



Solbakken Scene

News From Sunny Hill!

Solbakken Resort

December, 2011

A busy summer at Solbakken

We had a very busy summer with one of our busiest falls ever as well as the addition of Olof house and the re-opening of Cabin 4 after the fire last winter. We celebrated 5 years of ownership in June and were treated to dinner out by the Blanks to mark the occasion. July-August were some of the nicest weather I remember with temps in the 70-80 range daily cooling down at night

for perfect sleeping. We experienced virtually none of the hot, humid conditions that much of the country had to suffer through. Fall colors were some of the best ever which made the news headlines resulting in one of the most busy fall seasons ever. By November we were thankful that things settled down a bit and we were able to complete several projects including our new sign out in front of the resort.

It looks really nice and will make us much easier to find. We are still waiting for some badly needed snow and hoping that our Christmas-New Years time will be filled with Cross Country skiing, snowshoeing and enjoying the beauty of a perfectly white landscape. Winter is a very unique time on the North Shore with the lake generally remaining open all winter long. Make your plans soon to come up for a visit!



Above: New sign in the final stages of construction. Note, it is now beautifully finished and lit at night!



Merry Christmas from the entire staff!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us here at Solbakken. We appreciate your continued business and look forward to seeing you in the future. It is truly a joy to see familiar faces return each year, especially in July and August where roughly 80% of our guests are repeat guests who we know on a first name basis! Our newest additions to our staff are Kirk, who is on the desk as well as helping in

Maintenance. We also are happy to have some additional housekeeping help with Dawn who is helping Carolyn out several days a week. Finally, we continue to aid our busiest seasons with J1 Visa students. This year we will be hosting a young man from Peru and a second one from Paraguay. It is always interesting to learn a bit about these far away places!

Internet Reservations Now Available!

We implanted a computerized reservation system in April and added online reservation capability at the same time. While we enjoy your calls and are happy to make reservations at 800-435-3950, some folks just want to do it online at a time more convenient for them. So

far in fact, about 1/2 of our new reservations are coming in online! It also allows us to “package” items or options to your reservation when you book online or over the phone. For example, we expect to be adding a bed and breakfast option soon, which will feature your accommodation as

well as daily breakfast’s at Cascade Restaurant—5 minutes down the road. The link to our online reservations can be found on the homepage of our website at www.solbakkenresort.com

What's New At Solbakken

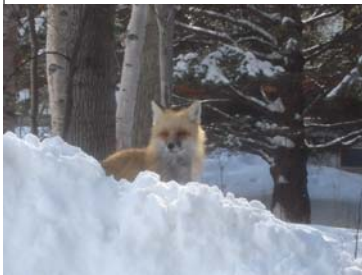
We finished the remodel of Cabin 4 just in time for Memorial day weekend and it rented nearly 100% all summer with rave reviews! We also did a major road improvement project resulting in what we hope will

be much safer winter conditions, it also dried things up during the summer months and improved the access to Jonas house. We put up a new sign in front of the resort with nice lighting and a beautiful design built by a local

sign maker with Dale helping to install the lovely log frame work. We added small seating couches to both Cabin 5 and Cabin 6 and we replaced several worn out appliances. We added insulation to all of our cabin roofs.



Cabin 4 new look. The cabin was gutted last January by a fire. We put it back into service on Memorial Day Weekend.



Posing for a close up, this red fox enjoyed a sunny winter day at Solbakken!

We have seen a lot more wolves lately as the deer began hanging out near the resort searching for a bit of grass. The wolf population is growing while the moose population continues to decline. Bear droppings as well

Nature Notes

as scratching on our ski trails were quite prevalent. We also caught this little red fox hopping around the front yard of the Main Lodge looking for mice under the snow. The number of Bald Eagles this fall was astounding, at one

point we observed 4 of them sitting atop high pine trees in a row about 40 feet high. It was quite a sight because behind it the sun was rising. Unfortunately, we had no camera on our person.

“The Kids Corner” Sarah, Shannon, Elizabeth and Samuel



Top: First Day of School

Below: Just before putting Sarah on a plane to New Orleans



Hi from the O'Phelan kids. Sarah is away at College this year in New Orleans! She is doing well and enjoying some free time in the big city. She will be home for Christmas and that will be fun. Shannon will attempt to get her drivers license in late December. She has been practicing for months and seems quite confident. She got a new snowboard for and has already tested it out at Lutsen Mountains. Elizabeth

hurt her leg during basketball and will be having surgery in about a week to repair a torn meniscus and have her acl fixed up. She loves sports but will be sidelined as a coaches helper for 6-9 months. Sam is playing basketball this winter but his real love is football. He is still very involved in video games and his Xbox 360. We all wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!

