

2015-2016 Steve Sutton Award Winning!

SKIDDOO

A Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council Affiliate
www.skicmsc.com

Volume XLIII April 2021 Issue 8

Activities

Apr 17	3pm IN-PERSON Meeting at Noelridge Park
May 15	3pm IN-PERSON Meeting Location TBD
May 22	Car Rally to Buchanan House Winery/Tipton
June 5	Spring Picnic@ Meadowlark
June 11-13	Bike Ride to Racoon River Trail
July 17	Takes to the River
July 24	Wildcat Golf Outing
Aug 14	Corn Roast at Sally's farm
Aug 28	CMSC Free Picnic and Ski Jumping @ Norge Ski Club/IL
Aug 29-Sep 5	Sailing Maine Trip

* Watch the forum and email for upcoming
impromptu meetings, ski trips and cross-
country events!

BOARD MEETINGS

The next board meeting is **April 13**.
Members and non-members are welcome.
Time and location of the next board
Meeting can be obtained from **Ruth Van Tol**

EISC INFORMATION:

For more information about the EISC contact:
members@eastiowaskiclub.com
Annual Membership fees: Single - \$30; Household - \$60

MOVED/MOVING:

Send address change to:
East Iowa Ski Club, PO Box 843
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0843

DEADLINE:

The deadline for the **April Skiddoo** is **April 30**.
Contact **Mary Jean Blaisdell**.
EISC Financials are available on request.

WWW.EastIowaSkiClub.com

East Iowa Ski Club
PO Box 843
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0843

	Board Members	Phone	Email address
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President's Message

The calendar says it's Spring! It's an amazing time of year. Grass appears to get greener overnight especially after nice gentle showers. Shrubs, trees and vines are starting to bud out. I have over 100 tulip, daffodil and hyacinth bulbs I planted last fall that are popping up. I am looking forward to seeing the color they will produce in a few weeks.

With the continuing good news on virus vaccinations, the board felt confident enough to start putting outdoor activities and gatherings on the calendar again. The list was shared when we had our Zoom gathering on March 19 and are listed under activities in this edition of the Skiddoo and on the website. There will undoubtedly be more things added like local bike rides, concerts, festivals and other fun events.

I will share that the board's 5 year trip plan had a European trip scheduled for the winter of 2022. That will not be happening. We felt that there are too many issues yet with the virus in European countries. We will stay in the US for both of our 2022 ski trips and will have those details for you soon.

Be Safe. Stay Healthy.

Ruth Van Tol



Your EISC Board at Work!



Birthdays-April: Tom Journot (1st); Rick Hurtado (8th); Bill Bonewitz and Paul Heath (11th); Kay Hess and Daryl Hokanson (15th); Gary Dalecky (16th); Dick Lamb (20th); Denny Bossard (24th).

FUTURE EVENTS

Zoom Nothing Nights

The Nothing Nights are scheduled through end of April for current and past members to catch up with each other. Members have enjoyed seeing each other on Zoom and catching up with friends – just like they used to. Zoom is a great way to stay safe and warm while seeing your friends.

Instructions for Zoom

To find the link for the Zoom meeting, sign into the website using your membership login. Click on “What’s Happening” then “Event Calendar” from the drop down. Each date with a Zoom meeting scheduled will be on the calendar. You can click on the event, then click on the “Where” button on the event to access Zoom meeting. If you don’t see the events on the calendar, check to make sure you are signed into the website. The Zoom events are set up for members only.

If you have any questions, please email me at communications@easttowaskicclub.com.
I look forward to seeing you on Zoom.

~ article by **Kim Jacoby**

EISC Club Meeting - April 17 Noelridge Park

If the spring weather cooperates, we plan to have our first face-to-face gathering on Saturday, April 17. The City of Cedar Rapids doesn't take reservations for park pavilions until May 1st so we will take our chances of getting the pavilion at Noelridge Park at 3 PM. At the time of this article being written the "modern" bathrooms aren't open yet but likely will be. The park also has 2 Port-a-Potties in the area since the playground area gets used frequently.

If you arrive and don't see familiar ski club faces in the shelter, we have moved to the other shelter in the park. You can drive to the second shelter by going south on Council Street, East on 42nd ST, and north on Golf Street. Bring your lawn chair, your own beverages and snacks.

We will monitor the weather conditions and if it isn't inviting to be outdoors we will send out an email notice the day before and plan another Zoom gathering at 3 PM instead.

~article written by **Ruth Van Tol**; clipart from public domain



Buchanan House Winery - May 22

Roll the tops down on the convertibles, polish up those classics, get those Model A's in top running condition and come out for a car rally to head to Tipton to the Buchanan House Winery. This adventure will happen on Saturday, May 22.

