



**Schenectady Wintersports Club**

**Northern New York Paddlers**

**Mohawk Valley Hiking Club**

**Newsletters**

**JULY 2023**

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**In this issue:**

All the News that Fits and More

- The President's Column
- News from the Clubhouse
- July Openings at the Clubhouse
- Helpful Hints to using SWCWEB.ORG
- Insights from the Membership Desk
- Ski Trip to Telluride January 20-27, 2024
- In and Around the Clubhouse
  - Cycling Tips and Trails
  - Race to the Top of Vermont
  - Music and Theater
- A Little Bit of SWC History
- The FY23 Treasurer's Report
- **News from the NNYP**
- **News from the MVHC**

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**The President's Column**

Coming soon...stay tuned

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**News from the Clubhouse**

**Summer Rental Days Available July 5 - 19**

We had a last minute cancellation at the SWC Clubhouse which has freed up rental days from July 5 through July 19. Anyone who is interested in making a reservation may access the [reservations link](#) on the SWC website to book rooms for this time period.

Visit [swcweb.org](http://swcweb.org) to make your reservations for these time frames.

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## News from the Webmaster

By Brenda Streed

How's the summertime happening for you? Hope you are finding some fun things to do over the July 4th weekend in spite of the forecasted rain!

Mobile App news... Now that we have become a little more familiar with using the new SWC website, I wanted to share that there is a Wild Apricot Mobile app available for the [iPhone](#) and [Android phones](#)! This app is definitely for those that like to have easy access to update their membership profile, view the digital membership card, register for an event, and be able to connect with other members. Be sure to search for the "Wild Apricot for Members" app.

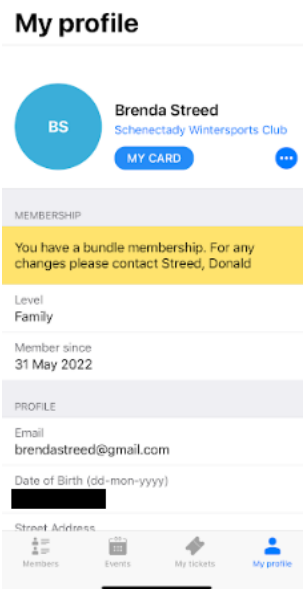
Link to info about iPhone mobile app:

<https://gethelp.wildapricot.com/en/articles/1593-using-the-wild-apricot-for-members-app-ios>

Link to info about android mobile app:

<https://gethelp.wildapricot.com/en/articles/1644-wildapricot-s-mobile-app-for-members-android#cant>

Below are screenshot examples of the app on my phone, including my personal profile and my digital membership card (really personal stuff blacked out)!



Schenectady Wintersports Club  
[www.swcweb.org](http://www.swcweb.org)  
Member - NY Capital District Ski Council



Brenda Streed  
Member Status: Active

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## Insights From the Membership Desk

By Brenda Streed

**Family memberships with missing emails...** When we implemented the new website, we converted old membership data from Excel spreadsheets, including name, address, phone number and email. In these Excel spreadsheets, we may have only captured one email address for a family membership. This was how the club used to record it for Family memberships - - one person was the primary contact, and maybe we did/ did not record the email for the spouse or significant other.

Our ask of you is to check your User Profile, to see whether your family members are all listed, and emails are given for the adult members.

We are trying to automate processes related to membership and clubhouse reservations, in order to reduce the time invested by our club volunteers. The email address becomes important for adult members in order that we can easily identify and contact people when needed. For example, the future reservations form may require that the person making the reservation provide their membership ID and email associated with their membership.

You can find step by step instructions for updating your user profile on this website page <https://www.swcweb.org/sys/website/?pageId=18205>, use the guide called Logging in to SWC Website.

### Member Renewals

The new SWC website generates automated renewal notices 14 days prior to expiration, payable online through the website, or by check through snail mail. Please note payments received by check may take between 2 - 3 weeks to be totally processed. (The reason it could take this long is very simple - - a volunteer has to drive to Schenectady to check the P.O. box, and this may only happen every few weeks)! Memberships are considered lapsed if not paid within 45 days of the renewal invoice.

