



Schenectady Wintersports Club

Northern New York Paddlers

Newsletter

April 2023

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What a Winter This has Been!

by John Bidell

I know a lot of people feel this winter was a bust for skiing, but a lot of us were able to take advantage of good days and get some great skiing in. I have skied (boarded) more this year than any other year, even canceling my yearly Colorado trip. So I guess the point is, don't let the brown lawn determine skiing availability.

The finances and membership of the club continue to be strong. Lots of new

members, and we welcome them aboard. This does bring up a problem; those of us who may not be familiar with how the house works need to read the signage and ask questions. Ellen and John field questions from wherever we are, so don't hesitate to ask. Arrive before 11:00 pm, and turn off the heat in your room. Clean up after yourself, and respect other members. For the most part, besides the stove being left on and the heat in the rooms being left on, we are doing damn good.

I plan on skiing into April, so when you read this, Jay and others will be open for what I feel is some of the best skiing of the season. We also have openings for weekly summer rentals for the entire house. \$750! The rooms I recently booked are all in the \$200 range. So check the calendar and see if that trip to Stowe in the summer will be this year.

Work weekend is fully booked unless you want to camp in the backyard; it's not that bad. We will be eating like royalty (included) and having the afternoons to do whatever we want. You also generate vouchers for future stays, and best of all, listen to my tall tales at dinner! I hope you can make it since I do need a new audience.

I will plan a disc golf/regular golf weekend this summer hosted and also will include star watching in the backyard around the fire pit.

Keep chasing it.

Love Staying at the SWC Clubhouse? Become a Host

by Ellen Bidell

Wow, this ski season is almost over and despite the lack of snow, the clubhouse was packed every weekend. A lot of new people came to the house for the first time, and some that have been absent for a few years returned. The Board is considering several options to deal with this influx of people using the clubhouse. The easiest way is for veteran members to help out and serve as a host.

Start thinking about being the host for a weekend up at the house next season, starting with right after Christmas. You can prepare meals if you want, or just sort of keep things running smoothly. The effort you put in is up to you.

Who can be a host?

- People who have stayed at the house at least five times
- Members for at least a year
- Familiar with the workings of the house
- You can host multiple times during the season

What do I get for hosting?

- You and one other person will stay at the house for free for two nights (\$150 value).
- If you prepare meals, you will also receive vouchers for the number of people who pay for meals.

Contact Ellen Bidell at ebidell@yahoo.com to sign up or for more information.

Spring Work Weekend at the Clubhouse

Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7

by Bill Kornrumphf

Our Spring Clubhouse work weekend is officially from Friday, May 5 to Sunday the 7th . This is a save the date note with more details to follow. Now is the time to make your reservations. Some of us will be going up early to get some recreation in if the weather is good. The task list of projects is growing and the meals will be great!

There are many jobs that had been deferred while we have been working on the bathrooms and other areas. And, there is always the need to do cleaning and maintenance after the snow season usage.

As of March 25, we have 13 people signed up so 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 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 or text me at 518 200 3244 and I will put it on the list

me at 516-209-5244, and I will put it on the list.

New Kitchen Towels at the Clubhouse

by Gina Kornrumpf

Two dozen fresh new kitchen towels have been donated to the Clubhouse. Towels are for clean dishes only--- no wiping up spills or holding down a roast while carving---and believe me, I've seen both up there. (I once watched a member casually drop a towel to the floor and mop up spaghetti sauce with her foot while chatting with me; I am not kidding).

Thank you for using the rags provided in the towel cabinet for dirty jobs and treat our new towels like your own. All the volunteer launderers appreciate it.



Walt Kangas' Special Ski Weekend at the Clubhouse

March 4 - dinner with Chef Earl

by Terry Tamer

by Terry Tamer

The snow was great, the sky was blue (at least on Friday), it was beautiful and cold, and the skiing was out of this world. Well, that about sums up Walt's weekend but there was so much more.

It all started Friday, the 3rd of March with Allen Vollmer, Walt Kangas and Terry Tamer on a brilliant, blue sky, cold day skiing mostly on Spruce Peak, across from Mount Mansfield at Stowe. Skiing the Sterling Trail was spectacular. They even skied some bumps on Upper Smuggler's. Neither trail has snowmaking but both are excellent runs when there is plenty of natural snow. Yes, they did go over and ski a couple of runs at Mount Mansfield, but they went back to Spruce because there were fewer people to ski around and no lift lines.

