

Greetings Ski Striders and other outdoor sports enthusiasts!

The Eau Claire Ski Striders vision is to promote and enhance cross-country skiing for youth and adults through family, fun, and fitness.

Why become a member of the Eau Claire Ski Striders?

- As we sustain and increase our membership, we have a bigger voice in maintaining and improving area cross-country trails.
- Your membership fees are used to support our youth ski programs.
- Membership fees offset the cost of grooming, grooming equipment, and the maintenance and development of new trails.
- Your membership fees help provide auxiliary grooming equipment at local cross-country ski areas.
- You will receive Ski O' Grams via email informing you of club news and events.
- 10% discount at Spring Street Sports.
- Huge discounts on ski wax with our annual Toko club order.

#### **Ski Strider news for the 2011-12 season:**

The Ski Striders are planning a memorial to be placed at Hickory Ridge to honor and remember Dave Landgraf, who was a Founder of the American Birkebeiner in 1973 and skied every race. The initial idea is to get a bronze plaque made in his honor and attach it to a beautiful piece of rock quarried from the Hickory Ridge area. In addition to the plaque, Mark Blaskey would metal cut a rendering of Dave skiing that would mount above the plaque. Tax deductible checks can be written out to Eau Claire Ski Striders, and mailed to Mark Blaskey, 2004 E. Wilson Dr, Altoona, WI 54720. Ski Striders sent a card to the Landgraf family describing our wishes for a memorial.

*"It is good to know that you will continue a memorial in Dave's name. Thank you for your contribution to the skiing community Dave loved." Laurie, Emalea, and Cole Landgraf*

**Kickin' Kids:** Help wanted - We want to share the fun!

140, 25 These are some pretty random numbers until you think of 140 smiling, crazy, wild, funny, fast, and determined kids all in one place at the same time. Roughly 25 giving, loving, dedicated, patient, and determined coaches passing on the love of the sport to these kids. Believe it or not I think we will have more kids this year. 25 coaches seem like a lot but it isn't. We have roughly 12 groups and need at minimum 2 coaches per group. The younger kids need a much higher ratio than this. We didn't always have 2 coaches per group last year. We are at yet another turning point in our growth where we may have to cut off the number of kids we can take. Please consider coming out and joining us. Talk to someone who has volunteered, there are lots of them out there. It's a blast! Come share the fun!

Chris Gorzek kickinkids@gmail.com or 715-836-9731

**Chippewa Valley Nordic Update** We had our most active summer ever in the history of our program! About a dozen regular skiers took advantage of the summer training program facilitated by assistant coach Beth Schott. The program met 3 days per week through the summer, worked on improving strength and conditioning, as well as technique through roller skiing. Also, we had a bunch of skiers attending CXC ski camps at Telemark Lodge this summer. The camps ranged from 3 days to 5 days, one being held each of the 3 months this summer. Over a dozen skiers and coaches attended the camps, some attended all 3 camps, some only one, but the skiers all agreed they learned a lot, improved their skiing, and had a great time!

CVN is still a relatively young program, and we are experiencing most success and participation with our middle school program. Our skiers have been working hard, and we have a very competitive middle school boys and girls teams. Some of those skiers are just moving into high school, and joining a few of the high school skiers we have to build on the high school program. I think you will be hearing about our team and skiers this winter, and some individuals have plans to also compete in the Junior Olympic program.

The Chippewa Valley Nordic Ski Team will again be looking forward to the opportunity to develop the skiing skills of middle school and high school aged (grades 5-12) skiers in the Chippewa Valley area. Interested skiers from all schools in the area are welcome to practice, train and compete with the team. The only requirement is that--if you race with the team, you are able to practice a minimum of one day a week with the team. Though it is not necessary to participate in all the races, it is highly encouraged that all skiers in the program work towards participation in competitions and give it a try.

Practices are generally held 4 days a week (M-Th) either at Tower Ridge or at Lowes Creek, with a few races during the week and on selected weekends. Knowing participants are also involved in other activities and sports, attendance is not mandatory, but practices are offered most nights so that skiers can try to fit one or two per week into their schedule.