Members may not be aware that current SWC by-laws state the membership year falls between June 1 - May 31, and membership fees are not prorated.

### Membership Cards

SWC switched from mailing paper membership cards to a digital membership card, accessible by members on the website, or through the Wild Apricot mobile app. (Remember to log in on the website to see your Membership Card under your user profile).

Members currently only need a paper membership card, in order to take advantage of the NY Capital District Ski Council discounts. If you want to use a ski council discount, the digital membership card can be printed out on card stock in the comfort of your home. You would then send a SASE to the Membership chair as outlined [here](#) on the SWC website to get the special discount sticker. The discount sticker should be affixed on the back of your

paper membership card after you print the card.

Reducing the need for paper membership cards saves the club money on postage, reduces the required volunteer effort, and lowers our carbon footprint.

Link to SASE info: <https://www.swcweb.org/sys/website/?pageId=18206>

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

By Rick Cobello

We need to fill 3 rooms for our Telluride trip as the deadline approaches.

Travel planning is becoming more complicated as supply and demand is difficult to predict as airlines continue to run on reduced flights and short inventories on rooms.

Our Telluride trip has some aggressive dates for securing the hotel at the Telluride Ski Resort, staying in the old town.

The Camel's Garden is really the last hotel for large groups in the village. We chose not to stay at the upper village to to about 1000 ft increase in altitude.

<https://camelsgarden.com/>

If you are planning on traveling with us...please let us know asap.

Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to experience the beauty and excitement of Telluride.

Any questions, email [rick@cobello.com](mailto:rick@cobello.com) or call [518 337 6188](tel:5183376188)



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## In and Around the Clubhouse

### Cycling Tips and Trails

#### Tips on Finding Bike Routes

By Bill Romania

My second favorite thing to do when I'm at the SWC house, after alpine skiing, is road cycling. In the springtime afternoons when the snow can get almost too dense to ski and the sky stays light until late, I like to head out on my road bike for a short ride. There are so many choices around the house, it really boils down to what route is best for the time available, my fitness level and how hard I'm willing to go. So selecting a route is the first thing. I learned the hard way that just heading up Route 100 is not especially enjoyable: Too much traffic moving too fast and the views leave a lot to be desired. I thought I had escaped those unpleasantries by taking a random turn to the south but managed to get myself and my skinny tires into a dirt road in the middle of mud season. It was not pretty.

Since I don't know the Stowe-Waterbury area as well as my home riding turf, I've had to seek out other means of identifying routes. Thankfully there are a few tools that help in this process. Google Maps makes finding suitable roads, and making sure they don't dead end, easy but it isn't always clear if the road is paved or not. There also is no way to specify and download a route to my phone other than the point-point shortest route. Map My Ride and Ride with GPS both allow you to create routes and download them to your phone and to a GPS-enabled bike computer. I can't speak to the intricacies of Map My Ride as I use Ride With GPS almost exclusively. What I find even more valuable than creating a route is the ability to search for routes that start near the SWC house. I can then filter those to avoid dirt roads, rides too short or long for my needs and even climbing elevation. Thus I get the benefit of someone else's experience and knowledge.

There is another way to find routes via Strava. For those unfamiliar, Strava is a cloud-based social media platform for athletes of all stripes. You can find pros and your friends alike on Strava and see their latest athletic exploits. Strava has a feature that has garnered some infamy in that it tracks fastest time on segments of road. This has led to some pretty intense (some would say insane) competition to be King of The Road with the fastest time, especially on the downhills. But Strava has a feature that anyone can use to find routes. When you follow someone on Strava, you can see the routes they ride. You can copy the route to your account and download it to your phone. I've not done this yet but everyone tells me it is easy.

If you don't want to deal with technology and just want to go out and ride, I've accumulated a few basic tricks of the trade to avoid unpleasant surprises.

