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February 2021

## ULLRS SNOWSHOE AT CLEARY LAKE by Nancy Sand

Cleary Lake Regional Park was the site of the first ULLR event of 2021. Nine Ullrs came to snowshoe, and two came to x-country on a day with bright sunshine and bright white snow. Judy B and Pat N intended to x-country, but the Park had not groomed the trails, so they walked alongside the snowshoers.

We were allowed to go anywhere on the golf course; however, the greens were roped off. Hint: Stay off the greens! We mostly walked/snowshoed around the perimeter of the 9-hole golf course, but there were tracks all over – mostly human, but also some animal. We followed tracks of others and sometimes ventured off to snowshoe through soft fluffy snow. Towards the end we crossed over the main walk/bike trail to get closer to the Lake. We observed people tracks on the frozen lake, but we decided not to go there. None of us was interested in a polar plunge!

It was a great day to be outside with our ULLR friends, and we look forward to many more ULLR winter outdoor events during these next few months.



**Kyle M, Linda H, Jim H, Bruce W, Mary Jane H, Galen H, Barb K, Roger K**

## 2020 IMPORTANT CONTACTS

See the membership directory for e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

### OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

#### **President**

Sharon Marini

#### **Executive VP**

Ellise Lamb

#### **Winter Programs VP**

Linda Heintz

#### **Summer Programs VP**

Mary VandeHei

#### **Membership VP**

Nancy Sand: [MembershipVP@ullr.org](mailto:MembershipVP@ullr.org)

#### **Treasurer**

Carol Bush

#### **Secretary**

Janice Swanberg

#### **Past President/Advisor**

Joan Roe

### PROGRAM COORDINATORS

#### **Alpine-Nordic**

Barb Kolbe

#### **Ski Racing**

Brian Johnson

#### **What's Cookin' Cashiers**

Carole Nelson & Sharon Pappas:

#### **What's Cookin' Supply Chairs**

Nancy Kastner

#### **What's Cookin' Beverage Chairs**

Craig & Nancy Navis,

Bruce Warner

#### **Biking**

John Stiefel

#### **Singles**

Jan Butler

#### **Directory Folding Parties**

Nancy Sand

#### **General Meetings**

Ellise Lamb

#### **MSC Representatives**

Linda Heintz, Dolly Eastman:

MSC: [www.midwestfun.org](http://www.midwestfun.org)

#### **ULLR Foundation President**

Jan Cady

### COMMUNICATION

#### **ULLR Webmaster**

JJ [Joe] Coursolle: [Webster@ullr.org](mailto:Webster@ullr.org)

#### **NULLR Editor & Designer**

Margie Deutsch: [NULLR@ullr.org](mailto:NULLR@ullr.org)

#### **ULLRnet**

Fran DeWell & Mary Jane Hochstein

[ULLRnet@ullr.org](mailto:ULLRnet@ullr.org)

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Sharon Marini



Hi Ullrs,

The year 2020 is behind us, thank goodness! I am hoping that we can get back to a little more "normal" in 2021. Things may change in the way we have picnics. We should be able to bike and hike while keeping our distance. There are so many unknowns at this time. Stay tuned and check your email to see if there are any changes.

The good thing is that nature does not change or isolate us. We can go for leisurely walks and really look around us. We have so many beautiful parks. There are birds, deer, muskrats in unfrozen water, and many other creatures that we would not usually see on a fast-paced hike. Trees may be coated with fresh snow that sparkles in the sunlight. Nature is beautiful.

Don't forget to mark your new calendars for our trip to Nisswa and The Good Ol' Days June 1-4, 2021. It will not be exactly the same as other years but we will still have fun, eat, and socialize after biking or swimming. If there is anyone who would like to go with us and did not sign up last year, let me or Patty F. know and we will see if we can get more rooms. Details to follow at a later date.

As we enjoy the last of winter it is also a time to think spring. Now is the time to order your seeds for your garden or pots on the patio. Get a head start by starting certain seeds indoors like zucchini or cucumbers. We will soon be signing up to lead biking and hiking events. Start planning which rides you want to lead now and let Patty and John know your preferences.

I miss you all - please stay safe and keep well.

### **2021 MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

Although Ullrs generally do not need a membership card, some businesses offer discounts to ULLR members. If you have renewed your membership for 2021 and would like to have a membership card, contact Membership VP Nancy Sand.

### **The ULLRNET**

The ULLRnet was created as a way to receive messages of a personal nature about current and past members. If you wish to receive or post information, please send an email message to [ullrnet@ullr.org](mailto:ullrnet@ullr.org). Notices must have the permission of the person for whom it is written.

