

# Nordic Gazette - April 2019



“A bad day on the slopes beats a good day at work”

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 6:** Club meeting, Englander Pub, 101 Parrott St. in San Leandro, 7:30 pm

**Early May TBA:** Club meeting, officer elections, San Francisco, more info to come

**June 8:** Installation dinner at Nick's in Rockaway Beach, Pacifica (pending confirmation)

**July 6:** 4th of July cabin work party and meeting at cabin

**Aug. 17:** Cabin work party and meeting at cabin

**Sept. 8:** VSC Picnic at Montclair Park in Oakland, club meeting

**Oct. TBA:** Cleanup work party and club meeting

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello, Vikings!

This past weekend (March 16-17) and since the big storm, huge snow banks almost hid the cabin, and our parking lot was small, but with Viking ingenuity we packed the cars in and made it work. Our parking lot entrance even developed a cornice! (See photo)

Our St. Patrick's Day feast was well received, with about 16 members and 4 prospective members dining at the cabin, many enjoying Mike's Irish coffee at meal's end. After the meal, we gathered around the tables for our March 16th meeting, which proved to be a productive one.

We had regular reports from Rick Haglund on Membership, Paul Thompson's Treasurer's Report, (all good) and cabin concerns from Mike Masek.

In March, along with the exciting electrical crisis (see Photo Gallery below) we also had an incursion of water from snow melt in one of the warmer periods of early March. Water came in through the front door (even when it was closed) and flooded our party room carpet and padding for the umpteenth time. Loyal Vikings had spread the carpet and set up fans and heaters to dry it. At our arrival on March 15th, the party room carpet was rolled and the carpet pad in a big rumple in a corner of the room near the kitchen. At our meeting, Barbara Sorenson suggested that after many such incidents the carpet and padding could not help but hold mold and mildew, and that perhaps it would be appropriate to let it go and do something different with the fine concrete floor (similar to the kitchen floor) there. All at the meeting agreed that it "was time."

Solutions were discussed, including place rugs and possible rug tiles that could be easily laid out and lifted when water threatened. One attendee expressed enjoyment of a rug for children to play on.

Action: Jim Barger volunteered to remove and dispose of the old carpet and padding, AND offered to bring to the club 2 faux-Persian place rugs he had at home, with patterns in muted reds that would fit with the décor, for at least a temporary solution. (We can see how that goes and consider other options with time.) There was agreement that to have a couple smaller carpets to roll as water threatens is a better way to go, especially if they can be put up out of the way before getting wet. However, if they do get wet, smaller carpets would be easier to dry. Jim's carpets also have a foam backing so they are a bit padded without a cumbersome underlayment. It's in the works.

Barbara Sorenson also proposed that we as a club reconsider the cleaning solutions we use, looking for less toxic and more environmentally amenable solutions to our needs. She offered to do some looking into replacements for the harsher of our cleaning fluids and sprays, and to make the list be known. To have a better set by our October cleaning work party and even stock enough for the coming season is a goal, but this President thinks we may want to make the change sooner, as with the next purchase, or ASAP after Barbara has put together the list. --Why delay? Nobody at the well-attended meeting protested Barbara's proposal, and if you have input on good replacements, please contact Barbara.

We discussed the transformation before us as a club, responding to changes in traffic in the Bay Area and the wider spread of our membership. It was agreed that monthly meetings are likely no longer viable, and we may need to focus our (less frequent) general meetings on cabin-based activities. Business may need to be accomplished by the Board by e-mail or Skype meetings, with maybe one or two face-to-face meetings a year, when members are available. As we move into the new season (starting in June) we will need a President, Officers and Board who can step up to the challenge of articulating and communicating the context and seeking a new form to keep the Viking Ski Club responsive and vital. We have a great cabin, and great skiing to keep it afloat, and if we also promote summer activities, we will continue to build friendships year round. We have challenges ahead, including the upcoming lease negotiation with the railroad. In this line, our Nominating committee -- Rory Hayden, Jim Cox, and John Schultz -- will be seeking energetic and determined leadership. Please, if you may be interested, communicate with one of these fellows or with me.

Our June Meeting will remain at Nick's in Pacifica this year, but in future years, the Christmas party may be at Nick's while the June party may be moved to a more central location at less expense, whether that means a potluck or just a place with less expensive food. Another challenge for the new President!

We are grateful to Viking "unsung heroes" who remain in roles of service. Penny Bair will continue to handle reservations as needed. Carol Reed is willing to keep organizing our larger social events, the December and June parties and Christmas Raffle. Paul Thompson is willing to stay on as Treasurer.