- If the road has hill in the name, believe them. It will be hilly.

- Rivers carve out valleys which if not flat tend to be less hilly than the valley walls. Roads that follow the valley almost always are flat or near-flat with the additional pleasure of seeing and hearing

running water.

-Railroad tracks also tend to be flat or on gentle inclines because the trains simply can't climb well with a string of heavy cars attached. Thus roads that follow the tracks tend to be flat.

-Bike paths are a mixed bag. When they are sparsely populated, they can be a delight. When crowded with pedestrians, dogs and children, they can be downright dangerous. I've been taken out by a rollerblader, a kid with training wheels and my own wife (ok, that one was really my fault) on bike paths so I avoid them.

-If you end up on a very steep climb, intentionally or not, there is no embarrassment in turning around or getting off and walking up. Just be sure to make that decision before you are going so slow that you fall over. That is embarrassing.

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## **Suggested Bike Routes and Trails**

By Bill Kornrumpf

The Clubhouse is all cleaned up and there are times available for you to come up and enjoy all that the North country of Vermont has to offer. I happen to like bike riding on some of the back roads and the occasional challenge of a big hill like Smugglers Notch. Vermont is also well known for mountain biking on all kinds of trails that are smooth, well-groomed, kind hilly, and challenging single track.

The local paper, the Stowe Reporter, has a section devoted to articles about the riding in the Stowe area. You can find it at [https://www.vtcng.com/special\\_publications/ride/](https://www.vtcng.com/special_publications/ride/). I just finished reading a supplement to their 6/29 issue that contained a list and description of trails available in the area. The "ride" website has a listing of prior articles and a map of trail locations to help you plan a riding-oriented stay at the Clubhouse.

If you are more interested in rail trails, the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is now completed and offers 93 miles of well surfaced, almost flat riding across northern Vermont. Just to the East of Morrisville, the trail goes through one of the few remaining covered railroad bridges in Vermont. There are rest areas along the trail and good parking in Morrisville (9 miles north of Stowe on Rt 100). There is a bike shuttle bus if you want to just peddle out and get a ride back to your car in Morrisville in the afternoon. <https://www.lamoillevalleybiketours.com/lamoillevalleyrailtrailbikeshuttle> is the shuttle website.

Other scenic rail trails are the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail and the Island Line Rail Trail both in the Burlington area. The Island Line trail features a bike ferry crossing to South Hero Island and the Champlain Islands Bikeways. All the rail trails are suitable for narrow tire or fatter tire bikes and have parking lots close by.

## **Race to the top of Vermont: August 27**

Bike race up the Mt. Mansfield toll road. <http://www.rttovt.com/>

It is open to hikers, bikers, and runners from across the U.S. and Canada to

climb Mt. Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. The course ascends the historic Mansfield Toll Road, is 4.3 miles in length, and has 2564 feet of up. For some it's all about trying to achieve a fast time on this challenging course. For others... they come to support the [Catamount Trail Association](#), to test themselves, and to enjoy the spectacular views.

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## Music and Theater in VT

By Bill Kornrumpf

The music doesn't stop in the Summer in Vermont. Here are a few of the places to find music in the Clubhouse area. It is best to check their website for details and tickets.

### Music in the Meadow concerts in the Trapp Family Lodge Concert Meadow!

Details <https://www.stoweperformingarts.com/music-in-the-meadow/>

- July 16 [John Pizzarelli](#)
- July 30 [Béla Fleck – My Bluegrass Heart](#)
- Aug 6 [The Hot Club of Cowtown](#)
- Aug 20 [The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra](#)

**Knoll Farm, Fayston, Vt** 18 mi south on Rt 100, Picnic Concert Series  
(Picnicking starts at 5:30, music begins at 7:00) <https://knollfarm.org/music/>

