely Creek, Ontario in February (Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, trip leaders), and Norway in March (Solveig Olson, trip leader).

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Lee Wenzel and Carol Wahl, Margie Schally and David Siskind, Bruce Jacobson and Ann Morrissey, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, Audry Nordwall, Ella Mogilevsky, Margie Schally, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Colleen Cavell, Fran Howley and Carol Wahl, Martha Hoffman and Dan Jacobson, Julie Holmen, Stephanie Croteau and MK Burmesch, Margaret Elkins, Bob O'Hara, Barb Watts and Bruce Nelson, Michael O'Phelan, Inez Wick and Lee Wenzel, and Stephanie Croteau.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2015 were led by: Lee Wenzel, Dean Christianson, Ellen Watson, Paul Anderson, Bryce and Sally Richards, Kathy St. Peters, and Lois Laitinen.

Four North Stars competed in the 2015 National Senior Games held in the Twin Cities. Cal Schadel competed in the men's singles and mixed doubles tennis, and in two track and field events. Molly Henke bicycled in the 20K and 40K road races. Rob and De Anderson competed in the 5K and 10K races in the track and field events. Cal Schadel was selected to carry the torch and light the cauldron to open the games on July 4 and won the bronze medal for the javelin throw.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), North Shore trails (led by Frank Janezich), Loppet Foundation Trail Day work at Theodore Wirth Park (led by Lowell Johnson), and Banadad Trail System (led by Lowell Johnson).

We developed new banners and display boards for Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo, thanks to member and graphic artist Kathy Horton. And once again we staffed a booth at the Expo in November.

The trip sign-up policy was changed to accommodate weekend ski venues that require deposits earlier in the year. Formerly, trip leaders were required to hold half the trip spots for the November sign-up meeting. This meant that some leaders were required to make firm financial commitments without having firm participation numbers. With the change, trip leaders are allowed to accept deposits beginning November 1 of each year.

## **2015–2016**

On the board this year: Lee Wenzel, President; Diane Boushek, Vice President; Inez Wick, Past President; John Christensen, Secretary; Gary Quam, Treasurer; Mel Peterson, *Loype* Editor; Jane Laub, Trips Coordinator; Jim Ruhl, Trips Coordinator; Arne Stefferud, Programs; Bob O'Hara, Programs; Ron Brand, Publicity; Lowell Johnson, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Fran Howley and Florence Fadell, Banquet Coordinators; Fran Howley, Safety Education; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; Paul Rasmussen, Tools Supervisor; Jean Moede, Hospitality; Tom Stranc and Colleen Cavell, Singles Coordinators; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Barb Wahman, Volunteer Coordinator; Pat Lawrence, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Al Volkers, Midwest Ski Council Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Stephanie Croteau, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-*loype* Editor.

David and Dana Siskind were the recipients of the 2016 Tim Knopp Award. David has been a member of the club for 43 years and has served as President, Treasurer, and Trail Development Coordinator. Dana has been a member for 30 years, and has served as Vice President, Trips Coordinator, and has been in charge of *Loype* mailing for 20 years. David and Dana have led many trips for the North Stars including Camp du Nord, Deep Portage, Sun Valley, and Thunder Bay. Inez Wick and Dana have led evening hikes for many years, and Dana started leading Kids Explore events two years ago. Together, Dana and Inez have led the Camp du Nord trail clearing for twenty years.

Extended trips this year included: Stokely Creek, Ontario in January (led by Todd Mongrain), Vermont and New Hampshire in February (led by David Miller), Gunflint Lodge in February (led by Fran Howley), and Norway in March (led by Solveig Olson).

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Lee Wenzel and Joan Fittery, Margie Schally and David Siskind, Barb Wahman and Al Porter, David and Dana Siskind, Audry Nordwall, Ella Mogilevsky, Margie Schally, Kathy Kelly and John Driscoll, Darlene and Rick Charboneau, Martha Hoffman and Dan Jacobson, Julie Holmen and Jeanne Papin, Stephanie Croteau and MK Burmesch, Lee Wenzel, Colleen Cavell, Fran Howley, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Barb Watts and Bruce Nelson, Inez Wick and Jean Moede, and Michael O'Phelan.

Midweek and weekend overnight trips for the summer of 2016 were led by: Jane Batcheller, Kathy St. Peters, and Lois Laitinen

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), North Shore trails (led by Frank Janezich), and the Banadad Trail System (led by Lowell Johnson).

We continued our long tradition of staffing a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November.

The NSSTC Board of Directors established priorities for the year, which included developing a plan to administer the Norm Oakvik Bequest and redesigning the club

website. The board approved a gift of \$20,000 to the Loppet Foundation to help finance construction of the Adventure Welcome Center at Theodore Wirth Park.

## **2016–2017**

On the board this year: Bruce Nelson, President; Mel Peterson, Vice President; Lee Wenzel, Past President; John Christensen, Secretary; Chip Treen, Treasurer; Jim Ruhl, Trips Coordinator; Jane Laub, Trips Coordinator; Arne Stefferud, Programs; Ron Brand, Publicity; Kathy Kelly, Strategic Initiatives Chair; David Siskind, Trail Development.

Non-board volunteers this year: Sally and Bryce Richards, Membership; Fran Howley, Banquet Coordinator; Laura Baker, Programs Assistant; Mel Peterson, *Loype* Editor; Dana Siskind & Friends, *Loype* Mailing; David Siskind, Tools Supervisor; Jean Moede, Hospitality; Al Mayer, Wednesday Wanderer Coordinator; Barb Wahman, Volunteer Coordinator; Pat Lawrence, Historian; Arne Stefferud, Government Liaison; Al Volkers, Midwest Ski Council Liaison; Becky Lystig, New Member Coordinator; Stephanie Croteau, Webmaster; Fran Howley, e-*loype* Editor.

Mel Peterson was the recipient of the 2017 Tim Knopp Award. Mel joined the North Stars in the 1970s and has been an active member ever since. He has served as President, Vice President, Schedule Editor, and *Loype* Editor (for a total of 11 years). In addition, Mel has served on committees and can be counted on to lead bike rides and ski outings every year.

Extended trips this year included: Silverstar, British Columbia (led by John Driscoll and Kathy Kelly); Stokely Creek, Ontario (led by Rick Charboneau); and Norway (led by Solveig Olson).

The following North Stars led weekend or midweek overnight ski trips in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Michigan this year: Margie Schally and David Siskind, Cindy Porter and Tammy Lambas, Bruce Nelson, Chip Treen and Laura Baker, David and Dana Siskind, Martha Hoffman and Dan Jacobson, Colleen Cavell, Fran Howley, Arne Stefferud and Susan von Mosch, Stephanie Croteau and MK Burmesch, Julie Holmen, Corliss O'Donnell and Inez Wick, Pete and Kathy Hawkins, Rick Charboneau.

North Stars continued their commitment to trail clearing our most popular ski trails with weekend trail clearing events at Camp du Nord (led by Inez Wick and Dana Siskind), North Shore trails (led by Frank Janezich), and Banadad trails (led by Tom Rice and David Siskind).

We continued our tradition of staffing a booth at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure Expo in November.