

River Hills Ski Club SKIIZETTE



Lodge: Barts Hill Road • Killington, VT
Telephone & Fax 1.802.422.2828
Mail: PO Box 8056 • Stamford, CT
www.riverhillsskiclub.org

January, 2005



Happy New Year



As per club tradition, New Year's Eve saw the lodge filled with members and guests. The party was run by former board member Lou Trovato. New Year's day weather was 40 degrees and "snowing" at Killington.

Meanwhile, out west...

Former club presidents Gabe Cordova and Bill Hughes snuck away in December for an early season tune up at Vail, while Stan Rosenzweig and Ronna Cohen did the same at Alta and Park City. Conditions were excellent throughout the west.

Modern communications being what it is, Gabe couldn't keep himself from calling Stan cell-to-cell to compare notes.

[more on that, inside]



Ernie Atlas, Bill Hughes, Gabe Cordova and Wayne Tomassulo at Vail Colorado in early December.



From The Summit

By Bob Hener

Happy Winter Solstice! Happy Holidays! It's time to ski and there is plenty of snow up north. Make your reservations through the monthly coordinator NOW—we expect great weather and great attendance this season!

A good time was had by all at the CSC (CT Ski Council) SnowBall last November. Members should realize that our club members must participate in CSC events lest we jeopardize the opportunity to participate in the CSC bulk discount ski ticket program. The CSC "On Snow Winter Carnival Weekend" is the first weekend in March. If you are not going to the Lodge, please make the effort to attend. Call Gabe Cordova or visit www.skiclub.com if you are interested. In fact, the CSC Monday night racing program has started, which is good way for our club to stay active. Join Gabe, Walter, Chris, Tom, Jeff and many others race every Monday night at Mt. Southington.

Thank you Jim Maitland and Tom Grimm for running the CSC ticket program this year.

We have begun our "IN SEASON/WINTER SEASON" LODGE RATES. The cook and dish washer officially started New Year's weekend and will be on hand every weekend and certain holiday periods through March (NOTE: The cook and dishwasher were scheduled for the weekdays between Christmas and New Years due to a fully-booked Lodge).

New carpeting has been placed in the men's dorm and rooms 9, 10, 11 and 12. We will complete the carpeting in the spring. In addition, Curtis Casey and Bob Boothroyd procured and installed the new front and vestibule frames, doors and hardware. (NOTE: We have a new front door house key this year.) Thanks Curtis and Bob!

There are membership slots still available! If you know of interested people who fit our club profile get them on their way to membership by participating in club activities and submitting an application. Contact Nancy Trovato (our membership chair) for the application. We should constantly market the Club to attract new people. Bringing in friends and acquaintances helps support the lodge, and the camaraderie and culture of the sport we all love.

The refrigerator in the basement (opposite the ski tuning table) is for use by members. However, all food and beverages must be kept in sealed containers (paper bags, plastic bags, food container, bottles, etc.) **AND MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE LAST NAME OF THE MEMBER.** *Let's not grow scientific experiments in the fridge.* This also applies to all beverages. All items not identified with a members name will be disposed of at the end of the weekend. Members are asked to monitor all alcoholic beverage use as RHSC adheres to all VT state liquor laws. All adults are encouraged to inventory and monitor all liquor brought into the lodge.

Thank you Carol Bancroft for organizing and running the Jeff Ross Fall Bike Ride again this past fall. A really big thanks to Juliet and Mark Cavallaro for hosting a terrific Holiday Party in December. It was a wonderful evening.

Make sure you visit our website www.riverhillsskiclub.org often! It is always being updated with the latest club news, Skizettes, club forms, CSC news and items of interest to members that can be viewed and downloaded. Thank you webmaster, Jamie Buck.

Nancy and Lou Trovato planned a spectacular New Year's Eve feast and celebration. Thank you for another RHSC event no one will ever forget!

