

RASki & Outdoor Club

April 2019

www.raski.ca

More than just a ski club

SNOWPHONE : 613-736-6235

RA SKI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Wednesday, April 17th, 7:00 PM

Where: Outouais room, RA Centre (East end of the building)

Mark April 17th on your calendar! It's our Club's Annual General Meeting.

Your executive worked hard to set up this year's program. You can thank them by coming out to our Annual General Meeting, and volunteering to be on the executive and help plan next year's activities.

- 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.
- Let us know what you did and didn't like this year, and how we can improve
- Hear the reports from each of the executive portfolios.
- Elect the executive for next year. All positions are open for election:
 - Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Membership Chairperson
 - Publicity Chairperson
 - Social Chairperson
 - Downhill Weekend Chairperson
 - Downhill Chairperson
 - Cross Country Chairperson
 - Snowshoe Chairperson
 - Hiking & Cycling Chairperson

Several of the exec are stepping down, so volunteer and help us run our programs next year! Nominate yourself or someone else. Send nominations to: secretary-2020@raski.ca.

RA SKI ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER

When: Saturday April 13th, 6:00 PM

Where: Kanata (Small community centre at 100 Pine Hill)

Directions:

Take Queensway west to Eagleson exit. Turn left onto Eagleson and go south, past Hazeldean Mall, a fire hall, and a Tim Horton's. Turn left onto Stonehaven. At the stop sign after the traffic circle, turn left onto Pine Hill. The Community Centre is on your left after you pass three streets to your left, and has a small parking lot. You can also park on the street.

Come join in a celebration of the ski year just past and of the summer to come. We'll be celebrating with a potluck dinner at our usual location in Kanata. Bring a dish to share, and your own beverages. Guests are welcome.

A survey about RA Ski's past and future activities will be available at the potluck.

YOU MUST LET US KNOW YOU ARE ATTENDING.

Contact me **BY APRIL 7th** and let us know if you are coming and what category of food you'll be bringing (i.e. appetizer, main course, salad, dessert).

I am also looking for people to help set up the room in the community centre. If you can help, please let me know by March 31.

Chuck Bain, Social Chair, social-2020@raski.ca

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Despite the challenges of a very erratic winter, we have enjoyed a very successful season with many downhill, cross country and snowshoe outings proceeding with good participation. Thanks to the chairs and volunteer leaders who made this possible and the great variety of members and friends who participated. The outings will continue for some time after this is written in late March since there is still a good base of snow for spring skiing!

I call your attention to two key activities described elsewhere in this newsletter: The annual pot luck dinner, a great wind up social event, and the Annual General Meeting. This is always an important event in determining the future of the club, and this year, more important than ever. Several long serving executive members have decided to step back, 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. 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.

A WINTER WRAP-UP

We faced yet another challenging winter as the region experienced plus temperatures and huge rainstorms leaving terribly icy conditions behind. Our XC, DH and snowshoe chairs and trip leaders rebounded with alternate day destinations where permitted, postponements when necessary, and add-ins where possible. Congratulations, team! Well done! Both day bus trips were great successes with good turnouts and good skiing. Thanks all who came.

This year we were obliged to work with the RA's new travel partner and experienced growing pains in our dealings. Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange a weekend trip for this winter. I hope this will be resolved for the coming year.

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to Recreation Coordinator Jill Pomeroy, who worked tirelessly to support our programs. Without her efforts, our club would not run nearly as well as it does. Thanks also to Isabelle Da Silva who readies all our communications like this newsletter, posters etc. for publications. She always does a wonderful job.

A big "thank you" for the work of our Executive, 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 Snowboard Club of Ottawa and ask to join in), subscribing to our ski-mails or by checking the Snow Phone at 613-736-6235.



Bill Buck, Chair, chair-2020@raski.ca

CROSS-COUNTRY NEWS

DAY TRIPS

We've certainly had lots of snow this year. It's just too bad it was consistently followed by a thaw, rain then a freeze-up. This year may well go down in Ottawa history as the Year of the Ice! Despite this roller coaster weather, to date we've only had to cancel 8 out of 32 scheduled outings. As always Demsis has done a great job with grooming the trails in Gatineau Park and several of the trails on the Ottawa side were well maintained by groups of local volunteers and sponsors. As of March 17, there is still a good amount of snow so perhaps the blessing in disguise might be some excellent spring skiing.



