



Schenectady Wintersports Club

Northern New York Paddlers

Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

Newsletters

February 2024

In This Issue

All the News that Fits and More

Special Meeting at Wolf Hollow Brewery!

The President's Column

News from the Clubhouse

- Reservation Tips: Updating your profiles
- Upcoming Hosted Weekends
 - Presidents Day Feb 15-18
 - Chef Lahna Mar 1-3
 - Total Eclipse at Stowe Apr 6-9
- How to Host a Weekend
- **WANTED: Host for St Patrick's Weekend**
- Breakfast included with Stay
- Looking for Some Help
- Mini Work Weekends
- Mount Mansfield Snow Stake Update

Alpine Skiing

- Review: Telluride
- Ski Council Stickers
- Memo from Whiteface
- Big Sky Trip Still Open

Nordic Skiing

- Be Ready and Stay Tuned
 - Review: Wiessner Woods Ski
 - Review: Brookhaven Ski
 - March Ski Planned to Santanoni

Not to Miss

- 90th Anniversary of the Snow Trains
- Snow Train 34 New Brew from WHBC

A Few Bits of SWC History

- A Brief History of the Snow Trains

News from the NNYP

- President's Column

News from the MVHC

- President's Column: Fischer Trails

SWC Board Minutes of Meeting

SAVE THE DATES

- Feb 2 - 5 Wintersports Weekend
- Feb 6 thru Mar 4 North Creek Snow Train Festival
- Feb 15 - 18 Hosted Weekend
- Feb 21 Special Member Meeting WHBC
- Mar 1 - 3 Hosted Weekend
- Mar 16-17 Nordic Ski Santanoni
- Apr 6 - 9 Hosted Weekend

SPECIAL MEETING AT Wolf Hollow Brewing

The SWC Board of Directors is pleased to invite all active members to a Special Meeting to be held Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at Wolf Hollow Brewing located in Schenectady.

The sole purpose for this meeting is a vote related to adopting SWC Constitution and Bylaws changes proposed by the Board. A Board of Directors' explanation letter, the current documents and the proposed SWC Constitution and Bylaws have been posted [here](#) on the website. Please review these prior to the meeting.

However, every active member over age 21 who registers for this event on the SWC website will receive a free beer token. There will also be a food truck by Two for the Road available, so please RSVP by **February 14**, and let us know of your interest. We will send out a menu in advance of the event to those who RSVP.

Food will be available from 5 - 8 PM, and you may come at your leisure. The Board will be present to check you in as a member voter and answer any questions. We plan to begin accepting ballots from 6 PM to 8 PM.

You will receive a snail mail, formal notice of the meeting through the mail as required by the current Constitution and Bylaws in early February; the notice will be mailed not more than 20 days from the meeting date, nor less than 7 days in advance of the meeting date. **Please keep your mail notice - it will make member check in at the meeting quicker,** and then you receive the beer token.



The President's Column

Past President Message

By Walk Kangas



Several times a year, I stay at the Clubhouse and ski with my granddaughter at Stowe. Before my hip was replaced, I had trouble buckling my boots. I still have trouble reaching down to pick up my skis at the end of a hard day of skiing. She is ready to help! When she is not there, I rely on the help of friends and sometimes a kind stranger. Getting old is tiresome, but it beats the alternative.

I was the SWC President in the 1990s. That seems long ago, both in time and how things have changed. The total number of SWC Members has changed little, however preferences have changed. I know a lot of the Oldtimers; but I also interact with younger members who are participating in activities related to the Clubhouse. This is deliberate. After all, the future (and the Club's legacy) belongs to the young.

The Clubhouse was originally purchased and renovated by the young adults of the 1970's. The Clubhouse was set up to accommodate a young, very social group. Through the 70's, 80's and 90's nearly every weekend all 50 beds were full; some even slept in the fireplace room and its loft. There was a freezer full of beef waiting to be roasted by the weekend Host. Clubhouse mid-week use was minimal.

As the Members using the Clubhouse got older, it was recognized that a younger crowd was required to ensure the Clubhouse's future. Child bed rates were lowered (ultimately to free) and their meal cost was reduced. Some pressed for the installation of a TV, thinking this would further encourage the youngsters. However, parents took a stand for social engagement, noting that the Clubhouse was the last place where their kids talked and played board games with them. The TV ban still stands.

