



Slopes & Trails

April 2008 www.buckridgeskiclub.org

Club News & Notes



The latest in snow sports fashion



General Meeting:

The March general meeting was well attended, thanks to Joan Strachota's presentation of her summer (in the southern hemisphere) boat cruise to Antarctica this past January. The cruise featured penguins, penguins, & more penguins, with a few seals on the side. Definitely *not* your typical cruise—goretex and muck boots were the featured cruise wear. Bikinis only emerged for a brief plunge into a hot volcanic spring at the edge of the sea on one island, and not for too long at that. A fascinating presentation!

Board Meeting:

At the board meeting preceding the general meeting, a nominating committee was appointed to select new officers. Members of the committee are Dan Aronson, MaryAnn Thomas, Jalna Schuler, Joan Strachota, and Sue Pitelli. Club members with any recommendations should contact a committee member.

The appointment of Michael & Andrea Bruno was made as boating chairperson(s) to replace Dan Jones. Dan served the club well in that capacity for many years. Let's hope he doesn't hang up his raft too soon!

There are two other outstanding vacancies that need to be filled—program chair and refreshments chair. The program chair needs to see that the general meetings have programs of interest to members scheduled thru the year. This is not that difficult, as there are always good recommendations from club members. The refreshment chair is responsible for bringing snacks & drinks to the general meetings... an important position! Anyone with an interest in either of these positions should contact a club officer.

Upcoming Programs

- April—Canoeing
- May— Ski Wrapup/Hiking the Grand Canyon
- July—Summer board meeting (TBA)

Membership

There are no new members for the first time in a while. Mary Ann Popma, membership chair, reports we have 220 single & family memberships and a total of 408 individual members in the club.



The deadline for articles for the Slopes and Trails is the 15th of the month. Send submissions to:

Michael Fernandez
 1118 Kings Highway
 Swedesboro, NJ 08085
 Phone: 856-467-5189
 Email: amf72@verizon.net

If you would like a copy of the monthly newsletter, please contact Bill Raney at 610-293-9571 to be placed on the mailing list, or check the web site.

OFFICERS OF THE BUCK RIDGE SKI CLUB

President	Mel Stiles	856-478-4621 stilesmj@verizon.net
Vice-President	Dave Singer	856-424-5618 dsinger26@comcast.net
Secretary	Pat Beccia	610-664-9506
Treasurer	Terri Walklett	610-876-1728

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activities Chair	Marge Tarte	610-874-3162
Biking Chair	Susan Hearn	215-386-8008 SLHearn@aol.com
Boating Chair	Michael & Andrea Bruno	610-328-2338 andreabruno@verizon.net
Hiking Chair	Jim Calkins	610-558-6862 Jbcalkins@verizon.net
Lodge Chair	Mel Stiles	856-478-4621
Program Chair	<i>vacant</i>	
Ski Chair	Dan Aronson	215-643-7252 d.l.aronson@att.net

WOODBRIIDGE LODGE

Permanent Reservation Chair

Joan Strachota 610-872-6459
 jstrachota@comcast.net

Lodge Telephone Number 802-464-6591

Only if you have been repeatedly unsuccessful contacting the reservation chair for a key may you call the following people:
 Judie Sheffer 610-461-1848
 Glenn Weisel 215-822-9459
 Eliot Woodbridge 609-921-3229

MEMBERSHIP

BRSC is an outdoor club for people of all ages who enjoy companionship in outdoor activities.

For a membership application and procedure for joining, contact:

Mary Ann Popma, Membership Chair
 1037 Warren Road, West Chester, PA 19382
 email: mapopma@verizon.net
 610-692-5928

Annual Dues: \$20 Individual / \$23 Family

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are moving or changing your email address and want to keep *Slopes & Trails* in your mailbox or inbox, please notify:

Merle Roemer
 4 Anser Lane
 Lewes, DE 19958
 E-mail: mroemer@reading.org

REGULAR MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 8 pm AT SPRINGFIELD MASONIC HALL ON RT 320, SPRINGFIELD (DELAWARE CO.) PA. NO MEETING IN JUNE, JULY, OR AUGUST.

