



Ski Tales

Morris County Ski Club
Newsletter
January 2010

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Beth Malkin

The snow is falling it must be time to ski!!!!!!
Winter has arrived with the chill and snow in the air. Welcome back to our skiers who enjoyed our first ski tip of the season which was to Hakuba, Japan. Thank you to Anthony for organizing a great trip and a good time was had by all.

If you have not signed up for Breckenridge please do so for only a few spaces remain. The trip to Breckenridge, Colorado is from March 24th to March 28th 2010 for a long weekend of late season skiing throughout Summit County Colorado. The price of the trip is \$1075 which includes all transportation costs, lodging costs, three day lift ticket (good at any of five mountains in Summit County - Breckenridge, Keystone, Arapahoe Basin, plus one day in Vail or Beaver Creek) plus club organized happy hours. The trip leader is Tony Tarullo if you have any questions he can be reached at TonyTarulloMCSC@yahoo.com.

We currently have a few social events on sale. The first event is for the hockey enthusiast we will be traveling to see the New Jersey Devils play on March 20th. The second event is a rock climbing being held on May 1st. For more details on these events please see the web site.

Please mark your calendars for the spring weekend event which will be held on May 21st - 23rd. This year we will be traveling to Baltimore's Inner Harbor with many fun and exciting things planned. Please watch the website for more details concerning this great weekend away.

The happy hour for the month of March is on the 19th at "What's your Beef" in Parsippany.

Our social events are open to anyone over the age of 21 so please come out and join us and I hope to see you there.

SKI DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Sal Rutigliano, Ski Director

The trip to **Japan** was a huge success. See Anthony's write-up in this issue.

The **Telluride** trip is sold out and the group is getting ready to board a non-stop to Colorado Saturday February 20. Look for Helen and Tom's write up in next month's Ski Tales...

The long weekend **Breckenridge** trip (3/24 - 3/28) has a few spots left. With Tony T as trip leader - this trip will be loaded with fun. Contact Tony for more info. (TonyTarulloMCSC@yahoo.com)

A weekend bus trip to **Sugarbush** is planned for March 5-7. Accommodations are at The Bridges Resort, a short shuttle ride from Sugarbush South. The ski area features 578 skiable acres with over 2,000 feet of vertical, 53 miles of trails and 18 wooded areas. There are 2 distinct ski areas as well as the possibility of guided backwoods skiing.

- **Cost:**
\$453 for 2 people in a one bedroom.
\$383 for 2 people in a two bedroom
- **Trip Includes:**
Bus transportation arranged by Banchi tours
2 nights lodging / 2 day lift ticket
- **You are on your own for all meals and bus goodies.**
- **Travel Info:** Bus departs from Sheraton Crossroads Mahwah NJ at 5:30 PM.
The bus departs Sugarbush at 4:30 PM Sun.

Checks for this trip will be collected by Sal Rutigliano. Cell: 201-970-2202
e-mail: salrutig@aol.com



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5 Alice Schwartz	6
7 Helen McLaughlin	8	9 Grace Ehrenbeck	10	11 Chris Grech	12	13 Tony Tarullo JoAnne Toth Joe Cifune
14 Kathleen Matrale Jim Munroe Leon Sample	15 John Fritzen	16	17	18 Beth Hyslip Don Smith	19	20
21	22 Mike Russo	23 Paul Van Duyne	24	25	26 Jodi Lee Alper	27
28 Tim Ripley						

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Felix Costa	10	11	12	13 Marcia Stanton
14 Robert Weissman	15 John Fritzen	16	17 Yasmin Boudway Sal Rutigliano Wenxiu Xu	18 Kim Kennedy Mary Chaplin	19	20
21	22	23	24 Wayne Rudy Susan Wieters	25	26	27 Ed Tideman
28	29 Denise Kaye	30 Chris Billings Jim Malone	31			



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MCSC CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETING DATES

MCSC Meeting	February 9	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
MCSC Dining Event	February 18	Taste of Asia, Chatham, NJ
MCSC Telluride Ski Trip	Feb 20-27	
MCSC Meeting	February 23	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
MCSC Meeting	March 9 (Final day of Nominations for Board)	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
MCSC AAF	March 19	Where's Your Beef, Parsippany, NJ
MCSC at NJ Devils	March 20	Prudential Center, Newark, NJ
MCSC Meeting	March 23	Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ

Please contact Deirdre Murphy at redmurph7@hotmail.com if you would like to lead an event. Remember, you must lead an event before you can be considered to lead a ski trip.



