



## Schenectady Wintersports Club

### Northern New York Paddlers

#### Newsletter

March 2023

---

#### In this issue:

All the News that Fits and more

- The President's Column
- News from the Clubhouse
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - About Booking
  - About Staying at the Clubhouse
- Upcoming Events at the Clubhouse
  - Walt Kangas' Special Ski Weekend
  - Spring Work Weekend at the Clubhouse
- Review: Rock and River
- Meeting Your Nemesis
- Goodbye Jan O'Hare
- News from the NNYP

---

#### Welcome New Members

by John Bidell

We had a great Presidents weekend up at the house with great meals provided by Tony from Phillie. A big thanks to him and everyone who helped with keeping the house clean and ready for the next group of members. At the house we had a large number of new members and of course they were a great addition to the club. Couple of things to remember when staying at the house. (Here he goes again). Treat it like a 150 year old structure. careful with

the fireplace, read the directions. Clean up after yourself and others. Latex gloves are by the sink in the kitchen, cleaning supplies are everywhere, extra paper goods are in the basement.

Dry your gear downstairs or in your room, dirty shoes from the gravel parking lot scuff your hardwood floors. Skis and boards downstairs, I leave beer in the fridge to reward your efforts, currently Labatts and Heiniken. Thanks for protecting your investment.

Courtesy, can I come up to the house after 11:30? Thanks for asking but people are moving at 6:00 am and they would appreciate a good night's sleep. So, unless you are dealing with an emergency, don't schedule a late arrival.

We have the Sports Show at the Saratoga Convention center coming up. Email Don Streed if you want to volunteer for a shift.

I am working on a disc golf practice course for the backyard, and trying to find a pickleball court. I plan on using both at the work weekend. We have lots of little projects of all skill levels to take care of at the spring weekend. All are welcome for however long you're available, and you're done after lunch. Also, you generate a voucher for a future stay, stay free when working, and enjoy great meals.

Remember, slow on the back swing, fast on the mountain.

johnbidell@yahoo.com

---

## **News from the Clubhouse**

by Ellen Bidell

### **Well, Hello Manny, It's So Good to Have You...**

We found a cleaner! Manny is a professional cleaner who will be cleaning the house every other week. If you see her at the house, give her room and a big thank you. But you still have to clean up after yourself!

### **Your Place or Mine?**

Every member of SWC is part owner of the clubhouse at Stowe. That means that we share in the right to stay and enjoy our clubhouse equally. It also means that we share in the responsibility of the upkeep and maintenance. If you are interested in joining us for the spring work weekend on May 4-7, send me an email at [ebidell@yahoo.com](mailto:ebidell@yahoo.com) and I will book you a room.

Here are just a few responsibilities that you have as someone who stays at the house:

- Clean up after yourself and in the common areas
- Maintain a safe environment re: stoves and fireplace
- Help contain costs by keeping the heat low and turning it down at night and off in the rooms when you leave
- Purchase any supplies that are extremely low or missing and send an payment request to [swsctreasurer123@gmail.com](mailto:swsctreasurer123@gmail.com)
- See something, say something: Let [johnbidell@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbidell@yahoo.com) know if there is anything that needs repair or replacement.

### **Summertime in Stowe**

The weekly rentals for the late spring/summer are filling up fast. For \$750, you can rent the entire house and bring up to 15 other people (all members of course). Contact [ebidell@yahoo.com](mailto:ebidell@yahoo.com) to check remaining availability and book. June and late August are currently available.

### **I Can Do It Myself!**

Since no one wants to take over the glamorous job of Reservations Chair, I am empowering everyone who stays to manage their own reservations (and reduce the number of calls/emails that I get).

You will book and pay as normal. If you messed up your reservation, simply go back to your confirmation email and visit the link at the bottom to cancel. I will get notification of that and put you down for a voucher. If you want to reschedule/redo your reservation, simply put the number of nights you already paid for in the voucher field. We do ask that unless it is weather related, you cancel at least three days prior so that room is available to others.

### **Ten-Packs for Savings**

We sold about 10 of the 10-pack vouchers, a savings of \$75 for those who took advantage of the offer. We hope to continue the same type of savings for frequent flyers, but it will be available as a code in the voucher field when you book. Stay tuned for more details.

---

## **Frequently Asked Questions about Booking and Staying at the House**

### **Q. How do I book a room at the SWC Clubhouse?**

1. There are directions on the SWC clubhouse page that give you by-step directions on how to book a room.

### **Q. Am I booking a room or a bed?**

1. All rooms on the first and second floors are booked by the room. The third floor is now bookable by bed.

### **Q. I booked for myself and want to add a friend. How do I do that and do they have to pay?**

1. Book a second room and pay for your friend (the \$37.50 is per person). Then cancel the second room and they can stay with you.

