

# ★ North Penn *Ski Club* ★



## ★ Downhill Times ★ ★ Summer 2011 ★

### LOCAL EVENTS

- **All Summer:** Check within this letter for info on local outdoor concerts, movies, and ski resort summer activities ★
- **August 13:** Breakfast Social, 9am, O'Grady's, Souderton, pg 8
- **August 27:** Baltimore Inner Harbor day trip, see page 8
- **September 8:** First NPSC club meeting of the 2011/12 season
- **September 17:** Breakfast Social, 9am, see page 8 ★

## ★ Picnic - Saturday, July 16 ★

Starting at 12 Noon, the annual NPSC summer picnic will take place at Jenny Hutchison's home in Pennsburg, PA. Admission is just \$5/person (\$3 kids), and includes hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments, paper products, soda, and water. Jenny will have a turkey for sandwiches; everyone else is encouraged to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. BYOB - over 21 only.

If you haven't already, please let Jenny Hutchison know if you will be joining us this year, and what edibles you intend to bring. Non-member guests are welcome too (same prices).

Hope to see many of you on the 16th! (Especially if you haven't attended NPSC picnics before.) Come on out and experience it yourself — it's fun!

### DIRECTIONS:

(based on driving up from our Lansdale / Colmar meeting area)

- Route 309 N into Quakertown
- Turn LEFT on to Route 663W (go past NE Turnpike entrance)
- Turn LEFT on to Geryville Pike (second traffic light after turnpike)
- Turn LEFT on Old School Road
- Turn LEFT on Fennel Road, go around the bend, and Jenny's log cabin is on the left-hand side.

### ASIA DATES SET

Early Bird Clinic, December 3-4, at Belleayre, NY and Okemo, VT.  
 Fall Rally: Dec. 10-11, Belleayre NY  
 West Point, NY: Jan. 13-16, 2012  
 Sno Mountain, PA: Feb. 4-5, 2012  
 Bump Fest: Feb.11-12, Belleayre NY  
 Spring Rally: March 9-11, Okemo  
**More ASIA details on page 2**

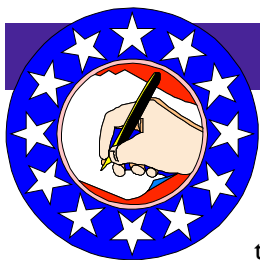
Jenny Hutchison  
(215) 541-1189

3225 Fennel Road,  
Pennsburg PA 18073

★ There's plenty of parking and shade trees, plus ★  
★ a huge garage if we have inclement weather. ★



**CHECK OUT OUR REVISED WEBSITE! [www.northpennskiclub.org](http://www.northpennskiclub.org)**



## President's Message

Sunday June 5th was a sad day in local ski news. At 5PM that day, Nestor's Sporting Goods closed their doors for the final time. The building will re-open sometime in the fall under the Buckman's moniker. I was at Nestor's that Saturday as a final farewell to the ski shop I loved. The inventory will change to standard Buckman's stock. A Sugarloaf gondola, a long-time feature of Nestor's Whitehall store, will transition to the new owners. It was unclear if the gondola will remain in Whitehall or find housing elsewhere. All the fixtures, racks, and counters were sold with the building, so the "new" store may look a lot like the old one.

Pete Nestor said that he will be "working" in Sun Valley next winter at a friend's ski shop in Ketchum, ID. His

son, Pete, will be getting his home ready for sale this summer, and then moving up to Vermont. In talking with the staff, many of them will be back in the fall working for the new owners.

"Most change – whether you realize it at the time or not – leads to something better" is a sign on my friend's cube wall. We need to look forward to the "something better".

In other news: So far it's been a busy spring and summer for me this year. I will be attending the second of two weddings in southern Maryland over the 4th of July weekend. After that, we have our annual ski club picnic on the 16th. I hope you plan on attending!

Before you know it, we will be into September and well on our way to another ski season.