ACTIVITIES & TRIPS

SKIING



Its fair to say ski season is probably behind us for most folks, although there still may be snow to be found for those dedicated (or crazy enough) to find it. The last "official" trip of the season, Hunt for Snow II, actually had some pretty good conditions... see the write-up on page six.

Looking ahead to next year, the EPSC Winter Carnival will be held at Killington from January 28 to February 1. The popular rail excursion to Jay Peak will again be run, scheduled to be held the end of February to coincide with Jay Peak's Mardi Gras festivities.

Our western trip will be to Whitefish (formerly known as Big Mountain) in northwestern Montana from March 14 to March 21, with lodging at the Kandahar Lodge. For a sneak preview of what to expect, check their respective websites:

www.bigmtn.com and www.kandaharlodge.com

Watch for details in the newsletter!

Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council

Council News

Folks interested in future trip possibilities may want to look into the Philly Ski Travel Show, now in its 7th year. See page 9 for details; pre-registration is required.

HIKING

SHORT HIKES HAVE STARTED



Wednesday short hikes have started. The meeting place is still the Value City parking lot at Routes 320 and 420 in Springfield, just a few blocks up Woodland Avenue from the Club meeting place and near Exit 5 of the I-476 Blue Route. We leave promptly at 9:30. Bring your lunch and wear comfortable shoes and socks. Sneakers are not suitable for many of the trails. If you have questions, please call Jim Calkins at 610-558-6862.

The first hike was a delightful 5 mile hike with beautiful early spring weather on March 26 in the White Clay Creek Preserve. The walk was led by George Wiedersum, and attended by 11 hikers. The preserve is in southern Chester County, in Landenberg. The planned first hike for the week before was cancelled due to rain. Here's the rest of the spring schedule:

- April 2 Wissahickon - Call George Wiedersum, 610-358-5891 for this hike
- April 9 Myrick Preserve
- April 16 White Clay Creek Park (in Delaware)
- April 23 Marsh Creek State Park
- April 30 Brandywine State Park
- May 7 Darlington Trail
- May 14 Jenkins Arboretum/Valley Forge
- May 21 Smedley Park/Blue Route Trail
- May 28 Ridley Creek Park



Season's first short hike, White Clay Creek Preserve

BIKING



Spring Warm-Up Bike Ride: Sunday, April 20, 2008
 Hang up those skis and dust off the bikes, it's time to "shift gears" and get out and ride! Easy, flat (promise!) ride starts from the Art Museum and travels on traffic-free West River Drive. An excellent family ride! Meet at 10 am at the foot of the Art Museum steps for this easy 8 miler. Option to add mileage and/or a hill, depending on the will of the riders present. Park free behind Art Museum, on Sedgwick Drive or elsewhere in the neighborhood. Call Leader Susan Hearn at 215-386-8008 by 9 pm Saturday, if you plan to attend. Rain or snow cancels. Rain date is Sunday, April 27.

(Continued on page 4)

Biking (Continued from page 3)

Kent County Spring Fling: The spring biking season also means its time for this popular trip. The club is once again running a trip to the Kent County Spring Fling in Chestertown, Maryland over Memorial Day Weekend. Registration fills quickly; contact MaryAnn Thomas to see if space is still available. Registration forms are in the March newsletter or may be found on the Buck Ridge web site.

Ride Leaders Wanted!

Do you have a favorite place for riding your bicycle that you would like to share with other Buck Ridgers? Ride ideas and leaders are needed for May through October. A leader for the October Oyster Festival weekend in Chincoteague, Maryland is also needed. Contact Biking Chair Susan Hearn at 215-386-8008 with suggestions or to volunteer to lead a ride.



BOATING

Hello to all at Buck Ridge. Dan Jones has willingly stepped down from his role of providing Buck Ridge with postings for Canoe and Kayak activities in order to allow my husband Mike and I to take over.....so here it is....

How many years have passed that you've said, "I'd like to learn to kayak or canoe", but it still hasn't happened... We'll here's an opportunity to get you "half way" there... PCC's instruction Fair will outline for you how they do it, how much it costs and when.you can even sign up for a class. Hope to see you there!

