

Mt. Laurel Skiers Newsletter

December 2008



from the President . . .

'Tis the Month before Christmas, and all through Mt. Laurel,
Thoughts of approaching Winter fun brings us all to a boil.
Anticipation of good times and fellowship in full,
Like the Snow Ball just past, what a glittering Jewel!!!
Hospitality provided by Tom Florence, Sharon, Charlotte and Andy,
With dancing by Neal - the whole evening was just dandy!
What a time was had honoring Gerti and Outstanding Dan.
We reveled in the moment, knowing that close at hand,
The SEASON has come, as it has in 63 Mt. Laurel years before.
The Lodge will soon open, and we will walk through the door!
The fix-up is done, with the efforts of Rick, Chuck and Frank,
The Party room sparkles, with the new wine rack by Betsy to thank.
The snow soon to be flying, with slopes waiting and groomed,
Because of Lisa, Maureen and Cathy, we'll fill every room!
Vouchers sales are booming, the schedule posted and ready,
Thanks to Jack, Ron, Ken and Stacey, the beginning is steady.
With Skiing and Boarding, Snow Shoeing, Parties and Cheer,
Wassail weekend's parade to come, as well as the Happy New Year!
So, come join Betsy at Zabbara's to Share, and Dance the Holidays in,
It is time for Mt. Laurel Friendships once more to begin.....!
WISHING A WARM AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ALL!!!!!!

Jonathan

2008 Wine Tasting •

The MTL lodge schedule kicks off with a "Napa style" wine tasting event on Saturday, December 6th. We plan to start around 5pm. Come join us in exploring the wines of Napa Valley. Bring your pictures and stories of Napa to share!

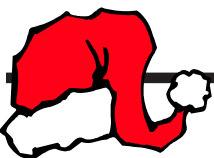
The cost of the event is \$25 per person (checks payable to MTL). This includes tasting of 8 wines, appetizers, dinner, dessert and a tasting glass to keep. Please contact Lisa Durland to make your lodge reservations.

We are looking for volunteers for set up, dinner prep help, wine pourers, etc. Let us know if you will help out... thank you!

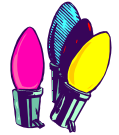
Please RSVP to Stacy & Ken so we can plan food and wine accordingly.

Important Number •

Lodge Reservations - Lisa Durland - lodge@mtlski.com - 860-533-1981
NO CALLS AFTER 9:00p.m.



CSC Stickers •



The CSC Stickers for the 2008-2009 ski season are now available. Please see Kay Leatherman before or after our meetings to pick-up your sticker. If you cannot make a meeting you must send a SASE to Kay and she will mail your sticker(s) to you to affix to your membership card. If you have misplaced your membership card, there is a \$5.00 fee for replacement. (47 Chasse Rd, Wolcott, CT 06716)

Kay Leatherman

MTL Instruction Days •

Down Hill: Jan 3; Feb 14, 2009

Lesson Time: 9 - 11:30am

X-Country: Jan 10; Feb 7, 2009

Lesson Time: 9:30am -

Place: *Okemo

Club Discount Tickets: Cannot be purchased that day. Tickets may be purchased in advance from Susan Forsdick.

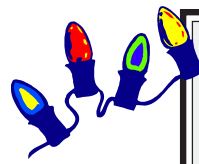
Free Instruction: All levels down-hill, X-country, and snowboarding.

* **Down Hill & Snowboarders** meet outside Jackson Gore base lodge. Gore opens at 8am and ski instruction starts promptly at 9am so come early, take a few runs and meet me there before 9am.

X-Country meet at MTL Lodge 9:30am, then drive to Okemo Valley.

