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February 2024

HOLIDAY PARTY, DECEMBER 6TH

We had a beautiful day for our Ullr Holiday party. Diane Erlandson offered her party room, and it was warm and cozy. 48 Ullrs attended the party.

We socialized, and many caught up on their friends' lives. Maestro Bill Kansas entertained the group with holiday songs on his keyboard. Our delicious dinner was catered and included roast turkey and ham and all the fixings to go with it. We ended the afternoon with more socializing and enjoyed two holiday cakes for dessert.

The *Toys for Tots* table was full of toys of all kinds, also some monetary donations. Nancy Sand graciously offered to take the toys to Kare 11 after our party. All of the leftover food was taken by the caterers to *Sharing & Caring Hands*, to help feed the less fortunate in our area.

Thank you to all who helped to make this holiday party a success.

Article by event planners shown here- Patty Fitzgerald and Linda Heintz. Thanks to them and to Diane Erlandson for her work.



Maestro Bill K

See more photos p. 9



Jeff F and Nancy H



Mary Ellen G, Rosalie J, and Marcia S

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2024 IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

President

Linda Heintz

Executive VP

Needed

Winter Programs VP

Kyle McClintick

Summer Programs VP

Mary Ellen Goriesky

Membership VP

Patty Fitzgerald

Treasurer

Carol Bush

Secretary

Janet Farber

Past President/Advisor

Sharon Marini

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Alpine-Nordic

Barb Kolbe

Ski Racing

Brian Johnson

What's Cookin' Cashiers

Carole Nelson & Sharon Pappas

What's Cookin' Supply Chair

Janice & Jerry Swanberg

What's Cookin' Beverage Chair

Janice & Jerry Swanberg

Biking

John Stiefel and Patty Fitzgerald

Singles

Jan Butler

Directory Folding Parties

Nancy Sand

General Meetings

Ellise Lamb (scheduler)

MSC Representatives

Kyle McClintick, Dolly Eastman

MSC: www.midwestfun.org

ULLR Foundation President

Jan Cady

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Linda Heintz



I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas filled with family and love. How sad for the many, many people who don't have either of those things. Now we're on to a brand new year.

I know this isn't the first year we haven't had snow for Christmas, but it's still a little strange to look out my window and see not even brown grass but green! And rain instead of snow. Good Grief!

Our first snowshoe turned into a hike. Only five people showed up. I guess the Vikings were playing, and I was playing cards. Lets hope January is better for snow.

We had a great turnout for the Christmas party. Over 50 people paid with a couple canceling at the last minute. The food was delicious. We'll definitely keep the caterer's phone number for future events. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Our second meeting was also a success. People really seem to enjoy listening to Jeff Litfin speak. We are at the age when his presentations can really benefit us.

I didn't attend the *Honky Tonk* show, but everybody I talked with who did see it thought it was great.

This is what you have to look forward to:

Granite Peak. Don't forget, during this busy time of year, to check that out and sign up ASAP. We also have a snowshoe event at Gale Woods on January 25. Pray for snow. And in March, Big Sky! It's a great area. Please consider signing up, even if you've already been there.

Thanks to Galen and Mary Jane for hosting another wonderful Halloween Party. And thanks to Karen and Kyle for *Do the Door*. It was a blast.

A Happy and Healthy New Year Everybody.

ULLR MEMBERSHIP If you would like to participate in ULLR club activities, you can join or rejoin. Each member must fill out a membership form, sign the waiver, date the form and return it. The membership form can be found on the ullr.org home page, under the Membership Tab. Include \$25 for each ULLR membership. Make the check payable to ULLR. Or join at an ULLR General Meeting.

We are planning a fun filled year of activities.