Several events in the last 20 years have changed how we interact with each other. Most notably are the 9/11 attacks, the arrival of the mobile phone (more precisely the mobile computer/communication device), political upheaval, and the COVID pandemic. Clubhouse use was changed so that most rooms are now rented as private rooms. Significant Clubhouse use now includes mid-week as well as weekends. Hosted periods are rare. Despite these

changes some of us still make new friends when staying at the Clubhouse. One new member stated he comes to the Clubhouse, not because it costs less, but rather he enjoys the social engagement not found in a commercial facility.

So, what does the future look like? Do we continue to adjust Clubhouse usage to chase the new more isolationist practices that seem inevitable in the future? Or do we build a haven of social engagement for those who enjoy making new friends and sharing the company of old friends? I suppose we need to do both. However, I will work for social engagement because I prefer to be with people, rather than alone.

Walt Kangas

News From the Clubhouse

Reservations - Updating Profiles

Dear Members,

We are your volunteers who make sure the rooms booked for the house are being equitably shared and managed. We check the booking for Membership ID, number of adults and number of children age 17 and under (because they stay for free in the same room with their parents)!

Thank you for doing a great job of adding Membership ID to your reservations. We would like to ask you to update your membership profiles, **for every family member!** If we do not have a Date of Birth for a member, it is impossible for us to quickly verify that there is no room charge for that person (age 17 and under).

Your birth dates are not published or shared anywhere. The club uses the date of birth for statistical purposes, only visible to the website administrators.

Thank you,

Reservations Team

Send any comments to: swcbookingstowe@gmail.com

Presidents Day Weekend

Feb 15-18



It has been a long tradition that John and Ellen Bidell host President's Day Weekend at the Clubhouse. Join us the weekend of February 16, 2024 for fun, games, great meals, activities for the family and of course, skiing. We plan to head to Bolton Valley for some downhill skiing and cross country at Trapp Lodge. Bolton Valley tickets are \$41 on Friday and \$73 on Saturday through Monday, so it's a great way for those without an Epic Pass to bring the family skiing.

Here is a tentative itinerary:

Thursday evening	Pizza and drinks at The Matterhorn
Friday morning	Bolton Valley
Friday afternoon	Cider Tasting at Cold Hollow
Friday evening	Italian night at the Clubhouse PJ party and games for the kids
Saturday afternoon	Trapp Lodge Brewery Tour
Saturday evening	Roast Pork dinner Wine Tasting/Hot Chocolate around the firepit Make your own Sundaes
Sunday afternoon	Ben and Jerry's Tour Gentle Giants Sleigh Ride

Last year, a couple of us also went to Top Notch for a spa visit!

This weekend always fills up, so sign up now for the event and book your room.

Once you have your room, email ebidell@yahoo.com to let me know what activities and meals you are interested in.

Go to swcweb.org to sign up.

Chef Lahna Special Ski Weekend

March 1-3



Spend a special weekend in Vermont, and *join Chef Earl for meals that are sure to impress!* Dinners will be available on Friday and Saturday. People should let us know their dinner plans when they sign up - although last minute changes can be accommodated.

Remember this is a busy time at Stowe and restaurants are usually fully booked. Dinner at the Clubhouse is a lot easier and the cost/quality benefit is high. And the kids will have fun.

Go to swcweb.org to sign up.

Total Eclipse Weekend at Stowe

April 6-8

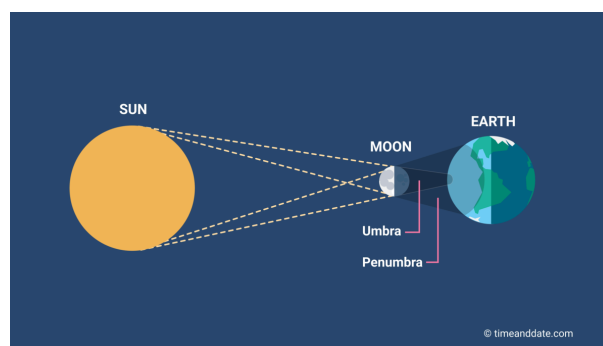


This event is currently booked. Wait list options only. You may add your name to the waitlist by going to swcweb.org > events > solar eclipse@swc clubhouse > join waitlist.

