



Slopes & Trails

May 2008 www.buckridgeskiclub.org

Club News & Notes



NEWS FLASH!!!

MOUNT SNOW DISCONTINUES LODGE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The club has received notice from Mount Snow management that they will be discontinuing the popular lodge discount ticket program next ski season; their letter concerning this is published on page 6.

The discount ticket program has long been a good way for families to ski (relatively) inexpensively, to introduce potential new skiers to the sport, or just help keep costs for what can be an expensive past-time under control. Other than purchasing a season pass, Mount Snow is promoting their FANfare discount card as an alternative. For a purchase price of \$99, you will get 50% off your ticket midweek or 25% off weekends, non-holiday. You will also still be able to purchase lift ticket vouchers through EPSC, and group rates will still be available for 15 more tickets purchased at one time.

How does this stack up for the occasional Buck Ridge lodge user? Not that well. At current prices, we enjoy adult lift ticket rates of \$39/\$54/\$63 for midweek/weekend/holidays. With the FANfare card, after the initial \$99 cost this would be \$32/\$54 for midweek and weekends, with no holiday discount. The current year EPSC voucher is \$50 any time, but with a limited return policy for unused tickets.

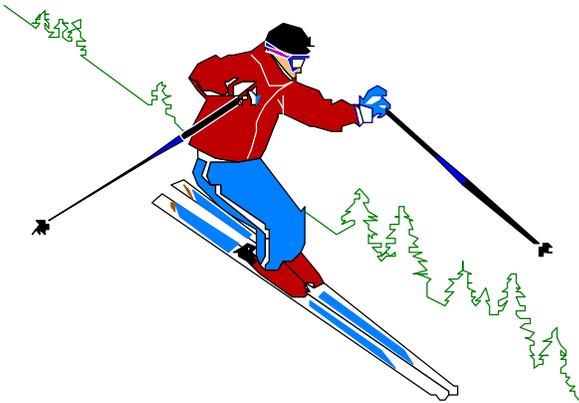
Are there other options to "ski on the cheap" for the lodge user? Consider these:

- **Stratton:** The closest in size to Mount Snow and in distance from the lodge. The walk-up ticket rate is only a few dollars more than Mount Snow, and Stratton offers the X-2 discount card for \$79. In the past, this price has been discounted \$10 for early purchases, and comes preloaded with a free ticket. With the X-2 card, you are charged \$39/\$58/\$68 for midweek/weekend/holiday tickets. For roughly \$5 more per ticket, you have a lower up-front cost plus a free ticket. Stratton also participates in the EPSC voucher program; this year their vouchers were \$2 less than Mount Snow and unused vouchers could be credited towards the next ski season.

Upcoming Meetings

- May 14—last regular meeting of the year. Ski trip wrap up, & presentation on hiking the Grand Canyon. Pizza and wine too!
- May 21—annual lodge meeting at Masonic Hall, 7 pm. Hot topics: new roof, insulation, and water pump.
- July 20 —Summer board meeting at Ridley Creek Park, 1 pm. Details TBA
- Sept 11—first regular meeting of the ski year

(Continued on page 3)



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 610-356-5199 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
Paddling 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.

Club News (Continued from page 1)

There are also some nice smaller ski areas convenient to the lodge:

- **Bromley:** Midweek tickets are \$25, weekends \$63. They also participate in the EPSC program; vouchers are \$37, with returns credited towards the next season. They have an excellent children's' ski school.
- **Magic:** Window rates are \$39 midweek & \$56 weekend, comparable to a Stratton or Mt Snow discount card. Known for its challenging terrain, it's not the most beginner-friendly but still has something for everyone.

So plan your trips next season accordingly... it may be worth while to look beyond our front yard.

Last Meeting of the Year...

Don't miss the last regular meeting of the year. In addition to the annual presentation of awards, we will have a wrap-up of the ski season, a preview of the coming season, and a presentation on hiking the Grand Canyon by Dave & Patty Stern, Ed Sobelewski, & Mel Stiles. All this with pizza and wine as well!

