



Ski Tales

Morris County Ski Club
Newsletter
March 2008

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Paul Van Duyne

Winter has left and although it was a mild one in New Jersey it was a very good winter for the ski resorts in both the east and west. The Morris County Ski Club has run successful ski trips this year to Innsbruck, Austria, Quebec, Aspen, and Stratton with one more trip to Keystone yet to be completed.

The Club went to Innsbruck, the Quebec Winter Carnival and Keystone for the first time in the past 20 years, to Stratton for the first time in a dozen years and to Aspen for the first time in eight years. The Aspen trip had 60 participants, which is the largest number to ever go on a week-long trip. A lot of work went in to making these trips successful and much credit should go to the outgoing Ski Director, Andy Modale, and the various trip leaders, including Tony Tarullo, Karen Smith, Trevor Smith, Doug Leite, Nancy McLaughlin and Jill Christensen.



A special thanks to Lori Baldwin for tracking all the payments, as well as Matt and Beth for securing a parking location at the Ramada Inn when construction prevented us from parking at the Hilton. The ski survey asking where you want to go next year has been posted, so I urge you to fill it out. Your input is important as we try to plan the trips for next year.

As we enter spring the emphasis of the Club shifts from skiing to social activities. Beth Malkin has put together an extensive list. Among the activities planned are a bowling night, a tennis night, a hibachi dinner, a couple of hikes, horseback riding, bike trips to Cape May and Gettysburg, and two trips to Yankee Stadium, including the last game in which the general public could not buy tickets. Beth is in the process of finalizing the Year End Party, scavenger hunt and a trip to Shea Stadium. A number of people have

volunteered to lead these events but we are always looking for more leaders. If you would like to lead an event please contact Beth and she will let you know what events are still open.

We are in the process of taking nominations for the various office positions and will do so through the April 8 meeting. Andy Modale, who did such a great job as Ski Director, has already declined to run for a third term, so we are looking for a new Ski Director. Many of the other Board Members have accepted the nomination to run again for the current position, but that does not mean the position is locked up. If you are interested or know someone who you think would be good for any of the officer positions please contact a member of the nominating committee (Doug L., Kim C., or Mary Jo M.).

In addition to the Board positions we are looking for people to fill two non-elected positions. These are Ski Council rep and *Ski Tales* editor. Steve Rauscher and Jill Christensen did an excellent job at their respective positions, but have decided it is time to move on. We thank them for the work that they have done. If you would like to make a contribution to the Club without the time commitment of an officer position, one of these positions may be for you. If you have any questions about these positions please contact Steve, Jill or a Board member. Thank you and enjoy your spring.

SKI (AND SNOWBOARD) REPORT

Andy Modale





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It's that time again, with the ski season drawing to a close and the new MCSC survey ready for your input. The MCSC survey is for members only and not only helps plan trips for the Club, but contains some general questions on the Club, meetings, AAFs and other club events. If you are a member and haven't taken the survey please send me an e-mail at andymodale@yahoo.com.

We ran some great trips since the last *Ski Tales*. I recall writing that we were ready to depart on an epic trip to Aspen and thought maybe epic was too strong a word for a trip that had not taken place yet. If you were on this trip you know that epic sums it up pretty well. Please check out Doug Leite's article for all of the details and thanks for coming on this trip. The positive feedback is nice to hear. Thanks, Doug, for working your tail off out there.



We also sent a crew to the great white north for some crazy partying and great skiing. They appear to have come back in one piece, although one of the trip leaders seems to have picked up the ability to rhyme sentences even in general conversations. The trip was to the Winter Carnival and by the looks of the pictures, the stories I've heard, and the ski conditions it was a great trip. Thanks again to Karen Smith and Trevor Smith for taking it on, making sure all had a great time and keeping the crew entertained on the bus.

Nancy McLaughlin recently returned from Stratton Mountain with a large group. While it was a little late in the season by eastern standards, there was still a lot of snow to be had. Nancy did a great job decorating the bus, planning events and making sure the tradition of the MCSC St. Patty's weekend trips live up to their reputation. Thank you, Nancy!