The Buchanan House Winery has a 16 room historic 19th century mansion that was moved to the current location for the tasting room. The average price for a bottle of their wine is \$15. Check out their Facebook page or this link for more information:

<https://www.buchananhousewinery.com/>



Christel Fowler, one of our members, lives just 4.5 miles from the winery. She has invited us to stop at her home prior to heading to the winery. Those who don't want to drive on the ½ mile of gravel to the winery may want to car pool with others from Christel's.

You don't need to have a fancy car to join this event. Final details will be in the May edition of the Skiddoo and posted on the web site. The meeting place, route, and other details still need to be finalized. We are waiting to learn if there will be musical entertainment booked that afternoon or evening at the winery which could affect the time we want to go. Stay tuned but get ready for a great time with friends at a regional winery!

~article by **Ruth Van Tol**

Bike the Raccoon River Valley Trail - June 11-13

The EISC is planning a bicycle ride on the Raccoon River Valley Trail the weekend of June 11th-13th. This is the weekend that Wendall and Jane Sents usually guide us on a Cedar Falls area ride. However, this year we thought we would try a 2 night outing on the RRVT. The RRVT is a trail loop that travels through many miles and small towns west and north of the Des Moines area. If you wanted to ride the entire trail you could go 89 miles and through 15 towns. Most EISC members do not plan on riding the entire trail. The main trailheads are in the towns of Waukee and Perry, which is the most popular stretch of the trail. You can ride as far as you want and return to the starting point. It is a flat asphalt trail that follows a reclaimed railroad path. The trail keeps the railroad theme with the signs and old depots turned into trailheads in many of the towns.



The EISC has decided to use the Perry trailhead as a starting point. Many EISC members prefer to camp on bicycle outings so camping arrangements have been made. Wendall and Jane Sents have volunteered to be the EISC camper trip leaders for this ride. Wendall has reserved a loop of 12 campsites in the Saylorville camping area for the evenings of June 11th and 12th. Wendall says this is a really nice camping area and has already started taking names of members who would like to reserve a campsite – his email is wsents@gmail.com and his cell # is 319-231-8072. The

Saylorville campsite is about 20 miles from the Perry trailhead and is a fun place to camp even if you aren't much of a bicycle rider. So for all those interested in camping, contact Wendall early and claim your campsite.

There are several places to stay in the area. Some members plan to stay in the historic Hotel Pattee, which is across the street from the trail head. EISC has 5 rooms on hold (3 queens - \$118 per night / 2 double queens - \$125 per night, pre-tax cost) or you can go on the hotel's website and reserve one of the larger, historic themed rooms. <https://www.hotelpattee.com>. The website indicates that it is known as one of the Finest Historic Boutique Hotels in the World, the Hotel Pattee is a destination itself. The historic property has 40 individually decorated and themed guest rooms, a bowling center, a full service dining room and lounge, and its own dedicated library. The Hotel offers complimentary secure bicycle storage. They have a bike repair station, a tire pump in front of the hotel and some basic bike tools to fix a flat. Please contact Steve Cummings (srcquality@msn.com or cell - 319-573-9086) if you are interested in one of the rooms the club has on hold.

As on all of our bicycle trips everyone can ride as much or as little as you want. Some members plan to ride to Waukee and some mentioned riding west towards Jamaica. Some may try the entire loop. The High Trestle Bridge Trail is only a few miles from Perry and might make a good warm up ride Friday afternoon. The length of the ride and where you stay will be up to each member. The website for the trail is <https://raccoonrivervalleytrail.org/> if you would like to know more about the trail. Hope you can join in on the bicycle / camping trip fun on the EISC Raccoon River Valley Trail Ride.

~article by **Steve Cummings**; clipart is public domain.

EISC Golf Outing - Saturday, July 24th

The annual EISC Golf Outing will be held at Wildcat Golf Course in Shellsburg on the morning of Saturday, July 24th. It's too early to know what format we will use, but please put this on your calendar and stay tuned for details. We may do our traditional four person best shot starting at 9:00am or we may do as we did last year and just reserve some tee times for anyone who wants to meet up. Please be patient while we consider the options.....we're all anxious to get past this darn pandemic and get on with some summer fun!!



There will be more details in upcoming newsletters. Hope you can join us for a fun outing!! Meanwhile, feel free to call one of us if there are any questions.

