



Lodge: Barts Hill Road • Killington, VT  
Tel & Fax 1.802.422.2828  
Mail: PO Box 8056 • Stamford, CT 06902

# River Hills Ski Club SKIZETTE



[www.riverhillsskiclub.org](http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org)

**MARCH 2006**

## **Jay Peak Ski Trip by Gabe Cordova**

The RHSC trip to Jay Peak in Vermont took place from Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> to the Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup>. There were a total of 29 skiers on this trip. The drive up was relatively easy especially since Victor Emanuel drove. We stayed in slope side condo's that were ski-in, ski-out and contained all necessary amenities.

We were very fortunate in that it snowed around 20 inches just before we arrived. On Thursday night, we had 16 people for dinner at the Jay Hotel restaurant and it was very reasonably priced and the food was quite good. On Friday, Victor Emanuel and I met up with a season pass holder from Montreal that was very familiar with Jay Peak and the mountain. He turned out to be a great guide. He led us into areas of Jay Peak known only to the locals. We skied all of the Jay Peak glades and our newfound friend Gary forewarned us of the pitfalls in skiing the trees; such as skiing into low-lying area that would require hiking out. It was a very wonderful and exciting experience. The glades are peaceful, very serene and quite beautiful. Feels like you are in Heaven. Friday night we went to a very good restaurant located in a local Inn. We had reservations for 12 and 22 of us showed up. The service was absolutely outstanding and the food was great. Tim



Jan ready to take on the mountain at Jay Peak!

Doran entertained us with his very funny tales of his life experiences (Tim is the guy that took all of the videos on the Hellisking trip in Canada). We skied all day on Saturday taking many of the same trails that we discovered the previous days. It was a different adventure because as Victor says, **“When you are skiing in the trees, you never track the same path twice.”** And you know, he is 100% right.

After skiing on Saturday, we cleaned up, got dressed and set off via a private van to Montreal, Canada. In Montreal, we met up with a guide that took us on a tour of Old Montreal. Our tour guide gave a detailed historical explanation of the culture, architecture and the founding of Montreal and Canada. We finished the evening with a grand dinner in a quaint restaurant in old Montreal; we had some really good wine and a pleasant drive back.

The next day, Sunday, we were very concerned about the snowstorm that was coming up through New England. We decided to ski a half-day and then head on home. As it turned out, the storm did not affect us. The bulk of the snow had already fallen by the time we got into Connecticut and the roads were plowed clean. Driving home was not bad at all (that is because Victor was driving). We thank Jim Garvey for putting together a great skiing weekend. Do it again next year Jim!!! Same place, same time – and the same snow conditions.



*From the Summit*  
 Walter Kostrzewski,  
 president

Well as our season comes to a close there is still much going on.

The club race, by the time you get this, will have been run. Some mountains begin to shut down and the daffodils begin to sprout.

STILL there is plenty of snow and action at the BIG K.

Behind the scenes your board continues to work on lodge improvements. This off season we are installing new carpet in the upstairs living room. Putting a new Hobart Sterilizer in the kitchen. And possibly a new women's bathroom.

We will be voting on the proposed bathroom at the April General Meeting, Norwalk Boat Club Tuesday April 4th.

The nominating committee Chaired by Marcia Sloat is currently putting together a slate of Candidates for the 2006-2007 Season.

Sharon Lehr (Programs) has continued to give us fun and interesting programs at our meeting, with an upcoming "hat" day and a biking program to finish the season.

Chris Zimmerman (Activities) is currently working on the Spring Fling. If you would like to help or donate your swimming pool see Chris.

See you at the Lodge.

Walter Kostrzewski  
 RHSC President



A little après skiing in Steamboat

## *2005-2006 Calendar*

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>**  
 CSC On Snow Weekend  
 Sugarbush, VT

**March 7 General Meeting**  
 NBC 8PM

**March 25<sup>th</sup> Race Weekend**  
 Okemo Mountain

**April 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**  
 NBC 8PM  
 Hat Contest

**April 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**  
 NBC 8PM  
 Bicycle Seminar

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**  
 NBC 8PM

*Lodge Coordinators*  
 no calls after 9pm

### **March**

Marli Pinochet  
 (860) 354-3064

[No emails please!](#)

### **April**

Susan Byelick  
 212 794 1342

[sbyelick@yahoo.com](mailto:sbyelick@yahoo.com)