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The Burlington/Stowe area is in the path of totality, which means for about 5 minutes in the early afternoon, the area will be in total darkness. The partial eclipse will last for several hours.

Skiing is still great in the area in early April, so put on your calendar to join us for the weekend as John and I host a Total Eclipse party at the SWC Clubhouse. May involve a bonfire, Blue Moon beer and some Bonnie Raitt, but will definitely be a good time!

Go to swcweb.org to sign up.



Hosting a Weekend at the Clubhouse

There is a longstanding tradition of hosting at the SWC Clubhouse where one person or a couple is "in charge" for a weekend. John and I have been hosting for decades and love it. I put together this official [list of tips](#) for hosts, but there is more to it than that. The main part of the job is that you make people feel welcome and included at the clubhouse. You can create a weekend around meals (like [Chef Earl's weekend](#) in early March), create a mini-vacation (try [Presidents Week](#)), or get together for a special event ([Solar Eclipse weekend](#)). There have been cross-country ski weekends and mountain biking weekends hosted in the past - dealer's choice on how you want to arrange it.

I understand that people want to go to the house to ski and think that hosting will take time away from that. There are several tricks to make your hosted weekend easier, including enlisting the help of others. There are people that only ski once (or not at all), and those that knock off at noon. When there were large groups, I have also prepared meals and frozen them to pop in the oven at the lodge.

The only requirement is that the weekend be open to everyone and published in the newsletter to encourage reservations. What happens if you don't get enough people attending? You still stay for free for the weekend for your efforts.

I will set up a zoom meeting for interested hosts sometime in January. Email me at ebidell@yahoo.com if you are interested in learning what it means to be a host.



WANTED: HOST FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND



St. Patrick's Day weekend at the clubhouse has always been a popular time and this year probably won't be any different. Back in the day when we would get 45 people at the house for the weekend (thanks in part to it being a cheap ski day, before ski passes were a thing), John would cook about a dozen corned beefs and stretch that out for multiple meals until people had their fill of corned beef hash, corned beef sandwiches and corned beef with potatoes and cabbage.

It's time for someone to take over the St. Patrick's Day weekend at the house. We want someone to volunteer to host the weekend of March 15 - 17: welcome and check-in members, prepare meals, maintain the fire and make sure everything is turned off at the end of the weekend. If you want to help out your club, stay for free and receive vouchers for future stays, contact me at ebidell@yahoo.com to sign up as host. Meals can be as complex or simple as you choose. You wouldn't have to go that crazy--make reuben sandwiches and throw some green dye in a couple of dishes (or beers) and call it a night.

According to Stowe.com: "There's no official reason why Stowe should be linked to St. Patrick's Day, but for many years there were three traditions associated with the day: eating breakfast at McCarthy's, skiing by the green waterfall on Gondolier and partying late into the night at The Matterhorn, [Stowe's legendary après-ski bar](#). McCarthy's is no longer in business, but the other two traditions live on. There is also no official explanation why every March 17 the frozen waterfall under the Mount Mansfield gondola mysteriously glows a shamrock green, but for more than 20 years straight, some industrious local die-hards have managed to color the ice falls with a bit of non-toxic dye to celebrate Ireland's heritage. The dye is gone the next day and the frozen falls go back to their ice-blue hues."

Breakfast Included with Stay



Your Clubhouse stay includes breakfast staples stocked by volunteers. It is not a fancy menu, but these are the items we try to maintain when you visit:

Pancake Mix
Oatmeal (the type you cook)
Eggs
Butter
Bread (one backup in the freezer)
Sausage
Maple Syrup
Frozen Hash browns
Frozen OJ
Peanut butter
Coffee

These foods should be readily found in the kitchen - either in the refrigerator, the large Pantry cupboard next to the microwave, or in cupboards underneath the island.

When you stay at the house, we ask for your help to make sure the inventory is stocked. If items are low, please send an email note to BOTH Bill Kornrumpf, wkornrum@nycap.rr.com, and John Bidell, johnbidell@yahoo.com, letting them know the item that is low, and what date you were checking the count. They will coordinate either a delivery from a local grocery, or have a member transport groceries when they are traveling to the house.

Thanks for your help.