The first annual RHSC SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST will be held during President's Holiday Week at the Lodge, complete with prizes offered in various categories.

Remember to **volunteer**—it is what keeps the club running smoothly! Enjoy your Holidays. Tune up those skis and boards. See you our meetings, events, and at the Lodge!

RHSC PRESIDENT
Bob Hener
(203) 377-0394
TSSRJH@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Charles Mirabella
(914) 636-7437
dianasusan@netzero.com

SECRETARY
Barbara Bagnato
(203) 847-7657
babagnato@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER
Peter Buck
(203) 406-0436
pbuck64466@aol.com

ASSISTANT TREASURERS
Madge and Michael Kellick
(203) 329-1642
kellickm@optonline.net

MAINTENANCE
Curtis Casey
(203) 849-9343
bikeout@aol.com

PROGRAMS
Walter Kostrzewski
(203) 656-2931
ski4xtc@aol.com

ACTIVITIES
Stephanie Evers
(203) 253-3855
Stephanie_Evers@Countrywide.com

OPERATIONS
Kathy Hener
(203) 375-3942
cyberaunt1@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP
Nancy Trovato
(203) 698-0716
ntrovato@sbcglobal.net

PAST PRESIDENT
Paul Levine
(203) 637-7753
cook4fun@optonline.net

COMMUNICATIONS
Barbara Aronica-Buck
(203) 406-0436
bookdesigner@aol.com

SKIZETTE AND WEBSITE
Debbie Smith; Stan Rosenzweig;
Eleana Trovato; Anne Zaera
David Zecchin

Jamie Buck, webmaster
jamie@jamiebuck.com



Historical Notes

by Barbara and Bob Guth

40 Years Ago – January 1965

New Year's Eve at the lodge had a capacity crowd of about 50! It was decided that all would have dinner "out" at a Chinese restaurant in Rutland. Back at the lodge, two cases of champagne livened things up and the party rolled along until the wee hours of the morning with the Watusi, Frug and Monkey as highlights of the evening. Jerry Skehan created a masterful breakfast for survivors at about 3 a.m. Two appraisals of the club property in Vermont came in at approximately \$40,000. River Hills can be proud of their investment 40+ years ago.

30 Years Ago - January 1975

Four bus trips to the lodge were scheduled for the season: a January trip to Glen Ellen and Mt. Ascutney; two February trips, the first to Mad River and Round Top and the second to Stowe and Pico; a March trip, ski areas not yet determined..

20 Years Ago - January 1985

The New Year's Eve party was a great success. Illona Maruszak prepared mouthwatering hors d'oeuvres and Peter Jeute was responsible for a fabulous crown pork roast dinner. We were served by the teenagers Samira Hakki (Peter's niece), Ian Arcuri, and Sandie and Robbie Guth. At midnight Herb Pennington appeared as Father Time with Charlie Taff as the New Year's Baby.

10 Years Ago – January 1995

The Connecticut Ski Council presented their "Outstanding Club Member" certificate to Lillian Fischer, editor of the Skizette. The Council awards a member of each club for outstanding service to their respective club during the year. The Skizette featured photos taken at the CT Ski Council Snow Ball along with Margaret Bush's detailed report of her experience as the River Hills candidate for Snow Queen. Debbie Mirabella-Headen, the River Hills' Queen for the previous year, was Margaret's guide through all the preliminary steps leading to the Ball itself.

First Run

Stan Rosenzweig

Having gone through the pain of a debilitating left knee that limited mogul skiing only to right turns (not very efficient), this past Bastille Day, I went under the knife for what is called unicondular knee

replacement. The procedure took two hours and I was sent home the very next day. That was the easy part.

For the next four and a half months, physical therapist Rick Stebbins worked me mercilessly to bring back the left leg muscles that would enable me to frolic, once again, in the steep and deep. Well, it worked.