## RHSC Board

### PRESIDENT

Walter Kostrzewski  
(203) 656-2931 • dr.kostrzewski@snet.net

### 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 • buckp@creativepension.com

### ASSISTANT TREASURERS

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

### MAINTENANCE

Robert Boothroyd  
(203) 952-3414 • rhboothroyd@aol.com  
Janet Flandreau  
(203) 662-9553 • JHANFLAN@aol.com  
Bill Sherriff  
(203) 866-6693 • WES25NOR@yahoo.com

### PROGRAMS

Sharon Lehr  
(203) 325-8764 • sharon.m.lehr@marsh.com

### ACTIVITIES

Chris Zimmerman  
(203) 324-0003 • supe203@yahoo.com

### OPERATIONS

Kathy Hener  
(203) 375-3942 • cyberaunt1@aol.com  
Jocelyn Gash  
(914) 273-9768 • Jocelyn.Gash@dressbarn.com

### MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Trovato  
(203) 698-0716 • ntrovato@sbcglobal.net  
Susan Levine  
(203) 637-7753 • susanjlevine@optonline.net

### PAST PRESIDENT

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

### COMMUNICATIONS

Judi Kostrzewski  
(203) 656-2931 • ski4xtc@aol.com  
Stephanie Evers  
(203) 253-3855 • Stephanie\_Evers@Countrywide.com  
Barbara Aronica-Buck  
(203) 406-0436 • bookdesigner@aol.com  
Jamie Buck, webmaster  
jamie@jamiebuck.com



## Historical Notes

### 50 years Ago – March 1956

At this time the Ski-zette appeared on a one page mimeographed sheet. The results of the Interclub race with Norwalk and Sterling Ski Clubs were reported. RHSC won the race with a total of 557.1 seconds. Apparently, they added the times of the entire team to compute a winner.

### 40 Years Ago – March 1966

Racing was a major interest. Announcements were made of 4 interclub team races scheduled for March. The Barry Monroe Memorial race was held at Glen Ellen. The winners were Bob Jones and Diane Truedsson.

### 30 Years Ago – March 1976

The meetings at this time were held at the Sheraton in Greenwich. The announcement of a "Body Auction" was made for the April meeting. Not what you think, members were asked to donate a service for auction. Wayne Tomaasello reported that Sugarbush's weather report of packed powder means that it was so packed that it was ICE.

### 20 Years Ago – March 1986

Matt Losnick announced plans for a sailing cruise in the Caribbean in August on a Prim 51'. The group will island hop from St Lucia to Granada. Heidi Baruck is taking a group of Riverhillers to Tuckerman's Ravine to celebrate Mother's Day.

### 10 Years Ago – March 1996

Jenny Fullilove wrote an interesting article about her first ski trip to Vermont. In 1954 she and a friend boarded the "Montrealer" at the Stamford RR station and they were able to make connections from Waterbury, VT to Stowe. They had to hitch-hike from the lodge to the Mountain, and endured sub-zero temperatures, nevertheless, they were hooked on skiing. Upon returning home they both bought new outfits, new boots and new skis complete with cable bindings. The next September they joined RHSC.



## Operations Observations

### MARCH 2006

The skiing has been pretty good in VT, despite the lack of snow in Connecticut and New England. Why haven't you been up to the lodge? We've missed you. March is a great month to ski and so is April. It's fun to visit with old and new friends. Eat some of the best dinners on the mountain and play some championship Dominoes. Socialize for happy hour at Baja Burrito for ½ price margaritas or at Chez River Hills with salsa, chips, cheese and wine. Either way, ski season is fun. The fun will come to a close all too soon. I've seen daffodils poking out their heads and I heard a robin singing.

Thanks to all the coordinators who put in a lot of time and effort for the holiday weeks and the busy weekends. We appreciate all that you do. We've had a great season of skiing and keeping up with things big and small at the lodge. Come up and share in the activities - weekdays or weekends. We'll leave a light on and have your bed ready.

Happy skiing!

Kathy Hener

## Member News



Brian A. Pirovetti/Connecticut Post  
The gift of warmth: Seventeen-year-old David Grabiec, left, of Trumbull, delivers a load of coats to Michael Cobb, right, the Bridgeport Rescue Mission's director of operations. Grabiec collected and donated 2,247 coats to the mission for his Eagle Scout project.

## Eagle candidate overshoots mark

By GENEVIEVE REILLY  
greilly@cnp.com

TRUMBULL — David Grabiec set what might be considered a lofty goal — collect 1,000 winter coats to donate to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

However, the Eagle Scout candidate more than doubled that goal when the number of parkas, car coats and snowsuits he collected tallied 2,274.