**ULLR Webmaster:** JJ [Joe] Coursolle

See directory for address

[Webster@ullr.org](mailto:Webster@ullr.org)

**NULLR Editor:** Margie Deutsch

7600 Golden Valley Road, #505, Golden

Valley 55427 [Nullr@ullr.org](mailto:Nullr@ullr.org)

**A BIG Thank you to Nancy Sand**, the ULLR Membership Chair, for all of her work with the recent member directory. Having the cell phone numbers added will make it easier for members to stay in contact with one another. Some members renewed late, so please make sure you have printed the updates that have been sent to you via e-mail. Keep these updated lists with your new directory.



<p><b>Additions</b></p> <p>Douglas Anders Christine Austin-Roehler Dick Dahlen Lolly Dahlen Robert Higgins Lorna Higgins Cathy Hartle Wayne Hokemeir</p>	<p>Mary Holisak Thomas Nagangast Clareyse Nelson Jeff Odendahl Alice Ressler Joe Schwebel Maryann Schwebel Joella Wilson</p> <p><b>New Member</b> Peggy Trager</p>	<p><b>Member Changes</b></p> <p>Barb Carpenter - Email change Margie Deutsch - Address change Nedra Nicholls - Email change</p> <p><b>Corrections to the December Spotlight</b></p> <p>Dick Dahlen - Address correction Bob Higgins - Email correction Jeff Odendahl—Email correction</p>
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### DID YOU RENEW YOUR ULLR MEMBERSHIP?

The ULLR membership year ended October 31, 2020. A Membership Form is available on the ULLR website: [www.ullr.org](http://www.ullr.org) Follow instructions found there. Invite a friend to join!

### The 2021 ULLR General Meetings.

The January, February and March General Meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19. The staff of the BEC had made plans for early lunch meals, for planned 1 PM meetings, just for the Ullrs. We thank them for their offer and to Ellise Lamb, Executive VP, who made these arrangements. Hopefully the April 22, 2021 meeting can happen.

**Meetings are held** at the Bloomington Event Center (BEC), 1114 American Blvd W, Bloomington, MN 55420. Make a reservation for the dining room, which opens at 5 PM, by calling 952-888-1492. The costs of our dinners and drinks are credited to the club to offset rental costs.

**Meetings start at 7 PM.**

**Invite a friend to come!**

### *In Loving Memory of these former Ullrs*

**Patricia Gail (Thompson) Tollefson**

**April 8, 1936 - October 30, 2020**

Pat lived in Blairsville, GA and Carrabelle, FL. She passed away after a brief illness. *Obituary was in the Star Tribune on November 8, 2020*

**Michael John MacDonald**

**July 14, 1950 - November 16, 2020**

"Mac" lived in Richfield, MN. He passed away peacefully from cancer. *Obituary was in the Star Tribune on November 29, 2020*

The club offers condolences to their families.

### Remembering ULLR friends

Dolly Eastman has led a small group collecting names of past Ullrs who have died. The list is long, over 120 names. These people will be remembered at ULLR 70-71st Anniversary Dinner.

You can always honor not only your ULLR friends, but also other friends and family members by contributing to the ULLR Foundation with a memorial gift. This money funds the donations given to many worthy causes.

## Cross Country Skiing, Snow Shoe, Hike?

### Elm Creek Park, Eastman Nature Center

Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch TBD

The park is located in Maple Grove.

With the opening of Hwy 610 all the way to 94 the route has changed a little. Three ways to get there.

1<sup>st</sup> Take 94 west to Maple Grove Parkway. Take exit. Go north on parkway to Hwy 81. Go right 1 block to Fernbrook Lane North. Turn left going North. Look

for sign going right to Eastman Nature Center.

2<sup>nd</sup> Take Hwy 169 North. Take loop west onto Hwy 610. Take 610 to exit at Maple Grove Parkway. Follow Same instruction as above after getting on parkway

3<sup>rd</sup> Take Hwy 81 northwest to Fernbrook Lane.

**Questions? Call James Habeck, 763-559-5593**

**In case of bad weather or to verify the event is not cancelled, call the event chair.**

### Skiing in this time of COVID-19

Fresh air and exercise, two important factors which will help folks to not just survive but even thrive during this time of pandemic. Last year the skiers in Austria soon realized they had helped to spread the virus in Europe. Skiing wasn't the cause, but the apres-ski scene, the bars and crowded restaurants, caused the spread. Ski areas now know what needs to be done to help keep everyone safe. It will be different this year.

