

# River Hills Ski Club SKIZETTE



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

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## APRIL 2005

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**APRIL 5**  
General Meeting

**APRIL 19**  
General Meeting  
with Wine Tasting  
**BOTH AT TUSCAN OVEN**  
544 Main Ave/Route 7, Norwalk  
(next to the DMV)

**MAY 3**  
General Meeting

**MAY 17**  
General Meeting with Program

**Spring Fling  
on May 14**

## A Race to Remember

Wow! What a day!! It started with so much snow that we needed to side slip the course in order to race. Thanks to Aaron Paulding (who showed us how to do it), Stephanie Evers, Sharon Lehr, Jeff & Ian Thrasher (and anyone I have missed) who gave it their all (including any race advantage, as side slipping really tires the legs) to make sure we had a race.



Jake Gash and Aaron Paulding

Everyone, from first timers to veteran racers, were able to complete two runs each. While we missed some of our regulars (Doug & Linda Paulding, Walter & Judi Kostrzewski, Charles & Diana Mason) there were thrills (watching the professional racers—Aaron Paulding, Jake Gash & Jeff Trasher) as well as spills (well, let's just say no one got hurt). And, it was all captured on film by our camera man extraordinaire, Kurt Fischer—film at 11!! (actually it will be announced at a later date).

All that racing really works up an appetite. Luckily Herb Pennington, Jr. was able to secure a private room for us. And even better, Marion Cordova & Loretta Nolan volunteered to set up lunch for us! Thanks to all 3!



Gabe Gordova and Jerry Czin

A Mexican Fiesta was enjoyed by all later that evening! Thanks to our decorators (Judy Paniccia, Bob Stryker & Roger Blaho). Thanks to our aspiring club member bartender, Jim O'Brien, and his helpers Tom, Leslie & Chris Nolan and Conor O'Brien, for all those tasty margaritas. Our cook, Patti, outdid herself with

**continued inside!**



## FROM THE SUMMIT

**Bob Hener—President**

How quickly time passes. It is now time for Spring Skiing in Vermont. I encourage all to set aside a day or two for the pleasures of mid week Spring Skiing.

Soft snow, parking in the first or second row, not a person ahead of you to get on a lift or gondola, and you really get the royal treatment. You almost have the slopes to yourself, you can pick your spot and the difficulty of the run. I am not exaggerating any of the above! Walk into any restaurant and do not worry about seating. No traffic on the way up. Think Spring Skiing . . . especially mid-week.

**Speaking of Spring: Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 14 and attend the Spring Fling!**

Race Weekend was a really big success. Congratulations to all winners. And a very special thanks to Stephanie Evers and Sharon Lehr, and all who made it a terrific event. The foot of true dry powder was the icing on the cake. Lunch in the room set aside for Riverhillers at the PICO Lodge was great. Dinner at the Lodge was a Mexican feast and the beverages were plentiful.

Thanks to all monthly and weekend coordinators for a very successful season. Lodge usage this past season was even better than last year. Reservations went smoothly without major problems. THANKS TO ALL!

We are continuing with Lodge improvements. We will be asking the membership at the next meeting to approve new carpeting for bedrooms 1 thru 9 and the hallways. This completes new carpeting in all the bedroom areas

For all the latest club news, the latest club calendar, the Skizette and the forms we use at the Lodge visit our website. It is a continuous work in progress. We will continue expanding the amount of information online. The online reservation experiment seems to have been a success so it will be expanded over time and we are planning to link reservations to the website.

We now have wireless internet access at the Lodge thanks to donated equipment and services. Next season there will be a fee to use the service. It will be a neutral revenue item for members use.

The nominating committee announces next year's slate of elected officers below. Thank you chairperson Marcia Sloat and nominating committee members Kyle Eberts, Marion Cordova and Paul Levine.

Remember to volunteer, it is what keeps the club running smoothly! Always think SNOW year round! See you on the slopes and at the Spring Fling!

Bob

### **RHSC Nominations 2005–2006**

The following names are presented for the upcoming slate of RHSC officers:

**Walter Kostrzewski, President  
Curtis Casey, Vice President  
Peter Buck, Treasurer  
Barbara Bagnato, Secretary**

Thank you,  
The Nominating Committee:  
Marcia Sloat, chair  
Kyle Eberts, Marion Cordova, Paul Levine

If any member wishes to make additional nominations they will be accepted from the floor at the general meeting on April 19th.

**APRIL 19TH RHSC MEETING  
will be held at the  
TUSCAN OVEN,  
544 Main Avenue/Route 7, Norwalk  
WITH A WINE TASTING  
following the general meeting.**

**Cost is only \$30 per person**

Includes 6 wines, food to match and a presenter.