"It was a little more than we were expecting," said Michael Cobb, director of operations at the rescue mission.

"It's helping a lot of people."

Grabiec, 17, decided to col-

lect coats for the community project required to earn Boy Scouting's highest award rather than the more traditional nature trail or disabled-access ramp.

"This is something a little different that I think will be better in the long run," Grabiec said.

Organization was key, the Trumbull High School junior said.

He had three people assist him — a communications coordinator, a transportation coordinator and a storage container coordinator.

Grabiec collaborated with 22 groups, mostly area church-

es, where he set up collection boxes.

With the help of volunteers and fellow members of Scout Troop 67, the coats were collected, sorted and bagged and the last group of coats was delivered to the Bridgeport mission in December.

He said he originally planned to complete the collection by Thanksgiving weekend, but "people kept dropping coats off on my back porch after the deadline."

Grabiec didn't take just any coats, though. "Some had broken zippers, or stuff crusted on them. I tossed those in the garbage," he said.

The rescue mission has

been distributing the coats to the needy through its shelter and its mobile soup kitchen.

In fact, Grabiec went along on the mobile soup kitchen one night, which he calls a life-changing experience.

"We don't know how fortunate we are until we understand the needs of some of our neighbors," he said. "I pray that this coat drive is a blessing to them."

"It really has been a blessing," said Lynn Egan, the rescue mission's development director.

*Genevieve Reilly, who covers Trumbull, can be reached at 330-6256.*

## Membership

Please contact Nancy Trovato at (203) 698-0716, [ntovato@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ntovato@sbcglobal.net) or Susan Levine at (203) 637-

7753, [susanlevine@optonline.net](mailto:susanlevine@optonline.net) for any questions regarding membership.

## Maintenance

We are planning a Spring Work Weekend some time in May and would ask everyone, specially those who haven't participated, to consider signing-up as soon as a date is established. Opportunity for on-the-job training, lot's of good food (did I mention we also need a volunteer to run the kitchen) and camaraderie with your fellow River-Hillers. Invite prospective new members and

ensure a place at the head of the line for new membership next fall. All the regular's are encouraged to sign-up as we appreciate and need your special skills and we will also need group leaders/trainers. Don't delay as were limiting participation to the first 50 people who sign up. Please contact Bob Boothroyd or Bill Sherriff if you are interested.

## Programs

Upcoming programs to look for, **A Hat contest** April 4<sup>th</sup>, **A Cycling Seminar** April 18<sup>th</sup>, and **The Election at The Annual Meeting** May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If you have questions or would like to help with a Program, please contact Sharon Lehr at (203) 325-8764 or [sharon.m.lehr@marsh.com](mailto:sharon.m.lehr@marsh.com).

## Activities

### **March 25<sup>th</sup>, The River Hills Memorial Race, Pico Mountain**

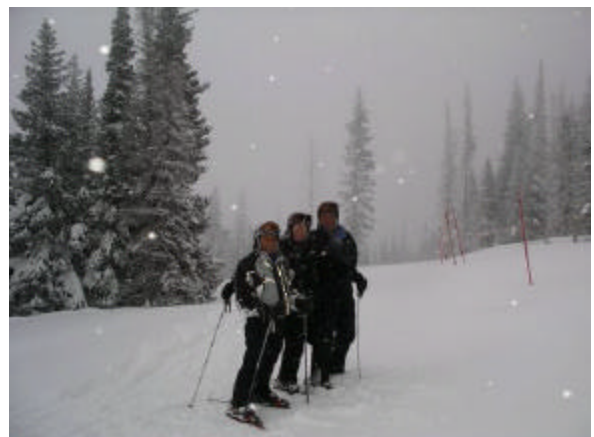
The River Hills Club race will be held at PICO Mountain, we will have lunch upstairs at the main lodge and the race will be on Lower Pike. A race, A lunch, A party, with fellow members, what more could you want from a day on the mountain! Be there and be seen for some fun spring skiing with the River Hills gang. The weekend is

for ALL ages and ALL participation levels. Make reservations early to be sure to get in on the fun!

Your participation is greatly appreciated, so if you would like to plan or contribute to an activity, please contact Chris Zimmerman at (203) 324-0003 or [supe203@yahoo.com](mailto:supe203@yahoo.com).