We only have one more trip this season. Jill (your *Ski Tales* editor) will take a great group of people to stay and ski at Keystone, CO, and enjoy some day trips at Vail, Breckenridge and A-Basin. The snow gods continue to grant the MCSC trips with great conditions and Jill's trip is no exception. Jill and her crew of 28 will have some great conditions and enjoy what I believe is the best time to ski and ride. Work on your tans people!

I'll be wrapping up the season at Vail in mid-April while attending the MTS show. I'll have most of the survey results by then (cut off to be eligible for the lift ticket drawing is just before I leave on April 7), so please complete the survey now as we need your input. The MTS show is a worldwide ski show that enables us to speak with reps from most resorts and mountains and helps us plan a great season for all of you.



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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Doreen Iossa	1-Apr
Teresa Tarnowski	6-Apr
Robert Craig	8-Apr
Jean Kibalo	9-Apr
Lydia Michal	11-Apr
Kathleen Koch	13-Apr
Sue Palatini	16-Apr
Kathy Innamorato	17-Apr
John Querrazzi	23-Apr
Doug Leite	24-Apr
Patrizia Giassa	26-Apr
Laurene Vandenberg	26-Apr
Ron Meckbach	27-Apr
Lyn Ruderman	30-Apr

NEW MCSC MEMBERS

Alexia Burnett
Deirdre Murphy
Karen Shannon



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MCSC CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETING DATES

Keystone Ski Trip	March 26-30	Keystone, CO
Bowling Outing	March 28	Rockaway, NJ
Tennis Night	April 5	Florham Park, NJ
MCSC Meeting	April 8	Parsippany Hilton Hotel
AAF Happy Hour	April 18	East Hanover, NJ
MCSC Meeting	April 22	Parsippany Hilton Hotel
Japanese Hibatchi Dinner	April 26	Randolph, NJ
Harriman State Park Hike	April 27	Harriman, NY
MCSC Meeting	May 13	Parsippany Hilton Hotel
Cape May Bike Weekend	May 16-18	Cape May, NJ
MCSC Meeting	May 27	Parsippany Hilton Hotel

Please contact Beth Malkin at bethmalkin@yahoo.com if you would like to lead an event. She is looking for trip leaders.



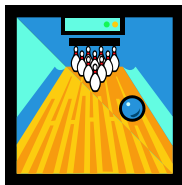
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Bowling Outing

The MCSC is planning a night at the lanes: Rockaway Lanes. The fun starts on **March 28**, with drinks/snacks (at your expense) at The Exchange in Rockaway followed by two hours of unlimited bowling beginning at 9 p.m. The cost is \$15. Please contact Matt at captmatt8@yahoo.com or Kim at kimcastellucci@yahoo.com for more information.



Night of Tennis

Join the MCSC on **April 5**, from 7-11 p.m. for an evening of tennis at the Brooklake Country Club in Florham Park, NJ. The event costs \$35, which includes tennis, food and non-alcoholic beverages. You may bring your own beer or wine. We are looking to have a total of 30 people. Please contact Tim at 973-722-1400 or harveybuilding@aol.com for more information.

April AAF at Miami Mike's Sports Zone in East Hanover

Join the MCSC for their monthly AAF Happy Hour on Friday, **April 18**, at Miami Mike's Sports Zone in the Ramada Inn Hotel in East Hanover. Drink specials will be available from 4-7 p.m. and complimentary appetizers will be served. A pub menu is available for those who wish to eat there.



Miami Mike's is located on Rt. 10 West. Take Rt. 287 N or S to Rt. 10 East. Continue until you pass

Novartis Pharmaceutical complex on the right (just pass the intersection of Ridgedale Avenue). After this intersection, take the next jug handle (in front of the movie theatre) to cross over Rt. 10 and go west. You will see the Ramada Inn on the right shortly after the jug handle. Miami Mike's is just after the Macaroni Grill and Chili's.

Japanese Hibatchi Dinner

Join the MCSC and your host Tobi Klein for a Hibachi Dinner at East Tokyo in Randolph on Saturday, **April 26**, from 8-11 p.m. Space is limited to 20 people and the cost is \$32. Dinner includes soup, salad, shrimp appetizer, and your choice of Hibachi Chicken, Steak or Shrimp for dinner. You are encouraged to "bring your own" alcohol. For more information contact Tobi at Jrsygirl723@aol.com or 973-650-4343.

