

MOUNTAIN LAUREL SKIERS, INC
President's Annual Report 2015-2016
Presented at the Annual Meeting April 13, 2016

Dear Mountain Laurel Friends,

It was April 1946 and 40 friends who were avid skiers held their first meeting of a club that would be known as Mountain Laurel Skiers. Today, seventy years later I am pleased to report that Mountain Laurel Skiers is still going strong as an active, vibrant club of 546 members. Our Club demographics have changed somewhat in these seventy years with a mix of 189 individual, 120 household and 27 lifetime memberships. Included today are 46 families and 85 children. With this mix changes have been inevitable to keep pace with the times yet we still strive to hold on to the spirit and traditions of the past. We have always celebrated our longevity and expressed pride in our successes. In my first year as President I have been struck by this incredible opportunity to keep pace with the successes of the past. And so as we celebrate our 70th year I hope you will share with me a celebration of this past year's activities and accomplishments.

It has only been a few years since we experienced a pivotal period in the Club's history when we enjoyed the excitement and invigoration of the acquisition, renovation of and adjustment to our new lodge in Ludlow, Vermont. With the initial focus on renovation now tempering down but adjustment continuing it became evident that 2015 be the year to step back and reflect on Mountain Laurel Skiers today and plan for its future. With the help of Club members who have participated in our newly defined and dedicated Committees, our sport and social event leaders and the Officers and Directors the following steps have been taken in 2015 to strengthen our Club for future years...these accomplishments include:

- Updated By-Laws to be reflective of MTL's expanded offering of activities, member demographics and interests, and the management of Club property and financial commitments.
- Restructured debt obligation by refinancing the lodge with a \$300,000 10 year Berkshire Bank loan resulting in a lower monthly payment and increasing Club cash flow for the early years of lodge development and settlement.. This action ultimately supported the 100% repayment of the LLC member, the initial investors for the lodge acquisition.
- Reassessed the Club's insurance needs. Secured a new property/liability policy and eliminated a ski instructor liability policy for a total of \$5176 savings.
- Established a standing Finance Committee responsible for the Club annual operating budget and review of the Club's financial standing for recommendations to the Board.
- Conducted an audit of 2014 financial records with several recommendations but no significant findings of indiscretions.
- Reorganized Lodge Operations Committee for ongoing oversight and planning of lodge maintenance and management.
- Won first place for the second year in a row in CSC Monday Night Racing
- Introduced an online Lodge Reservation System offering members the option for payment via Paypal, decreasing reservationist time, increasing member access to desired space, and assuring accurate accrual of fees.

- Completed a second egress from third floor of the lodge and updated electrical panels for occupant safety. In the apartment common area a washer dryer was installed to enhance rental potential.
- Offered members 4 major social events in Connecticut, and 18 in Vermont. There were 15 Wednesday Night programs. (Bike, Hike, Kayak, Ski Races not included)

Let me end by sharing my thoughts about our successes in 2015. Every one of us knows that the more we as members give to the Club through involvement, the more we receive in return – in friendship, new experiences and the joy of belonging. This happened to me and so I present to all of you that in 2016 you consider the many ways you do or could contribute to the future of Mountain Laurel Skiers in planning an event, leading an activity, donating money, running for office, soliciting new members, using the lodge. Keeping pace with the successes of the past is therefore our challenge....Remember we are 70 years still going strong.

Please join me in recognizing the following club members for stepping forward in 2015 as event planners, activity leaders and management supporters contributing their time and energy to make the fun we all enjoy possible (list follows).

Marge Wasel