April General Meeting:

PROGRAM: The April general meeting, though lightly attended, had a fascinating presentation on kayaking the White Nile in Uganda, courtesy of our new paddling chairs Andrea and Mike Bruno. Quite a contrast from last month's program—we traveled from Antarctica to the Equator! The White Nile, flowing out of Lake Victoria, the second largest freshwater lake in the world, has some spectacular white water. A growing "ecotourism" business has been developing along it. Unfortunately, dam construction will destroy some of the best white water runs. The Brunos' daughter Anna has been working at a health clinic in the town of Jinja, at the outlet of Lake Victoria. In her spare time she is active with a local paddling club and guide service, so it made an unbeatable opportunity to sample some world class white water. For more details on her work and play, and some awesome pictures of the area, visit her "blog" at: <http://ugandosomething.blogspot.com>



BUSINESS: During the business portion of the meeting, the new slate of officers was elected—the positions will be the same as the past year. The annual lodge board meeting will be on May 21, 7 pm at the regular meeting place. Items to be addressed are replacing the roof, insulation, and a new water pump. The summer board meeting & picnic was announced for July 20 at 1 pm in Ridley Creek State Park, with a possible ride or hike afterwards. All members are invited to attend; more details will be announced. Members are reminded that two outstanding vacancies 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. The refreshment chair is responsible for bringing snacks & drinks to the general meetings.... an important position! If you enjoy the pizza that will be at the May meeting, you may want to consider volunteering for this position. Anyone with an interest in either of these positions, or questions / comments for the upcoming lodge or board meetings, should contact a club officer.

ACTIVITIES & TRIPS

SKIING

Skiing may be over for the year (read about the last, unofficial trip in trip reports), but planning for next year's activities is underway. For starters, there will be the 9th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council Winterfest - Silent & Live Auction on Friday, November 14, 2008 from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm at Williamson's Restaurant in Horsham, PA.

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 more details in the newsletter!



HIKING

MID-WEEK SHORT HIKES ARE UNDERWAY

Wednesday short hikes are underway, with a few more scheduled before hot weather sets in. 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. Here's the rest of the spring schedule: 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

BIKING

Spring Warm Up Ride Report: Six Buck Ridgers and their bicycles turned out on Sunday, April 20 for the Spring Warm-up Ride, on an iffy weather day which turned out to be pleasant and mostly sunny. Braving hoards of walkers, runners, rowers and softball players in the park, not to mention the challenge of parking, we met in front of the Art Museum and completed an easy

loop on the east and west sides of Fairmount Park, including the Schuylkill River Trail extension known as the Schuylkill River Banks.



In the picture: Susan Hearn, Dave Singer, Mark Balamenti, Ken Wellar, Leslie and John Theodore, & spring flowers (photo courtesy of Dave Singer and an obliging passerby)

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.

PADDLING

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

Contact Andrea at andreabruno@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.

TIME FOR TUCKERMAN— SPRING SKIING in TUCKERMAN'S RAVINE

Unwilling to let winter slip past without a last fling, a few Buck Ridgers (Dan Aronson, Vic Lepage, and Mel Stiles) traveled to Tuckerman's Ravine on Mount Washington for a last run in the snow. For the second year, they enjoyed excellent weather—something that can be a rarity up there! Here's Mel's report:



Wow what a trip, I know I always say that but the snow/hike gods sure were smiling on our group of 3 this year. Here are some of the highlights:

- Dan Aronson hiked (along with Vic) the Tuckerman Ravine Trail all the way up to the bottom of the bowl, while I skinned up the Sherbie to the little headwall and then on up the Cutler River drainage to the bowl.
- Dan and I hiked up (along with Vic) to the split rock between the Left Chute and the Chute Variation South and skied the bowl from there. Vic continued on up to top of ravine rim.



