# November 2009

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Tree on the Lodge Lawn on Columbus Day Weekend



We had a great turnout for work weekend with a total of 21 participants! Attendees included John Acuri, Susan Byelick, Scot Brown, Mike Coplan, Jim Collard, Gabe and Marion Cordova, Robert and Linda Gottlieb, Julian Langer, Pat Murtagh, Lisa Nau, Bill Sherriff, Gordon and Marcia Sloat, Zac Welburn, Mort Witkin, prospective members Faye Dileo-Goldstein, David Goldstein and prospective member Kim Sinnerty and daughter Kera Sinnerty.

The group worked tirelessly all weekend to get our lodge into tip-top shape for the new ski season. Accomplishments included:

- Painting the third floor ladies bathroom, main stairwell/hallway leading from second floor great room, game room and front entry way
- Touching up the bedroom doors
- Replacing broken spindles on the outside deck
- Installing ceiling tiles and trim work on the dropped ceiling in the dining area
- Tightening many of the wooden fixtures mounted on the walls
- Resolving several plumbing issues, including a leaky faucet in the new men's bathroom
- Cleaning back basement, kitchen areas (especially the cabinets, refrigerators and counter tops), common rooms, upholstered chairs, all windows, chimney ash bin, and light fixture globe
- Washing and drying all mattress pads at the local Laundromat
- Cleaning and organizing basement areas, including the food/supplies storage cribs
- · Cleaning and pruning the lawns with power blowers and a chain saw
- Moving all firewood from the drop-off point to the wood shed
- Conducting a thorough assessment of future repairs and potential areas of trouble for compiling into a maintenance report to be used by the board and others for planning purposes

Hurry up soon before the shine has tarnished to see your lodge at its best! If you see any of the participating members, please thank them for their hard work and a job well done.

For a full summary of the work weekend and to view photos, click here.

#### **MEETINGS & PROGRAMS**

# November 3rd Coordinators Training - 8pm - Norwalk Boat Club

Our lodge operations chairperson, Curtis Casey, will be conducting a training session for lodge coordinators. This session is mandatory for all who wish to volunteer as weekend coordinators as well as those who wish to open and close the lodge. No training, no key will be issued.

#### **ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

#### 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, music and dancing - what else could you ask for...? The party will take place at 649 Thorme Street in Bridgeport from 7:00-11:00 pm on Saturday, December 12. See flyer on website for more details (click here). Contact Donna Peters to volunteer your help: 203-372-2209 or depeters@malloyins.com.

#### RHSC New Year's Eve Party - December 31

Celebrate New Year's Eve at the Lodge among your ski friends and start 2010 doing what you love to do: SKIING!! This event usually is sold out early so make your reservations now. Conact Stephanie Evers to volunteer your help: 203-253-3855 or <a href="mailto:ske999@gmail.com">ske999@gmail.com</a>.

For information on RHSC activities, please contact Anne Zaera at (914) 276-9511 or <a href="mailto:azaera@prodigy.net">azaera@prodigy.net</a>.

# TERRAIN PARK - FOR KIDS ONLY

#### **RHSC Pop Quiz!**

- In what year was River Hills Ski Club founded?
- Our lodge is on what road in Vermont?
- Who is RHSC's current president?
- How many RHSC meetings does someone have to attend before becoming a member?
- How many beds are in the lodge?

Hint: ALL answers are on the RHSC website at <a href="http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org">http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org</a>. Email your answers to Anne Olshan at <a href="mailto:aolshan@optonline.net">aolshan@optonline.net</a>. The first RHSC kid to get all five answers correct will win a \$25 gift certificate to Pedigree Ski Shop! (Olshan girls are ineligible.)



**Grandma's Garage Annual Pumpkin Carving Massacre** 

It all started 37 years ago on a dark, gloomy, cold night in Clifton, NJ. Kathy and Bob Hener joined their friends Kevin and Sue Ryan to cut pumpkins and the annual tradition has continued ever since. Bob's brother Don joined in. The families grew. The young kids have grown and their kids are now participating. All of the kids have been to the RHSC lodge. The event takes place at Grandma Hener's garage in Clifton (she is 85 and has been to the Lodge many times).

#### Please send entries for Terrain Park!

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 <a href="mailto:aolshan@optonline.net">aolshan@optonline.net</a>. Your item does not have to be ski-related. Please send your photo, name and age with all entries. Include your email and we'll add you to the Skizette mailing list too!

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The membership survey results have been tabulated and a summary report is now available for all to review on the website (<u>click here</u>). The board is working on developing action plans and committees to further explore and develop proposals on the issues identified. The board is in agreement that the following important issues have been identified by the survey and these are the areas that will be pursued:

- Our membership is declining. Membership indicated a commitment to bringing in new members this year to reach target levels.
- Membership overwhelming agrees with the club's vision and cost structure. The majority prefer assessments as capital improvement projects are approved.
- Priority for major projects are the replacement of the heating system followed by the new mattresses.
- Boot drying racks and on site storage are priority lodge additions.
- Membership wants monthly meetings during season and to have these at "improved"
- Electronic communication (website and skizette) is preferred.
- Membership is satisfied with club activities.

Thanks to all who completed the survey!

**RHSC Board** 

**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 <a href="mailto:imgarv@gmail.com">imgarv@gmail.com</a>. For flyers on this trip, you can also go to the RHSC website (click here).

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Everyone should have received their 2009/2010 Vouchers and Ct. Ski Council (CSC) stickers. Please remember to put your CSC stickers on your RHSC membership cards, and don't forget to put them on your children's membership cards as well. If you have not received your Vouchers and CSC stickers, please email Pat Siciliano at (203) 322--3653 or <a href="mailto:patchildren">pat.siciliano@starwoodhotels.com</a>. Thanks to Larry and Debbie Headen for creating and printing our Vouchers and Gabe Cardova for coordinating and getting the CSC stickers.

### **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

### **LODGE COORDINATORS**

#### November

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

**December & January**Paul Schallis - <a href="mailto:paul.schallis@snet.net">paul.schallis@snet.net</a> or (203) 431-1245

#### **February**

Marli Pinochet - mpinochet@charter.net or (860) 354-3064

Judi Kostrzewski - ski4xtc@aol.com or (203) 656-2931

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