### **Q. I booked a room but closed out the website before I paid. How do I pay?**

1. You have two options to pay: PayPal and Venmo. Our PayPal address is [swsctreasurer123@gmail.com](mailto:swsctreasurer123@gmail.com). Our Venmo account is @swctreasurer

### **Q. I booked a room but my plans changed, can I get a refund?**

1. We don't offer credits, but instead you can get a voucher for a future stay (no expiration date).

### **Q. My children are coming with me. Do I have to pay for them?**

1. As long as they are 17 or under, they stay free in the same room as you. Meals are \$5 for kids.

### **Q. You used to allow members to bring friends. Is that still allowed?**

1. As long as your friend is a member, sure! All people staying at the house must be members. We aren't an AirBnB, and don't want to be taxed as such. We are a member-owned, member-run clubhouse and you are paying to help cover the costs of the house when you stay.

**Q. I have a voucher from a cancelled stay/work weekend. How do I use it?**

1. There is a voucher field in the booking form on Beds24. Put the number of vouchers you are using (1) in that field and it will deduct \$37.50 from the price.

**Q. Can I bookmark the Beds24 link and share it with others?**

1. No and no, ever. The only way you should book is through the SWC website.

**Q. What do I have to bring to stay at the Clubhouse?**

1. Sheets and blankets or sleeping bag; towels and toiletries; lunch, dinner and snacks and a great attitude! Breakfast items are available for you to use.

**Q. Is there good wifi at the Clubhouse?**

1. Yes, there is good wifi at the house. There are three access points: office/kitchen and fireplace room. Note: we changed the network name, so if you stayed before this year and are back, you have to forget the old network and add the new one.

**Q. How do you control the heat?**

1. We recently installed Nest thermostats to get our expenses under control. The heat is set for 62 degrees at night and 68 degrees in the morning and evening on weekends. There is a control in the kitchen and another in the office. If you are there during the week, you can adjust them by pushing on the dial and then turning to the desired temperature. Be sure to turn it down when you leave.

Most rooms have an electric baseboard heater that is controlled by a thermostat on the wall in the room. **MAKE SURE TO TURN THIS OFF WHEN YOU AREN'T IN THE ROOM AND WHEN YOU LEAVE!** We want to keep the booking price low, but if people keep leaving these on, we will have to raise the price.

**Q. Is there a cleaning service?**

1. We just hired a cleaner to come every two weeks to clean the common areas. That means you have to clean your room and do a quick cleanup in the bathrooms and kitchen/dining area when you leave.

**Q. Why are there cameras at the Lodge?**

1. We recently installed cameras in the kitchen, by the sign-in desk and the fireplace room. These are for your safety, and to make sure that the stoves are turned off and the fire is safe.

## Q. When do I get the code to get in the door at the Clubhouse?

1. The current code is included in your confirmation email. There are currently 40+ people who stay frequently and have their own code (that is good forever). If you haven't received one and stay more than 4 days per year, contact Ellen Bidell at [ebidell@yahoo.com](mailto:ebidell@yahoo.com) for your personal code (we can have up to 100). And if you have a personal code, please use it rather than the general code. Tip: Don't use your work email to book a room. Many employers use a firewall that will prevent you from receiving a no reply email from Beds24 and you won't get the code.

---

## Walt Kangas' Special Ski Weekend at the Clubhouse

### March 4 - dinner with Chef Earl

Spend the weekend in Vermont, and *join Chef Earl for a Saturday night dinner* that is sure to impress!

---

## Spring Work Weekend at the Clubhouse

### Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7

by Bill Kornrumpf

Our Spring Clubhouse work weekend is officially from Friday, May 5 to Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a save the date note with more details to follow. In the past some of us have gone up early to get some recreation in if the weather is good. I expect to have a full list of projects and the meals are always great!

I promise that we will not be starting any major projects that require moving walls or adding significant changes to the plumbing or electrical systems. We will be finishing up the projects we started and did not have enough time to completely complete as well as up grading some of the beds and rooms. And, there is always the need to do cleaning and maintenance after the snow season usage.

Make your reservations now: use the voucher option when it asks for payment. You will need to put in the number of nights you will be staying when asked for the Voucher Code. Use "Work Weekend" for the voucher number down at the bottom of the reservation request. If you are having trouble making a

bottom of the reservation request. If you are having trouble making a reservation, email me with your request and I will register your room request for you.

If you have a project suggestion, email me at [wkornrum@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wkornrum@nycap.rr.com) or text me at [518-209-3244](tel:518-209-3244), and I will put it on the list.

