

## EAU CLAIRE SKI STRIDERS FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

**Spring Street Sports is holding their 27th annual Ski Swap** at 10:00 AM, Saturday, November 10th! Bring in your unwanted skis, snowshoes, or snowboard gear between October 27th and November 9th and they'll sell it for you! They'll help you set the price, with 15% of the sale price going to the Eau Claire Ski Striders for trail development in the Chippewa Valley.



### A lot has been happening at Tower Ridge. Let's take a look:

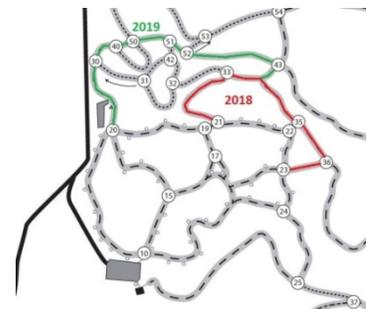
Fred Boetcher, Bob Burch and a hardworking crew of volunteers have been hard at work upgrading the lights. Starting in June club members were working well off the ground pulling down the old lights. Then in August CVTC Electrical Power Distribution students under the supervision of John Ocker were busy replacing rotted poles on the old lighted loops and placing new poles on the trails planned for expansion.



In September and October volunteers returned to the lift, placing light masts with efficient led bulbs.

A note on the timing. The lighted trail expansion is happening over two summers. The limiting resource is the hours available from the CVTC Electrical Power Distribution students. They do great work and save the club a lot of money. But they don't have an infinite number of hours they can give us.

The highest priority is replacement of failing poles on the existing lighted loops. This year's trail expansion was chosen because a loop could be completed in the time remaining after pole replacement was finished.



The Ski Striders are grateful to members that have provided financial support for this effort including the Arnold and Lois Domer Fund and the Pat and Sue Quinn Recreational Fund. And we're very grateful for the help and dedication of the CVTC students for their work under some warm summer conditions.

The bottom line is that the first phase of lights, poles, and electronics were done at a cost of about \$750 per light. Hiring all the work out would have added \$600/light to that. A big thanks to Fred, Bob and other volunteers for stepping up on this. Mike Howe, Don & Sarah Bredle, Bob Jankowski, Rolf Van Houten, Emily Blaskey, Beth Hougen, Jack Pladziewicz and Arlyn Stertz all spent time working on lights.



**Chippewa Valley Nordic news:** This year's CVN news is interactive. Go to the Birkie site, and check Korte results. Choose a random year prior to 2010 and take note of the number of local high school age entrants. Might be a few, some years it was zero.

This year 34 CVN skiers and coaches skied the Birkie, Korte, and Junior Birkie.

Interested youth skiers and parents can find out more about youth ski racing in the Chippewa Valley at <https://www.facebook.com/cvnskiteam/>

**Plans for the Tower Ridge skills park continue to progress.** The team has been working hard on trying to close out an initial budget and is starting fundraising.

Chris Gorzek reports the design is nearing completion. They are working on final approvals from the county so brushing of the skills park areas can happen yet this fall along with limited tree cutting and removal.

Stay tuned to hear how you can help make this effort come to fruition.



**New Trail maps are coming.** The Trail Map committee has finished its work and the draft copies are up for approval at the November 12th Parks and Forest Committee meeting. The maps will be full color, 12x18 metal signs, to be mounted on new 4x4 posts. There will also be a 24x36 version inside the Chalet. And due to a consensus that the trails be named, the committee did some serious brainstorming to place a moniker on every section.

The new posts have been distributed to the intersections, but we will need volunteers to install them before the ground freezes. So grab your favorite post hole digger, a level, and a tape measure and head to Tower Ridge anytime to install a few posts. Place them as close to the old posts as possible. We will transfer the arrows and such when we install the maps. The posts are 8ft, so please bury them approximately 2 1/2 feet into the ground. You can contact Bob Jankowski if you have any questions. [bkowski@charter.net](mailto:bkowski@charter.net), 715-456-5469

A big thanks to Sue McDonald for designing the maps, Josh Peterson for his guidance, and the trail committee for all their work on this project.

**One last item...** The Ski Striders will be having a special night time Kick and Pick/Season Kickoff on **Monday, Nov 5th** to show off the new lights at Tower Ridge. Daylight Saving Time will have ended so please adjust your clocks. Bring footwear appropriate for hiking as we tour the old trails with new lights and check out the newly lit loop while we clear debris from the deck.

**The Kick and Pick is at 4:30** followed by general meeting where **skiers can join or renew their memberships** and discuss ways the club can promote winter sports locally.

Volunteer opportunities are available including treasurer and secretary and spots on a newsletter committee. And the club has traditionally assisted at SSS for the ski swap. Please give those tasks some thought. Club officers will be available at the kickoff meeting to discuss the Treasurer and Secretary positions.

[Membership Can Also Be Done Online](#). Or you can go old school, print out the form and mail it in. The Ski Striders thank you for your support.



## Membership Application 2018/2019 Ski Season

Name/Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Children/Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in working on the following team/s.

- Advocacy
- Activities/Social
- Races
- Skier Development

I would like to make a donation (tax deductible) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_, to be used for:

\_\_\_\_\_

- Family \$25.00
- Single \$20.00

Checks payable to: **Eau Claire Ski Striders**

Please send your payment by January 2019 for this year's membership with a copy of your membership application along with your payment to:

Mark Blaskey  
2004 E. Willson Dr  
Altoona, WI 54720-1403