

The Avalanche



MONTACHUSETT SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

MAY 2011 EDITION

40TH PUBLICATION YEAR

Bulletin Board

Thursday May 12, 2011 7 PM

May Membership Meeting

Wachusett Village Inn Westminster

The Club is trying to continue the Membership Meetings throughout the year in hopes of developing some summer activities that may interest the membership as well as staying in touch with the membership on important trip decisions and club business decisions that need membership input. Please try your best to attend these meetings.

Tuesday June 14, 2011 7 PM

Officers and Board of Directors Meeting

Southside Bar & Grille Gardner

This is where the business of the club is conducted. The committees will be updating the BOD on their progress and accomplishments. As always, club members are invited but no guests allowed.

Thursday June 16, 2011 7 PM

June Membership Meeting

Wachusett Village Inn Westminster

At this meeting we hope to announce the decision by the Trip Committee on the selection of our ski trips or at least discuss the progress of selecting the trips for the 2011/2012 Ski Season. The Outing Committee and the Anniversary Committee will update the membership with their progress.

Saturday July 16, 2011 12 noon to ??

Annual Ski Club Outing

Swedish Social Club Wyman's Lake Westminster

This is the Club's annual outing. If you have attended in the past you will remember how nice a day it is and if you have never attended then this is your year to make it a first. Mark it on your calendar.

Saturday September 24, 2011 5 PM

Montachusett Ski & Snowboard Club's 40th Anniversary

1761 Old Mill Restaurant Westminster

Believe it or not, the club is 40 years old this year. This is quite an accomplishment for a club like this to survive this long and it only goes to show how dedicated you folks are to good skiing. Mark your calendar for this event and come out and celebrate with your good friends.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Bill Cocci - President Montachusett Ski & Snowboard Club

Hello Everyone:

As the ski season has come to an end for most of us and the final few moguls melt away on Wachusett, I feel it is necessary to share my thoughts for this past season which is one of the best in New England that I can remember. The first thought I have is that I got to ski with some awesome people this year that I have never skied with before and for that I thank them for skiing with me. The Montachusett Ski & Snowboard club had the most successful membership count in many years and I was so glad that the participation in the trips really excelled to new heights. That means more people had more fun and that's what really counts.

All the trips went off this year pretty much without a hitch aside from one or two accommodation problems that have been rectified in a timely fashion (Don Thanks for your follow up on those issues). I am sure those members appreciated his efforts as we all do. One problem I can think of that we did not have was lack of Snow and Conditions from Lake Tahoe to Westminster, so unforgettable. The money we raised for the fight against cancer and the dinner laughs. The Wedding for god sake of Janet and Steve, the day trips and the smiles on people's faces at the tailgate are moments to remember. We did finish the season unfortunately with a couple of injuries to Ray Luft and Monica Yesmentes and we hope you guys are doing well. Some accomplishments that the club got off the ground was our new Website and Facebook page which is going to be a great way for all of us to communicate as we are in the planning stages of the 2011/2012 season so log on to the site www.montachusettskiclub.com check out the summer meeting dates, try to make one if you can and keep in contact. The website is where the fun is posted for Kayak Trips, Bike Rides, Summer Outing Activities and of course our 40th Anniversary Celebration. As we move forward and closer to next season we will keep you updated on the ski and snowboard trip planning as well as the CSC days and events.

I would also like to thank the outgoing board members Jack McCarthy, Paul Spano and the oldest board member David Anderson, well not old but the longest running (but I had to get that in there) and welcome in the new BOD members Eric Schatzlein, Claire Carroll, Darcy Canu who have a tough acts to follow but they will fit right in. I cannot officially close out the 2011 season without the help of my fellow officers Don Pierce and Bill Bruce and last but certainly not least Cheryl Foley, these folks are all over it and get the job done like no tomorrow, if you see them tip your goggles because they really keep this club thing together. Well the committees are formed they are making the presentations on trips, outings and celebrations. I personally cannot wait to see the journey they are going to take us on, it will be our responsibility to ourselves to join them and have as much fun as we can, as some know, and things can change in an instant. Look forward to seeing you soon.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

I find it very hard to be bummed out about summer coming. There is something good to be said for shorts and flip-flops as everyday attire! We were fortunate to have had a good long ski season and we should be very thankful for that. It is time to move on to our choice warm weather activities.