Looking for Some Help

The Clubhouse is only as clean, safe, and enjoyable as your fellow club members make it.

The week before Christmas, Bill and Karen Simmons, Bill Romania, and myself, traveled up to your ski house to get things ready for you. We also had dinner with Mani (our housekeeper and member) and her husband Rob. We worked a bunch of projects but like Bill Korumpf says, "It's a 150 year old house, it needs work." Well, the club can't expect board members and a few others to be the only ones involved in minor repairs.

So, if you're skiing up at the house, and have a few hours to spare, the club can use some help. It may be only to do a walk around, turn off the heat in vacant rooms. (People leave the electric heat on during the day when skiing or when have left} check the basement, look into the freezer and let us know what we need to provide for breakfast.

To some of you who think of this club as an Airbnb, guess again. It is only as clean, safe, and enjoyable as your fellow club members make it.

I have a lot of fun being an old guy so enough with the lecture.

If you actually want to do a little more work while enjoying the house, shoot me an email and I can give you some direction. Please note, we have a plan for painting so don't get creative without checking with the house committee.

Also, Hosting and work details generate a free stay and future vouchers when authorized by the board.

Johnbidell@yahoo.com

Mini-Work Weekends

Submitted by Bill Kornrumpf

While we had 15 members at the Fall work weekend and more at the Spring weekend, there has been a fair amount of work accomplished by mini-work parties with groups as small as 1 to 6. A new set of treads has been installed in the main stairwell to the second floor and the missing spindles replaced firming up the railing. All the rooms that needed the walls finished after the chimney removal have gotten the walls finished and painted. There is a long list of small tasks like finding the leak in the third floor half bath and replacing burned out light bulbs that have been taken care of also.

Most of these mini works have been by members who have used the clubhouse and seen something that they could fix. I want to thank all the members who have seen something and did something about it.

If you think that you can help on these mini events, send me an email (wkornrum@nycap.rr.com) with when you might be available and what kind of job you would like to do. The Club pays for any materials you might need.

The Mount Mansfield Snow Stake Update

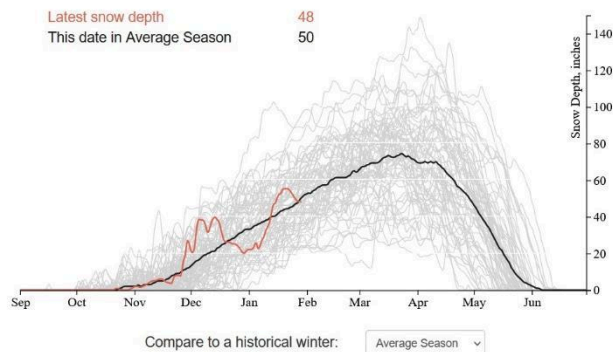
Submitted by Bill Kornrumpf

{The stake is along the toll road just above where it passes the Octagon Restaurant at the top of the lift served skiing area. You can follow the snow depth from the website: <https://matthewparrilla.com/mansfield-stake/> }

As of this writing I can say we have had an average amount of snow so far. The snow gods, and snow cannons, have blessed the Vt. mountains with some really good skiing conditions. A plus has been the lack of long sub-zero temperatures usually present in January. And the warm and rainy days added to the moisture in the base but didn't add any new skiable terrain during those events. Here we are with an average snow depth for this time of year and the mountains are all open and skiing well.

Mount Mansfield Snow Stake Depth

Last reported by NWS on: 1/29/2024



The Black line is the snow depth in an average ski season. The Red line is the depth this ski season.

The weather report is for more snow later this week and it is time to make sure you have your reservations made for the rest of the season. We have hosted weekends on President's weekend and the Chef Earl weekend 3/1 to 3/3 as well as the peak of the ski season in March. Check the Club Activities and Events Calendar.

Alpine Skiing

Review: Telluride

By Rick Cobello



The SWC just completed a fantastic trip to Telluride CO. We had 23 people join us on the trip. 20 people were new members.

Telluride is a fantastic place for a ski trip! The stunning mountain views, challenging slopes, and charming town make for a memorable experience.

We had a fantastic week of skiing with an almost ski mishap.

All of our skis did not arrive on Saturday night. I worked with the Montrose ground crew and they located our skis and boot bags and sent them on the next flight.

