

2nd Thursday Tour – 12th January 2012

Rendezvous: Centre de Ski de Fond du Parc des Campeurs de Ste-Agathe-des-Monts

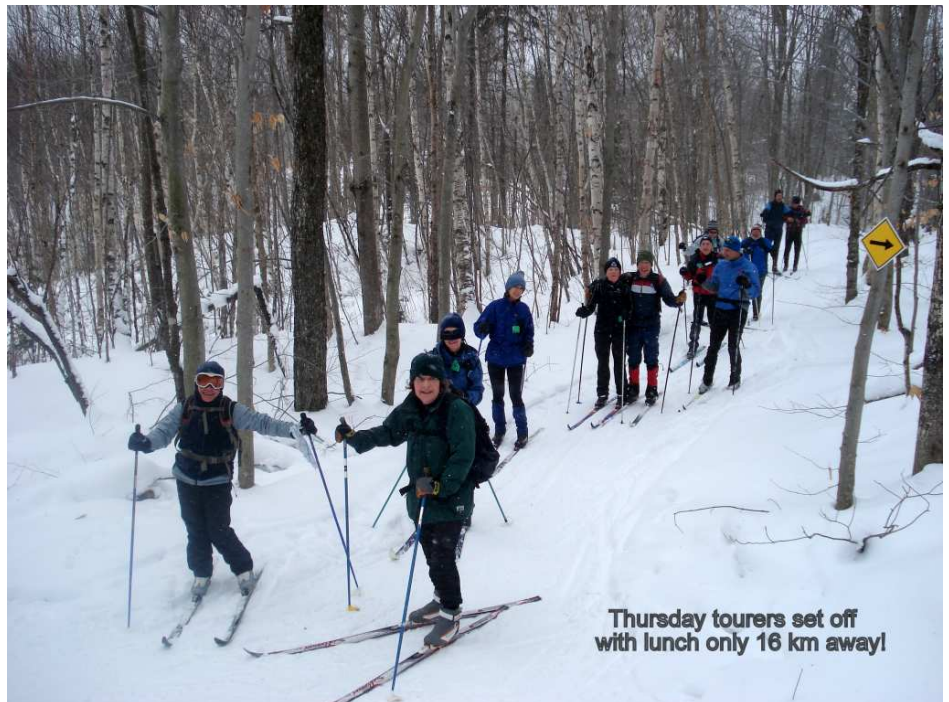
Ref. www.parcdescampeurs.com/hiver/en/index.html

We skied around 16 km, out and back, on the following trails:

Grignon, Belvoir, Mont Sainte-Agathe viewpoint, Cohen, Davis, & Deux-Lac/Sommet

Metrological news of two snow-laden fronts advancing on Quebec did not deter the 16 Vikings who showed up at the Parc des Campeurs rendezvous. Given its welcoming and well appointed “all conveniences” chalet, and a delightfully laid out network of some 50 km of groomed woodland trails, makes this “must do” x-c ski centre the jewel in the Carte Réseau crown!

We welcome new club member Brent (McCosker), of USA, LA origin, who joined us for his first Thursday tour experience.



After some 5 km into the tour, we veer off for the 1 km climb up to survey a somewhat blurry view of Ste-Agathe. Gordon advises that we are standing on what was, in the “old days”, a down-hill ski centre. Our 1 km return back down to the trail network did indeed give us the down-hill experience!



**Thursday tourers atop defunct downhill ski hill
rendering snowy view of
Lac des Sables - Ste-Agathe-des-Monts**

More thrilling down-hill experiences were to come, and blinding too for those of us who did not have glasses or goggles as the intensifying snow flakes could prove quite punishing on unprotected eyeballs!

The sunless, damp cold conditions were not conducive for a “stand in the track” lunch, so all agreed to press on and enjoy lunch, and the vegetable soup on offer, back at the invitingly warm and spacious ski centre chalet.

The adrenalin rushes on the concluding long trail runs had us wondering if we were down hillers rather than cross-country skiers!