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October 2009

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Hello Riverhillers! Welcome to the first edition of the electronic Skizette! The RHSC Board surveyed members about their interest in receiving the Skizette by email and the response was overwhelming. The monthly e-Skizette contains all the important news you've been receiving by "snail mail," but in a more timely and succinct manner and with email and website links to provide more information and make it easy for you to sign up for club activities. In addition to the online Skizette, look out for a message from President Bill Sherriff every month in a special communication called Ridge-Line.

We hope you enjoy this updated version of the newsletter you've loved for years. Please send us your comments and suggestions. We'd love to hear from you!

RHSC Board

COMMUNICATIONS

Membership survey results are in!

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the RHSC membership survey on important financial, lodge improvement and membership issues. We had an outstanding response with a total of 109 adult members completing the survey out of a total membership of 136! A full summary of survey results will be sent to the membership shortly. In the meantime, here are just a few findings to wet your appetite:

- 92% agree with the current club mission and vision statements.
- 86% are satisfied with the club's overall cost structure.
- The most popular lodge additions members would like explored are boot drying racks (46%) and more on-site storage racks (36%)
- A majority of members (72%) would like general meetings to be held once per month during the ski season.
- 87% are satisfied with club activities.
- 86% would like to receive the Skizette by email.
- 60% are willing to participate in work weekends. Others expressed interest in working on the club during extended stays.
- 66% are willing to make a commitment this year to introducing one new prospective member to the club.



(Michael Swingler and Will Eby on Stash Way)

TERRAIN PARK - NEW!

RHSC Kids

We've added a new section of the Skizette called "Terrain Park" to profile the kids of River Hills Ski Club. If you're an RHSC kid and have an accomplishment, artwork, poem, joke, photograph, or other news you'd like to share with the club, please send them to Anne Olshan at aolshan@optonline.net. Your item does not have to be ski-related. Whether you learned to tie your shoe, scored a goal at your last soccer game or made it into the college of your choice, we want to hear from you! Please send your photo, name and age with all entries. Include your email and we'll add you to the Skizette mailing list too!



Natalie Olshan, age 11, jumped off the "Jaws" bridge in Martha's Vineyard this summer!



Elizabeth Mastoloni, age 11, got braces in September and joined her school's soccer team at Convent of the Sacred Heart.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Summer Picnic

A big thanks to Bill Hughes for hosting this year's summer picnic and meeting at his home in Darien and to Anne Zaera for organizing a wonderful event! To view photos of this event and others, go to "Photo Albums" on the RHSC Website ([click here](#)).



Warren Miller Film - November 13

Warren Miller's *Dynasty* is celebrating its 60th year and is coming to the SCA Palace Theatre in Stamford on Friday, Nov 13 at 8 pm. Kick off your winter sports season and enjoy the largest action sports film on the planet with your fellow River Hillers! Call Lisa Nau for details and to

reserve your tickets: 203-329-1894. For theater directions, [click here](#)

CSC SnowBall - November 21

Come Dance with Us..... This is the annual fundraising event for the Connecticut Ski Council and each Club participates to make it a success. So... Shine up your dancing shoes and save the date to support our CSC Ambassador, Beth Ross. She and Gabe will need plenty of helpers, so this is a great fun way to contribute to our Club. The event will take place at the Hartford Windsor Marriott in Windsor, CT. Call Gabe Cordova to offer help and reserve your seat: 203-878-4727

RHSC Holiday Party - December 12

Our annual Holiday Party is one of our great traditions and this year will be no exception: Donna's gracious home filled with wonderful friends, GREAT food and music - what else could you ask for...? Stay tuned for more details...Call Donna Peters to volunteer your help: 203-372-2209

For information on RHSC activities, please contact Anne Zaera at (914) 276-9511 or azaera@prodigy.net.



MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

October 6 - Social at SONO Brewhouse

13 Marshall St., South Norwalk, 203-853-9110

Program Description:

Meet at the bar before the general meeting starts at 8pm in the second floor loft area. Check out their great menu on their website for possible pre-meeting dining to support our host ([click here](#)). Meeting topics: bulk ticket orders, renewals, potential member/guests (remember we're at a more 'upscale venue'), sign-up for the work weekend (Oct. 17/18), CSC Snow Ball plans, start booking the lodge.

