

Nordic Gazette-March 2017

“We may be skiing into July if this keeps up”



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1st – Board and General Meeting – Jesse Dunn’s House, San Francisco, see below
Wednesday, April 5th – Board/General Meeting – Laura Salcido’s house, San Francisco
Wednesday, May 3rd – Board/General Meeting – Elections of 2017/2018 Officers/Board – Location TBD

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Vikings,

My goodness have we had a lot of snow this season! Hope you've all had a chance to make it up there. The cabin has been so full when I've gone up it's been great to meet all the new members and see old friends. Thank you to everyone that has rolled with the punches of the unseasonably heavy snowfall that has caused parking issues, downstairs carpet flooding, increased stress on cabin kitchen/clean-up/garbage, and leadership coordination. Membership is almost at capacity and I appreciate everyone working together to keep the cabin as a social community gathering spot. Please remember that with a heavier stream of use, diligence with cabin clean up and rules are important to keep things going smoothly for all. Please, no sleeping in the solarium. Also, remember to clean up, including drying and putting away your dishes, before leaving the kitchen. Sometimes increased occupancy can cause stress and it is appreciated that extra patience and consideration to tone is considered when addressing concerns. The cabin is ultimately a social club and is meant to be a great spot for friends with a skiing problem to gather together. Let's keep this in mind as we move into a hopefully long spring skiing season!

Laura Salcido

NEW VIKING BOARD MEMBER

Thank you to Rex Haber for stepping up and volunteering for one of the vacant Board of Directors positions. Rex was voted into the BOD at the February meeting. There is still one more vacancy, and soon the club will be looking for a new slate of officers for the 2017/2018 year. Elections are in May.

MEMBERSHIP (provided by Barb Sorensen)

Welcome to new Probationary members:

Henry Gray, Rachel Gray (sponsored by Paul Kensinger), Jeff Kurin (sponsor Barb Sorensen), and Layne Kemp (email addresses to follow soon)

Membership Report as of Feb. 21, 2017

Active 72 Probationary 24 Applicants 23
Life 4 Junior 17 Passive 32 Student Leave 3

Annual Membership Dues Notices will be emailed to all members in March. Dues will need to be mailed to Membership Chair, Barb Sorenson, 318 Tappan Terrace, Orinda, CA 94563 before May 1, 2017. The details of your Annual Dues will be outlined in the notice you receive.

Barbara is looking for 2 or more members to help her with sponsoring of new applicants who found us through the website or by passing by the cabin (versus being sponsored by an existing member). This may include being their buddy for a night up at the cabin, showing the applicant around the cabin to orientate them on how to open and close the cabin, and answer any questions they may have. **Mary Beth Falzareno** and **John Fox** have already volunteered to help. Please contact Barbara if you are willing to help out.

UPCOMING GENERAL AND BOARD MEETINGS

The **Wednesday, March 1st, 2017** Board and General Meeting

Time: 7-8pm Board Meeting, 8-9pm General Membership Meeting

Place: Home of member Jesse Dunn, 707 Shrader Street, San Francisco, CA 94117

Contact info for Jesse: 415-279-5377 (their home is near Kezar/Golden Gate Park)

The **Wednesday, April 5th, 2017** meeting will be held at Laura Salcido's home in San Francisco.

Time: 7-8 Board Meeting, 8-9 General Membership Meeting

Place: 380 Dolores St. #10, San Francisco, CA (Between 16th and 17th Street, accessible from BART)

CABIN NEWS and REMINDERS

A few reminders for all --- "Minors, under age 18, may not be left unsupervised in the cabin". "Guests must be accompanied by an Active, Life or Probationary Member at all times when in the cabin unless the guest has been oriented to the cabin procedures and safety rules by a member who is thoroughly familiar with the use of the cabin by using the orientation check list."

Shoveling snow off the stairs is a priority chore which may be assigned to one of the first arriving members at the cabin. For safety reasons, we need them cleared as they are an evacuation route in case of an emergency.

SNOW PLOWING – We all know what a rough winter this has been. It's been equally hard on the snowplow equipment and team that plows our parking lot. The Vikings share the cost of the plowing with Peninsula Ski Club, so they are equally entitled to parking spots. We pay an affordable flat fee (a friendly deal) for the season, and that means we may not get plowed on time, every time. Please be patient, the lot will get plowed, and we are one of many clients. It was plowed over 25 times last year – and that is with not much snow. Members do not have authorization to call another plow company at the expense of the Vikings. With permission, you can park in the overflow lot of Donner Ski Ranch.

If you have some dry, clean, cut, burnable wood to spare, consider bringing up a box or two the next time you visit the cabin. You can also bring B&W printed newspaper for starting fires, but colored newspaper is toxic.

