

The Fun Never Ends at Viking Nordic!

By Jonathon Wiesel

Here's a story from Peter Foley, who owns **Viking Nordic** (802-824-3933) in Londonderry, Vermont.

It seems a family of three moose has been hovering around the trails all winter. About a week ago, manager Malcolm McNair was grooming and came up from behind them on Odin's Ring, a two km loop at the far end of the system. "The moose checked Malcolm out, and then just kept ambling down the middle of the trail. So Malcolm slowed down and did his best to fill in their tracks and cover their poop. At the end of the loop the moose decided they liked the trail so much they'd take a second loop.

"Since our trails traverse the land the moose 'own,' we've issued them comp season's passes, as we do for all landowners we borrow land from. Their tracks and in-trail pooping are another example of poor trail etiquette - when will it end!"

That's one of my favorite moose stories. They're formidable and interesting creatures, powerful and silly-looking from different angles, ungainly and graceful. Some time in the late 1980s at **Jackson Hole Resort**, Wyoming, I saw a cow moose face down a huge snowcat grooming the XC trails. Concerned about her calf (which didn't look concerned at all), she didn't back down - in fact, she smashed a side mirror, then forced the driver to back up, turn, and leave the area. I think the guy showed excellent judgment. A moose sharing your front seat would be reason for concern.

About The Author

Jonathan Wiesel is a nordic guide, instructor, and ski area planner, who has written for over 120 magazines and newspapers on three continents. He wrote *Cross-Country Ski Vacations*, a guide to the great destinations of North America. He lives near Boulder, Colorado. For



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