

2015-2016 Steve Sutton Award Winning!

SKIDDOO

A Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council Affiliate
www.skicmsc.com

Volume XLIII July 2021 Issue 11

Activities

July 7	Mini Golf & Cedar Ridge Winery **NEW**
July 17	Takes to the River
July 24	Wildcat Golf Outing
July 31	Maquoketa River Float
Aug 8	Quad Cities Road Trip **NEW**
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
Sep 18	Kickoff Meeting @ Wanatee Park
Oct 4-12	Canyonlands Trip
Oct 23	Halloween/Post Party **New**
Feb 5-12	Breckenridge Ski Trip
March 5-12	Zermatt, UT

* Watch the forum and email for upcoming impromptu meetings, biking and kayaking events!

BOARD MEETINGS

The next board meeting is **July 14**.
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@eastlowaskiclub.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 **August** Skiddoo is **July 23**
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
President	Ruth Van Tol	507-273-4340	Ruth@eastiwaskiclub.com
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President's Message

It's hard to believe that we are turning the calendar over to the month of July and half of 2021 is behind us.

In addition to being July, we are already starting to see each day have fewer minutes of daylight and days are already starting to get shorter. I feel a real urgency to get out and do as much as possible.

Hopefully, you will be able to celebrate Independence Day this year with all of the traditional outdoor activities of picnics, family gatherings and watching fireworks. Enjoy the holiday!

Be Safe!
Ruth Van Tol



Birthdays - July:

Diane Reinertson (2nd), **Nancy Thorkildson** (15th), **Ann DeLaney** (16th), **Mike Buckman** (18th), **Marty Stimson** (28th), **Diane Anderson** (29th).

FUTURE EVENTS

Nothing Nights is Back!! - Wednesdays

We have Bo Mac's reserved for Wednesdays at 6:00pm for the immediate future. There is talk of going back to CJ's or maybe moving around to different locations so let us know what you would like. Check the Events Calendar on the website in case we move. You don't have to log in to see the calendar at eastiowaskiclub.com.

Bo Mac's is just east of the 16th Ave bridge.
219 16th Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids

They have a nice large outdoor seating area but there's room for us inside, if that's what we prefer. If you are there before 6:00 you can get 2 drinks for the price of one plus \$1.

~article by **Kim Jacoby**

Mini Golf and Cedar Ridge Winery - Wednesday, July 7

How about something to do on a Nothing Night? Let's check out the newly opened, completely accessible mini golf course, Mini Pines located at 3800 42nd St NE in Cedar Rapids. The course has a water fall and 4 holes that have water features. Come on Wednesday, July 7, between 4:45 and 5:15 and join others from the club to play the course. Cost is \$8 for ages 19-64 and \$7 for those 65+.

Once the course has been played we plan to head to Cedar Ridge winery and enjoy their wood-fired pizzas for dinner. The special on Wednesday evening is buy one, get the second at ½ price...and of course a glass or two of wine.....maybe even a bottle! Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to come along.

~Article by **Ruth Van Tol**, photos by **Cathy Dick**



Takes to the River - July 17



We are looking forward to having everyone join us this year for a gathering at our place [Saturday, July 17th](#). Anyone interested in kayaking should plan to join us on the farm between 1 and 1:30 to shuttle to our starting point in Cascade. It's a 2-3 hour float that will end at the farm

[Saturday](#) evening about 5:30-6:00 we plan on grilling some of our home raised Angus burgers, which we'll have along with french fries and Jim's famous homemade onion rings!

We invite all of you to join us! Bring a dish to share and your own beverages and eating utensils! After supper we'll get a bonfire going and share some stories!

It will be a good time, so if you don't have anything on your calendar that weekend, come on up and explore our neck of the woods!

Hope to see all of you on the [17th of July](#). If you don't wish to kayak, bring a chair and your drink of choice and visit with friends under the big oaks.