Over the last few years, we as a club, have organized and participated in some fun filled warm weather activities like white water rafting, river kayaking/canoeing, sea kayaking and cycling. These were all fun events and were well attended by the club membership. People are floating around some ideas again for this upcoming summer such as river kayaking, sea kayaking and some casual bicycle touring trips. I have heard discussions on possible hiking adventures and golf outings. If you have an idea of a group activity you think the club would enjoy, please contact any one of the Board Members or Officers about your idea. Let's see what it would take to get your idea off the ground and continue the fellowship throughout the off-ski-season known as summer. Come to the monthly Membership Meetings to hear about and participate in planning some summer club activities.

The club's annual Summer Outing is planned for Saturday July 16, 2011 at the Westminster Swedish Social Club facility on Wyman's Lake in Westminster. This outing has always been a good time. Our President has appointed an Outing Committee (David, Keith, Cheryl, Gary and I) to investigate outing activities and games that would be interesting to the participants. If you have any good ideas please share them with any one of the committee members. The food fare is B-B-Q chicken with all the fixings. As always, the Swedish Club provides us with a cash bar for beer, wine and liquor; please do not plan to bring your own booze as this is not allowed by the Social Club for liability reasons.

The club also has assembled a Trip Committee head by Jack McCarthy and staffed by David Anderson, Tav Canu, Betty Syvari, John Crotty and Paul Spano. They have been active in looking at both the week trip and the weekend get-away trips for the 2011-2012 Ski Season. There is a lot of work and a lot of sifting through tons of information that this team will be doing over the next month in an attempt to plan and organize some great adventures for us. We wish them good success and thanks for stepping up. Watch this newsletter and email blitzes for trip information.

As mentioned in last month's Avalanche, we have a committee working on planning and executing the party for the club's 40th Anniversary. Julie, Janet, Jan and Teresa (known as the J's & T Team) have been very busy at the planning the event. You will find a brief update from the Team in this newsletter. A flyer announcing the event for your planning purposes will be included in the application packet. You should plan to attend this party; it looks like it will be the club event of the decade.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

May is Membership Renewal Month. You will soon be receiving a packet via postage mail with the renewal application enclosed. It is important you fill out and send your application and all applicable fees to the registrar as soon as you can. The BOD and committees count on having the funds available in the treasury so early deposits can be made on trips to secure the most cost effective trip possible for a large group and other expenses to conduct in the business of the club. Also included in the packet is the Release of Liability (ROL). Return the ROL along with your application.

40th CELEBRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Montachusett Ski & Snowboard Club was started in 1971 and it is still going strong in 2011....40 years of skiing and fun – what a Great reason to Celebrate - and that's what we're planning to do!

The 40th Year Committee members (Julie Palioca, Jan Carignan, Janet Burgess and Teresa Pierce) have been busy planning a celebration at a nice venue with a delicious buffet and great entertainment. Look for the "Save the Date" flyer which is being sent out this month with the annual membership renewal application packet. Be sure to read it and mark your calendars. Later in July an invitation with a return RSVP will be mailed out to the entire club membership. Please send your reservations back asap.

We would like former members of our ski club to have the opportunity to celebrate with us. If any of you have names and addresses of former members please contact Jan Carignan at carignan95@verizon.net or call her at 978-582-9836 with that information so invitations can be sent to those people.

The committee is looking for places and dates of all ski trips (both full week and week end) throughout the 40 years (1971 – 2011) of the club. If you have any of this information, please contact Julie Palioca at paljuliejulie@verizon.net or call her at 978-537-7630. Also, please bring pictures and/or albums of ski trips as well as other memorabilia on the night of the celebration to add to a display for everyone to enjoy. Members are encouraged to share their good memories and funny stories throughout the evening.