Kathy Healy
319-560-7930

Nancy Thorkildson
319-521-4080

Sarah Wittnebel
319-294-1527

~article by **Marty Stimson**; clipart from public domain

"Sailing Maine on the Angelique" Aug 29-Sep 5, 2021

We are headed to sail around the islands off the shores of Maine on the tall ship '**Angelique**'. The trip will be Sunday, August 29 through Sunday, September 5, 2021.

Your vacation begins with a night dockside in picturesque Camden Harbor allowing you to explore the shops and restaurants all within walking distance from our dock, and to purchase any last-minute toiletries or beverages. The next morning, a hearty breakfast is served on board and Angelique leaves her berth in Camden's inner harbor with the first tide. Sailing for 5 nights/days on the Windjammer with the last day in the tall ship regatta of the **Camden Windjammer Festival**.

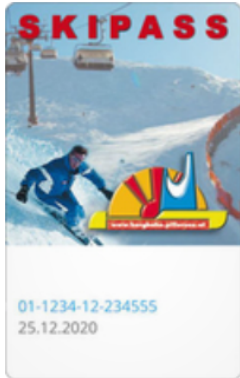


Each day under sail is a nautical adventure, the destination unknown. Our sailing grounds are Boothbay Harbor to Bar Harbor with thousands of islands and many protected bays in between. During the day, Angelique plows through the deep, blue water, a lighthouse standing on an isle in the far distance, while on occasion a porpoise or a seal plays tag with Angelique. Osprey and bald eagles soar overhead. Before long, the bell rings and a lunch of homemade fish chowder, salad, and biscuits are being served on deck in the fresh breeze.

Check out the ship on their website at <https://www.sailangelique.com/welcome-aboard/> . We are full with two people on the waiting list.

Brian Keller 319-213-0309 **Tammy Keller** 319-651-6514
~article by **Brian Keller**; photo courtesy of Sail Windjammer

SKI.com Epic and Ikon pass deals



One of our main ski trip travel partners is offering a deal on Epic and Ikon passes once again. We are still working on our trips for 2022, however I am sure you will be able to find uses for both with the club and on your own. This deal includes additional discounts on club trips that go through SKI.com. Please read the restrictions carefully before purchasing either pass.

Epic or Ikon purchased through Marcie at SKI.com will offer land package credit of \$30 for base passes and \$50 for full passes. Epic announced pass products March 24 and are some details on the Ikon program and the link to buy. *"Please let your members know. It helps me if they buy it through my link vs direct with Ikon or Epic and the price is the same and they get an added land package credit from me. It was a tough year for us, so we appreciate the support!"*

<https://epicikon.events.ski.com/>

~article by **Steve Cummings**; photo from public domain

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IT...

A Favorite EISC Bicycle Forum ride - CR to Solon

With the warmer weather coming on, we thought we would write about a favorite EISC Bicycle Forum ride. The EISC goes on several weekday bicycle rides that are announced on the EISC website's Bicycle Forum. One of the favorites is the ride to Solon that starts at either the C Street ball diamonds Trail head or the Czech Village Trail head and goes through Ely to Solon and back. The route runs on the Cedar River Trail connecting to the Hoover trail. It is flat, smooth asphalt from the start in Cedar Rapids through Ely on a reclaimed railroad bed. The wider, new trail to Solon is concrete with some impressive new bridges, some scenic view points and does have several small hills. There are three rest stops on the trail between Ely and Solon that feature large limestone blocks and a 1800's drainage culvert. If it is an early morning ride, the group stops at My Mom's Bakery in Ely for good coffee and some great sweet baked goods – some of those rides start way too early to beat the mid-day heat, I was told. If the rides start at a more reasonable time of the day some folks will drive to the park in Ely to make it a ride to Solon for lunch and back on the new trail.

The trail comes into Solon past the Timber Dome Lodge, Solon Recreation and Natural area and baseball diamonds. The EISC riders usually continue on into town and the Big Grove Brewery for some lunch and refreshments. Big Grove has a large outside beer garden - lunch area, good food and some really superior craft beers. The trip back seems to be at a slightly slower pace. Dan and Debbie's Creamery in Ely is a popular ice cream stop for some. The rides are always at your own pace with several stops along the way. The riders tend to group up with folks who maintain about the same pace – and there is a variety.

The distance of the ride is approximately 7 to 7.4 miles to Ely (depending on the starting point) and another 6.2 to Solon or 13.6 out and a total of around 26 to 28 total miles although with the rest stops, it does not seem that long. Please join in on the EISC Bicycle Forum rides if a fun, easy paced bicycle ride sounds good to you. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact the organizer of the EISC Bicycle Forum ride.

~article and photo from **Steve Cummings**