1. You will need a face covering in a lift line, or when getting to-go food. Your gaiter or face mask must be on if you are not 6-feet from another person. (Bring 2 masks, one will get wet!)
2. Make reservations for everything. To help with social distancing, fewer lift tickets are being sold. Purchasing lift tickets or renting equipment must be done on-line. All tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. Ride a lift with family. Two singles will be seated on the outside seats of a 4-person lift. Lutsen will keep the windows open on the gondola.
3. The chalet will be open only for bathroom breaks. Plan on putting your boots on in your car— and eating your snack or lunch in your car. Find out

ahead of time if the ski hill will have a to-go menu. Other wise, bring your own food.

4. Rules are bound to change, as they have been doing since last March. Go on-line or call ahead to find out what protocols are required where you plan to ski.
5. Even if you get your vaccine shots, they are only going to help you be more resistant to becoming ill from the virus, or if you do become sick, to not have as many complications of the disease. You might still be able to spread the virus to others. Plan on continuing doing "the 5": mask up, cough into your elbow, wash your hands often, stay at least 6 feet apart from others, and stay home as much as possible. Your vaccination will help to prevent you from getting sick, other folks will need to rely on their vaccination to protect them.

Afton Alps: 651-436-5245; aftonalps.com

Buck Hill: 952-435-7174; buckhill.com

Spirit Mountain: 1-218-628-2891; spiritmt.com

Welch: 651-258-4567; welchvillage.com

Wild Mountain: 651-465-6365; wildmountain.com

*[Information from the Star Tribune, Dec. 19,2020 by Kerri Westenberg, and Jan. 5, 2021, "Ask Amy."]*

### SINGLES CARD/GAME NIGHTS

**All Singles' Card & Game Nights are cancelled. Hopefully they can be resumed soon in 2021.**

Contact Jan Butler about Singles' activities or to volunteer to plan and/or host an event: 952-544-8163 or cartooncat@comcast.net

### SINGLES' FINE DINING on TUESDAYS

No Fine Dining events are scheduled for now. Ellise Lamb is looking forward to the time when it is safe for her to plan dining events again. Contact her at [ellise.lamb@mchsi.com](mailto:ellise.lamb@mchsi.com) or 952-442-9332

## LAST ULLR HIKE OF 2020 by Nancy Sand

On November 18, eight Ullrs came to Battle Creek Park in Woodbury for an afternoon hike. That evening Minnesota Governor Walz announced necessary 4-week COVID restrictions limiting outdoor recreation to family units and pausing social events, which resulted in this Battle Creek hike being the last ULLR hike of 2020.

Even though the day was chilly and blustery, Ullrs hiked for nearly four miles in Battle Creek Park. With recent snow and cool weather, trail conditions varied. Hike leader Nancy S. guided Ullrs on mostly dry paved trails, but we also diverted onto grass/dirt trails that were dry, wet, icy, or slushy.

We observed areas of the Park that had been control burned a couple of years ago, and areas that will

undergo future restoration. Mike A. showed us how to recognize evidence of deer in the area: small trees with damaged and stripped bark, and we marveled at some magnificent oak and cottonwood trees.

When we were close to the dog park, we shared the trail with several 4-legged furry friends. The lakes and ponds were mostly frozen with a thin layer of ice, but we saw a few geese and a muskrat in open water.

At the end of the hike, we remarked how refreshing it was to be outside with our good ULLR friends. During these months of COVID, many Ullrs enjoyed discovering and hiking in new parks and trails. Our ULLR Club hopes to have a full schedule of ULLR hikes this spring, summer, and fall. **So, plan now to propose a hike at a new park!**



### Recalling November & December 2020

We thank all of the planners and leaders for their work!

#### November

4 Bonus bike ride

John Stiefel and Patty Fitzgerald

6 Bonus hike at Westwood Hills  
Linda Heintz

18 Battle Creek Hike  
Nancy Sand

#### Cancelled due to COVID-19

30 Directory Folding Party  
Nancy Sand and Joan Roe

#### December 12

French Park Hike  
Jim Habeck

**Begin to plan outdoor activities for this spring and summer that Ullrs may safely do. Even after you receive your vaccine shots, masks, safe distancing and hand washing will be needed.**

## 2021 Hikes, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing

Please see the flyers at [ullr.org](http://ullr.org) for driving directions. If the weather is uncertain, call the trip leader.  
**On all hikes, Ullrs are to maintain social distancing of 6 feet apart; wear your mask when you can't.**

**January 19 - Tuesday, 10:00 - 10:30 AM**

**Richardson Nature Center - Hike/ XC / SS**

Great trails for both snowshoe and cross-country skiing. The distance can be flexible.

