

RASki & Outdoor Club

April 2023
More Than Just a Ski Club

Editor: Glen Campbell, publicity-2020@raski.ca

www.raski.ca

RA SKI ANNUAL CLUB MEETING & ELECTIONS

Your Council worked hard to set up this season's programs after a rough few pandemic years. You can thank them by coming out to our Annual Club Meeting, volunteering to be on the Club Council or helping plan next year's activities.

When: Tuesday, May 9 7:00-8:30 PM

Where: virtual, via Zoom

Attendees: Please email membership-2020@raski.ca for the zoom meeting link and supporting documents

Nominees: email secretary-2020@raski.ca to add your name

After November's multi-season roll-up Club meeting, we are now back on track for our annual Club meeting. We are pleased to schedule our annual meeting to report upon our past season, discuss the Club's future, and hold elections for Council members for the 2023-2024 season. We encourage all interested members to register for the meeting in advance at membership-2020@raski.ca in order to receive the Annual Meeting Zoom link and supporting documentation.

Elections

Per our Club rules, all positions are open for nomination and election, but a number of members have offered to continue in their roles and are nominated to run for re-election. In addition, there are a number of vacancies for which our Nominations Committee will be soliciting interest. Nominations will still be accepted if presented and seconded from the floor of the meeting. Please forward your expression of interest to: secretary-2020@raski.ca

Vacant positions

All positions are open for election. In particular, there are openings in the Club Council for the following: Chair, DH Weekend Chair, Snowshoe Chair, and Social Chair.

Season Wrap-up PowerPoint

See photo highlights of our activities over the past year. If you took part in any of our activities, you're probably in one of the photos.

RA SKI ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER

When: Friday April 28th, 5:30 PM (eat at 6:30)

Where: 1081 Ambleside Dr. (Ambleside 1) Party room

Bring a dish to share, and your own beverages. Guests are welcome. Attendees are asked to throw a loonie or toonie into the pot to cover the cost of the room.

Directions: From Richmond Rd (west of Woodroffe), turn north onto New Orchard Dr, then left onto Ambleside. There is a visitor's parking in front of the building and some parking on Ambleside. (watch the no parking areas!) There will be a notice on the call board informing you of the ring number for the party room. Take the elevator to the Upper Basement level.

YOU MUST LET US KNOW YOU ARE ATTENDING.
Limit of 35 people. Contact Louise Cameron at xc-2020@raski.ca and let us know if you are coming and what category of food you'll be bringing (i.e., appetizer, main course, salad, dessert).

MESSAGE FROM THE (VICE) CHAIR

Despite the challenges of a very erratic winter (a bit of snow, then downpours in January and blizzards in March), we have enjoyed a successful season with many downhill and cross-country outings. Thanks to the chairs and volunteer leaders who made this possible, and the great variety of members and friends who participated.

I call your attention to two key activities described elsewhere in this newsletter: The Pot-luck Dinner, a great season wind up social event, and the Annual Club Meeting. The first is making a comeback after an absence of 3 years and is usually delicious! The second is always an important event in determining the future of the Club, and this year, more important than ever.

We have a few vacancies in our roster, and we need those of you who value the activities and atmosphere of the Club to come forward to take a turn contributing to the organization of our activities and developing methods of attracting members back to the Club after their multi-year hiatus. Listen to the Chair reports, bring constructive feedback and suggestions, volunteer for a role – big or small, and encourage your friends to take an interest in our Club.

We were unable to arrange a weeklong trip for this past ski season as unfortunately at the same time as we were planning our trips, the travel industry was facing an overwhelming summer travel crises and staff shortages. You will be pleased to know that we have already issued our requirements to multiple vacation planners and hope to have a European choice finalized by the end of May. Keep the 2024 week of January 26 to February 5 open!

The Club would like to thank the staff of the RA who supported our efforts this year.

A big "thank you" for the work of our Council members, and the other volunteers who have pitched in at various activities, led outings, or have stepped up to lead Spring hikes and bike outings. Be sure to review the Social calendar to date in this Newsletter and keep checking www.raski.ca, following us on Facebook (find RA Ski and Outdoor Club of Ottawa and ask to join in) or subscribing to our ski-mails.

Jaime Impey, Vice Chair on behalf of the Club Council



Feb. 2023 – Mid-week at Lake Placid

CROSS-COUNTRY 2022-23 WINTER

DAY TRIPS

The cross-country ski day trips started off on December 17 in Gatineau Park, the day before the official season opened in the park.