October 20 - Frank's Favorite Things at Norwalk Boat Club

Program Description:

Frank Matsuda, a fellow member and employee of Pedigree Sport shop, will present and explain new Winter Snow Sports equipment and accessories and his favorites for the coming ski season. In honor of Halloween, come early and enjoy Cider and pumpkin donuts and socialize with your fellow members. Halloween costumes/masks are encouraged. Maybe even a monster mash dance contest! Practice-up!

To RSVP or for more information on RHSC programs, please contact Susan Byelick at sbyelick@yahoo.com or (212) 794-1342.

October 27 - Long Range Planning Committee

The LRPC is made up of former RHSC Presidents and focuses on long range goals for the Club and long range plans for capital improvements to the lodge. Members are welcome to attend, however only RHSC past presidents may vote on proposed recommendations to be reported to the Board of Directors. Members interested in attending, please contact Stephanie Evers at ske999@gmail.com or (203) 253-3855.

MAINTENANCE

October Work Weekend

Please join fellow Riverhillers the weekend of Oct 17 & 18 for the club's annual work weekend. All members are welcomed and encouraged to participate. All skill levels needed. It's not just for adult members. Guests and kids are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendar now to reserve the dates. Contact Bob Hener to (tssrjh@aol.com, 203-375-3942) to sign up. We have 22 participants already. As in the past, you are welcomed to extend



your stay at the lodge before or after the weekend.

OPERATIONS

New Men's Bathroom

The men's new bathroom is complete! To view photos, please go to "Photo Albums" on the RHSC Website ([click here](#)).

A Sign of the Season

We have made that first leap into winter and our ski season with the delivery of a fresh load (1-1/2 cords) of kiln-dried firewood.

For information on lodge operations, please contact Curtis Casey at bikeout@aol.com or (203) 849-9343.

TRIPS

Powder Mountain & Snowbasin: January 2010

The Connecticut Ski Council (CSC) trip for 2010 is set for Powder Mountain and Snowbasin January 30 - February 6, 2010. If you have never skied in powder, this will be your opportunity to learn and enjoy - the powder fields are also available via the Powder Mountain SNOW CAT. The average snowfall is over 500 inches of Utah Champaign powder (that is over 41 feet). Powder Mountain has over 7000 skiable acreage and Snowbasin has 3000 skiable acreage. The trip cost is only \$1270 and includes airfare, ground transportation, lift tickets, daily breakfast, lodging and a beach Party on Antelope Island. [Click here](#) to sign up today via credit card. Please call Gabe Cordova if you have any questions at 203-710-2530 (Cell). For flyers on this trip, you can also go to the RHSC website ([click here](#)).



Big Sky Montana: March 2010

James Garvey has planned a week-long trip to Big Sky Montana, March 21-28, 2010. Big Sky has tremendous terrain, 3,500 acres on the Big Sky side of Lone Peak and another 1,700 acres on the Moonlight Basin side! Big Sky is buried in more than 400" of snow per season and we'll be there when you can have powder one day and beautiful spring sunshine the next!

Make your deposit check out to Alphorn Tours for \$200 and mail to James at: 117 Geymer Drive Mahopac, NY 10541. If you have any questions, contact James at (845) 222-4187 or jmgarv@gmail.com. For flyers on this trip, you can also go to the RHSC website ([click here](#)).

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals

Membership renewals keep coming in ... just a reminder they were due before Oct. 1, 2009. If you have forgotten to mail yours, please include an additional \$15 late fee and mail to Pat Sicilaino at 23 Salem Pl, Stamford, CT 06907 or give them to her at our Oct. 6 general meeting. CT Ski Council stickers and Vouchers will be distributed at the Oct. 20th general meeting.

Members on the Move

Two of our members moved out west: Michael Connolly moved to Colorado and Bob Guth moved to Portland, Oregon. We wish them the best of luck!

Member News

Congratulations to John Swingler for participating in a 1000 mile bicycle ride from Montreal to New York earlier this month to support GIST (Gastro intestinal stromal tumour) Cancer Research! The ride has already raised more than \$37,000 for the GIST Cancer Research Fund. To learn more about the ride and support John's efforts, please [click here](#). Way to go, John!

