



Slopes & Trails

PHILADELPHIA PA

May 2009 www.buckridgeskiclub.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 13— Last regular meeting for the year!
installation of new officers &
year end review

July 26—Summer Board Meeting
(tentatively @ Ridley Park—details TBA)

August 12 - Annual lodge committee meeting
at regular monthly meeting space
(tentative, subject to hall availability)

NEW MEMBERS

Laura M Harvey

150 North Park Avenue, Easton, CT 06612
children Brandon (97) & Alex (98)
H: 203-261-8933; e-mail: diba100@hotmail.com

LOST & FOUND

Left at the lodge.... 1 large black Carhartt insulated coat.

Club News & Notes

April Meeting

Those attending the March general meeting enjoyed a presentation by new member Franz Fischer on a trip through the national parks encompassing the southern Canadian Rockies and the northern US Rocky Mountains, including Lake Louise, Banff, Glacier and Yellowstone.

Officers for the coming year were also elected. The new slate includes Dave Singer as president, Mike Fernandez as vice-president, Pat Beccia continuing as secretary, and Terri Walklett staying on for one more term as treasurer. They will be officially installed at the last regular meeting for the year in May. Thanks to out-going prez Mel Stiles for all his hard work, and to all those who decided to stay on or accept office!

The board is working to finalize next year's ski schedule, and should have a preview at the May meeting. Based on skier input on the Jay and Park City trips, our western trip will probably be to Whitefish or Big Sky in Montana. Stay tuned!



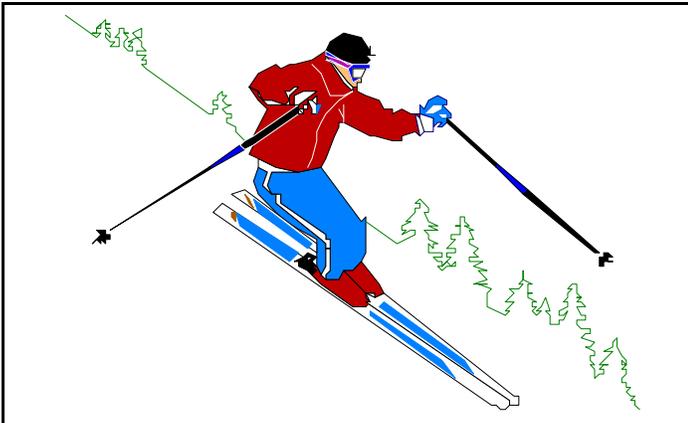
BON VOYAGE! HAPPY TRAILS!

As you read this newsletter our outgoing prez and all-round club stalwart has started on his long-time goal to hike the Appalachian Trail. Mel Stiles started on Earth Day, April 22 with hopes of completing the first leg of the "Leap Frog" itinerary (see the ATC website at:

www.appalachiantrail.org/site/c.mqLTIYOWGIF/b.4805565/k.67EA/Alternative_Itineraries.htm for details) and getting to Harpers Ferry by July 15 (~1000 miles). Mel has been preparing for this adventure for some time and it is one of the main reasons that he took early retirement.

Mel's "media manager" Edward Sobolewski will try to keep us informed as to his progress, and perhaps relay a picture or two. Folks who may wish to join Mel on his trek for a few days should contact Ed to learn of his whereabouts. We all wish him a safe journey!





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
Activity Treasurer	Kay Schmader	610-527-3969 kschmader@comcast.net
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	Wayne Michaelchuck	856-423-2179
Ski Chair	Dan Aronson	215-643-7252 d.l.aronson@att.net
EPSC Council Rep.	MaryAnn Thomas	610-648-0049
Welfare	Glenn Weisel	215-822-9459 glennskisail@comcast.net

WOODBIDGE 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 should you contact

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: mroemer27@mchsi.com

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

As the newsletter goes to the printer the ski season has been put to bed. We hope your's was an enjoyable one. Reports from the Park City trip were of conditions starting out as eastern hardpack and ending as pure powder! Closer to home, you can read about an impromptu welcome spring trip to the lodge to savor the warm temperatures and soft snow that greet the end of season skier and the season finale to Tuckerman Ravine. It's a treat not to be missed! Be sure to come out to the June meeting for a season wrap-up and preview of next year's trips.

Council News

Buck Ridge will be sponsoring the EPSC board meeting on May 14. The dinner meeting will be held at the Best Western Inn at the Lansdale exit off the Northeast Extension, and all members are invited to attend. Tickets are \$29. Contact Mary-Ann Thomas for more details.

