

President's Perspective

October is around the corner and so is the cold weather! The higher elevations in southwest Montana were getting snow when we were there 3 weeks ago. It won't be long for us either.

Roller-skiing is a long way from snow, but is a great aerobic activity and of course closely related to x-c skiing, whether you use the skate or classic roller-skis. Ski-bounding and/or running/jogging/walking with poles is another great activity. In the October issue of *Silent Sports* there is an article on the CAT Ski (Classical All-Terrain Ski). This got my attention... and so what are they? A classical all-terrain ski that works on ski trails in spring, summer and fall and you can CAT ski on virtually any surface – sand, grass, dirt, pavement, even ice. Sounds amazing and also much safer than being up on wheels – I'm not fond of hurtling downhill on pavement on my rollerskis, so I stay clear of wipe-out potential situations! CAT Skis were designed by Dale Niggemann (a number of years ago, Carol Beatty arranged for Dale to give a clinic for the Nordic Foxes, on his original design roller-ski and he also taught us about ski-bounding). For more info on the CAT Ski, and for clinic schedules, go to www.planetxc.com, or call 800-380-8412.

Another article in *Silent Sports* this month to take note of was on Minocqua Winter Park (MWP). Rumor has the ski area as being closed – but a quote from Dan Clausen puts this rumor to rest – “We will be open”. The biggest update is that Minocqua Winter Park Trail Fund can now take charitable donations, with the giver of the donation getting a tax deduction. MWP is also looking into hiring an engineer to design a snow-making system. Telemark Resort in Cable, WI had great success with its man-made snow loop last year, so it's a feasible solution when a Nordic center lacks of the real white stuff. But again, according to the Farmer's Almanac – it's supposed to be a “good” snow year. Keep thinking snow and hope to see you at some of the upcoming Nordic Fox events in October – before the snow flies!

Happy Trails,
Kathy Siegrist