Feb. 10 – XC skiers at Lusk cabin

We had an excellent record turnout for our Montebello day trip in early March. There were 18 members who came out to ski, snowshoe, walk and dog sled on the grounds of the Chateau Montebello followed by lunch in the chateau restaurant.



Mar. 2 – XC & snowshoe trip to Montebello

Last but not least, a great big shout out of thanks to a wonderful team of trip leaders who made all these outings possible this season.



Dec. 26/18 - Waterfall on the trail from Pink Lake

WEEKEND TRIP – VAL DAVID

This winter saw the club back at The Auberge du Vieux Foyer in Val David. Eighteen members enjoyed truly fantastic conditions from February 15-17! The temperature was just right and the snow was more than ample.

Several people got there early enough on Friday to enjoy the trails. Two skiers were even spied using snowshoes!



Brenda and Jane traded in skis for snowshoes on Friday.

While skiers and snowshoers explored the trails in Parc Dufresne, one downhill skier went to Mont Tremblant. I hear that a few members even explored the shopping in Val David after their snowy exertions. Every scene in the park looked postcard-worthy, with trees covered in snow.

After a full day of outdoor fun on Saturday, several of us relaxed in the hot tub.

Sunday saw everyone back outdoors before heading home.



Enjoying snowy trails at Val David

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

DOWNHILL NEWS

The full Downhill ski program consisted of the mid-week Meet n' Ski program, two one-day bus trips, and was, as usual, topped off with our very popular Weeklong Trip. We were unable to host a Downhill Weekend trip this year as late in the Fall the RA Centre entered into an exclusive contract agreement with Uniglobe travel and in the short time available they were unable to obtain a trip comparatively priced with the other Ottawa ski clubs.



Dec. 15/18 – DH Meet'n'ski at Edelweiss

Most successful was the Weeklong Trip and Jaime will tell you all about that. Not to be outdone, the bus trips were also very successful. The Meet n' Ski program's main success was that few events were cancelled due to poor weather. A new twist was added this year when Bob Cavan re-scheduled one of the dates because of the weather and thereby fulfilled our attempt to maintain the once-a-week schedule. Thanks to Glen for promptly posting the date change so members were able to keep informed of the change. This twist will be incorporated into the program next year along with a publicity push to remind members to check the SnowPhone regularly whenever there is a marginal weather day. Hopefully our members will catch on and adapt accordingly.



**Jan. 10 – Meet'n'Ski at Cascades.
Too cold to take a photo outside!**

I've mentioned that we try to maintain a once-a-week schedule. That may seem to be an expensive undertaking for some people. Actually expenses can be quite reasonable if one goes to the annual Ottawa Ski Show in October where one can pick up 2-for-1 coupons at some of the local ski vendors and also at our own Ski Show in early November, not to mention the half price days at the local hills that we try to include on our MnS schedule, plus the car pooling routine we use to get to the hills which saves even more. Expensive? Bah humbug.

All in all, another good year.
Thank you,

Roger Duffy, Downhill Chair, DH-2020@raski.ca

DAY DH BUS TRIPS

As in past years, we had two day-trips:

- St. Sauveur on Monday, January 14th. Ski conditions were excellent for the 37 downhillers who enjoyed sunny skies.
- Mont Tremblant/Mont Blanc/Domain St. Bernard on Monday March 18th. Thirty-four skiers (XC & DH) and snowshoers participated, under a bright, sunny sky.



Jan. 14 – DH bus trip to St-Sauveur

Both trips had good attendance, well above our break-even number. This is probably due in large part to Bob Cavan, our Membership Chair, making an arrangement with the National Capital Ski Club – their members could come on our bus trips and our members could go on their weekly Tremblant bus trips.



Mar. 18 – Tremblant DH bus – Tremblant skiers



Mar. 18 – Tremblant DH bus trip - Mont Blanc skiers

In the event that we do not do a weekend trip next season, we could consider adding another day trip.