PCC Instruction Fair

Sunday, April 13th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Want to get out on the water this summer? We can teach you how! Drop into the PCC to find out about the affordable lessons we offer in all types of kayaking and canoeing.

To find the Philadelphia Canoe Club go to: http://www.philacanoec.org/maps_and_directions.html

Questions?: Contact Dana Fry at 267-716-3428 or danayaks@yahoo.com

TRIP REPORTS

A Tale of Two Lodge Trips

Jalna Schuler

The first week of February, Patricia Kline led a group trip to Woodbridge Lodge. Some came Saturday, others Sunday and Monday. Dover Forge was the gathering place for those interested in the Super Bowl with hilarious stories developing. Monday everyone gathered at Mt Snow to ski with good snow on the trails. That evening Dan, Mel, & Terry decided to get up early and drive to Mad River Glen. Lucky for them they beat the rain! Tow days of pouring rain kept the rest of us off the slopes & doing Sudoku in front of the fireplace. Thursday the sun came out & skiing commenced again.

Thanks to the wonderful cooks who provided the tasty meals heartily enjoyed. Special credit to Pat, Bernie, & Kay for really concentrating on cleaning the showers, stove, & oven.

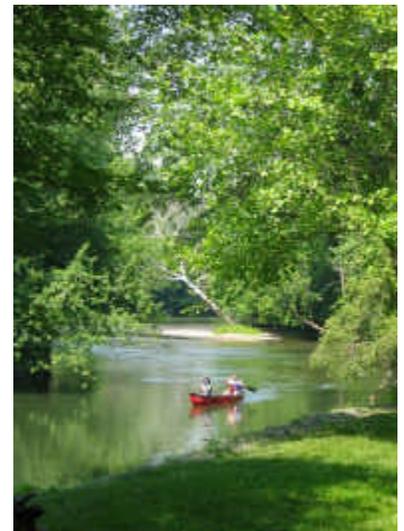
Then a month later, the first week of March, only two couples had the whole lodge to themselves. There was even more snow on the trails (and roadsides). The previous guests had shoveled very good paths to the door, stairs, & woodshed. The only sour note was the ridge of lumpy ice clods plowed across the parking access by the road crew.

Monday was excellent skiing, but Tuesday again brought fog, rain, and high winds that scattered branches all over the property. By Wednesday all the snow was noisily departing the roof. The afternoon cleared up and Thursday was sunny again. Each evening the groomers were visible on the mountain. There had been some more snow Tuesday evening, so there should be skiing through Easter. Enjoy!

More trip reports on p. 5 thru 7

**Own your own canoe or kayak?
Want to take a leisurely afternoon on the scenic Brandywine River?**

Contact Andrea at andrea@verizon.net or call Mike or Andrea at 610 328 2338 to express interest and we'll post a date. Don't have a boat, no worry, we can provide a raft ride. First come first serve.



Continuing with our request for "member response" started on the Breckenridge trip, we asked trip participants to write a few sentences describing their experience and/or thoughts on our trip to Jay Peak this year. We also asked for answers to two questions:

1. Would you go back to Jay?
2. Where else would you like the club to go?

The responses:

If I had to summarize the Jay Peak in just two words, it would be "total relaxation" (except of course when you are coming down a steep slope full of trees, if that is your poison). You cannot go wrong with Jay Peak; this was my 4th trip to Jay and all of them have been either fabulous or spectacular. Forth year in a row we got at least two days of fresh powder - who can argue with that, care free accommodation and unbelievably good food at somewhat "tired" but still comfortable Hotel Jay, ski lessons ever day and of course the company of good friends. This year however was a little "sad" for me, I got accustomed to share this wonderful experience at Jay with few more friends who unfortunately were missing this year so I hope they will be back in 2009. I am definitely signing up for this trip again. For a western trip I would like to go to Big Sky or Lake Louise.

Edward Sobelewski

This year was the best and most satisfying of all the trips to Jay. The food great and the company was the best ever.

Larry Taylor

After just joining Buck Ridge in the fall, I had the best trip ever to Jay Peak! Especially fine was the morning clinic with Mickey, who knew the mountain inside and out, and took our group into deep powder in the glades. With meals included, and great hot tub/sauna and snow angels, I'd love to head up to Jay next winter on Amtrak. Sugarbush or Stowe would be fun destinations also, with shorter trips.