**RSVP BY APRIL 12**

to Walter Kostrzewski 203.858.6418  
if you will attend the wine tasting.

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 McNeill; Anne Zaera  
David Zecchin

Jamie Buck, webmaster  
jamie@jamiebuck.com



# Historical Notes

by Barbara and Bob Guth

## 40 years Ago—April 1965

The River Hill Women's Team of Diane Truedsson, Kitty Ettre and Margrit Fakundiny won the Connecticut Team race on an icy course at Glen Ellen. The Men finished 5th out of the 13 clubs that competed. The week before Diane Truedsson won the Connecticut Individual Championship. The membership committee reported that the Club has 129 active memberships, 10 provisional and 5 inactive.

## 30 Years Ago—April 1975

The fourth and fifth bus trips were reported as having good ski conditions and being much fun. Joy Young produced lasagna in February while Bob Johnson grilled steaks for the March trip. We did our own cooking in those days. Shopping for the food and cooking was one of the weekend Coordinator responsibilities.

## 20 Years Ago—April 1985

An energetic spring schedule of activities was announced. They included the Five Borough Bike

Hike in NYC, rafting on the Housatonic, a Tennis Party, the Spring Fling, a Special Club Getaway and in June a Hike Day at the Lodge. Illona Maruszak was named Snow Queen to represent RHSC at the Snowball in November. It was announced that Ada Hall has been hired to do the shopping and cooking on winter weekends and Dick Rice will do the clean-ups. However, if Weekend Coordinators wanted to do their own shopping and cooking they could.

## 10 Years Ago—April 1995

The Skizette featured photos and rave reviews of Gabe's trip to Val D'Isere. Photos of Anne Dufrane, Bob Ubaldo, Julie Rikert, Elaine Kaczorowski, Bill Hughes, Mary Ellen Kuhn, and Gerry Harrington, proved that fun was had by all. This was the year the Fire Marshall made us replace of the Lodge windows and doors with approved models. Paul Levine and Susan Jackson announced their wedding plans for June.

## Lodge coordinators

### APRIL

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

### MAY

John and June Gold  
(203) 327-6197, jjjsgold@aol.com

### JULY AND AUGUST

Jean and Jim Howell  
(203) 255-8554, jhowell156@aol.com  
No calls after 9 PM please

**NO CALLS AFTER 9 PM PLEASE**





Herb Pennington, Jr (left) and racers enjoying lunch in a private room at Pico!

more food than we could eat including wonderful quesadillas & enchiladas, freshly made guacamole and a chocolate flan for dessert. Thanks to Patti as well as those who help—Diane (our other cook), Loretta Nolan, Marion Cordova and everyone who pitched in.

All of the prizes handed out during the awards

ceremony after dinner were from Northern Skiworks. We thank them for their continued generosity.



Tom Nolan and Jim O'Brien at the Margarita bar and with Aaron Paulding at the RHSC Awards ceremony.



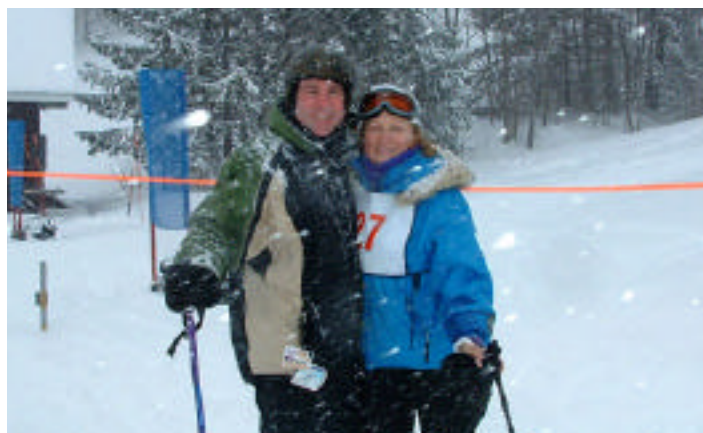
The evening was capped with a piñata. Leslie Nolan tried her hand first but was unable to break it. However, the next up, a slugger with potential to join the National Baseball League, Conor O'Brien, sent candy falling to the floor in all directions.

It will be tough to out do ourselves next year, but we will certainly try.

Submitted by Sharon Lehr, Race Coordinator



Guacamole and more at the lodge; the first RHSC Piñata.



Kurt and Lillian Fischer.