The solarium upstairs is for low level conversations or reading at all times. The solarium should not be used for sleeping. It has been recommended to bring ear plugs with you to drown out the snorers and people coming and going.

WARNING – TAKING EXTRA PRECAUTIONS DUE TO LARGE AMOUNTS OF SNOWFALL

Paul Thompson told this story at the February meeting. In 2001 four UC students went sledding after a good skiing day in the vicinity of the Vikings cabin. There was an avalanche on a fairly low hill in which they were caught. One of them managed to extricate himself, summoned help, and the remaining three were found and dug out. Unfortunately, one of the men did not recover.

This happened very close to the Viking cabin. Playing in the snow in the wilderness close to the cabin is not safe. Most avalanches, but not all, occur on slopes between 35 and 45 degrees. Playing in the snow, digging snow caves etc. is dangerous; no one, especially children, should be allowed to go out in the back unaccompanied, and someone must always be standing in the clear in case of a collapse or avalanche. There may be layers of ice under that fresh snow.

Avalanches can occur on unbelievably low hills. It is a tremendous risk to go out there even in low hills without training. Fun as it may be, don't take the risk, always have a companion and carry a cell phone when playing outside.

Mary Beth Falzarena recommends we all watch this short video on the dangers of snow suffocation. Here is her story: Skiing off in the woods alone or out of close proximity of a buddy is inviting trouble. I was sucked onto a tree well last season while skiing trees off of Crow's Peak at Sugar Bowl and was relieved that my friend Katie was close by.

With the unusual large amounts of snowfall and to avoid trouble, we snow bucks and snow bunnies can easily re-educate ourselves. Check it out, Vikings!

<http://www.deepsnowsafety.org/>

WATCH OUT – CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY OF SKI EQUIPMENT

Our President, **Laura Salcido** has a happy outcome story to share: Shout out for labeling your gear! Last month at Sugar Bowl I put my board on a stand and walked away for a little Après ski action. When I went back, an hour or so later, my board was gone. Looked around and checked lost and found. It was nowhere to be found but there was a rental board that looked abandoned that was similar in color to mine. I was concerned but was confident no one took it maliciously and it would find its way back to me. Why? Because I had taped my board with my name and number in Sharpie on the front. Sure enough, a few hours later, I got a phone call from a rental company where a woman was trying to return my board. Happy ending as I was able to tell her exactly where her board was and she was able to return my board to me. So please, label your gear. Completely helpful for happy reunions!

REMEMBER: YOU MUST HAVE A CABIN RESERVATION VERIFIED BY PENNY BAIR BEFORE STAYING AT THE CABIN. HER INFO IS BELOW. REMEMBER TO FOLLOW CABIN SHUT DOWN INSTRUCTIONS IF YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON LEAVING. PLEASE TURN OUT LIGHTS WHEN NOT IN USE.

FUN MEMORIES: **Barbara Super** reminisces about shoveling snow at the cabin: When I joined the club in 1970 we didn't have a parking lot. The rotaries cleared enough for parallel parking along the road, and the first person in for the weekend - frequently me, at that time - had to climb up a ten-foot snowbank, crawl over the snow to the upstairs door, get a snow shovel out and make a path over the snow to the roadway and steps down to the road. No, we did not shovel ten feet of snow so that we could get into the bottom door. The good thing about it was that it was your chore! No more to do that weekend!

Thanks to a few Vikings who sent me pictures of the fantastic ski season they are encountering!

Jessica Higgins and Ian Doleman, a few of our newest members, sent in a few pictures. First one is them enjoying a great powder day, and the second is their daughter **Lilikoi Doleman** in her snow cave.



Michael Philpott shared some amazing photos taken from the men's annex and outside of the cabin (including the one of Sugar Bowl at the top of the Gazette):



**San Francisco Viking Ski Club
Officers – 2016/2017**

President: Laura Salcido

Vice-President: Rory Hayden

Membership: Barbara Sorenson, barb@barbsorenson.com

Recording Secretary: Mike Maesk

Treasurer: Paul Thompson

Corresponding Secretary: Rick Haglund, haglund.richard@gmail.com

Cabin Chair: Mike Masek, Paul Kensinger

Nordic Gazette Editor: Maureen Sala

Board Members:

John Fox, Maureen Sala, Curt Haney, Paul Kensinger, Barbara Sorensen, Rex Haber, Vacancy

Info: vikinginfo@prodigy.net

Cabin: 530-426-1231

Cabin Reservations: Penny Bair, Tel: (707)480-2234 or yogibair@comcast.net

Cabin Fees Winter: Members: \$12/night, Guests: \$21/night

Web Site: www.sfvikingskiclub.org