



Northern Worcester County's Ski Club Since 1971

The Avalanche



MONTACHUSETT SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

DECEMBER 2011 EDITION

40TH PUBLICATION YEAR

Bulletin Board

December 15, 2011 7 PM

December Membership Meeting

Annual Christmas Party – Yankee Swap

Leominster Border Bar & Grill

The December Membership Meeting, Christmas Party and Yankee Swap will be held at the Border this year. This should provide a venue that all can relax and enjoy. The cost is \$12 per person (money collected at the door). Please RSVP to Don at mmadonpierce@comcast.net or 978-342-7861 if you plan to attend so we know how much food to cook. If you plan to participate in the Yankee Swap bring an unmarked gift valued at \$10 to put under the tree. Hope to see everyone there.

Saturday December 17, 2011

First Ski Day Trip of the Season

Okemo Mountain

For your planning purposes, this is the first ski day trip of the 2011 – 2012 Ski Season. The bus will leave from the usual place at the Intermodal Center in Fitchburg with a pickup in Winchendon. Cost is \$38. Sign-ups being taken now so contact me at mmadonpierce@comcast.net or 978-342-7861 if you plan to attend.

THINK SNOW

Friday January 6, 2012 – Sunday January 8, 2012

First Weekend Trip

North Conway (Attitash / Wildcat)

The first get-away trip! This trip should be fun since the club has not done this North Conway trip for quite some years now. There are still openings so contact Art if you're interested, it is never too late to join.

Thursday January 19, 2012

January Membership Meeting

Wachusett Village Inn Westminster

This will be the first meeting of the 41st Year for the club. Make history and be at this meeting. Times will become busy as the New Year begins and our ski season begins with the day trips and all the get-away trips. The best way to stay informed is to attend these meetings, watch the website and look for those blitzes.

As always check our website www.montachusetskiclub.com to stay current with club activities.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

OK, winter is taking it's time getting here and it is awfully hard to think about skiing and cold snowy days but those days are coming, you can count on it. These Indian Summer Days will end. I know this because I went to see Warren Miller's latest ski film this past weekend and they told me at the theater that it is now officially the start of winter. I believe them.

Our busy season is starting with the first day trip of the year this December 17, the weekend before Christmas. What a great way to relieve the stress of the holiday shopping and cooking by spending a day on the slopes making a few turns. I can't wait. Okemo has the ability to make great conditions even early in the season and under the challenging conditions they have been presented with this year. I know they will deliver. Sign-up and get that first day of skiing under your belt.

Our first Weekend Trip will be taking place the weekend following the New Year Weekend and it is to North Conway, NH with skiing at Attitash and Wildcat. This once was one of the club's favorite trips, staying in North Conway. North Conway provides some wonderful dining choices as well as some unique gift shopping spots. It is a different experience not staying at the ski resort and having a wider selection of entertainment choices. I am looking forward to this trip. Having talked with Art, there is still space available so contact him.

After that first weekend trip, things will become a blur as all the other get-away trips and day trips pass on by. We will be standing somewhere in May saying "where did the winter go?" Don't let it pass you by; don't be standing there at the end of the season wishing you had gone on that one particular trip. Sign-up now for the get-ways and continue to watch for those blitzes on the day trips.

While we are thinking about snow and skiing, don't forget that Wachusett Mountain is the club's mountain, the club's home ski slope. Get out and ski there once a week. We are lucky skiers to have such a treasure near home. We are good skiers for having Wachusett Mountain close by and those who use it weekly only become better skiers. Every morning, Monday through Friday, you can always find club members skiing at the mountain. Be one of them.

Get Out and Ski with Someone

DAY TRIP SCHEDULE

Here is the list of planned Day Trips for the upcoming 2011-2012 Ski Season. These trips were planned based on the Appreciation Day List from the CSC. These dates are also listed on the club's website. Blitzes will be sent out for each trip and to announce when sign-ups will begin for each day trip.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Dec 17, 2011	Saturday	Okemo Mountain	\$38
Jan 22, 2012	Sunday	Stratton Mountain	\$41
Feb 4, 2012	Saturday	Mount Snow	\$46
Feb 17, 2012	Friday	Loon Mountain	\$33
Feb 26, 2012	Sunday	Stratton Mountain	\$41
Mar 25, 2012	Sunday	Okemo Mountain	\$37 (Busgate Party)
Apr 7, 2012	Saturday	Mount Snow	\$38 (Snow Dependent)

The first trip is this month and sign-ups are now being taken. Contact me at mmadonpierce@comcast.net or 978-342-7861 if you would like to go on this day trip to Okemo Mountain Resort. The bus will be leaving the Intermodal Center on Main Street in Fitchburg at 6 AM sharp with a pickup in Winchendon at the American Legion on Route 12 sometime later. Parking at the Intermodal Center is free. Please make sure you have your Membership Card with the CSC sticker with you.

