President's Choice:

Thinking "out of the Viking trail box", we followed up on a suggestion of Richard to ski a 15 km loop comprising the Portageur (No. 8), Birkebeiner (No. 29), Edelweiss (No. 22), and Viking Red (No.40) ski trails.

Setting off on the Portageur, just up behind the Viking clubhouse, the trail conditions proved a little too "crispy crunchy" for some 4 of the Thursday troops, so they opted to alternatively ski on more familiar territory; the Red and Crown East trails. The balance of 11 keeners however were, in short distance order, rewarded with a much softer track and pleasant challenge of forested trails. Given that there seems to be a meter of snow coverage, poles could sometimes frustratingly sink quite deeply!

Lunch stop was declared at the junction of the Birkebeiner with the Edelweiss trail, with the pleasant surprise of seeing that the Edelweiss trail had been nicely track set and provided us with a dessert of exhilarating, yet safe wide birth downhills!!

The final run home to the clubhouse was on the familiar Viking Red trail.....none regretted the day's adventure of discovery on these "out of the box trails".....thanks Richard!!!











Herring-boning on the Portageur trail



Maple syrup collection buckets... ...a common sight along the Viking Red trail !