



## Schenectady Wintersports Club

### Northern New York Paddlers

#### Newsletter

May 2023

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#### **End of the Season**

by John Bidell

Stowe closed April 16th after a late season that provided a lot of sun and fun. Golf starts in two weeks so I have some free time. Wait a minute, The house needs some upgrades to be insurance compliant? The squad is on it way, Kornrumpf, Simmons and Bidell. We will be installing hoods over the ranges,

wiring a new circuit for a second electric stove, and repairing cracked glass in the windows. Also, we have scheduled a sprinkler inspection (yes we have sprinklers in the basement) and leveling the fireplace room floor. And this is just to keep the policy in place.

As mentioned in other articles in this edition of the Newsletter, we have openings at the house and encourage you to head up and enjoy the constantly being improved clubhouse. We will also be having some activities in the Albany area with meetings, biking and paddling planned. So, keep your eyes open for some of these events.

The work weekend has some limited space available in the 3 rd floor dorms. If you want to power wash and then paint the road side of the building we can use help. Work till 12, lunch, then on your own.

The board is also discussing capital improvements to the house. Among them, new windows, driveway improvement, hot tub ( sorry not happening) and others. Please email me with any suggestions. We have a lot going on 12 months a year. If you can find time in your schedule, maybe recently retired? ( you know who you are) Feel free to let us know what you would like to be involved in with the club. We need Hikers, Bikers, Campers, Golfers, and just people to participate in some of the upcoming events.

Keeping things cheap for members,

John

johnbidell@yahoo.com

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## **News from the Clubhouse**

By Ellen Bidell

### **Limited Nightly Stays Available for Summer**

We have nine weeks booked for exclusive stays during the summer, but there are nights available for individual stays. The open days include the following time frames:

May 7 to June 25

July 2 to July 5



July 19 to July 22

August 7 to 11

### **Go With the Flow**

We did some rearranging in the kitchen based on member requests for better workflow, to avoid crowding the kitchen, and insurance requirements (more on that in John's article).

**Breakfast Bar:** The area with the toaster oven now houses the coffee maker also. This area is accessed from the dining room. If you are the first one up, make the coffee and place the orange juice and creamer in that area. The coffee cups are more easily accessible to the coffee pot in this location as well.

**Microwave:** The microwave has always been in an awkward area, people have to lean over the counter to remove their hot food. Its placement also contributed to congestion in the kitchen. The microwave is now turned around to face the dining room. You can retrieve your food from the fridge in the fireplace room and heat it up without having to enter the kitchen.

**Dishwashing area:** To keep the cleanup separate from the food prep, the dishwashing area is now in the sinks under the window. We are going to add more space for dirty dishes.

**Pots and pans:** We had to remove these from the hanging rack for two reasons. The wooden rack is considered combustible, and they interfered with the installation of the vent hoods. The pots are all located on the shelves under the serving counter.

**Food prep:** The spices and cutting boards are now located on the countertop by the main sink for a larger food prep area. The utensils will be moved back to the countertop between the stoves, but this area will remain clear to allow access to remove hot pots and pans from the stoves.

### **Your Reservation Confirmation and Door Code - Don't Leave Home Without It**

When you make a reservation for the clubhouse, you receive an automated message from [noreply@beds24.com](mailto:noreply@beds24.com) with the subject line: Your Booking at SWC Lodge - Code and Important Info.

Please print this as soon as you receive it and bring it with you to the lodge. If you don't receive this email immediately upon booking, contact

swsctreasurer123@gmail.com. It may have gone to your spam folder (particularly if you use a work email). Also keep in mind that the door code changes every few months. Even if you have stayed another night during the season, refer to the current email for the door code.

## **Managing Expectations**

We had a banner year at the clubhouse - most weekends were full, and more people stayed at the house midweek. While our bottom line saw a huge boost, this sudden popularity wasn't without its downside. John and I fielded calls at all hours and days - middle of the night and holidays included, many of which weren't necessary.

One of our favorite sayings to each other with all these calls is "it ain't the Marriott". It is a 180+ old farmhouse. It is cold in the winter and hot in the summer. It can be noisy in the morning when people are getting up to start their day and loud at night when they are celebrating with people they don't often get to see. The road might be noisy for some, while others it doesn't bother at all. Some of the beds might be too hard, and some might be too soft.