Dec. 17 – Our first XC of the season! P8 to P9

Of the 18 planned day trips, 15 went ahead, with cancellations usually due to poor weather conditions. The group sizes ranged from 6 to 12 participants per outing. There were some parking challenges in Gatineau Park for some of the Saturday and Sunday outings, so we learned to have a “Plan B”. Our final official outing was on March 16, with Louise Cameron leading the annual “biathlon” – skiing and walking over to the ruins at the Mackenzie King estate.



Mar. 6 – XC ski at Larose Forest

We plan to add some more day trips for next season, so tell us about your favorite routes, or trails that you have always wanted to try. We are also looking for more trip leaders. Thanks to those who have already sent in some suggestions.



Dec. 26 – Taylor Lake trail

We would not be able to offer these day trips without our gracious volunteers. A big “thank you” to Jane M, Diane and Rob, James and Qun, Wendy, Louise, Doris and Jane H for being willing to lead our day trips.



Feb. 14 – Heritage East trail

WEEKEND TRIP – FAR HILLS INN, VAL MORIN

RA skiers and snowshoers returned to Far Hills Inn this February 8-10 for a mid-week multi-day trip after many years of absence. Thirty-one of us made the trip in fantastic ski weather to enjoy the trails. The inn provided a dining room in which much socializing occurred, before, during and after meals. It was great being together again.



Dinner at Far Hills Inn

Skiers went out in groups on Thursday, covering much terrain. I hear that a few even managed to hit the stores in Val David!



DOWNHILL NEWS

What a wacky winter we have had!!

The downhill ski season never really got started until well into January as lack of snow, warm weather, and lack of open ski runs at most hills forced cancellation of 4 out of our 5 first scheduled trips.

The choice destination this year was Camp Fortune, as it seemed to have the most runs open earlier in the season, and was fully open ahead of most other hills. Quite a few of our members have season passes there and were taking advantage of any good weather opportunity to get out and ski.



Feb. 14 – Meet'n'Ski at Camp Fortune

We also kept our popular “Fortune Fridays” event going – an informal weekly Friday meet-up at Camp Fortune for members, family, friends and for those just wanting to take a “Me Day” off work.

In February, just as the warm weather continued and we were doubting whether we would have any good ski days left, the snow started coming...the weather got colder....and good ski conditions were finally here!! It's been quite a few years since mid-winter ski conditions stayed into April, and a few skiers got out over the Easter holidays – an indicator of a good ski season.

You likely noticed that we planned no bus trips this year due to high costs for the bus, and difficulty anticipating group participation in this first post-covid season. But if the demand is present next season, we will review this again.

Altogether, including our Fortune Fridays and “Pop-up” days, we had 24 day-outings from the start of the season to April 10, when weekday skiing ended.

Lake Placid, NY multi-day trip, Feb 26-Mar 2, 2023

Twelve RAski members plus 3 guests made it down to Lake Placid for a Sunday February 26 to Thursday March 2 getaway.

The RA Ski Club is a member of the RA Centre – 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa K1H 7X7 - 733-5100 – www.racentre.com

On the trail at Far Hills Inn

Skiing was not recommended on Friday due to wet weather, but many of us managed to walk or snowshoe in the area (or shop.)

Overall, a great few days with fantastic ski buddies!

Jane Hilliard & Louise Cameron, XC co-chairs,
xc-2020@raski.ca



Feb. 2023 - Lake Placid mid-week

Our group was a mix of downhill & cross-country skiers and five skiers brought both sets of skis in case weather or snow conditions favoured one over the other.

Our hotel in downtown Lake Placid was conveniently located and 15-20 minutes away from the downhill ski destination, Whiteface Mountain, as well as more than ten x-country ski venues.

Monday, Feb 27, was a picture-perfect day of sun and mild weather and, after our all-inclusive breakfast, everyone went out to enjoy the day. Some downhill skiers took the free shuttle bus to the hill while others drove to their destination. The 25 cm of fresh snow a few days before made for smooth runs at the beginning, but many of the steeper runs turned bumpy and moguls were hard to avoid. Staying off the black runs was good advice for some, but others took on the challenge.

The x-country folks went to the Olympic facility at Mount van Hoevenberg – the largest ski centre with over 50 km of groomed trails. The x-country venues in the Lake Placid area are a mix of groomed and ungroomed facilities. The groomed facilities tend to be looped trails with many intersections – similar to our local facilities at Nakkertok and Kanata Nordic - and it was a challenge sometimes to find the trail you wanted.