We will be having an organizational meeting in October for all interested skiers and parents with information on the upcoming season. The date has not been set yet, but if you want to find out when it is, send me an email at my address below or look for an announcement on [ecyouthski.org](http://ecyouthski.org).

CVN is an affiliated and supported program of the Eau Claire Ski Striders and Kickin' Kids youth program. Through the support of these groups, we are able to provide the opportunity for youth to continue skiing beyond the Kickin' Kids program, and provide an opportunity to learn, train and compete with other middle and high school ski programs. All coaching is volunteer and is graciously provided by team parents and Eau Claire Ski Strider club members. Parents also provide all transportation to and from the practice areas (Tower Ridge and Lowes Creek), along with car pooling to the various races around the area.

The program is funded primarily through registration fees, donations, proceeds from the Fridjof Nansen ski race, and support from the Ski Striders. Spring Street Sports has also donated supplies and equipment for waxing. All skiers must provide their own equipment to use at this time, some waxing support is provided for races. The team has a growing need for more suits, wax and waxing supplies, extra ski equipment, and travel expenses. If you or you know a business that would be interested in donating to the program, or sponsorship opportunities, or you are interested in helping coach, please contact me (Ted Theyerl) using the below contact information. As we are an affiliated program of the Ski Striders, all donations are tax deductible. A sincere thanks to all the participants and supporters of the program, we are looking forward to an active and successful season!

Hope to see you on the trails,

Ted Theyerl Coach, Chippewa Valley Nordic Ski Team, P 715-579-0510 theyerlt@uwstout.edu

**N.W. Park update** Last fall, about 4 km of ski trails were constructed at N.W. Park in Eau Claire, largely through the efforts of the Ski Striders. Final tweaking of the trails continue. Sections will be widened and stumps will be ground. The Eau Claire City Parks, Recreation, and Forest has purchased a tracked ATV for grooming. They will be grooming with a new Ginzu groomer purchased with funds from the Ski Striders, Xcel Energy, and the City of Eau Claire. Check your Ski O Grams for future workdays.

**Adult Lessons** There will be adult lessons after Kickin' Kids on Monday, Feb. 6, and Monday, Feb 20. Ski Striders will host a free ski day and lessons in January at Tower Ridge. Our target date is Sunday Jan. 29, but it will depend on the weather, ski conditions, and if the Packers are in the playoffs! Thanks to Vicki Funne Reed and UWEC students for arranging for volunteers, and Arlyn Stertz for organizing snacks and hot chocolate. Contact Vicki at 715-286-2040 if you are able to help with lessons or the free ski day at Tower Ridge.

### **Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Update**

There is a \$5 proposed fee increase for 2012 at Tower Ridge. A fee increase has not occurred since 2007, and Tower Ridge fees are modestly priced when compared to a similar ski area in Wausau. Nine Mile charges \$85 per adult season pass and \$9 for a daily pass. Fee comparisons were done with Nine Mile, Levis Mound and Black River State Forest. We felt a \$5.00 increase was conservative.

Annual pass 1st vehicle: \$60.00 up \$5.00 Annual pass 2nd vehicle or more \$40.00 up \$5.00 No proposed change in the daily fee \$6.00 per vehicle. New this year- Combination Winter Season pass, \$75.00. This pass would include Tower Ridge, Lowes Creek, Evergreen and Coon Fork for the winter season only December 1 through March 30.

The Tower Ridge Winter pass (\$60.00) plus the 12 month Annual Vehicle Recreation pass (\$25.00) for all County Park facilities would cost \$85.00. Please keep in mind the Co. Bd. will not act on 2012 fees until November 15 and 16th. We expect the fee increases to be approved.

**2008-2009 ski season** \$18,976 in expenses \$13,848 in revenue, Daily (\$3169) annuals (\$10,679)

**2009-2010 ski season** \$19,302 in expenses 15,481 in revenue, Daily (\$2732) annuals (\$12749)

**2010-2011 ski season** expenses not available \$20,519 in revenue to date Daily (\$3504) annuals (\$17,015)

### **Special thanks to these Ski Striders:**

John Pedersen our president, Randy Davis our vice-president, Mark Blaskey our treasurer, and Karen Possley our membership coordinator. Tan Konzen does a great job maintaining our website and sending out Ski O Grams. Thanks to Michael Howe for coordinating social events, ski wax, etc., and Barb McDermid for being the snowshoe trail coordinator at Tower Ridge.

