



# Snowflakes

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

-PVSC: A Brief History (p. 2)

-Caribou Bog Race (pp. 3-4)

-Chip Cochrane Race (p. 5)

-Heather Grass's Photos (p. 6)



-Nordic Gods, Daicy Pond (p. 7)

-Nordic Youth (p. 8)

-Learn to Ski and Beyond (p. 9)

Caribou Bog Trail Center (p. 10)



*A Publication of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club, [www.pvskiclub.org](http://www.pvskiclub.org)*

The 2021-22 season was lively despite the lingering effects of Covid. While we were unable to host the Ski Sale or membership meetings, the Alpine and Nordic programs offered a full season of events. We began the year with challenging weather--rain, below-zero temperatures, an occasional blizzard--but once winter got under way, the snow cover was ideal for Nordic and Alpine activities. The Alpine Program offered practices and races from mid-January to mid-March, and Learn-to-Ski/Board brought in many new skiers who will move on quickly, we hope, to Racing Development. PVSC competed at Lost Valley in Auburn, the Camden Snow Bowl, BigRock in Mars Hill, Squaw Mountain in Greenville, Lonesome Pines in Fort Kent, and at our own Chip Cochrane Invitational at Hermon Mountain. Due to weather, our Family Fun Race was abbreviated but still offered a chance for parents to take on their young racers in a dual course on Hermon's Cloud Nine. The other good news was the return of the Wicked Winter Caribou Bog Ski Race & Tour: another ongoing PVSC tradition back on track. We extend our thanks to all volunteers who made these programs happen, especially to our new Alpine Racing Director Ruth Williams, who stepped in for Kristy McClure this year; Publicity Committee Chair Sally Burk, who informed us about this seasons' events; and Hermon Mountain's Bill Whitcomb, who kept us in snow on Cloud Nine despite some challenging weather.



*Last year volunteers refurbished the PVSC Slim Melvin Timing Hut on Cloud Nine at Hermon Mountain and moved the structure about fifty yards downslope, giving us a longer racing venue and providing a warmer spot for officiating the races. Below: Bill Whitcomb on his trusty steed.*





### ***Brief History of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club***

The origins of PVSC are linked to the development of the Bald Mountain ski area in Dedham. The club was founded in 1936 at a time when downhill skiing was a novelty. Bald featured one of the first chairlifts in Maine. Earlier, the Club ran a ski area with a rope tow at Kings Mountain in Orrington, eventually relocating the tow to Bald. The goal, with significant volunteer input, was to make skiing available and affordable to the citizens of the area. In 1962-1963, a season pass for an entire family was \$35.00.

Bald Mountain was operated by the club until 1967 when it was sold to a local group which planned to develop the mountain further with snow-making, parking, a base lodge, and a T-bar to the top of the Mountain to complement the existing chairlift and rope tow. The sale price was \$12,000 which became the base of an endowment fund that has helped the club maintain and augment its mission over the years. The vision for Bald Mountain never materialized. The chairlift was eventually relocated to the Camden Snow Bowl, where it still functions today. With a climb up Bald Mountain one can still locate the chairlift's summit station and the remnants of a small summit lodge.

The club's ski trips date back to 1949 with trips to Camden Snow Bowl at a time when Camden had its first rope tow. In 1977 the club began an annual trip to Quebec City which was to continue for 30 years with as many as 4 bus loads of families participating each year. In the last decade Nordic trips have taken club members on hut-to-hut cross-country trips between various huts and lodges in Maine, northern Quebec, the Chic Choc mountains of the Gaspé, and the Peer Gynt and Olympic trails in Norway.

The club has also supported alpine and Nordic learn-to-ski programs for youngsters as early as kindergarten age and junior racing for elementary, middle, and high school age levels. Now in its fourth year, a cross country program for young children, called Ski Farm, is held on the Orono Schools Trail network. The program provides equipment and instruction for half-day sessions on weekends.

The club invests in downhill racing equipment at our home mountain in Hermon, a lease program to provide cross country gear to students, and Nordic grooming equipment (and the grooming volunteers) to provide trails at the Hampden and Orono schools, the Bangor Municipal Golf Course, and the Caribou Bog trail network on land held by the Orono Land Trust.

The Great Caribou Bog Wicked Winter Ski Tour and Race was organized in fall 1982 in the basement bar of Pat's Pizza by Adrian Humphries, Dave Tyler, Bill Stearns, Gil Roderick, and others. The event was part of Bangor's "Winterfest," and developed into a winter tradition much like the Kenduskeag Canoe Race is a spring tradition. The eighteen-kilometer race began in a field northwest of the Bangor Mall and followed the bed of the old Bangor, Old Town, & Milford Railroad through the Caribou Bog, then north on the frozen Stillwater River, through the University Forest to the Old Town High School. The course changes from year to year due to timber cutting, new commercial buildings, and housing developments.

