

President's Perspective

As I was mowing the grass yesterday, going around one of our many trees, a spruce tree branch hit against my leg and that sticky, black pine tar substance was left behind. Now this made me think of x-c skiing... and not because I was reminded of close, personal encounters with trees on the edge of the trail. What I thought of was my first pair of x-c skis, Madshus BirkeBeiner woodies. Purchased in January of 1979, along with Jackrabbit wax and pine tar, I was set (or so I thought). The ski shop gave me a lesson in kick wax application, they glide waxed the tips and tails and showed me how to pine tar. Depending on how much you skied, pine tar was applied once a year, or it may even last a second season. So the next year, armed with freshly cleaned skis, pine tar, brush, propane torch and rag, I was set to give it a try. The aroma from the pine tar bubbling and heating up on the bottom of the ski is wonderful. The trick is to keep the torch moving along the section of ski, so you don't set your skis on fire. Thankfully this never happened to me. The pine tar protected the bottom of the woodies from drying out and it became a part of the preparation to ski.

The club helped to introduce and teach me about the finer points of kick waxing, along with skiing technique, clothes to wear, best trails to ski and camaraderie.

Everyone leads busy lives and the summer can be crazy for us all. I hope my husband Jim and I can make it for a few of the club activities planned this summer and we hope many of you can work in the time too.

Maybe something along the way this summer will remind some of you too about skiing along a quiet snow-laden trail...when it's 90 degrees in the shade. A very refreshing thought!

Happy trails.

Kathy Siegrist