



Ski Tales

Morris County Ski Club
Newsletter
November 2008

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Paul Van Duyne

As we approach Thanksgiving, a number of the ski areas in the northeast are off to good starts. Windham opened last weekend and will reopen on Wednesday, November 26. The short term forecast is for continued good snowmaking temperatures. This should make for a successful Ski Skills Tune-up Day on December 6. We have a good number of people who have signed up for the all day lesson plan offered through the NJ Ski Council. This will allow them to get an early jump on the season. For those of you going to Windham, I hope you have a great day. Meanwhile, farther north in New England, a number of the resorts have opened and are gearing up for the Thanksgiving weekend. As far as the MCSC trips go, we are still taking sign-ups for the Waterville Valley and Ogden ski trips. We have one opening on the Park City trip, and if we have a sufficient demand, we may be able to add spots on the Crested Butte trip.

In keeping with the holiday season theme, we have three "holiday season events". The first is the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. The Club will be acting as bell ringers for the Salvation Army on Saturday December 6 at the Stop and Shop in Morris Plains. We would like members to volunteer an hour of their time to act as bell ringers that day sometime between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM. The second event is the Toys for Tots Drive. We would like meeting attendees to bring a new unwrapped toy to the December 9 meeting. We will collect the toys and take them to the designated collection sites. The US Marines will then give the toys to needy children in the area. We hope you can support these two charitable events. Finally, we will be having our holiday AAF on Thursday December 18 at the Parsippany Hilton. This is the AAF which has the largest attendance and we hope you can join us. Finally, there will only be one meeting in December as we will not be having a meeting on Tuesday, December 23.

In the past month, we had 2 social events. First, we had a great hike in Ringwood State Forest. The following week, we had a bike ride along the Columbia Trail from Long Valley to High Bridge. There are articles on both of these events in this newsletter. As far as new social events go, we are going to a couple of hockey games. First, we are going to see the NY Rangers play the Calgary Flames on Sunday, December 7 at MSG. Prior to the game, we will stop to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. On February 7, we will go to the Newark Prudential Center to see the NJ Devils play the LA Kings. There are tickets for both games currently available. In January, we hope to have a bowling night.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and I hope to see all of you before the holidays.



SKI DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sal Rutigliano, Ski Director

Ski season is just around the corner, so don't get left out of our ski trips. We have openings for the weekend trips, which are a bus trip to Waterville Valley, New Hampshire and Ogden, Utah, with skiing at Snow Basin and Powder Mountain, two very exciting places to ski. These are the only trips with openings left, so sign up soon!

Trip (status)	Date	Trip Leader
Park City, UT (waiting list)	Dec 20- Jan 4	Anil Rastogi
Crested Butte, CO (waiting list)	Feb 21- 28	Ed Tideman
Waterville Valley, NH (on sale)	Mar 12- 15	Deborah Schmitt deborahgsch@yahoo.com
Ogden, UT (on sale)	Mar 25- 29	Anthony Ricciardi tonyricciardi@optonline.net



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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kimarie Rahill McDonald	2-Dec	John Bernstine	20-Dec
Mark Schmelz	2-Dec	Ray Isola	24-Dec
Matt Buoncuore	6-Dec	Chris Leogrande	25-Dec
Julius Gaida	7-Dec	James Ferrone	26-Dec
Jeanette Dube	14-Dec	John Welch	30-Dec
John Ehrenbeck	17-Dec	Donna Long	31-Dec

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Alison Gardella	1-Jan	Kim Castellucci	18-Jan
Judy Fierro	4-Jan	Karen Smith	18-Jan
Ann Shea	4-Jan	Mary Moskello	19-Jan
Patricia Salinger	6-Jan	Jane Fisher	22-Jan
Kathy Golden	9-Jan	Michael Kibalo	23-Jan
Geri Outwater	10-Jan	Marybeth Witecki	23-Jan
Ary Nesser	11-Jan	Douglas Otte	29-Jan
Mary Ellen Smith	13-Jan	Melissa Frimmer	30-Jan
Dena DeMarco	16-Jan		

NEW MEMBERS

Jim Healy

Lambert Jakober

Roy Zangrando



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MCSC CALENDAR UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETING DATES

Ski Skills Day	Dec.6	Windham NY
Salvation Army Bell Ringing	Dec.6	Stop and Shop, Morris Plains, NJ
NY Rangers Game	Dec. 7	Madison Square Garden, NY, NY
MCSC Meeting	Dec. 9	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
Holiday Season AAF	Dec. 18	Parsippany Hilton
No Meeting	Dec. 23	Happy Holidays
Ski Trip	Dec. 30 - Jan. 4	Park City, Utah
MCSC Meeting	Jan. 13	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
MCSC Meeting	Jan. 27	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
NJ Devils Game	Feb. 7	Prudential Center, Newark, NJ

