

February 2010

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*Edward John Wheeler:
1954-2010*

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Our two annual racing events are almost here!

CSC On-Snow Carnival Weekend - March 5 - 7

The Connecticut Ski Council's annual Winter Carnival will take place March 5-7 at Mount Snow, VT. It will include 11 competitive events over three days plus dinner and dance with live band on Saturday night for all participants.



Carnival participants can **stay at our Lodge March 5/6 for half price** versus the regular weekend rates (only \$25 per adult and \$16.50 per child vs \$50 and \$33). Discounted lift ticket prices must be purchased at Mt Snow during Carnival weekend. For full details, schedules, prices, etc, [click here](#).

If you're interested in participating, **contact our Carnival coordinator Jim**

Collard ASAP at springfieldchir@aol.com.

RHSC Memorial Race Weekend - March 12-14

This year's Club race will be held on Sunday, March 14, at Okemo starting at 11am. This is always a highlight of the season and brings out the best competitive spirit in all of us!

Tom Nolan is chairing this year's event and he promises us a great weekend ! To get everyone revved up, we'll have a party at the Lodge on Saturday night. All members are encouraged to participate in as many categories as they qualify for - adults, juniors, seniors, kids, families, couples, etc.

After the races on Sunday, we will have a luncheon and the Awards Ceremony in a private room right at the mountain.

If we have 20 or more people, we can get a Bulk ticket rate of \$51/Adult, \$43/Young Adult-Senior (13-18, 65-69), \$35 Junior and Super Senior (7 - 12, 70+). The cost for the race, lunch and awards will be \$15 per adult and \$10 per child (under 18).

If you're planning to compete and/or would like to help with any aspect of the weekend, **contact Tom** at 203-629-5440 or email Tom.Nolan@tomorrownow.com.

Monday Night Racing at Mt Southington, CT through February 15

Races are held on Monday nights and start at 7:45 pm. Dennis Suto is the CSC Race Chairman. For more info, see the CSC website at <http://www.skiclub.com/Default.aspx?uc=CSCRacing>

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

MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

General Meeting: Tuesday, March 2nd

Stay tuned for details on a location and program! Contact Susan Byelick (sbyelick@yahoo.com) with any questions or ideas on club meetings and programs.

TERRAIN PARK



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 aolshan@optonline.net. Your item does not have to be ski-related. Include your email and we'll add you to the Skizette mailing list too!

Dakota & Montana Casey on Cruise Control

MEMBER NEWS

Ed Wheeler, a RHSC member for more than 25 years, passed away on January 26, 2010 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 55.

Born in Tupper Lake, New York, Ed was the eldest son of Ed and Ann Wheeler. Until age 7, Ed lived in Blue Mountain Lake, New York. Thereafter, he grew up in Baldwinsville, New York and graduated from Solvay High School in 1972. Ed earned a B.S. from Clarkson University in 1976 and worked in the financial industry in New York City during the 80's and early 90's. Called to change his career, Ed earned a M.S. from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California in 1999. Thereafter, he served as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the Stamford, Connecticut area.



Ed was full of life and an avid sportsman, enjoying all outdoor activities especially, hiking, biking, and skiing. Yet the true love of his life was his wife Karen whom he often said he was so blessed to have found.

Ed will be missed by the many people whose lives he touched through his passion for strengthening marriages and families. He was active in his church and community, founding Christian Sports Fellowship and participating in several men's fellowship groups such as New Canaan Society and Tres Dias.

Ed is survived by his wife Karen; brother Steve Wheeler and his wife Nancy of Portland, Oregon; sister Jeanna Wheeler of Twickenham Middlesex, England; Aunt Betty Mull and Aunt Jean Schug of Baldwinsville, New York as well as several nieces and nephews. He will also be missed by his many friends and associates.

RHSC made a memorial donation to the Christian Counseling Center of Norwalk in Ed's name.