But, it is also a place where you will meet great friends, some that you have for a lifetime. We always have great food and drink and enjoy meeting new people. I know when I go up that I have to be prepared for different temps in whatever room I am in, and that I am not going to sleep well. Those are small concessions for going to a place that we love visiting, not to mention that it is only \$75 for the night for us to stay. FYI: the actual Marriott down the road costs around \$200 a night during April, and don't even ask the price during ski season.

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## **Spring Work Weekend at the Clubhouse Friday, May 5 to Sunday, May 7**

by Bill Kornrumpf

We have 20 people signed up for the work weekend. You can still volunteer if you would like to help make the work go faster so I will have more time to do some bike riding. Give me a call on 518-209-3244 and I will make sure I have some work for you. All the private rooms are assigned so you will be staying in the overflow dorm on the third floor. Bring old work cloths as we may be doing some painting outside if the weather dries out by then.

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## **Ski Trip to Telluride January 20-27, 2024**

By Rick Cobello

Welcome to the ultimate ski trip to Telluride!

Come join one of the oldest ski clubs in the country for a ski adventure.

January 20-27 2024, the Schenectady Winter Sports Club will offer a Telluride Ski Trip. This is planned to be a smaller trip.

Escape to the breathtaking mountains of Telluride and experience an unforgettable winter adventure. This ski trip offers everything you need for an incredible vacation, from world-class skiing to great accommodations. We will stay at the Camel's Garden, in old town Telluride. This is directly across the street from the mountain gondola. Old town Telluride brings the essence of old and new in the quaint western town. It is almost 1000 ft less in elevation than the Mountain Village.

<https://camelsgarden.com/>

With over 2,000 acres of skiable terrain, Telluride boasts some of the most diverse and challenging slopes in North America. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a beginner, there's a run for everyone here. You can explore the legendary Gold Hill Chutes or take in the stunning views from the top of Palmyra Peak, all while enjoying the pristine snow and sunshine.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to experience the beauty and excitement of Telluride. More details at the end of April beginning of May. Any questions, email [rick@cobello.com](mailto:rick@cobello.com).





## **A Little Bit of SWC History**

by Bill Schaefer

With a May work weekend this month, it seemed appropriate to shed some light on the lodge history.

Before the lodge you know, in 1962, SWC had rented a house for the season in Stowe Hollow. This was following a number of successful bus trips to the area. In 1965, rates were \$10 for a weekend and the house was frequently full. In 1968, the club voted to buy land to build a house on Goldbrook Rd. Members cleared the land and purchased shares to finance the project. In 1971, the current clubhouse was located by Bill Kornumpf. While it needed improvements, it saved a lot of time over building. Work weekends started immediately to improve the building. The club was able to host a New Years party that year to kick off the ski season and new lodge thanks to the efforts of member volunteers!

### The Lodge 50 years ago







SWC 40<sup>th</sup> "New Lodge in Waterbury Center" 1973



The Fireplace Room -  
no fireplace yet



The Fireplace Room -  
complete with fireplace and tired  
members



The Fire Escape -  
one of the more visual member  
projects



And there is always painting



## The Northern New York Paddlers

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### The Presidents Column

By Ed Greiner

### Share the River

The stretch of the Mohawk River/ Erie Canal between Lock 7 and Lock 8 is used by many groups and individuals both for training and recreation. There are recreational canoers and kayakers out for a leisurely paddle. Fishermen go out in craft ranging from tubby little kayaks to gigantic powerboats of 200 horsepower or more. There are, perhaps, half a dozen rowing organizations between Rexford and Schenectady, and let's not forget the power boat crowd that tend to buzz up and down the channel any time the weather is nice. Small groups of NNYP racers do training runs from various access points usually starting in March. This can sometimes make for a very crowded waterway.

The crew teams will go out in shells ranging from 1 person, to 8 person shells with a coxswain. Sometimes they go out in small groups and sometimes they qualify as a fleet. The middle and high school teams often contain inexperienced rowers. The launches, the powerboats that escort the rowers, often have inexperienced students at the helm. They are instructed to keep their launch between the shells they are tasked to protect and any other boat that may pose a threat. This can lead to misunderstandings and conflict. Some years ago, I chewed out a young launch driver for the excessive wake he was making while zig-zagging back and forth to stay between his charges and us. I

making while zig-zagging back and forth to stay between his charges and us. I didn't get to apologize at a later date because he never came back.

