

*The ski club has been a hub of activity over the holidays and it has been gratifying to observe the many ways in which people have appreciated the facilities. We would like to share a few observations from the last couple weeks.*



A volunteer arrives at the chalet early in the morning to light the fire so that visitors will have a warm place to gather and rest.

Families sharing their Christmas baking, and cooking hot dogs over a fire after a ski or snowshoe on Family Day. Ketchup will wash out of snowsuits.

People helping others find the right equipment for their first attempt at cross-country skiing or helping others with the bindings on their snowshoes.

Kids enjoying a card game together in the chalet.

A letter is submitted by a local naturalist that chronicles the activity of birds and wildlife on the trails.

One toddler entertains herself sliding on the small hill by the chalet. Another enjoys a ride in a sleigh down the snowshoe trail complete with blanket, a supply of crackers and a juice box. Another "snowshoes" the trail in her father's arms.

Visitors from both coasts, Nova Scotia and Vancouver, happen to be in the area and snowshoeing at the same time.

The heated addition provides a comfortable opportunity for some work on the building and the grooming equipment.

An aboriginal family harvests cedar boughs from the snowshoe trail to produce medicine for a friend.

Many visitors take advantage of the opportunity to take some photos of friends and the beautiful scenery on the trails.

A teenager chooses to relax and read by the corner window in the warm chalet on a snowy afternoon while her family skis.

A lone classic skier strikes off into a quiet heavy snowfall.

A family enjoys a picnic lunch in the chalet after skiing the trails.

Groomers enjoy the job of manicuring the trails under a starlit night.

Imprints in the snow on the beaver pond of a loser in a friendly wrestling match.

Someone takes it upon themselves to split and stack a pile of firewood.

Friends share a mixture of what appears to be hot chocolate by the beaver pond.

Many new faces light up after "finding" the trails for the first time.

A red faced mother rests on her poles after beating her daughter in friendly race... for maybe the last time.

Everyone is invigorated by the fresh air and exercise and fellowship.

All that and no TV's, no computers, and no text messaging. It's just people enjoying each other and the great outdoors and some healthy activity (hot dogs excluded).

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and thank you for your contributions. It is great to see the facilities being appreciated in so many ways. Your support and hard work have made it possible.

Rainy Lake Nordic Ski Club Executive 12/31/10