*Suzanne*

## BIRTHDAYS!

Karl Kraus	July 2	Reinhardt Bets	August 5
Thomas Kramlik	July 6	Jenna Murphy	August 5
Calvin Litka	July 7	Eric Samuelson	August 13
Les Bucher	July 9	Tyler Joyek	August 14
Lauren Schoneker	July 10	Cindy Moore	August 17
Pat Gottshalk	July 13	Gail Shaffer	August 18
Nanci Light	July 15	Alan Werner	August 22
Denise Darrell	July 19	Jerry Hans	August 23
Jim Moore	July 22	JoAnne Landis	August 25
Nicholas Ronca	July 24	Hannah Kramlik	August 26
J. Michael Galli	July 26	Tom Chambers	August 27
Avis Hans	July 29	Ken Carsto	August 31



**ASIA Dates Set:** As listed on the front page of this letter, the Amateur Ski Instructors Association has set dates for their 2011/12 season's clinics and rally events. Take note there is only ONE clinic weekend at Sno Mountain this coming January, and the Early Bird clinic at Belleayre will no longer take place over Thanksgiving weekend. For clinic particulars and info on ASIA, visit [www.asiaski.org](http://www.asiaski.org)

### President

Suzanne Hartley  
267-735-4987

### Vice President

Larry Kirschner  
215-646-0266

### Secretary

Bette Stricker  
215-262-9450

### Treasurer

Jenny Hutchison  
215-541-1189

### Board Members

Ron Shaak  
215-679-0234

Chris Stricker  
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Diane Dunn  
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### New to the Board:

Lynn Rothman  
Bob Lorence

### Membership

Larry Kirschner  
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### Ways & Means

Tom Chambers  
215-822-0286

### ASIA teaching

Les Bucher  
610-287-8067

Scott Landis  
215-234-0358

### Web Master

OPEN POSITION  
needs a volunteer!

### Racing Rep

Jeff Moore  
215-361-1045

### EPSC Rep

Tom Chambers  
215-822-0286

### Disc. Lift Tix

Larry Kirschner  
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### Trip Committee

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Bruce Shaffer  
215-368-1462

### Newsletter Editor & Staff

JoAnne Landis  
215-234-0358

Gail Shaffer  
215-368-1462

## Ski Resort News ... and more!

★ **Windham Mountain:** is hosting a crazy event on August 13 & 14 called "Warrior Dash" – a 3.2 mile obstacle course through Windham Mountain's rugged terrain. The weekend features bands, turkey legs, and lots of mud and fun for everyone. The Dash includes leaping over fire, sliding down muddy slopes, traversing a gully on wooden planks, speed-stepping through hundreds of tires, scaling rope mesh walls, and so much more dangerous and silly stuff. Go for the weekend and be a spectator, then enjoy a concert Saturday night (see Belleayre below). Visit [www.warriordash.com](http://www.warriordash.com) for more info (click on New York).

### Belleayre Mountain:

Located in the NY Catskills, Belleayre's Music Festival celebrates 20 years of outdoor summer concerts. This season's festivities kick off July 3rd with a performance by k.d. lang, and continue throughout the summer with names like Clint Black, Creedance Clearwater Revisited, Mary Chapin Carpenter, and Bela Fleck & the Flecktones. With a line-up of concerts ranging from country and jazz to opera and Broadway, plus car shows and benefits, you might want to check out the Festival's website for a weekend getaway this summer! [www.belleayremusic.org](http://www.belleayremusic.org)



### Blue Mountain:

First, Bear Creek hosts the "Tough Mudder" event two years in a row, then Spring hosts its second "Spring Mountain Warrior" extreme athlete, survival-and-obstacle course on August 14. Now Blue is following suit with a "Spartan Race" on Saturday, September 10th.