Patty Fitzgerald - Membership VP

ULLR Webmaster: Wayne Jastremski

See directory for address

Webster@ULLR.org

NULLR Editor: Margie Deutsch

7600 Golden Valley Road, #505, Golden

Valley 55427 NULLR@ULLR.org

Downhill Skiing– no hosts

Meet in main lodge at 9:30 am

Jan. 10, Wed., Welch

Jan. 24, Wed., Buck Hill

Feb. 6-8, Tue-Thur, Granite Peak

Feb. 14, Wed., Buck Hill

Feb. 22, Thur., Welch

Feb. 29, Thur., Hyland Hills

Mar. 6, Wed., Welch

Mar. 13, Wed., Buck Hill

Mar. 17-23, ULLR Big Sky

2022 Outdoor Fun

For more information see flyers at ullr.org

Jan. 25, Thur., Gale Woods Farm, 10:30; SS with Bill Brechtel. (See p 6)

Feb 2, Fri., Richardson Nature Center, SS/XC/Hike with Sharon Marini. RSVP by Jan. 31. (See p. 8)

Feb. 6-8, Tue.-Thur., XC/SS Nine Mile Forest; SS Rib Mountain State Park- both in Wausau, Wisconsin with Nancy Sand. (See p.5)

Feb. 9, Fri., Lebanon Hills by Candlelight; 6:30 pm; Hike, Walk, SS, XC with Nancy Sand. (See p. 4)

Feb. 19, Mon., Lake Ann Park; 10:30; SS with Bill Brechtel. (See p. 8)

Feb. 25, Sun., Eastman Nature Center, 1:00 pm; SS/ XC/ Hike with James Habeck. (See p. 8)

December 2023 was the warmest on record in Minneapolis with 26 days above 32°. Forecast by Paul Douglas on Jan.2, 2024: "30's and a few 40's in late January and February. Less snow than average, maybe a lot less." **Contact the event leader to know if happening.**

ULLR General Meeting January 11, 2024

New location, the VFW in Richfield.

6715 Lake Shore Dr S, Richfield, 55423.

(South of W. 66th St., west of Lyndale Av. S.)

The VFW is directly across from the Wood Lake Nature Center.

Lunch at 1:00 pm. Choose from 6 entrees & non-alcoholic beverages, \$20.00 includes tax and tip. Optional: soup plus beverage, \$6.00 includes tax and tip. Please have the exact cash or a check made out to VFW, not ULLR. You are invited to come and to bring a guest.



2:00 Socializing; 2:30 meeting.

Jan. 11 A return visit from Mike Henry, this time with **music from over 100 of the top tunes from the 40's and 50's.** Along with the music he shares pictures and stories about

some of the artists and songs. For some Ullrs, clips from these songs might bring back some wonderful memories. Come and bring a friend.

ULLR General Meeting Programs in 2024

Feb. 8 Social Time. Bring a game to play.

March 14 "Mount Rushmore: The Carving of an Icon"

The speaker is David Jones.

More than 2 million people each year visit Mount Rush-



more in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Fourteen years, four hundred workers, 450,000 tons of rock, nearly one million dollars. Those are some of the statistics behind

the carving of Mount Rushmore. The story is even more interesting. *[Rescheduled from Oct.]*

April 11 **Minnesota State Parks** presented by new members, Jared and Melinda Hoke, who have visited all 66 of them. The DNR website says there is an average of 9,857,793 visitors to Minnesota state parks each year. An average of 1,049,382 visitors camp overnight each year. Come and share a state park story.

May 9 **Foundation Bingo**

Membership Directory Folding Party

Fifteen Ullrs gathered at the home of ULLR Jan B. on December 11 to prepare the November 2023 ULLR Membership Directory for mailing. The group enjoyed lunch together. Host Jan B. provided beverages and a delicious Cavatini pasta hotdish, which was perfect for this early-winter time of the year. ULLR participants brought appetizers, salads and desserts to share.

Folding Party Coordinator Nancy S. organized everyone to prepare 135 directories for mailing. This included attaching mailing labels and stamps, folding the directories, and taping the directories shut for mailing. The work crews were efficient and quickly completed all the tasks.

Like any ULLR gathering, conversation flowed. Three of the participants (Lori W., Lana D., and Joan H.) had not previously attended a Membership Directory Folding Party, so those who had been in the ULLR Club in its early years shared stories of the process for getting the directories ready to mail to 1,000+ members. They also talked about what the early directories looked like when documents like that were produced using typewriters. Everything had to be re-typed when it was time to update the directory. Today's computers allow us to simply insert or delete information from our database.

With the holidays and the new year approaching, conversations also flowed regarding people's plans for the holidays and winter travel. Our wishes for each other included happy holidays and safe travels.

[Thanks Nancy Sand for your organizing and mailing work, this story and photos.]



