

RASki & Outdoor Club

April 2024
More Than Just a Ski Club

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

www.raski.ca

RA SKI ANNUAL CLUB MEETING & COUNCIL ELECTIONS

When: Wed. May 1, 7:00-8:30 PM

Where: RA Centre, Courtside A (east end of the building)

Attendees: Please email membership-2020@raski.ca for the supporting documents

Your Council worked hard to set up this season's programs.. 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.

This year we have a special guest speaker!

- **Guest Speaker: Canadian Ski Hall of Fame cross-country skier Dave Dyer** *"What it takes to host a cross-country ski World Cup Race"*



Dave Dyer – Canadian Ski Hall of Fame

- 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 Council for next year. All positions are open for election:
 - * Chairperson
 - Vice-Chair & weeklong coordinator
 - Secretary
 - * Treasurer
 - Membership Chairperson
 - Publicity Chairperson
 - * Social Chairperson
 - * Downhill Weekend Chairperson
 - Downhill Chairperson
 - * Cross Country co-Chairperson(s)
 - Hiking & Cycling Chairperson
 - *Vacant
- See photo highlights of our activities over the past year. You're probably in one of the photos.

Several of the Council members 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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE (VICE) CHAIR

Another erratic winter passed, with a roller-coaster of temperature highs and low, but we have enjoyed a successful - if shortened - season with downhill and cross-country outings throughout January to March. I would like to express thanks to the Council chairs and volunteer leaders who made this possible, and to you, the members and friends who participated.

In the next 3-4 weeks, be aware of two key activities recently published in Ski-Mail and on Facebook: The Pot Luck Dinner, a great season wind up social event on April 13, and the Annual Club Meeting on May 1.

The end-of-season Pot Luck returned last year after an absence of 3 years, and all available spaces were snapped up! Contact Louise Cameron at xc-2020@raski.ca and to tell her what you plan to bring - appetizer, main course, side dish, salad, dessert.

The Annual Club meeting is always an important event in determining the future of the Club. 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 to the Club. 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.

Our 2024 weeklong was a sold-out success, received rave reviews, and we are already looking at choices for 2025. We are hoping for a European destination since there seems to be an appetite to travel. However, we will keep a Canadian resort in our back-pocket in case the price sticker shock has increased since 2023-2024 estimates! Anticipated travel will occur between the last week of January and the first week of February.

The Club Council 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 cycling 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
weeklong-2020@raski.ca

CROSS-COUNTRY 2023-24 WINTER

Day Trips

The cross-country ski day trips were supposed to start on December 16, and finally got underway on January 14. Eight of the 22 planned day trips went ahead (and one of those became a hike), with cancellations due to poor weather conditions or lack of snow. The group sizes ranged from 4 to 12 participants per outing. Our final official outing was on February 24.



Jan. 20 – XC ski to Pink Lake

For next season, let us know your favorite routes, or trails that you have always wanted to try (including those outside of Gatineau Park and the city) and if you are willing to lead any day trips. Also, we would appreciate feedback about whether to meet up at the RA Centre to facilitate car-pooling, or to continue to meet at the trail heads.



Jan. 14 – Taylor Lake ski

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 C, Les, Gillian, Michael, Alyson and Elmer, and Jane H for being willing to lead our day trips.



Jan. 14 – Taylor Lake ski, stop at Renaud cabin

WEEKEND TRIP – FAR HILLS INN

RA skiers returned to Far Hills Inn this February 14-16 for a mid-week, multi-day trip. Twenty-five of us enjoyed each other’s company and some outdoor activities.



Feb. 14 – 16 – Hikers at Far Hills

Ski conditions were not very good and only a few of us put on our skis for, perhaps, shorter than usual skis. Most of us enjoyed fantastic walking conditions on some of the snowshoe trails where we were treated to great views and even a pileated woodpecker! No snowshoes were needed, but cleats worked well! A few people did head out to Le Petit Train du Nord and skied! A light snow on Thursday night did improve conditions on some of the trails.



Feb. 14-16 – RA Skiers at Far Hills

Dinners were served in a large dining room and were delicious. Despite the poor ski conditions, it was an enjoyable time.



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

DOWNHILL NEWS

As I look out my window the first week of April, I see more snow on the ground than most of February & March !!



Dec. 15 Camp Fortune - First DH ski of the season

When returning from our weeklong trip to Banff in early February, I recall seeing the bare ground and telling other club members that we would likely not be skiing past March 1 and yet, despite no snow in town, downhill ski conditions in the month of March were as good as it gets.