Friday, December 3rd, Ronna and I flew out to join Rick and one of his ski buddies in Utah for three days of diamond and double diamond trials at Park City and Alta. I will say that I was apprehensive prior to that first blue run, but the bright sunshine on the snow and the cool breeze whipping my cheeks took my mind off of my knee and it only took one run to strengthen my resolve to head for the bowls.

By the third run on Saturday, we were doing double diamond bumps in Park City's McConkey's bowl and on Sunday we skied the legend of steep powder: Alta.

When we got back to the condo, I turned on my cell phone to call home and saw that there were two messages. Both were from Gabe Cordova, who was skiing in Aspen with Bill Hughes. I called Gabe back.

"How's the knee?" Gabe asked, "I called you twice, but you didn't answer."

"We were in Alta without the phone and the knee was terrific." I said.

"The snow here in Aspen is great. Why don't you come over for a run." Gabe deadpanned.

"I can't. I am here in Park City with my physical therapist and Ronna and I are heading for the hot tub." Why don't you come HERE for a run." I said.

"I can't," said Gabe. Then he added, "I wanted to go the hot tub, but Bill fell asleep."

So it turns out that a couple of River Hillers were starting the season with a tune up in the mountains of Colorado and a few more were knee deep in Utah powder.

Rick, it turns out, is not only a superb physical therapist, but one heck of a bump buster who spends lots of time at Killington (... and he lives in the core area). Rick owns a really impressive training center in Greenwich and I am hoping to convince him to invite us to hold a meeting there to play with all of his great exercise toys and learn how to stay strong and pain free.

I can't say enough for my surgeon, Kevin Plancher, of Cos Cob. He did a wonderful job and then passed me on to Rick to complete the process. The knee is titanium alloy, which could come in handy in the spring if I decide to kick the golf ball around a bit.



Due to a lack of participation The bus trip scheduled for Jan 7/8/9 is canceled.

We want to thank Gerry Harrington for her efforts to make the trip a success.

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! The board believes that bus trips are important. Besides the obvious advantages of not having to drive and the camaraderie of a group having a great time, a bus trip offers potential members a chance to participate and understand our club culture. Therefore.....

A) ONLY for the weekend of January 7/8/9, when a club member makes a reservation and has a guest(s) (up to 4 guests), the guests will be immediately confirmed, no wait period for guest confirmation. This opportunity is only for this weekend. Here is your chance to introduce a friend/family to our club culture. Normal rates and rules apply, only the waiting confirmation period for guests is waived. If you would like to introduce/invite more than 4 guests to the club that weekend, call Bob Hener first.

B) It has been suggested we try the bus trip again later in the season. So we are thinking the first weekend in April (departing Friday evening the 1st, returning Sunday the 3rd). Anyone interested?

If you are interested in an early April bus trip contact Gerry Harrington.....D2731@aol.com

Championship Races:

Giant Slalom

Wednesday, January 14, 2004 (Make up date 01/21/04)

6:00 PM Registration

Mohawk Mtn, CT

Full double pole GS course, total time of two runs. At the discretion of the mountain, the GS course may be a single pole course.

Slalom

Wednesday, February 04, 2003 (make up date 2/11/04)

6:00 PM Registration

Mount Southington Connecticut

Full double pole Slalom course, total time of two runs

Downhill

Friday, March 5, 2004 9:00 a.m. start.

Bromley Mt., VT

A prestart practice, one timed run top to bottom (snow conditions permitting)

Cross Country

Sunday, March 7, 2004, 9:00 a.m. start.

Wild Wings Cross Country Center, Peru, VT
5 km race.

Maintenance-

All systems are go, however, Howard's must return to change out some of the emergency light batteries.

Also, a good sized portion of the fire wood remains at the north side of the front yard.

Please take some time if up at the house to bring a few arm loads over to the shed. Thank you, Curtis.