I suspect Mike Masek will stay on as a co-chairman in Cabin Maintenance, with help of other heroes like David Chan and Jim Barger and Curt Haney, who step forward to help so often. Peter Blumberg has indicated willingness to stay on as Gazette Editor. This past weekend, our life member Gary Kramer came up with a van full of much-needed surplus construction lumber to extend our firewood and kindling for the season, and about 5 Vikings carried it in. --So many folks do unnoticed good deeds to keep the club running! THANKS to all!

Our next VSC meeting will be April 6th at the Englander Pub in San Leandro, not far from BART, and a lovely setting with a reasonable menu for pre-meeting dining at 7PM, with the official general meeting starting at 7:30 with a phone link available at (605) 472-5618 with the code 249903# (dial the 6 digits and hit the # key after.) As before, we will share business information with the General membership, and if needed, Board members will stay later for voting.

Finally, this President (Alice) wants to report that with fabulous help from Julian Babiarz, a new member, we have made great progress on a modernized Web Site. Julia has pulled together a wonderful text, and now that Paul Thompson has arranged for payment of a monthly fee to Squarespace, is adding photos to build our basic site. We can add and improve with time, and our online registration and reservations system will come later (maybe next season, we hope). I will stay active with Julia on completing the web site remodel, even as I resign from the VSC Presidency as our new baby grandson is born in May and I free myself to be a supporting Mother/Grandmother. Mike and I will be in China for the whole month of May, during which I hope a new complete panel of officers will be elected, and I will be back to participate in the June 8th Installation Party.

Signed, Your VSC Prez Alice Helen Masek, March 20, 2019

### **PHOTO GALLERY: VSC CABIN WEATHERS AN ELECTRICAL STORM**

On Thursday March 7 around 11 pm, a handful of Vikings and guests who were visiting the cabin in the wake of yet another storm passing through Donner Summit bore witness to a rare event: An indoor electrical storm! In the space of a few minutes, we saw and heard and smelled a series of power surges that created arcing sparks, popped light bulbs and melted a plastic power strip in the men's annex that was plugged in but wasn't in use at the time. Acting quickly, Board members Rory Hayden and Barb Sorensen got Barb's husband (an electrician) on the phone for a telephone consultation while trouble-shooting the cabin's fuse boxes. After everything in the cabin was unplugged, it was deemed safe enough for occupants to stay the night -- though the smoldering

stench persuaded the late-arriving Zwitter family to wisely decamp to a local motel with their two small children. The cause of the meltdown remained a mystery until the next day. Rory was up before dawn valiantly working his Rolodex to summon an electrician for emergency help lest we end up with frozen pipes. But in the cold light of day it was Zach Zwitter who discovered the source of the problem: the ``return'' wire from PG&E's power pole had severed. A utility crew was promptly dispatched to make repairs and the cabin's electricity was restored. The damage could have been worse: a fried microwave oven (since replaced!), several burnt-out power strips (they were just doing their job!) and a small patch of blackened carpet in the men's annex (courtesy of the one melted power strip that didn't quite do its job!). Hats off to Rory, the Sorensens and Zach for saving the day.



One downed wire can wreak a lot of havoc!



Our friendly PG&E repairman

Zwitter girls on snowbank at roof height

### San Francisco Viking Ski Club Officers – 2018/2019

**President:** Alice Helen Masek, [alicehelenpapercut@gmail.com](mailto:alicehelenpapercut@gmail.com)

**Vice-President/Membership:** Rick Haglund; [haglund.richard@gmail.com](mailto:haglund.richard@gmail.com)

**Corresponding/Recording Secretary:** OPEN

**Treasurer:** Paul Thompson, [Paul@pthompson.com](mailto:Paul@pthompson.com)

**Cabin Chair:** Mike Masek, Paul Kensinger

**Board Members:** Paul Kensinger, Barbara Sorensen, Rex Haber, Mike Masek, Stephanie LaCarruba, Ed Russell, Rory Hayden

**Gazette Editor:** Peter Blumberg

**Info:** [vikinginfo@prodigy.net](mailto:vikinginfo@prodigy.net)

**Cabin Phone:** 530-426-1231

**Cabin Reservations:** Penny Bair, (707) 480-2234 or [yogibair@comcast.net](mailto:yogibair@comcast.net)

**Cabin Fees** Winter: Members: \$12/night, Guests: \$21/night Summer: Members: \$8/night, Guests: \$17/night

**Web Site:** [www.sfvikingskiclub.org](http://www.sfvikingskiclub.org)