

Downhill Times

end of
summer
2019

Newsletter Reincarnated!

A lot of changes have taken place within our club over the past few years, and MANY of the changes have been good ones. New activities are continually being introduced, a variety of fresh volunteers have stepped up to help run the club and our events, and members are kept up to date with several digital / online options (email blasts, website, and Facebook).

However, it seems there may be something from our past that should be brought back into play – a club newsletter! Granted, with regular email blasts announcing each of our club's events, a monthly letter like we had years ago isn't necessary. But the idea of having an issue come out on a quarterly basis sounded good. Each issue will feature info on not only club activities and trips, but also ski resort news, sporting goods sales, lift ticket discounts, member news / anniversaries / special occasions, and whatever else of interest we can find.

Granted, this issue probably should have come out in July in order to be called "summer", but in another month or so the "fall" issue will come out and we'll be right on track from there on. So welcome to the first newsletter of the 2019 / 2020 ski season. Happy Reading!!

— JoAnne Landis, former President and happily, Newsletter Editor again :)

September 12 Meeting:

We meet at **7PM** at the **Red Cedar Grille**, located on Route 309 in Colmar PA. Join your skiing friends for dinner, or drinks, or beers and appetizers, or coffee and dessert – whatever floats your boat. "Business" portion of the meeting starts around 7:30pm. See you all on **Thursday, September 12th!**

If you haven't come out to our new venue yet, what are you waiting for?

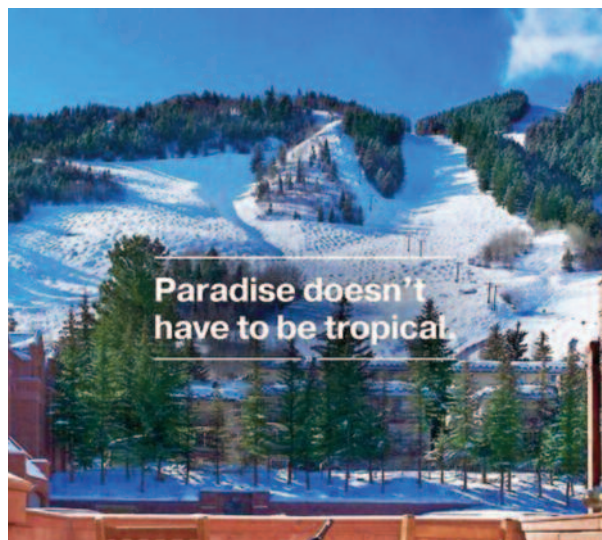


MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Did you renew your membership during the summer? If so, you'll be receiving \$5 club cash that's good as payment toward any club trip this winter. (In case you weren't paying attention, we use a Fiscal Year now, so memberships run from July 1 thru June 30 each year.)

Your opportunity to receive club cash has passed, but membership renewals will still be accepted. Membership forms are available to download off our website, at general meetings, or for your convenience, one is included within this letter. Simply print it, fill it out, and mail in with your check to the address provided on the form. OR, bring the completed form and payment to a general meeting.

It's that simple!



North Penn *Ski Club*

2019 / 2020 Officers & Board Members

At the end-of-season party in April, a new (or maybe just revised) set of officers were elected for the 2019/20 season.

President	Jenny Hutchison
Vice President	Linda Dedman
Secretary	John DelPizzo
Treasurer	Bruce Schwartz
Membership	Linda Dedman
Web Master	Kristie Bruno
Trip Committee	Elysha Thompson
Board Member	Dave Schoneker
Newsletter Editor	JoAnne Landis



Yay, ski season will soon be here!



Mount Snow & Stratton, Vermont

Our friends at Upper Bucks Ski Club are coordinating a drive-up package for a trip to Vermont, January 26-29. Staying at the ski in/ski out Grand Summit at Mt. Snow, you'll ski 2 days there and one day at Stratton. Included are breakfasts and a Sunday night pizza party. Full details / sign-up information about this trip can be found on the UBSC website: www.upperbucksskiclub.com

Take note: Now that Mount Snow is potentially a "Vail property", the reasonable prices for this trip will probably never happen again. So get your sign-up deposits in quickly before this trip sells out!