The farm is located about 2 miles east of town off the Cascade/Bellevue Rd.
Our address is:
3985 245th St.
Cascade IA 52033

If you have questions please feel free to give me a call .
Kathy Takes 563-599-2819

~article by **Kathy Takes**; photo from EISC 2019 TTTR Event

2021 EISC Golf Outing - Saturday, July 24th

The annual EISC Golf Tournament will be held at Wildcat Golf Course in Shellsburg on the morning of Saturday, July 24th. This is a four person best shot with non-cash prizes. We'll have a shot gun start at 9:00am and the cost will be \$47 for 18 holes of golf, cart and a meal following. **(Please plan to arrive by 8:30am)** This event is open to non-ski club members so feel free to invite friends and family!!

Each person should register for this event online, including non-members. You can register multiple people at a time. Send a check to the PO Box by selecting "Pay Later" and save the club the fees, or you may pay with a credit card at the end of the registration. (People not belonging to the ski club may also pay online, but they will be charged a \$2 convenience fee.) Send checks to PO Box #843 Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0843. **The deadline for registering and paying for the event is Friday, July 9th so make sure your check is sent in.** You can organize your own teams, or sign up as an individual and we'll pair you up with others.



So come on out and join in the fun exploring the mysteries of golf!! And remember....."Golf: the adult version of an Easter egg hunt."

If there are any questions, feel free to contact us! Hope to see you at Wildcat!!

Kathy Healy
319-560-7930

Nancy Thorkildson
319-521-4080

Sarah Wittnebel
319-294-1527

~article by **Kathy Healey**; photo from 2018 EISC golf event

Maquoketa River Float - July 31



On July 31, we will float the Maquoketa River. The float will start at Monticello Canoe Rental's office, just below the Mon-Maq Dam in Monticello, and will end at Pictured Rocks Park. It will be about a 3-5-hour float, depending on water levels. MCR's 10 ft. kayak rental is \$25. You can also use your own kayak. Go to their website for full details on what you need to do: <https://monticellocanoerental.com>, or call 319-465-3697.

If you rent, you can cancel 48 hours before our scheduled float (July 31) for a full refund. After this, no refunds. Once you reserve your kayak, email me (Cathy) at dickster41@gmail.com and let me know you are going so I know who to wait for at the shuttle lot. If you are using your own kayak, ALSO let me know you're going so we know who to wait for at the start. We can meet at the Marion Walmart near the gas stations at 9 AM, then head to and arrive at their rural shuttle lot first, at 12521 – 190th St., Monticello, IA 52310 (out a bit past Camp Courageous) by 10 am.

If you are using your own kayak, you need to be at their office by 9:30 AM. I have done this float several times over the years, and I like to bring a small cooler with drinks and a sandwich, and I also bring a dry bag to put snacks, cell phone, car keys, etc. in. There are

no food/beverage places along the river. Most of the sit-on-top kayaks have at least one bungee cord to put a very small cooler under, or a dry bag, or whatever. Trip chair: **Cathy Dick** dickster41@gmail.com, 319-538-6896.

~article by **Cathy Dick**; photo from public domain

Quad Cities Road Trip - Sunday, Aug 8th

We plan our first area road trip for Sunday, August 8 to the Quad Cities. If you want to car pool with others, plan to meet at 10:30 AM at the SW corner of Target on Edgewood Road.

Our first stop will be at the Putnam Museum at 1717 W 12th ST in Davenport. The August schedule of their featured movies isn't posted yet but they currently have 5 different National Geographic movies that they are showing. The movies are: Into America's Wild, Back From the Brink, Oceans: Our Blue Planet, Superpower Dogs, and Wild Africa. The massive movie screen is 5 stories high and all the films are in 3D. Admission to just a movie is \$9 for adults and \$8 for 60+. A general admission ticket is \$9 for adults and \$8 for 60+ and that will get you in to see the other exhibits at the museum, the movie ticket is \$5. You can check out what other exhibits are currently showing and more details of the movies by going to www.putnam.org.

After spending a couple of hours at the Putnam, individuals can decide what they would like to do next. There are a couple of low-cost or no-cost options of going to Vander Veer Park and Botanical Garden, Davenport Sky Bridge, or the Bucktown Center for the Arts. Other locations of interest (but have a fee) might be the Figge Art Center, the German American Heritage Center, or the Quad Cities Botanical Garden.



