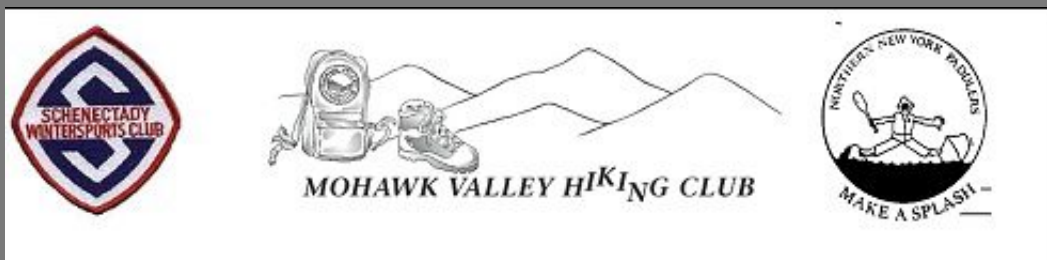


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February Break at the SWC Lodge

by Ellen Bidell

Join us at the SWC lodge during February vacation (2/17 to 2/26). The week will include hosted dinners, activities and group outings. Make your reservations today on the SWC website (swcweb.org).

Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Challenge

The MHLC is keeping up a 20-hike challenge for 2022. Go to this link to see the hike areas, and get a limited-edition sticker if you do 20 hikes:
<https://mohawkhudson.org/20preservechallenge>

Let's Hit the Trails this Winter

Join us on a [2022 guided winter outing](#) in Maine. This year's winter hike series offers several returning winter outing favorites, many on properties which can only be accessed during the frozen winter months, as well as featuring two new trail explores at Goodwin Forest and the new Checkerberry Trail in South Berwick.

Jan 29: Tuckahoe Preserve, Snowshoe/Ski/Hike: 10am-noon | Hubbard Rd, Berwick

Feb 2: Checkerberry Trail, Snowshoe/Hike: 10am-noon | Orris Falls parking area: Emerys Bridge Rd, South Berwick

Feb 5: Orris Falls Conservation Area, Snowshoe/Hike: 10am-1pm | Emery's Bridge Rd, South Berwick

Feb 12: Goodwin Forest, Snowshoe/Hike: 10am-noon | Goodwin Rd, Eliot

Feb 19: Beaver Dam Heath, Snowshoe/Hike: 10am-noon | Diamond Hill Rd, North Berwick/Berwick

Feb 26: Rocky Hills Preserve, Snowshoe/Ski/Hike: 10am-1pm | Punkintown Rd, South Berwick/Eliot

Mar 2: Bauneg Beg Mountain Conservation Area, Snowshoe/Hike: 10am-noon | Fox Farm Hill Rd, North Berwick

Anyone interested in joining any of these hikes is encouraged to visit the website at www.gwrlt.org or call the office for more information, confirmation of the hike status and last-minute suggestions for footwear. **Outings are limited to 25 participants. Sign up for hikes by email or call 207-646-3604.**

A Few Important Reminders about Staying at the Lodge

Things are back in full swing at the SWC lodge, with reservations every week through March! When you make a reservation, you will receive an email with these tips, as well as the current code to the door. If you don't receive it, check your spam folder!

There are a lot of new people experiencing the lodge for the first time also, so we wanted to go over a few important things to keep the lodge running smoothly and cost-effectively:

The main heat (propane) can be turned on when you get to the house, and turned down when you leave. The thermostat is located on the column in the kitchen near the toaster oven. If you aren't at the house, close the door between the fireplace room and the dining room.

Room heaters should only be used when you are in the room. They heat up very quickly, so when you arrive or return for the day, you can turn them on, but be sure to turn them back down when you leave. And please turn them all the way down when you move out!

Windows should remain closed during the winter. We have had windows left open several times this winter.

You are responsible for your dirty dishes, cleaning the kitchen after each use, emptying the garbage and recycling, sweeping, refilling firewood, etc. We also appreciate the help cleaning the bathrooms in between our cleaning visits.

A few items have been misplaced from rooms (charging stations and fleece blankets). These were paid for by members who donated money to redecorate

a particular room, so if you have to move something, please return it to its original location.

Thanks, and enjoy the season at the lodge!

Speak Truth to Power

A few years ago, some generous members donated money to redecorate rooms at the SWC lodge. As part of that, we purchased power cords/charging stations for many of the rooms.

Do you think those power strips were thankful to be given a new home? No, they up and left! And not just one, which could be written off as a need to get out and see the world. It was five out of seven, like they formed a gang, or maybe their own power company.

Did they not realize the power they had here? It wasn't just about charging cell phones. They were heroes, enabling many of our members to use their life-saving (and marriage-saving) CPAP machines.