While snow depth was a challenge on some runs, all ski hills were able to keep the ski season going right up to the last week of March, and our downhill club members enjoyed every day we went out with some of the best weather conditions in years.



Feb. 14 - Edelweiss

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.

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.



Jan. 19 – Tremblant bus trip

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New this year was a Tremblant ski bus initiative that enabled RA Ski members to join our friends at the Bytown Ski Club at bargain rates. Three trips were successfully run, and we hope to continue this initiative in the future.

This was a win-win for both clubs, as the RA Ski Club helped fill their bus, and the Bytown Ski Club got to park their cars in the RA’s lot, as well as meet at the RA.



Mar. 8 – Camp Fortune

While the pre-Christmas downhill schedule had to adjust to a late season start, our day trips afterwards made up for it.



Feb. 21 – “Pop-up Ski” at Camp Fortune

Altogether, including our Fortune Fridays and “Pop-up” days, we had 22 day-outings from the start of the season to April 1, when weekday skiing ended.



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.

RA SKI ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER

Celebrate the coming of spring at our annual potluck dinner.

WHEN: Saturday April 13
gathering at 5:30 p.m. (eat at 6:15)

WHERE: 1081 Ambleside Dr. (Ambleside 1) Party room
Bring a dish to share, and your own beverages. Attendees are asked to throw a 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.
Due to the size of the room, there is a limit of 35 people.
Contact Louise Cameron at xc-2020({at})raski.ca and let us know what you plan to bring - appetizer, main course, side dish, salad, dessert.

BASEBALL

- **Friday June 28 – Baseball**, Ottawa Titans. 6:30 p.m. at RCGT park, Coventry Road. Fireworks after the game.
- **More baseball:** Dates TBD.



June 30/23 - Watching a baseball game



June 30/23 - Ottawa Titans baseball

GOLF

- Date(s) TBD



Aug. 12/23 – Golfing at Anderson Links

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.



July 14/23 – Company of Fools “Hamlet”

- **Odyssey Theatre** – The play is always a lot of fun, and takes place in Strathcona Park along the Rideau River. Date TBD (mid-July to late August.)



Aug. 2023 - Odyssey Theatre production “The Miser”

HIKING & CYCLING

Hello RA Ski Club Members! After a banner year of 34 hike and bike outings in 2023, the RA Ski Club is gearing up for another successful hike and bike outing season. My thanks to all our generous volunteer leaders who have stepped up to lead a hike or bike outing this spring...we couldn't provide these recreational opportunities to our members without your input. If you would like to lead a hike or bike outing over the summer or into the fall, please get in touch.



Oct. 12/23 – Hike to Shilly Shally cabin

***** Members, please be sure to let the hike/bike leader know you are coming by registering at hikes-2020@raski.ca.

We ask that you be on time and dress appropriately for the weather. A bike helmet and water are essential. Your leader will indicate whether a picnic or restaurant lunch is involved. Finally, be sure to check the RA Ski Facebook page the day/evening before the outing for any possible cancellations or change in destination due to weather. Above all, enjoy!

HIKING

Thurs. March 28th – 10:30 a.m. Brantwood Park (east off Main St., end of Clegg St.) Hike south along the river. Leader: Louise Cameron

Sat. April 6th – 10:30 a.m. Meet at west side of Supreme Court building for an urban hike along the Ottawa river; we will cross at William Commanda Bridge. Leader: Louise Cameron

Wed. April 10th – 11 a.m. Dalton Farm & Three Covered Bridges Loop 6.6 km.
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rRc7DihQUHc2RtpU8> . Meet at 199 Montée Dalton, Gatineau at 11 a.m. Leader: Bob Cavan

Thurs. April 18th – HIKE 10:30 a.m. CentrepoinTE Park to Craig Henry Loop – Lunch at Dumpling restaurant (Chinese). Leaders: Diane Law & Rob Christie

Thurs. April 25th – HIKE – 11 a.m. Madahoki Farm to Lime Kiln Ruins – 9.3 km. – Meet at Madahoki Farm - 4420 Hunt Club Rd. Visit Farm and Gift Shop after hike. Leader: Bob Cavan.
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jtjew3KvxAgm2bqZA>

Wed. May 1 – 10 a.m. Poets' Pathway Stage 3: Simply Biscotti, Colonnade to Moose McGuire's Pub, McCarthy Road - Meet 10 a.m. at Moose McGuire's. Distance: approx. 7 kms. Lunch or coffee at Moose McGuire's. Leader: Chris Hayes. Car Pooling involved - details provided to registered participants. Ticks and narrow, rough trails possible when hiking through a forested area.
<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/42588892>

Friday, May 3rd – 11 a.m. Meet at Britannia Trolley Station – We will hike to MUD Lake or take Bike Path to Andrew Haydon Park. Lunch at Beachconer's Café. Leader – Jane Maxwell

Wed. May 8th – 10:30 a.m. Rockcliffe Rockeries & Great Canadians/Beechwood Cemetery Tour – 7.4 km. Meet at P3 parking lot, Sir George Etienne Parkway. Coffee at NCC River House afterwards. Leader: Bob Cavan -
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/421T3XYUEWR4BAZU8>.