The Celebration Committee is organizing the Chinese Auction which will be held at the July BBQ as a club fundraiser. Members are asked to donate items for it such as: theme baskets, gift cards/certificates, craft items, scratch tickets, bottles of wine and liquor, etc.. Please contact Janet Burgess at janetlandry@hotmail.com or call her at 508-887-3340 to let her know if you plan to donate something.

Watch for future updates in the Avalanche Newsletters...Go to the membership meetings this summer to stay current with club news ... Check for email blitzes...Browse the club website...or contact Teresa Pierce at mmadonpierce@comcast.net or call 978-342-7861 if you have any questions..

Don't miss this party...it's going to be as much fun as skiing on fresh powder under bluebird skies!

ACTIVE ONGOING GROUP ACTIVITIES

Some members of the club are participating reoccurring weekly activities and they would like to open it up to other members who may not be aware of these activities.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a great way for you to keep in great shape in the off ski season and stay prepared for the ski season. Negotiating a bicycle through the woods on rock and root strewn trails will help keep your reflexes tuned to the quick movements required in skiing.

A group from the ski club mountain bike often (there are non-club members who also join us). We have a distribution list that we use to communicate as to when and where we will ride that week. We try very hard to have a single day per week of riding but sometimes we may have multiple days or none at all.



Places we ride at include but are not limited to, the Leominster State Forest, Pearl Hill State Forest, Gardner Bike Trail and behind Burbank Hospital. We are always open to new places and new challenges.

We tend to ride at the weakest rider's level waiting at intersections but this behavior is not guaranteed. There is always the option to bunch up riders according to their riding levels if we get enough participants on the ride. In most cases the trails are well known and well marked and in the case of state forests, there are trail maps.

If you are interested in riding with us please send email to mmadonpierce@comcast.net and I will put you on the mountain biking email distribution list. The more the merrier. You too could be in the next group picture. Can you pick out David in the group photo? I am the shy one with the ball cap on.

Road Biking



Like mountain biking, there are a few of us club members who try to ride at least one day per week if not multiple days per week. Road biking is a great exercise to build and maintain a strong aerobic system and is a great weight control method. Road riding is most enjoyable when done in a group ride verses a solo ride.

Secondly, besides being a great aerobic sport, it allows you to buy and wear some really cool and colorful riding apparel without being laughed at (if your laughing please don't tell us).

These rides tend to be a distance of 25 – 60 miles at a 16-18 mph pace. We may stop for a small rest depending upon the route and amount of hill climbing we do (this is Central Massachusetts so expect hills). Best bicycle type is a performance bicycle but hi-end hybrids with thin tires would work well. Fat tire hybrids will not work at holding the speed.

We currently communicate via phone but we could put together an email distribution list if we had enough members interested in a group ride on Saturday mornings. We also tend to ride on Thursday or Friday afternoons for those who can make it and are interested. EMAIL: mmadonpierce@comcast.net

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The April Membership Meeting was held on Thursday April 7, 2011 at the Wachusett Mountain Lodge in Princeton. At this meeting the Officers and BOD elections took place. The new Officers and BOD Members are as follows:

- Officers – President Bill Cocci, Vice President Don Pierce, Secretary Cheryl Foley, Treasurer Bill Bruce.
- New BOD – Darcy Canu, Claire Carroll and Eric Schatzlein
- Second Year BOD – Bob Leger, Gary LaBell

The club would like to thank Jack McCarthy, David Anderson and Paul Spano for their service as outgoing BOD Members. With their efforts and support the BOD accomplished some very important milestones such as introduction of a new website, an increase in club membership, the start of our Facebook account and the smooth operation of the club's business. Please extend with me your best wishes for the new BOD members to have great success in conducting next year's club's business.

The attending membership was provided updates from each committee as well as the Treasurer and the Secretary on the current state of the club. The club is in very good shape to start the new business year.

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

“When it comes to skiing, there's a difference between what you think it's going to be like, what it's really like, and what you tell your friends it was like.”

~Author Unknown

Montachusett Ski & Snowboard Club

Don Pierce

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Fitchburg, MA. 01420



Northern Worcester County's Ski Club Since 1971

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www.montachusettskiclub.com

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