### RESULTS OF THE 2005 RACE

RHSC has traditionally based the results on the best of the two runs:

#### CHILD

#1	Chris Nolan	39.37
#2	Conor O'Brien	43.24
#3	Leslie Nolan	45.00

#### SNOWBOARD

#1	David Hener	36.40
#2	Jason Hener	37.21

#### FEMALE

#1	Stephanie Evers	36.17
#2	Sharon Lehr	38.63
#3	Judy Paniccia	40.55
#4	Marie Krajcan	40.78
#5	Kathy Hener	43.47
#6	Deirdre Campbell	47.96
#7	Lillian Fisher	48.17
#8	Deb Smith	51.16
#9	Jan Flandreau	52.79

#### MALE

#1	Aaron Paulding	26.37
#2	Jake Gash	27.57
#3	Jeff Thrasher	28.60
#4	Paul Kostrzewski	31.09
#5	Tom Nolan	31.27
#6	Jerry Czin	33.29
#7	Gary Gash	33.52
#8	Herb Pennington	34.09
#9	Chip Monk	34.28
#10	Ian Thrasher	34.68
#11	Bob Boothroyd	35.96
#12	Kurt Fischer	36.50
#13	George Sims	36.68
#14	Greg Monk	37.31
#15	Jim O'Brien	38.12
#16	Gabe Cordova	38.15
#17	Bob Stryker	41.03
#18	Bob Hener	42.13
#19	Roger Blaho	47.23

## River Hills Vacations in Italy

Twenty-nine River Hillers, from different parts of the USA, went to Italy for seven nights in Bormio and 3 nights in Venice.

After meeting our contact and guide, Gabriele Dal Moro we arrived at our 4 star Hotel, Baita dei Pini, well-situated within a short walk to the town's historic center and the Bormio Ski Lifts. The views of the valley were magnificent and we had a buffet breakfast each morning. The dinners (and wines) were superb!

Gabriele our guide arranged various activities for us including: Ski trips to Livigno and St. Mortiz; Dinner on the mountain with an option to return via sleigh, skis or Snow Cat; trip to the Roman Baths fed by thermal springs; wine tastings and a party on the mountain.

Our first day of skiing in Bormio was a bit challenging. This was due in part to the fact that many of the group had to rent equipment. Once Gabriele herded us all to the Gondola we had a very good ski day. The next day we went to the Livigno ski area via bus, which had much more to offer—better snow and more challenging terrain.

A unique aspect of Livigno is that the village is all duty free. Some of our ladies found it important to give up a day of skiing for shopping. They purchased a lot of very nice things at bargain prices.

The skiing in Livigno was so good that many of us returned to this ski area several times during the week. While there, it snowed over one foot. That day, Gabriele had arranged for us to meet for an après ski party. There was music playing and many of the locals were wearing wigs, which some how wound up on the heads of Jim Garvey, Bill Hughes and Stanley. The picture never came out. Fortunate for them.

We met up with a number of folks from the Mogul Ski Club out of Westchester and Pinnacle Ski Club out of Stamford. We met Carmine Bucciarelle, an inactive member of RHSC, who was on the trip with Pinnacle Ski Club.

The Roman Baths were absolutely spectacular. They are located very high up, overlooking the valley, with spectacular views. We were laying in one of the hot pools, the sun was shining and we took in the beauty of this wonderful landscape. Some of the pools are located with



Susan, Mark, Juliet, Laurie Singer, Bill, Barbara, Teresa, Carol and Ronna on top of Bormio.



Jim Garvey and former club president Wayne Tomasello lunching at the base of Livigno.



RHSC at the Rialto Bridge.

in caves carved out of the solid rock of the mountains.

The dinner at the top of the mountain was a lot of fun. It turned out that there were other groups there and besides the eating and drinking, there was a lot of singing going on—in German! So, the American contingent decided to sing. The only problem was that there was not a song that we all knew. We did New York, New York. Yankee Doodle Dandy and we finally got together on God Bless America. We had a lot of fun. It was really funny to see Bill Hughes and Jim Garvey dancing with the German guys. The trip down was a very long ride via sleigh. Most of the group just came half way down and were picked up by car to take them to the hotel because it was very cold and the sleighs were difficult to maneuver.

After week of great skiing, we were off to Venice. minus four who left early to go home. After checking in, Mariana (Gabriele's fiancé) took us on a walking tour of Venice. We visited San Mark's square and they related the history of this magnificent city to us. We ate in some very good restaurants with outstanding seafood.

One day we had a private boat that toured us around the Venice Harbor waters. We visited Murano—The home of glassmaking (Marion has a beautiful surprise coming) where we had a very educational tour. We then went on to Burano—a haven for artists, brightly painted houses, fish and lace-making. It was very beautiful day and finished off with great ice cream.