NPSC Off-Season Events

Over the summer and fall we typically schedule at least one activity each month, attempting to keep those club friendships going strong all year long. Some of the activities went over well, such as the happy hour at the Pourhouse in Montgomeryville in May. Others, not so much (Baltimore Harbor one-day bus trip in August). But we keep throwing out different ideas till we find a few that stick!

In June there was a bike ride on paved trails starting in Conshohocken, attended by a handful of club members. The kayak trip in July had to be cancelled because of tremendous heat and humidity! However, Upper Bucks Ski Club hosted a kayak trip in early August that went well and enjoyed beautiful weather.

Don't think that all of our off-season events are past tense! Here are quite a few more taking place before the snow flies:

Sept 14: Annual picnic at Nockamixon pavilion #1 w/ Upper Bucks. Bring a bike, kayak, paddle board or walking shoes and enjoy an afternoon of fun, activity and food! Bring a side dish; picnic runs 11am - 5pm.

Sept 28: North Wales community day, need 2 or 3 members to help man the NPSC table mid afternoon!

October 10: General meeting at Freddy Hill Farms — complete with miniature golf and ice cream!

October 13: Easy hike, Wissahickon Park, 10am, meet at the "Treehouse". (More details via email blasts.)

October 18: Another Friday evening happy hour, Pourhouse, Route 309, Montgomeryville PA, 4-7pm

Nov. 14: General meeting at the Red Cedar Grille, 7pm

Dec. 12: General meeting and annual Holiday Gift Exchange Game at the Red Cedar Grille, 7pm



At our "Painting with a Twist" party in May, we did a scene called "Winter". Everybody had their own adaptation, and had fun doing it!

DON'T MISS OUT! Get these dates on your calendar!

NPSC shirts!



There are still a couple shirts available for purchase at September's meeting; however, we are taking orders to have another batch made up. Choose from short-sleeve and long-sleeve T's, zip-up hooded sweatshirts, and polo shirts in a variety of colors. Also choose from silk-screen imprint or embroidered logo. Prices and ordering details will be explained at the September 12 meeting. Bring money and order some for yourself (or as gifts)!

Already have an NPSC shirt? Wear it to the meeting!

SKI CLUB DISCOUNTS:

BEAR CREEK Mountain Resort (Macungie PA) is offering \$25 lift tickets to all ski club members on any non-holiday Monday thru Thursday during the 2019/20 season, ALL season long! That's \$25 to ski any time from open to close -- so take off on a Tuesday morning and ski till it's time to go home for dinner. Or on a stressful Monday, quit work a little early and ski the late afternoon and night. You **MUST** show a valid club membership card to get the discounted ticket! www.bcmr.com

WATERVILLE VALLEY (New Hampshire) has a discounted weekend each month of the ski season. Tickets for each of these Saturdays / Sundays are just \$45; in December it's just \$35 per person, per day!

December 7/8, 2019

January 11/12, February 8/9, March 14/15, 2020

You **MUST** show a valid club membership card and ID to get the discounted tickets (most likely for each person, so be sure to get NPSC cards for the kids too)! Discounted tix can be purchased at any ticket window on these dates only. waterville.com



"Council Kickoff" event at Montage!

Sunday, October 5 • 11am - 4pm

EPSC has come up with a totally NEW event for the fall – instead of their traditional weeknight dinner banquet, there will be a full-blown event to kickoff the upcoming ski season! Complete with a luncheon, tour of all that's new at Montage, round table discussions on 3 trending ski club topics, raffles, door prizes, and a "surprise" to end the day.

ALL club members are welcome to attend — this is not just a board member thing! The cost is just \$25 per person (the lowest price for an EPSC event in years!), and the day promises to be quite the fun, educational, and interesting event.

Full details and event registration can be found on Council's website: www.easternPAaskicouncil.org

Take note: You must pre-register for this event by Sept 20 so a head count can be made for the luncheon and discussions.

Club Comings and Goings

Sadly, it was announced this summer that BUCKS COUNTY ski club may cease to exist as of the end of this calendar year. Many BCSC members are elderly and have retired from skiing, and the club has struggled for quite some time to keep an active membership. If it happens, it will be sad to see them go!