Christmas Gift Certificates!

Still searching for that perfect gift item for somebody special? Solbakken offers gift certificates for any amount you choose. We will send to you or your loved one. Treat somebody to a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the north shore.

Call

800-435-3950



5 Years and Counting...

We hit our 5 year anniversary in June of 2011. I would like to share some of what we has occurred since purchasing Solbakken. The first two years, we lived in the apartment behind the front desk in the Main Lodge. This 2 bedroom apartment was very snug for the six of us. We had our youngest, Sam, sleeping in a loft while the 3 girls slept in the Master bedroom with one in the closet! Maureen and I, spent the nights in the spare bedroom—with no closets! We were very fortunate to find Dale who now occupies the unit as Careteaker.

We live onsite at Cascade Lodge—in a new house, and work at Solbakken nearly every day for some time. It has been a real blessing to be able to come “home” from the busyness of running 2 resorts and a restaurant. We have poured our hearts, souls and cash into the resort to the fullest extent possible. You would probably not know this, but we have spent over \$20,000 on our water supply to little avail. This winter, I am working on some alternatives to this major problem the resort faces. The water is safe, but it is not very good tasting and is filled with problem causing

minerals that are destroying our plumbing. We have begun the costly process of replacing the beautiful quilts Beth and friends had made over the years with handmade quilts by Michael’s Mom. The 4 we put into rooms this December went into Cabin 2 and 3. Over the past 5 years we have replaced all of our cabin mattress/box springs, re-furnished many of our accomdations, replaced so many appliances I can’t count them and improved our processes like adding internet reservations and doing all email confirmations. It is a lot of hard work but we are constantly rewarded by your positive feedback. Thank you!

Green Team Update

We completed the driveway run off project with Cook County’s Soil and water district so that sediment no longer runs off of our driveway into Lake Superior. We also added 16 inches of

blown in insulation to all of our cabins (some had as little as 2 inches!). Nearly all of our light bulbs are now CFL bulbs with a few exceptions. We are presently putting up 3M plastic over all of our

older windows and we are turning the heat down whenever a cabin or room goes unoccupied. Whenever we replace an appliance we choose energy star rated appliances.



Cascade Restaurant/pub is located just 5 minutes from Solbakken. Try your discount at our new pub with daily happy hour and music on weekends!

Work Week May 13-20th 2011!!!

We had a successful 2011 work week with over 16 fun and hardworking people! We were able to finish up Cabin 4’s trim with some skilled carpentry help that did a wonderful job. We also did some gardening and lawn work. We had at least 2 new faces which was fun! Sign up now for the 2012 work week and we will gladly exchange rooms and meals for your

skills and efforts. Typically, we need people skilled in painting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing yard work etc. I am still deciding what projects we will work on but there is never any shortage of things to do! Here’s how it works: You arrive on Sunday and check in to a free basic room. On Monday thru Friday we provide you with a breakfast at 8am and then by 8:30-9 we begin working on projects. We break for lunch about 12 noon

and we finish up about 3 pm. The rest of the day is yours. On Friday the lunch is light and we will typically finish up by 12 noon. Saturday you are on your own for meals, but the Lodging is free, checkout is Sunday. Don’t miss this opportunity to be a part of this years adventure and a chance at some new friends. We have limited availability so please make plans early! Call Michael now at 218-387-1112!

THE SOLBAKKEN SCENE

Solbakken Resort

4874 West Highway 61

Lutsen, MN 55612

[Book Alpine Ski and Stay Packages Online 2011/2012](#)

WINTER 2011/2012 RATES

Rate per night for 1 or 2 persons (see notes below)	<u>3 BR Cabin</u>	<u>2 BR Cabin</u>	<u>1 BR Cabin</u>	<u>Jonas and Olof Lake Homes</u> -	<u>1 BR Fireplace Suite</u>	<u>2 BR Fireplace Suite</u>	<u>Motel</u>
Peak Season: Dec. 23 - January 1 Feb. and March	\$249	\$159	\$129	\$269	\$129	\$159	\$89
Regular Season: January Week-ends (except Jan 1)	\$199	\$139	\$105	\$229	\$105	\$139	\$79
Value Season: Daily Dec. 1-22 Midweek Jan. 2 to Mar. 31	\$149	\$109	\$89	\$169	\$89	\$109	\$59

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800-435-3950 or 218-663-7566

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