Featuring a 4-mile hilly course, the fastest time is estimated around 40 minutes, and longest times close to 2 hours. A chip-timed event, heats start at 9am with up to 250 racers per heat and continuing every 30 minutes throughout the day. All racers receive a finishers medal, T-shirt, one free beer, bragging rights, free mud, high pressure water to the gut, roasted shoelaces, scrapes and bruises, and awesome stories to tell. Not listed are the possible heart attack, broken bone, and psychiatric evaluation afterwards (just kidding). For more info on the Spartan Race, visit [www.skiblue.com](http://www.skiblue.com) and look under the Special Events tab. For info on Spring's warrior contest, go to [www.springmountainadventures.com](http://www.springmountainadventures.com)

### ★ Champagne Brunch

If you're in the Jack Frost / Big Boulder area any Sunday this summer, you may want to check out the Boulder View Tavern for their Champagne Brunch. 9am to 2pm, \$10 Adults, \$7 Children 12 & under. Their Sunday brunch is all you can eat, fresh strawberries, fruit salad, vanilla yogurt with granola, omelette station, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, fresh salads, fresh baked Danish, funnel cake, and more. Formerly the Blue Heron Restaurant, BVT is on South Lake Drive, Lake Harmony, just down the road from Big Boulder. BVT offers Monday-Friday main dining 3pm-close, and an outside bar and patio open every day at noon (weather permitting).



**Season Passes:** to Jack Frost & Big Boulder go on sale as early as August 1st. Save big bucks compared to prices charged after November 1st!

<http://jfb.com/plan/season-passes>

★ **Blue Mountain:** will host the Pennsylvania Blues Festival on Saturday & Sunday, July 30-31 which features national and international Blues recording artists performing contemporary and traditional acoustic and electric blues. (Two days and two stages!) Also, dozens of eclectic vendors from all over the country, plenty of food and beverages, on-site camping, and scenic chair lift rides.



Special feature: Friday night pre-Fest jam hosted by Studebaker John & The Hawks and a Saturday night jam by Baltimore's Big Daddy Stallings. Jams located in the Adventure Center, each Jam costs \$5 at the door; food & drinks available for purchase.

Blue Mountain is offering basic on-site camping, for those who like to sleep under the stars. All are welcome: Rv's, pop-up's, trailers and tents! Set-up your campsite as early as Friday, July 29th at 12PM and leave as late as Monday, August 1st at 12PM. Purchase advance tickets to get the best deal; Festival and Camping Combo tickets are available at the door.

★ [www.skiblue.com/SkiBlue/info/special-events/pabluesfest.aspx](http://www.skiblue.com/SkiBlue/info/special-events/pabluesfest.aspx)

## Member News & Travel Stories

### The Mighty Mississippi:

**Golfing for the Elks:** Three of the 4 “L’s” gathered in early June at Macoby Run for the Elks’ annual golf outing. Lori, Les B, and Larry scattered golf balls around the course, making sure that other golfers would have plenty of balls to find in the woods. Throughout the course, the Elks had volunteers who took friendly wagers, such as closest to the pin, longest drive, and so on. I believe that one or more of us actually received some money back, but, generally, our wagers were really donations to the lodge and the good work they do.

After the outing on a beautiful warm day, we retired to the lodge for a buffet dinner, drinks, and loads of door prizes. Many of the players are Coca Cola employees, so there was no shortage of shirts, cases of soda, and other Coke items. It always seems like the Coke employees, who brought the door prizes, were the ones who won their own items (how many cases of Red Bull can you have?).

In the end, the 3 L’s were far from the top of the leader board, but it was a fun day for a good cause, and there were plenty of smiles to go around. The 4th L should be available to play again next year, and anyone else who is interested should let Pete know for future events. — **Larry Kirschner**

Helen and I recently went to Minneapolis for a cousin’s wedding. The festivities were held along the Mississippi River in St. Paul. While the rain forced the ceremony inside, the clouds eventually disappeared and for the rest of the reception we were able to hang out along the banks of the river. And what a river it is!