Harriman State Park Hike

Join the Club on Sunday, **April 27**, at 10:30 a.m. for a seven-mile hike in Harriman State Park. The hike will be moderately difficult with some climbing involved. We will visit some scenic overlooks and the "Lemon Squeezer". The hike should take between four and five hours, including a lunch break. Afterwards we will go to a nearby bar and grill (probably Rhode's North Tavern). The hike starts at the Lake Skanatati Parking Lot. For more information contact Paul Van Duyne at p_vanduyne@yahoo.com or 973-473-1426.

Cape May Bike Ride Weekend

Join the MCSC **May 16-18** for our Spring Bike Weekend in Cape May. There will be two organized rides - a shorter ride of around 20 miles and a longer ride of 35-40 miles. We will stay at the Atlas Inn, an oceanfront hotel with a sauna, pool and exercise room. Member's cost is \$205 per person, which includes two nights lodging double occupancy and three meals. Members have sign-up priority through March 25. After that the cost for members and guests will be \$230. Please contact Beth at 973-670-0065 or bethmalkin@yahoo.com for more information.



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PAST EVENT SUMMARIES

Innsbruck Ski Trip

Tony Tarullo

On a beautiful Friday in January, 42 MCSC members arrived at Newark Airport in eager anticipation of the journey to Innsbruck, Austria (by way of Munich). We gathered for preflight drinks where Jeff B. was kind enough to pass along German curse words and phrases (thankfully few if any of these were ever used). And yes, even Kathy G. and Lisa H. showed up with time to spare. The group helped Kim C. to celebrate her birthday with a lively rendition of Happy Birthday (followed by another one to the answering machine of birthday girl, Karen Smith, who was missing what would be a great trip).

Following our flight, we arrived in Munich and boarded a bus for the two-hour journey to Innsbruck. In route we enjoyed views of Munich before heading into the Alps to the picturesque city of Innsbruck. At the Welcome Party we had a glass of champagne along with an overview of the week ahead from our on-site hostess, Alex. Afterwards, we settled in for the first of our many hearty and delicious hotel dinners. A few then went to the hotel bar, while those who still had energy headed into town to visit the drinking establishments.

After a good sleep and hearty breakfast, we were ready for our first day of skiing in Innsbruck. Early morning cloudiness diverted us from our original plan of skiing the glacier, so we took a bus to Axamer Lizum instead. The clouds gave way to sunny skies (yes Ed you were right AGAIN) and we enjoyed a glorious ski day. After skiing we went to the Elfer House for a group happy hour and at night some of us took a horse drawn carriage ride, while the rest went to an Irish bar, Galway Pub, to view the AFC and NFC championship games on a big-screen TV.

Are you ready for some football, American style? We Giants fans were. The game did not start until after midnight, but that didn't stop us. The staff at the Galway was nice enough to stay upon until 3:30 a.m. so we could watch the game. They even ran out and picked up food so we could enjoy a feast at 2 a.m.



Those of us still awake at 3:30 a.m. rushed back to Beth D's hotel room to catch the final dramatic minutes of the Giants overtime victory. Despite the great day of skiing and the Giants win to vault them into the Super Bowl, Sunday was not all fun and games, as our trip mascot (Party Monkey) mysteriously disappeared. More on that later.

On Monday we awoke to beautiful blue skies, so the group headed to the Stubai glacier for another amazing ski day. The wide open skiing on the glacier made it an ideal spot to enjoy the beauty of the Austrian Alps. Who would have thought you would have trouble finding ice on a glacier? A few in the group who did not ski visited Salzburg, the birthplace of Wolfgang Mozart and the home to the Von Trapp family whose adventures were made famous in the movie "The Sound of Music".

After dinner we went to Olympic Park for a Bobsled ride. We were loaded into the back of a flatbed truck and quickly transported to the top of the run. Once high atop the track we broke into groups of five and



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joined our drivers for the exhilarating trip down the mile-long track in 60 seconds. Back at the hotel the ransom note for Party Monkey appeared along with a picture from his captors, a sinister monkey-napper known only as Hairy Knuckles.