The first event attracted 290 entrants, and the 1984 race hosted 444. Races were cancelled in 1993, 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2008 due to unsatisfactory snow conditions. The number of race entrants dropped from a high of 455 in 1985 to about 100 in recent years. PVSC provided major support for the race, and income after expenses was donated to the Shaw House project for homeless teens. In 1993 a Children's Tour was added near the finish line for children under age eighteen. This event was sponsored by the late Dr. Anders Netland of Orono. Chris Dorion, Peter Millard, and Gil Roderick have devoted considerable energy to maintaining the cross-country course. (Abstracted from club histories written by Bob Dunlap.)



Tom Hanson's Bald Mountain photo, taken by Al Reynolds. Below: The Clarence Young Giant Slalom Cup Race, Bald Mountain.





## The 2022 Wicked Winter Caribou Bog Ski Race & Tour

The 2022 Caribou Bog Classic Race was held on February 6 along with the Freestyle Race a week later on February



13. The classic race had 59 finishers with 43 finishing the freestyle race for a total of 102 finishers for both races this year. This was almost double the number from last year! Two major snow events the week prior to the classic race resulted in perfect conditions that allowed the actual Caribou Bog ski trail to be part of the classic race. Participants came from all parts of the state with all skiing abilities and age groups represented. Over 25 different volunteers (groomers, registrars, timers, course setters, trail monitors, parking monitors, etc.) helped with the races. A special thanks to the volunteers for making both races run so smoothly.

We are already looking forward to 2023. Hopefully the new Trail Center facility (see p. 10) can be used as the race headquarters and allow for a place to meet for pre- and post-race activities. Similar to the past three years, the races will be scheduled in February with several available backup dates, which will help insure that races will take place on good snow conditions. A separate classic and freestyle race will again be scheduled. For the classic race an additional longer marathon distance (approximately 30K) may be offered. There are also plans to possibly add a separate kids race on the day of the freestyle race. Depending on snow conditions there are a variety of trails that could be used for the races. Trail improvements scheduled for this summer should also result in better trail conditions for the 2023 races. The popularity of the Caribou Bog Ski Race is growing and has the potential to be among the major ski races in Maine and New England.