Tuesday, Feb 28 was a stormy day with snowfall and winds in open areas, so the majority of the downhillers (except for two die-hards that went to Whiteface) joined the cross-country skiers and tried out other venues – the Cascade Centre with 20 km of groomed trails, Scott's Cobble Nordic Centre with 10 km of groomed trails, and some went to the Olympic facility. The wooded areas in all these places were perfect shelter from the winds, and the fresh snow made for excellent conditions.

With a late afternoon tour of the Olympic skating facilities and museum, and a group dinner at a nearby restaurant, everyone agreed that it was a great day despite the stormy conditions.

Wednesday, March 1 was an overcast day, but glimpses of shadows from a strong March sun made downhill conditions excellent and grooming on all major runs made for the best conditions of the week.

With the previous week being a major holiday period in the USA (President's Week) and no local school holidays during our stay, our four days were a slow tourist period, and so we had no lift lines the entire time.

The x-country gang tried out some other sites at the Marcy Dam trail and the back-country trails at Scott's Cobble Nordic centre.



Feb. 2023 – XC skiers on Lake Placid trip

Having skied Whiteface not that many years ago when it was sarcastically called “Iceface”, the improvements in snowmaking and lifts are very noticeable. Driving conditions were good on the way back, and we all made it home safe & sound.

Many thanks to our trip leaders - Bill Danson, Roger Duffy, Christine Hutton, and Jane Langmaid – for leading and offering to lead trips.

Bob Cavan, DH Coordinator, Downhill-2020@raski.ca

SOCIAL

We are having a number of social activities over the spring and summer. In many cases, we are working out the details, so be sure to check your SkiMail, the RA Ski website, or our club’s Facebook page.

- **Fri. Apr. 28 – RA Ski Club annual pot-luck dinner**
- **June 28: Ottawa Titans baseball.** Bob Cavan
- **More baseball:** Dates TBD.



Watching a baseball game

- **Mid-June (date TBD): Golf:** Doris Dallaire.
- **National Gallery of Canada tours:** Dates TBD. 2-3 tours to the Gallery over the summer months. European treasures, Modern & contemporary collection. Louise Lefebvre

Theatre in the Park

- **Company of Fools** - Our annual trek to Shakespeare in the Park sometime between July 3rd and August 26th. The Company of Fools always does one of Shakespeare’s plays in a humorous way.



Company of Fools

- **Odyssey Theatre** - If they are back this summer, so are we - starting in late-July through August



Odyssey Theatre production

HIKING & CYCLING

Hello RA Ski Club hikers and cyclists! Thanks to our great volunteer leaders, we have a large number of fun bike and hiking outings lined up for the spring, summer and fall of 2023. Be sure to check the RA Ski Website and Facebook page for more specific details – meet-up location, time etc. – and for possible cancellations due to weather.



May 2019 – Roger’s Roddle in Merrickville

We ask all participants to register ahead so hike/bike leaders will know who is coming and can advise you of last minutes instructions or changes.



June 2019 – Starting out for Lac Leamy

We are always open to new leaders and more outings so if you would like to volunteer to lead an outing, please get in touch with Jane Maxwell, at hikes-2020@raski.ca.



Sept. 2019 – Ice cream crawl

BIKE OUTINGS

- **Sat. May 20th** (rain dates - May 21/22) - ROGER DUFFY - Burritts Rapids Lock Station to Merrickville (Roger's 'Roddle')
- **Thurs. May 25th** (rain date May 27th) - BILL DANSON – Meet at 10 a.m. at Andrew Haydon Park, 3127 Carling Ave, to Stittsville along the rail line. Lunch at a café in Stittsville.
- **Wed. May 31** – BOB CAVAN – 10:30 a.m. Stadiums of Ottawa. 25 km leaving from RA Centre. Café/lunch stop.
- **Sat. June 10th** - SUSAN GARDINER – 10:30 a.m. Andrew Hayden Park to Shirley's Bay
- **Wed., June 14** - BOB CAVAN – 10:30 a.m. Richcraft Rec Centre, Kanata to Alice's Café in Carp (25 km. Café stop/lunch in Carp)
- **Sat. June 24th** - JANE HILLIARD – 10:30 a.m. Mooney's Bay to Ottawa River (with a stop at Mill St. Pub or along Preston St.)
- **July 8** - JANE MAXWELL - Moussette Park to Alymer Marina (or further) – 11 a.m.
- **Wed. July 19** - BOB CAVAN - Moussette Park (Aylmer) to Old Chelsea (26km Café stop/lunch in Chelsea) – 10:30 a.m.

