

Nordic Gazette January 2014



<http://www.sfvikingskiclub.org>

Calendar

NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION AND DATE

Friday, January 3 – General Meeting at the Cabin

NO MEETING IN SAN MATEO

NOTE: CHANGE IN LOCATION

Wednesday, February 5 – General Meeting Englander Bar, 101 Parrot St, San Leandro

7:00 PM Board meeting

8:00 PM General meeting

NO MEETING IN SAN MATEO

Wednesday, March 5 – General Meeting Bayshore Corporate Center conference room 1710 S. Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo

7:00 PM Board meeting

8:00 PM General meeting

Article courtesy of Paul Thompson:

A History of Skis

After the last ice age, Stone Age hunters began strapping long pieces of wood to their feet to travel farther and faster over snow in pursuit of the game that flourished across Europe and Asia. Adaptations for terrain and snow conditions influenced the design of the skis in different regions.

The birthplace of skis is under debate, but the ski is believed to be even older than the wheel.

"So they're one of the very first forms of transportation," travel writer Mark Jenkins says.

Jenkins recently traveled to China, which claims to have invented skis almost 10,000 years ago. His exploration is documented in the December 2013 issue of *National Geographic*.

Jenkins went to the Altai Mountains in Northwest China, about where Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Siberia come together — "kind of dead-center Central Asia" — where the Tuvan people have been skiing for at least 4,000 years.

"Their skis are remarkable," he tells NPR's Arun Rath. "They cut them from red spruce. They bend them by heating them and steaming them, and then they nail on horse hair on the bottom of the skis, which is very slick to glide forward but then grabs when you go uphill."

But this isn't just about making it down the mountain: The skis are for hunting. In a region that can get temperatures of 40 degrees below zero, these hunters don't even know what frostbite is. In a single-file line, pulling sleds, the men search for elk — elk tracks are obvious in the snow because of the animals' heavy weight. On skis, they can track the elk for three to seven days.

The "most remarkable part," Jenkins says, is when they finally spot the elk.

"They're using a technique that's several thousand years old. They have lassos, and they ski downhill,

screaming, wild ... just like a cowboy, but they're on skis," he says. With a loop large enough to go over the elk's antlers, the ski cowboys lasso their prey.

"The elk is bucking and kicking and snorting and they fall sideways, perpendicular ... like an anchor — *Old Man and the Sea* sort of thing," Jenkins says.

"They're being pulled by this elk through the snow. Of course, the elk is so deep in the snow it's practically swimming, so within an hour or two, the elk has worn itself out."

But then, they let it go. One of the men told Jenkins, "In the old days we hunted. Now we only chase."

Read more:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/12/first-skiers/ski-history-interactive>

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How To Make Cabin Reservations

Please indicate VSC or cabin reservations in subject line, so that your email does not get deleted due to large volume of email.

Due to the increased usage of the cabin especially during holiday periods please use the following information to ensure we can get maximum usage of the cabin. Reservations must be made year round. (Work party reservations should be made with the cabin chair or person leading the work party.)

- Contact Diane Kemsley/Janet Neilsen
Email janneilsen@juno.com
or call **925-837-8664 before 8 PM.**
- Give the **nights** that you will be staying at the cabin.
- Give the makeup of your group (i.e. 3 males, 2 females and guest or member).
- Bunk or room preference.
- If you do not receive confirmation within 48 hours email or call again.

Guests:

Guests can get bumped from the cabin based on the needs of the members. The official deadline for bumping guests, per cabin rules, is the Thursday before the weekend of your reservation, but the reservations person will try to inform you before then.

Cancellations:

If you are unable to make it to the cabin or need to change the nights of your stay, it is very important to inform the reservations person as soon as possible. This will allow for members/guests who might be on a waiting list to get a bunk in the cabin.

Rooms and Bunks:

Requests for specific bunks or rooms will try to be accommodated. Unfortunately there will be times that your request will not be able to be fulfilled due to the needs to accommodate as many members/guests as possible. Once at the cabin, if you would like to change your assigned bunk/room see the weekend chair before making any changes to the bunk list.

Weekend Chair:

Each weekend or holiday period, a weekend chair is assigned. The weekend chair assigns the chores, collects the nightly fees and mails them to the treasurer, and makes changes to the bunk list as necessary. They are also there to resolve any issues that might come up during your stay.