Ores P. Mesedahl 1924-2004

Beloved Life Member of River Hills, Orie (Ores P.) Mesedahl of Darien, died Tuesday, Dec. 21, at Courtland Gardens Health Center in Stamford at the age of 80. He died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, according to his family. During World War II, Orie served in the U.S. Army in Europe and the Pacific. In addition to his love of skiing, he was an avid fisherman.



*A Very **Merry** **Holiday party** with a good time had by all who attended...*



Thank you, Mark and Juliet Cavallaro for hosting this great year end bash, and thanks, too, to Stephanie Ebers for chairing the committee.

Former club presidents Gabe Cordova and Bill Hughes showed heroism above and beyond by joining the party immediately upon landing from their recent ski trip to Colorado. Marion Cordova and Marie Hughes met them at the Hughes residence and proceeded directly to the festivities. Current Vice President Charles Mirabella and wife Diana Mason made a showing to join past president Paul Levine, his wife Susan and many others.

Although there were not as many attendees as last year, those who came really enjoyed it.



A special word from our holiday hostess

I brought all of the gifts for the children to a local Toys for Tots and it was very much appreciated. I thought it would be nice to mention. I got a great feeling as I dropped them off and thought others would benefit knowing that it was a great cause and they can feel good about their donations.

Toys for Tots began in 1947. In that year, they distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. It was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted it in 1948 and went world wide. In 1948, Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo. Over the past 12 years, Marine have distributed an average of 9,700,000 toys annually, and brought the joy of Christmas to approximately 4,500,000 needy children each year.

Bob Hope, John Wayne, Doris Day, Lorrie Morgan, Tim Allen and Kenny Rogers are but a few of the long list of celebrities who have given their time and talent to promote Toys for Tots.

This year, instead of passing around grab-bag gifts, River Hillers each brought toys for this worthwhile program. To all who participated, thank you.

Juliet

Operations Observations

Kathy Henner

Well- the season is beginning. Let's review a few items to make all our visits pleasant. If you are the coordinator, please give Pat an accurate head count for food. Please tell her how many kids will be staying. Remember teenagers eat more than small kids. We are realizing that kids don't eat much or they don't eat what we are serving. That could be causing a lot of leftovers. Having a high ratio of kids also, changes the milk consumption on some weekends. For portion control, you could underestimate your head count a little.

If you are member staying at the house, please be considerate of the coordinator. Be flexible about room and duty assignments. The coordinators do the best they can to make the house run smoothly for the weekend. Paying for the weekend on time is imperative. Lack of payment is unacceptable. This is the time of year most people use their vouchers. If you forget it, you are not extended credit. It has to be turned over at the time of payment. The coordinator should not have to be a collection agent for funds. If the money is not collected, the offender will be assessed a fine. If the

lodge coordinators

DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Paula Clupper
(203) 378-3740 nanatutor@aol.com

FEBRUARY

Lauren and Paul Schallis
(203) 431-1245 paul.schallis@snet.net

MARCH

Nancy Troop and Stan Thurley
(203) 969-7125
nantroop@optonline.net
stan.thurley@ubs.com

NO CALLS AFTER 9 PM PLEASE

coordinator is short of these funds at the end of the weekend, the deposit should be made and noted that money is missing. The Assistant Treasurer will follow up and take the appropriate action.

If anyone needs to buy supplies while at the house, please submit the expenses to Peter Buck, rather than taking money from the weekend receipts. I realize that we may not have every supply that is needed, but we do have a lot of back stock. Please look in the back room cabinets and in the basement for supplies. We buy many things in large quantity. They may not always fit in the cabinet. Look for them. If you can't find what is needed, put a note on the main kitchen refrigerator for Pat or contact me. Please clean the refrigerator when you end your stay at the lodge. Don't leave food in the back or in the refrigerator.

I look forward to seeing you all the lodge. Let's think snow and lots of it.



RIVER HILLS SKI CLUB

Skizette

P.O. BOX 8056 Y STAMFORD, CT 06905