For a late lunch/early supper, the Front Street Brewery at 421 W River Dr, Davenport, has a nice view of the Mississippi, good food and brews.

The Backwater Gamblers Water Ski Show is at 6:30 PM at 5099 44th St, Rock Island, IL. The group boasts 150 members from ages 3 to 60. They consistently rank in the top 5 water ski clubs nationally. The show generally lasts an hour with an intermission where they accept donations. I haven't seen them perform in several years but in the past they put on an impressive show that was an enjoyable way to spend the evening and will be a good way to wrap up this road trip.

~article by **Ruth Van Tol**, photo from public domain

Corn Roast 2021 - Saturday, Aug 14th - 3:00PM

2017 Corn Roast



The annual Corn Roast will be hosted by **Sally Williams** at her farm near the Eastern Iowa Airport. Get ready to have an afternoon/evening of festivities and feasting. Activities will start at 3:00 pm with bean bag toss, croquet, etc. The grill will be fired up around 5 pm. For those who like to camp you're welcome to bring a camper or a tent. Bring a dish to pass, a meat to grill, your favorite lawn chair, any yard games you want to play, and a friend or two. We will provide plates, utensils, sweet corn, pop, beer, wine, bottled water, and grill. Cost is \$5.00 which covers the beverages, sweet corn, and Kybo. You can still sign up and pay for your spot on one or both of the ski trips planned for 2022.

This event is open to members and non-members. How to find it: 5305 Walford Rd, Fairfax, Iowa. From I-380 turn west on Wright Brothers Blvd, turn south at the first road past the airport (Cherry Valley Rd), then turn right (Westbound) and proceed 1/4 mile, watch for the farm on the left with the EISC signs, see you there!

~article by **Sally Williams**; Photo from 2017 Corn Roast event.

Canyonlands Trip - October 4-12

EISC Canyonlands Tour – 9 days / 8 nights / Oct. 4 – 12, 2021

\$2009 per person full package price - double occupancy rooms

We are still accepting people on the wait list

First payment: At sign up=\$1,000

Second payment: August 1 = \$1,009

Cancelation Date: June 5th

Trip Chairs: **Cathy Dick/Lois Kabela**

Come join 26 of your fellow ski club friends exploring the captivating Canyonlands of the southwest and experience spellbinding landscapes on this unforgettable National Parks tour!

Highlights of this National Parks tour are visits to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Zion National Park, as well as staying inside Grand Canyon National Park.

We will visit Monument Valley, so have your camera ready for some spectacular shots during your 4-wheel-drive tour of mystical Monument Valley and its massive formations. At Navajo National Monument, visit the visitor center and view artifacts of the villages that date from 1250 to 1300 AD built by the prehistoric Puebloan Ancestors.

We will also visit Glen Canyon Dam—the country’s second-highest concrete-arch dam—which holds back Lake Powell, the country’s second-largest man-made lake. Finally, we’ll visit Snow Canyon State Park, a park featuring soaring sandstone cliffs.

We will spend the first two days in Las Vegas at the Sahara then head to Grand Canyon from there.

Please let **Cathy Dick** or **Lois Kabela** know if you want to be added to the wait list:
Cathy: dickster41@gmail.com, Lois: lkabela@coe.edu

~article by **Cathy Dick**; photo from **Ruth Van Tol**



2021 CMSC Annual Picnic



**COME OUT FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT
ENJOY THE FOOD
STAY FOR THE CAMPING**



AUGUST 28TH

FREE CAMPING ON THE 27TH & 28TH

**Gates open at Noon
Food at 2:30pm (BYOB)
Games
Ski jumping at 4:00pm
Bonfire**

Entertainment all day!
by the



DJ Smooth Crew
SMOOTHCREW.COM

**Norge Ski Club
Fox River Grove
100 Ski Hill Rd.**



EVENT LEADER: PAT CLARK
PATRICKSRI@GMAIL.COM
REGISTER ONLINE AT SKICMSC.COM



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

We are just two months from sailing around the islands off the shores of Maine on the tall ship '**Angelique**'. Pirates...we will be sailing in the tall ship regatta of the **Camden Windjammer Festival** and enjoying the festival. The trip will be Sunday, August 29 through Sunday, September 5, 2021. Unfortunately for those wanting to go on the trip, it is full with three people on the waiting list.