However, as of this fall, two other clubs are joining the Eastern PA Ski Council network – they've each been around for a while, but are new to EPSC. These clubs are BIG POCONO and DELVAL (Pennsauken NJ). Welcome to the EPSC family!

Fall Festival at Elk Mountain

October 12 & 13; 10am - 5pm

Elk Mountain is celebrating their 60th year with a Fall Festival that includes arts & crafts exhibits, festive food and drink, scenic chair lift rides, a mountain bike ride, hay rides, and live music. Both the Winter Garden Lounge and the Elk Mountain Ski Shop will also be open those days. The event will be held rain or shine — for more details, visit their website: elkskier.com



Ski Resort News

“Base-to-Base” Gondola Approved

In July, the Placer County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the “Base-to-Base” Gondola from Squaw Valley to Alpine Meadows, CA with a mid-station in the White Wolf property/mini ski resort in North Lake Tahoe, California.

The “Base-to-Base” Gondola will be called the California Express Gondola, and will go from near the base of KT-22 at Squaw Valley to White Wolf (mid-station) then to the base area of Alpine Meadows.

It will be an 8-passenger gondola with a design capacity of approximately 1,400 people/hour in both directions. In total, the gondola will be about 13,000 feet in length. There will be two base terminals and two mid-station terminals, connected by approximately 37 lift towers. It will take approx 13-16 minutes to take the gondola from one base terminal to the other. The timeline for the California Express Gondola is currently unknown.



You Probably Already Heard About This ...

Vail set to acquire 17 Peak Resort ski areas

Vail Resorts, already the largest player in the North American ski industry, intends to expand its portfolio by 17 ski areas with the acquisition of **Peak Resorts** for approximately \$264 million. Peak Resorts' portfolio is primarily comprised of small- and medium-sized ski areas located within 100 miles of major cities, including New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Cleveland. If the purchase is approved, each of the ski areas will be added to the Vail's Epic pass for the 2019-2020 season.

Not including Peak Resorts, Vail owns 17 ski areas, including 14 in mountain areas and three of what it calls urban resorts, located respectively near Detroit, Chicago and Minneapolis. With Peak Resorts, Vail's Epic Pass will offer either unlimited or limited access next season to 79 ski areas around the world.

The 17 Peak resorts include Mount Snow VT; Hunter Mountain NY; Attitash, Wildcat Mountain and Crotched Mountain in New Hampshire; Liberty, Roundtop, Whitetail, Jack Frost and Big Boulder in Pennsylvania; Hidden Valley and Snow Creek in Missouri; and Paoli Peaks in Indiana.

Vail Resorts will honor and continue to sell all Peak Pass products for the upcoming season and give pass holders the option to upgrade to an Epic Pass or Epic Local Pass, currently retailing at \$939 and \$699 respectively. As with other resort acquisitions in the past, Vail will invest significant capital in the Peak Resorts to upgrade the guest experience, setting aside approximately \$15 million in one-time spending over the next two years. *(However, there is a law suit pending in an attempt to block the acquisition. The plot thickens!)*



Major Capital Improvements

Chet's Dream, a new high-speed quad at **Love-land, CO** (the ski area's first!), replaces the old Lift 1.

A heated, 8-seat chairlift with bubbles replaces the Ramcharger at **Big Sky, MT**. Additionally, the Shedhorn lift was upgraded to a high-speed quad.

Bretton Woods, NH now has a new eight-person, base-to-summit gondola that operates year round.

At **Copper Mountain, CO**, a high-speed lift with 6-person chairs and 8-person gondolas replaces the American Eagle lift. A high-speed six-pack with bubbles replaces the American Flyer lift.

A six-pack bubble chair made its debut at the Snowdon Mountain Peak at **Killington, VT**. Somewhere we also read that Killington is spending MILLIONS to replace a base lodge (at Snowshed?). Sorry, can't remember!

And, **Winter Park, CO** has replaced the Zephyr Express with a 10-person high-speed gondola.

Interesting ...

