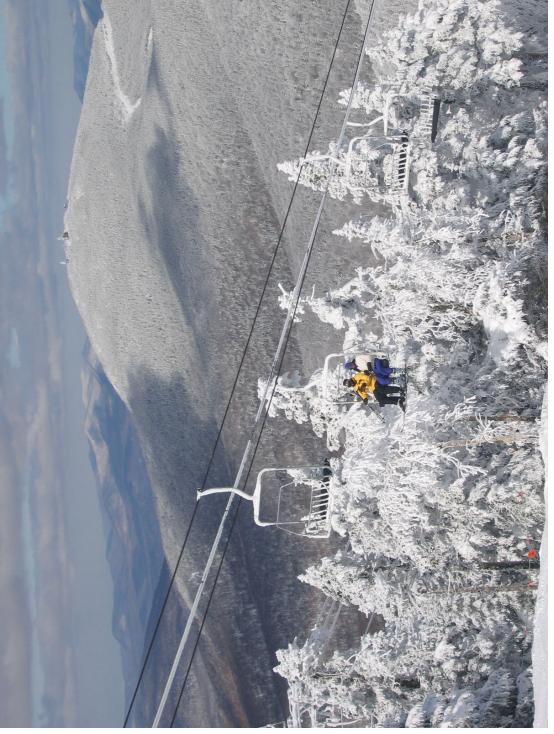


*A Vacation to Remember*



Scott Sloat and the spectacular tunnel built by him and other River Hills teenagers during vacation week.

**River Hills Ski Club**

**SKILLETTE**



Lodge: Barts Hill Road • Killington, VT  
Telephone & Fax 1.802.422.2828  
Mail: PO Box 8056 • Stamford, CT  
[www.riverhillsskiclub.org](http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org)

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**M A R C H 2 0 0 5**

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STAMFORD  
SKILLETTE  
P.O. Box 8056  
RIVER HILLS SKI CLUB

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**MARCH 1**  
GENERAL MEETING

**MARCH 4-6**  
CSC ON-SNOW WEEKEND  
at Bromley Mt.

**MARCH 12-13**  
MEMORIAL RACE WEEKEND  
at Pico Mt.

**MARCH 15**  
GENERAL MEETING  
Program on Biking

**APRIL 5**  
GENERAL MEETING

**APRIL 19**  
GENERAL MEETING  
Wine Tasting at BENNETT's,  
Stamford

### The Ken Vought Award

River Hills Ski Club instituted this award in 1975 to recognize the current member who exemplifies the fine character and Club spirit of the late Kenneth Vought (1918-1974). Ken was a selfless devoted and dedicated club member with a gentle manner and a sense of fair play. An enthusiastic skier, he was also a member of the National Ski Patrol for many years. In addition to many other club offices and activities, Ken served as President in 1958-59. He was instrumental in building the original lodge and the later addition. The Chinese auction was started by him. The Edelweiss symbol on the Lodge Chimney was designed and originally made by Ken. His picture hangs in the living room at our lodge along with a brief history of his life and the names of the past memorial award recipients. The pin given to each member who receives this award is a replica of the Edelweiss symbol.

Members who are past recipients of the award are the committee who select future recipients (the award need not be given annually). Any club member may submit suggestions for the committee to consider. If you would like to make a suggestion please send to Jerry Clupper who is the last recipient and chair for this years committee functions.

## FROM THE SUMMIT Bob Hener- President



membership to approve the next phase of replacement carpeting for rooms 1 thru 9 and the hallways on the second floor. We also have an electrical service upgrade planned, and a cleaning of the filters/hood.

If you know of interested people that fit our club profile get them on the road to membership by participating in club activities, ski with a board member, sponsor the guest to stay at the Lodge, and submit an application. Contact Nancy Trovato our membership chair for the application.