EPSC has also announced an accident insurance plan that supplements personal insurance plans that may have exclusions for "high risk" activities. More details are on page 5.



HIKING

SHORT HIKES ARE WINDING DOWN!

Get out and enjoy the fine spring weather with our Wednesday short hikes. The meeting place is 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 Blue Route (I-476). We leave promptly at 9:30. Bring your lunch and wear comfortable shoes and socks. Sneakers are not suitable for many of the trails. Call Jim Calkins at 610-558-6862 if you have any questions.

Here's the remainder of the spring schedule:

May 6	Wissahickon
May 13	Jenkins Arboretum & Valley Forge
May 20	Smedley Park / Blue Route Trail
May 27	Sadsbury Woods



The Short Hike Gang on the Struble Trail

BIKING



On any given weekend day, there are literally dozens of organized bike rides in the greater Delaware Valley from which to choose. Most club-sponsored rides are free and rated as to degree of difficulty and distance. Special event rides are supported, include food and water stops, and charge a small fee. Sponsors range from cycling clubs to fundraising associations and most have easy, online registration. For a change of pace this year, and due to low to nonexistent turnout for Buck Ridge exclusive rides in the past, we will publish club contact information and ride reports so that Buck Ridgers can try out something new in the way of bike rides. I encourage car pooling and, as Biking Chair, will act as a coordination point for folks interested in specific rides. I also maintain a list of emails of those who have indicated their interest in the Membership Directory. Please email Susan Hearn at slhearn@aol.com to be included on this list.

From the many rides available, I have chosen several to whet your riding appetite. Helmets are required by all clubs on all rides.

Sunday, June 14 French Creek Iron Tour - Cycling for Open Spaces

Sponsored by the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Rides for all levels with 10, 20, 35, 50, 66, 75 and 100 mile options with staggered ride starting times (20 miler starts at 9:30 am)

Location: Kimberton Fire Co. Fairgrounds

Fee: \$35.00 includes t-shirt, stocked rest stops, SAG, lunch, entertainment

For more information and to register online go to: www.irontour.org

(Continued on page 5)

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. Contact Biking Chair Susan Hearn at 215-386-8008 with suggestions or to volunteer to lead a ride.

PADDLING

Hello fellow paddlers. Here's a few events you may want to join:

Mothers Day., May 10th: join Mike and Andrea on the Lehigh, experience required. Give us a call 610-328-2338 or email andreabruno@verizon.net.

Sunday June 7th: Water permitting take an early morning float on the Brandywine, no experience required. Same contact as above.

Spring Skiing at its Best or Springtime Corn Therapy—Late Season at the Lodge

Boy, did we ever pick the right days. Rained up, rained back, but what an in between!

Mike McCaffrey, Rex Miyashiro, Barbara Baker and I headed up Thursday afternoon to the Lodge, wiper blades going strong most of the way. Upon arrival we were greeted by Mike Fernandez (asleep on the couch). By Friday morning blue skies and mild temps hurried us up to Stratton. We had the mountain to ourselves, and by 11 am layers were coming off. By 2 pm we saw quite a few skiers with T-Shirts and shorts, their grins as wide as the sun was warm. Changing conditions throughout the day kept us on our toes, moving us quickly from groomed and soft to loose, lumpy and wet terrain! We hit some nice, soft tree runs to escape the sun

and moisture. Ditto for Saturday, except for more skiers and warmer temps. It was a solid

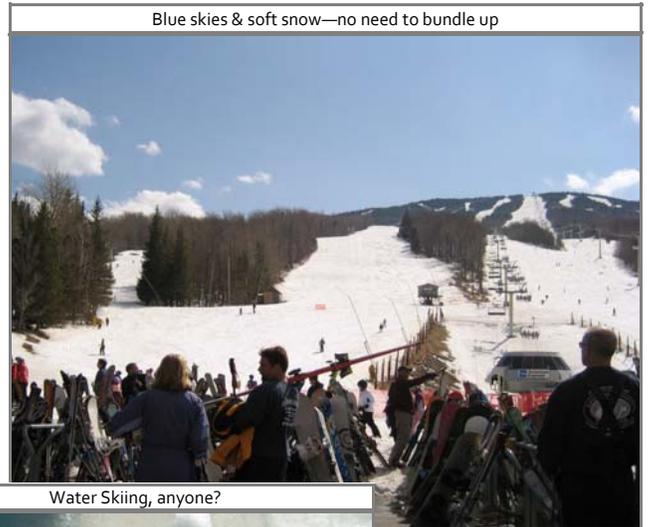
end of the season workout for all. Combine some good friends, sunny trails, great food and some fine (but expensive!) wine and life just does not get any better. Economy problems? Where? Global warming? On the trails maybe. See you same time, same place next year for some more spring time therapy.