Bill Buck, Chair, DH-2020@raski.ca

WEEKLONG TO ANDORRA

Despite a few hiccups along the way, RASkiers finally left Canada on January 25, on two sets of flights, to explore the previously unknown sectors of Granvalira in Andorra. Unfortunately for flight group 1, none of their skis plus a few suitcases and boot bags didn't land in Barcelona with the group. Eventually, all 49 participants arrived in El Tarter and regrouped in the dining room of the 4-star Hotel Nòrdic for a late meal. Shortly before midnight, the rest of the baggage (save one lonely boot bag) also checked-in and reunited with their owners in the morning, just in time for our first day on the slopes. Ideally located, after our buffet breakfast, we walked out of the hotel ski locker and onto the lift (or skied to the gondola) to start our exploration of the six sectors of the largest ski resort in the Pyrenees.



Hotel Nòrdic Welcome Reception

A recent snow dump of 100 cm or so covered the region but you could tell the difference between natural and snowmaking trails on the first day. Thanks to fresh snowfall most evenings, conditions were very good on all the slopes for the remainder of the week. Fresh and falling daytime snow offered some visibility and skiing challenges for portions of the days, but most will remember the clearer periods, sunshine, and soft piles of new snow.

Many participants took up the challenge to ski from Canillo or El Tarter to Pas de la Casa – a trip across 5-6 valleys! Everyone became very familiar with the Ós and Gall de Bosc trails back to the hotel from Soldeu or the Esquirol from the top of El Tarter (aka the Squirrel to those of us having trouble with Spanish pronunciations!) To complete the full Granvalira experience, one had to cross the last couple of valleys via the stunning panoramic ride of the Funicamp gondola to the Encamp sector!

As well as good food in peak restaurants, there were oven-fired pizza lunches al fresco slope side on sunny days. Après ski at the Champagne bar and visits to the towns of El Tarter (tax free shopping!) and Andorra la Vella filled our days. Pre-buffet dinner hours would find folks hanging out in the common areas (or hanging over interior balconies) searching for WiFi and comparing their day's adventures. In-house après ski occurred regularly upon discovering the 2-for-1 happy hour (and inexpensive prices) at the hotel's Bar & Bowling alley on a lower floor.

After 6 days and 7 nights in Andorra, RASki explored Barcelona for two days. We enjoyed an afternoon-long guided walking tour of the Gothic section where we were left to our own devices to select one of the many restaurants we passed along the way for our evening meal. Many tapas and Sangria were sampled. The final day was open for everyone to explore on their own. Some chose sites of Barcelona while a few visited the Black Madonna at the monastery of Montserrat and were lucky enough to hear the famed boys' choir sing. Most participants boarded flights for a return to Canada on February 4, but a few remained additional days to continue exploring museums, Gaudí's exceptional architectural creations, Barcelona, and surrounding areas.

From all reviews, this trip was a happy success. Looking forward to planning our next trip – where would you like to spend a week in 2020? Have your say in our annual survey or at the AGM.

Jaime Impey, Weeklong Chair, weeklong-2020@raski.ca

SNOWSHOEING

What a winter it's been! The snow came so early this year and I'm proud to say the club's first winter activity was a snowshoe outing at Bruce Pit on November 23rd. We also had a couple early in January but then had to cancel some in mid-January because of the very cold weather and again one in late February due to abominable weather. But despite all that, we have been able to have a total of 12 outings this year. This has been record-breaking for snowshoeing!

The highlight of them all was the weekend we went to Val David. There was so much snow when we arrived and it continued to snow overnight. The next two days were beautiful sunny days, not too cold and perfect snow conditions.



Val David snowshoers

Around Ottawa we have had fairly good conditions all season with only one being kind of icy but still enjoyable. In the past years, our last outing was early March, but this year I was even able to schedule an extra one in mid-March. Our outings took us various places in the Greenbelt, Calabogie, Val David, Mont Cascades, Montebello and our grand finale was at beautiful Domaine St-Bernard in the Laurentians.

Several new members joined in for snowshoeing this year and hopefully everyone will return next year for more fun in the snow. Now we can look forward to hikes, cycling, a bit of golfing and other summer activities to keep us active and socializing. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a fun season in the snow.



Doris Dallaire, Snowshoe Chair, snowshoe-2020@raski.ca

SOCIAL

The official social start of last year was the pub night following the AGM on April 25th.