For all the latest club news, the latest club calendar, the Skizette and many forms we use at the Lodge visit our website [www.riverhillsskiclub.org](http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org)

There are still plenty of great skiing days to look forward to this season. The snow has been very good and March is historically the snowiest month of the year. Make your reservations for March and April with Nancy Troop and Stan Thurley. Thanks to all for being coordinators. Sometimes it is a difficult job. Thank you coordinators!

Take pride in the Lodge. It is the cooperation and volunteerism that keeps our organization running smoothly, and the same volunteerism contributes to an enjoyable stay at the Lodge. Be an example to the new members and guests on what to do. Everyone should have a sense of ownership in the club.

Always carry your club membership card with you to the slopes. Some resorts (especially Okemo) are asking for both an ID (such as a driver's license) and a club membership card before exchanging the CSC bulk ticket voucher for a lift ticket. Don't get caught without a card.

The Club Race (March 12 at PICO) is fast approaching. Stephanie Evers and Sharon Lear are working very hard to make the race a memorable event. We have categories for all people young and senior. Practice your racing technique, see you at the race. Afterwards, they have planned Mexican theme drinks, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and fun items for the kids. Sign up now.

It is with sadness I am notifying the membership of the canceling of the second attempt at running a bus trip this season. Only 2 or 3 people signed on. Times change and the bus trip is obviously not a membership priority that it once was. If someone would like to volunteer to try it again next year contact me.

We have some Lodge improvements coming up in the spring as well as finishing out old projects. We expect to be asking the club

## Historical Notes

by Barbara and Bob Guth



### 40 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1965 20 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1985

Winners of the Barry Monroe race held at Glen Ellen were Glen Fakundiny for the men, Diane Truedsson for the women, and Denis Szokolay in the veterans class. This season the club had a Women's Racing Team and a Men's Team that competed in three statewide races and the Tri-Club race during March. In an attempt to standardize ski instruction in the US, the American Ski Technique was actively promoted. Frank Rea, a Qualified Amateur Instructor and former RHSC President was active in educating club members.

### 30 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1975

Since the 1974 Barry Monroe race was cancelled due to the lack of snow, a big effort was made to encourage attendance at this year's race. The race weekend was promoted as a "Winter Carnival" including a luge race on the lodge lawn, snow sculpture contest, and the crowning of a carnival queen. Back in Stamford, a skating party was held at Landmark Square.

In this year's Barry Monroe race was held at Pico using the NASTAR format. In a close contest, Ian Arcuri took the trophy from Alan Aquais, the prior year's winner. The Hakki sisters took first (Samira) and second place (Nadia) in the women's category. Betty Pennington was the women's veteran winner and Ed Strazdins took the veteran men's trophy. 35 NASTAR medals were awarded.

### 10 YEARS AGO - MARCH 1995

Joan Judge coordinated a very successful bus trip to the lodge with delicious food, drink, and entertainment in route.

There were excellent ski conditions at Okemo and Stratton. Gourmet breakfasts

prepared by Mary Ellen Kuhn and others on Saturday and by Paul Levine, Lillian Fischer and Martha Purcell on Sunday were enjoyed by all.

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings by our former cook, Ada, topped the weekend off.

Paul Levine happily reported that the IRS reversed their penalty and interest assessments levied against the club for preceding years.

## lodge coordinators

### MARCH & APRIL

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### NO CALLS AFTER 9 PM PLEASE

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SKIZETTE AND WEBSITE  
Debbie Smith; Stan Rosenzweig;  
Eleana McNeill; Anne Zaera  
David Zecchin  
Jamie Buck, webmaster  
jamie@jamiebuck.com



The latest ad hoc committee of RHSC, "Old Guys Rule;"  
Peter Buck, Mike Kellick, Bob Hener,  
Bo Wiberg and Joe Grablec.

## Reservation Cancellation:

When you cancel your reservation for a winter weekend, please submit your penalty within two weeks to the Assistant Treasurer. Do not wait to be contacted by the Assistant Treasurer; this creates a lot of unnecessary work. It is your responsibility to pay for weekends that are canceled.

Following are the cancellation rates that are currently in effect.

