

## SWC Newsletter April 2024

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### Past Presidents Column

#### **Anniversary of the Snow Train**

By Bill Schaefer



This the anniversary year of the first SnowTrain in 1934. February and March brought us a great look into SWC's past and how much we as a club shaped the skiing industry as we know it today. SWC sponsored a series of 4 talks at Wolf Hollow Brewing and collaborated with the Tannery Pond Center in North Creek on several more. Wolf Hollow programs were attended by approximately 400 people and combined with those in North Creek, close to a thousand may have attended. A display of the SnowTrain assembled by Jim Schaefer is on display through the spring at the Rotterdam Town Hall in the 2nd floor display area.

Some highlights from the SWC program series:

- Wolf Hollow - This was the location of our clubs' earliest skiing adventures. An easy trolley ride or drive from Schenectady and folks were able to carpool to the hilltop and ski down. Now a brewery of the same name is located there. Our thanks to Wolf Hollow for hosting us and making the SnowTrain'34 Ale !
  - <https://www.wolfhollowbrewing.com/about>
- The first SnowTrain - March 4, 1934 has been recognized as a major historical event. SWC received great coverage by regional Newspapers; The Daily Gazette, The Times Union, The Adirondack Explorer all provided front page or feature articles.
  - <https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/snow-train-events>
- SWC members were Pioneers of the Ski Industry - The stories of Freddie Andersen, for a lifetime of ski instruction, Dot Hoyt-Nebel for her Olympic racing and leading the ski schools in North Creek and Belleayre Mtn, Lois Perret who formed the First Aid Committee which developed the principles now used by the National Ski Patrol, Vincent Schaefer, club founder and visionary for the Snow Trains and Carl Schaefer who built the first rope tow in NY an first Ski Ski School. The lasting impacts of these folks are remarkable.

I would like to thank the SWC Board for supporting the program series (financially and with personal effort) and for providing public relations so important to making this a successful club recognition. Special thanks to Karen and Bill Simmons for personally attending each meeting and being sure we were well nourished.



(SnowTrain program presenters Bill and Jim Schaefer)

## Snow Train March 4 2024

**March 4 2024 10:30 AM**

By Karen Simmons

Below is a photo taken on 03/04/24 at the North Creek Train Station at 10:30am. The significance is that 10:30am is the exact time that the first Snow Train arrived at that location with the bell rung to announce the arrival that permanently impacted skiing in the East. On hand to celebrate the 90th anniversary at the North Creek Train Depot were family members of Vince and Carl Schaefer - the force behind The Snow Train.



## Family Memberships

### **Family Memberships**

The club has grown a lot over the past winter, and we thank you for your membership! We would like to remind folks of the Membership Policy related to Family memberships. The club definition for taking advantage of the Family price is:

"Family memberships may consist of up to eight related family members, including children under age 18. This membership is only available to a MAXIMUM of 2 related adults(spouses or partners), along with minor children or grandchildren, under age 18. Examples: Parent(s) and minor children, or legal guardian and minor children, grandparents and minor grandchildren or couples/ partners."

There are several memberships where this policy is not being followed, and we plan to send emails asking folks to review who they have listed on their membership in order to make corrections. See instructions below on how to find your Profile and review those listed on your membership; the bundle

coordinator (main user) can make changes.

If you have questions or need help, please email [Membership](#).

Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Submitted by Brenda Streed

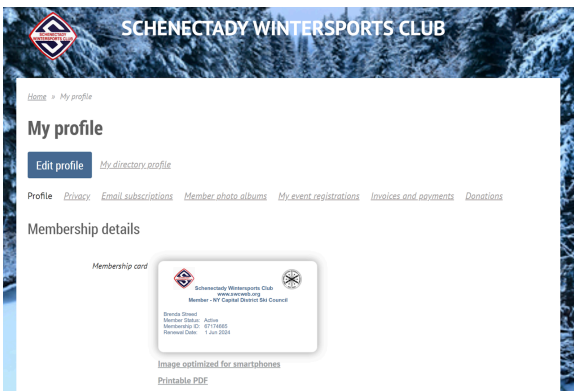
## Updating Your Profile

### How to update your Profile! And find your Bundle Coordinator

1. Log in to the swcweb.org website
2. Click the new button "UPDATE YOUR PROFILE" found on the Home page

A blue rectangular button with the text "UPDATE YOUR PROFILE" in white, centered.

