

Revised Plan For A Backcountry Ski Trip to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (NM)

Dates: March 1- 4, 2018

Trip Plan:

Thursday:

Some of the group will car pool from Old Town and arrive at Bowlin Camps, a private set of sporting camps 8 miles off Route 159 adjacent to the NM, in the afternoon and do some skiing on the NM trails and maybe some evening head lamp skiing. Spend the night there in a very comfortable deluxe housekeeping cabin. A hearty supper and breakfast on Friday will be provided at no charge.

Friday:

The rest of the group will car pool from Old Town to Bowlin Camps and everyone will begin the 5.5 mile ski into the Big Spring Brook Hut in the NM at 10AM. We will stay at this large hut that sleeps 16 and is outfitted with propane lights, a propane stove, pots and pans, and a wood stove for the next two nights. Gear (mainly a sleeping bag and pad and extra clothes) and food will be transported to the hut with pulk sleds or back packs. Everyone will bring their own food for two breakfasts and two lunches. Food will be provided for two group suppers. Drinking water will be provided by melting and filtering snow. In the afternoon, there will be time to ski with only a light day pack out to a high scenic

look out to view Mount Katahdin and return to the hut before dark for supper.

Saturday:

Ski with only light day packs on the NM trail system to five scenic view points along the Penobscot River. Meet for lunch and a warm up at Haskell Hut. Ski more trails and return to the Big Brook Hut in time for supper. Ski as much or as little as you want to on this day. On this day some additional members may arrive, park at Bowlin Camps and ski out into the NM to join the main group for the remainder of the trip.

Sunday: In the morning, transport gear with sleds or back packs out the 5.5 miles to Bowlin Camps to where our cars are parked and head home.

Cost:

\$25 per person to pay for parking at Bowlin Camps, use of propane and firewood at the NM Hut, and to pay for the food and drink for the group supper meals.

Those staying Thursday night at Bowlin Camps will split the cost of the single large cabin rental that could run from \$60 to \$125 per person depending on how many people elect to spend the night there.

Trails:

The primary NM trails are packed as often as the volunteer staff's schedule permits, but the secondary ones to the

scenic viewpoints are never packed. The difficulty of the trails is indicated on the winter cross country ski map of the NM. https://www.nps.gov/kaww/planyourvisit/upload/KWW_NM-XC-Ski-Map-2016-2.pdf

Sign Up Details:

All group members must be members of PVSC, sign a PVSC release form, and be experienced Nordic skiers. Everyone is expected to obey the rules of the NM. <https://www.nps.gov/kaww/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm>

For more information or to sign up and pay for all or a portion of this trip, please contact Bill Cunningham at 207-487-3140 or docbillc@gmail.com before Jan 5, 2018.

Don't miss this great chance to test and improve your back country skiing/camping skills and explore this wild scenic part of the state in the beauty of winter with a fun loving group of friendly active Nordic skiers like yourself!