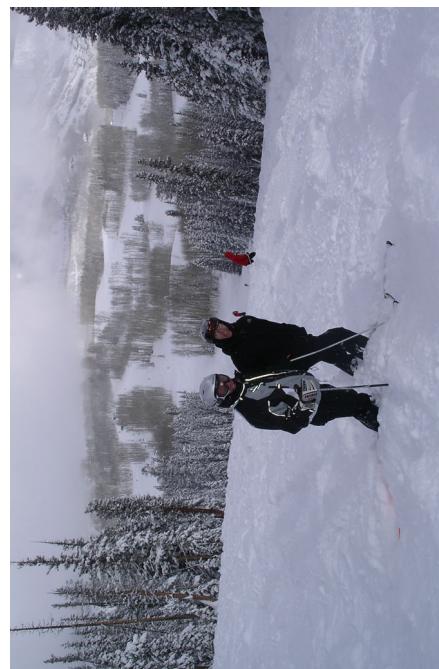
**Penalties 2004-2005:** Penalties will be assessed for each confirmed person cancelled.

Fee must be received by Asst. Treasurer no later than 2 weeks after date of cancellation.

Adult Member	Child Member	Adult Guest	Child Guest
More than 9 days before reservation			\$5
		\$5	
3-8 days before reservation			\$16
		\$31	
2 days or less after 9PM			\$45
		\$30	
Member/Guest at Lodge for non-payment to Weekend Coordinator at appointed time			\$65
		\$15	
Weekend Coordinator not returning book to Monthly Coordinator at appointed time			\$25



Bill Hughes



Bill Hughes and Victor Emanuel

Colorado and spent two days at the home of Jim and Nicky Fisher, who are friends of Wayne's from the Over The Hill Gang. We all skied Keystone Mountain on Friday and on Saturday we traveled to Aspen, Colorado. We were planning to pick up Victor Emanuel who was flying into Aspen from New York but his plane was diverted to another airport and he would be driven to Aspen later on. We found our way to our four-bedroom rental home in Aspen, located close to Snowmass. Bill, Victor and I shared a room that had a double bed, a bunk bed and a private bath. Nice, but not as good as sharing a room with Marion. The house had a good size living room with a fireplace, dining area and kitchen. The hot tub was just outside the living room and we used it everyday after skiing. Very relaxing.

We skied Aspen, Highlands and Snowmass. The skiing was absolutely fabulous. This is attributed to the wonderful mountains and the amount of snow that we had. It snowed five feet in five days, which I believe was a record. The big challenge that we faced was not the deep snow that made it a very laborious task trying to get up after a fall. You will fall when the snow is deep and the slope is steep—it took me 20 minutes to get up from a fall that left me completely buried and totally exhausted).

And, the 12,000 foot altitude makes it difficult to breathe. The biggest challenge was following Bill Hughes into what always seemed like the unknown. Since he started to wear a helmet, he feels invincible and skis that way too. Every day in Aspen, we skied in waist deep fresh powder.

Bill, Victor and I skied under the High Alpine Chair in Snowmass. We were the only ones on the slope

## COLORODO SKI VACATION BY GABE CORDOVA

Bill Hughes and I visited Aspen and Vail and enjoyed a fabulous ski vacation. We left New York early on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> and flew to Denver via Dallas. Wayne Tomassello (RHSC past president) picked us up at the airport. We immediately drove to Dillon,

making fresh tracks. I discovered the incredible lightness of being on skis in powder. I blasted through billows of thigh-grazing fluff on Showcase, the black run under the chair—in my classic plentiful powder form: point them downhill, turn, stop, turn, fall, turn, stop, turn, pant. Very exhausting. We skied like that most of the week.

