

## Ridge-Line - October 2009

Dear Riverhillers,

Well you can definitely detect a change in the weather as you go out in the morning air. The cool air of fall is upon us and for many that signals the first hint of winter skiing in Vermont. Another harbinger of the ski season is our club's annual call to volunteer for the upcoming work weekend, scheduled this year for Oct 17 and 18. If you haven't already done so please call the monthly coordinator to reserve your spot. For those that want to support this effort but just don't have the time, consider sending a check for \$200 to allow us to outsource some of the work.

Try to get up to our lodge during the month of October for seasonal foliage viewing if you can't make our work weekend. Biking and hiking is also very popular this time of year as is hiking to the top of Killington. In fact hike Killington one day and then the next day go to Okemo or Stratton and do that one, try to hike all your favorite mountains during the course of your life( the sooner you start the easier). Don't we usually have a club hike somewhere in New England every fall, I think Jerry Clupper was running it last I heard. BTW, I heard Jerry is dropping his membership - can't someone convince him to hang in there. I hear you, some are saying good riddance - but you know he was a club president. Time waits for no man. Welcome back Paul.

Again I'd like to remind people to sign up for the CSC snowball as this is a great time to get together just before the season for some social interaction. We already have quite a group of party people - it should be fun. It's also the major fund raiser for the CSC which of course among other things works to get us great lift ticket discounts.

I was looking at the calendar of CSC awareness days (discount lift tickets) and realized you could put together quite an intensive winter ski program throughout Vermont (all close to our lodge) and not spend more than \$40 a day for lift tickets. That's quite a savings. Include the Killington club card which provides \$50/day lift tickets and you can ski Killington on Saturdays and specific Sundays at either Okemo or Stratton to name just two mountains at great savings. Check the CSC calendar for availability and make your lodge reservations early. You've got to plan/act early to make this happen - do it now...

Want to ski real early season? Stratton \$27/day Thanksgiving weekend -call to confirm snow cover, bring your bicycle just in case.

Remember to bring in new people to our membership. Plan on bringing them to meetings, start talking about winter visits to the lodge for skiing, maybe even bring them up for our work weekend if they want an early peak at our lodge. Be sure to talk-up the above mentioned items as this favorably reflects on being part of a ski organization. We need to be constantly thinking of bringing in new members/guests.

Combine business with pleasure. One of our members is bringing up a group from work for team building and some on-mountain fun. This probably only works during the ski season if you can schedule it during the week for two or three days. Reserve the lodge (requires board review), arrange for bulk lift ticket purchases, perhaps schedule our cook and house cleaner, setup some business programs at the lodge for part of

your stay, set aside some ski time perhaps even extend the stay for some for more skiing and build those business relationships. Just staying at the lodge and interacting over meals or fireside or sharing the bathroom (ha-ha) can build some unique working relationships. In today's economy it's called thinking out of the box, alternative solutions. This might also work for those that belong to other social/professional/civic organizations. Remember, this is a great fund raiser for our lodge with minimal effort. Just be sure everyone understands what you mean by family lodge and all its ramifications.

If you want to get something on the agenda for the Long Range Planning Committee see Stephanie Evers, chairperson. A meeting of past presidents is scheduled for October 27 where LR capital improvements and LR planning are discussed. Members can attend but not address the committee but Stephanie will be glad to entertain your concerns ahead of time. See her at a general meeting or email.

Looking forward to reviewing the membership survey results this month and reporting back to membership. We've given everyone ample time to respond.

Check our web site and calendar for the latest news. Please email the board with your ideas.

Hope to see you all at the next general meeting.

Bill Sherriff  
River Hills Ski Club

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River Hills Ski Club | PO Box 8056 | Stamford | CT | 06902