In California (where else?), the **Squaw Alpine** resort has switched its trail maps over to “stone paper”, a sturdy paper-like product made from calcium carbonate and polyethylene. This supposedly will save 170 trees and 136,000 gallons of water, and renders the maps reusable year after year.

UTAH 2020!

Winter Carnival trip, February 8-15, 2020

There are still spots open on the trip, but don't wait too long to reserve your seat as it is filling up quickly! This trip includes lodging, transportation, several lift ticket options, a welcome reception, free NASTAR race, on mountain BBQ lunch at Sundance Resort, and a costume party banquet dinner with music and awards. You'll have the opportunity to ski Park City, Deer Valley, and Sundance mountains, as well as enjoy a variety of off-mountain activities (non skiers welcome too!). Full pricing, travel and lodging information is available on our website: www.northpennskiclub.org



Elysha Thompson is coordinating this trip, and will be available at the September meeting on the 12th to answer questions, accept deposits, handle paperwork, etc. **SIGN UP NOW!**

MORE SKI CLUB DISCOUNTS:

MAGIC MOUNTAIN (VT) is now offering ski clubs discounted weekends! Be sure to have your membership card (with EPSC sticker on the back) and ID in order to purchase these tickets. Also note that Thursdays at Magic Mountain are always \$29 (except holidays).

December 13,14,15,20,21,22: \$39

January 3,4,5,24,25: \$47 February 21,22: \$49

March 13, 14,15: \$49

STRATTON (VT) also has discounts available to ski club / council members this winter – details will be provided soon on the NPSC website as well as in future newsletters.

Elk Mountain One-day Bus Adventures

So far, we have 2 one-day trips to Elk Mountain planned for this winter — Wednesday, January 15, 2020 and Sunday, March 8, 2020. (We may have one in February also, but are still wrangling with a good date that doesn't conflict with other trips and the Presidents' Day holiday.)

These one-day trips are very popular, and for good reason. You get to ride to and from Elk via Hagey Tours motor coach, enjoy OJ and snacks on the bus, socialize (or take a nap) on the bus, and ski all day at a mountain that rarely gets crowded.

The cost for our mid-week trip in January is \$80 /person, and the cost for March's Sunday trip is \$88 /person. Each trip includes transportation, driver tip, snacks on the bus, and a lift ticket good from 9am - 4:30pm. (you can use your club cash toward payment on either trip.)

Contact: JoAnne Landis joskier57@gmail.com

Signups and payment in advance are greatly appreciated!!

UPPER BUCKS SKI CLUB AUCTION

Mark your calendars – the UBSC auction will be SATURDAY night, November 2, at the Shelley Firehouse in Quakertown. Lift tickets, gift cards, items from local businesses and resorts far and wide will be up for sale that night.



Life is all about Perspective

The sinking of the Titanic was a miracle to the lobsters in the ship's kitchen!

MAN and RING UNITED:

A Sydney man who lost his wedding ring when it fell from a chairlift at Big White ski resort in BC, Canada has gotten it back several months later.



Skier Greg Hedges took his left hand out of his ski glove when riding up the mountain on a chairlift at Big White in January as he endeavored to take a photo of his friends on the chair. He put his hand down on the cold seat to steady himself but the cold temperatures caused his skin to instantly contract and his wedding ring fell off his finger and off the chair into the snow below.

Searches at the time and subsequent searches in the snow by resort staff after Mr Hedges returned home to Australia failed to locate the ring. A Big White staff member carried out a final search under the chair in late May after the thaw and finally found the ring lying on a flat rock. The ring was sent back to Australia by secure mail and Mr Hedges is reported to be, "absolutely thrilled," by the news.

NORTH PENN SKI CLUB

2019/20 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home #: () _____ Cell #: () _____

E-Mail: _____

this information is required to receive our news -- **please print clearly**

E-Mail: _____

second email -- if each adult would like to receive their own club updates

- ☐ New Member ☐ Family \$30
☐ Renewal ☐ Individual \$25
☐ Change of Address since last year
☐ Include me in the Club Directory

Please inform membership personnel if your address changes!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The North Penn Ski club is a year-round social/sports club providing a variety of activities for its members. Most of the activities are, to a varying degree, hazardous. By making application for membership, I voluntarily assume the risks involved. By assuming all risks involved, I agree not to hold THE NORTH PENN SKI CLUB, its Officers, or Board Members liable for any accident or injury resulting from my (or other family member) participation in a club activity. After reading and understanding this Release of Liability, I hereby apply for membership in the NORTH PENN SKI CLUB.

MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL APPLICANTS AGE 21 AND OVER.

Family membership includes any child, regardless of age, who is enrolled in an institution of higher education during the period of such enrollment. Upon graduation, any person who is 21 years of age or older may become an individual member.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please send application to (or bring it along with you to one of the meetings):

Linda Dedman
4819 Spencer Drive
Schwenksville, PA 19473

(if you wish to have your membership card mailed to your home, please provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope.)

MEMBER INFORMATION		EXPERIENCE	
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		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—
	Occupation	— Intermediate —	—
	Birthday	— Advanced —	—
		— Expert —	—
	Name	— Beginner —	—

More Ski Resort News



Your Heli-Biking Experience

It's a Bird.

There isn't much that compares to the rush of flying in a helicopter and skiing the greatest snow on earth...except maybe swapping seasons and ripping the high country on two wheels!

At Whisper Ridge in Utah, you can experience both and make memories that last a lifetime. You don't have to be a professional rider or movie star to enjoy heli access. With over 70,000 acres of private land, there is terrain to suit all abilities.

Get Vertical.

Each heli-drop can carry up to 6 guests and bikes per lift. Book either an individual spot or the entire helicopter privately. Flight time is subject to weather and/or snow conditions.

Enjoy the Stay.

With a Mountaintop Yurt Village and newly-added Airstream Camp, you can make it a multi-day adventure with deluxe back-country accommodations.

Heli-Biking at Whisper Ridge starts as low as \$200 a day. Enjoy epic downhill with fresh and tacky flowy-loam trails that carve through ancient old-growth forest, deep in the shadiest aspects of northern-Utah high country. The number of riders is limited per day on their private-access terrain, guaranteeing your laps are totally uninterrupted with zero cross-traffic.

www.whisperridgeutah.com/play/heli-biking

Arapahoe Basin Joins Ikon Pass

Starting this winter, Ikon Pass holders will have seven days of access to A-Basin with no blackout dates, and Ikon Base pass holders will have five days with select blackout dates. In February of this year, A-Basin said it would not renew its longtime season pass partnership with Vail Resorts for the 2019-20 season. (yay, way to go A-Basin!)



Delta Airlines Eliminates Fee

It was announced this summer that Delta Airlines will be eliminating their fee for sporting equipment, including skis and bikes. You can now fly around the world on Delta Airlines with your skis, surfboards, bicycles, golf clubs, scuba

gear and other large-sized sporting equipment without paying any additional charge! You will now be allowed to check these items as part of Delta's standard baggage allowance.

The airline is eliminating the \$150 specialty sports bag fee previously charged for these items, effective for travel worldwide on tickets purchased beginning July 17, 2019. Customers will instead pay a first, second or third checked bag fee according to fare rules associated with their booking and/or SkyMiles Medallion status. Complete checked baggage fee detail, including the new sporting equipment fees, can be found at Delta.com. Due to space limitations, acceptance and charges may vary for itineraries on a Delta Connection carrier."

Delta is the third major airline behind American and Alaskan Airlines to remove the high baggage fee for sporting equipment.

West Virginia Resort For Sale

Recent court filings show a West Virginia resort's owners plan to sell its ski operations. A petition filed in federal bankruptcy court shows Timberline Four Seasons Resort Management is seeking approval to sell snow-making towers and other equipment it owns back to its manufacturer.

Timberline's bankruptcy attorney says the equipment isn't needed because the ski resort operations are up for sale, and the owners believe "a new buyer will install new equipment."

The state Public Service Commission placed the resort's water and sewer system in receivership in March. The Canaan Valley Public Service District now operates the system.

Timberline filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April, listing assets of \$1.19 million and more than \$2.8 million in debt to nearly 50 creditors.