Every time we drove across the river, I was in awe of its width, power, and place in the folklore of America. For the over a thousand miles, the mighty Mississippi flows through the heart of the country, impacting millions of lives in its journey. So many poems, songs, and stories have been written about this treasure, and it’s easy to see why. Its many tributaries are everywhere in parks, lakes, and streams, and the river is really the life blood of those who live near it.

When the recent flooding occurred in Missouri and other states, it was a clear reminder of the power of water. It can be diverted, but it really can’t be stopped. As humans, we try to harness water’s power, but sometimes there is just so much that it overwhelms even the best of plans. On a calm day the river seems to just meander from the North on its way to New Orleans – but, as we know, when the snows melt and the rains fall, the river can take anything in its path and do just about whatever it wants.

I was looking around for Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn every time we crossed the river....I suspect they are both still hanging around somewhere near, always pulled in by the lore of the mighty Mississippi! — **Larry Kirschner**

**All Grown Up:** Barb Landis didn’t make either club bike ride this summer. For May’s ride, her younger son’s prom was that Friday night and then she took him to the shore for the weekend. The weekend of June’s ride was Ryan’s high school graduation. If you went on NPSC’s Winter Park, CO trip in 2004, you may remember Ryan as the cereal-box-stacking boy at breakfast! Wow, he’s all grown up...and some of us are feeling old!



### Memorial Day Skiing —

We added ski days 53 and 54, May 25 and May 29, at A-Basin. On Wednesday, May 25, the snow report said 3” of new powder and 77 trails open.



We drove over Loveland Pass on slippery roads. On Sunday, May 29, it was sunny and “only” 70 trails open. Closing day forecast was to be July 4.

— **Tom and Jane Chambers**

## More Ski Related News!



**Broken Records:** Snowbird Resort, UT hit a 40-year, all-time record for single season snowfall, reaching the 690" mark thanks to a spring storm that brought two feet to Little Cottonwood Canyon in late April. Snowbird's previous single season official record was 688 inches, set in the 1983-84 season. Celebrating with skiing until July 4, this is Snowbird's 4th consecutive season to top 600" mid-mountain. The latest previous closing dates in Little Cottonwood Canyon resort's history was also July 4 (in 1995 & 2005).

As a comparison, 690 inches, or 57.5 feet, measures nearly the height of each sculpture face at the Mount Rushmore National Monument, more than a third of the height of the Statue of Liberty, and easily tops Utah's Delicate Arch in Arches National Park.

**Folks Still Skiing:** In California, Sugar Bowl re-opened for the July 4 holiday on the Disney lift for 2010-11 and 2011-12 season passholders. Squaw Valley also opened for the 4th of July weekend. Lake Tahoe operated five lifts from 8AM to 2PM on Saturday, July 2 through Monday, July 4, for \$49 per day for adults, \$12 for kids (free for 2011-12 Squaw Valley season passholders). Alpine Meadows, Mammoth Mountain, and Kirkwood were all open for the Independence holiday. Plus, there are North American ski resorts that traditionally stay open during the summer. In Oregon, Timberline's summer season began on May 31, with lifts operating from 8AM to 2PM, and British Columbia's Blackcomb is again offering summer skiing on the Blackcomb glacier.

**Counting the Days:** Utah's total skier days for the 2010/11 season comes in at about 4.2 million, up close to 4% from the 2009-10 season. Eight of Utah's top 10 years for skier visits occurred in the nine winters since the 2002 Winter Olympic Games were held there. Utah has seen a 41% increase in skier day visits since hosting the Winter Games according to SkiUtah, the state's industry trade organization, which also stated that the Utah ski industry contributes over \$1 billion dollars to Utah's economy each year.

**Skiing on the 4th of July!** When I started working on this newsletter, I thought the Chambers's skiing on Memorial Day weekend was pretty cool. Look who's been upstaged by their own kin!