Please contact Beth Malkin at bethmalkin@yahoo.com if you would like to lead an event. Please remember that you must lead an event before you can be considered to lead a ski trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS



December AAF at the Parsippany Hilton

On Thursday, December 18, let's take a break from the holiday shopping and crazy schedules to wish each other a very Happy and Healthy holiday season. Please come join the MCSC for a Holiday AAF and catch up with some old and new faces. The elegant and spacious lounge area will be the location for our Holiday AAF. They are providing us with some nice hors d'oeuvres and a Holiday atmosphere. Come toast the Holidays!!!

Please contact Lisa at LisaSLP@aol.com with any questions.

NJ Ski Council Skills Tune Up Day

The New Jersey Ski Council will hold its annual ski & snowboard skills tune up on **Saturday, December 6th**, at Ski Windham. Only Ski Club members and their immediate families are invited to attend. The fee of \$55 for an adult with their own equipment includes lift ticket and all day group lessons (start at 9:15 AM). This is a great opportunity to have fun and get a good start on the new season.

To register for the program, participants must make payment to their respective ski club. The club organizer must present a **club check** for payment made out to the New Jersey Ski Council, by November 29, 2008.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may phone Ed Dalton @ 908-464-2071 or send an email to: skiinstruction@newjerseyskicouncil.org



New York Rangers Game, New York



Join the Morris County Ski Club on **Sunday, December 7** at Madison Square Garden to see the Rangers play the Calgary Flames. The cost of the ticket is \$60.00 and game time is 7:30 p.m. We will plan to meet near Rockefeller Center to see the tree and have dinner before the game. The meeting time and location will be announced at a later date.

To sign up make a check payable to Morris County Ski Club for \$60.00 and give to Sal Rutigliano at a meeting or mail to Sal Rutigliano at 9 Tilden Place, Norwood, New Jersey, 07948, cell phone number is 1-201-970-2202 and the e-mail address is salrutig@aol.com.

NJ Devils Game, Newark



Join the Morris County Ski Club on **Saturday, February 7** at 7:00 pm as the NJ Devils take on the Los Angeles Kings at their new home, the Newark Prudential Center, also known as the "Rock". The cost of the tickets is \$47, which represents a discount over the box office price of \$65. We will try to pick a place near the arena to meet before the game. After the game, we will pick a nearby place for post game refreshments.

To sign up make a check payable to Morris County Ski Club for \$47 and give to Jeff or Lori at a meeting or mail to Jeff Baldwin at 36 Cliffside Tr., Denville, NJ 07834 (862-209-1063). The e-mail address is rni2clever@yahoo.com.

PAST EVENT SUMMARIES

Hike - Ringwood

We had another beautiful day for our November 1 hike in Ringwood State Forest. We had a sunny day with temperatures in the low 60's, which means we were 2 for 2 on our fall hikes. A total of 16 people attended the hike, which was a good mixture of members and guests and it was fairly easy to keep together throughout the hike.

We met at Shepard Lake near the Botanical Gardens and started by climbing up to Mount Defiance. This is the highest point in Ringwood Sate Forest, which meant that we had the most difficult climbing early in the hike. From the summit, we were rewarded with views of the Wanaque Reservoir and Skylands Manor. We were hiking in late peak foliage season, which meant that many of the trees still had their leaves. After reaching the top of Mount Defiance, the hike became easier. It was at this point we came across a woman with a dog looking for her friend. We gave her a cell phone to call her friend, who was also hiking and then Jim F. recognized her as one of his neighbors. I was more impressed that she knew her friend's cell phone number.

We had lunch at the shores of Gataun Pond and then passed a couple of other ponds before reaching the remnants of a gate house of an estate. We entered the remains and explored the house, which was definitely a major fixer upper. After about 4 ½ hours of hiking, we finished at Shepard Lake. After the hike, we went to 15 Prime Grill (previously Rhodes Ringwood Inn) for drinks and food. The establishment was very accommodating and moved together a series of tables for us. Thanks to everyone who attended and hope to see you at next Spring's hikes.



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Pegasus, Meadowlands

On **Saturday, October 25**, about 25 of us slogged our way to Pegasus at the Meadowlands Racetrack. I say slogged, as it was pouring rain all day and continued on into the night.

If you like going to the track, Pegasus is the way to go. It gives you an excuse to dress up and dine at one of the better hot and cold buffets around.

