



## **Schenectady Wintersports Club**

### **Newsletter**

**January 2023**

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### **There is No Such Thing as Bad Weather, Only Bad Clothing**

By John Bidell

I came across this Norwegian saying recently and it will be my Winter of 2023 mantra. Be prepared with the right stuff. This I hope will carry over into many aspects of my life starting with that case of Prosecco for the New Years Eve up at the house.

So what's new? We are having an increase in reservations for the house but there are still lots of openings. Book now and cancel if plans change.

We will be having a chili cook off at our 90th year celebration on January 27 at 7:00 PM at the Hibernian Hall on State Street in Schenectady. Admission is free, and a full cash bar is available for drinks. Bring your crockpot (and extension cord) filled with your best chili and enjoy a presentation of SWC's 90 year history. This is our first meeting post-COVID. Come meet up with old friends and make some new ones.

The Bidells also will be hosting up at the house Presidents week. Expect food and fun, skiing might be limited with Epic blackout dates, but I will be trying to get over to Cochrans and Bolton Valley.

Please consider booking a stay at the house in the spring or summer, we have a list of available activities and the area is a four-season destination.

I will be using my Indie pass to visit some of the smaller areas that I might have missed. And the Epic pass will get me on Stowe. Looks like my mantra is working.

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## **Stickers for Discount Lift Tickets**

by John Bidell

We have the stickers from the NY Capital District Ski Council that allow you to get the discount rate at area mountains. Right now, those mountains include Jiminy Peak, Stratton, Berkshire East, Catamount, Magic Mountain, Maple Ski Ridge and Snow Ridge. Check the New York Capital District website for full redemption instructions for each mountain at <https://nycdsc.org/ski-council-days>.

To receive your stickers, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to John Boscarino, [126 Polsin Dr, Schenectady, NY 12303-2516](#). When you place the sticker on the back of your card, make sure to leave the website code visible.

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## **News from the Clubhouse**

by Ellen Bidell

### **New Year's Special Discount for Stays at the Clubhouse.**

The cost of staying one night is currently \$37.50. Out of that, we pay the PayPal fee of \$1.80 and make breakfast supplies available. We want to offer members an inexpensive place to stay, and one of the ways to do that is volume.

During the month of January, you can purchase one set of 10 vouchers for \$300 (\$300 check/\$315 PayPal). They can be used in any combination during the 2023 calendar year. Stay 10 separate nights or five weekends. You can use them for other members to stay as well—bring a friend for five nights.

Why are we lowering the price when we always talk about needing money? We want to cultivate a large group of people who stay at the house frequently, and have a greater sense of ownership. That will translate into people who want to help keep the house in tiptop shape. And of course, we get the money upfront (there won't be any refunds - if you don't use the vouchers you will lose them. Of course, you can always sell them to another member...).

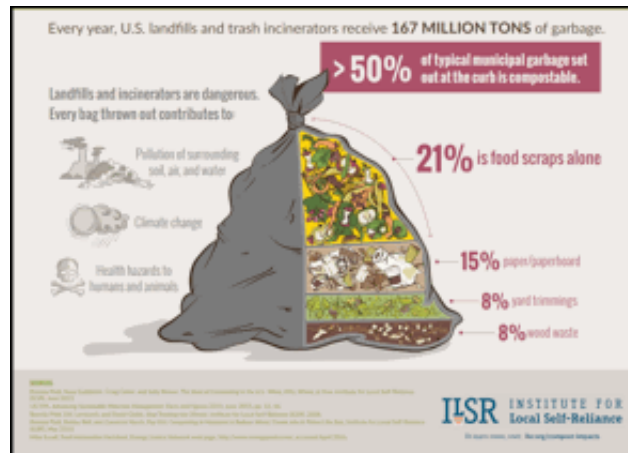
How does it work? I will keep track of your 10 vouchers. When you book, you simply put the number of vouchers you will be using in the voucher field, for example, 2. I will then deduct them from your bank of vouchers.

Help the club and get a great deal in the process. Don't delay, purchase your vouchers today!

## Composting at the SWC Clubhouse

Last year, Vermont passed a law that requires all businesses and households to compost. There is a big bowl on the counter under the kitchen window to place your compostable food scraps. Before you leave, empty the bowl into the bin by the back door. There is a layer of leaves in the bin now, but you have to add shredded newspaper or paper bags

The Environmental Protection Agency has more information about [home composting](#).



## Turn up the Heat

We installed Nest thermostats at the Clubhouse to keep heating costs under control. The thermostats are located in the kitchen and the office area. During the weekends, the heat is set at 68 degrees from 6 AM to 10 AM. It will go back up to 68 degrees from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM.

If you are there during the week or midday on weekends, simply turn the dial on the Nest to set the temperature manually. Make sure to turn it down at night and when you leave.

Another word on heating the house. The room thermostats are extremely expensive to run. We usually turn it on when we arrive for 15 minutes or so to get the room warm. PLEASE do not leave it running when you are not in the room, and remember to turn it off at the end of

not leave it running when you are not in the room, and remember to turn it off at the end of your stay. We continue to have a problem with electric heaters running in the rooms for a week when no one is in the house.

For those of you that like it cold at night, Room 26 is a good option.

Note: There are cameras installed in the fireplace room and the dining room. I check them intermittently to make sure the fire is attended and the stoves are off when not in use. I also check them if the door code is used and there isn't supposed to be anyone in the house (it's only happened once, and the members just got their days mixed up.)