by J Theodore /photos by Rex & JT

Ed. Note: J. Theodore provided this summary of a late season trip to the lodge while many club members were in Park City. Spring skiing can offer some wonderful, relaxing conditions - warmer temperatures, no icy winds... try it next year!



The gang minus JT



Blue skies & soft snow—no need to bundle up

Water Skiing, anyone?



Soft & buttery in the trees



Grazing in the Grass—Spring skiing can be tiring!



A toast to the end of the season

Four Buck Ridgers—Mel Susan Hearn, and Mike long drive north to the Hampshire to cap off the arrived at the AMC's Joe Dodge Lodge in Pinkham Notch in time for dinner on Thursday, and woke to a crisp, blue-sky day on Friday for our venture into Tuckerman Ravine, the spring skiing capital of the northeast. We were on the trail by 8 and into the base of Tuckerman Ravine by 11, along with a steady stream of other adventurous souls. Although it's a lot of work for essentially one long run, its an experience not to be missed! And did I mention it is steep? Saturday, as the parking lots filled to capacity with spectators and participants for the Tuckerman Inferno pentathlon race, we made tracks for Sunday River, meeting up with George Morgan along the way. A cloudy, damp morning kept temperatures cool but spring-like, and by early afternoon the sun was out for some glorious spring skiing. By Sunday we were all feeling a little tired. Mel, Susan, and I worked up the energy to ski at Wildcat, where we put the cap on a fine ski season. Ed, who was nursing a sprained ankle, took the day off for an easy 10-mile jaunt over to the Mt Washington Auto Road and up to the 4000' level on Mt Washington before turning back and meeting us at Wildcat. Plans are already being made for a return next year, with the intent of skiing Hillmans Highway and the Lower Snowfields, which might allow for a higher ski to hike ratio than going all the way into the ravine!

Springtime Inferno—Capping off the Season in Wild Fashion

text & photos by M Fernandez

Stiles, Ed Sobelewski, Fernandez—made the White Mountains of New ski season in style. We



The Ravine Scene



The million dollar view from Wildcat

Biking (Continued from page 3)

Sunday, June 21 Bike Freedom Valley 2009

Sponsored by the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. Trail rides of 8, 22 and 44 miles or on shared roads for 35, 50 or 60 miles with mass start at 7:45 am.
Location: Boathouse Row, Philadelphia
Fee: \$35.00 includes t-shirt, mechanical support and food stops

Review: Well marked routes along the Schuylkill River valley between the Art Museum and Valley Forge For more information and to register online go to: bicyclecoalition.org/content/bike-freedom-valley-2009

Sunday, August 16 Covered Bridge Metric Century

Sponsored by the Lancaster Bicycle Club. Rides for all levels at 15, 31 and 62 miles through rural Lancaster County.
Location: Lancaster - see web site for directions to ride start and time
Fee: \$15 online through July 17, includes lunch, water stops, SAG wagons, cue sheets, road markings, ice cream.

Review: I did the 15 mile ride last year and enjoyed it very much, despite some hills. I made a weekend get-away out of it by driving to Lancaster on Saturday morning, visiting the historic Central Market for lunch, and several museums in the afternoon. I also stopped at two wineries for tastings. I overnighted at an inexpensive hotel 5 minutes from the ride starting area. If

any one is interested in this option, call me. Otherwise, the ride start is approximately 80 miles from downtown Philadelphia. For more information and to register online: lancasterbikeclub.org/cbm09.php

Sunday, August 30 Shoo-Fly Classic

Sponsored by the Berks County Bicycle Club; 20, 40 and 62 mile rides through the scenic Oley Valley.
Location: Oley Fairgrounds
Fee: \$15 early registration includes SAG support, lunch and homemade desserts (last year's price-details for this year not available at this time)
Review: A very pleasant 50 mile drive from downtown Philadelphia out Rt 422 and north through the rural and scenic Oley Valley. Last year's most spectacular site was a massive field of sunflowers, heads facing the sun - I thought I was in Provence! And, yes - there was Shoo-fly Pie for dessert. For more information: www.berksbicycle.com

In addition to the club and ride web sites listed above, here is a list of local bike clubs. All offer regular rides most days of the week, including rides suitable for beginners. Most do not require club membership to attend.

