



Schenectady Wintersports Club

Northern New York Paddlers

Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

Newsletters

MARCH 2024

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- Mar 16-17 Nordic Ski Santanoni
- Apr 6 - 9 Hosted Weekend
- Jul 13 Summer Picnic

The President's Column

Message from a Past President

By Jon Skalwald



On the last weekend in January the snow gods served up a slush storm for the Capital district area, making a lot of the area look like a scene out Frozen with trees encrusted in snow. This Enchanted Forest look lasted for several days until the temperature warmed once again above freezing, as it has been for much of this unusually warm winter, so far.

While this storm did serve up some beautiful photographic opportunities, it also meant that the ski areas were served up with some much needed white stuff. One of those areas that I love to go to, because of its throwback nature and challenge, is Magic Mtn. I will admit to holding off going there this season as the conditions have been less than ideal, but this storm seemed to provide the perfect opportunity to pick up my pass and make some turns there.

I will admit that, while the scenery was idyllic, enchanted forest-like, conditions would challenge most anyone's abilities. I was one of the lucky ones to get first tracks down this run when the rope was dropped. Having already made a few runs prior, I was taken in by the allure of the untracked snow, hoping and praying that it wasn't the same 4" of powder over New

England's finest polished powder that I had encountered elsewhere. It was. A real test of my abilities and the edges on my El Dente noodle skis. Yes, I brought powder skis, not ice skates. Not the best here, but elsewhere on the mountain they were the perfect ski.

A long time ago I learned that skiing, to be fun, is about knowing how to ski the equipment that you have in the conditions that you have. If you are lucky enough to enjoy a quiver that has more than one pair of skis, then you have a chance to match one's equipment to the conditions. Sometimes not. So, when that happened I learned to take that on as a challenge and learning experience. For me, that is what makes skiing interesting and fun. Well, in most cases. Once in a while, it is one run and done.

I also recognized a while back that as I aged, my strength would wane and I would need to rely upon technique to get me through a day of skiing. When I was young, I acquired some really bad habits; sitting back on the skis was one. It took me a long time of trial and error and less than helpful ski instructions to figure out how to correct that fundamental error. That was when I realized that I could improve my technique to compensate for the aging process.

Walt Kangas, in a conversation with me about skiing, once said that there are probably 300 ways/techniques to turn one's skis. Of those, there are probably 20 or 30 that are actually useful and it is probably a good idea to learn 5 or 6 of these techniques. I have learned a few by trial and error (no harm done). And I know that others have found wonderful and helpful instructors who have helped them improve their technique and/or learn new techniques. Deb Armstrong, 1984 Olympic Gold medalist, has a wonderful series of YouTube short videos on this subject, with some of her latest being where she performs self assessments of what she is doing. Something that has been helpful to me. Whether it be self assessment and/or formal instructions, I highly recommend forever brushing up on one's skiing technique. And, yes an old

dog can learn new tricks. Ask me how I know; I am not as young as I once was and I am still striving to improve.

As I write this, I can feel the well deserved tiredness in my legs and ache in my knees from a fun day of skiing the mountain that has always been Magic in my book. I am also a bit proud of myself for being true to my promise to myself. I may not have been the most elegant but I did comfortably negotiate that newly opened run, and had fun doing it. That might not have been the case had I not had that realization all those years ago.

Take care and hope to see you out on the slopes.
Jon Skalwold, past President.

News From the Admins

Headline: SWC Club Membership Over 1000 Members!

Membership Updates - Please Read

One exciting change to the Membership is the Renewal Period for new members is changing to your Join Date instead of a fixed date. This change will impact new Members who joined on or after 02 June 2023. You will see a different renewal date in your profile. Long time members will still have the old renewal date of 01 June each year. As a reminder, when your membership renews, the renewal invoice should be paid within 90 days, or the membership becomes lapsed.

One of the goals of SWC is to help families afford big mountain skiing in Vermont. To that end, the club offers an affordable Family membership for parents/ grandparents and minor children/ grandchildren under age 18. The online Membership form and policy has been revised to remind everyone how you qualify for the Family membership. When you have a chance please take a look at the updated wording found [here](#).

We would also like to ask members to review their online Profiles on the website, and keep information up to date. For example, are the children who have been a member for years with the family now over age 18? Let us know you would like to convert them to a Single membership, and we will help with that.

We maintain demographic information that is important to our understanding of who our members are, what they like, etc. to help with planning. While you review your Profile, please enter interests and activities, and also update birthdates. We realize birthdates are extremely sensitive - these are only visible to you and our two admins. If you are not comfortable entering the exact date, please enter just the year without the correct day e.g. "01/01/YYYY".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brenda Streed through this [link](#).