One of the dedicated members of the Montrose United crew, drove the skis up on his own time and met me at 1:00 am in the lobby with all the gear. The last one was located in another hotel the next day...

The net result is we all skied on Sunday!

...That was certainly a miracle...I overheard the guy on the phone telling one of the other employees "we are not going to wait until tomorrow, they came here to ski!"

This gentleman understands customer service !

The skiing was great...Colorado did not get the massive snow like last year but it snowed 2-4" every night.

The terrain was varied and had something for everyone.

Everything but the Chutes had a blue trail to get down...Blue at Telluride has different meaning!

We stayed in Telluride town. We chose to stay there because it is almost 1000 ft lower than The Mountain Village..that's alot for flatlanders from the east!

We had a great group dinner on Wednesday at Smuggler Union..Food and company were just right..

We also had a pizza party on Friday night before we left. The Camel's Garden hotel met all our needs and were very accommodating. Our hotel was just steps away from the Village Gondola. The Village Gondola is the public transportation from the town to the Mountain Village from 6:00 am until midnight. This is very convenient!

We won't mention the beautiful stay in Chicago on the way home since United had maintenance problems.

..that is a whole different story...

Great people..great skiing ...and great location all combined makes a fantastic trip!

Planning has already started for SWC 2025...

More to come! JOIN US FOR ANOTHER SWC ADVENTURE!

Ski Council Discounts and Stickers

Log in to the SWC website. On the Menu bar near the top of the Home page, click on the three bars next to the Directory, and select MEMBERS ONLY from the dropdown menu. Click the [Discount Sticker](#) button that will open the instructions for requesting your sticker(s).

This is done by mail, so please plan ahead and allow for time to receive your stickers. Also, if you are part of a family membership, check to make sure all family members are listed in the membership; we send stickers based on the number in the family.



Whiteface Mountain

2023/24 Ski Club/Council Appreciation Days

Memo from Whiteface:

We want to show our appreciation to all of the Ski Councils and Ski Clubs and what better way to do that than by offering a great deal on a day (or more) on the slopes!!

February 5, 2024 (Monday)

March 8, 2024 (Friday)

April 4 and 5, 2024 (Thursday/Friday)

Simply come to Whiteface on any of the dates listed above, show your Ski Council or Club ID as well as a photo ID and get a lift ticket for only \$59.

BIG SKY Trip - Space Available!



The Albany Ski Club still has room for the BIG SKY trip in March 2024. There are 2 double occupancy rooms at the Huntley Lodge.

<https://www.sportsamerica.com/onlinedev/albanybigsky24>

The link above outlines all the details..

If you need any information, please let me know...

Rick Cobello

Rick@cobello.com



Nordic Skiing

Be Ready and Stay Tuned

By Jim and Aline Flaherty



Write up of 2023 ski at Wiessner woods ski:

Aline and I did a ski on March 5, 2023 in Wiessner woods with no plan other than skiing, including some of the Catamount trail. The parking lot (very small) was full but parking on the roadway was fine. The trails in Wiessner were ungroomed, some trails are narrow in places, the hills not so bad and walkers and dogs use them. That being said, the skiing was great. We found the Catamount trail and went North to Edson Hills Resort with only a couple of road crossings. At this Nordic Center there was a retail shop with an outside fire (folks having a beer enjoying life!). The Catamount trail is not groomed and we had one or two spots we opted to walk due to difficulty of the trail. Highly recommended for a different ski (with moderate/light backcountry equipment).

Brookhaven group ski on 1/20/24:

Six hardy skiers braved the cold (temps in the low teens) for our first Nordic ski event of 2024! Skiing included the North and South side of the golf course and woods. Grooming and snow amounts were very good. Both skating and classical technique were equally enjoyed by the group! After skiing, our crew enjoyed time warming up and socializing at The View Restaurant. Folks are able to gather and warm up in the "Game Room" which is accessed from the back side of the restaurant or enjoy a lunch/dinner menu in the main restaurant. If you missed this event and like to cross country ski, I suggest taking a couple of hours to enjoy this facility... just a short distance from Saratoga.

