



MAASTO HIIHTO AND CHURNING RAPIDS TRAILS NEWS

WINTER 2016-17

Upcoming Events

Candle Luminary Ski
Monday 12/26/16, 6 PM
Chalet

Enjoy a candle lit evening to celebrate the holidays with family and friends on the Maasto Hiihto ski trails. This **fun, free event** is for the whole family, including the kids whether they are on skis or in pulks. Don't leave the 4-legged family members home! Everyone is welcome at Maasto. For folks who don't ski, you may snow shoe or snow bike. Afterwards, head to the Chalet to warm up with light snacks and good cheer.

Retro Ski
Sunday 2/5/17, 12:30
Tomasi Trailhead

Head out for some fun backcountry skiing! Bring your wood skis, bamboo poles, knickers and wool clothing if you have it but if you don't, don't let that stop you from joining the group. All skiers are welcome regardless of ability or equipment. This is a **free** event.

10th Annual Barneløpet ("kid's race")
Sunday 2/12/17 2:00

Kids! Join us for a fun day of skiing at Hancock's Maasto Hiihto trails. When you complete the course, you'll be awarded a medallion and be served hot chocolate and cookies to celebrate. Parents are invited to ski with their kids. This **free** event is sponsored by Portage Health Foundation.

9th Annual Glide N Gorge
Saturday 3/4/17, 12:00
Chalet

This year's Glide will again be on the **Saturday** of Copper Dog weekend. Come on out for great fun and better eats from **noon until 3pm**. Over the 3.5 mile course, you'll experience some of the most spectacular scenery our trail system has to offer, with plenty of delicious eats along the way.

4TH ANNUAL-BRIDGE JAM A SUCCESS!

On Saturday December 3rd, the Orpheum Theater in Hancock hosted bands Chirp and Uncle Floyd for our listening pleasure. In addition to this feast for the ears, KNSC President Jay Green treated us to a special message. A new era of trail improvements are on the way for Maasto!



Many thanks to many folks who made the **Jam** happen...

Uncle Floyd and **Chirp**, for donating time and talent
Mike & Joelle Shupe for hosting 4 Jams to date!
Jamie Berger for recruiting Chirp and emcee duties
Sarah and Scott Kuhl for managing the slide show
Nisa Shamshun for creating promo posters and handouts
Jim Hertel for printing tickets
And many others who helped in many ways!

KNSC President Jay Green announces Capital Campaign; donors



Did you know? KNSC invested in a complete website overhaul a year ago. Today, it is your go-to place for trail and club news, events, and information. Our groomers also maintain a blog to keep us updated on the most current trail conditions. Add your address to the blog's "follow by email" to have the newest reports sent right to your inbox.

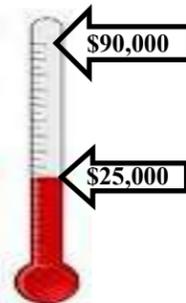
While the Bridge Jam's music was well worth the ticket price, the highlight of the evening was Jay Green's speech, given during intermission. KNSC's members and supporters listened intently as Jay explained how the Middle Bridge project of 2015 required rental of a tractor and borrowing a back blade plus a small backhoe. While in the process of making trail repairs needed for installing the bridge, we saw the potential of owning these kinds of tools. The end result of that project shaped a 5-Year Vision, of which the #1 priority is repairing the trails for earlier and later grooming. High on the list, too, is replacing Sisu Bridge. Lofty goals require equally high fund raising...which is how the Capital Campaign was born.

- The campaign is off to a great start— pledges to date would cover the Sisu Bridge project, minus needed equipment
- A tractor, loader, and backhoe are needed to install the bridge
- A tractor, back blade, rock ripper are needed for trail smoothing for earlier grooming
- A tractor/loader, backhoe are needed for improving drainage for earlier and later grooming
- This is all possible, with your generous help!

Visit us at KeweenawNordic.org
Buy a pass at KeweenawNordic.org
Donate at KeweenawNordic.org
Check upcoming events at KeweenawNordic.org
See updated grooming reports at KeweenawNordic.org

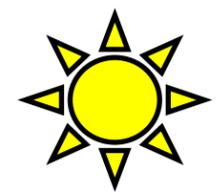


P.O. Box 564
 Hancock, MI 49930



KNSC Capital Campaign

First Class Postage



Help turn up the heat!

PLEASE DONATE!





