

Viking Nordic Cookie-Cards

By Jonathon Wiesel

Friends at **Viking Nordic Center** in Londonderry, Vermont (802-824-3933), report that they're having a dynamite season, with 35 k of groomed trails open for XC (including 3 k of lights on Saturday nights) and 37 k open for snowshoeing.

Last fall I wrote about Viking's new Cookie Card program for kids under 12. It's going great guns. Younguns get a card when they buy trail passes; then they ski on routes near the cafe, stopping to punch their cards at five cookie stations, and finally head back to home base and get a free goodie. The stations have been moved around the trail network (still an easy ski from the cafe) so kids get to explore new areas with each visit.

Long-time managers Dana and Malcolm McNair say they'll be buying new gear next year, so current rentals go on sale in March. You can reserve skis now and pick them up after March 1 just talk with Malcolm in the shop.

The folks at Viking also note that they're closed Wednesdays and that the local mama moose hasn't yet picked up a cookie card for her kid (or is it calf?).

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



Southern Vermont Cross Country Skiing