The vacation begins with a night dockside in picturesque Camden Harbor staying at a hotel on the harbor. The next morning, a hearty breakfast is served on board and Angelique leaves her berth in Camden's inner harbor with the first tide. We will be sailing for 5 nights/days on the Windjammer.

Check out the ship on their website at <https://www.sailangelique.com/welcome-aboard/> . Here is an interesting web site on why you need to sail: <https://nothingbutnewengland.com/windjammer-sailing-why-you-need-to-sail-different/>

Brian Keller -- 319-213-0309

Tammy Keller -- 319-651-6514

~article by **Brian Keller**; photo courtesy of Sail Windjammer

Breckenridge, CO - Feb 5-12, 2022

Breckenridge Trip Cost:

\$700 Land Only – \$350 sign up / \$350 Sept. 18 / cancellation date Oct. 16 /

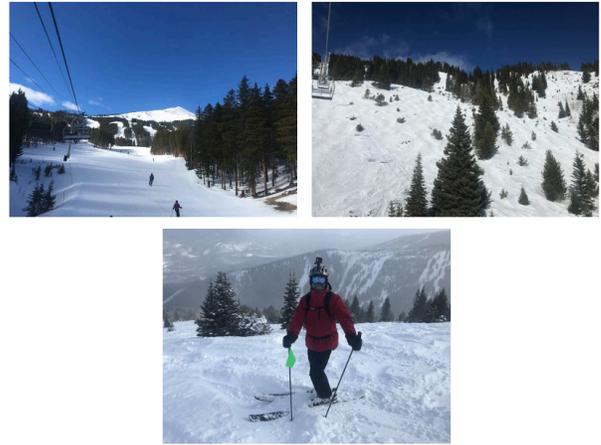
You must purchase your own lift tickets online.

The first major EISC West trip of the 2022 season is back to Breckenridge! This area has activities for skiers and non-skiers. Breckenridge is a very unique town with a variety of activities available. The towns of Fisco and Silverthorn are also within a 15 minute drive. This mountain offers fantastic skiing for all abilities and is spread out over 2,908 acres, which includes 5 peaks!

We have 19 people signed up so far, with room for 32 (8 2BR/2Bath suites) staying at the Beaver Run resort. This ski in/ski out resort is one of Breckenridge's most popular.

The Beaver Run Resort offers a variety of amenities including an indoor/outdoor heated pool, a second outdoor pool, nine outdoor hot tubs, an exercise room, video arcade, retail stores, mini market/deli, bars and restaurants, ski and snowboard rental shops and complimentary in-town shuttle. Parking is restricted during the winter to 1 vehicle per bedroom at a \$20 per day fee, so carpooling is suggested to keep the cost down.

Breckenridge 2020



EISC members will have to order their own Epic passes online. The EISC recommends using the SKI.com link <https://epicikon.events.ski.com/> to buy your pass as SKI.com offers a credit of \$30 on all Epic (except the Epic Day) Passes, when used on one of the EISC trips. All Epic Passes are currently selling at 20% less than last year.

Epic local - \$583 Epic Summit - \$471

Epic day passes:

3 day \$249 / 4 day \$323 / 5 day \$392

Be sure and sign up early for what is sure to be a fantastic EISC ski trip! We look forward to a great year of skiing!

Kathy Takes (563) 599-2819

Steve Simmen (319) 929-1494

~article and photos provided by **Kathy Takes**

Zermatt, UT Ski Trip - March 5-12, 2022

Greetings East Iowa Ski Club members,

Destination: Zermatt Utah Resort, Midway, UT

Dates: [March 5](#) - 12, 2022

Address: Zermatt Utah Resort and Spa, 784 W Resort Dr, Midway, Utah 94049

Website: zermattresort.com

Trip cost:

\$1369 Land/Air, \$456 sign up, \$456 Sept 18, \$457 [Oct 16](#)

\$920 Land only, \$460 sign up, \$460 Sept 18

Cancellation date: [Oct 29](#), 2021

Flight schedule (for now):

Round trip CID-PHX-SLC (will update times closer to departure)

Trip Leaders: **Diane and Chip Scholl**

The early sales success for the second major EISC West trip was evidenced by those attending the June Spring Picnic. This is no doubt a reflection of the fine effort by our own noble literary laureate, **Steve Cummings**, plus an early “advertasing” blitz.