We celebrated the end of the ski season with our annual potluck dinner in Kanata on April 14th, with about 30 attendees who shared a great variety of food.

In June and again in August we cheered on the Ottawa Champions baseball team.



June and July 2018 – Watching a Champions baseball game

We attended two excellent plays put on by the Phoenix Players, “Stage Kiss” in March, and “Penultimate problem of Sherlock Holmes” in November. The Company of Fools entertained us again outdoors in Brantwood Park this year with “Twelfth Night” on July 26th. Unfortunately, the play was rained out part way through the first act, so we never found out who killed Caesar. Then a group saw Odyssey Theatre’s production of “Lysistrata and the Temple of Gaia” in Strathcona Park on August 15th.



Aug./17 – Odyssey Theatre “Lysistrata and the Temple of Gaia”

RA SKI POTLUCK DINNER

Sat. Apr. 13, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Pine Meadows Community Centre at 100 Pine Hill Drive, Kanata. See page 1 for all the details.

AND MORE...

We are still lining up more:

- * Theatre-in-the-park
- * Baseball
- * Golf
- * Winterlude event

Keep checking the RA Ski website, Facebook, or sign up for our Ski-Mail e-mails to keep up with events as they are added.

Chuck Bain, Social Chair, social-2020@raski.ca

HIKING

LAST YEAR’S HIKING SEASON

In 2018, we started the season in April with an urban hike around Vanier, followed by a Greenbelt hike in Stony Swamp. In September, we hiked around Mud Lake, Carbide Mill, Skyline, the Lauriault Trail, Morris Island, and Nepean Sportsplex. Sadly several Gatineau hikes were cancelled due to weather.



Oct. 25 – Morris Island

2019 HIKING SCHEDULE

This year we have some great hikes planned.

- * Sun. Apr. 7 – Eardley
- * Sat. Apr. 20 – urban hike – destination TBD
- * Sun. Sept. 1 - Lusk Falls
- * Wed. Sept. 4 – Easy hike – meet at the Ron Kolbus Centre in Britannia Park to hike Mud Lake
- * Thurs. Sept. 19 - P11 to Carbide Mill
- * Thurs. Sept. 26 - Keogan to Western
- * Thurs. Oct. 3 – Pink Lake
- * Wed. Oct. 9 - meet at P7 Kingsmere to hike Skyline -
- * Wed. Oct. 16– McCloskey
- * Thurs. Oct. 24 – Easy hike – meet at the Ron Kolbus Centre in Britannia Park to carpool to Morris Island Conservation Area
- * Sat. Nov.2 – Wolf Trail
- * Sat. Nov.9 - Lauriault Trail
- * Wed. Nov.13 - P7 to Keogan – meet at P7 Kingsmere to hike to Keogan

Please check the RA Ski Club website, SnowPhone and Ski-Mail for updates and for news of more upcoming hikes.

If you have suggestions for other hiking dates or destinations, please contact me.



Oct. 17/18 – Hiking the Lauriault trail

Maureen Adamache, Hiking & Cycling Chair
hikes-2020@raski.ca

CYCLING

As all RASki members are aware we are MORE THAN JUST A SKI CLUB, and part of our varied program is cycling.

However there is a difference. A cycling club is often composed of keeners riding super lightweight bicycles while wearing the approved 'uniform' of skin tight multi labelled polyester tees, the latest in cycling shorts, clip on shoes/pedals, gloves, helmets and who knows what all. Our biking club is way more casual than that. Cycling shorts, helmets and hybrid and occasionally electric bikes are us.



May 16/18 – Cycling to Dow's Lake to see the tulips

Our goal as a club is to enjoy the ride, not to race. The tempo is geared to getting some exercise at a comfortable pace, something suitable for everyone.



Aug. 11 – Refreshments on the bike ride to Aylmer

LAST SEASON

In 2018, we enjoyed 9 bike rides, including a ride from Perth to Murphy's Point, and an overnight along the Thousand Islands Parkway, with stops at the pub in Rockport, dinner at the Glen House Resort, and a private guided tour of the Arthur Child Heritage Museum in Gananoque.



Cycling at 1000 Islands

RA SKI CLUB 2019 CYCLING SCHEDULE

This year we have some exciting new destinations. Meeting point is the west wing of the RA Centre at 9:45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. departure, unless otherwise noted. We are also considering another overnight trip to the Lachine Canal in Montreal in September.