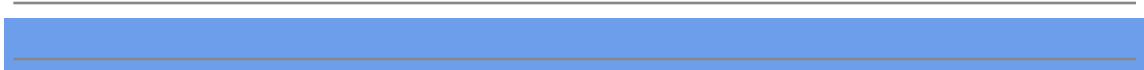
"Try It ski race" (2/11/24) is listed under "Events." This is a fundraiser event for the Shenendehowa Nordic Club (no longer affiliated with the school team). The event is at the Saratoga Biathlon Club. A different area to ski and home to 2 former Olympians. The "Try It" race is expected to be around 4k with some moderately short hills (same course as the Kochers (youth group). There will be a fee for this event.

Great Camp Santanoni March 16-17

March planning includes a group ski (or snowshoe) to the Great Camp Santanoni on the weekend of March 16-17. See:

<https://www.greatcampsantanoni.com/special-events>. This is a 10 mile RT ski on a carriage road. Tentatively, we would ski in as a group, departing from the parking lot around 10AM. We can decide before setting out, a time to meet at the camp, depending on folks' stamina and ability. Once at the Great Camp we will plan to eat our packed lunches/snacks and tour the buildings, etc. Leaving around 2 pm would hopefully get us back to our cars before 4:00PM. Keep an eye out for this event for final plans closer to March!!!

Jim and Aline Flaherty
Think Snow!



Not To Miss: THE SNOW TRAINS!



Media Contact: Deanna Fox
518.527.8448
deanna.n.fox@gmail.com

90th Anniversary of Schenectady to North Creek Snow Train

Marked with Events Through March 2024

Schenectady-based events, North Creek events and more highlight the legacy of the historic “snow train” that brought skiing into popularity after 1932 Winter Olympics and made the Adirondacks a global ski destination

Schenectady, NY, January 23, 2024 – The 90th Anniversary of the first snow train to run between Schenectady and North Creek is being celebrated locally and in the Adirondacks through March 2024. This train developed after alpine skiing grew in popularity after the 1932 Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Events in Rotterdam, Glenville and North Creek will highlight the legacy of this snow train and the people who initiated this long-running program that brought winter adventurers from Schenectady, N.Y. to North Creek and Gore Mountain. This train is credited with establishing the Adirondacks as a winter tourism and skiing destination worldwide.

Known as the North Creek Snow Train, it first brought 378 skiers from Schenectady to North Creek on March 4, 1934. Skiing in the Adirondacks dates back to the early 1900s, but gained popularity through the 1920s and 1930s, leading to the 1932 Winter Olympics. Reliable transportation to ski the Adirondack mountainsides was unavailable, which prompted Vincent Schaefer, a founding member of the Schenectady Wintersports Club, to lobby railroad companies to establish a train schedule to the North Creek depot. The train was operated by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company. Roundtrip fare was \$1.50 (approximately \$35 today) and by 1936, snow trains were operating out of Albany and New York City.

The economic contributions of these snow trains helped North Creek and the surrounding “ski bowl” area stay afloat throughout the Great Depression. The

trains ran until America's entry into World War II, but the impact on winter tourism and Adirondacks skiing is lasting, including the "ride up, slide down" mentality that still brings winter enthusiasts to the area.

Multiple events and local partnerships are offered to honor the snow train anniversary. Events are held in collaborations with [Schenectady Wintersports Club](#) (which was founded in 1932), Gore Mountain/ORDA, The Tannery Pond Community Center, The Town of Rotterdam, The Town of Johnsbury, The North Creek Depot Museum, The Johnsbury Historical Society, Wolf Hollow Brewing Company, Revolution Rail Co., Cunningham's Ski Barn and more. Barkeater Chocolates, Upper Hudson Coffee and Wolf Hollow Brewing Company are all releasing products co-branded with the snow train logo or created to honor the snow train anniversary.

Besides the history of the Snow Train, events will also focus on the important contributions of **women** in popularizing skiing in the Capital Region and Adirondacks. Women highlighted include Frederica "Freddie" Anderson (1921-2022), who rode the first snow train and later became a founder of multiple ski schools in the area and one of New York's first certified ski instructors, rode the 2011 Snow Train and continued skiing and teaching the sport until she was nearly 100 years old; and Loir Perret Schaefer, RN (1901-1992), who headed the first aid committee of the Schenectady Wintersports Club and became an essential contributor to the foundations of today's national ski patrol programs. A memorial award is given in her honor to recognize outstanding service to members of the Gore Mountain Ski Patrol since 2003.

