



## October 2012



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### Our 80th Anniversary Celebration !

Our Club's 80th Birthday Party was celebrated by over 50 current and former members and their guests at the home of John and Kelly Swingler on September 15.

The weather cooperated for a great outdoor party where the adults socialized and danced, and the kids enjoyed the trampoline.

Kurt Fischer treated us to a wonderful retrospective with a continuous slide show made up of photos taken over the last 80 years. It was really great to relive so many happy moments with dear friends, young and old, who share our love of skiing and boarding - YEAH!

Dinner was a sumptuous barbeque featuring ribs, briskets, chicken and salmon, plus corn, baked beans, salad, and all the trimmings.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Gabe and Marion, John and Kelly, and their teams for an outstanding event, and Congratulations to All

members - past, present and future !!

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The River Hills Ski Club just celebrated our 80th anniversary and the club remains true to the mission of its founders. That is to create an affordable way for people in the Stamford area to ski and share time with family and friends. When our club was founded the average price of a new home was \$6,510, a new car cost \$610 and a gallon of gas cost 10 cents. Sounds great, but at the same time nearly 25% of the US population was unemployed, shantytowns were popping up around the country and dust storms were raging across the mid-west.

We are going through our own hard times; not as bad as what the country experienced in 1932 but nonetheless stressful. I know of several long time members and frequent users of the lodge who recently lost their jobs, and other members who are considering cutting back on skiing this season. We will do our best to help our friends in their time of need. But we don't have much wiggle room. Last year was very rough on the club's finances. With little snow on the east coast, lodge usage was down all season and when Killington closed in early March we were forced to dip into the emergency reserve to fund operations. Things could be worse. The changes we made to fund a larger portion of operations though membership dues softened the blow. While our ambition is to fund 100% of operations through dues, we cannot raise annual dues to the point where the club becomes less affordable for many members.

The obvious answer is to increase the number of members; and while we have brought in a lot of new members over the past three years, an equal number have aged out of skiing and left the club. We will continue to focus on increasing membership, but will remain very selective of who we admit so that while the face of the club changes, our values remain intact.

These are not new challenges and I'm bullish on our future. At the recent 80th anniversary party I had the opportunity to speak with past presidents from the 60's, 70's, and 80's and found that some had faced similar issues. What was true then and remains true now is that our lodge is one of - if not the -- best club-owned facilities on the east coast. We offer a great value to our members, and a very warm and inviting environment for families and individuals with a great mix of age, race, religion and attitude.

Let it snow let it snow let it snow.

John Olshan

## FALL WORK WEEKENDS

### *September and October Work Weekends Planned*

To ensure our Lodge is ready for us this season, we have scheduled 2 work weekends just in time to enjoy Vermont's Fall foliage:

- September 29-30, and
- October 13-14.

The goal is to spruce up our lodge while having a great time socializing and, of course, eating well. Remember that there is NO charge for lodging or food for members or guests during work weekends.



To volunteer for either or both weekends, please contact our Maintenance Director, [Bob Boothroyd](#), or the Monthly Coordinator, [Heather Lopresti](#).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

### General Meetings

General meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, usually at Long Ridge Tavern (LRT), 2635 Long Ridge Road in Stamford. **An exception** will be the October meeting - to be held on October 2nd (instead of the 9th), to accommodate members wishing to purchase discounted CSC Bulk Ski tickets. (See below for more details).

A number of members who live east of Stamford have asked that we look for a venue closer to them to alternate with the LRT. If you have any good places in mind, please send us your suggestions.

### **DON'T MISS: November 13 Coordinator Training at the LRT.**

Please note that attendance at this session is required in order for you to be qualified as a Lodge Coordinator this year - even if you were so qualified in the past. To ensure we have enough time to cover the material, we will start this meeting a little earlier at 7:00 pm.

If you cannot attend that session, please contact [Curtis Casey](#) to discuss.

### Board Meetings

Board meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month - except for October 2012, and January 2013.

### List of Key Dates and Upcoming Events:

September 29-30	Fall Work Weekend I
October 2	General meeting at Long Ridge Tavern at 7:30pm
October 5	Deadline to order your CSC Bulk Tickets
October 13-14	Fall Work Weekend II
November 13	Lodge Coordinator Training at LRT at 7:00pm
<i>October 25 ??</i>	RHSC Membership Social at the Olshan's -TBD
November 17	CSC Snowball - Hartford Windsor Marriott at 8:00pm
<i>December 15 ??</i>	RHSC Holiday Party - TENTATIVE
December 28-31	New Year's Weekend at the Lodge
Jan 31-Feb 5	Quebec Winter Carnival Trip
March 1-3	CSC OnSnow Winter Carnival at Okemo Mtn
March 13-21	Utah Ski Trip

Be sure to check our [website calendar](#) for the most recent updates.

