

PLUS: AUBURN HILLS | OAKLAND TOWNSHIP

TROY-ROCHESTER

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YOUR WEEKLY



Make a March maple fruit dip with the Yak

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Troy swimmers stick with coach

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Troy engineer's sons follow in his ski tracks

Race team in 2nd place statewide

By BILL LAITNER
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Through one of Michigan's warmest Januaries, straight in the teeth of the spels of global-warming prognosticators, Mike Temkin kept striding and skating on cross-country skis.

On weekdays, Temkin, 43, of Troy is a family man — he and his wife, Faina, have two sons, Nathan, 8, and Daniel, 15. Temkin works as a product development engineer with DaimlerChrysler Group, based in Auburn Hills. But every weekend, if there's snow to be found, he's cross-

country skiing.

He likes both styles. For classical skiing, he goes diagonal striding — sliding one ski straight ahead, then the other. For the skating style, he puts on special skis with more springiness, called camber skis, to do that faster, more fluid kind of skiing.

Born in Russia, he learned to ski there, then came to the United States in 1992. But Temkin isn't content just to glide through the woods and admire the winter wonderland. He's a racer, a member of the team based at Cross Country Ski Headquarters, a ski store and trail area at the north end of Higgins Lake just west of I-75. The spot is popular with skiers from north Oakland County.



Mike Temkin was born in Russia

As of last weekend, the team was in second place in statewide standings.

Temkin's team members include Troy residents Joseph Brandoniso, 55; Jon Hunter, 58;

Devan Thieffoldt, 50; Wolfgang Uhrig, 54, and Rochester Hills resident Marvin Stevenson, 72.

Temkin is way too fast for us to ski with, even when we ran into him twice in two weekends — once about to teach his younger son to skate-ski, again when he was training with his older son, another racer.

QUESTION: Did this warm winter cancel any of your races?

ANSWER: Yes, it canceled five of our races (out of 11). They made up two of them later. It was a very unusual season. January was nothing, just waiting every race, then nothing.

Q: How many weekends were you away this winter to ski?

A: Probably about 10 weekends. And when I can't go Up North, in previous seasons we skied at Independence Oaks (county park, east of Clarkston). But this year, there was really never enough snow.

Q: Do you take the family?

A: I take the whole family

skiing. Daniel was actually racing this year. My wife skis but she doesn't race.

Q: How will you stay in shape in the off-season?

A: I would say running, playing soccer and Rollerblading, and we have special roller skis that you can use on blacktop.

Q: So, what kind of vehicles are you testing at the proving grounds in Chelsea?

A: I really shouldn't say. I'm sorry, but our guys don't want any information in the newspaper about what we're doing out here. It's a difficult time for Chrysler. We don't know what to expect.

Contact BILL LAITNER at 248-351-3297.

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