**FEBRUARY "AAF" AT DOLCE,
BASKING RIDGE, NJ 1-800-953-3007**
(FORMLY KNOWN AS NORTH MAPLE INN)
<http://baskingridge.dolce.com>

On Friday, February 12, 2010, the Vita Bar at Dolce Basking Ridge will provide us with warm ambiance and a friendly atmosphere for us to relax and enjoy our AAF from 5pm-8pm. There will be complimentary appetizers and happy hour drink specials. Billiards is available for those who would like a little competition! There is a full menu for those who wish to dine there.

Looking forward to seeing you there ☺

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



MARCH'S "AAF"

**What's Your Beef, 252 Route 46
West, Parsippany, NJ 973-882-0002**
www.whatsyourbeefparisppany.com

On Friday, March 19, 2010, *What's Your Beef* is welcoming us back for another exciting happy hour in this upscale, "New York" atmosphere. Happy hour will be from 4-8, featuring discounted drink specials. These include \$1 off bottle beer, \$5 house Martinis, \$5 glass of wines and \$5 well drinks. There will be complimentary appetizers for us to munch on (5:30-7:30) as well as live entertainment at the piano bar for us to enjoy.

What's Your Beef offers "an unforgettable dining experience, combining simple elegance, a lively atmosphere, an extensive wine cellar and the finest steaks, seafood and pasta." There is a full dinner menu if you wish to dine there as well.

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



Chinese New Year Tasting at "a Taste of Asia II" in Chatham! Thursday, February 18th at 6:30pm

Join the Morris County Ski Club and your host, Sharon McNulty, to celebrate the "Year of the Tiger". "A Taste of Asia II" is located at 245 Main Street in Chatham on the corner of S. Passaic Avenue. The phone number of the restaurant is 973-701-8821.

The menu will be pre-fixe and served Family Style. It will be a full-course meal including appetizer, Dumpling soup, Tilapia, Stuffed Prawn, Shitake mushrooms, as well as Sichuan Spicy Chicken, Black Pepper Pork Medallions, shrimp and beef stir fry, and a tasty dessert.

The restaurant does not have a liquor license but you are encouraged to "bring your own". Space is limited, so please sign up by Tuesday, February 16th.

Cost: \$52.00 per person includes full family style tasting dinner.

Contact Sharon McNulty at shamrocksha@hotmail.com or call 973-714-5583



Join Lori and Jeff Baldwin will once again be leading the way to a NJ Devils game at the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ. This year MCSC will watch the NJ Devils take on the St Louis Blues at 7pm on Saturday March 20.

Contact Jeff and Lori at RNI2Clever@yahoo.com for more info and to sign up.

Past Events:

MCSC 2010 JAPAN TRIP

(by Anthony Ricciardi)

Saturday, January 16th and Sunday, January 17th:

With a beautiful day, we started our trip not too early on an 11 a.m. flight. Our flight left on time and without any complications. Fourteen and a half hours later, we landed in Tokyo, Japan, Narita International Airport at 3:15 p.m., Sunday, January 17th. Where did Saturday go?? After collecting our luggage, we headed to our bus and started our second leg of the trip to Hakuba. After a grueling 5+ hour drive, we arrived at Hotel Mominoki. Now 11 p.m., everyone exhausted and starving, our hotel had dinner waiting for us, which was a pleasant surprise after a very long trip.

Monday, January 18th: After a few hours of sleep and an interesting breakfast, we were ready for the slopes. Happo was our first destination, about 200 yards from our hotel. Fresh snow, approximately 28 degrees Fahrenheit and sunny skies made for a perfect start. Lunch at the Virgin Café at the top of the mountain, purchased from a vending machine and then picked up at a counter, was satisfying and rejuvenating. After lunch, however, the weather turned. Stormy gusts of cold wind made for a short afternoon of skiing for most.

After skiing, some of us put on our slippers and kimonos that the hotel provided and went down to the hotel's **onsen** to soak. An **onsen** is a term for hot springs in the Japanese language, though the term is often used to describe the bathing facilities and inns around the hot springs. A volcanically active country, Japan has thousands of onsen scattered along its length and breadth. Onsen were traditionally used as public bathing places and today play a central role in directing Japanese domestic tourism.