"Twins" Jan S tapes directories shut while host Jan B finally has time to relax and eat.



John V, Ken M, Lori W, Charlotte N, John S, Wayne J, and Lana D are neatly folding the directories in half so all edges are even.

HIKE/WALK - CROSS COUNTRY SNOWSHOE BY CANDLELIGHT

At Lebanon Hills Friday, February 9, 2024



Enjoy Lebanon Hills Regional Park by flickering candlelight. A variety of cross-country ski, snowshoe, hiking and walking trails, and distances, will be lit with hundreds of candles. Warm up with hot cocoa and crackling

bonfires. Cocoa provided. **Admission for the event is \$8/Person. Register online.** Go to the Trails by Candlelight event page to register and pay and for information and updates **including cancellations due to weather.** Ski and snowshoe rental are available. **To register and pay,** do a

Google search for Dakota County Parks and select the Dakota County Parks page.

Click on: Programs & Events, Calendar of Public Programs, February 2024 calendar, then select the February 9th event.

MEET AT 6:30 PM ON FEB. 9 AT THE LEBANON HILLS MAIN VISITOR CENTER

860 Cliff Road, Eagan, MN

Please notify Nancy Sand you plan to come
(h) 952-435-5225 (c) 763-280-2600



Buck Hill

Kate Casserly reported that a few hearty skiers decided to try "spring" skiing at Buck Hill in Burnsville on Wednesday, Dec. 20. Some snow was crunchy but there was enough powder during their brief Early Bird, \$20 for 2 hours, session.

Mostly it was a good time with her fellow ULLR buddies. Here's hoping for some better skiing weather soon.

December 2023 Directory Updates

Keep this in your blue November 2023 ULLR Membership Directory. *These monthly Updates are not cumulative, keep all of them. Updates printed in the on-line Nullr list only names. Updates are emailed to ULLR members.*

CORRECTION OF EMAIL ADDRESS:

Dennis Griffin, Karen Hemmingson, Lois Laitinen

REMOVE LISTING FOR PHONE LAND LINE: Joan Roe

DIRECTORY ADDITION: Joe Bailey

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS!

Alisa Brown, Barbara Crone, Cecily Harris, and Chris Sather

Join us at Good Ol' Days Family Resort in Nisswa in 2024

Monday-Thursday, June 3-6,
Signup deadline is March 1

Bike the Paul Bunyan Trail and/or Golf, walk, shop, read, fish, swim, relax, kayak, zipline, do nothing!

\$268.00 for Lodging Monday to Wednesday nights and Welcome party Monday eve. • Dinner Tuesday evening— Taco bar and dessert provided, bring your own **appetizers and beverage.**

Good Ol' Days Resort has beautiful 2 or 3 bedroom condos with 2 baths, twin or queen beds, fully furnished kitchens. Lodge rooms have 2 queen beds, bath, microwave and frig. 2 people per lodge room. For more information, see website:

www.goodolddaysresort.com

Co-Chairs: Kathy Lucas; 952-836-4723;

klucas.potter@gmail.com

Kate Casserly; 763-238-6029; casserly1@gmail.com

Check is payable to ULLR Club. Send to:

Kathy Lucas: 14348
Savanna Oaks Drive,
Savage, MN 55378.

Include sign-up form with emergency contact info. Roommate & lodging preferences are first come/ first served on receipt of check.

ULLR Cancellation Policy applies

Ullrs like appetizers!



SINGLES CARD/GAME NIGHTS

Contact Jan Butler about Singles' activities or to volunteer to plan and/or host an event: 952-544-8163 or cartooncat@comcast.net Bring a dish to share, beverage, and any games you would like to play.

Please RSVP to the host!

Friday, January 12, 2024 - 2:00 PM

Host: Char Strand, 952-884-5859
10725 James Road, Bloomington 55431

E-mail / call Jan and volunteer to host parties in 2024. All months, Feb. to Dec., are available.



Needed NOW!

2 additional co-chairs for Lanesboro Aug. 20-22, responsible only for the food. Contact Summer VP

SINGLES' FINE DINING on TUESDAYS in 2024



RSVP to Ellise Lamb by the Sunday before the event.