**There are lots of other volunteer opportunities!!!** Contact JP at [jpetersen0968@charter.net](mailto:jpetersen0968@charter.net)

Let's also thank Parks and Forest Staff and acting director Mike Torud for their continued dedication in grooming Tower Ridge, Lowes Creek, Coon Fork, and Evergreen County Parks. Another thank you goes out to City of Eau Claire Parks, Recreation, and Forest for grooming at N.W. Park, Fairfax Park, and Carson Park.

**THIS WILL BE THE ONLY PAPER NEWSLETTER FOR THE SEASON.** Please post this newsletter in some prominent place to remind you not only to send in your dues but also to take part in the club activities listed. Be sure and check the webpage for updates.

### **Other scheduled events;**

**Training tips and Wax order Collection** Tower Ridge Sunday 10/2 at 1 PM and Thursday 10/6 at 5:30. See webpage for more details.

**Kick-n-Pick** Saturday October 22, Potluck and Bonfire-- Tower Ridge Ski Trails

2:00 - Hike the trails and help get them ready for the ski season; kick away rocks, pick up fallen branches, trim away intruding brush. Bring clippers, trimmers or anything else that might be useful.

5:00 - Bonfire, brat roast, potluck and membership drive. Bring something to roast on the bonfire and maybe a dish to share. You should also bring your own refreshments :-). Karen (or someone) will be there to collect dues for the year. **BRING A FRIEND TO JOIN THE SKI STRIDERS !!!!!** Our greatest strength is in numbers.

5:00 Joe from Spring Street Sports usually brings a selection of the latest XC ski gear.

**Ski Swap** The Ski Striders 20th annual Ski Swap is set to commence on Saturday Nov. 5th at Spring Street Sports in downtown Chippewa Falls. Bring in your old, unwanted skis, or snowboard gear and we'll sell it for you. We'll help you set the price with 15% of the sale price going to Eau Claire Ski Striders for ski trail development in the Chippewa Valley. You get some cold, hard, cash for your old stuff and help make your community a better place to live.

Between October 15th, and November 4th bring in your equipment for check in. We'll help you set a fair market price and issue you a claim tag. You'll receive 85% of the final sale price. EC Ski Striders receive 15%. All items go on sale Nov. 5th at 9am. No early sales. Unsold items may remain on sale at Spring Street Sports until 01-31-12. Claim tags may be presented for redemption after 11-8-11.

Selecting used equipment on your own can be challenging. We encourage members to attend the Ski Swap so experts can assist you in getting equipment that fits you.

So come in and check out some great deals on used Downhill, Cross Country and Snowboard gear. Also check out Spring Street Sports Pre-Season Ski Sale on great new ski and snowboard gear for the upcoming winter. Spring Street Sports and Eau Claire Ski Striders do not except responsibility of any unclaimed equipment after 1-09-11

Call Joe if you can help on Saturday or Sunday. This is our biggest money-making project for the year and a great way for you and your friends to pick up some great deals.

**Wax Clinic** Thursday Dec. 8 -Wax Clinic (and "skiers social") with Toko clinician and Tech Team member Mike Lundeen, 7 PM Tower Ridge Chalet. Final pick-up of Toko wax orders.

**Adult Lessons** Monday, Feb. 6, and Monday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.

**Fridjtof Nansen** Sunday January 15th – 15km freestyle ski race at Tower Ridge.

**Free ski day at Tower Ridge** Eau Claire County waives the parking fee one day each year. Ski Striders serve as unofficial “hosts” during the day. Target date, end of January.

**Annual Meeting** We will have our annual pot luck meeting at Tower Ridge on Thursday, March 2, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. We will discuss end of year business, and set next year’s calendar

Other events- Watch for a SKI-O-GRAM or check the webpage!!!

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

Membership Application 2011/2012 Ski Season

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children/Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, to be used for

\_\_\_\_\_

Family \$20.00  Single \$15.00

Checks payable to: Eau Claire Ski Striders by January 2012 (please) for this year’s membership

Please send a copy of your membership application along with your payment to:

Karen Possley

18834 76th Ave

Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

I would like an email receipt.