**Caribou Bog Ski Race Results, February 6, 13, 2022**

**10.4 K Freestyle Results**

Miles Kirby	29:35 1 1	Ashton Maybe	45:11 6 3	Karin Tilberg	02:02:35 19 2
Eddie Harvey	29:43 2 1	Sam Jenkins	46:36 7 4	Mairead Thistle	02:14:57 20 1
Matthew Barton	30:03 3 2	Clara White	46:42 8 1	Karen Hover	02:20:46 21 3
Greg Harkay	30:04 4 3	Steve Pfister	49:27 9 1	Rose Buckingham	02:21:31 22 1
Nils Haentjens	31:47 5 4	Ela Allan Rahill	49:35 10 2		
James Beebe	31:48 6 1	Henry Buetens	50:09 11 5		
Sam Clifford	31:51 7 5	Maureen Tyne	51:06 12 3		
Erich Reed	32:02 8 1	Jessica Kennedy	51:16 13 4		
Marak Skacel	32:47 9 2	Megan Gerbi	52:30 14 5		
Chris Bryant	33:38 10 3	Celia Buetens	54:46 15 6		
Joelle Zuhlke	33:53 11 1	Lisa Kingsbury	55:17 16 1		
Thomas Beebe	34:27 12 6	Ben Hale	57:10 17 3		
Sam Stratton	34:36 13 2	Bill Cunningham	57:25 18 2		
Jeremy Markuson	36:08 14 1	Jake Ward	58:15 19 3		
Brain Rahill	36:39 15 4	Paul Molton	58:23 20 1		
James Sanborn	36:41 16 2	Lee Hecker	58:35 21 1		
Guillaume Bourdin	37:45 17 7	Cipperly Good	59:49 22 1		
Robb Freeman	38:04 18 5	Carly Hayward	01:00:26 23 7		
Nina Mitchell	39:42 19 1	Nina Mitchell	01:04:04 24 2		
Martin Skacel	39:45 20 1	Madelyn Herman	01:05:28 25 3		
Susan Elias	40:06 21 1	Andrew Nichols	01:05:32 26 3		
Matthew Damon	40:08 22 3	Christy Stout	01:07:43 27 2		
Eric Dasilva	40:18 23 4	Jeff Hecker	01:09:54 28 2		
Mya Eno	40:29 24 1	Anna Dunn	01:15:50 29 8		
Kristin Beebe	41:28 25 2	Linda Basilicato	01:20:46 30 2		
Karen Francoeur	41:57 26 1	Sharon Tishner	01:22:42 31 1		
Alan Harris	42:08 27 2	Diane Norris	01:24:34 32 1		
Margo Cox	42:27 28 1	Will Mitchel	01:24:37 33 1		
Jessica Kennedy	45:59 29 2	Laura Mitchel	01:24:44 34 3		
Dan Baumert	47:13 30 3	Karisa Tilbury	01:44:29 35 1		
Reid Quirk	49:26 31 1				
Tim Waring	49:27 32 5				
Michael Tuell	37 33 4	<b>Classic 18K Results</b>			
Muzzy Barton	54:08 34 5	Sean Lena	01:15:43 1 1		
Liam Waring	55:32 35 2	Chris Bryant	01:16:48 2 1		
Micah Olsen	56:06 36 3	Gregory Harkay	01:18:46 3 2		
Will Mitchell	57:21 37 4	Mark Lena	01:23:58 4 1		
Rose Buckingham	58:46 38 1	Thomas Cassidy	01:28:00 5 1		
Samara Reidy	01:03:46 39 2	Lauren Jacobs	01:29:43 6 1		
Laura Mitchell	01:12:18 40 1	Matt Damon	01:34:22 7 2		
Molly Crawford	01:28:40 41 2	Rob Freeman	01:34:43 8 2		
Zadie Olsen	DNF	Julie Sprague	01:35:26 9 1		
Brian Olsen	DNF	James Sanborn	1:36:15 10 3		
		Amy DiFrancesco	01:36:25 11 1		
		Dan Baumert	01:36:31 12 2		
		Linda Greenwood	01:37:35 13 1		
		Jeff Owen	01:39:52 14 3		
		Ellen Mallory	01:42:54 15 2		
		Raul Siren	01:43:05 16 1		
		Dan Cassidy	02:28:00 23 2		
		David Marceau	02:32:12 24 4		
		Brian Rahill	01:58:43 17 4		
		Clayton Cole	01:58:47 18 3		

**Classic 9K Results**

Kyle McClellan	35:39 1 1
Ruth White	40:27 2 1
Jeremy Markunson	42:13 3 1
Tim Waring	43:20 4 2
Tommy Owen	44:40 5 2





## PVSC Alpine Racing Season, 2022

The PVSC Alpine Racing program completed a full season this year with practices on Saturdays and away races at Lost Valley, Camden Snow Bowl, BigRock, Squaw Mountain, Lonesome Pines, and Hermon Mountain. Despite challenging weather, the Hermon Mountain crew kept conditions on Cloud Nine optimal, having laid up a veritable mountain of snow on the headwall during the frosty nights in late January.

For PVSC, the highlight of the season was the Chip Cochrane Invitational Race which we host each year at Hermon Mountain. This year we held the Cochrane on Sunday, March 13. After a rainy mid-week, the weather cooperated, giving us plenty of sunshine and bracing temperature to keep the snow solid for two runs of GS and two of slalom. PVSC competed against teams from Squaw and BigRock. Our thanks to Director Ruth Williams for seeing that the race ran smoothly!



A host of volunteers kept the Cochrane event running smoothly:

**Timing:** Ian Gillis, DJ Williams

**Start Gate Official:** Richard Judd, Jason Gillis

**Course Setting:** Josh McPherson, Roger Paradise, Richard Judd, Jason Gillis

**Gatekeepers:** Jen Kolvoord, John Nadeau, Ben Isenhour

**Registration:** Ruth Williams, Jamie Paradise, Meghan Fox, Heather Grass

**Finish Corral & V-Netting:** DJ William, Nick Fox, Scott Robinson, Jarod Guillette

**Time Poster:** Jamie Paradise, Tracy Roberts

**Finish Award Announcer:** Roger Paradise

**Forerunner:** Maddie Gillis

**Photographer:** Heather Grass

**Coat Runner:** Maddie Gillis

**Bib Collector:** Amanda Gillis, Meghan Fox



Alpine Racing 2022  
Photographs by Heather Grass





## Nordic God of Cross Country Skiing Visits PVSC at West Branch Pond Camps

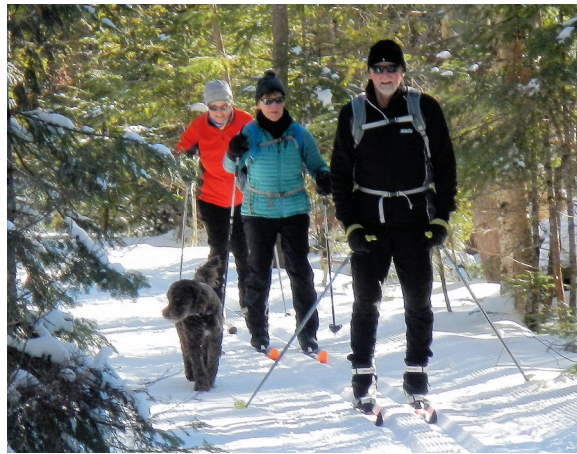
Just before the rise of the half moon on the 3rd night of the annual PVSC trip to West Branch Pond Camps, the rarely seen Nordic God of Cross-Country Skiing, aka *Docus Billimus*, descended from the snow-covered hills in a flash of light. Surrounded by hovering luminescent spinning wheels (mimicking LED juiced Frisbees), *D. Billimus* gave his blessings. The ritual included a rendition of the X-Country Skiing anthem. Oscar Sterling, son of WBPC's Mildred and Eric, humored the Great *Billimus* by performing a snow-dance, ensuring an abundance of snow and ideal skiing for the remainder of the season.



Oscar in Snow-Dance mode

*Billimus* promises to return to PVSC's next visit to West Branch Pond Camps in 2023.

Some may scoff at such ancient rituals, but the powers of *Docus Billimus* need to be reckoned with. As the son of Skaði, the Nordic Goddess of winter, snow, and mountains, and Odin, Nordic God of wisdom and frenzy, *Billimus* holds great power, and indeed, PVSC was grateful for the plentiful snow granted, though *Billimus* could have kept the minus 30° temperature.



*Docus Billimus*, Nordic God of X-Country Skiing



Keeping warm at -30° F

## Daicey Pond Trip to Baxter State Park

On February 17-20 PVSC Nordic skiers spent a weekend at the Daicey Pond Cabins at Baxter Park. The party included Peter Buzzini, Ian Oglivie, Julie Cheville, Dan Baumert, Karen Hover, Jackie Dion, and Amy DiFrancesco. The Foss and Knowlton Trail took them approximately six miles into Daicey Pond. The Trip highlights included visiting Big and Little Niagra Falls, snowshoeing to the West Peak of OJI, playing card games, and listening to great tunes on Ian's speakers. Skiers enjoyed some delicious meals, including Peter's fondue, Jackie's Mexican chicken, Amy's tortellini, and Larry's chili. A friendly park ranger named Andy visited us each evening to make sure that we were alive and to have a bite to eat. We experienced every kind of weather, from 40 degrees to minus zero, rain, sun, and snow. Everyone pitched in to collect water, carry wood, cook, and clean up after meals. It was a fun four days of strenuous activity, relaxation, and excellent food and conversation. Looking forward to next year!







**Daicy Pond Trip,  
February 2022**

The Orono Nordic Ski Farm Program reports another successful year of introducing kids in grades two through eight to cross-country skiing. The Ski Farm practiced twice weekly, January through March, using the “ski play” model. The participants met at the Orono High School ski shack.







### Learn to Ski and Board--and Beyond

During the 2021-2022 season, Learn to Ski/Board offered lessons at New Hermon Mountain for children ages 5-12 in partnership with the mountain management. The four-week group lessons were held on Saturdays, January through March.

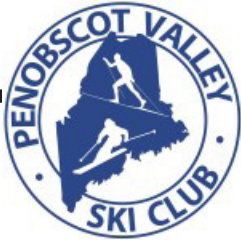
When participants finish the learning program, PVSC helps retain their enthusiasm for skiing by offering the Racing Development Program for kids ages six and up. From there our young participants go on to high-school racing.



Youth Program, Bald Mountain, 1960s (above); Hidden Valley, Camden Snow Bowl, Caribou Bog, 2022 (above right and below).







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### Rendition of the proposed Caribou Bog Trail Center

In January 2021 the Orono Economic Development Corporation (OEDC) announced plans to renovate the Taylor Bait Farm business buildings and repurpose them as the Caribou Bog Trail Center, a four-season outdoor facility. The building is located off the Taylor Road in Orono and is within the Caribou Bog Conservation Area, a corridor of conservation lands and extensive trails extending from the Bangor City Forest north to Old Town. The new Center will serve Nordic skiers, mountain bikers, birder watchers, and runners/walkers by providing a place to change, sit, picnic, socialize, and store equipment. OEDC was awarded a \$120,000 Recreational Trails Program matching grant.

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