

Nordic Gazette - December 2018



“It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 8: VSC Christmas Dinner at NICK's in Pacifica. 6:00 PM bar, 7:30 PM dinner with Santa

Dec. 29: Club meeting at the cabin, 7:30 PM (subject to change due to weather/snow)

Feb. TBA: Club meeting in San Francisco (searching for a site)

March 16: St. Patrick's Day Feast and club meeting at the cabin

April TBA: Club meeting, officer nominations Englander Pub in San Leandro

May TBA: Club meeting, officer election in San Francisco (searching for a site)

June 8: Installation dinner at Nick's in Rockaway Beach, Pacifica

July 6: 4th of July cabin work party and meeting at cabin

Aug. 17: Cabin work party and meeting at cabin

Sept. 8: VSC Picnic at Montclair Park in Oakland, club meeting

Oct. TBA: Cleanup work party and General meeting

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear VSC Members and friends,

SNOW has been falling up at Donner Summit, but it's spotty and after an initial layer, warm rain fell and delayed the opening of Sugar Bowl. They have reset for a November 30 opening. We have high hopes for a good ski season, but of course must go with the snowfall.

Whatever the weather, the club still has activities!

CHRISTMAS PARTY: I look forward to gathering with many of our members at our annual dinner on December 8 at Nick's at Rockaway Beach. Please use the attached form or call for reservations.

JANUARY GENERAL AND BOARD MEETINGS: We're aiming to hold these up at the cabin on the evening of December 29. The Board has decided to start the General Meeting at 7:30 PM for one hour, then hold a Board meeting starting at 8:30 to vote on any issues needing a formal vote. This will count as our regular "New Year's" January meeting. (With New Year's Day on Tuesday, and likely more people up on the late December weekend than the first weekend of January, this

seems the most practical date.) If snow conditions make Dec. 29 unpromising, we will notify Membership by e-mail of changes.

CAN'T GET TO A CLUB MEETING? TRY DIALING IN! We will aim to have a **CONFERENCE CALL** line set up for the Dec. 29 meeting, and Vice President Rick Haglund will let you know in advance what number and code will allow access to our meeting conversation. Members get credit for attending a meeting even if by phone. Our November 14 Meeting at the Englander Pub provided meeting credit for 12 who were around the table there, and another 11 on the conference call phone! A total of twenty-three felt good.

SOMEWHERE IN SAN FRANCISCO TO HOLD FEBRUARY AND MAY CLUB MEETINGS? We are trying to shift around meeting locations to make them accessible to a larger percentage of our membership, we would like to alternate East Bay and Donner Summit meetings with ones in SF or on the Peninsula, best if close to BART. Stephanie La Carubba has been searching for a restaurant or pub with a meeting room, but the charges are high. We will broaden to a church or home for February, and if you have any ideas, please contact Stephanie.

WEB SITE UPGRADE: We're working on it! Our Web Site Committee includes several who have worked on the original site, and some new members with expertise and new ideas for making our improved site attractive, accurate, and efficient. We had an initial meeting by conference phone, but unfortunately, Christophe Marcant (our current VSC expert) could not connect with us from his work site in India. As we move beyond the busy holidays into 2019, the Web Site committee will convene and move forward.

WORK PARTY CREDIT FOR COMMITTEE WORK OR SPECIAL PROJECTS: One new concept voted in by the Board may be of interest to many who struggle to earn **WORK PARTY** credits. The Board agreed that people who actively work on committees and invest time, energy and expertise on projects that improve the life of the Club (physically at the cabin, online, or by doing Club-related research or errands) can earn Work Party Credit for their effort! We may have to establish some kind of reporting system for this aspect of club life, which may involve setting up one of our Board members as a Chairperson.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all! Alice Helen Masek

REPORT ON NOV. 14 VSC MEETING

Twelve members and prospective members were present around the table at the Englander Pub in San Leandro, with 11 more present by Telephone Conference Call. President Alice Masek called the meeting to order, passed around a sign-up sheet, and we introduced two new people at first, then two more. Board members at a distance called in, which increased Board participants to 6. Because we have no Secretary, there were no minutes.

TREASURER Paul Thompson read his report, and the club is in pretty good shape, financially. We have paid this winter's snow plowing bill to Norm Saylor (best option) and are awaiting a check from the Peninsula Ski Club for their third of the expense. **DONATION:** Paul acknowledged a generous donation to the Viking Ski Club from John and Robbie Fox, who have moved to Arizona

and who miss the club and friends here, but who are happy with their move. Board Members and Officers present and by phone, and everyone at the meeting expressed a big THANK YOU to the Foxes.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Rick Haglund reported that we have 62 active members (and many others in different categories, including 17 probationary.) The board voted four probationary members into full membership, so that number came up to 66 Active members. Even so, we agreed that we should make diligent efforts to attract new members.