**RSVP** by Monday, January 18, 2021, to Sharon Marini, (H) 952-893-8408, (C) 612-408-7707

**February 20 - Saturday 1:00 PM**

**Elm Creek Regional Park - Hike/ XC / SS**

**Meet at the:**

[Eastman Nature Center](#)

[13351 Elm Creek Road](#), Osseo

**Lunch TBD**

**RSVP:** Jim Habeck, 763-559-5593

**February 23 - Tuesday, 10:00 AM**

**Gale Woods Farm - Snowshoe**

(1-3 mi RT on ungroomed trails)

[Gale Woods Farm](#)

[7210 County Road 1190](#), Minnetrista

Snowshoe rental available

Ski poles or walking stick recommended as there are several small hills.

**RSVP:** Bill Brechtel, 952-474-5295(cell)

**March 23 - Tuesday, 10:00 AM**

**Gale Woods Farm - SS** Now you know the terrain, but see what a difference the past month has made.

**RSVP:** Bill Brechtel, 952-474-5295(cell)

### Downhill Skiing Schedule

There is no host for area skiing.

Meet at 9:30 at the main lodge.

1/13	Wednesday	Afton Alps
1/21	Thursday	Welch
1/25	Monday	Buck Hill
2/2-4	Tue.-Thur.	Wausau Trip, ski Granite Peak
2/10	Wednesday	Afton Alps
2/17	Wednesday	Buck Hill
2/25	Thursday	Welch
3/9	Tuesday	Afton Alps
3/12	Friday	Welch

### MSC [Breckenridge Colorado Ski Trip](#)

Hosted by the MN Ski Hawks

February 20-26, 2021

Stay 6 nights at [The Village Condos](#), ski-in/ski-out. Airfare, motor coach, baggage handling included. Lift tickets not included, but group rates are offered. **This trip is full, But there is a wait list.** See the flyer at

[ullr.org](http://ullr.org) **Sorry, Cancelled**

### ULLR Wausau Trip - Feb. 2-4, 2021

Members who would like to go to Wausau to ski, snowshoe, and/or x-country ski should contact Nancy Sand. Rooms might still be available. See the flier on the ULLR website for information about the trip.

We will have snacks and a pizza party Tuesday evening and a group dinner Wednesday night. Participants will pay for their own meals and drinks.

Questions? Contact Nancy Sand at 952-435-5225 or [nsand878@gmail.com](mailto:nsand878@gmail.com)



Granite Peak 2016



**First ULLR Ski outing in 2021 at Welch. Did anyone know where they are going? I think this group needed a leader! Or, maybe they were just practicing social distancing.**

L. to R.: New ULLR Ursula N, Karen H, Patty F, Kyle M, Nancy N, John S, Kate C, Mick G

### ULLR SKI SEASON OPENS AT WELCH

Story and photo by Nancy Sand

Twelve ULLRs came to Welch on January 7 for the first ULLR ski event of 2021. Although the day was cloudy, we were excited to begin our ULLR ski season and were delighted to welcome new ULLR member Ursula N to our enthusiastic ULLR ski group. We hope she will join us on the slopes for many more ULLR ski outings.

Normally we get ready inside a building, leave our bags indoors, and come back to the building to remove and pack boots at the end of the day. Due to COVID, that is not the case at this time. This was our first experience of putting on and removing ski boots, etc. outside at our cars plus having to leave our boot

and ski bags in our cars. In the parking lot, we saw many people sitting on the backs of their open vehicle trunks while putting on and removing boots. Some even brought stools or chairs. Many drove to the ski place with their ski boots on the floor in the front of the vehicle by the heater so the boots would be warm and flexible upon arrival.

Another new experience was not being able to gather indoors for lunch – which is normally a fun time for ULLRs to get warm and socialize together. Food was available, but it was for takeout only and had to be consumed outside.

We all hope Welch and other ski resorts will be able to relax their temporary COVID restrictions soon!



For Your New 2021 Calendar:

### Here are the dates for the What's Cookin' Picnics

June 9 & 23, July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18

What's Cookin' Picnics are held in Brookview Park on Highway 55 and Winnetka Avenue in Golden Valley. Because of the uncertainty of how we will be able to gather, these are the plans in place for now.

The picnics will be held midafternoons.

Everyone will be asked to bring their own food, beverage, and chair.

It is hoped when enough people have their vaccine shots, this may be modified or changed. The webmaster and newsletter editor will keep you informed.