

Summer 2010



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Letter from the President

Greetings Riverhillers.

This is my first letter to you and it is my intention is to use this space as a forum to keep you up to speed on what the board is working on. We welcome your input, advice and feedback. This is your club and we are here to serve you. But we cannot know what you want unless you tell us.

We are starting to gain some momentum despite the distraction of summertime travels and the pull of the outdoors, laying groundwork for a productive year with a focus on maintaining and improving the lodge so future Riverhillers can enjoy it as much as we do and strengthening our community so there will be future Riverhillers to enjoy it.

As I write this we are immersed in a very healthy debate about how to structure our finances in a way that the Club has the ability to maintain and improve the lodge regardless of ski conditions or membership size, while keeping the cost of using the lodge competitive, without pricing out infrequent users. We approach this project with sensitivity to all and are investing the time and energy to come up with a plan that is fair and equitable, with a keen eye on the membership survey to stay on track with the stated preferences of our members. But the bottom line is that the makeup of the club is changing, as are the times and we need to stay ahead of the curve. It's always better to act than react.

We are also cooking up some fun projects geared towards building community, with programs in the works for kids, adults, families and all of the above. Race Weekend will be the hub of our social calendar and

you can look forward to fresh ideas for fun at the lodge and on the road.

Work weekend will include some meaty projects for those who like to get their hands dirty and play with dangerous tools. Whether you are an experienced craftsman or an able body willing to work hard and learn some new skills, there is no better way to connect with the club than working on our shared home. And the beer is free!

From an operations perspective, we strive to make the club function to the level of excellence we have become accustomed to. And the board is putting processes in place to help expand our membership while protecting the safety of our club and its members, which we will bring to your attention when the policies have passed the legal sniff test and are approved by the board.

So please stay in touch. Let me know what you are thinking and don't be shy about bringing issues to my attention. This is your club. Take control, be active and enjoy it.

John Olshan

MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Summer Meeting/Social

Dinner and socializing with fellow Riverhillers was enjoyed by all who attended the RHSC Summer Meeting/Social at our new permanent home at Long Ridge Tavern in Stamford. The cozy setting, good food and gracious hosts provided the perfect ambiance for the first official event of the new board. Also, did you know that the Tavern is just a stone's throw away from the hills of the Mianus River in Stamford that make up our name and are depicted on our logo? If you weren't able to attend, please come to the next general meeting and let us know what you think of our new space. It's also an attractive location for prospective members so bring your friends!





General meetings will take place on the first Tuesday of every month (except November's meeting, which will occur the second Tuesday due to Election Day) at 8pm at Long Ridge Tavern, 2635 Long Ridge Rd, Stamford. Please mark these dates in your calendar - program details and agendas to follow:

September 7

October 5

November 9

December 7

January 4

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Summer Picnic 2010

The summer picnic has been confirmed for Sunday, September 26 at Barrett Park in Stamford (at Newfield Avenue and Burdick Street). Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details! Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Stephanie Evers at ske999@gmail.com to lend a hand.

RHSC Spring Fling

Many thanks to John and Kelly Swingler and Pat Siciliano for planning and hosting a terrific event! Also congratulations to Kyle Ebert, this year's Ken Vought Award recipient.



**Former Ken Vought award recipients
announce this year's winner**



**Kyle Eberts learns she is this year's
award recipient**



**Anne Zaera with husband Chuck
Robinson (right) and Roy Korins**



Water gun fight!



Scrumptious buffet



Yummy pig on a spit



Betty Manocchi (center) with Nancy Trovato and Lillian Fischer



Jocelyn Gash (with Sydney and John Olshan) wins RHSC fleece raffle!

CSC Snow Ball 2010

Come dance with us..... The Snow Ball is an 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, Stephanie Evers. The event will take place on November 20 at the Hartford Windsor Marriott in Windsor, CT. Contact Stephanie at ske999@gmail.com to reserve your



Snow Ball 2009

seat.

Show your RHSC spirit and help promote our club by purchasing our new logoed clothing! Please see choices below and contact Anne Olshan at aolshan@optonline.net to place your order. Please also contact Anne if you have an interest in volunteering to help manage our merchandise orders.



Jim Collard (with Stephanie Evers) models the Long-Sleeve Fleece Jacket (\$45)



Sydney and Natalie Olshan and Elizabeth Mastaloni in RHSC Flannel Pants (available in blue and pink/ \$22)





Stormtech Dry-Tech Shirt (red or navy blue/\$38)

Charlie Mastaloni wears a RHSC



Close-up of Logo
(stitched on
sweatshirt and
fleece
vest/jacket)

NEW! RHSC RULE CHANGES & ADDITIONS

This month we have introduced a new section of the Skizette that will alert members to any new rule changes or additions that have been enacted by the board. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact John Olshan at jolshan@optonline.net or Mike Kellick at kellickm@optonline.net.

Abolished! Under Two Rule for Weekend Winter Lodge Stays

Members who are under age two are now welcome to stay at the lodge during winter weekends. The board made this rule change after careful consideration and in an effort to make the club more welcoming and convenient for families with young children. Members under two may also share a bed with their parents at no cost.



Ellie Cross holding
Sophie Pinochet

New Coordinator Qualifications

New members must visit the lodge on five separate occasions with a qualified coordinator before they will be eligible to use the lodge unaccompanied.

Two years of membership is required for eligibility to be a weekend coordinator (or holiday week coordinator) during the winter season.