MOVIN' ON UP CLINIC

Donna LaMura has organized a skills clinic for Montachusett Ski & Snowboard Club members at Wachusett Mountain Resort. This is a series of 8 2-hour small group lessons on Tuesday nights, starting in January. Skiers should be intermediate level. The clinic is designed to update your technique, get the most from your equipment, and move you up to the next level as a skier. We have been promised very experienced instructors! The cost is \$250 per person, lift ticket not included. This is a savings of \$69 compared to a similar clinic at the Mountain. Contact Donna LaMura at dlamura1@verizon.net and she will get you the registration form to send in to the Mountain. Five members are already signed up be the next one.

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thanks to Wachusett Mountain Resort, Mountainside Sport Shop and Mike Vlaas again for hosting the club's November Membership Meeting. It once again was an informative evening and Mike provided the entertainment as well as the snack. It is always good to have the knowledge of the new equipment especially if you are in the market place buying new stuff. Those radical rocker skis were something, only wish we got enough powder here in the northeast to make them work. Take Mike up on his offer to the club for demos; try out some of those new rocker skis.



A couple of the Officer's and BOD members spent some time prior to the Membership Meeting introducing the club to some potential new members. We presented to these potential members the highlights of being a member and answered any and all questions. Being at the mountain made the task easier since you could almost feel the skiing. As you may have seen as you entered the meeting, the trip slide show used at the 40th Anniversary was playing as a prop to this information meeting. I think we recruited a couple new members.

Remember to let the Mountainside Sport Shop know you are a member of the club, show your Club Membership Card and receive a discount on all purchases and services.

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

On December 15, 2011 we will hold the December Membership Meeting at the Leominster Border Bar & Grill. This is the club's annual Christmas Party and Yankee Swap. The cost is \$12 per person (includes Buffet Style Dinner - Coffee, Tea, Soda, Tax and Tip). There will be a cash bar.

We will also be having the infamous Yankee Swap. For those who do not know what a Yankee Swap is, here is a brief explanation. Unmarked wrapped gifts are placed under the tree. Each person who has placed a gift under the tree is given one number from one to max number of gifts. When your number comes up, you select a gift and open it. If you like the gift you keep it but if you don't want the gift you can change it with any gift that was previously opened before you. The only twist to this is the person with number 1 gets to swap their gift at the end since they did not have a chance to swap since they were first. The gifts and the swapping is a hilarious event. If you want to participate bring a unmarked wrapped gift (value of \$10) to place under the tree. Be creative (and perhaps a bit naughty) when finding that special gift.

The MENU:

Roast Chicken - Sirloin Tips - Roast Potatoes - Rice Pilaff - Baked Ziti
Tossed Salad - Dinner Rolls - Chicken Wings - Meat Chili

We are asking the membership to bring dessert to share with the festive merrymakers.

TIP OF OUR GOGGLES

This is a new section to the newsletter this year. When someone does something special, wins a major award or simply should be recognized we will Tip Our Goggles to them.



We tip our goggles this month to Mike Vlaas and Wachusett Mountain Resort for hosting our November Membership Meeting. Thank you again Mike for the fun.

ENTERTAINMENT SUGGESTION

If you're just sitting around on Sunday morning having a cup of coffee, turn on your radio and tune into AM 830 on the dial (WCRN Worcester) at 8:00 AM and catch the "Rev David Crowley on The Mountain" show. Dave Crowley is GM/COO of Wachusett Mountain Resort. It is a funny and informational hour of radio. Tune in.

CLUB Get-A-WAY TRIPS FOR NEXT SEASON 2011 – 2012

Here is the lineup of trips for this year. As always, go to www.montachusettskiclub.com to get the particulars on the trip, answer any questions or get contact information.

January 6, 2012 – January 8, 2012

Attitash / Wildcat / North Conway

Contact: Art Pinsoneault pinson123@comcast.net

January 23, 2012 – January 25, 2012

Okemo Mid-week

Contact: Bill Cocci bcgoski@comcast.net

February 9, 2012 – February 12, 2012

Sugarloaf Mountain

Contact: Gary LaBell chutes1@verizon.com

March 10, 2012 – March 17, 2012

Alyeska, Alaska

Contact: Jack McCarthy yukonjax47@gmail.com



Merry Christmas



Don Pierce
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www.montachusetskiclub.com

Thursday December 15, 2011 – 7 pm
Christmas Party / Yankee Swap
Border Bar & Grill Leominster