Lee Garner

Great skiing at Jay Peak this year. Jay is a fun mountain and people. Can't beat this package, we will definitely be back next year.

Alison Martin

JAY PEAK 2008



All the past reports of this BRSC trip to Jay have proved to be true - the train is the way to go.

The convenience of the hotel can not be beat, especially the food; the linens are an added bonus. I would join the group again, depending on the timing - would prefer we don't schedule the week when kids are out of school. Whitefish/Fernie in '09.

Lydia Hill

I knew I was in trouble when Danny, my instructor, tried to teach me how to use my poles but hung with my Buck Ridge friends and having a great instructor

mad it all worth it. Jay is the best and I love it and love being with Buck Ridgers, thanks. Yes, I would go back again. Other trips I would like besides Big Mountain (Whitefish) are Big Sky Montana and Steamboat Colorado.

Mary Ann Thomas

Great mountain; lots of terrain; awesome conditions. Skiing was great, food terrific, couldn't ask for a better group of people to share it with. Definitely would go back next year. Would like to go to Big Sky.

Dave Stern

This being my first major trip with Buck Ridge, will definitely go next year to Jay. Awesome trip, the greatest people & unbelievable support by the staff at Jay and club members. What a package deal that can not be beat. Try Big Sky or Utah for more powder.

Gene Adams

"Ski Good or Eat Wood", since I had my first trip down the mountain on a ski patrol sled since 1978. I have a whole new appreciation for Jay's people, both instructors and patrollers. Mickey was great to stand by me in Kitz Woods until the ski patrol took me out, and Marcel on the last day is an awesome bump skier and instructor. I enjoyed the smaller group this year and the reunion with Keith, Marvelene and Catherine Richards. Will go back next year if living in eastern US next year, otherwise come ski with me in Israel or the Alps. Also looking forward to more western trips, especially Whitefish.

Dave Singer

(Continued on page 6)

Jay Peak (Continued from page 5)

Great trip, great people, great skiing and great food!
Bill Keenan

Awesome mountain - killer snow and food to match. So what if the hotel is looking a little worn? Yes I would go back and would also like to go to Big Sky, Fernie and Mad River Glen.
Mike Fernandez

Great trip! Great value! Great food! The "fearsome five" had great fun with Danny, but were adamant about not using the T Bar. Yes, we'd go back. Other places to ski—heard talk about Big Mountain—we'd love to go—
Terri, Paula, Linda, Mary Ann, and Barbara

My first time at Jay was great. Thanks to the fresh snow, good terrain, fun people, light crowds and fine accommodations. I'll try to come back. I would like to go to Utah, (Snowbird - Alta) or Whistler - Blackcomb.
Terry McGinn

The best day to ski is when it is snowing and that was Wednesday. The glades skiing is the best and the food was great! Yes, I would go back to Jay Peak with BRSC. Other mountains I would consider are Big Mountain, Vail and Steamboat.
Dan Aronson

I was grateful to be able to see the mountain this time around. I was determined to overcome my fear of trees. Good company, great food and a great week of skiing. Buck Ridge Club has a lot of nice people. (1) If I have no other trip that conflicts with this trip, then I will come back. The only complaint is all the kids around. (2) I can't commit on question #2. I don't belong to Buck Ridge Club.
Jenny Hutchinson

This package can not be improved upon. I thought I would be bored with time three at Jay - not a chance! The lessons are great because I can really see myself get better. Where else? A place with good skiing but without pretentious people. Jay is COOL!
Henry Martin



Members enjoyed the hospitality of the Richards' at their new home near Jay Peak

The price for what you get is unbelievable! Skiing in the glades was awesome, and so was the food. I'd definitely come back, especially if they build a new hotel (the temperature in the room was difficult to control). I would also like to go to Val d'Isere or Trois Valle'.
Barbara Sudell

I had a great time at Jay. This was my first trip. I like having breakfast and dinner included. It gave me time to socialize with everyone in the trip. The food was wonderful. I also enjoyed the lessons. The skiing is great—great trails, a lot of variety. The price is god too. I will come on the trip again. I like the homey, quaint atmosphere. I'd like to go to Taos, NM, to Big Sky again, other places like Jay—an inclusive package, out of the way, etc.
Barbara Baker