Sat. May 18th Long weekend - 10 a.m. VISIT to Governor-General's Residence – Meet at 10 a.m. at Glen Campbell's home. Lunch at Tavern on the Falls. Leader: Glen Campbell.

Wed. May 22 - Poets' Pathway Stage 5: - 10 a.m. Grasshopper Hill Park, 1609 Kilborn Ave to Rideau Sports Centre, 1 Donald Street - Meet at Rideau Sports Centre at 10 a.m. Distance: approx. 7 kms. Lunch or coffee at Rideau Sports Centre. Leader: Chris Hayes. Car pooling involved - details provided to registered participants. <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/42593931>

CYCLING

Tues. May 14th – 10:30 a.m. Meet in Carleton Place in parking lot, across from Freshco at 92 Lansdown Ave for a bike outing along the Trans Canada Trail to Almonte. Lunch at a restaurant in Almonte and then bike back. Distance - 21 km. Leader: Bill Danson.

Sat. May 18th (rain date Sun. May 19th) – 10:30 a.m. Burritts Rapids Lock Station to Merrickville. Meet at Lock Station to explore Merrickville. Bring picnic lunch. Leader: Roger Duffy.

Wed. June 5th – 10:30 a.m. Hog's Back Park Pavilion to Rideau Falls on Sussex Drive. Destination - lunch at Tavern on the Falls. Leader: Wendy Cram

Thurs. June 13th – (rain date Frid. June 14th) 10:30 a.m. Moussette Park to Aylmer Marina. Meet in Moussette Park parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Leader: Chris Hutton.

Sat. June 22nd - 10:30 a.m. Andrew Haydon Park to Shirley's Bay. Bring picnic lunch. Leader: Jane Maxwell

Wed. June 26th – 10:30 a.m. Marshes Golf Course to Pinhey's Point, 320 Terry Fox Drive, Kanata.
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/nGJjn2CR9L4kodqL6>. Leader: Bob Cavan

Fri. July 19th – A new ride along the St. Lawrence River that is sure to please everyone. Details will be posted on July 2nd. Leader: Roger Duffy

Sat. Aug. 3rd – 12 noon From Ingleside to Long Sault along the Waterfront trail (St. Lawrence River). Leave from Catherine's home (50 St. Lawrence Dr., Ingleside) to Long Sault Marina for a picnic and swim (13 km. each way). Return to Catherine's home for drinks and dinner. Leader: Catherine McGregor.

Wed. Aug. 14th – 10:30 a.m. Bate Island to Aylmer Marina or further for those who wish. Bring a picnic lunch. Leader: Wendy Cram

Wed. Aug. 21st – 10:30 a.m. Richcraft Rec Centre, Kanata to KIN Winery in Carp – 24 km. Leader: Bob Cavan. Meet at Richcraft Rec. Centre – 4101 Innovation Drive, Kanata.



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

Recent downhill, cross-country, hiking & biking trip reports 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.


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



Sept. 16/23 – Lauriault trail

SOCIAL MEDIA 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



June 3/23 – Governor-General's residence & greenhouses



Aug. 13/24 Golf – 9th hole at Anderson links



Aug. 16/23 – Cycling to Almonte



Aug. 18/23 – Cycling to Rideau Falls



Sept. 13/23 – Cycling to Aylmer marina



Feb. 2024 – Banff weeklong – Skiing at Lake Louise



Oct. 26/23 – Hike to Lusk cabin



Feb. 2024 – Banff Weeklong



Jan. 31 – Hike at Mer Bleu



Feb. 2024 – Banff weeklong – On the bus



Feb. 2024 – Banff Weeklong – skiing at Sunshine



Feb. 6 – Ottawa Heritage East trail



Feb. 14-16 – Midweek at Far Hills Inn



March 22 – Fortune Friday



Feb. 21 – XC at Leitrim Road – Final XC ski of the season



March 28 – Hike Ottawa East



March 15 – Fortune Friday



March 29 Camp Fortune – Final DH ski of the season



March 21 – Hike on Lauriault trail



Apr. 6 – Hike to Chief Commanda Bridge