Philadelphia Bicycle Club: www.phillybikeclub.org
Delaware Valley Bicycle Club: www.dvbc.org
White Clay Bicycle Club (DE): www.whiteclaybicycleclub.org
South Jersey Wheelmen: www.sjwheelmen.org

Off-Season in Vermont

Summertime at the Woodbridge Lodge can be very relaxing—unlike getting up in the dark to hit the slopes when the lifts start running during ski season! Look for a roundup of summer activities accessible from the lodge in the June newsletter. If you would like an early season get away, consider this: the 6th annual Jamaica Fiber Festival on May 16.

Go to Jamaica (on Rte 100 north of the lodge) from 10 am to 4 pm to discover all things wonderful about fiber. Walk along Main Street from one end of the town to the other and explore the shops and see what's new in town as you discover handspun yarn, fiber arts, crafts, sheep, spinning, hear live music, and eat great food. Sponsored by the Jamaica Community Council and Margie's Muse. Proceeds benefit the Jamaica Town Hall maintenance fund.

As at other years' events, you can expect to see, hear, taste, feel, and smell:

- Sheep shearing demonstrations • Spinners making yarn from raw wool •
- Spinning angora straight from the rabbit • •Fiber artists needle felting • Felting demonstrations •
- Buy a raffle ticket to win the community weaving or other prizes • Watch border collies herd ducks! •
- Dance around the maypole! •

For more information visit www.JamaicaFiberFestival.org



News from Eastern PA Ski Council....

Announcing a great new benefit for National Ski Council Federation members. Personal Accident Insurance through Outdoor Recreation Insurance, a division of Security National. This is a perfect supplement for those of you who have medical coverage already, but may have exclusions for certain sporting activities like skiing. Even if your current medical policy doesn't exclude skiing activities, this policy will reimburse you for out-of-pocket expenses such as co-pays and deductibles. Those that don't have medical insurance can also get this insurance to cover them while on the slopes. A deductible does apply if you use this as your primary coverage. See the site for details: <http://skifederation.org/Members/Benefits/Other%20Benefits/ori.html>

You will be asked to enter a member id when you create an account after clicking on the "Buy ORI" link. Just enter your phone number. That will be your member id on their site going forward. It's that simple. There is also additional coverage for those who also participate in other mountain sporting activities and water sporting activities. You can buy each coverage separately or buy the combined coverage for \$150 per year. It is entirely your choice. Check it out today!

Winooski River Sojourn

Paddle and Pedal Through History

June 23 to 28, 2009

Please join the Friends of the Winooski River on the 2nd annual Winooski River Sojourn! The Winooski River Sojourn is a multi-day paddling and biking trip on the Winooski River, during which participants will learn about this great Vermont resource. Because 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in the region, many of the Sojourn events will focus on the unique history of the river basin. The Sojourn will begin in Marshfield and reach Lake Champlain six days later.

Paddlers may sign up for the entire trip, multiple days or just one day. All meals and camping are provided. For those who prefer to see the river from solid ground, there will be a small bicycling contingent.

You can help raise money to protect the Winooski River by inviting your friends and family to 'sponsor' you. For more information, see the Friends website www.winooskiriver.org or email fwr@sover.net.



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.

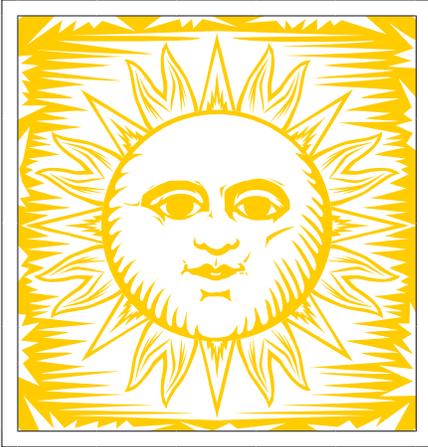
- Enclosed is my check for \$75. I understand that this key is due back **within 2 weeks after my planned trip** or my deposit check will be cashed. My check will also be cashed if key is lost in the mail.

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



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Paddle or Pedal Across Vermont!

Buck Ridge Ski Club

c/o M Fernandez

1118 Kings Hwy, Swedesboro, NJ 08085