Arapahoe Basin (A-Basin), Colorado was open on July 4 with an 18" base and high temps of 62 degrees. As seen in the photos here, A-Basin also hosted crowds of extended-season skiers, including our own Pam Jansen (Tom & Jane's daughter).



"Don't you have a tee time or somewhere else to be right now?"



As emailed to friends by Pat Gottshalk, "No matter what you're doing today, my kid has the best plan. Happy 4th of July!"

(pictured at left, Kate Gottshalk, skiing at Snowbird, no doubt)



# April's Spring Fling Banquet

*awards, election results, and more!*

**Special thanks** go out to all the folks who helped coordinate and decorate this year's banquet, to Pete Ryan, our ever-smiling bartender; and to the many current and past Board members and Officers of North Penn Ski Club for all your hard work and volunteering of your time to make this club what it is today.

If you missed the dinner and banquet in April, shame on you! The evening started off with socializing, and appetizers supplied by club members. Then over 38 members enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner with everything from salad to dessert. Elections were held, announcements made, and then awards were presented. Some deserving folks received recognition for their hard work, and there were some good stories from this past season's trips! Here's a summary of the awards and events from that evening:



**President's Award:**  
to former president, Larry Kirschner  
*(for tremendous help to the current Prez all year)*



*Larry for Life*  
the eternal presidential campaign

**Hall of Fame Award:**  
Frank Prindle  
*(for tremendous support of NPSC trips & activities for many years)*

**Waterville Valley, NH, trip awards:**  
Ron Shaak – “didn't ski much flu sufferer”  
(map of all the public restrooms)  
Karen Lorence – “super packer” (was packed and ready to go with less than 24 hours notice!)

**Win-it-all Award:** Frank Prindle  
*(seems there should have been an award for “winning it all” – Frank won the 50/50 raffle, the Elk \$50 back, and three awards!)*

**Win \$50 back!**  
Members who signed up for **February's Elk trip** and paid in full more than a week in advance were eligible to win \$50 back. At April's banquet, **Frank Prindle** was randomly drawn as our winner from nine eligible participants. Congratulations!



**Purple Skis:**  
*(awarded unfortunately, for injuries sustained during the ski season)*  
Presented by Larry, to Chris Stricker, who missed the entire season due to back problems, and JoAnne & Scotty Landis for multi-season knee ailments.

**Banff, Canada, trip awards:**  
Roberta Alvin – “hand warmer confusion” (2 hands, 2 packets!)  
Judy Gordon – “no cell coverage / lost again” (tin cans w/ string)  
Jenny Hutchison – skied her favorite trail so many times, it's name is changed to “Jenny's half-pipe” (original name: Bye Bye)  
Frank Prindle – “how do you get out of Sunshine's Rock Garden?” (map with lots of arrows)

**continued on next page**



## Summer Concerts

**Music Under The Stars:** A Free Community Concert Series at Bear Creek Mountain from 7-10pm every 4th Thursday throughout the summer! Bear Creek's newly landscaped Rock Garden features fantastic scenic views and an amazing outdoor atmosphere. The perfect spot to enjoy a great meal and listen to music under the stars! The Grille will be open for dinner, and outdoor beverage service will be available. Picnicking is welcome. No outside alcoholic beverages please. These events are free to the public, so come out to Bear Creek and enjoy a perfect summer night! Don't forget a picnic blanket or lawn chairs! Live Music:

July 28 - The Electric Farm, August 25 - The Youngers  
September 22 - Trouble City All-Stars

If you're near the city on a Thursday night, check out the **Summer in the Park Concert Series** at Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd, Chesterbrook (Tredyffrin Twp). Concerts at 7pm.

July 7 - Philly Big Band, July 14 - The Mango Men,  
July 21 - Cool Beans Music, July 28 - Flower Power

Or, visit the **Ampitheater in Green Lane Park** for a variety of events. Hang out on the lawn and enjoy: July 16, 7:30pm - Cool Beans (kids concert) & Yogi Bear movie; July 29, 7pm - Umbhauer Blue Grass concert, August 13, 7pm - magician (kids night) & Tangled movie. August 21, 7pm - Steve Barbone Jazz Band Tree (Celtic music) concert, September 17, 1pm - Jack Hubley / Baywing Falconry Raptor program.