- 7/7 Cold Chocolate (band that fuses folk, funk and bluegrass)
- 7/14 [Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem](#) (Harmony, rhythm, indelible songs)
- 7/29 The Wormdogs (five-piece bluegrass rock n roll group from Burlington)
- 8/19 Benefit Concert (music and theater in an epic show to benefit The Refuge at Knoll Farm) Picnicking begins at 5:30, music begins at 6:30 pm

**The Valley Players, Waitsfield**, 16 mi south on Rt 100

- 6/29 to 7/16 Willy Wonka ( <https://www.valleyplayers.com/> )

**Middlesex Bandstand Concert Series**, 10 mi east on Rt 2 6:30 Food by Woodbelly Pizza, <http://middlesexbandstand.com/> Check website for details.

- 7/5 Myra Flynn indie/soul songs with a powerful and lyrical delivery
- 7/12 A2VT (short for Africa to Vermont) exciting mix of African musical and dance roots and Western pop and hip-hop
- 7/19, Nomfusi a singer whose music is a beautiful and fearless mix of the Xhosa sounds and ballads touched by gospel, American soul, and Afropop.
- 7/26 Buffalo Rose is a charismatic six-member modern folk/Americana band.

- 8/2 Wesley Louissaint, Haitian-Canadian musician, his band unites Haitian voodoo and rara with roots, Afrobeat and hip-hop. 2020 Canadian Folk Music Award for Artist of the Year
  - 8/9, Nick Cassarino singer- rock, folk, jazz, classical, gospel, soul, hip-hop, funk and world music
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## **A Little Bit of SWC History**

By Bill Schaefer

### **90th Anniversary of the Snow Trains**

**Save the Date** - March 4 2024 is the 90th Anniversary of the first Snow Train to North Creek, an SWC excursion that jump started modern skiing as we know it. Activities in North Creek are being planned around this date. More details to follow as they develop.

### **Age? Younger Than You Might Think**

Just how old were the club founders when they organized the club, planned the first snow train, formed the first organized ski patrol and built the first uphill lift?

Vincent Schafer Founded the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club in 1929 at the age of 23 and the SWC at age 26.

Carl Schafer was 23 when he built NYS's first uphill lift in North Creek in 1935.

Lois Perret was in 32 in 1933 when she formed the First Aid Committee for the Snow Trains. This committee pioneered the use of toboggans, hazard marking and trail sweeps.

The SWC Clubhouse was purchased in 1971, 52 years ago. I suspect most of those founders were equally young when they began that endeavor as they are still among us.

The theme I get out of this observation is you are never too young to make multi-generational impacts.

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### **Treasurer's Report FY23 Year Total Results**

The Fiscal Year June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 (FY23) was a solid fiscal year for Schenectady Wintersports Club.

Revenues were up across the board: paid memberships, Clubhouse rentals, the return of the Warren Miller Movie fundraiser and expanded participation in the Early Season Ski Clinic at Stowe. With regular administrative expenses held in check, discretionary Clubhouse repairs minimal, and all other activities operated to at least achieve a net total breakeven, SWC enjoyed a significant gain in cash reserves.

Membership dues received for FY23 totaled \$16,818, which was a \$2,382 increase (16%) over the prior year. Clubhouse lodging paid receipts were \$49,431, a \$5,208 (11%) increase over the prior year, and the highest total of the last six years. After the renovations of recent years and extra cleaning efforts, members continue to remark on the outstanding lodging value of our Clubhouse. Resumption of SWC participation with the new Warren Miller Movie producers generated a net gain of \$3,563 and SWC participation in the Early Season Ski Clinic created a net gain of \$2,694.

On the expense side of the ledger, Clubhouse utilities (as a group) remain our single largest expense category. All utilities (electric, propane, water, internet, trash and firewood) totaled \$11,503 in FY23, a 6.8% increase over the prior year. A jump in the cost of electricity was partially offset by advance purchase agreement pricing for propane.

Insurance and property taxes are the next two largest FY23 expenditures at \$7,288 and \$7,174, respectively. These are little changed from the prior year. Clubhouse maintenance was the fourth largest FY23 expense at \$5,401, a 6.9% year-over-year increase. Credit card transaction fees at \$2,703 parallel dues and reservations volume.