On the way home one evening, we passed a liquor store and decided to pick up some wine for a little get together in our room. We were on our fourth bottle of wine when we received a call from the front desk to keep down the laughter. It turns out that the complaining party was a couple in the next room that was a part of our group. We managed to silently drink the rest of the wine and go to sleep.

We departed Venice March 9th and had an enjoyable trip home. Italy was wonderful and we had a great vacation, but it was good to be back home again. I wish to thank all of you who came on the trip. It was very enjoyable and a great experience.

—Gabe



## Operations Observations

APRIL 2005

What a season we've had. The skiing has been incredible and we've had a packed house almost every weekend. Even though the season is coming to an end, the snow will be around for a while. Spring skiing is the best. Come up and use the house—midweek and weekends—and enjoy Vermont in the spring. If you do come, please remember that the regular contractors are not in service. Don't leave food in the refrigerator and take the garbage out— **DON'T** leave it at the house! If we have enough garbage for a pick up, tell me and we will call for a pick up. Make sure that the appliances are

unplugged and that all doors and windows are locked. The house will be vacant for long periods of time. Turn off all the lights and put the lights, water heater and furnace on the "UNOCCUPIED" setting. Leave everything in order.

I want to thank all the weekend and holiday week coordinators who did their jobs so well this season. You were all wonderful. Thanks for pitching in and taking on the tasks. The weekends wouldn't have been as enjoyable without your efforts. Thanks to the monthly coordinators for taking the reservations and keeping us organized. It has been a good year and you all contributed to it.

Have a good spring!  
Kathy Hener

## member news

- Our condolences to John and Betty Manocchi on the loss of John's mother Angie who passed away this month in Florida.
- The board approved the expenditure of finishing out the carpet in rooms 1-9 and the hallways. It needs to be approved (voted on) by the membership at the next meeting.

### Next Generation of RHSC Racers. . .

Dakota and Curtis Casey went to Mt. Southington one Saturday when the Mountain Dew's Vertical Challenge event happening. It included a timed run on their slalom course. Dakota took the red course (his favorite color) and off we went. Our first year skier carved each turn and pushed straight to the finish, earning his first gold medal and he qualified for the finals at Loon Mountain, NH. Very exciting and fun experience . . . he wanted more, of course!

### Scuse per le riunioni mancate (Sorry we missed so many club meetings)

It's been really hard to attend club meetings lately, for the following reasons:

1. Gabe's one week trip to Italy was too good to pass up. Once we got past the language issue, customs, 8 hours on a plane, 3 hours on a bus and the largest helpings of fabulous food you ever saw, there was no time to even THINK about the missed ski club meetings back in Connecticut.
2. If Europe wasn't enough, snow has been particularly amazing out west. This year in Utah, it was the best in 15 years. As we concluded our third visit to Park City, third week in March, it was still snowing with a genuine base of 116 inches.
3. Airfares have been particularly cheap since air-



lines have decided to sell tickets for less than it costs them to fly their planes. With fares between \$163 and \$210, round trip to Utah, and around \$425 to Milan, it just doesn't pay to stay home and it seems that the best deals turn up the first and third weeks of the month. Go figure.

4. Since I had a partial knee replacement in July, I feel like a kid in a Nike commercial . . . "just do it." After all, we're not getting any younger and, if not now, when?

This new knee thing is amazing. They treat your knee like broken tooth that needs to be capped (except that the "cap" is made of titanium and it's much bigger). Surgery has enabled me to ski a precedent-setting four weeks away, this year, so I recommend it to anyone who is having problems with most aging body parts.

There's an old story about a surgeon who is trying to convince a victim to have surgery on his mangled left hand after a bike accident. "Will I be able to play the piano?" the guy asks.

"Of course," he replies. "You'll play wonderfully."

"Great," says the guy. "I always wanted to play the piano."

I sort of feel like that guy, heading, not to the keyboard, but to the double diamond back bowls, with a lot of guilt at spending so much time in the snow and missing all of you at our semi-monthly ski club meetings.

So, as they say in Bormio, Italy, "Scuse."

—Stan Rosenzweig

## *Annual White Mountain Summer Hike July 14 – 17 2005*

Join leaders Jerry Clupper and Kyle Eberts for this year's hike from Pinkham Notch to Lakes of the Clouds and Mizpah Huts. Drive up to New Hampshire on Thursday and home on Sunday (or plan an extended visit to the area). Cost: adults \$215; child \$130 (AMC Members, non-members slightly more). We made 20 reservations and 12 spots are still available. Don't wait—make your reservation now!