As we all settled down with food and drink, we began to read through the evening's program and choose horses to bet on. Some handicapping the horse, some looking for cute names and others just dropping the pen from up high and seeing which horse the ink hit! Everyone made their bets, and when the first race started, we all gathered near the floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows to watch. Pegasus is in the Penthouse, so it's a great way to view the races.

When the first race ended, we had more than a few winners. The second race went well, and again we had more winners. But as luck would have it, the rain and the wind became too much, and they delayed the next race, only to cancel them for the entire evening about 10 minutes later.

We were all given discount coupons to come back again and were told we did not have to leave. They passed out programs from other racetracks around the country if we wanted to continue betting and watch them on the televisions. Some stayed and some left. We organized a small group and took our well-dressed selves to Morristown where we spent the rest of the evening at George and Martha's. Being the true MCSCers we are, we took the lemon the night gave us and made lemonade. (Some made Mike's Hard)! Perhaps it is an event we should revisit in the future, because from what I could see, everyone had a good time.

Columbia Trail Bike Ride, Long Valley, NJ

The Columbia Trail Bike Ride was scheduled for Saturday, November 7, but Mother Nature had a different idea. Saturday was foggy and drizzly with a forecast of showers starting in late morning. Since Sunday's forecast was dry, I decided to postpone the ride until the following day.

Sunday's weather was much better; sunny, a bit cool, and windy. There were 16 people who attended the ride, which was a good number since it was a rescheduled event which often do not get the same participation. Since I last rode the Columbia Trail in May 2008, there was quite a bit of trail maintenance performed near the Long Valley end. Although the trail is still probably better suited for a hybrid or mountain bike, a road bike can now be used on the trail. We biked almost 12 miles from Long Valley through Califon to the town of High Bridge. We encountered 2 different seasons along the trail. Almost all the leaves were down and brown in Long Valley, but as we got to High Bridge, many of the trees still had leaves and the trail was bright yellow from the leaves that had fallen. We had some great views biking above the Lockwood Gorge. After reaching High Bridge, we biked into town and visited a bakery and bought some refreshments. After our break, we had our only hill as we biked from town to the trail. The total distance we biked was about 24 miles, which took us a little over 3 hours including our break.

Since we were in Long Valley, where would you expect us to go after the ride? That's right, the Long Valley Brew Pub, which was less than a quarter mile from where we started the ride. A few years ago, we used to have a road bike ride from the Long Valley Brew Pub, but that ride was a bit hilly and could be unnerving. The trail ride is much more enjoyable as we could appreciate the countryside without worrying about cars buzzing by us. Thanks to everyone who attended the event.



NJ Ski Council Jamboree

We had an excellent MCSC turnout at the Ski Jamboree on **Friday, November 21** in the Stadium Club at Giants Stadium. The Ski Jamboree is a ski trade show where attendees can meet with ski clubs in the tri state area, resorts, tour operators, equipment manufacturers, and other companies in the ski industry. With the colder temperatures arriving and snow in the near future (we hope), the Jamboree was packed.

Thanks to Helen M, Beth M, Marcia S, Ann S, Kim C, Tobi K, Matt B, Paul V, Tony T, Andy M, Sal R, and Tom B who worked our booth discussing our club with prospective members. We had one of the better booths at the jamboree. We had a big easel of pictures from various trips and functions (made by Helen M), showing all the fun we have. We had our banner which was help up by skis, flyers of all of our trips, a raffle, snowflakes, and candy.

There were numerous raffles, giveaways, and pre-season deals. We had one of the stronger turnouts, and MCSC definitely had a good showing.

CLASSIFIEDS

Skis for sale

Elan series AO6 175 cm FUSION bindings EL10 color red. Two years old and in good condition. I'm looking to sell them for \$300.00. Please call Beth Malkin at 1-862-354-3792.

Rental

Steamboat Condo Rental \$1200
2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, Full kitchen
1/31/09 - 2/7/09 sleeps 6
Contact Tom @ buhlinger@aol.com

CONTACTS

MCSC Executive Board

- President** Paul Van Duyne
p_vanduyne@yahoo.com
- Vice President** Beth Malkin
bethmalkin@yahoo.com
- Secretary** Matt Buoncuore
CaptMatt8@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** Lori Baldwin
RNI2Clever@yahoo.com
- Ski Director** Sal Rutigliano
salrutig@aol.com
- Membership Director** Tobi Klein
JrsyGirl723@aol.com

MCSC Committee Members

- AAF Coordinator** Lisa Margolis
lisaslp@aol.com
- NJSC Rep** Lisa Hallman
Hallmanlicorice@msn.com
- Ski Tales Editor** Ann Shea
ashea2@optonline.net
- Webmaster** Anthony Caruso
ajc@ajcis.com

www.MorrisCountySkiClub.com