## **Reservation Help Wanted!**

After five years working on upgrades to the house and reservation system, it is time for me to begin looking for a replacement. This year, that would include receiving notifications of reservations, making sure the person is a member and that they paid for the reservation. It is all done from the comfort of your home (all you need is an email account and access to our website). Obviously we are headed into our busy season, with nearly 200 reservations expected over the next three months. We are working on making the process even more streamlined to limit the amount of work, but you can expect to spend about two hours a week on this aspect. I will continue to be involved with special reservations (questions about vouchers and the weekly rentals), as well as purchasing supplies.

## **A Clean House is a Welcome House**

We continue to hear how great the house looks and how it is cleaner than ever. After a year-long search, we interviewed a cleaner a few days ago, and will hopefully have biweekly cleanings of the Clubhouse during the ski season. It is pretty expensive (\$500 a month), but it is important that the house is as clean as possible.

Members will still have to clean up after themselves during and after their stay. We appreciate everyone's effort to make the Clubhouse a welcoming place.

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## **Nordic Weekend at the SWC House in Stowe**

by Sue Strangia

Mike and I are hosting a Nordic sports weekend **January 27-29, 2023** for club members. Both Saturday and Sunday will have a planned Nordic event (XC ski one day, snowshoe the

other) if you want to join up with others, and if not, there will be information on locations to enjoy on your own.

There are three rooms set up for families (Rooms 11, 25 and 26/27). Several other rooms have multiple twin beds to accommodate smaller families. Adults are \$37.50 pp/night, and children under 17 are free. Saturday will include a tasty comfort dinner (\$15 per adult and \$5 per child under 17). Breakfast is included on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Don't wait to reserve your room!

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## **Annual Wintersports Weekend February 3-6, 2023 Keene NY**

A fun winter weekend in the ADKs not far away: Rock & River Lodge in Keene, NY. Take a look: <https://rockandriverr.com/lodging/>

Currently there are no openings for reservations, but we are keeping a waiting list in case of cancellations, which has been useful in the past.

Our group of 25 has been renting the entire two building beautiful lodge for a weekend for over 30 years. It is located right at the southern end of the Jack Rabbit trail and ideal for x-c skiing out the door, or nearby at Mt Van Hoevenberg, Cascade or countless other area destinations. Downhill skiing at Whiteface, snowshoeing or visiting Lake Placid and Saranac Lake-so many choices! We bring and share breakfasts, and potluck dinners and spend evenings by the large fireplace, in the gracious living room area (games, puzzles) or downstairs for ping pong and foosball. High speed internet throughout. All linens provided.

For questions and reservations contact Margie Litwin 518-928-0600, [mhlitwin@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mhlitwin@nycap.rr.com) or Fran Herve 518-899-3216, [fherve@nycap.rr.com](mailto:fherve@nycap.rr.com)

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## **Remembering Freddie Anderson**

by Deanna Fox

If a skiing enthusiast family tree were crafted for all the wintersport lovers of the Capital Region, there is little doubt its roots would be intertwined with Freddie Anderson's name.

Freddie, a pillar of SWC's legacy, passed away on December 19, 2022 at the age of 101, just months shy of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Countless children (and some adults) connected to SWC learned to ski under Freddie's tutelage – she first started teaching the fundamentals of skiing as a student at Smith College before returning home to Schenectady and volunteering her time as an instructor with SWC. She started taking regular train jaunts to North Creek, which was her early introduction to SWC (and how she met her husband, Henry) and continued on with the ski train throughout its run.

In 1950, Freddie founded the Schenectady Ski School, which moved to Maple Ski Ridge 16 years later. Freddie continued to teach at Maple well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, having taught up to three generations of skiers how to glide fluidly downward.

Anyone who took a lesson with Freddie is familiar with her particular brand of no-nonsense instruction for those perfect parallel-ski s-turns that was matched with her boundless energy and permeating warmth. On even the coldest days, Freddie made skiing a joy, and children took to her guidance as though learning from a beloved grandmother. Like with most grandmothers, there was only so much one could get away with, but there was a lot of love and generous accolades shared.

That personality extended beyond the slopes and many in the Schenectady region also knew her for her civic engagement with groups like the Junior League, where she was a member, officer, and later member emeritus. Freddie's knowledge of the local community was a treasure trove of connection. She brought people together, simply put.

And so her loss is especially piercing. Freddie's reach was impressively expansive; her charm radiated far beyond the Schenectady area. She was featured in national media multiple times, notably on CNN for still skiing and teaching in her 90s (she finally retired from skiing at age 95) and being named one of the 10 best instructors in the U.S. by *Ski Magazine* in 2006.

A mid-prandial stroll 'round the dining room at the clubhouse shows how intrinsic Freddie's influence was in the development of SWC. Her memory will be a blessing in the clubhouse's gathering rooms and halls, keeping the drafty White Lady ever warm in even the coldest winter days.

*Donations can be made in Frederica Anderson's name to PSIA-AASI Eastern Education Foundation ([www.easternsnowpros.org](http://www.easternsnowpros.org)), an organization she helped to form, or Emmanuel Friedens Church. ([www.emmanuelfriedens.org](http://www.emmanuelfriedens.org).)*

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## Upcoming Events

1/27 thru 1/29 2023 Nordic Weekend

1/27 SWC 90th Birthday Party and Chili Fest

2/3 thru 2/6 2023 SWC Weekend at Keene Valley

2/16 thru 2/20 President's Day Weekend at the Clubhouse

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