Submitted by By Brenda Streed

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions Approved at Special Meeting

The club had a successful Special Meeting on February 21, 2024 to vote on proposed revisions to the SWC Constitution and Bylaws. The revisions were approved by a unanimous vote.

Board Member Bill Romania had prepared and presented a Powerpoint review of the proposed revisions to the SWC Constitution and Bylaws, which were last changed in January 2006. Many of the changes were to bring us into the electronic age allowing online meetings and voting, and to conform to state laws regarding those updates. Some updates were to reflect changes in SWC operations, such as making the Clubhouse Chair an elected position, reflecting its overall importance to SWC. And so-called "poison pill" provisions were added so that some outside group could not steal our club and

its assets out from under us. The final vote was 55 for approval, 0 disapproval.

It was also a great time to meet new people, and catch up with folks we might not have seen in a while, and to enjoy the hospitality of Wolf Hollow Brewing and Two for the Road catering. Wolf Hollow Brewing had closed for our three hour private event, which gave us plenty of time to share news of our winter adventures, discover new opportunities, and to plan future outings together.

Everyone attending also received a free raffle ticket to highlight the new SWC clothing to be available soon through our website. The winners of the drawings are::

Fleece Jacket: Ann Donnelly

Fleece Lined Beanies: Charlene Campanelli

Bill Schaefer

Stretch Fleece Beanie: Bill Simmons

Johnathon Perog

The winners will receive an email notification, and items will be shipped to their current address.

Submitted by By Brenda Streed

Club Surveys

Please visit our new [Club Surveys](#) to let us know what you think. Your opinion is important to us for future planning.

Current surveys include a Trips question and a Holiday Party survey. You must be logged in as a Member in order to complete the surveys. Club surveys are also accessible through the Home page.

Submitted by By Brenda Streed

SWC Board Minutes of Meetings

The SWC minutes of the Board Meetings can found [here](#) on or go to swcweb.org > Membership and Benefits > Our Club Organization

Help Wanted

Wanted: Host for St Patrick's Day Weekend

Wanted: Volunteers for Spring Expo

Check out our [Help Wanted](#) page on swcweb.org

News From the Clubhouse

New Reservation Software coming to SWC Clubhouse!

Great news! SWC is implementing WebRezPro, new reservation software replacing the BEDS24 platform during the months of April and May 2024. The change will improve the user experience in making reservations, and improve the process for the volunteers who monitor bookings. The implementation is being led by Brenda Streed and Rick Cobello.

WebRezPro will allow our members to enter their requests more easily, and also be able to modify or cancel their bookings on their own.

The current BEDS24 booking form will not be shut down until 4/16/24 in order to minimize the impact to members booking the clubhouse during the ski season. After 4/16, Rick Cobello will be the point of contact for all emails related to bookings and requests for new reservations. More information will be shared in April on how to connect with Rick.

Rest assured that as part of the transition to new software, we will convert any prior existing reservations into WebRezPro.

We will also plan to hold User Training Sessions via ZOOM to help members see how the system works, guiding them through reservations and how to make changes.

We expect the project to be completed by May 31, 2024. Stay tuned for more info.

Submitted by Brenda Streed

Making Summer Plans? Space Available in Vermont!

SWC offers a weekly rental program to members during the off season between April and October, with exclusive use of the clubhouse for the low rate of \$750. *We just want to make sure members are also aware they can still book daily rooms if the house has not been rented for the week!*

If a week has not been booked, members are encouraged to consider making plans to enjoy Vermont and the many summer activities (e.g. canoeing, swimming, hiking, biking) , staying at the clubhouse for a few days. Also good to know - - the SWC board decided to reserve certain Holiday weeks for only individual rentals to give all members a better chance to use the clubhouse during the off season. Holiday weeks that have been set aside this year include the following dates:

May 25 to June 1 (Memorial Day)

June 29 to July 6 (July 4th)

Oct 12 to Oct 19 (Columbus Day)

There are other dates still available this summer to book individual rooms during 6/1 to 6/15, and 8/17 - 8/31.*

If you have questions, please email [SWCBOOKING](#).

This article was written on 2/22, and availability may have changed.

Submitted by Brenda Streed

What's for Breakfast?

All members staying at the lodge are entitled to basic breakfast items: eggs, sausage, pancake mix, oatmeal, raisins, peanut butter, syrup, butter, frozen orange juice and coffee. We don't regularly stock bread and milk because of their short shelf life. If there are items that are running low or completely out, please contact ebidell@yahoo.com and let me know. We now have an account at Shaws, and I will shop online and arrange a pickup time that is convenient for you. The same goes for paper towels and toilet paper (check the basement first though).