For address changes or any questions regarding membership, please contact Pat Siciliano at (203) 322--3653 or pat.siciliano@starwoodhotels.com

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

The 09/10 season budget has been prepared, discussed and approved by your board. It is posted on our website ([click here](#)). Please check it out and get a feel of how our financial situation is planned to turn out. You will notice that we have used last year's actual performance, as adjusted for expected changes or conditions, to set our new budget. Please remember a budget is exactly that, a budget, and the financial outcome will certainly depend on how much we all use the lodge and participate in events and functions. If we have a similar year as last year and manage to attract some new members, we should be in good shape with a surplus of some \$3,000 with \$2,000 of that earmarked to be set aside for the "rainy day" fund.

Please note that the only capital item in the budget is the men's bathroom project and this has already been completed. There are no other capital type items in the budget for next year. Any capital items that membership wants and approves (even such as the already approved mattresses), will have to come from funds specially raised for this purpose and how and when we do this is dependant on the findings from the recent survey and proposals that the board still has to make. As was the case last year, I have full confidence that the budget is reasonable and totally achievable with your support of the club and the use of our lodge.

John Swingler, Treasurer

SKI TICKET DISCOUNTS

CSC Bulk Tickets

All orders with payment MUST be received by Bob Hener by sundown Friday, Oct 9. Orders will be accepted at the RHSC general meeting on Tuesday, October 6 or you can mail or Fed-Ex them to Bob at 470 Stratford Rd, Stratford, CT, 06615. The CSC bulk ticket policy and order form for the RHSC 2009-2010 season can be found on the RHSC website ([click here](#)). All members should read the ticket policy carefully before purchasing tickets. The rollover credit for those who turned them in at the end of last season is also posted on the website ([click here](#))

Killington Club Card

- Offered exclusively to ski club and ski council members.
- No blackout days.
- Redeem up to 4 days at a time.
- 4 days of skiing/riding for \$199 plus tax if purchased by December 15, 2009.
- Reload in increments of 2, 3 or 4 additional days at the originally purchased price.
- For more information on the Killington Club Card, [click here](#)

CSC Awareness Days

With your CSC Membership Card, you can ski for as low as \$15 per day at Vermont ski areas on designated days. Check the CSC calendar for availability ([click here](#)) and make your lodge reservations early!

Fifth Grade Passport

With the Vermont 5th Grade Passport, fifth graders can ski or ride three times each at participating Vermont Alpine (downhill) and Nordic (cross-country) ski areas for FREE! For more information on the Fifth Grade Passport, [click here](#)

HISTORICAL NOTES

Here's an excerpt from an old Skizette. Can you guess the year?:

"The two work weekends proved very productive. As MIKE (Sabia) said "we got a lot done." The first one was during the foliage season which was very lovely this year. During the weekend the new rec room was painted and we planted 6 small fir trees collected by JOE O'MALLEY. We also have a renovated grill with Vermont marble enclosure.

Trip 2 brought equally good weather. A balcony outside the door to "nowhere off the living room was built. The chalet railings were placed in the front balcony and on the new stairway. A sturdy shed for all the trash was built by our VP, HERB PENNINGTON, JR.

The Hollowed Party had great customers-- Eveil Knieval, Cleopatra, an authentic POLISH GIRL (male member), a gorilla, rabbit, etc.

The weekend ended with our beautiful lighting fixture placed on the ceiling in the rec room (now called the downstairs living room) which can be seen from outside looking through the new full front window and the frame finished leading into the kitchen. Carpeting is planned soon for the rec room and everyone should enjoy Thanksgiving with the lodge having a "finished" look."

For members who like to know when some things were installed and some who are mentioned, this was OCTOBER 1974! Would you believe 35 years ago?!

Pat Street

LODGE COORDINATORS

October

Ed Wheeler - edwheeler@ymail.com (203) 569-5697

November

Joe Grabiec - jpdgrabiec@att.net or (203) 374-1158

Please no calls after 9pm!



If you have any news or article ideas for the Skizette, please contact me at aolshan@optonline.net

Happy trails!
Anne Olshan
River Hills Ski Club

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