SWC embarked on two new expense investments. The increased software expense at \$2,582 (\$1,862 over FY22) is the next step to improve both efficiency of SWC operations and increase member communications. SWC participation in the Snow Expo at the Albany Capital Center (November 2022) and the Summer Expo at the Saratoga City Center (March 2023), expanded membership recruiting efforts at a cost under \$1,500.

The total net cash gain from ordinary operations was \$31,244 for the fiscal year, the second consecutive year of welcome results after three consecutive years of operating cash declines. As of May 31, 2023, SWC has \$47,914 in checking accounts, and \$107,134 in rainy day reserve funds which are conservatively invested.

It is the opinion of the Treasurer that SWC is in a solid financial position for entering the new fiscal year (FY24) as cash on hand equals approximately 100% of one year's total operating expenses and sufficient reserves are on hand to meet any reasonable unforeseen expenses. The SWC Board of Directors is currently considering the next Clubhouse improvements and next steps to improve services to members. The input of every member is valued in this upcoming effort.

Respectfully,

Donald Streed, Treasurer



### **The Northern New York Paddlers**

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#### **The President's Column**

By Ed Greiner

#### **June Wrap Up**

The Towpath Regatta went off splendidly on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The race was well-attended with 43 participants. There were 2 rowing shells, 11 canoes and 2 kayaks. The fastest overall time was the 8 person rowing shell at 39 minutes 23 seconds. The award for the most distance covered went to the Davis family C4, who nevertheless turned in an impressive time of 49:07.

Some old-timers came out of retirement and there were a number of new racers. Three SWC board members participated, Brenda Streed, Don Streed and myself. Karen and Bill Simmons helped with timing. Everyone seemed to understand the idea that it was a race. It was nice to see everyone finish before sunset.

This will be Geoff Moore's last year as Race Director. After many years of directing the Towpath, he has decided to retire. If anyone reading this would

like to “step up to the plate”, please contact me. Kim and I will be happy to help a new director learn the ropes. A heart-felt thanks to Geoff for his years of service to the club.

The next races on the schedule will be the Electric City Regatta and the Barge Chaser. They will run back to back on the 8th and 9th of July, respectively. The Electric City Regatta will be held at Lock 9. There will be a 3 mile and an 11 mile race. We can also run a youth race if anyone is interested. All participants will receive a t-shirt and those who place will receive prizes. The entry fee is \$25 for adults and \$5 for youth paddlers.

The Barge Chaser takes place at Kiwanis Park in Rotterdam. It has a 3 mile and a 10 mile race, and we can also run a race for youth. This is a bare-bones event. No t-shirts or prizes, just good friendly competition. The entry fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth. Both races start at 10:00.

Go to [www.nypra.org/schedule](http://www.nypra.org/schedule) to pre-register for both races.

Monday night paddling has been going very well this year. We have quite a few participants. Not everyone can make it every week, but there is usually a good number of paddlers. Some come to bike with Karen and Bill, and we all gather afterward for refreshments.

Time trials have also been well-attended this year. We seem to have had more than our share of wind this season, but the river has not been too rough. The weeds are choking off the channel on the south side of the island, so Director Alec Davis has changed the course a bit to avoid those weeds. This is a normal occurrence, but it seems to happen earlier every year.

We look forward to seeing more of our members participate in all of our paddling activities.

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## **Mohawk Valley Hiking Club**

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### **News from the MVHC**

By Dorie Valenti

Our newly elected President of the MVHC was last seen walking into the rough with only an iron. This is an unfortunate event. Please, please, please - if any of you are planning on teeing off anywhere in the near future, please bring an extra can or 6 of beer with you and look for our beloved John who may be battling his way back to the fairway. I daresay he'll be mighty thirsty. Offer him a beer, offer him all 6. Being lost in the rough can be .... I can only imagine what it must be like.

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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

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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