New: Early Confirmation for Prospective Members

A Prospective Member (Single or Family) who is a first time visitor to the Lodge and has a genuine interest in joining the club may be eligible for early confirmation (more than 10 days prior to date of the reservation). On any given weekend, no more than two prospective members may be confirmed early. Dates ineligible for early confirmation include:

- Christmas Holiday
- President's Day (both weekends of that holiday week)
- Race Weekend

New RHSC Volunteer Activity: "Mentor New Member"

Overall

New volunteer activity/opportunity to be added to Membership Renewal packet list. Participation is to be tracked by Membership Chair.

Eligibility

Open only to full Members (past the 2 year-probation period)

Responsibilities

- Act as 'sponsor' of a new member whether they came to the Club via an existing member or via another way (i.e., Web, other).
- It is expected (but not mandatory) that Members who bring guests would mentor them personally.
- Membership Chair will facilitate matching volunteer mentors with guests who need one
- Be the mentee's "go to" person for any question or concern.
- Provide orientation and guidance at the Lodge: facilities, safety procedures, work assignments, rules and regulations, and guidelines
- Also provide guidance on the more informal customs and behavior expectations
- Encourage mentee to get involved in Club activities by attending and ideally volunteering their assistance

Limitations

Mentor's responsibility excludes any financial liability for mentee's actions/omissions.

MAINTENANCE

Save the date for the next work weekend at the lodge - September 18 & 19, 2010!

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 Zach Welburn at zach@welburn-electric.com or 203-537-2059.



Work Weekend 2009

OPERATIONS

Greetings friends and happy summer. The lodge is doing well, however we do need monthly coordinators - Please call Joe Grabiec at 203-374-1158 or jpdgrabiec@att.net if you can help out. Summer activities include some sapling tree removals to keep clearance from the house, this will make way for delivery of two cords of seasoned firewood - please take some time when at the lodge to stack a bit of it. Also, Traci is cleaning the carpets at high traffic areas and hitting all the stains that accumulated this year. Our summer services continue with cut and trim the grass, and we have weekly trash pickup from the dumpster - please be sure to close lid tight as always. Have a safe and fun filled summer, and do send me emails with any observations or needs for the Lodge. Thank you.

Curtis Casey

TRIPS

River Hills Ski Club presents ZERMATT & LUZERN!

February 4 - 13, 2011

\$1,595 per person (double occupancy)

Zermatt - a mile high ski Mecca for all levels of skier at the foot of the majestic Matterhorn! Best known for its southern exposure and high snowfall levels which produce the longest ski season in the Alps and quintessential Swiss charm. Zermatt is an incredible ski destination.



Ski the three main ski areas of Tiefbach, Aeroleid or Momatt, and then ski across the border to Cervinia, Italy for lunch.

Please see flyer on the RHSC website for more details:

http://www.riverhillsskiclub.org/wp-content/uploads/FLIER_RiverHills-Zermatt_Luzern111.pdf

To sign up or obtain additional information please contact: Jim Garvey of RHSC at (845) 621-1305 (office), (845) 222-4187 (cell) or email jmgarv@gmail.com

Initial deposit of \$500.00 due ASAP to confirm your spot on this popular trip
Please make checks payable to Alphorn Tours and mail to: Jim Garvey at 117 Geymer Dr. Mahopac, NY 10541

Connecticut Ski Council - Ski Vail - February 5 - 12, 2011

\$1,429 per adult (double occupancy)



Including . . .

- Round trip air transportation from New York or Hartford
- Round trip airport/hotel transfers
- Seven nights' accommodations at the Evergreen Lodge:
 - Walking distance to slopes and world class shops/dining and Vail's free shuttle system
 - Outdoor heated pool, indoor hot tub, 2 cedar saunas, free ski storage
 - Restaurant, sports bar, cozy lobby with a fireplace and Internet on-site
 - Baggage handling
 - Hot breakfast daily
- Five day ski pass valid at Vail, Beaver Creek, A- Basin, Breckenridge and Keystone
- Welcome Reception/Orientation
- \$15 Vail Mountain Money certificate
- Managers' Reception
- Current (05/20/2010) taxes and air security fees

For more details and to sign up, go to

http://www.skiclub.com/documents/Vail%20Flyer_1.pdf

MEMBER NEWS

Update on Jan Hansen

As many of you know, this June, Jan was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. At the request of a number of her friends, Bob Boothroyd set up a blog to post Jan's progress as she undergoes treatment, inform everyone of special events for Jan and as a convenient way for those who wish to do so, to make a donation to assist Jan with the many expenses

she is incurring which are not covered by insurance.

Please visit the website at



Jan & Bob on the Killington
Gondola in Spring

<http://friendsofjanethansen.blogspot.com/2010/08/update-from-bob.html> and post your comments of support and encouragement. In addition to donations, Jan is in need of transportation to chemo treatments so if you have a flexible schedule and can help, please contact Bob at rhboothroyd@aol.com.

New Bundle of Joy for the Welburns!



Abigail Welburn

Zach and Francesca Welburn are proud parents of little Abigail, born July 17 and weighing 9 pounds. It won't be long before this new Riverhiller is hitting the slopes and joining the other kids on the sled run at the lodge!

INTRODUCING THE NEW RHSC BOARD!

PRESIDENT

JOHN OLSHAN

203-981-5646/jolshan@optonline.net

VICE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL KELICK

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Please thank them for their service and contact them to volunteer your help and ideas!

LODGE COORDINATORS

August

Anne Zaera - azaera@prodigy.net or (914) 276-9511

September - Please contact Joe Grabiec at 203-374-1158 or jpdgrabiec@att.net to volunteer as the monthly coordinator!

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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