---

## Rock and River Lodge

### SWC Winter Weekend February 2023

Well---it was quite a weekend! After the 2 year hiatus for the COVID shut-down, we were all welcomed warmly (or not so warmly as it turned out) to the beautiful lodge tucked away at the end of the country road in the valley below Pitchoff Mountain. As always, Ed and Teresa Palen had their lodges immaculate and so homey to move in. The plummeting temperature on Friday gave some a warning to stay away for a day or more. Other hearty souls unpacked there and headed out on the Jack Rabbit Trail on skis or snowshoes with the thermometer at -18 and dropping to its eventual nighttime -30 with strong gusty winds (-50 with wind chill)!!! The boilers tried in vain to reach toward the thermostat settings. I think everyone could agree that the copious yummy food selections, lively conversation and the blazing fire kept our merry group of 9 happy through the evening in the Climber's Lodge. Most had settled in their rooms for the night under thick quilts when Samuel and Grace arrived after 10, having driven into the wild, cold night of the Adks from NYC after work.

Saturday brought leisurely morning and hot breakfast, as the temp outside slowly "rose" to the single digits. Warmest clothing enabled most to ski or snowshoe on the Jack Rabbit Trail right outside the door. 5 more people arrived, making 16 for our scrumptious pot luck dinner.

Sunday started in with the milder temps inviting all for a day of outdoor fun- ADK Cascade Welcome Center, Mt Van Hoevenberg, Heaven Hill Trails, Paul Smiths VIC, Saranac Winter Festival, Lake Placid...as well as the JR trail. Saying goodbye to Linda and Gail, we were then joined by 3 more women.

We happily welcomed first timers Stephen and Laurie, Linda, Samuel and Grace, Shelley and Stephen, Liza and Leigh Ann. Their hearty embrace of the experience was most apparent- getting acquainted, sharing fun as well as

chores and loving the setting- inside and out. Samuel set up movies while others chose leisurely evenings by the fireplace (Gail and both Steves as master fire builders). As never before, widely varied circumstances led to cancellations for 10 others who were not able to attend. Despite roller coaster weather the stay was a resounding success for all who could be there. Friendships renewed and new ones kindled.

-Margie Litwin and Fran Hervé



---

## Meeting Your Nemesis

by Dorie Valenti

Folks often tell me they are not interested in racing, and I thought the same until I met my nemesis. You don't need to be an expert skier or a strong paddler to meet your nemesis or, more likely, nemeses, for we all have more than one. Regardless of how non-competitive we might say we are, when we find ourselves neck and neck on the race course — skiing, paddling, biking, or running — our only thoughts: are faster, faster! We give it all we got and more.

The NYCDSC is hosting a ski race at Willard Mountain on March 4th. The cost for the race and a day of skiing is only \$35. Email Mark Pavlus by March 2nd at [mpavlus@phillipslock.com](mailto:mpavlus@phillipslock.com). For more information, see [NYCDSC.org](http://NYCDSC.org).

The NNYP will host three summer paddling races: The Towpath, The Electric City, and The Barge Chaser. Each one has a recreational three or four-mile route.

So if you've never raced, plan to come out for these and meet your nemeses.

---

## Goodbye Jan O'Hare

We recently lost Jan O'Hare on 2/10/23. I have never thought of her as an "old-timer" in the Club because she became a member relatively late as compared with other "old-timers". Nevertheless, she probably has been a part of SWC for at least 25 years. She is one of the many that I sure am gonna miss.

She did everything with us. Although she was no spring chick, she used to race for the club. Yes - downhill race. Then, one day she had a spectacular crash - and I remember her telling me she wasn't going to race anymore. But she didn't quit skiing, just racing. Jan was an Ambassador at Okemo Mountain and volunteered with their youth skier program. While skiing and hiking at Stowe, she used the Lodge and pitched in whenever needed.

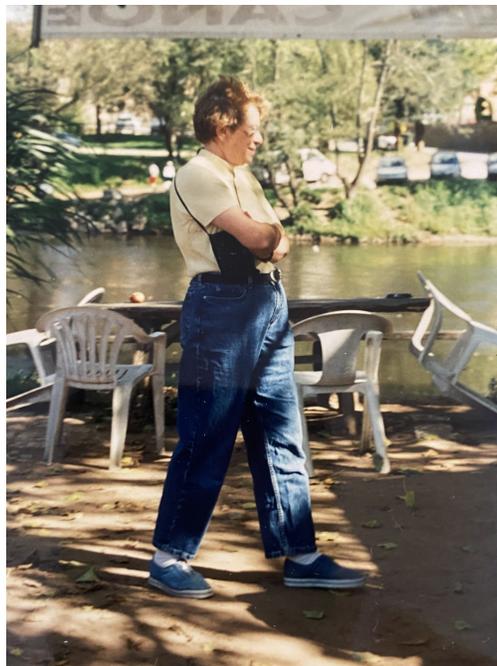
She did quite a few paddling (canoeing) trips with us. I remember her many times on our winter jaunts in Florida where we used to paddle among the turtles, manatees and qators. I think she became close with Marv Bruno

during that time. (Mary was quite an organizer when it came to paddling and ski trips out west.) I have a photo of Jan on our once-only canoe trip in France with Battenkill Canoes. I think that was the best (or one of the best) vacations I have ever been on.