On Saturday, we left Aspen and headed to Vail to stay, visit and ski with our good friends Ernie Atlas and his wife Bonnie. We dropped Victor off at the Aspen airport (he was very anxious to get back to his new granddaughter) and headed to Vail. On our way there, we stop into a sport bar to watch the Jets. Bill and I met a group of people from Connecticut who were also Jet Fans and we had a really good time watching the game with them until

the Jets fail to score for the win.  
We skied Vail on Sunday and Monday. We met up with Al Ottley and his new wife of five months and skied with them the whole day on Sunday. The Vail bowls are awesome and most of our time was spent skiing theses bowls. The snow was hard packed and not the powder that we got use to in Aspen. It was a really great ski vacation and we are very appreciative of our Colorado friends for their wonderful hospitality and friendship.

We are now looking forward to going back up to the lodge in Vermont and skiing with our River Hills friends.

## OPERATIONS OBSERVATIONS By Kathy Hener

Please check the duty roster for your chores.  
Coordinators need to have the room assignments at the house before the first lodgers arrive. Everyone needs to know where they are assigned.

Is everyone having a great season so far? It's been great seeing everyone and spending time together. For the most part staying at the lodge has been uneventful and a fun. Here are a few small reminders to make it run more smoothly.

Always pay the coordinator when requested.

Members are responsible for the proper conduct of their guests.

Clean your own room, emptying wastebaskets, locking windows before leaving.

Remember the coordinator makes the best possible decisions for room assignments. It is very difficult to balance the sleeping arrangements.

### Tidbits regarding the Lodge from the Handbook . . .

• "Know where fire extinguishers are located throughout the Lodge, where your Fire Exit is located." And know what to do if the fire alarm should sound, how to silence the alarm and call the alarm company should this be a false alarm.

• "No children may be left at the Lodge without adult supervision." If you leave the Lodge, and wish for your child to stay behind at the Lodge, you must ask another club member to watch over and assume responsibility for your child while you are out of the Lodge. This is a safety concern for your child and the Lodge.

• "No student under a family membership may stay at the Lodge unless accompanied by their adult family member or an adult sponsoring member."

fatigue, which we were told to expect. He exercises and walks several times daily.

### member news:

To River Hills Ski Club:

We hope to see you in the near future.  
Diana and Charles

### **our condolences**

Our condolences to Anne Zaera on the passing of her mother, following a long and heroic battle with cancer.

Charles and I also want you to know how much all your thoughtful and healing cards, e-mails, and calls have meant to us. They have made a difference!!

Charles is doing great, except for much

## River Hills Vacations in Costa Rica

**Sunday July 31 - Saturday August 6, 2005**

### Trip includes:

- Roundtrip air via Delta, New York - San Jose, Costa Rica
- Transfer San Jose Airport to Arenal Tabacon Lodge
- 2 nights lodging at Tabacon Hot Springs Resort & Spa with daily breakfast and unlimited entrance to Tabacon Hot Springs
- 1 Group Dinner at Tabacon Hot Springs Resort
- 4 Nights lodging at Parador Hotel In Deluxe Room with daily breakfast buffet
- Tour into the Manuel Antonio Park
- All hotel taxes and air taxes of \$70 pp (subject to change)
- Two tour guides to accompany the group throughout the stay
- Transfer Quepos to San Jose Airport

### Cost is \$1499 per person

Payment: Deposit \$299  
2nd Payment: \$700 due 2/15/05  
Final Payment \$500 due 4/15/05

Activities can include: swimming in hotel pool and in the Pacific Ocean, horseback riding, hiking, windsurfing. Canopy tours above the forest, viewing wild life in its own habitat, seeing beautiful plants & flowers, going deep sea fishing, touring the primary forest via the hanging bridges are available. The Tabacon Hot Springs Resort & Spa is located near the base of the Arenal Volcano and provides unparalleled experience with its natural thermal pools, it's tropical surrounding and its famous Iskandia Spa. There are many things to do and see in Costa Rica. It is a tropical paradise. Our guides will make it intellectually enjoyable.

Four night extension is available for a cost of \$569; includes 2 nights Rafiki Safari Lodge with all meals, 2 nights 5-star Rancho Rio Perlas hot spring resort with breakfast. Includes transfers from Quepos/hotel Parador to Rancho Rio Perlas (with stop at Savegre National Reserve with lunch and tour en route) to San José airport.