Contact: Anne Alden,
Aalden30@netzero.com

News From the Lodge •



IT'S OFFICIAL! The lodge is open for business! Join us December 5-6 for Ken and Stacy's Napa Valley Wine Tasting, followed by Wassailing/Prospective Members' Weekend December 12-13. Celebrate the New Year on Wednesday, December 31 and then top it off with a "Post-New Year's Party" the following weekend. Since there are just too many activities to list, refer to the MTL website, under Lodge for the continuously updated schedule of lodge activities, as well as other lodge topics. If you are interested in sharing a ride, click on the Forum Link and scroll down to "Car Pooling."

A reminder that you only have until December 17 to buy your vouchers. Cost is \$45/weekend and \$15 mid-week. Without a voucher, it will cost a member \$65/weekend and \$22.50 mid-week. Mid-week family vouchers are \$200. See Kathy Amenta/Barbara Wysocki at Wednesday meetings. Lodge vouchers are available for prospective/regular club members only, and cannot be purchased for guests, are not transferable and are non-refundable. And, while you are purchasing your vouchers, don't forget to buy your raffle tickets to win a bed at the lodge for the season. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20, and the raffle will be held on December 17. (If you win the raffle, you will get a refund for any previously purchased vouchers.)

Reminders:

- There is no "maid service" and the lodge inn-keeper is not responsible for cleaning up after you or your guests. Please wash dishes and put them away, clean bathroom sinks and counters after use. Go the extra step and pick up after yourself and others.
- For security purposes, the entrance door combination will be periodically changed. If you plan to come up mid-week, make sure that you contact Lisa.
- If you are a weekend inn-keeper, or have purchased anything for the lodge and are looking for reimbursement, you must first submit your receipts to myself or Cathy DiMeola, within 30 days, in order to be reimbursed.
- Expenses are very high and we need your help! We have already paid over \$6,000 for fuel for this coming season. Please think of the lodge as your home, and do what you can to keep costs down. Turn lights and TV off when you leave the room, lower thermostats.

We are always looking for volunteers for various weekend events, and welcome your suggestions to improve the lodge.

Moe Gaherty, Lodge Manager

Cheer •



Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a snowy New Year to all Mountain Laurelers. The news is brief, which makes it easier on my broken wrist - looking forward to a great 2009. If you have any news of members, please contact Milli at 860-871-0484 or milliarnold57142@aol.com.

Deadline for January 2009 • 17 December

The deadline for the January 2009 Newsletter is December 17 - Third Wednesday. Please email news items to: irene_murray@sbcglobal.net or fax 860-644-3951 if you do not see Irene at a meeting

Holiday Party, 10 Dec

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 @ Zabbara's Restaurant in New Britain, ADJUSTED TIME (for this dance only) 7:30pm to 10:30pm. **LIVE BAND - FAMILY CONNECTION**

Cost: \$5.00 + any **FOOD** donation you would like to bring for the Plainville Food Pantry that serves the Greater Hartford Area.

Cost: \$10.00 if you do not bring a food donation. \$5.00 will go to the pantry. Of course you can make the donation larger for The Pantry.

The Pantry provides food subsidies, crisis intervention, referral services, clothing and household items. Money donations usually go toward things like heating costs/gift certificates AND are tax deductible. You will receive a letter from The Pantry specifying the amount donated if above \$10.00. For more information about The Pantry, contact Suzie or staff @ 747-1919, or www.Thefoodpantry.net. There will be a raffle and raffle donations are being accepted too. Volunteers needed that night, contact Betsy Gaudian or Linda Dinda if you would like to volunteer, then, you just show up!!! I won't make you work too hard or too long. Last year we donated 420 lbs of food and \$575 cash. Let's try to beat these numbers this year!

The Pantry is asking for the following: 1) Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, Aluminum Foil, Plastic Wrap, Ziploc bags - all sizes. 2) All kinds of cleaning products, dish detergent, laundry detergent, fabric softener, bleach. 3) Personal Items: feminine products, hair conditioner, bandages, razors/shaving cream, deodorant, toothpaste, mouthwash, brushes, body lotion, diapers 4, 5, 6. 4) Food: must be nonperishable ...