CABIN CHAIRMAN Mike Masek reported that there have been several successful and well-attended work parties over the summer, and progress has been made on parking lot surfacing, repairs and weather-proofing. PHONE: A new phone has been set up at the cabin, with the same cabin phone number, but now a cell phone unit that our regular land line-type phone is plugged into, but served with a more reliable and less expensive connection. With towers at the top of Donner Ski Ranch hill, we have great reception, and will have no telephone lines to be broken by snow compaction when buried under drifts. WATER HEATERS: A new water heater to replace the (smaller) one which broke is being installed soon, and though the larger one has to be taken out, it will be put back in to team with the new one. This was a more conservative decision than to replace both, and had the support of the Board.

Mike wants to THANK all the people who organized and ran Work Parties and the many who participated. Thanks!

OLD BUSINESS:

We still need a SECRETARY for the Recording and Corresponding tasks, all currently being attempted by the President as needed.

We are in the process of reworking Club and Cabin rules, focused on our smaller membership, a new generation, inclusion of smaller children, and ease of becoming a member. For example, new members will no longer need two “readings” at Board meetings, but may join faster. --We still have their probationary year to get to know them. This will be part of the Web Site work as the changes are communicated to our membership Online and by e-mail.

For now, we still call Penny Bair for Reservations and we are following as much as we can the rules as published, until changes are formulated, voted on, published, and implemented.

We talked a lot about the progress on the Web Site and some of our options, and a prospective member offered to be on the committee.

We spoke about the upcoming challenge of re-negotiation of our Lease with the Union Pacific Railroad for a small parcel of land overlapped by the end of our building away from the road. Rex Haber and others will be looking into aspects of that over the next couple years until the lease comes due (2023).

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE CREDITS: President Alice Proposed that instead of keeping a static list of committees with blank lines for people to nominally sign up, we form committees as needed for their Active Functions. Members should receive Meeting or Work party Credit (whichever they need) for active work on a committee. –An incentive to encourage more active involvement of our membership. The group voted affirmatively to move in this direction. Currently Active Committees include:

WEB SITE Committee (including Site Building and upgrade, content, and reservation and payment functions.)

CABIN PROJECTS committees (like the Water Heater group and the group dealing with the upcoming Railroad Lease challenge)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Committee, currently Carol Reed and helpers

RULES REFINEMENT Committee, linked to Web Site setup

Future: Cabin Decor (it's been a while.)

Other NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING TIMING: The idea was put forth (to avoid repetition) that we hold the General (Board included) meeting first, at 7:30 PM, for “Reports, Old Business and “New Business” about an hour and that as we close the General meeting, a Board meeting be convened to work out technical aspects of decisions and vote on necessary actions, funding, etc. This idea was voted on affirmatively and passed, so we will move into this mode in December, at the January meeting on December 29.

President's Note: This is a Transitional time for our club, with upcoming changes in the works and communication a bit fuzzy. Please forgive our shortfalls and feel free to ASK QUESTIONS! Alice Helen Masek, home (510) 538-7617 or by e-mail: alicehelen@juno.com

Meeting Report compiled by Alice Masek

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Active: 66

Probationary: 15

Life: 5

Applicants: 3

Passive: 32

Junior: 13

Student Leave: 5



Sunset as seen Nov. 19 from the reservoir just beyond Donner Ski Ranch during the Gazette editor's brief escape from the smokey Bay Area

San Francisco Viking Ski Club Officers – 2018/2019

President: Alice Helen Masek, alicehelenpapercut@gmail.com

Vice-President/Membership: Rick Haglund; haglund.richard@gmail.com

Corresponding/Recording Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Paul Thompson, Paul@pthompson.com

Cabin Chair: Mike Masek, Paul Kensinger

Board Members: Paul Kensinger, Barbara Sorensen, Rex Haber, Mike Masek, Stephanie LaCarruba, Ed Russell, Rory Hayden

Gazette Editor: Peter Blumberg

Info: vikinginfo@prodigy.net

Cabin Phone: 530-426-1231

Cabin Reservations: Penny Bair, Tel: (707)480-2234 or yogibair@comcast.net

Cabin Fees Winter: Members: \$12/night, Guests: \$21/night Summer: Members: \$8/night, Guests: \$17/night

Web Site: www.sfvikingskiclub.org