Back at the Clubhouse, Walt's cousin, Earl, the Master Chef, was well in charge of the kitchen and providing early arrivals with Chinese soup and homemade spreads - hummus, liver pate, and smoked salmon spread with an assortment of crackers. Friday dinner was originally planned for four (Terry, Walt, Al and of course Earl). Additional people arrived as the afternoon progressed, and there was a continuing interest in food. By the time 7:00 o'clock arrived we had a gathering of over 20 adults and kids eating dinner. Earl seemed to relish the challenge of feeding all on the fly.

Saturday morning, we had a full Clubhouse of about 30 people. We were lucky (or savvy enough) to have signed up for a famous Walt and Earl weekend.

It snowed all day Saturday, March 4, but it didn't slow activities. Skiers came back from Stowe, Jay Peak and other locations with tales of the great skiing. Clam chowder was on the stove as an afternoon snack or appetizer.

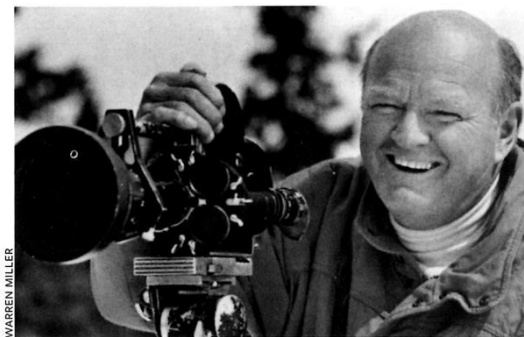
Saturday dinner accommodated all palates. Dinner was a New Orleans jambalaya where shellfish, chicken or vegetables could be added to suit everybody's taste. There was also mac and cheese for the kids – and others. After clean-up we had homemade brownies with ice cream and chocolate sauce – the kids favorite.

This weekend was the result of Dan's suggestion last Fall that family and friends take a ski holiday at the Clubhouse in March. Dan Harju is Walt's son-in-law's brother-in-law (if you can figure that out). The result was a great weekend. There were 10 kids (SWC's future), and many parents and friends. All are planning for next year to do it all again. Earl plans on being there too.



Warren Miller: Outside, Inc Continues the Legacy

Submitted by Bill Kornrumpf



For generations, Warren Miller brought the then-niche sport of skiing to the masses with his annual film. Outside, Inc, which now owns the brand, pledges to continue Miller's cinematic legacy next season, capped by a major celebration the following year for the film's 75th anniversary.

Warren Miller: Annual Film Not Dead

With apologies to Twain, the recent reports of the death of the annual Warren Miller ski film have been grossly exaggerated.

After acquiring the Warren Miller franchise in 2020, Outside Inc., ran into the brick wall of Covid-19. With theater-audience events canceled, the 2020 film was only available in a pay-per-view streaming format. And Outside reduced the number of tour stops in 2021. The brand took a hit, and the financial damage was considerable.

In an Instagram post in January, longtime (and now former) film director Chris Patterson noted that "due to financial challenges at Outside, the executives have chosen to assemble the future movies entirely with 'existing footage'—no

Caught off-guard by the social post, Outside scrambled to set the public record straight. "We are not ending the film and we are not just trotting out archival footage moving forward," Micah Abrams, Outside's vice president of digital content development, told *Skiing History* in an interview. "We are absolutely continuing to tour the world with the film."

What caused the confusion after the social post is a 75th-anniversary two-film bookend plan—not public at the time—that starts with a look back at the Miller legacy in 2023–24, followed by a look forward at the future of the sport in the 2024–25 season.

According to Abrams, the 2023–24 film will be "a love letter that looks back at what got us here," with archival footage and a new narration that celebrates Miller's legacy, his more than 70 films and his embrace of exotic locales and the skiing lifestyle. The following season will be the big blowout. The 75th film will showcase "new faces, new athletes, new locations" as part of the "evolution of the film tour," Abrams says. "The 75th will focus on what skiing and boarding will be for the next generation."

With the release of *Deep and Light* in 1950, Miller took the ski-film genre to a wider audience. A born promoter, Miller tirelessly built his brand on his insights into the then-fringe sport, finding a pitch-perfect blend of outdoor wholesomeness and athletic sex appeal.

Miller's timing also was serendipitous. His films' popularity tracked with the explosion of skiing in the 1960s and 1970s. The Warren Miller movie soon came to be seen as the unofficial start of the ski season for many skiers. Miller, who died in 2018, sold the company to his son, Kurt Miller, in 1988. The brand went through several changes in ownership before arriving in Outside's portfolio.

Abrams emphasizes that the two-film strategy isn't about looking to the past, but rather a bridge to the future. "People don't buy a ticket to a Warren film like they buy a ticket to the

need for a camera crew, plane tickets, lift tickets and for that matter, no need for athletes or snow."

latest Marvel movie," he says. "It's a tradition that we're bringing to the next generation." ❄️ — *Greg Ditrinco*

A Snippet of SWC History

by Bill Schaefer

Who Was E.H. Hull?