Tired and relaxed, we were ready for our first Japanese dinner. Lots of fish (cooked and raw), stewed veggies, tempura, and miso soup. Fortunately for some of us, they attempted to provide a little western food.



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Tuesday, January 19th: Refreshed and ready to start our second day, half of the club went to Hakuba 47 for another perfect day of skiing. The other half of the club went on a day trip to Matsumoto Castle and Daio Wasabi Farm.

At the wasabi farm, we learned that wasabi takes two years to grow before it is harvested by hand. We also learned that almost all of the wasabi that we eat is actually horseradish with green food coloring. Unless you have been to a very high end restaurant in Japan, you probably never had real wasabi.

After sampling wasabi ice cream and wasabi beer, we headed to Matsumoto City in Nagano and the famous Matsumoto Castle, one of Japan's finest historic castles. There are only four castles that have been designated as National Treasures; Matsumoto Castle is one of them. The five storied castle is one of the oldest castle structures still in tact in Japan, having a traditional donjon or castle keep, which is the innermost, best defended and most prominent structure of the castle. Matsumoto Castle is a flatland castle (*hirajiro*) because it is not built on a hilltop or amid rivers, but on a plain.

After the tour, we had lunch at Hikaroya, a very traditional Japanese restaurant. We then spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the town.

Wednesday, January 20th: On our third full day in Japan, most of our group took a full day tour of the world famous Jigokudani Wild Monkeys Hot Springs, home to about 200 wild snow monkeys that spend their days soaking in the hot springs and keeping warm from the harsh winters.

We then had a traditional Japanese lunch at a 240 year old Sake brewery, which of course included lots of sake. Following the sake, some sampled the local chestnut ice cream. After lunch, we visited the Zenko-ji Temple, which is believed to be founded in the 7th century and allegedly home to the first Buddhist image to arrive in Japan from Korea in around 552 A.D. We ascended to the temple via Nakamise-dori and the impressive gates, Nio-mon and Sanmon. In the Hondo (main hall), the Ikko-

Sanzon image is in an ark to the left of the central altar, behind a dragon-embroidered curtain. To the right of the altar, we descended a staircase to the Okaidan, a pitch-black tunnel that symbolizes death and rebirth and provides the closest access to the hidden image. As we navigated the twisting tunnel, we dangled our arms along the right-hand wall until we felt something heavy, moveable and metallic; said to be the key to salvation. We've been saved!!!

Thursday, January 21st: With our only day of slight rain, most of us decided to tour the local town and some even went to see Avitar (can't resist anything Western). By late morning, the rain turned to about 12 inches of snow, which made the town a winter wonderland. Finding lunch that day on our own turned into a challenge, but well worth it. While looking for sobo (meaning grandmother) instead of soba (a type of thin Japanese noodle made from buckwheat flour), we ended up finding a restaurant that served not only soba, but the Japanese' version of Korean barbeque. After a great and fulfilling lunch, we couldn't resist sampling another Western tradition. McDonalds. Yes, you read it right, McDonalds! In case you are interested, McDonalds in Japan is basically the same as McDonalds in the United States.

Friday, January 22nd: On our fifth and final day on the mountain we had breakfast and did some skiing. Some of us went back to Hakuba 47 and others went to Minekata, ending the week with another great day of skiing.

After skiing, some of us went to the hotel's British style pub (again can't resist anything Western). Others again put on their slippers and kimonos went down to the hotel's **onsen** to soak.

After soaking in the onsen, some of us attempted to go out to dinner, but were so comfortable in the hotel that we ended up sipping sake by the hotel's beautiful fireplace and piano bar.