Send via voicemail to 952-457-8772 or to ellise.lamb@mchsi.com
Arrive at 11:15 a.m.



No January dining event

February 27 at Bloomington Chop House (in Hilton) 3900 American Blvd., Bloomington 55437
952-830-5200 bloomingtonchophouse.com

March 26 at Red Lobster
1951 American Blvd., Bloomington 55431
952-888-8102 redlobster.com

April 23 at Kincaid's
8400 Normandale Lake Blvd.,
Bloomington 55438
952-921-2255 kincaids.com

Granite Peak Wisconsin Trip to Downhill Ski, X-Country / Snowshoe

LODGING: Two nights at Stoney Creek Inn in Rothschild. **A block of rooms is reserved for the ULLR Ski Club. Participants must make and pay for their own room reservations** by contacting the Stoney Creek Inn at 715-355-6858, referencing the ULLR Ski Club, and requesting either a king or double queen room (maximum 2 per room). Total cost for two nights: \$245.16 for Double Queen ; \$214.52 for King

A free hot breakfast is available daily at the hotel. **The hotel will release unreserved rooms on January 13 (new), 2024. After that date, availability and the group rate will not be guaranteed.**

TUE. EVENING GROUP DINNER : The Bar (6-minute walk from hotel.)

On Tuesday and Wednesday, participants will pay for their own meal and beverages.

WED. EVENING GROUP DINNER: Cedar Creek Grill House (across the street from hotel.)

RECREATION OPTIONS WITH EXTRA CHARGE: **Downhill Ski** at Granite Peak where skiers 80+ ski free. **X-Country or Snowshoe** at Nine Mile Forest. **Snowshoe** at Rib Mountain State Park. **Questions? Contact Nancy Sand (LL) 952-435-5225 (C) 763-280-2600 nsand878@gmail.com**

Notify Nancy when you have made your reservation. Mail the signup sheet to Nancy Sand, 15001 Burnhaven Drive #108, Burnsville, MN 55306.

ULLR cancellation policy applies. In case of bad weather or to verify that this event is not cancelled, contact the chair.

Nine Mile Creek Hike by Linda Heintz

I moved the hike from Thursday to Friday because of 20+ MPH winds which on a chilly day can be pretty unpleasant. Is that a first?

We had nine people show up for this hike. We did the upper route which takes us up a steep hill and then down a steep hill. This was made a little treacherous because of ankle deep

leaves. From there we worked our way to the river. We couldn't quite make it as the trail was covered with water. So we turned around and made our way back to the stairs and the parking lot. That turned out to be a good thing since we were all exhausted and achy by the time we got back. Maybe next year we'll need to reconsider the upper portion – OR - maybe run the trip earlier in the year.



Jan S

Nan F

Marcia S

Linda H

Nancy S

Barb K

John S

SKI BIG SKY MAR. 17-23, 2024

Call Kate to join the Wait list.

Included: roundtrip airfare to Bozeman & bus to Big Sky; lodging at Huntley Lodge in the Mountain Village with 2 per room, daily breakfast buffet, ski valet, and luggage handling; Pre-trip Party and Welcome Party; and optional small group dinners.

The trip cost of \$1,993 (Land Only \$1,393)

Due at sign-up \$1300, \$693* due 12/1/23

(* - Final payment subject to change)

Make checks payable to "ULLR Ski Club" and mail or deliver to Kate Casserly, 2525 Byrd Av. N., Golden Valley MN 55422-3818

More information available from:

Maril Barnard, 651-402-0301,

mbarnard3952@gmail.com,

Kate Casserly, 763-238-6029,

casserly1@gmail.com

ULLR Membership and Cancellation Policies Apply

Snowshoe at Gale Woods Farm 10:30am Thursday, January 25, 2024

Snowshoe through scenic wooded trails overlooking Whaletail Lake and past Ancient Burial Mounds. You will be able to choose from several trail options ranging from 1 to 3 miles.

Although it's now winter on the Farm you may still observe some farm animals. See the Farm Store for a variety of meat and poultry products raised right on the Farm.

Meet at 10:30 am at Gale Woods Farm located in western Hennepin County, 7210 County Road 110, Minnetrista. Snowshoes are available online to rent. Several short hills need walking sticks or ski poles. Lunch after snowshoeing at Buddy Boy Fine Barbeque, 8175 MN Highway 7, Minnetrista

RSVP to Bill Brechtel 952-474-5295 (cell).
If weather is not good, call to verify.