- **Wed. August 2** - BOB CAVAN - Marshes Golf Course to Pinhey's Point (25km, picnic lunch) – 10:30 a.m.
- **Wed. August 16** – BOB CAVAN - Chelsea to Wakefield via the old rail line (43km return -café stop/lunch in Wakefield) – 10:30 a.m.
- **Sat, Sept. 9** – JANE HILLIARD - Aviation Museum (or P5/P7) to Petrie Island – 10:30 a.m.
- **Date TBD** - WENDY CRAM - Mooney's Bay to Rideau Falls with lunch at Rideau Falls Tavern

HIKE OUTINGS

- **Sat. May 6th** – LOUISE CAMERON – Greenbelt P13 – Bell Centennial Arena – Cassidy Lane off Cedarview Dr. – 1 p.m.
- **Thurs. May 11th** – LOUISE CAMERON – Gatineau Park – P11 (Meech Lake) to Carbide Mill ruins and Capuchin Chapel, 11 a.m.
- **Sun. May 21st** – CHUCK BAIN – PINK LAKE- 12:15 at the RA Centre for car-pooling.
- **Sat. June 3rd** - GLEN CAMPBELL - Visit to Governor-General's Residence (meet at Glen's home at 10 a.m.). Lunch after at the Tavern on the Falls
- **Thurs. June 15th** - JANE MAXWELL – 11 a.m. at Ron Kolbus Centre for hike to and around Mud Lake (avoiding all wild turkeys along the way!)
- **Thurs. Sept. 7th** – LOUISE CAMERON – Gatineau Park - Skyline Trail from P7 – 11 a.m.
- **Sat. Sept. 16th** - JANE MAXWELL - Gatineau Park – Lauriault trail. Meet at P6 - McKenzie King Estate at 1 p.m. (You can also park at the lower parking area off the Gatineau parkway).
- **Sat. Sept. 23** – CHUCK BAIN – Gatineau Park – P13 – Wolf Trail. Meet at RA Centre at 10 a.m. to carpool to Park.

Jane Maxwell, Hiking & Cycling Chair, hikes-2020@raski.ca

PHOTOS & TRIP REPORTS

Photos and trip reports from most of our outings are on the RA Ski web site, www.raski.ca.

Trip Reports

Downhill and cross-country trip reports for the last month are put on our web site www.raski.ca. Click on "Trip reports" on the left-hand sidebar on our home page.

Photos

For photos, on the left sidebar click on "Photos", then on the appropriate album ("Cross-country", "Downhill", "Snowshoeing", or "Biking Hiking and Skating".) To see the photo larger, double-click on it.

To see the photos as a slideshow:

1. Double-click on the little square icon on the top right under the number of photos. Wait a few seconds and the slideshow will start. Click on the right arrow to advance to the next slide.

Downloading photos:

1. Double-click on the photo.
2. On the bottom right, click on the down arrow with the bar underneath it.
3. Click on the size you want (i.e., "Original".)

4. Click on “Save File”, then click on “OK.”

Your file will be downloaded to your directory “Downloads.”

We also put “RA Ski Photos of the Week” on our home page raski.ca.



Jan. 9 – Pop-up DH ski at Camp Fortune


Thanks to our RA Ski photographers for providing us with some great pictures of our weeklong, weekend and day trips.



Mar. 16 – 2nd part of our Biathlon

SOCIAL MEDIA & SNOWPHONE UPDATES

You can find or receive news and updates about Club activities through a number of methods:

- **Website** www.raski.ca
- **Ski-mail** Sign up for our e-mail with the latest club news: go to www.raski.ca and click on “e-Maillist” in the “Stay Informed” box on the lower left side of the page.
- **Facebook**  Visit us on Facebook to learn about upcoming events, read members' comments, and much more! Go to **RA Ski and Snowboard Club of Ottawa** and ask to join in.

MORE PHOTOS



Mar. 16 – Participants in our 2023 Biathlon



Sept. 12 2022 – Cycling to Tavern on the Falls



Feb. 2023 – XC skiing at Far Hills Inn



Feb. 26 – XC ski to Pink Lake



Dec. 20 2022 – Camp Fortune – 1st DH ski of the season



Feb. 23 2023 – DH Skiing at Whiteface mid-week



Nov. 2022 – Hike to Healey cabin