Saturday, January 23rd: Sorry to leave the mountain, but excited to explore Tokyo, we had an early morning breakfast and then took a short bus ride to Nagano Train Station to experience our first ride on a bullet train, having an average speed of 170 miles per hour (one



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more thing on the Bucket List). Upon arriving in Tokyo, we got on another bus for a 3 hour tour of Japan's capital. With beautiful weather, about 55 degrees Fahrenheit and sunny, we started at the Imperial Palace Plaza. Then our tour took us to Asakusa to browse the many colorful stores lining the Nakamise Walkway, leading up to Seusaji Temple, Tokyo's oldest and most famous Buddhist temple. After a very quick lunch, we jumped on a river boat to tour Tokyo Bay, working our way to our next stop; Tokyo Tower, which is basically a copy of the Eiffel Tower. Since its opening in 1958, after Godzilla had his way in Tokyo, it is the world's tallest self supporting steel tower, standing at 333 meters tall; 13 meters higher than the original Eiffel Tower. As our tour wound its way to our hotel, we arrived at a copy of the Statute of Liberty. Our last stop was our hotel, the Pacific Tokyo, a beautiful hotel located across from the Shinagawa train station, conveniently located to all of the local hot spots.

Sunday, January 24th: About 10 of us decided to venture to Nase, about a 60 minute train ride to see Daibutsu (the Great Buddha). Built in 1252 A.D., 13.3 meters tall and weighing 121 tons, it is a wonderful statute. We then went to a temple called Hase Dera, which was built in 736 A.D. This temple's focal point is a statute of Kauuou, the Goddess of Mercy, the Bodhisahva of infinite compassion. This 9 meter high carved wooden juichimen (11 Faced Kannon) is said to have washed up on the shore near Kamakura. We then headed out for a hike, which brought us from Hase to Kita Kamakura. Along the way, we visited several temples, one being Zeuiarai-beuten, which is a shinto shrine with a cave like entrance that lead to a clearing where we washed our money in natural spring water with the hope of bringing financial success. Ending our hike with a great lunch we then headed to KamaKura to walk the city streets and do a little shopping before heading back to Tokyo. Lots of odd foods and plenty to drink rounded off a great day.

Monday, January 25th: Most of our group continued to shop, relax and enjoy everything Tokyo has to offer. Six of us, however, decided to road trip it again. We jumped on the bullet train to head north towards Nikko, which is

famous for its gilded shrines and exquisitely crafted temples, spectacularly amid verdant woodlands.

Because time was limited, we focused on one of Nikko's famous sites, the Toshog-Gu Shrine, built over 1,200 years ago. It is impossible to describe in words Toshog-Gu's beauty. They say "one does not know what beauty really is before one sees Nikko Shrine," with its many beautiful buildings having exquisite carvings and paintings in an unbelievable setting of giant 200 foot tall cedar trees.

Upon our arrival, we walked through the main Torii (gate), which is the largest stone Torii in Japan. We first saw the Sambutsu-do (Three Buddha Hall), which houses three gilded images of the largest wooden Buddhas in Japan. Next was a five story pagoda that has no foundation but contains a long suspended pole that swings like a pendulum, maintaining equilibrium in the event of an earthquake. Then was the Shiuyosha (Sacred Stable), which is a plain building housing a carved white horse. The stable is adorned with allegorical relief carvings of monkeys, including the famous "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" monkeys, demonstrating three principles of Tendai Buddhism. Then came Houji-do Hall, which is best known for the painted ceiling of the Nakiryo (crying dragon). The list goes on, hence why Toshogu Shrine is one of Japan's National Treasures.

Ending the day with a lovely lunch of noodle soup, we headed back to Tokyo on the train. Upon our arrival in Tokyo, we were so craving Western food that we decided to go to Friday's for appetizers and dinner, with of course drinks, but some of the group headed to the Roppongi District for some clubbing and bar hopping.

Tuesday, January 26th: On our last day in Tokyo, we started out early to do last minute shopping before our long journey home. With all our goodies, we rushed to the airport and back to reality.

Domo arigato (thank you) to everyone on this trip for working together, making it a great time and a pleasure to run.

Sayonara!!



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MOUNTAIN SPECIALS



For Ski Club Members Only

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With valid membership ID

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With valid membership ID

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Contact Cindy Bailey for more information
802-434-6813
cbailey@boltonvalley.com



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Windham Mountain Group Sales at
518.734.4300 Ext 1134 or at
Sales@WindhamMountain.com



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MCSC CLASSIFIED:

Skis for sale:

K2 Mod 7/8, all-mountain, length 167,
intermediate/advanced ski, rated 4.5 out of 5, orig over
\$500 with bindings, best offer

For more info contact: Cindy Humphrey
clhumphrey@yahoo.com

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