Soft snow and trees are my favorites and there is no better place to get those than Jay. After the first day we had great conditions all week, with several new members enjoying their first visit to Jay. I am always impressed with how good the food and service is, but this time I was particularly aware and impressed with how hard everyone works at Jay, from the bartenders to the lift attendants who rarely let the chair go without an assist and this in a year of short-handed staff as a result of the H2B impact which limited the hiring of Canadian personnel. Yes, go back. Big Mountain, Big Sky, Lake Louise, Vail, Panorama.
Mel Stiles

Survey Says: Where do skiers want to go next?

First place was Big Sky; second place was Whitefish (Big Mountain); others with more than one vote were Vail and Fernie. Those mentioned once were: Steamboat, Mad River Glen, Snowbird/Alta, Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada, Val D'Isere, Trois Valle', Utah, Lake Louise and Panorama.



The "Gang of Six" - Terror on the slopes!

WOODBIDGE LODGE – RESERVATION FORM

Note: Ski season reservations may only be made after October 1.

WOODBIDGE LODGE USAGE RATES (rev. 7/2004)

Season	Nov 1 – Apr 30	May 1 – Oct 31
Members	\$15.00	\$7.50
Guests	\$20.00	\$10.00

Rates are the same on weekends and weekdays. Children 6 and under are free.

Member's Name	Date: (nights)	COST
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

TOTAL: _____

GUESTS are welcome when accompanied by a member. Maximum three (3) guests per member.
Inviting member is responsible for guests complying with the Lodge rules and regulations.

Guest's Name	Accompanying Member	Dates: (nights)	COST
1.			
2.			
3.			

TOTAL: _____

Name, phone number, or Email where you can be reached:

Make checks payable to BUCK RIDGE SKI CLUB LODGE. Mail reservation form and payment to:

Joan Strachota, 114 Maple Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086

Key Deposit - \$75. Issue a **SEPARATE CHECK** and send with reservation form & payment.

- Enclosed is my check for \$75. I understand that this key is due back **within 2 weeks after my planned trip** or my deposit check will be cashed. My check will also be cashed if key is lost in the mail.

Signed: _____

Any questions, email jstrachota@comcast.net

RESERVATIONS will be CONFIRMED after payment In full is received.

PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR ALL RESERVATION REQUESTS

PHILLY SKI TRAVEL SHOW

Monday May 5, 2008

**Crown Plaza - Valley Forge (North Side of Philly)
260 Mall Boulevard King of Prussia, PA 19406 610-265-7500
(Free Parking)**

Ballroom Show

Show Hours: 6 PM – 9 PM

Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar (During the Show)

Prize Drawing: 9 PM

Philly Ski Travel Show 7th year

Event

Designed to bring the Ski Industry together with Clubs from Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council and any Clubs not affiliated with any Council for future ski seasons.

Objective of the Show

To provide more time for club decision makers (Presidents, Board Members, Trip Chairs, Current and Future Trip Leaders), to educate themselves with Resorts and formulate their travel plans for next season and the future.

Reason to Attend

Each show is designed to bring the Ski Industry together with Ski Club and Council Leaders for future ski seasons. The schedule gives your club trip decision makers 3 hours to plan trips for next season and beyond. This gives your club a great opportunity to gather trip information and cement relationships with tour operators and destination resort personnel. Western, Eastern, Canadian and European Resorts along with Tour Operators will be exhibiting at the show.

Prize Drawings

9 PM - chance to win door prizes donated by Exhibitors (Resorts, Tour Operators and Lodging Companies) (winners must be present - No attendance after 8 PM to attend and be Eligible for Door Prizes)

Registration: See your Club or Group President or Ski Trip Chair

Please submit only one registration form per club.

Deadline for pre-registration is May 1, 2008.

Think



Spring!!

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PCC Boating Instruction Fair*

Trip Reports—p. 4-7

Mid-Week, Jay Peak, Hunt for Snow

Buck Ridge Ski Club
c/o M Fernandez
1118 Kings Hwy, Swedesboro, NJ 08085