What we do know is that he was the SWC's second president, there is a building at GE-Schenectady named after him, and he was a meticulous ski trail map maker and an award winning photographer. The SWC inherited a box of 60+ plus large format Black and White photos. Here are a few of interest that show the 1930's skiers knew a few things about skiing. Most are Rotterdam Hills, Gore Mountain and Tuckerman's Ravine. The full series will be posted to the SWC website. If you find out anything about E.H Hull, please let us know.







Northern New York Paddlers News

NNYP President's Column

By Ed Greiner

On the weekend of March 18-19, ADK Sports hosted their Summer Expo at the Saratoga Springs City Center. Paddle sports were well represented With NNYP/SWC, the NY Paddlesports Racing Association and St. Lawrence Valley Paddlers exhibiting their programs and events in a conclave along the main cross aisle. SLVP also represented St. Lawrence County tourism. The expo was much better attended this year compared to the past few years. For better or worse, people in general seemed less concerned about Covid than they were. We saw some people masked and keeping their distance, but they were in the minority.

We had quite a bit of help this year. Many of our members came to help man the booths. Don and Brenda Streed along with Bill and Karen Simmons were kept busy Saturday with Don reprising his role as chief greeter on Sunday. We had a paddling machine set up on the NYPRA side to attract attention with a club kayak in the background. Kim is really good at coaxing the little ones over to try the machine while others of us talked to the adults about the benefits of membership and the programs we offer. Linda and Bob Cooley came to help out as did Bob and Betsy McCormick, Sue Strangia, Joan and Roger Henry, Joe Nicolella and George Jamack. On the SLVP side of the aisle, Blanche Town and John Ozard, as well as Cathy and Gene Newman were kept busy showing off boats and paddles from Grasse River Boat Works. They were raffling off a Wee Lassie canoe and a GRB racing paddle. I'd like to thank all of our members who came to help out. It made things much easier for Kim and I this year

As far as we know, we'll be able to use Kiwanis Park for Monday night paddling as well as the Barge Chaser. I will try to contact the appropriate people at the

Canal Corporation to confirm that.

Dates to remember:

May 1. Monday night paddling begins.

May 3. Time Trials begin.

June 15. Towpath Regatta.

July 8. Electric City Regatta

July 9. Barge Chaser

The Towpath Regatta starts and ends at Gateway Landing (on the ramp to SCCC). This means no more shuttling cars and boats. I would encourage everyone to participate in this fun race.

Monday Night Paddling

By Kim Greiner

SWC's Northern New York Paddlers offer recreational and instructional paddling on Monday nights at Kiwanis Park in Rotterdam Junction. We meet at 6pm to be on the water by 6:30, beginning in May and running through September. Feel free to bring your own canoe (solo or tandem), kayak, or paddleboard, as well as paddles, PFDs (life jackets), and signaling devices (whistle). The club owns some canoes, kayaks, paddles, and PFDs. The Greiners can bring those, and several more, if you contact them at least one day prior. Call or text Kim at 518-421-2939 or Ed at 518-421-2947. Don't worry about coming alone, there will always be someone with whom you can paddle. We look forward to having you join in the fun beginning May 1, 2023.

On Finishing Last

By Dorie Valenti

The first time I came in last was at the Josh Billings Triathlon over in Lenox, Massachusetts. I was the runner. The bicyclist on our team started the triathlon. and he came in close to the end. He passed the baton to the two

...and he came in close to the end. He passed the baton to the two paddlers, who hauled their 85-pound Grumman down to the lake and paddled twice around, not seeming to be in a hurry, enjoying the sunshine, the lake, and all that nature has to show us on a beautiful warm fall day. I watched them from the shore. I was standing alone, waiting for what seemed like an eternity for the baton, and when they pulled their boat up onto the beach, I took off and ran the course by myself. The best part about this race was that they served beer at the end, so folks were relaxed and happy as I ran down the gauntlet to the finish line, the crowd cheering me on, yelling excellent job! Lookin' good! It was as if I had come in first.

The second time I came in last was the first time I paddled a kayak in the Towpath Regatta. Uncle Donnie stood at the finish line, counting the seconds. As I passed the buoy, he yelled, "Longest time ever recorded in the Towpath Regatta: 70 minutes!" I went home with a vial of Mohawk River water for coming in third place in my class. How cool is that?

The Towpath Regatta starts and ends at Gateway Landing on June 15th.

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.

Upcoming Events

[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](#)

[6/15 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](#)

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