- Vic Lepage hiked up the left chute area and skied the center area of the headwall (Center Gully South) an amazing accomplishment, not only to ski it but hike up it! Sorry we could not get pics because we/he was not sure exactly what line he would take until last minute, but the smiles at the bottom were evidence.
- We all skied out the via the Little Headwall/Cutler River Drainage/Sherburne (Sherbie) Ski Trail all the way to the parking lot dirt at Joe Dodge Lodge.
- On Saturday they held the Inferno Race instead of Sunday as planned. They were putting up gates in the Left Gully when we were there on Friday. I have never, even during last year's race, seen so many people at Pinkham Notch. In order to keep our parking places, we put our skis on our backs and hiked the ¾ mile up the road and skied Wildcat. Cars were parked on the sides of the road all the way to Wildcat where there was overflow parking. Again perfect weather and spring conditions, although the moguls seemed to have the best surface.
- On Sunday the parking situation abated, and we drove a pleasant ½ hour ride to Sunday River where about half the mountain was open, again with clear blue skies and great conditions. Finished off the weekend with a huge plate of nachos, wings, and beers on the deck. By the time we left the only people at the area was the lady running the vacuum cleaner. Vic drove for home and Dan and I stayed our last night at Pinkham.

We are already planning next years trip to try and make it 3 in a row for perfect weather for the same time frame. This may become an official trip, with two prior shakedown hiking trips (one mandatory to attend if you haven't been there and done that). The tentative dates are Thursday 4/16 through Monday, 4/20/2009, with Thursday and Monday travel days.



End of an Era???



Daniel Aronson
Buck Ridge Ski Club
707 Beverly Road Ambler, PA 19002

April 4, 2008

Dear Daniel Aronson,

After careful review and consideration, Mount Snow Ski Resort will no longer offer the Ski Club Lodge program. Peak Resorts and the management of Mount Snow believe that the most important thing we can do for our guests is to continue to invest in the resort which was our primary focus this past season. Last year we invested \$6.5M back into Mount Snow and we are already working on our plan to install more fan guns and row energy guns this summer. In order to continue these upgrades, we must focus on increasing our yield, or average income per ticket, and we are in the process of evaluating many of our discount programs. Please share the following information with your ski club members.

There are other products that the resort offers which will allow your house to continue to enjoy skiing at a reduced price. Folks who frequent the resort will want to consider purchasing a season pass. Season passes are available with and without blackout dates. Passholders receive a retail discount and are entitled to first tracks on weekends. I have enclosed material on the 08/09 season passes for your review. Early season pricing is good through June 1, 2008. Folks who purchase a 08/09 Season Pass can ski for free for the remainder of the 07/08 season. While many other resorts have announced closing dates, Mount Snow Ski Resort will stay open as long as we have snow and skiers keep coming! Season passes may be purchased online at www.mountsnow.com/seasonpasses.html or by calling (800)956-SNOW.

Another product that may be beneficial to lodge share houses is the FANfare Card. The card has a minimal fee and cardholders receive 50% off midweek non-holiday and 26% off weekend non-holiday adult 1-day tickets, all season long! For more information please call (800) 245-SNOW or visit www.mountsnow.com/fanfare.html. FANfare cards can also be purchased at the Season Pass office.

Bulk tickets are available to ski clubs that are part of a ski council. Bulk tickets are only sold as adult one day lift passes, although they can be used for all ages. Bulk tickets are pre-purchased in the fall, and the minimum order is 100 tickets. For more information please call (800)451-4443 or email groups@mountsnow.com.

Lodge share houses will still qualify for the group rates if 15 members will be skiing on the same date. One member will be responsible for organizing the ticket counts and purchasing all 15 tickets in one transaction. Groups are not required to call ahead, but it is requested. To pre-register a group please call (802)454-1100 ext. 4611 or email groups@mountsnow.com.

Thank you participating in this program. If you have any questions please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Gerace".

Sarah Gerace
Group Sales Manager
802-464-1100 ext 4611
sgerace@mountsnow.com
www.mountsnow.com

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



Last Meeting of the Year!!

Don't miss our season wrap-up on May 14— where we went & where we are going, with wine & pizza too!

In this issue:

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- Paddling on the Nile*
- Activities & Trips —p. 4*
- Mid-week Short Hikes & Spring Bike Rides*
- Trip Reports —p. 5*
- Skiing Tuckermans' Ravine*

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