**Something's Fishy!** We're headed to Baltimore's Inner Harbor and National Aquarium Saturday, August 27th. The Aquarium features shark tanks, an Atlantic Coral Reef, dolphins, a tropical rain forest plus thousands of fish. If you've never toured the surrounding inner harbor area you're in for a treat. The trip is \$70 w/ aquarium admission and \$41 without. The motorcoach leaves Hagey's Franconia terminal at 6:50 AM, or Montgomery Mall at 7:15. We arrive at our destination at 10:45am.



For those with aquarium admission, tours start at 11am. Take an unforgettable journey into the mysteries and beauty of water. ([see the April newsletter for complete tour details.](#))

After the initial entrance to the Aquarium, visits are self-guided, and you can spend as much time as you like exploring. Also browse through the many shops, eating places and galleries at the Inner Harbor. Nearby are the U.S.S. Constellation; the Baltimore Maritime Museum, the submarine Torsk and the Chesapeake, a 1930 floating lighthouse. In addition, visit the Top-of-the-World Trade Center, the Maryland Science Center, or take a boat cruise around the Inner Harbor area. At 5PM we board the motorcoach, arriving home about 8:30-9PM.

Contact Suzanne Hartley at [skicrazysjh@gmail.com](mailto:skicrazysjh@gmail.com) or 267-735-4987 ASAP to sign up for this trip!

## Spring Fling Banquet

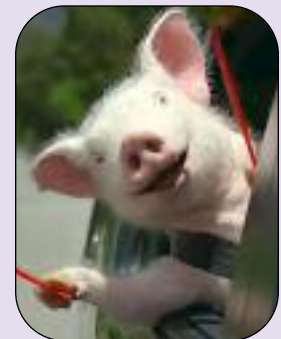
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*Frank earns yet another "Hall of Fame" award!*

### **Snow Pig "Hall of Fame"**

**award:** Frank Prindle  
*(For participating in EVERY club trip this winter, and so many other winters in a row. Frank joins the likes of other HOF recipients: Ron Shaak, Betty Jane Moyer, Scotty Landis, and Tom & Jane Chambers*



### **Elk Mountain trip award:**

Jenny Hutchison - "Wheeee!"  
*(Jenny learned some new skiing sound effects from JoAnne that day!)*

# Graphic Design

JoAnne Landis

(215) 234-0358 • joscott49@verizon.net

brochures • logos • flyers • newsletters • magazine ads

Have a creative pro design your promo materials!  
Samples, resumé, and references are available.

## Continue to heal!

Well wishes go out to Mike Weiss, who underwent Achilles tendon surgery mid-March. He spent a couple months in a cast, continues physical therapy as part of his recovery, and is getting around ok now. Mike has also returned to Canada on a permanent basis to pursue new employment. We wish Mike continued success in his recovery and business ventures, and hope to ski him on the slopes next season!



**Summer Bike Rides:** Are always a fun time! We ride somewhere, have lunch, and ride back. In May, we rode 32 miles round trip from Betzwood Bridge to the Manayunk Diner. In June, we rode the Perkiomen Trail from Spring Mountain to Green Lane Park. Each day was perfect for biking – somewhat sunny, warm, and the trail we rode offered plenty of shade. Turn-outs were a little small, but everyone had a great time!

**Bike Safety:** Each year, there are about 900 bicycle-related deaths in the US, and another 500,000 injuries treated in the nation's emergency rooms. Studies show wearing a bike helmet can reduce head injuries by up to 85%. Not all bicycle-related injuries and deaths can be addressed by safety equipment use alone. Rider actions and reactions, especially obeying traffic laws, play a major role in injury-free bicycling enjoyment.