Submitted by Ellen Bidell

Review: Presidents Weekend at the Clubhouse

By Ellen Bidell

"That was the best skiing in a decade!" It snowed every day during the long weekend in Stowe, and the skiers were thrilled. The conditions were incredible.... Check out the [Presidents Weekend Review](#) on our website.

Alpine Skiing

Schenectady Wintersports Trips 2025

SWC organized a successful trip this year to the Telluride area, and everyone had a fantastic time, as seen through the photos available on the website.

SWC would like to plan trip(s) for next year 2025, and we need your input using a [survey available through this page](#).

Here are some preliminary thoughts of where we might go:

- **Serfaus, Austria** - Located in the Austrian Alps not far from Innsbruck. Option for a day trip to Innsbruck. Also a day in Munich on the return trip home.
- **Western Canada** - There are 3 great resorts we have in mind.
- **Utah/ Park City/ Alta/ Snowbird**...all are options.
- **Any others?**

Let us know what you think....P.S. Responses needed ASAP.

If anyone is interested in learning to become a trip leader, and the related PERKS, please contact [Rick Cobello](#).

View Photos from our [Telluride Ski Trip 2024](#).

Submitted by Brenda Streed

Reminders

BIG SKY Trip - Space Still Available!

<https://www.sportsamerica.com/onlinedev/albanybigsky24>
contact Rick Cobello Rick@cobello.com

Ski Council Discounts and Stickers

Go to [Discount Sticker](#) on swcweb.org

Nordic Skiing

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. For more information go to:

<https://www.greatcampsantanoni.com/special-events>.

Be Ready and Stay Tuned,
Jim and Aline Flaherty
Think Snow!

Review: Rock and River Lodge SWC Winter Weekend 30th Anniversary Event

During the February 2-5 long weekend our 28 members had a great time with the gracious welcome of Adirondack Rock and River Lodge in Keene NY and the endless options of area destinations for winter fun!

For more on this and a montage of pictures check out the [Review](#) on our website.

Not To Miss

90th Anniversary of Schenectady to North Creek Snow Train



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

March 2, 2024, 9:30-11:30 A.M, 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

SAVE THE DATE! SWC PICNIC

Saturday, July 13 at Thacher Park

By Ellen Bidell

We are excited to announce that the SWC picnic will again be held in beautiful Thacher Park, Horseshoe II pavilion in the town of New Scotland. For more information see the [Summer Picnic Event](#) listing on the website.

A Little Bit of SWC History

Celebrating the Snow Train 90 years later

By Karen Simmons

My husband and I have enjoyed many of the Snow Train presentations during the month of February, leaving each one with an even greater admiration for our SWC founders You may read more about the Snow Trains and pictures of the latest festivities [here](#).



The Northern New York Paddlers

The President's Column

By Ed Greiner

Stay tuned.....





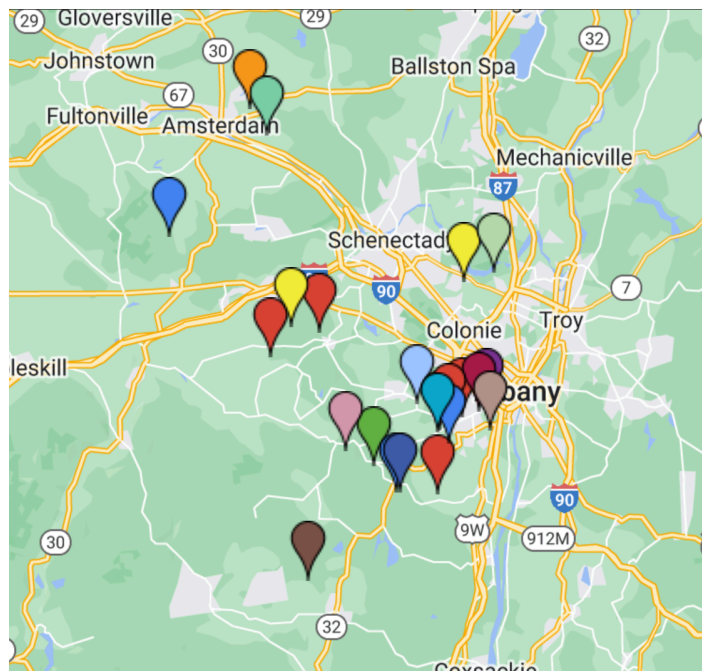
Mohawk Valley Hiking Club

President's Column

Stay tuned....

Check out the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy Preserves

<https://www.mohawkhudson.org/preserves>



Also go to our website for descriptions of the Preserves from our own John Bidell > swcweb.org > Activities > [Hiking](#)