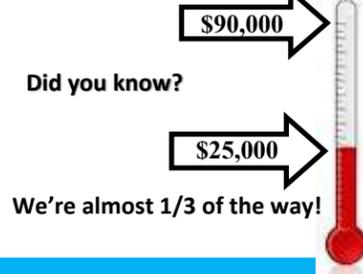
KNSC Enters New Era of Trail Improvements

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow...a work in progress

Over the last few years most of the work at Maasto Hiihto-Churning Rapids has focused on bridge replacement and repair, and trail brushing. The Middle Bridge was rebuilt to DEQ standards. Even smaller bridge upgrades such as the improvements at the Spring Creek bridge done this summer will improve skiability plus safety for our groomers. Raising this little bridge also improves environmental quality when the creek is flowing out of its banks during snowmelt. The bridge at the base of Sisu Hill is slated for replacement in 2017.

What is next? The new era of trail improvements will focus on system wide trail leveling. Many parts of the trail have an uneven surface that makes early season grooming impossible; leveling the trail so that the ski season can be extended is a key priority. In places, trail improvements will require constructing board walks or adding culverts to eliminate the wet spots which delay the start of grooming and hasten its end. Our goal is to retain snow on the trail, while maintaining the natural drainage patterns. Some sections of trail will be relocated to more scenic stretches.

"Our skiers would like to see an earlier start to our grooming season, but the trails are so rough, we need much more snow than the other local trails to get started." - Chief of Trails Arlyn Aronson



TRAIL REPAIR WISH LIST



Compact tractor with loader and backhoe
Needed for Sisu Bridge replacement



Clam shell bucket for moving debris, rocks



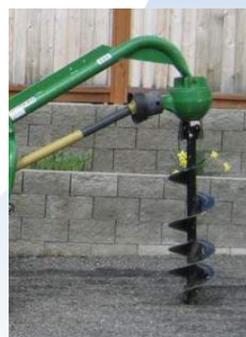
Back blade for smoothing



Rock and stump remover



Rough cut mower



Hole auger for installing signs, posts, fences

Drumroll, please: Announcing our Capital Campaign champions!

The Keweenaw Nordic Ski Club has kicked off its capital campaign with a local family's significant donation toward the cost of replacing the Sisu Bridge in the Swedetown Creek Gorge. **David Meyers**, a 1944 graduate of Chassell High School and now a resident of Port Richey, Florida, along with his son and daughter-in-law, **Keith and Julie Meyers** of Chassell have gifted a total of \$10,000 toward the bridge's reconstruction cost which is estimated at \$20,000. This large donation secured the naming rights for the bridge. KNSC plans to construct the new bridge this summer in partnership with the City of Hancock.

David's and his late wife **Beatrice Nurmi Meyers'** strong ties to Hancock were a big motivation for the donation. Beatrice was a 1947 graduate of Hancock High School and her father Charles Nurmi was the General Manager of Northland Co-op in Hancock. She went on to have a long career as a public school teacher. She taught in the Michigan communities of Ferndale, Tapiola, and Holt; she also worked in Indianapolis, Indiana; Billings, Montana; and Woodridge, Illinois. After serving in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during WW II and in China during its civil war, David started the

pathway to his professional career with Consolidated Freightways and Vulcan Materials. Beatrice and her mother Elizabeth were both members of the Finnish Council at Finlandia University where Keith has continued that tradition.

Keith and Julie moved back to Chassell in 2015. Prior to that, Keith spent half of a 30 year career in appointive positions with the State of Kansas; Julie worked as a beautician and owned a house painting business. In addition to the tremendous enjoyment they get from cross country skiing with their dogs at Maasto-Hiihto and Churning Rapids, Keith and Julie have been involved with KNSC where Keith serves on the Board of Directors. Keith and Julie see community fitness supported by organizations like KNSC as significant to community health. The Western U.P. Health Needs Assessment demonstrates a significant need for increasing physical activity to improve the area's physical and mental health outcomes, according to Keith.

"Investing in the bridge and equipment needs for Maasto-Hiihto and Churning Rapids will assure area residents a quality experience in this incredibly beautiful place to meet their winter physical fitness needs," he adds.

David, Keith, and Julie encourage others to support the capital campaign!

HATS OFF TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS:



10th Annual Banelopet



New snowmobile purchase assisted by



Signage updates funded by