- See and be seen – wear bright colors, reflective stripes, and avoid biking at night.
- Stay alert – keep a lookout for obstacles in your path.
- Go with the flow – ride WITH traffic. Be aware of traffic around you (such as intersections & driveways)
- Assure bike readiness – check that your bike and brakes are properly adjusted before riding. Make sure "quick release" wheels are securely fastened.

(8)

# Steamboat.

## 2012 Winter Carnival

January 21 - 28, 2012

A detailed look at what is included in NPSC's version of this winter's week-long EPSC Winter Carnival:

- Airfare from Philadelphia to Hayden
- Lodging at The Ranch, 2 or 3-BR condos (4-6 people each)
- Lift Tickets (5-out-of-7 day pass)
- Arrival night welcome party w/light fare, 8-11pm.
- Orientation buffet breakfast first morning
- Apres-ski party and/or drink specials
- Free race gate practice runs – Tuesday
- Carnival race – NASTAR – Wednesday
- On Mountain BBQ and On-mountain fun event (scavenger hunt, poker run, etc.)
- Discounts on ski/board rentals & storage
- Pass holder Privileges – 10% off food all over mountain all week! Special après food & drink pricing at Bear River
- Champagne Powder Room theme banquet at top of Gondola! Music & dancing.
- Cash Bar for welcome reception and farewell banquet
- Thursday – apres-ski exclusively for EPSC
- Farewell Dessert Buffet with awards, 7:30-9:30pm, Friday
- All current Taxes & Gratuities

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Free Mountain Tours on first day offered to intermediate and above skiers only • Guided half-day and full-day snowshoe tours with gourmet lunch • Nightly tubing via chairlift • Sleigh ride dinners: Horse-drawn sleigh ride to cozy log cabin for dinner, country music, and dancing • Snowmobiling Continental Divide or scenic ride thru National Forest and Elk River Valley • Health/Recreation Center: mineral pools, olympic-size lap pool, kid's pool, fitness center • Hot Springs by fantastic scenery. Includes transportation to and from the natural hot springs.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE:

Snowmobiling, horseback rides, ice skating, dog sledding, cross country skiing, hot air ballooning.

Steamboat boasts the most easily accessed resort in North America with visitors flying from Philadelphia directly into a newly expanded and convenient Steamboat/Hayden airport only 22 miles away from downtown!

**Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss this trip!! We have 16 signed up already, with a limit of 30. Act now!**

**Contact:** Jenny Hutchison, 215-541-1189,  
jennyhutch@comcast.net

**Cost:** TBD (estimated \$1450/person)  
\$100 deposit at sign up

## More Member News



### Leave the driving to Bruce:

As part of Hagey Coach & Tours' year-long 75th anniversary celebration, monthly e-newsletters are sent

out informing recipients of upcoming events and featuring a bio of one of their "key players". June's message included a bio of our very own past president, Bruce Shaffer:

"I started as a part-time driver in 1976. And yes I am still driving and enjoying each year! Back in the day buses had manual transmissions and double clutching was the order of the day. Now we have 45 ft coaches, push button automatic transmission, climate control, WiFi and DVD players. What a change.

I started driving part time when I was an Engineer at Leeds and Northrup, and later worked at RCA. I retired in 2005 and became a full time, part-time driver for Hagey Coach. Over the years, I have mixed full and part-time work at a comfortable level. I worked weekends and sometimes took vacation time to do my part-time coach driving. My longest trip, in 1980, was a nineteen day trip to Ten Sleep, WY., a Girl Scout adventure camp. I have also enjoyed doing many trips over the years for the North Penn High School band and chorus. I have driven many day trips and multi-day tours all over the US and Canada and still enjoy the day out!

My favorite destination is the Chesapeake Bay area. I have lots of great memories and have met lots of people. I cannot say enough good things about the Hagey organization; they are wonderful to work with and have made my "other career" wonderful.