Finally, when SWC organized the Thursday evening summer bike rides, and I was the scheduler, Jan always sponsored one from her home in Clifton Park.

Gosh, we sure had fun. I sure am going to miss her.

Submitted by Terry Tamer



---

## Northern New York Paddlers News

---

### NNYP President's Column

By Ed Greiner

The Northern NY Paddlers' 2023 schedule is now final. We will kick off the season with Monday night paddling starting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Kiwanis Park in Rotterdam. Participants are urged to get there no later than 6:00 PM so we can be on the water by 6:30. As the year gets on and it becomes dark sooner, we will start earlier, aiming for 6:00 on the water. Monday night paddling will run through September.

It's still uncertain how the construction at Kiwanis Park will affect the availability of the launch and facilities. We may need to move to Lock 9, at least temporarily.

Our Time Trials will start on Wednesday May 3 and be held every Wednesday until September 20. This is a timed event on a fixed 3.6 mile course. The object is to compare your times from week to week, measuring progress as the year goes on and also to determine how different factors, such as water depth, wind, current, boat type and partners affect your time. It takes place at Aqueduct Park in Niskayuna. The race starts promptly at 6:30, but it's a good idea to get there at least a half hour early.

Our first race event is the Towpath Regatta on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The race starts at Gateway Landing Park, Schenectady, NY (on the SCCC access road), goes upstream (west) around an island, and back. No vehicle shuttling is required. There is no entry fee. Check-in is from 5:30-6:15 pm and the first start is at 6:30. Any questions, contact Geoff Moore 518-331-2761 or [geoffmoore030@gmail.com](mailto:geoffmoore030@gmail.com).

Our next race is the Electric City Regatta which will be held on Saturday July 8 at Lock 9 in Glenville.. The main event will be an 11 mile race from Lock 9 to Lock 10 and back. There will also be a 3 mile recreation class and a 1 mile family fun race. The entry fee is \$25 for adult paddlers and \$5 for paddlers under 18. For more information, contact Ed Greiner, 518-421-2947 [egreiner1@yahoo.com](mailto:egreiner1@yahoo.com) or Kim Greiner, 518-421-2939 [twobears@nycap.rr.com](mailto:twobears@nycap.rr.com).

The next day, Sunday July 9 features the Barge Chaser at Kiwanis Park in Rotterdam. We don't anticipate any interference due to construction on a Sunday. The long race that day is a 10 mile loop course. There will also be a 3 mile recreational race and a 1 mile family fun race. The entry fee for this race will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth paddlers. Contact information is the same as for the Electric City Regatta.

All of our events welcome any type of human powered craft including canoes, kayaks guideboats and stand-up paddleboards. We hope to see as many of

our members participating as possible.

One last thing. We are still looking for people to man the SWC/NNYP booth at the ADK Sports Summer Expo on March 18 and 19. Please contact Ed Greiner to volunteer.

---

### **Articles for the Newsletter**

Do you have a story to tell? Have a favorite sport you want to write about? What about your favorite things to do in the Capital Region and Waterbury Center? The Newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month - articles are due mid-month. Send them to [SWCChatter@gmail.com](mailto:SWCChatter@gmail.com).

---

### **Upcoming Events**

[3/4 Walt Kangas' Special Ski Weekend with Chef Earl](#)

[3/4 NYCDSC Ski Race at Willard Mountain](#)

[3/18 thru 3/19 ADK Sports Summer Expo](#)

[5/1 NNYP Monday Night Paddling begins](#)

[5/3 NNYP Wednesday Night Time Trials begin](#)

[5/5 thru 5/7 Spring Work Weekend at the Clubhouse](#)

[6/22 NNYP Towpath Regatta](#)

[7/8 NNYP Electric City Regatta](#)

[7/9 NNYP Barge Chaser](#)

[12/7 thru 12/9 Early Season Ski Clinic at Stowe](#)

This message was sent to you by {Organization\_Name}

If you no longer wish to receive these emails,  
you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

Our mailing address is:

Schenectady Wintersports Club, PO Box 228, Schenectady, NY  
{Organization\_URL}

---