To date, the trip roster holds 22 Adventure-Nauts, we have room for 6 more members.

Located in Heber Valley, in the heart of the Wasatch Mountains, you will find the Zermatt Resort and Spa. This is a specially designed European styled vacation, featuring lodging in a Swiss inspired village which offers many great amenities. The property is a luxury 4 star, 4 diamond, full-service resort. You will enjoy the on-property indoor/outdoor swimming pools and hot-tubs, wellness center, full-service day spa, pub, two distinct restaurants, a Swiss bakery and complimentary shuttle service to Deer Valley, Park City, Midway and Heber Valley. There will be complimentary shuttle to Sundance Resort for groups. Our accommodations will feature 2 bedroom/ 2 bath, 1200 sq. ft. villas, including full-kitchens, fireplaces, decks/patios and Alpenhorns.

Zermatt Resort and Spa is the perfect accommodation hub for all the adventure and recreation we can pack into a week. Our knowledgeable on-site host is Maxine Jensen. She has a wealth of talent and promises to provide our group with plenty of skiing and non-skiing activities, plus she will actively participate in a few of the special opportunities. Those alpine skiing/riding will be drawn to the variety afforded by Park City Mountain Resort, Deer Valley(ski only) and Sundance Resort, all within a 15-30 minute shuttle ride, plus the possibility of day trips to experience other unique alpine skiing endeavors. Lift tickets are not included and the best approach to handle what will work for your situation can be explored in Steve’s most current Ski Pass Skidoo article. Those members that have come to their senses can enjoy the “sky is your limit” alternatives to alpine skiing/riding. Nordic skiing and snow-shoeing, plus gear rental, is available at Soldier Hollow Nordic Center (prime 2002 Olympic venue), Wasatch State Park and Sundance Resort Nordic Center. Snow tubing, snowmobiling, sleigh rides, ice-skating, fishing and hiking are a few other outdoor activities that can be experienced close at hand. Something everyone in our group should consider is a “dip your toes” experience at “The Crater”, a geothermal, crystal-blue, spring hidden within a 55 foot, beehive-shaped limestone rock located at the Homestead Resort in Midway.

Another highly recommended, whole group experience, is a day trip to the Sundance Resort. There are live participation activities, such as, silver-smithing, making cheese and

Park City / Deer Valley trip in 2016



candles and having a refreshment out of sight of Joe Le Fors and The Pinkertons at the Owl Bar where scenes from Redford and Newman's portrayal of Sundance and Butch were filmed. Plus, you can experience Alpine, Nordic and snow-shoeing activities. As former Founder and Owner, Robert Redford said, "Sundance is an arts community, a recreational community, a community of people who appreciate the beauty of nature and feel the responsibility to preserve it." We should fit in pretty well!

Also, exploring the historic village of Midway and quaint offerings of Heber City, one will find great eats, shopping, cool history and cultural influences without the escalated cost of admission compared to Park City.

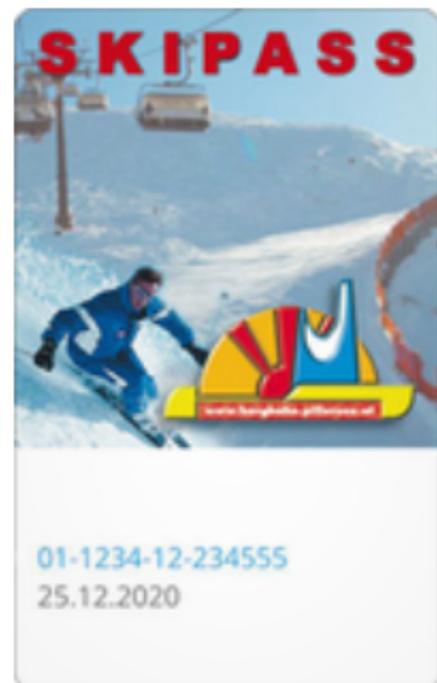
As many of our members are experienced in travel, they are increasingly aware of the importance in protection of their travel investment with trip insurance. It is highly recommended that you consider adding trip insurance as soon as possible. If you would like to know more about this option, please contact Diane to sign up for coverage and answer any questions. Her contact information is: (319) 270-3765.