I am happily married to my wife Gail for 44 years, we have two girls, Jennifer and Rebecca. Both girls are married and have given us the gift of three grandchildren, Abigail, Elias and Declan. Also I enjoy sailing, biking, skiing and camping with the family and friends, and have a commercial pilot certificate."



★ **Congratulations!**  
★ Our best wishes go out to Laura Russ and Jeff Miller on their recent engagement!



☆ **Get Well Wishes:** On June 1, fellow club member Tom Francis suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, otherwise known as Stroke. He had been out in the heat riding his bicycle that evening and came back feeling unwell. The following morning, he was not able to speak and was taken to the hospital. After some initial transfers, tests, and time spent in neuro-critical care, Tom spent a few days in rehab. His neuro-critical doctor summed it up: "he is doing dramatically well". Due to his physical fitness, Tom has so far surpassed all expectations in his recovery. His physical fitness is helping his recovery, but Tom will be doing some outpatient rehab for occupational-speech therapy for awhile. Get well cards and prayers on Tom & Kathy's behalf are welcomed! Their mailing address is 113 E Hancock Rd., North Wales, PA 19454. We will keep you posted on Tom's recovery as the info is provided to us.

### Award-Winning Artist:

Our very own Lori Yamashita – former engineer turned ski instructor – recently added "artist" to her professional credentials. "Yama" entered



her very first art show (hosted at the Harleysville Senior Center) and was awarded a \$50 prize for her efforts!

### Breakfast Socials

Just as the name implies – a gang of us meets somewhere for breakfast and socializes for about two hours. It's fun, and we eat at a different spot each month. It's an easy off-season activity that requires absolutely no skill or athletic ability! Our next Socials are scheduled for **9AM Saturday, August 13, at O'Gradys Restaurant**, Broad Street/Route 113, Souderton, and **September 17, at West Main Diner**, on Main Street (downtown) Lansdale.



If you're planning to attend either of these breakfasts, please contact JoAnne Landis so we know who and how many to expect. As always, walk-ins are welcome! (215) 234-0358 or joscott49@verizon.net

## Spring Mountain to have its own "Hotel"



Rick and Gayle Buckman, owners of Spring Mountain Ski Area, have purchased the Woodside Inn located across from the south side of

among several that catered to that period's travelers who came by train to Schwenksville to escape Philadelphia's summer heat. Empty for more than two years and ransacked to steal all of the copper piping, the weather and time have left their mark.



Spring Mountain. "Our intention is to preserve this historically significant structure while complimenting our existing business at Spring Mountain Ski Area, just over the mountain," said Rick Buckman.

"We never planned on owning an inn, but then we never planned to own a ski area either," Buckman said. "But such an adventure it is to bring a part of a community's history back to life."

In 1999, they heard that the old Spring Mountain Ski Area was going to be purchased by a developer and that the buildings, ski lifts, and runs would be razed for housing. So they entered into a three-way public/private partnership with Upper Salford and Montgomery County to save the surrounding 180 acres and operate the ski area.

The Buckmans' vision is to restore the Woodside by providing overnight lodging and breakfast for guests. There will be a pub that is open to the public and a banquet room that holds 100 people for meetings and special events. The Woodside's second floor will be renovated to include nine two-room suites and a bunkroom that sleeps eight.

Once the renovation is complete, the Buckmans hope the Woodside Lodge at Spring Mountain, which is what they plan to call it, will complement their existing ski area which also offers summer activities including Zip-line tours, GeoCaching and downhill bike trails. "It's a good tie-in to our existing business. It will be a place for business meetings and special events," Rick Buckman said. "There will be a full caterer's kitchen, and we hope to provide breakfast for our overnight guests."

Their newest venture, the Woodside Inn, was built in 1925 and is the last standing Inn

Gorski Engineering of Collegeville has been hired to do the \$1.5 million design and build. The Buckmans plan to be open for business this winter.

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## ★ North Penn Ski Club ★

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