1. This opens YOUR profile. Example below.




1. Scroll down the page to view the Bundle Summary section. If you are the Bundle coordinator, then you will see something like the example below:

#### Bundle summary

Bundle limit 8

Used so far 2

Your members  [Streed](#)

[Add member](#)

If you are not the Bundle coordinator, then you will see this message on your profile:

""You have a bundle membership. Your bundle coordinator is ...".

1. Only the Bundle coordinator can view or make changes to all Members in the Family membership.

1. For more detailed information about Profiles, please see the Help document loaded on the website: <https://www.swcweb.org/Site-Help>

Submitted by Brenda Streed

## New Reservation Software for Clubhouse

### **New Reservation Software for 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

## Work Weekend May 16 - 19

### **Spring Work Weekend May 16 - 19**

**Announcement of Spring work weekend. Members only, you must login to access the signup. Please sign up using the form [found on this page](#).**

The Clubhouse is only as good as our volunteers make it. Many people have been contributing these last few months with bringing supplies up to installing a new toilet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor half bath.

Now, we are asking for participation in the major work events.

These extended weekends are planned to be a combination work and play event. There is time for work in the mornings through lunch time and time for recreation in the later afternoon. I will be bringing my bike up to tune up my legs for the next ski season. The meals will all be prepared by Chef Earl Lahna.

**Clubhouse Fall Work Weekend is scheduled for October 24 to 27**

Submitted by Bill Kornrumpf

# How to Ski for \$40 a day

## Why is Skiing so Cheap?

By John Bidell

I drive Ellen crazy with my cost benefit analysis of many of our activities. Why can't you just enjoy yourself? I do, and I do it on a budget. So here is a quick summary of what my boarding season cost me, with a little planning: Northeast, midweek, over 65 y/o - Epic pass for \$349. This includes unlimited visits at Hunter, Okemo, and Mt Snow and five days at Stowe, midweek only.

What about weekends with the crowds? Don't you miss that? Yes I do and that is why I purchased the Indy Pass for \$299. The Indy gave me two days at West, Magic, Bolton Valley and my favorite, Jay - all include weekends.

You can purchase additional days at the Indy Mountains, but Bolton has a \$39 Monday, and Sugarbush still has a discounted Thursday at Mt. Ellen. Meals, two PBR's at Mansfield Lodge and other than coffee, I brown bag it. I drove almost 3500 miles on my 25 days of skiing and that came to 100 gallons in my Honda Civic, or \$350 out of pocket.

While stays at the house are only \$40, I stayed for free because I earned vouchers from work weekends in the past.

Total without coffee? Under a grand, or \$40 a day for my 25 days on the mountain. So start thinking how you can ski cheap in 2025!

# The Season in One Chart

## The Season in One Chart

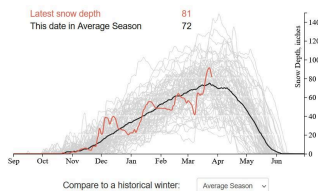
Submitted by Bill Kornrumpf

While this has been an interesting ski season, it really has been pretty average measured by the snowpack on Mt. Mansfield. The chart shows that big dumps have been following warm rainy days bringing the snow pack back up to the average on Mt. Mansfield. We will see what April brings. I am hoping for one last big dump of snow on the mountain. April 14 will be last day of lift operations at Stowe.

The chart is found at <https://matthewparrilla.com/mansfield-stake/>

## Mount Mansfield Snow Stake Depth

Last reported by NWS on: 3/26/2024



## The Clubhouse Fireplace

### **The Clubhouse Fireplace**

Another hot button issue, the fireplace in the lodge. The board is exploring replacement of the wood burning fireplace with a propane unit. Oh, I love the smell of wood and the crackling flames. The problem is the 50 year old existing fireplace is left unattended and also over loaded. Some say put up more signage. If I read every sign in the lodge I would need to take notes. So what do we do? We have a safety issue that involves the existing unit and the usage. I travel over 150 days a year, and I rarely see a wood fireplace anymore. They exist, along with the dirt and scorch marks on the mantle. Recently members have confided that they select rooms in the lodge based on egress. The reason why you need to sign in is so the fire department can check your room to see if you got out in an emergency.