Schedule of Events:

February 6, 2024, 6pm at [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#): "How the Snow Train Got Started to North Creek" talk by Jim Schaefer

February 10, 2024, 7pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): Old ski movie night from the 1930s 1940s and 1950s, presented by the North Creek Depot Museum

February 13, 2024, 6pm at [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#): Movie night: Adirondack hickories and "Freddie at 95," hosted by Jim and Bill Schaefer

February 17, 2024, 7pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): "Women of Winter: Frederica 'Freddie' Anderson, Pioneer Ski Instructor and Lois Perret Schaefer, RN, The First Aid Committee Ski Patrol, 1933," talk by Jim Schaefer

February 22, 2024, 7pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): Johnsbury Historical Society presentation on the WWII 10th Mountain Ski Division

March 2-4, 2024, Gore Mountain: Celebrating the First Snow Train

March 2, 2024, time TBD, at [North Creek Depot Museum](#): Ski Bowl snow shoe presentation

March 3, 2024, 1pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): Johnsbury community story recording session and launch of audio walking tour of North Creek

Through March 2024: Historic exhibit of the Snow Train and skiing history of Rotterdam and Schenectady County at Rotterdam Town Hall

Media are welcome to cover the history of the Snow Train or attend any event programming. Representatives from Schenectady Wintersports Club (including Jim Schaefer), Tannery Pond Center, North Creek Depot Museum, Gore Mountain/ORDA and Wolf Hollow Brewing Company are available for interview. Historic photos are available upon request. Media inquiries can be directed to Deanna Fox at deanna.n.fox@gmail.com

SNOW TRAIN '34 BREW

WOLF HOLLOW BREWING COMPANY has offered to be a meeting place for presentations in the Schenectady Region. Not to miss - the tasting of the Snow Train '34 brew.



We are going to make WHBC "The Place Snow Train and Ski Venture Skiers/Riders Meet."

A Little Bit of SWC History

A Brief History of the Snow Trains



Vincent Schaefer was the first president of the Schenectady Wintersports Club (SWC) in 1932. In the late twenties, he was head of the Mohawk Valley Hiking Club (MVHC) where members skied on trails they designed starting in 1927 on Yantaputchaberg – the highest of the Rotterdam Hills.

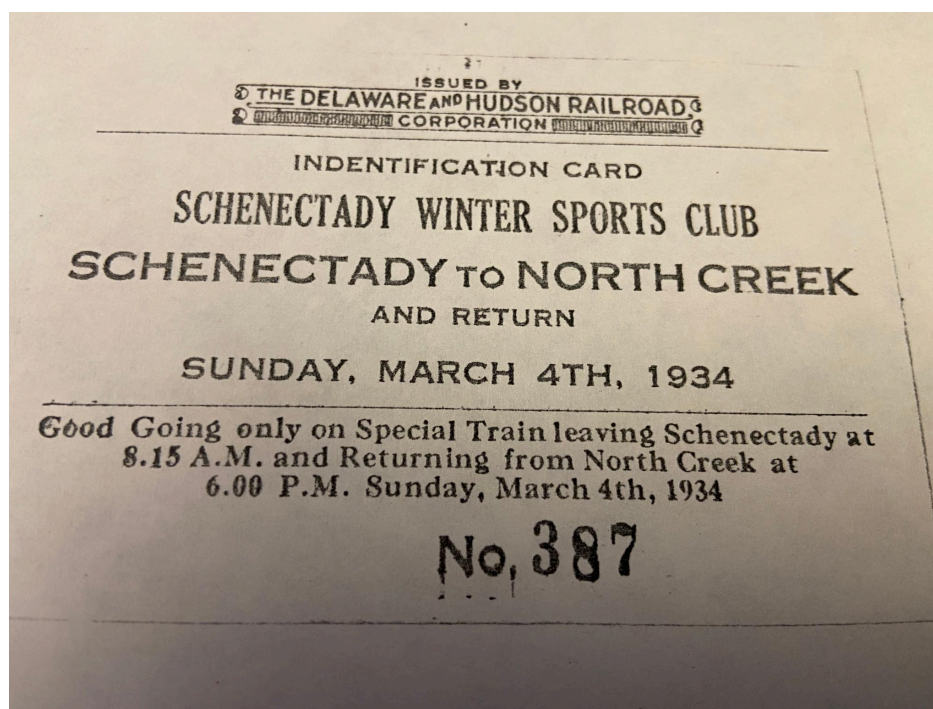
After the MVHC was formed in 1929 they planned to attend the 1932 Olympics in Lake Placid staying in lean-tos in the outdoors. In preparation, they made camping gear including sleeping bags using a design by GE's Nobel Prize winner Irving Langmuir and John Apperson, a noted Adirondack environmentalist. They created the bags using a zigzag pattern for 3 pounds of down that filled tubes of balloon silk and Egyptian cotton. The design prevented the complete collapse of the sleeping bag while on the ground, thus insulating against the cold. Twenty-five MVHC members camped in the outdoor lean-tos at Heart Lake in February 1932 at -28 to 51 degree weather! They spent days skiing in the High Peaks and attending some of the Olympic Games.