We sure miss them, and hope they will realize it is a tough world out there. We are going to install cameras at the entrance and check-in desk. Maybe we will be able to catch a glimpse of this strange exodus and figure out how they managed their escape.

Signs, Signs, Everywhere a Sign

You've seen them. All over the house. They are the butt of many jokes and an annoyance to some.

And yet...we had to turn off heat in one room that was set at 72 degrees, and close and lock the windows in another two rooms—on a night it was zero degrees.

So you can laugh and roll your eyes at all the signs, but it can't be said enough: Turn off the heat in your room when you leave, and if you must open a window, please shut and lock it. Really.

Maybe that is why the power cords decided to leave.

Thank You, Volunteers

These past couple of years have been challenging for all of us. Despite the challenges in their own lives, the volunteers that run this club deserve our respect and appreciation. They are the board members, those who support the activities of the club, and the members dedicating weekends to cleaning and

updating the clubhouse for members to enjoy. Not one of them receives pay or tangible benefits for their dedication, except for the happiness that being a part of this great and historic organization brings, as well as the kind words from appreciative members.

So members, next time you talk to one of these volunteers, please thank them. Without their care and help, we have no club.

SWC Board Meeting Minutes 1/11/22

In attendance: John & Ellen Bidell, Ed Greiner, Susan Knapik, John Rack, Bill & Karen Simmons (part of meeting – connection issues), Bill Schaefer, Don Streed

Meeting called to order by John Bidell at 7:02

Treasurers report previously submitted via email by Don Streed.

- Don highlighted that December was a good, positive-cash-producing month, bringing operating cash back above \$20,000. As of today, CapCom operating account in excess of \$24,000 and PayPal account has built to \$3,600.
- Vanguard account closed calendar year at \$95,688.

Ellen inquired about future expenses. Don noted nothing major until spring insurance payments. Until then, regular utility costs of Clubhouse. Club contracted for propane at fixed rate back in October for quantity that should be sufficient for this winter, which is helping to control costs since propane costs have risen significantly.

Clubhouse Reservations – Ellen Bidell

Bookings have been good, includes many midweek reservations.

Upcoming hosted weekends were enumerated.

To cover clubhouse cleaning have extended offer to one guest couple a free night stay in return for cleaning services.

Discussion followed re people not following rules: leaving dirty dishes, thermostats left turned up, windows not closed and locked. Ellen mentioned there have been a lot of new members booking rooms. At time of rental guests are given rules when they are given pass code. Ideas to correct were offered, guest acknowledgement of receipt of rules was adopted for implementation.

Clubhouse maintenance – John Bidell

There is a plumbing issue downstairs on supply line. Needs to be cleaned up in future.

Ski Council – Karen Simmons

- leftover prizes.
- the event at West Mountain was cancelled due to low number of registrations.
- Club days listed on Council website, few in number but they are delineated.

Paddlers – Ed Greiner

Concern regarding exclusions in liability insurance policy.

- Medical coverage if someone hurt and sues club for medical expenses?
- Seems to exclude coverage during athletic events.
- How does this cover SWC members who lead athletic events?
- It was mentioned NYS Dept of Parks & Rec and NYS Canal Corp had to be named for paddling events
- Bill Schaefer and Susan mentioned club used to buy riders for insurance needed for specific events
- Ideas of waivers was raised, although legal benefit of such was questioned

Don will again contact insurance broker re: liability coverage

Ed will work to identify specific coverage need.

Hiking – John Rack: “No one going out and walking.”

Submissions for the Chatter

Content submissions for the SWC Newsletter should be emailed to swcchatter@gmail.com by the 15th of the month and should include a contact name and phone number. Content that needs to be run in subsequent Newsletters must be resubmitted each month.

Change of Address Notices

Change of Address notices should be sent to:

John Boscarino* boscarino126@aol.com
126 Polsin Dr, Schenectady, NY 12303-2516

***Do not send to the editor or the Club PO Box; they will get lost**

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Membership is from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022

Sign up at <https://www.swcweb.org/membership>, or print and mail this form to the address below.

Name _____

Age Group (circle one) 18-29 30-39 40-55 56-69 70+

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

New Member() Renewal() \$25 individual() \$35 Family()

For Family Membership, please indicate:

Name of Spouse _____

Age Group (circle One) 18-29 30-39 40-55 56-69 70+

Names and Ages of Junior Members _____

To qualify for family membership, children must be under 18 or 18 and still in High School.

Interested in volunteering? Circle any that you are interested in: Clubhouse, SWC Board, Snow Show, NY Capital District Ski Council, Activities, Warren Miller Movie, hiking, biking and other Club help such as outreach.

Make check payable to SWC and mail with the completed application to John Boscarino, 126 Polsin Dr, Schenectady, NY 12303-2516

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