- * **Wednesday. May 15** - RA to Dow's Lake. Meet RA west wing
- * **Saturday May 18** – Roddle – meet Burritt's Rapids locks
- * **Thursday June 6** – Perth to Murphy's Point
- * **Saturday June 15** – meet at Bate Island to cycle to Shirley's Bay (stop in Britannia afterwards for refreshments)
- * **Saturday June 22** - RA to Lac Leamy – Meet RA west wing
- * **Thursday July 4** – Meet Richcraft Rec Centre, Kanata to cycle to Alice's Café in Carp (21 km round trip)
- * **Thurs. July 11** – Meet at Bate Island to cycle to Lac Leamy. Lunch at Les Brasseurs du Temps pub
- * **Saturday July 20** – meet in Kanata to cycle to Quitter's Café in Stittsville
- * **Thursday August 1** – St Lawrence River bike path
- * **Saturday August 10** – meet at Moussette Park to cycle to Aylmer
- * **Sunday August 18** – meet at Moussette Park to cycle to Old Chelsea
- * **Thursday August 29** - Marshes Golf Course to Pinhey's Point Historic Site
- * **Saturday Sept. 7** – meet at Green's Creek Sliding Hill to cycle to Petrie Island
- * **Saturday Sept. 14** – meet at Andy Haydon Park to cycle to Stittsville Quitters Café
- * **Saturday Sept. 21** (to be confirmed) – meet at RA west wing to cycle to Governor General's "Savour Fall" at Rideau Hall
- * **Saturday Sept. 28 – Sunday Sept. 29** (to be confirmed) – overnight to Montreal's Lachine Canal

Please check the RA Ski Club website, SnowPhone and Ski-Mail for updates and for news of more upcoming cycling events.

If you have suggestions for other cycling dates or destinations, please contact me.



Sept. 8/18 – Cycling to Petrie Island

Maureen Adamache, 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: (Unfortunately you now need a Yahoo account.)

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.



July 7 – Crossing Hartwell locks on the way to Mousette Park

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

SOCIAL MEDIA & SNOWPHONE UPDATES

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

- **SnowPhone** 613-736-6235. The SnowPhone gives you last-minute status, changes and additions to our trips.
- **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. 6 – XC ski trip to Pink Lake



Jan. 3 – XC skiers relaxing at Lusk cabin



Jan. 2019 – Taking a break at Andorra



Jan. 15 – XC skier at Huron lookout



Feb. 28 – At Huron cabin



Jan. 23 – Snowshoers on the Jack Pine trail



Mar. 2 – Dog sledding at Montebello



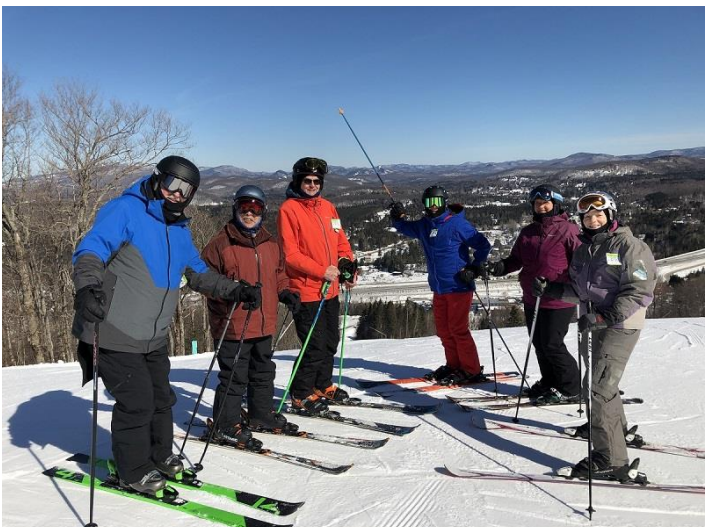
Jan. – Weeklong trip to Andorra



Mar. 2 – Snowshoeing at Montebello



Jan. 13 – XC skiers at Huron cabin



**Mar. 19 – Day bus-trip to Mont Blanc.
Six of the “Magnificent Seven”**



Oct. 14/18: Hiking the Skyline trail, view from Heggveit run