

Tour reports

February 17 and 19

It was a week of contrast for cross-country skiing. With some 40 cm of new snow on the ground (according to Pierre), tourers on Thursday were fortunate the Red trail had been freshly track set. Thirteen people enjoyed above-zero temperatures, some sun and truly excellent skiing (well, for those whose wax or waxless skis worked well) – although any attempt to go where no track setting had been done proved fruitless. (And believe me, Derek tried!). Then came Friday with temperatures up to 9 or 10 degrees, followed by a sudden freeze-up that evening – and, thankfully, close to 5 cm of snow.

Despite the new snow, it was felt that snowshoeing would be a wiser option for Saturday's tour from Mike Loken's. And the option proved popular, with 17 people (Vikings, some Field Naturalists, and friends of Mike) setting out on the Loken trail for a two-hour plus tour. For a few of us, it was our first time on snowshoes so there was a certain amount of grumbling over how to get the darn things on properly. But eventually we were all strapped in and trudging along the trail quite happily, and some skiers passing by assured us we had made the right choice of transport. After a very chilly start crossing the windy, cold lake, the tour went into the woods and several people even complained of being too warm.

Back at Mike's, we enjoyed his usual gracious hospitality, including mulled wine and delicious soup, not to mention other goodies – such as his fabulous cookies. Despite not being on skis, it was a superb day, which just goes to show that Vikings can have a good time no matter what.

Judy Rogers