Our only bad weather day of the week was Tuesday. It kept most of us off the slopes, so we spent the day seeing Innsbruck. After dinner we headed into the old town for drinks at Papa Joes. Luckily while we were out dining, Party Monkey was able to make a dramatic escape from his captors and stowed away in the ski jacket of Avis K. The night was filled with many rounds of drinks and shots, and a couple of failed attempts at a large group pyramid.

On Wednesday we journeyed to the resort town of Kitzbuhl, where we spent the day skiing and boarding. After another excellent day on the slopes, we wandered through the quaint little shops of the village and regrouped for a raucous happy hour at the Londoner. There we enjoyed an excellent band that treated us to many great tunes, including another rendition of "Happy Birthday" for Mike K. and Marybeth W.

On Thursday some headed to slopes of Innsbruck and others to the Black Forest region of Germany. We visited the religious mecca of Oberramgau, the region known as Shwein where the most famous castles of the area, and toured NeuShweinstein (home of King Ludwig the First). After dinner and another night on the town, many of us took a sled ride down the mountain at Kooitei.

Friday saw the group scatter in many directions. A dozen headed to St. Moritz for a day of skiing or shopping, while another group boarded the train to the nearby resort town of St. Anton, where we skied and went to happy hour. We regrouped at our hotel for our final dinner and went to the City Café for some swing and jazz music.

Saturday we departed Innsbruck and headed to Munich where we received a bus tour of the city. Then many people explored the city on their own. Saturday night we went to the famous Hofbrau Haus for German food and large German beers.

On Sunday eight of us flew back to Austria to explore Vienna. There we enjoyed the majesty, beauty and artistry of this cultural capital of the Roman Empire with visits to the Opera House, Castles and the Cathedral. The rest of the group explored the sights around Munich. Our late afternoon flight on Monday enabled us to spend the morning relaxing, sightseeing or shopping before going to the airport for our journey home.

Although our official club photographer, Ed T., provided us with many memorable photos of our journey, courtesy of Otto V., we also had the Ottocam, which took great photos and movies of our journey on the mountains (and a few drunken evenings in the bars as well). Please see the Yahoo! Group website for these pictures.



Quebec Winter Carnival

A Poem by Karen Smith & Trevor Smith

We came, traveling from far and near,
We took head-count, we loaded beer.

Away we went, on donner, on blitzens,
We had passports, we're American citizens.
Bouncy and bright toys we had,
'Hey, the bus trip wasn't half bad'.
Bars and restaurants we hit and gave such a holler,



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What the hell, our buck is worth less than their dollar.

Quebec City was full of snow, quaint buildings, and stores

Slip on icy sidewalks some did, luckily no head sores.
The mountains were cool, the snow came down in bunches
We found views of the St. Lawrence, we ate group lunches.

The Winter Carnival was fantastic, snow sculptures, games, and rides,
Kids again we were, but with ice-shots, life-size fooz ball, and slides.

There were Caribous, folks saying 'aye', 'aboot', and 'parlez-vous',
One carnival fee we did pay, a pass called an effigy,
Avoiding all but one 'didn't you buy a ticket for me?'

Come home we did, the wind whipping & chilling with fright,
Cars packed and goodbyes said quickly, departing into the night.

MCSC Unleashed on Aspen

Doug Leite

On Feb. 23, 60 MCSCers ventured west to Aspen, CO in search of powder, good times, food and drink (though not necessarily in that order!). The large size of the group necessitated three sets of flights. Thanks to flight captains Andy Modale and Tobi Klein for assisting me with this. Andy did have two people from his group who missed the connecting flight from Denver to Aspen. I believe the individuals were stimulating the airport economy. Identity is unknown, but I think one of the women works for a rental car company.

After touchdown in Aspen, we had a welcome reception at our lodging complex, The Gant condos. Our Aspen representative gave us info on the four ski areas and we also heard from an Aspen Spa rep who was offering a 20% discount for any bookings during the reception. The Gant had beautiful condos not to mention the outdoor hot tubs and heated pool that we used every night. If we didn't have our bathing suits on while walking past, some just made do without. The Gant proved to be a great place to stay - close to town, shuttle transportation and they even carried our bags to/from the rooms.



