

Nordic Gazette

January 2016



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 1, 2, 3rd – General Meeting and New Years at the Cabin

February General Meeting – To be announced in the February Gazette

A NEW YEAR'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter has graced us with piles of snow and cold enough weather to preserve great skiing conditions. The crowds got large only a couple of days ago and are expected to drop off by this weekend. As always the groomers perform their magic on the groomed runs and the off-piste remains worth exploring. Not surprising there are icy blown-off conditions on some ridge locations.

There remains plenty of room in the cabin. So wax your boards, and give Jan a call to reserve a bunk. Come on up and join us for the best December snow in years.

Ankle Biter Alert –Earlier this year, our Board of Directors decided on a change to allow families with small children to bring them up with no age limits. We hope everyone will welcome the little ones and enjoy their presence. We have made no special efforts to childproof the cabin and expect the parents will look after their welfare and everyone else's space. As always, we will try to accommodate families in the roomettes as much as possible.

Have a Happy New Year and a great ski season.
See you at the cabin.

Rory

MEMBERSHIP

Barb Sorensen, our VP of membership, has been busy keeping up with the applications submitted for new membership. Again, this month, we have new prospective members – Let's keep this as a trend in the new year, Up, Up, Up, with membership - hey – add that along with more snow in the mountains in our prayers to Ullr.

Active 67
Probationary 10
Junior 16
Life 4
Passive 34
Student Leave 3
Applicants 6

The following applicants will be having their "second" reading by the board during the first week of January:

1. **Will Crichton**- sponsored by Rosanne Ratkiewich
2. **David McNulty** - sponsored by Barb Sorensen
3. **Thom Penner** - sponsored by Barb Sorensen

2015/2016 NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND AT THE CABIN

Amongst all the New Year's skiing, dancing, drinking, and socializing at the cabin, the Board will hold a General meeting on Saturday evening, January 2nd at the cabin. There are a few new people to vote on for membership, as well as new items to review. Let Rory know ahead of time if you have agenda items.

NOVEMBER SKI SWAP

The following people volunteered at the November Ski Swap at San Ramon High School. We thank you for helping to increase our membership.

Barb Sorensen, Maureen Sala, Ed Russell, Lawrence Doxsee, Charles Gresl, Peter Lin, Helen Yang, Paul Thompson, Rosanne Ratkiewich, Noah Saederup, and Jesse Nelson Dunn

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY AT NICK'S

Over 100 Vikings attended the holiday event this year. Santa's beard was being pulled and the bells were jingling as the little ones received presents from the ol' fella. The prime rib was delicious as well as the other fare, the wine poured freely and new and old members mingled over cocktails. Thanks so much to **Janet Neilsen** and daughter **Diane Kemsley** for taking reservations, obtaining wine, and our pretty table decorations. Much thanks to **Carol Reed and Curt Haney** for their work on the raffle. We had 44 prizes to raffle off, and made \$640.

Carol wishes to thank her elf helpers of the raffle which would be **Dave Ida, Rick Haglund, Curt Haney, Cecily Harris, and Betty Avila.**

Thanks go out to the many people and businesses that donated prizes. For those of you that may have just put items on the donation table without letting Carol know, we thank you as well.

Here is a list of the companies -- Ski passes from Sugar Bowl, Sierra at Tahoe, Badger , Snowbomb platinum pass. Sports Authority donated poles, wine from Grocery Outlet, Academy tickets from Al Carvajal, Subaru, Bars with hat and Punkshun head/neck scarf and a dinner certificate at Nicks.

Members that donated -- **Diane and Janet Neilsen, Cecily Harris Betty Avila, Maureen Sala, Carol Reed, Curt Haney Annabell Zzkaluk, Elli Kramer, Mike & Alice Masek, Carol Reed, and Paul Thompson.**



Row 1: Santa (**Mike Masek**), with children of **Gemma Roche** (L) and new member to be **David McNulty** (R). Long time member **Bob King**, and our Raffle Caller, **John Fox** with all the raffle prizes.



Row 2: **Glomstads** and **Alters**. Santa with **Rachael Hager** and daughter. Raffle chairwoman **Carol Reed**, our President, **Rory Hayden**, and **Curt Haney**. (sorry, I don't know a few of the other names).

VIKING NEWS CORNER

PRAYERS TO ULLR - Our newer Vikings may have heard references to **Ullr** by other members. The tradition of SF Vikings 'praying' to the mythological God Ullr goes back for decades. At either the December or January meetings, a member would lead us in prayer to the God asking for great skiing and lots of snow. Some years, Ullr was generous, and hopefully this year we have pleased him.

At the top of this Gazette there are pictures of **Skaði and Ullr**. Also known as Skade, the Scandinavian goddess associated with bowhunting, skiing, winter, and mountains. Ullr, also known as Ullur, is sometimes referred to as the God of Snow, and several indicators point to Ullr being the God of Skiing. Ullr is often depicted as a figure with skis on his feet and a bow and arrow in his hand. Could he have been the world's first biathlete?

NEW WATER HEATER DIRECTIONS - No more complaints of lukewarm showers, the water heaters have been upgraded! The two tanks have been switched from being in "parallel" to being in "series". By being hooked up this way, it's less confusing to use them. There are easily understood directions posted on the water heaters. So far, the feedback has been good!! The water heater was fixed by Barb's husband, **Nick Lawrence**, who is not a member, but always happy to help out:) And by **Jim Barger**, a new Probationary member. Thanks guys!

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It's that time of year to review all of the cabin rules and reminders, along with instructions on how to make Cabin reservations.

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 chairperson before making any changes to the bunk list.

Weekend Chairperson:

Each weekend or holiday period, a weekend chairperson 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

- See directions for the water heaters that are posted on the water heater and in the binder on the sign-in desk. These have been updated as of 12/20/15.
- 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@barbsorenson.com and Maureen Sala mo_sala@pacbell.net 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 or Board members 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.

**San Francisco Viking Ski Club
Officers - 2015/2016**

President: Rory Hayden

Vice-President - Membership: Barbara Sorenson, barb@barbsorenson.com

Recording Secretary: Mike Maesk

Treasurer: Paul Thompson

Corresponding Secretary: Rick Haglund

Cabin Reservations: Diane Kemsley/Janet Neilsen

Tel: 925-837-8664 e-mail: janneilsen@juno.com

Cabin Chair: Mike Masek, Paul Kensinger

Nordic Gazette Editor: Maureen Sala

Board Members:

Roger Zeltmann, John Fox, Bill Kahrau, Maureen Sala, Curt Haney, Paul Kensinger, Laura Salcido

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