SNOWSHOE, HIKE OR CROSS COUNTRY SKI

Friday, February 2 Richardson Nature Center

8738 East Bush Lake Road, Bloomington

Arrive 10:00, Leave at 10:15

Great trails for both snowshoe and cross country skiing. Meet at the east side of the building where there are benches. Bring/wear crampons if you hike and it is icy.

Exit I-494 at Bush Lake Road and go south Turn right at the light onto East Bush Lake Road. Richardson Nature is about a mile and a half on the left.

RSVP by Friday, January 31 to Sharon Marini 952-893-7408; Cell: 612-408-7707

SNOWSHOE AT LAKE ANN PARK

Monday, February 19 Meet at 10:30 am in the parking lot nearest the lake, 1456 West 78th Street, Chanhassen.

We begin snowshoeing at 11:00 am.

Snowshoe scenic wooded trails, ranging from 1 to 2+ miles, overlooking Lake Ann. If you'd rather, hiking boots with Yaktrax chains will work too. Several short hills may need walking sticks or ski poles.

After snowshoeing, join us for lunch and conversation at Brindisi's Pub, 501 West 78th Street, next to the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

RSVP to Bill Brechtel 952-474-5295 (cell)

To verify that the event has not been cancelled, call the event chair.

Cross Country Skiing, Snow Shoe, Hike
Sunday February 25, 2024 Time 1:00 p.m.

Elm Creek Park Eastman Nature Center
Questions? Call James Habeck 763 559 5593

Eastman is located on the north side of The main park. This is not the regular entrance. See the flyer for directions for 3 different routes to the entrance. Stop at Maple Tavern after outing, located on County Rd 81.

Bike Planning Party
Sunday, March 10 at 3 PM

Please come to the bike planning party and bring your ideas for bike rides for the upcoming biking season. A main dish & beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish & \$2.

The party will be at the home of John Stiefel and Patty Fitzgerald, **19595 Near Mountain Blvd., Shorewood, Mn.** See the flyer for directions.

RSVP to 952.470-5411 or 612.743-4565 pattfzjohns@msn.com by March 20th
We are hoping that several of you will be able to lead 2 rides this season.

If you can't make the party, or have a ride you want on the schedule, email us with your ideas and possible dates! (Most rides are on weekdays when the trails and streets aren't as busy.)

Thanks to these members for their planning and event work. You are appreciated!!

November

1, Purgatory Park Hike
Karen Holmquist

7, Carver Park Reserve Hike
Patty Fitzgerald & John Stiefel

10, Nine Mile Creek Hike
Linda Heintz

10, Singles Card & Games
Roz Rockman

13, Bachman's Holiday Ideas
Tour - Kyle McClintick

16, General Meeting
Linda Heintz

21, Singles Dining at Smack
Shack - Ellise Lamb

December

6, Christmas Social Party
Diane Erlandson, Linda Heintz,
Patty Fitzgerald

8, Singles Card & Games
Wendy Campbell

11, Membership directory
Folding Party

Jan Butler & Nancy Sand

12, Honkey Tonk Musical
Kyle McClintick

16, French Regional Park Hike
James Habeck

Cancelled

13, Trollhaugen Ski - no snow!

Honky Tonk Musical by Kyle McClintick

On Tuesday, December 12, nineteen ULLR's attended the Honky Tonk Holiday performance at the Sidekick Theatre in Bloomington. It was a fun way to celebrate the most wonderful time of the

year, with good old-fashioned country Christmas songs as well as holiday tunes with a Nashville twist! In addition, Margo Dinneen and Jon Zoller celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary that day. *[A wide angle photo sometimes produces some unusual wide endings.]*



Pictured left to right: Nancy K, Char S, Pat N, Ken M, Sharon M, Patty F, Margo D, Jan C, Jon Z, Roz R, Barb K, Jan S, Mary Ellen G, Rosie J, Carole N, Ellise L, Barb S, Sharon P, and Kyle M, photographer.



2023
ULLR
Holiday
Party
"We're
Ready."

*Is it
our
turn
next?*