## C7 Ski Council

For questions regarding the CSC, please contact our representative, Gabe Cordova at (203) 878-4727 or [gabeski@optonline.net](mailto:gabeski@optonline.net).



What it's snowing again!

## For Your Information

### **SLOPESIDE: FRACTIONAL-OWNERSHIP**

**By Diana Mason**

This is a follow-up on an article I wrote for the Skizette a few months ago on "elite" slopeside private clubs that many areas have already built or are in process of building.

Now, the "hottest trend" in ski industry real estate, comes, "fractional-ownership condo hotels", also known as quarter-share properties.

We all know how busy and hectic our lives are, and the reality for many families is that they can't get to their ski house every weekend as they optimistically planned.

Enter these time-shared condos that cater to families and couples who still want to have a "second home", but can't get away every weekend.

The most common arrangement is to buy 13 weeks a year for a condo unit in a hotel-like setting. The 13 weeks are usually spread throughout the year, so the owner can use the unit one out of every four weeks, although other time options are available.

These projects are usually developed by the ski resorts, and the hotel model offers amenities like valet parking, daily housekeeping, on-site restaurants, fitness centers, hot tubs, and pools; and some offer private lounges and locker rooms.

Since the properties are open to the public, there is rental income potential for the condo owners if not being used for weekend or a week. Fractional-share owners pay more than one-fourth of the cost of a typical wholly-owned condo.

These condos also the best of both worlds for the ski resorts as occupancy rates and the number of lift tickets are increased. Off-ski season the resorts can now offer mountain biking, golf, and hiking to further fill the condos and restaurants.

Hunter Mountain opened the Kaatskill Mountain Club, a 77-unit ski-in, ski-out condo last August, and had, like many recent fractional projects, sold almost all units within the first year. Prices at Hunter, which began

selling before completion, ranged from \$35K for quarter-share studios (they now go for \$58-210K) to \$190K for penthouse suites.

Fractional-share projects have sprung up in Okemo, Killington, Mount Snow, and other resorts around the country.

So, all River Hills members, say thank you to our wonderful lodge!! Keep it running smoothly; volunteer more, give back to the club for the many weekends, weeks, and days spent in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont---without having to purchase your own house or condo.

The club asks little enough from its members, but we need more members--and friends of members---to volunteer when called upon, to keep the lodge running efficiently and to maintain it. Please step up to the call. Currently, we need volunteers to install sound absorbing in our dining room/kitchen. Let's get the job done now!

### **"\$81 FOR LIFT TICKET?"**

**By Diana Mason**

Yes, the top price for a full one day lift ticket is \$81! Who get that dubious "honor"? No, not Aspen---it is Vail and Beaver Creek. Aspen, which gets \$3 less, has held the title for highest price ticket for many years.

Not only is Vail/BC charging the most, but the two resorts are "....proud of that fact. If the resort is capable of successfully charging the highest lift ticket in the country, that may be an indicator that it really is the best vacation experience".

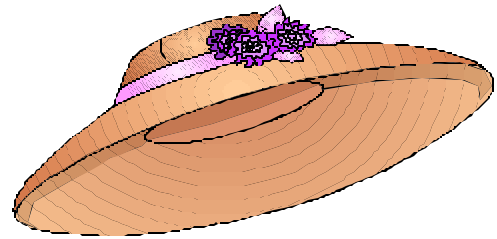
Well, I don't know about you, but since when has price been an indicator for the best experience---of any kind? Aspen seems to agree, all of a sudden, as they claim to be happy Vail/BC now have that distinction and that "It can make your brand inaccessible to people". I guess Aspen didn't feel that their resort was inaccessible when it cost the most to ski there. What a spin by their marketing department!



Dennis in the woods at Jay Peak



Look at all that SNOW!



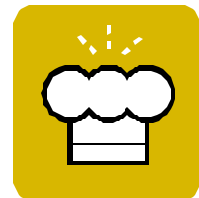
## RHSC Hat Party - Men & *Women*

Where: **Norwalk Boat Club**


WHEN: **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** (after the meeting)

### Details:

- Make a holiday bonnet at home
- Be creative – use materials you have at home (egg crates, takeout containers, bags, construction paper, etc.)
- Base it on a theme or no theme at all!
  
- Wear it to the meeting
  
- Prizes will be awarded!
  
- **Questions** – Sharon Lehr 203-325-8764 or Sharon.m.lehr@marsh.com





	<p>River Hills Ski Club PO Box 8056 Stamford, CT 06902</p>
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