We had a great start to the week on Sunday skiing Aspen followed by a terrific club-sponsored après ski at Mezzaluna Restaurant. The brick oven pizzas were delicious and the margaritas were flowing! Sunday night greeted us with a foot of snow for a day of powder on Monday. Many took powder lessons at Snowmass followed by their own après ski at The Cirque. The rest of the group skied at Aspen Highlands for some dynamite tree skiing. That infamous MCSC luck turned up once again as NJ's own Southside Johnny and Asbury Jukes were playing at the Belly-Up Club on Monday night. Judee, Dave and Frank could be seen right in front of the stage bopping to Southside's beat.

Tuesday we woke to mostly sunny skies and still great powder stashes. We skied Snowmass and 43 people raced NASTAR at 10 a.m. (see www.nastar.com for results enter your last name). Everyone did at least two runs between the gates and after the race we had a BBQ lunch outside at the Spider Sabich picnic area. It was great to see so many people race and everyone who did really enjoyed it. Some of our out-west rookies, Sharon and Mary, even brought their instructor to watch them race. (The award categories are listed at the end of the article.)



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Wednesday saw us do a little bit of everything under bright sunshine. Some skied Aspen Highlands, some took the day off and others skied Snowmass. It saw inauguration of the MCSC Highland Bowl Hiking Club. Full charter members are: Al Baldwin, Ray Isola, Art Lee, Cheryl Matthews and your beloved trip leader. Membership initiation consisted of a steep one hour climb up Highland Bowl to 12,400 feet for a terrific run down the Highland Bowl and then jumping into the trees. The views were spectacular from the top, but the air was mighty thin up there! Cheryl still never ran out of breath though. A bunch of people checked out the Aspen Spa to soothe Monday's powder day workout and get ready for the rest of the week.

Most evenings we congregated at the many restaurants and bars in town. The favorites seemed to be Double Dog Brew Pub, Little Nell's and dancing at Club Chelsea. For a complete evaluation of the establishments, check with the Mike & Mike team.

On Thursday most people skied Snowmass under bright sunny skies. We had 45 people at the wine cabin for sandwiches and wine.

Alas, more bright sunshine and warm temps on Friday for our last ski day at Aspen Highlands and Aspen. Susan Smith, Don Smith and Alan McDermott were voted in as honorary members of the Highland Bowl Hiking club for their shorter ascent up the bowl. The final club sponsored après ski was at Social Restaurant. The prizes - t-shirts - for the week were handed out to all deserving souls. There were no holds barred antics that night from the Social Restaurant to Sky Hotel to Club Chelsea and Jimmy's. How some of us got back to the Gant, who knows? For those who are interested, I hear Ira is available for dancing lessons.

Saturday we had another early morning departure to Denver and then to Newark. Almost all the luggage made it home.

Our previous trip to Aspen was in 2000 and everyone agreed that eight years between visits is too long, so how about next year?



MCSC Aspen Awards

- Fastest Expert, Male - Tom Buhlinger (fastest single run on race course)
- Fastest Expert, Female - Cindy Humphrey
- Most Improved Expert, Male - Jack Van Riper (largest time improvement from 1st to 2nd run)
- Most Improved Expert, Female - Cheryl Matthews
- Fastest Knuckledragger - Andy Modale
- Fastest Intermediate, male - Trevor Smith
- Fastest Intermediate, female - Ann Shea
- Most Improved Intermediate, Male - Chris Leogrande
- Most Improved Intermediate, Female - Helen McLaughlin
- Best Crash, male - Stephen Slotnick
- Best Crash, female - Kim Castellucci
- Best Outfit, male - Matt Buoncuore
- Best Outfit, female, Tobi Klein
- Out-West Rookie of the Week - Sharon McNulty

Thanks to Andy for getting us great trip arrangements and accommodations, and to those who helped me on the trip - Dave, Judee, Ray and Claire. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended, for helping to put yet another terrific trip in the annals of MCSC history!



CONTACTS

www.MorrisCountySkiClub.com

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