## CSC Bulk Ticket Vouchers for 2012-2013

Bob and Kathy Hener have once again graciously agreed to coordinate arranging for discounted CT Ski Council Bulk Ticket Vouchers for our members.

If you intend to purchase any discounted ticket vouchers, your **completed order forms must be in Bob's hands by sundown October 5** along with your check made out to "River Hills Ski Club". You can either hand these in at the next General Meeting at the Long Ridge Tavern on October 2 at 7:30, or mail them to:

Kathy and Bob Hener  
470 Stratford Road, Stratford, CT 06615

[Order forms](#) with pricing details for the Southern and Northern Tier Areas are available on our website. Discounted vouchers may only be purchased for club members, not for guests.

Note that if you had a roll-over credit from last year, it is shown online on a separate list, "[2011-2012 Unused Vouchers](#)", along with the order forms. You can only apply the credit towards the purchase of this year's vouchers.

Questions? Contact Bob at [TSSRJH@aol.com](mailto:TSSRJH@aol.com) or 203-375-3942.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you're interested in becoming more involved in club volunteer opportunities, please contact John Olshan at [jolshan@optonline.net](mailto:jolshan@optonline.net).

There is plenty of work and fun to go around!

## MEMBERSHIP

**Renewals** - A quick reminder that Membership renewals are due to [Beth Hulbert](#) by September 30. Applications and checks received between October 1 and 15 will be accepted but will incur a \$15 penalty. If we do not hear from you by October 15, we will assume that you no longer wish to continue your membership.

So, if you haven't already done so, rush your renewal to:

Beth Hulbert  
14 Todds Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

**Membership Drive** - Anne and John Olshan have offered to host a special "Membership Drive Social" at their home in late October for your guests to learn more about the club and meet some of our members. It will be an informal gathering with drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Details tbd, but the tentative date is Thursday, October 25, starting at 7:30 or 8 pm.

**Roster Updates** - An Updated Roster is posted on our web site at <http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org/member-resources/documents/roster/>. If you need your email and/or address updated, please let [Beth](#) know.

## SKI TRIPS

**The following ski trips are planned for 2013:**



### **Quebec Winter Carnival 2013 -- January 31 to February 5**

This trip features lodging at the luxurious Fairmont Le Château Frontenac on the Saint-Lawrence River with skiing at nearby Le Massif and Mont St. Anne, plus a Masquerade Gala Banquet. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and there are a few spots still available!

A \$100 deposit to Gabe Cordova is all that's required to save your space - and, kids under 18 who room with their parents stay for free!

See the [detailed flyer](#) online.

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### **CSC Ski Trip to Alaska - March 1-9, 2013**

**Included:**

1 night at the Marriott Anchorage Hotel - ceremonial start of the Iditarod  
7 nights ski in - ski out lodging at the Alyeska Hotel  
5-day lift ticket  
Welcome breakfast & orientation  
Cost is \$1,762 from New York - Add \$246 for Hartford

**Also available:**

Dog sledding, Wildlife cruise, Snowmobiling, Heli-skiing, Spa and lots more

Watch for further details... or contact [Gabe Cordova](#)

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### **Solitude and Ogden, Utah - March 13 - 21, 2013**

We only have 20 seats available for this fabulous ski trip and they're going fast!

To secure your reservation, contact [Jim Garvey](#) and mail him your deposit for \$250 per person made payable to ALPHORN TOURS.

[Flyer with details online](#)



## LODGE COORDINATORS

### September and October:

Heather LoPresti  
(914)-494-2771  
hlopresti18@yahoo.com

### November

John Swingler  
(203) 322-0588 john.swingler@sappi.com

### December/January:

Paul Schallis  
(203)-431-1245  
paul.schallis@snet.net

See the complete list on our [Monthly Coordinators](#) page.

Please no calls after 9pm!

## CLOSING



If you have any news or article ideas for the Skizette, please contact me at [aazaera@prodigy.net](mailto:aazaera@prodigy.net)

**Have fun on the slopes!**

**Anne Zaera**  
**River Hills Ski Club**

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