Finland has a National Sledding Day, which was celebrated on Sunday. We went to the local sledding hill, spent a few hours, and then went to a friend’s house for split pea soup and glögi (a Scandinavian cider-like hot drink). It was a fine day.

The sledding hill had everything from mellow to super steep slopes to tree-choked ice slides, where, of course, Alex was drawn. It’s both refreshing and frightening to be somewhere where the fear of lawsuits is less keen. A boy of one of the families we were there with insisted on tagging along with Alex, much to the chagrin of his parents. Alex’s enthusiasm, though contagious to other children, makes some safety-conscious parents nervous.

Sledding Day weekend is also the beginning of the kids’ ski holiday. They have a week off now. We are just sticking around since we will go north to Lapland for a few days on March 2. Our plan is to lay low, do some more sledding, skiing and exploring of Helsinki.
Paloheinä Hiuppu on Sledding Day. Note the skiers on our local tracks on the right.

From bottom left: Lisa and Nora are Finns and Ron (the host) is an American.