If you have ever wondered about trying the hike this is the year to do it. As an alternate route some of the group will be taking the Cog Railway to the top of Mt Washington and then joining us at the Lakes of the Clouds Hut for the rest of the hike. The rest of the hike is relatively flat and suitable for children as well as those not sure about hiking in the mountains.

**Make your reservations now by email or calling us.**

**Deposit of \$100 to hold the reservation.**

**Jerry [dionclup@optonline.net](mailto:dionclup@optonline.net)**

**Kyle [Kgeberts@aol.com](mailto:Kgeberts@aol.com)**

**Pinkham Notch Visitor Center** <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/pnvc/pnvc-pnvc.cfm>

Thursday night July 14

Continuing a century-long tradition, the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center welcomes you with hearty, home-cooked meals plus up-to-date trail information, educational offerings, and the Trading Post retail store. Begin or end your White Mountain adventure at this roadside facility at the base of Mount Washington.

### Basics

- Dining room serving buffet breakfast, a la carte lunch at the Black Moose Deli (open 9:30-4), family-style dinners.
- Living room, library, and conference rooms.
- Information center with educational displays.
- Trading Post retail store (open 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.) for backcountry necessities, clothing, books, and maps.
- Free weekend day activities with an AMC naturalist.
- Evening programs Saturday nights year-round and every evening in summer.
- Lodging at adjacent Joe Dodge Lodge.

### **Lakes of the Clouds Hut**

<http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/huts/huts-lakes.cfm>

Friday Night July 15

This is the highest and most popular hut in the chain, located on the southern shoulder of Mount Washington. Lakes of the Clouds Hut offers sweeping views, gorgeous sunrises and sunsets, and proximity to alpine flowers. Like other full-service huts, Lakes has a season crew to care for guests' needs. As one hut guest commented: "Food, hospitality and service far exceeded our expectations. Staff was very informative and friendly – they went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome at Lakes of the Clouds Hut..."

### Basics

- Sleeps 90 in coed bunkrooms.
- Coed bunkrooms for six, eight, 12, or 15 people.
- Full service includes hearty dinner at 6 p.m. and breakfast at 7 a.m., three wool blankets, and pillow.
- Resident staff available with trail information and weather reports.
- Small retail store with safety items, snacks, souvenirs.
- Informative displays and daily educational programs.



**Mizpah Spring Hut** <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/huts/huts-mizpah.cfm>

Saturday Night July 16

Nestled on Mount Clinton above scenic Crawford Notch, Mizpah was built in 1964 to withstand 200 mph winds. The hut features large, south-facing windows, varied-size bunkrooms, and a separate library and game room.

### Basics

- Sleeps 60 in coed bunkrooms for four to eight people.
- Self service includes access to kitchen facilities, mattresses, and pillows.
- Full service includes hearty dinner at 6 p.m. and breakfast at 7 a.m., three wool blankets, and pillow.
- Resident staff available with trail information and weather reports.
- Small retail store with safety items, snacks, souvenirs.
- Informative displays and daily educational programs.

RIVER HILLS SKI CLUB

# *Wine Tasting & General Meeting*

## *Tuesday April 19, 2005*

### *at Tuscan Oven*

*544 Main Avenue/Route 7, right next to DMV in Norwalk, CT*

*Tuscan Oven phone number: 203-846-4600*

*Please note the RHSC General Meeting  
will also be held at the Tuscan Oven in Norwalk at 7:30 PM!!*



#### TASTING LIST

*Sterling Sauvignon Blanc*

*BV Signet Chardonnay*

*Sterling Pinot Noir*

*Solaris Merlot*

*BV Rutherford Cabernet*

*BV Dolce Cabernet Shiraz*

*Food will be prepared to match selections!*

## *Only \$30 per person*

*RSVP by April 12*

*only if you are staying for the wine tasting, to Walter Kostrzewski, 203-656-2931*



# *River Hills Ski Club Spring Flíng*

*Saturday, May 14th from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm*

*\$45.00 per person*

*Appetizers, Dinner, Dessert, Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks*

*Music, Dancing, Socializing*



*At the home of Jeff Thrasher*


*551 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT*

*(directions will be on RHSC website)*

*RSVP Stephanie Evers (203) 253-3855  
or Sharon Lehr (203) 912-8080 by May 10th*

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STAMFORD  
X  
SKIZETTE  
P.O.Box 8056  
Stamford, CT 06905



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*Record Snows made for a Record Season at RHSC in 2005*



(left) Madge Kellick, David Grabiec, Joe Grabiec, Bob Hener, Mike Kellick and Kathy Hener pose for the camera.  
(right) A spectacular and typical view at Killington this winter.