To all of you that have put your names on the line, Diane and I welcome the opportunity to be your trip leaders in this Euro-Plan themed experience. For those of you that find riding the fence comfortable, the Surgeon General has just released health recommendations that might persuade you to consider the overall value of this trip.

~article by **Chip Scholl**; photos provided by **Steve Cummings**

May SKI.com Epic and Ikon pass deals

By now everyone should know SKI.com is offering deals on Epic and Ikon passes. EISC members planning to go on the Breckenridge EISC ski trip will want to buy some form of the Epic pass. The 2 West trips for 2022 both can use the pass, but especially for the **Breckenridge** trip. The Epic Local, Epic Summit or Epic Day passes will work at Breckenridge at a much lower cost than lift tickets. The Mar 5-12 trip is to Zermatt, Utah – a Swiss village in the Heber Valley. There are free daily shuttles to Deer Valley, Sundance and **Park City**. The Epic Local or Epic Day passes will work at Park City. If you are going on both club trips or one club trip and another trip to an Epic resort, the Epic Local Pass or Epic Day passes are a good decision. If you are only going on one club trip, you may want to consider Epic Day passes for the days you want to ski. All Epic passes are on sale 20% lower than last season. If the Epic Local or Base passes are purchased using the SKI.com link below and used on an EISC trip, there will be an additional \$30 credit from SKI.com. The link is: <https://epicikon.events.ski.com/>



The cost of the **EPIC Local Pass is \$583**. It is unlimited skiing at 26 destinations including **Breckenridge**, Keystone & Crested Butte / Holiday blackout day skiing at **Park City**, (not during the EISC trip), Heavenly, Northstar, Kirkwood / 10 days with holiday blackout date skiing at Vail, Beaver Creek, Whistler Blackcomb, among others.

The cost of the **Summit Value pass is \$471**. It is unlimited skiing at Keystone and holiday blackout date skiing at **Breckenridge** only. The Epic Day passes offers restricted and unrestricted access to most Epic resorts – the restricted access would not affect the EISC trips. The cost of the restricted Epic Day pass is Epic 1-Day Restricted Pass **Adult: \$87** / Epic 2-Day Restricted Pass **Adult: \$171** / Epic 3-Day Restricted Pass **Adult: \$249** / Epic 4-Day Restricted Pass **Adult: \$323** / Epic 5-Day Restricted Pass **Adult: \$392**.

Please read the pass details and all restrictions carefully before purchasing any type of pass.

The SKI.com link makes it fairly easy to buy any of the Epic passes, however it is new to many of us so don't get discouraged. It is a much lower cost than daily lift tickets and a better deal for our members for this year. It is best to use a computer with a high speed connection rather than a smart phone to buy your pass. Please see your trip leaders if you need any assistance with the Epic Pass process. The path is:

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

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

Future Trip Plans

Your Ski Club Board has listened to the requests of members to offer more than just ski trips. We have a great start this fall offering two adventure trips; sailing on a tall ship off the coast of Maine and then a super tour of the great parks of the Southwest. Following is a tentative longer-term plan of future trips we introduced at our recent picnic. This schedule is subject to updates based on trip availability and club interest.