During their stay at Heart Lake they hatched the idea of forming a new club to champion winter sports and to get trains to transport enthusiasts to snowy destinations. SWC was subsequently formed in May of 1932. Schaefer organized a petition drive and got 149 people to support a

“reasonably priced, well-managed” snow train. Five snow trains planned to go to Wilmington VT on the Boston & Maine Railroad, but had to be cancelled due to a lack of snow at their destinations, Haystack and Mt. Snow.

Instead, they spent 1933 as a year of planning which ultimately saw SWC link up with like-minded outdoor enthusiasts in North Creek to cut trails on Pete Gay and Gore --- and to talk up a Snow Train. One of Bill Gluesing’s “GE House of Magic” talks energized folks in North Creek to organize trucks and other means to take skiers from the train to the top of the mountains at Barton’s garnet mine. The “ Ride Up and Slide Down” theme was realized. Again a lack of natural snow stymied the Delaware & Hudson Snow Train plan until March 4, 1934 when the train finally was able to make it’s historic first run to North Creek from Schenectady.

In 1934 with support of Bill Gluesing, Carl Schaefer visited the rope tow in Woodstock VT and returned to North Creek to build New York’s first rope tow. He had the help of mechanic Eugene Morehouse and the Alexander Garage to retool a 1929 Buick and rig 700 feet of hemp rope to make the tow on the North Creek Village Slopes. The rope tow got underway December 20, 1935. Skiers in SWC who were using trails in Wolf Hollow and the Glenville hills adapted a Model A Ford into a rope tow for the club’s enjoyment by 1936. A flurry of rope tows sprang up throughout eastern New York within a few years.





The Northern New York Paddlers

The President's Column

By Ed Greiner

Stay tuned.....

Ya just gotta keep on paddling....





Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

President's Column

By John Bidell

Fisher Trail

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy has purchased the rights to a number of properties in the Albany area along with ownership of a 35 acre parcel in Slingerlands on Fisher Boulevard. This property is adjacent to the DEC Five Rivers center which when accessed from the Fisher parking area provides for a great hike. The parking area fits about a dozen cars so it gets crowded as the day goes on. Portions of the trail are elevated above a creek and meanders through a meadow with abundant wildlife. After traversing a ravine you enter the Five Rivers property which consists of mature growth hardwoods. Continuing on, you can select trails into the fields or continue back through the forest deeper into the DEC property. Snow shoeing, skiing, or hiking are all options on this fairly level trail system.

Boy, now I'm thirsty. Head back to Delmar and visit Swiftys for a tall juice bomb east coast IPA. The menu is pretty good with burgers or a reuben my favorites.

Still chasing it.



SWC Board Minutes of Meetings

The SWC minutes of the Board Meetings can found under the [Members Only](#) page on our website, swcweb.org.

Save the Dates

February 2- 5 SWC Wintersports Weekend at Rock and River Lodge

February 15 - 18 Hosted Weekend at the Clubhouse: Your hosts, John and Ellen Bidell.

March 1 - 3 Hosted Weekend at the Clubhouse: Chef Earl Lahna Special Ski Weekend

March 4 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.

March 16-17 Nordic Ski to Santanoni

April 8 Hosted Weekend at the Clubhouse to experience the total solar eclipse.