MEMBER TIPS

Snowshoeing - another fun winter sport to enjoy in Vermont

Snowshoeing is another great way to play in the snow, according to Deborah Lewis of Bredeson Outdoor Adventures, our guest speaker at our Ground Hog Day meeting on February 2. Deborah shared information on both the joys and the practical aspects of snowshoeing at the meeting. A self-professed winter sports fanatic, Deborah recounted how she used to wonder why people would walk on snow on snowshoes when they could slide on snow with skis or a sled - until she tried it, that is. Snowshoeing has virtually no learning curve yet provides the opportunity to walk on the wild side by providing access to beautiful backcountry areas, inaccessible on skis in the winter and even on foot in the summer, whose edges are smoothed out by proverbial blankets of snow. Deborah spoke about types and costs of snowshoes, where to purchase them, technique, how to dress and where to enjoy snowshoeing in the area near the Club's ski lodge. For a copy of Deborah's presentation with resource websites, please email her at dlewis@bredeson.com. Bredeson Outdoor Adventures provides culturally oriented hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing trips with creature comforts for all ability levels in Connecticut, Vermont and throughout Europe. More information can be found at <http://www.bredeson.com>.



After a day of skiing..or snowshoeing, take a dip at the Pico Sports Center

Relax after a day of skiing at the Pico Sports Center at Pico Mountain (clearly marked by a sign as you enter the main Pico parking lot, first left). Pico Sports Center features workout machines, free weights, 75-foot indoor heated lap pool, whirlpool, yoga classes, saunas, tanning machine, and men's and women's lockers with showers. Either bring a towel or pay 50¢ to use their towels. You can buy a single visit pass for \$15, 7-visit punch card pass for \$35, one-month membership

for \$60 or three-month membership for \$150. The beauty of 7-visit pass is that you can use individually or all at once for a group. Front desk indicated it was busy on evenings from 6-8pm.

TRIPS

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](#)).



Chile: August 2010

This trip is a great opportunity for families to bring their young ones for a taste of South American culture. The cost is substantially reduced for those who take the duplex suite and fly direct to Chile out of Kennedy (JFK) - \$ 2314 vs \$2569. See flyer on the RHSC website for more details ([click here](#)). Please call Gabe Cordova if you have any questions at 203-710-2530 (Cell).

HISTORICAL NOTES by Pat Street

1959-2010: FIFTY YEARS AGO

I thought I would get personal for this issue and share some of my own historical memories of River Hills as I celebrate my **GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**.

Of course, I would not be able to do this right now without the efforts of Bob Hener, who first introduced the idea of the River Hills website to enable us to participate by reading all the news of the board's planned activities, meetings, programs and lodge events.

How did we ever do all this before? It's hard to believe that River Hills achieved these challenges without the computer!



It certainly makes life easier now for all River Hillers to receive instant communication with a click of a mouse!

I hope in the next few articles or two I may be able to describe some of the historical ways we did just that and more if you will indulge me.

Here is where some of the history unfolds.

My memories will include some of the most talented and fun skiing members, both past and present, as well as I all the fun events and, yes, the hard work of being a **BOARD MEMBER** and, sometimes, of just being a volunteer for all the many chores of making our club so special.

Of course, none of the above would be possible without our founder, Charlie Howes. Also, Charlie Taft, who I understand helped to co-found River Hills (more of my memories of these two great and wonderful members later) and all of the past presidents, board members and the efforts of so many River Hills members over the many years.

TO BE CONTINUED AND HAPPY SKIING in the best month of February 2010!

Photo above: Guest, Sandie DeFilippis (former member) and Pat Street (1958)

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest family membership: David Goldstein and Faye DiLeo Goldstein from Norwalk, CT.

Active Memberships:
83 memberships
43 single memberships
40 family memberships (with 56 children)
10 memberships out of core

For information about membership, please contact Pat Siciliano at pat.siciliano@starwoodhotels.com.

OPERATIONS

All systems are going well. Our service partners are taking good care of us - Meals and Cleaning, Snow plowing and Shovelling, Trash pickup. Thank you's go out to all our lodge coordinators - keep up the great work! Lets all continue to pitch in.

Parents need to remind our children to gather up sleds and keep them next to front entrance, and to return shovels to entrance as well.

Also, lets all respect the game room and thus enjoy it all the more. The puck for hockey game was recently found so that we are active in the back corner again. Please keep up your observations of damaged/missing house items, send me email anytime.

If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Casey at bikeout@aol.com.

LODGE AVAILABILITY & COORDINATORS

February

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

March

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