

President's Perspective

According to the Farmer's Almanac, we are to have a "chilly winter, with lots of snow". This actually was reported during the weather report on the news this evening, on this second to the last weekend in August. Hey, it could happen! All of us snow lovers can only hope... once again.

My thoughts this month turn to goals. And I'm not talking about those – oh perish the thought - "work" related goals, but something more fun – as in personal, recreational goals...

You guessed it - X-C Ski goals, which could be anything from... x-c skiing for the first time ever, (hey, it's never too late to learn a new activity and the Nordic Foxes can help!)... to maybe getting out and skiing with the club somewhere new for you this year... to negotiating hills better, or going a further distance than what you've tried before (with friends of course), or trying skate skiing, or ski racing. The options are endless and I hope this will inspire you to think about winter and having fun with the club and your x-c ski goals– even if we still feel a bit far away from snow and the ski trails.

For the past year I've had this niggling thought in the back of my mind to go back and try the Birkie again, and the ski-touring, just want to have fun, part of me says – again? With 2004 fast approaching, it will be 20 years since I skied (and finished) my first Birkie, so why not celebrate and try it again. My technique has certainly improved over the years, especially on hills (thanks to being a part of the club and skiing on hefty back-country skis for the past 8 years) and so just for kicks and to share in the fun with fellow club members... and to see if I can better my time from 1984 of 7+ hours – yikes! – I think I'm going to give it a whirl – hey, why not?

I'm looking forward to our first club meeting of the season on Thursday, September 18th and Larry Zurawski, our Vice President has a great program planned with a fun video called "On Snow". Hope to see you there.

If you haven't had a chance to ride on one of Carol Beatty's I&M Canal bike trail rides, consider it – as it is a fun time. Thanks Carol for your leadership on the August 23rd ride. Even though there were a few mishaps, everyone helped each other out and we did have a great time. There's one more chance to catch a bike ride, on October 4th – details in this newsletter.

Happy Trails,
Kathy Siegrist