Important Information and Reminders

- Please leave the water heater pilot lights on by turning the control to pilot.
- Thermostats for upstairs and downstairs furnaces are programmed – do not change the programming. Instructions provided at each thermostat.
- The first person at the cabin should take chore #1: shoveling the stairs to the solarium and removing the ice. This must be done at the beginning of your stay, and touched up while people are there. (Have cabin chair assign it to a second person if a storm comes through.) The stairs are our fire escape, and must be kept free of ice for safety. Also, shovel and remove the ice at the entrance.

- Don't forget to clean out your food locker.
- The blue trash bags are for recycling only.

They are sorted out by the trash company after they are picked up. The heavy duty white trash bags are for the compactor only.

- Please mark your skis, snowboards and bedding. Names should be on all bedding in the solarium cupboards. Unmarked bedding and sleeping bags will be disposed of. It would be a good idea to also mark jackets and gloves.

- Please initial your chore after you have completed it, it is easy to forget and many of us do forget.

- We have a "bear" box for the garbage which means we don't have to take garbage home with us! However, we still have to put it into the garbage can and put the can into the box. The waste disposal company will only take garbage in the can.

Recycling, in a blue bag, can be set next to the can, or in the can, space available.

To recycle cardboard, it needs to be in a blue plastic bag. If the garbage collector has to pull out loose items that are not either in the trash can or a blue bag we are charged extra fees. Even stacks of cardboard that are bound together must be in a blue bag.

The box is located out by the road on the cabin side of the parking lot driveway. It's painted grey-blue and raised on stilts to keep it above the snow, so someone has to lift the can to get it in (ask for help if you need it.)

- Please keep Barbara Sorensen
barb@barbsorensen.com and Anne Ording

ording.anne@gmail.com informed of your current address, phone number(s), and email so that important information reaches you.

- We have Viking Ski Club stickers available for \$2. The stickers must be displayed in your vehicle when parked at the cabin.
- Cabin keys are available from Mike Masek for \$3.
- Keep the front door to the cabin closed and locked at all times. Do not leave the door open with the expectation that someone else will close and lock it.
- If you are staying in one of the smaller rooms, please remember to vacuum the room as well as your assigned cabin chore before you leave.

Links to Ski Organizations

There are many ski organizations that organize trips, publish newsletters, etc. Here are a few to check out online if you wish:

<http://www.skibac.org/index.html>

<http://www.fwsa.org>

<http://auburnskiclub.com/>

<http://www.fis-ski.com/>

<http://www.nationalskiclubnews.com/home.html>

Truckee Donner Land Trust Events

<http://www.tdlandtrust.org/news-events>

Check out the Donner Summit Historical Society newsletter:

<http://www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org/PDFs/newsletters/news14/january14.pdf>

NEW SKI HISTORY WEBSITE

The International Skiing History Association (ISHA) recently launched a newly redesigned website, www.skiinghistory.org where you can read articles, conduct research, watch videos, and view vintage ski art. The most visited website of information about the sport's past has been dramatically improved and now offers access from mobile phones and tablets. Enhanced search capabilities make it much easier to navigate this content-rich site, which starts with a timeline of events going back to 5,000 BC.

Editor's Note

Happy New Year! Let the skiing begin...Please!

Happy Trails,

Anne Ording

Gazette Editor/Corresponding Secretary

San Francisco Viking Ski Club Officers - 2013/2014

President: Mike Masek

Vice-President: Barbara Sorenson

Recording Secretary: Alice Masek

Treasurer: Paul Thompson

Corresponding Secretary/Nordic Gazette

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Board Members:

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Adam Flores

Charles Gresl

Bill Kahrau

Stephanie LaCarrubba

Carl and Lynn Mortensen

Mark Sorensen

Info: vikinginfo@prodigy.net

Cabin: 530-426-1231

Web Site: www.sfvikingskiclub.org

Club Meetings are held at 8:00 PM on the first Wednesday of every month at the Bayshore Corporate Center in San Mateo, unless otherwise noted in the Gazette or on the website.

The Nordic Gazette, the newsletter of the San Francisco Viking Ski Club, is published monthly. Items for publication should be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month.

Please send all submissions via e-mail to the Nordic Gazette editor: Anne Ording

ording.anne@gmail.com

The Club Roster is maintained by Barbara Sorenson. Please send your email address as well as contact updates to: barb@barbsorenson.com

Directions to the VSC Monthly

Meeting:

Bayshore Corporate Center, 1750 S. Amphlett Blvd., conference room, San Mateo, is off Hwy 101 just northwest of the intersection of Hwy. 101 and CA-92. Please see the Viking website for more detailed directions.

Postmaster:

Please return undeliverable mail to:

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