As paddlers, we tend to hug the shore going upstream, often choosing which bank in order to minimize the effect of the wind on our boats. In moderate to high current situations, it is fun, as well as good practice, to see how much advantage we can get from the many eddies along the shore. Paddling downstream, we like to get out into the current to maximize speed and minimize effort. Not all of the river users think the same way we do.

Rowing shells, on the other hand, ply the river as if they were in traffic. They try to pass all oncoming craft on the right and overtake other boats by passing on the left. They tend not to go too close to shore as their oars stick out several feet to the side. They do not turn easily and will take up most of the river when reversing direction.

These differences in maneuverability and intent can create conflict and bad feelings between the groups. Since paddlecraft are much more maneuverable than the rowing shells, I suggest we should be the ones to give way in encountering situations. If we see shells coming toward us, we should pass on the right as if we were on a road. I would hope that the rowers will show us the same courtesy during our time trials, and they generally do.

We paddlers have all had encounters with power boats. Some operators are courteous and knowledgeable. They will give small paddlecraft a wide berth and either stay on a plane or slow to an idle. Some try to be courteous by slowing down a bit. When they are at half throttle, they make more wake than at any other time. The fact that the stern of the boat is low in the water causes much more water displacement and, therefore, a higher wake. Good intentions that create a bad situation.

Then there are the powerboats that intentionally create a large wake because they think it is funny to see us in distress. Sometimes they even go around us in circles to create a washing machine effect. These are mostly jet skis, but not all. This type of behavior is no different than a person in a canoe intentionally paddling toward rowing shells to interrupt their training run. I have heard of this happening on the Mohawk

We all need to be courteous so our time on the river is enjoyable and productive. There is enough room for all of us if we cut each other some slack.



## Monday Night Activities at Kiwanis Park

By Kim Greiner

Despite the nasty weather, there was a beautiful rainbow to enjoy by the six die-hards who came to the first Monday Night biking and paddling. Thank you to Bill and Karen Simmons for bringing their trailer of bikes and equipment, albeit unused tonight. Even "Fair Weather Johnny" didn't show!

Ed and I brought a few boats, but the water was at flood stage with lots of debris, so we decided to postpone for safer conditions. We welcomed two new paddlers to the group, Heather and Greg, who plan to kayak next week.

In true SWC-NNYP style, we gathered for refreshments and enjoyable conversation. Hopefully, we'll get more exercise next week to work off the snacks we ate tonight. Perhaps you can join us!









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## **A Moment of Bliss**

By Dorie Valenti

Some folks win races because they are strong and they practice, and they work out. Some folks win races by employing intelligent strategies. Most folks win races because they are strong and they practice, they work out, and they use innovative strategies. I fall into the latter category because I'm stronger

than someone weaker than me, I practice if it's not raining, and the day I passed the Cooleys during the Towpath Regatta, I used a smart approach.

Yes, I did! I Passed the Cooleys!

The Cooleys and their two grandchildren, under ten years old at the time, were ahead of us. Suddenly, the grandchildren needed a snack. I watched Grandma and Grandpa put down their paddles to help their grandchildren open their snack packs.

They put down their paddles!

"Pick it up!" I yelled to my bow paddler. "Pick it up! Pick it up!" And we zoomed by them. It was a moment of bliss.

Unfortunately, the grandchildren were not happy at seeing us glide by. They ditched their snacks, picked up their paddles, and in less than a nanosecond, passed us.

**Join the fun this June 15th—the Towpath Regatta, Gateway Park, Schenectady.**

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### **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).

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## Upcoming Events

See [swcweb.org](http://swcweb.org) **EVENTS** for more details

5/1 NNYP Monday Night Paddling begins  
and every Monday thereafter until September

5/1 SWC Monday Night Bike Rides begin  
and every Monday thereafter until September

5/3 NNYP Wednesday Night Time Trials begin  
and every Wednesday thereafter until September

5/5 thru 5/7 Spring Work Weekend at the Clubhouse

5/20 SWC Bike Group - Zim Smith Trail

6/15 NNYP Towpath Regatta

6/17 SWC Bike Group - Helderberg Trail

7/8 NNYP Electric City Regatta

7/9 NNYP Barge Chaser

7/15 SWC Bike Group - Ashuwillticook Trail

8/19 SWC Bike Group - Ashokan Trail

9/16 SWC Bike Group - Erie Canal Trail

12/7 thru 12/9 Early Season Ski Clinic at Stowe

01/20-27 2024 Telluride Ski Trip

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