So, maybe the rustic charm of a propane fireplace isn't quite up to what you want in a ski lodge, but with the current heavy usage of the house without a high degree of confidence that members know how to use a wood fireplace, I am voting for the propane replacement so I can continue to use my vouchers and ski cheap.

Submitted by John Bidell

## Happy Hour Thursday April 11

### Happy Hour Anyone?

The SWC activities don't stop with the coming of spring. There are weekly organized bike rides at different locations, and paddling twice a week on the Mohawk. There is a golf outing in Syracuse on June 10, and a club picnic on July 13.

We are starting a monthly happy hour that will rotate around the Capital Region, and most likely be held on a Thursday night. We will skip July and December for the picnic and holiday party.

Our First Happy Hour: Thursday, April 11 at [The Rusty Nail](#) in Clifton Park. We will meet at 5 pm. No need to sign up, just show up.

Here are some possible locations that we are considering:

Albany - [City Line Bar and Grill](#)

Guilderland - [Juniors Bar and Grill](#)

Colonie - [BJS Brewhouse](#)

Berne - [Babbling Brook](#)

Schenectady - [Wolffs Biergarten](#)

Duanesburg - [The Landing on 20](#)

Round Lake/Malta - [The Mill on Round Lake](#)

Glens Falls - [Downtown Social](#)

Averill Park - [The Towne Tavern](#)

Want to see someplace else featured? Contact [ebidell@yahoo.com](mailto:ebidell@yahoo.com) with your ideas.

## Quarterly Meeting - Special Election

### Quarterly Meeting - Special Election

SWC will hold a quarterly meeting for Members only on April 18, 2024 from 6 - 8 PM at Murrays' Fools Distillery. This is also a special meeting to present and vote on candidates for SWC club officers. A light food menu will be provided.

#### Agenda:

1. Optional tour of Murrays Fool Distillery - 5 PM

## 2. Meeting 6 - 8 PM

- Slate of officers and vote
- Club expenditure
- Discuss Club Activities and Committees
- Tour of SWC website/ question and answer period

Those who would like to attend the meeting remotely [please email us here](#) to receive a Zoom link.

### **Proposed Slate of Officers:**

President - Karen Simmons

Admin Vice President - Brenda Streed

Activities Vice President - Ellen Bidell

NNYP Paddlers President - Ed Greiner

MVHC Hiking President - Bill Simmons

Secretary - Carolyn Copenhaver

Treasurer - Donald Streed

VP Clubhouse - Bill Kornrumpf

## SWC Summer Picnic July 13 Thacher Park

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### **Summer Picnic July 13**

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. Everyone had a great time there last year exploring trails, using the mini zip line and the playground. Of course, the grill chef was amazing as well!

If you haven't been to an SWC event recently, you will be pleasantly surprised at the turnout. With a recent influx in membership, we have a lot of new people of all ages that are excited to meet fellow club members.

Stay tuned for more info and how you can become involved to help as we get closer to the date.

Sneak Peek: We are in the planning stages for bringing back the holiday party in late November/early December.

Submitted by Ellen Bidell

## Ski Trips 2025

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### **Ski Trips 2025**

Recently, we sent out a survey to members about ski trip preferences.

As far as locations, Austria and Banff were the most requested locations.

Looking at cost...28% of people wanted the cost around \$3000.00.



35% of people wanted a trip around \$2000.00.

We have both!

Austria is on web site and Banff will follow shortly!

We may add an EPIC western trip but we need trip leaders!

If you are interested: contact [Rick@cobello.com](mailto:Rick@cobello.com)

We will organize a trip leader webinar for interested parties about the benefits of leading a trip.

Let us know as we will hold training in April. Trip planning takes all year to get the most out of leasing a trip.