2022

- Midwest ski trip TBD (Jan)
- Breckenridge (Feb)
- Zermatt Utah (March)
- Warm weather trip, perhaps Belize or Costa Rica
- National Parks tour (April)
- Iowa day trip to Iowa Falls for river cruise (TBD)
- Iowa day bus trip to wineries (TBD)
- Europe bike/barge or European river cruise (Sep)

2023

- Midwest ski trip
- Colorado ski trip



- Ski trip to Europe with 3-4 day add on trip (Jan)
- Iowa local trips TBD
- Tour of perhaps northern Spain (spring or fall TBD)
- Possibly another warm weather trip

2024

- Midwest ski trip
- Snowmass/Aspen ski trip
- Possibly Canadian Ski resort
- Greek Islands tour
- Banff/Lake Louise & Glacier Park (Banff locals said Sep was best time to visit)
- Napa Valley tour
- Iowa local trips TBD

~article by **David Meyer**; photo from public domain

YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED IT...

Annual Picnic at Meadowlark - pictures





~ photos provided by **Ruth Van Tol & Pat Boland**

June Forum Bike Rides Recap & Pictures

Two rides were scheduled in June on the EISC website Forum for Bicycling. On June 2, we had 7 riders and 1 guest. On June 22 we had just 5 riders. Both trips started at Tait Cummins Memorial Park. A stop was made in Ely at My Mom's Bakery for a morning treat. The crews then headed to Solon. Both times the decision was that it was too early for lunch in Solon so we headed back. On June 2 the group had lunch on the new back patio of Odie's. On the 22nd the group headed to Jersey's and had lunch on their patio. We noted that both places seemed to have a shortage of help and lunch was a long relaxing break. On both occasions riders wondered where all of the others were that like to ride. We had nearly picture perfect weather on both dates including the all-important tail wind heading home.

This is a reminder again that ANYONE can schedule a ride if you are a club member. Just go to the website. Sign in. Click on Forums. Choose bicycling. Type your message and post! Easy peasy!



~article and pictures from **Ruth Van Tol**

Bike the Raccoon River Valley Trail - Recap & Pictures



The weekend of June 11th thru 13th the EISC was busy riding bicycles on the Raccoon River Valley Trail, High Trestle Bridge Trail, camping at Saylorville Lake, as well as exploring the Hotel Pattee and the town of Perry. This fun activity/event turned out to be much more popular than anticipated. Approximately 18 members were camping; 14 members stayed at the Hotel Pattee and 3 more stayed at another hotel. Thanks to Wendall and Jane Sents for leading the camping side of the trip. This was an intentionally, loosely planned bicycle trip, so everyone could make their own route & go at their own pace.

Many thanks to camper trip leaders **Wendall and Jane Sents**. Everyone enjoyed the large campsite circle near the Saylorville reservoir and had a lot of fun camping. No one seemed to mind making the short drives over to the trailheads for the rides. The folks that stayed in the Hotel Pattee were able to enjoy the luxury accommodations of days gone by & only had to cross the street to the trailhead. The themed rooms were a lot of fun and the food in the dining room was great. It was like staying in a museum from the early days of the railroad in Iowa. Some members took this opportunity to ride the Boone dinner train and enjoy views above the Des Moines River Valley.

Many members rode the High Trestle Bridge trail on Friday afternoon, later than planned because of a rainstorm. The bridge really is fantastic, functional art. We are very

fortunate to have such a great architectural attraction so close. It is an out and back route from the Woodward Trailhead. Because of our late start we only made it to the Flat Tire Bar and Grill in Madrid.

The Raccoon River Valley trail was more fun when the wind wasn't in our face. Folks rode their own routes and used their own start time – one early rider reported seeing a fox and her kits crossing the trail in front of her. There was a large group who started out on the recommended ride from Perry to Waukee and back. We heard one member made the entire loop, which would have been a challenge. Many were concerned with the headwind on the ride back to Perry & turned around at the small towns on the trail, however we had approximately 16 riders complete the ride to Waukee and back. Several members wondered why Wendall had us riding into the wind on the ride back, but others have come to appreciate challenges.

Thanks to all of the members who were able to join the EISC and enjoy riding the trails in this part of the state. Many plan to return and hit these trails again in the future. Hope to see you out on the trails this summer.

~article by **Steve Cummings**; photos provided by **Chris Kalmar, Jane Sents & Jim Wittnebel**.