**For more information contact Gabe Cordova (203) 878-4727**

## SNOW CONDITION DEFINITIONS BY DIANA MASON

We check our daily snow reports from Killington, Sugarbush, Okemo, etc., and also the boards at the ski areas for information about conditions. Killington is fond of telling us: Powder/Packed Powder, especially, as it did this morning (Sat. 19 February). And today this is probably an accurate description due to all the snow in the past 10 days plus cold temperatures.

But how often are we disappointed—or lied to about the true condition of the slopes?

Here are some definitive descriptions of the variety of conditions we face during any season.

- **WET PACKED SNOW (WPS):** Natural or machine made snow that has been previously packed and becomes wet usually because of rainfall.
- **WET GRANULAR (WG):** Loose or frozen granular snow, which has become wet from warm temperatures, rain or humidity. This is typically an easy to ski surface.
- **WET SNOW (WS):** Powder snow, which has become moist and heavy due to a thaw or rainfall, or snow that is moist as it fell.
- **WINDBLOWN SNOW (WBLN):** A windy day can blow the surface snow, either powder or granular, into drifts in some places, leaving a firmly packed base snow.
- **VARIABLE CONDITIONS (VC):** When no primary surface (70% or more) can be determined, this surface descriptive range of surfaces can be encountered.
- **SPRING CONDITIONS (SC):** This term is only used after 1 March. This is the spring version of Variable Conditions. Like Variable Conditions, this term is used when no primary surface (70% or more) can be determined or surface describes a range of surfaces that can be encountered. It is not uncommon for other evidence of spring to be present such as thin and bare spots, and discoloration.
- **CORN (CORN):** Usually found in the spring. This surface is characterized by large, loose granules during the day, which freeze together at night, and then loosen again during the day.
- **ICY (ICY):** Not to be confused with Frozen Granular, ice is a hard, glazed surface created either by freezing rain ground water seeping up into the snow and freezing, or by the rapid freezing of snow saturated with water from rain or melting. Ice will not support a ski pole. It is important to note that Frozen Granular is opaque whereas ice is translucent.
- **LOOSE GRANULAR (LG):** This surface results after powder or packed powder thaws, then refreezes and recrystallizes, or from an accumulation of sleet. Also created by machine grooming frozen or icy snow.
- **FROZEN GRANULAR (FG):** (Our favorite Vermont surface!!) This is often a misunderstood surface condition. Frozen Granular is a hard surface of snow formed by granules freezing together after a rain or warm temperatures. Frozen Granular will support a pole stuck into the surface. In contrast, ice will not support the pole. Frozen Granular often does return to Loose Granular after proper machine grooming.



Karl Fischer and Gary Gash pitching in with the dishes



Sarah Maitland

## Programs:

- **MARCH 12 – 13 RHSC Memorial Race.** The race will be held at PICO Mountain on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Race to begin at 10:00 AM on Lower Pike, (trail right in front of the base lodge).
- **MARCH 15 General Meeting and program on biking.** The wine tasting has been moved to April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **APRIL 5 General Meeting**
- **APRIL 19** The General Meeting will be held at BENNETT's Steakhouse in Stamford and will be followed by a wine-tasting. Those members who wish to stay after the regular agenda and attend this special even will be asked to pay \$25 per person.
- **SPRING FLING:** Saturday, May 14 at Jeff Thrasher's home in Greenwich. We are looking for volunteers to help.

**SAVE THE DATE:** RHSC Summer Picnic will be Saturday, September 10 at Cove Island, Stamford.

We are looking for feedback on the interest level of River Hills Golfers for golf group playing this summer at the Lodge. Rates are lower mid week at both Green Mountain & Killington. Do we have golfers interested in playing? What about weekends? Are you interested in having a weekend golf group during this summer? Please email your comments to [babagnato@sbcglobal.net](mailto:babagnato@sbcglobal.net).