Submitted by Rick Cobello

## SWC Early Season Ski and Ride Clinic

### **SWC Early Season Ski and Ride Clinic**

**December 12-15**

For those who are not familiar with it, the Clinic is taught by Stowe Mountain Resort private ski instructors with lodging at either the SWC Clubhouse or the Stowe Motel. All lessons and lodging will be booked through the SWC website. If you would like more information, you can email me at [wkornrum@nycap.rr.com](mailto:wkornrum@nycap.rr.com). For now, put the Clinic on your calendar so you don't miss out on this opportunity to tune up your ski technique early in the season. Details will follow when we have the price and details.

## SWC Member Wins Award



# Remembering Dory Alexander

## **Remembering Dory Alexander**

By Rick Cobello

Doreen P. (Reinhardt) Alexander, 64, of Clifton Park, peacefully passed away on Monday, February 26, 2024, at her home, surrounded by the loving comfort of her husband, James P. Alexander, and his sons.

Dory was a long term member of the Schenectady Wintersports Club and was involved with skiing with SWC and the Albany Ski Club.

Dory enjoyed hosting and entertaining, bringing family and friends together for skiing and boating, creating cherished memories for all. Never hesitant to give a ski lesson, she also treated everyone to her gourmet delights. Her positive personality will be missed.



Ski picture from Austria on SWC trip

# The Erie Canal

## **The Erie Canal**

If you went to grade school in New York State like I did, you should have learned New York State history in the fourth grade. We learned about the Iroquois Confederacy with the book "The Great Tree and the Longhouse". We learned about the structure and history of state government, and we learned about the Erie Canal. Does anyone remember the words to the song "Low Bridge, Everybody Down"? We learned that at the time of its building, the Erie Canal was considered a folly and derogatorily called Clinton's Ditch. Once completed, it was an important route for commerce from Albany to Buffalo and points west. Even after the building of the New York Central Railroad in the 1850s, the canal remained important for shipping that the railroad couldn't handle. I remember cargoes being transported on the canal into the 1970s.

The Erie Canal is still used occasionally for transporting oversized cargo even today, but it is mostly used for recreation. We paddle on it, of course and people fish and water ski on it. Others walk or bike next to it, mostly on the old railroad beds. The towns and counties along its length are responsible for general maintenance, but sometimes they need help. Not every recreational user is as responsible as we could hope, and Mother Nature has her own way of doing things. That's where Canalway Stewards come in.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor was established by Congress in 2000 under the National Park Service. The Corridor includes not only the canal itself, but the trails, parks, historic landmarks and monuments along it. Volunteer stewards are recruited to see that the areas along the Corridor are kept accessible and appealing to potential users. A small group of Paddlers maintains the section from Freeman's Bridge to Lock E9. We interact with the other users of the Corridor, sometimes helping them launch canoes or kayaks, giving directions to points of interest and encouraging them to keep the parks and trails clean. We pick up litter at the parks and in the water and, occasionally, trim overgrowing branches from the paths.

There are a couple of sections in the Capitol Region in need of volunteer stewards; Lock E7 to the Waterford Flight (north side) and Canajoharie to Fultonville. I know the members of our club are dedicated environmentalists. Is anyone interested in stepping up?

**Have fun. Give back. Be outdoors! Become a NYS Canalway Water Trail Steward.**

Join 70 dedicated individuals, families, and groups who monitor and perform light maintenance at launches and on the water from May 1-October 31. Stewards are critical "eyes and ears" along the water and trail and act as friendly ambassadors, sharing information and answering visitor's questions. We have two available sections along the Erie Canal. We provide supply kits and training, in addition to fun swag to help you get the job done. For more information, contact Mona Caron: [mona\\_caron@partner.nps.gov](mailto:mona_caron@partner.nps.gov)

Learn more at: <https://eriecanalway.org/explore/watertrail/stewardship>

- Canajoharie to Fultonville
- Lock E7 to Waterford Flight (north side)



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Mona K. Caron

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[www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org)

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[www.canalwaychallenge.org](http://www.canalwaychallenge.org)