

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 25th February 2021

Routing: Combo of Morin-Heights Municipal and Viking trails

Summary: Skied some 13 km taking ~ 5 hours, yes that's 5 hours!!! on:

Portageur (No.8), Birkbeiner (No.29) Edelweiss (No. 32), Viking Red & Viking Green (No. 41)

Weather: Brilliant sunshine, temperatures around -8 Deg. C, no wind (only that from our exertions!)

Five lads and five lasses showed up at the clubhouse and innocently agreed to ski this anti-clockwise loop illustrated here:



Mother Nature, with Her well-intended generosity, had deposited overnight a foot of fresh snow upon the landscape and since we were the first skis to hit these trails, we became the trail breakers! Most arduous was the initial Portageur trail with its steep climbs and sinuous twists and turns, perhaps attributable to its having to be re-routed over the years to satisfy new finicky landowners. Crossing the Blue Hills road, we then transition over to the Birkbeiner (Norwegian for Birch Bones?) trail which welcomes you with an exhausting long climb! After about 1 km, we transition over to the delightful Edelweiss trail and, finding a sun exposed spot, declare it "lunch time!"

Not much chance of us coming across the delicate little Edelweiss flower as it apparently prefers Alpine elevations, and we were at a mere 470m. After so much trail breaking, we were finally rewarded on the concluding section of the Edelweiss trail with a long descent, with wide Olympic quality track set conditions; indeed Jarmila's tracking App had her peaking at 24 kph! A short cut then brings us onto the familiar Viking Red trail, which to our joy had just been freshly track set by Pierre; so much appreciated after all the hours of trail breaking slog!

At trail junction "M" we had a 6/4 split with 4 folks returning to the clubhouse via the Red trail, and 6 folks returning via the Green trail (not track set as we were to find out!) and which initially entailed a long walk down a road.

This record long Thursday tour, with its arduous 5 hr. duration, seemed to go down well, which fits with the philosophy that with advancing years, one should remain challenged both intellectually and physically.....we certainly offered the latter today!

Derek



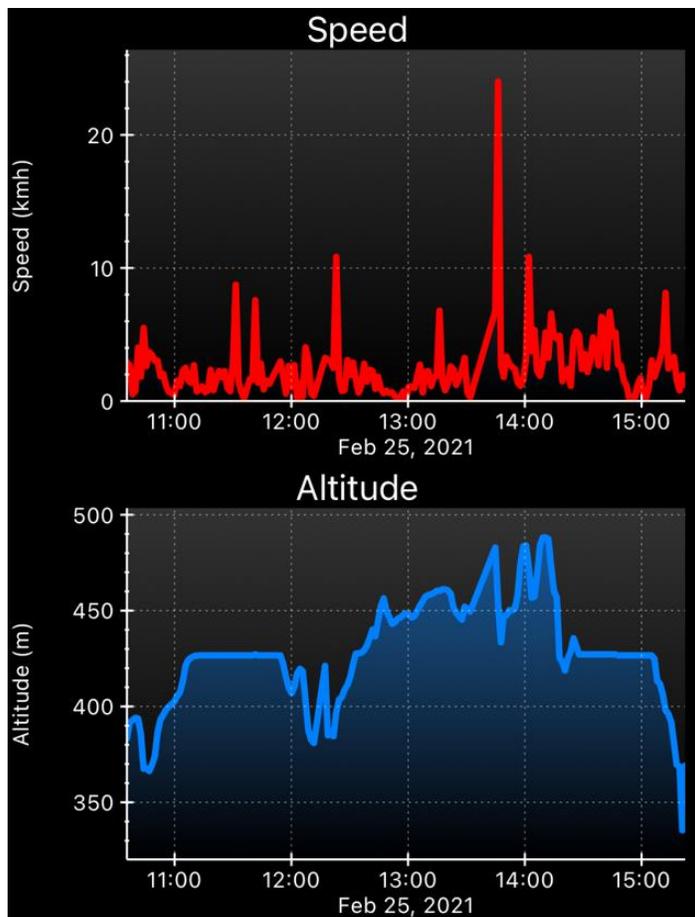
**Replacement trail breaker required
any volunteers?**



We have a trail breaking volunteer!



Thanks here to Jarmila who has satellites tracking our every move!





“Remind me again,
where the hell are we?”



Edelweiss
Towers

Trail side
Real Estate!