Dress Up or down, just come and celebrate the holiday season with everyone. Office Stationery boxes welcome for packing only. **Please be sure cans are not expired. Organized by Betsy Gaudian and Linda Dinda.**



MTL Skiers Hike Schedule • December



Hike with fellow Mount Laurel members (guests are welcome, too!). Hikes are of moderate length and difficulty, and begin at 11:30 on Sundays. Generally, they are followed by beer and pizza. Bring snacks, water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, and for December, gloves are essential. Hiking is an excellent way to maintain your conditioning for skiing and requires very little equipment expense. This year the weather seems to be cooperating with our hike schedule; as we go to press, no hikes have been rained out!

Nov 30 • Bolton • Valley Falls • Alexis Kuchel (860-432-0015) • Take I-84 east to exit 66. At end of ramp take a left, then a right onto Bolton Rd. Continue on Bolton Rd to a right onto Bread and Milk Rd. At the end of the road take a left. Valley Falls Park is on the right for parking. Due to the shorter days this hike will start at 11:30am.

Dec 7 • Meriden/Middletown • Mt. Higby • Rick Sullivan • 860-324-4952 (cell) • 860-675-3403 (home) • Directions: Take I-91 to Country Club Rd exit. At end of the ramp turn toward Middletown (If you're coming from the south, take a right; from the north take a left and go under I-91). Follow Country Club Rd for a mile or so to a right turn on Higby Rd. Stay on Higby Rd till you come to a Traffic Signal on Rte 66. Take a right on Rte 66 (toward Meriden). When the highway becomes divided you come to the trailhead parking area on the right. This hike is rated moderate. It has a steep climb at the beginning followed by a fairly flat ridge walk to the summit of Mt. Higby. This time of year there are 360 degree views of the surrounding area.

Dec 14 • Cheshire • Roaring Brook Falls • Jeanne Delehanty • (860-748-5858) • Directions: *To reach the falls, follow Route 10 through downtown Cheshire to Route 42. Take a right on Mountain Road and a second left on Roaring Brook Road. The trailhead is at the end of the road.* See attached link to recent Hartford Courant article for more info <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-nature1031.artoct31.0.3969036.column>. The Courant reports this is “a strenuous and at times treacherous climb to the top along a rocky trail, especially with the wet fallen leaves” but that “once at the top, visitors are not only rewarded with a view of the surrounding hillsides of Wallingford, Durham and Meriden, but with even more waterfalls.”

Dec 21 • Barkhamsted • Solstice Celebration • Jeanne Delehanty • (860-748-5858) • We'll hike to the **Indian Council Caves** for Pagan Rituals to celebrate the Solstice. This hike will take a different route to the caves (over Pine Mountain) than we've done in the past. Directions to the trailhead: Take Route 44 west thru Avon and Canton to Route 179 North. Follow Route 179 through Canton Center past the intersection with Rte 219. Continue on Rte 179 for one or two miles to Parking Area at Pine Mountain Road on left. It's a dirt/gravel road. **Those who wish to car pool, meet at 11am at Staples parking lot at the intersection of Route 44 and Rte 167 in Avon.**



Jeanne Delehanty 860-651-3257, Rick Sullivan 860-675-3403, Hiking Co-Chairpeople

Monday Night Racing •

Mt. Laurel racers are the defending champions of the Connecticut Ski Council's Monday Night Racing program. Join us this year as we try to repeat the win. Complete information can be found on-line at mtlski.com/Racing.htm. Our first race night is scheduled for December 15th (conditions permitting). **Note:** The first time you race each season you must present your membership card and sign a waiver. Plan on getting there early that night. \$29 covers the cost of racing and your lift ticket for the evening. Pizza provided! You will race in your age group and will be scored on the best of two runs on a Giant Slalom course. Racing is open to all ability levels and any member aged 18 or over is encouraged to participate. Join us after racing for suds and pizza. New this year - we plan on having your runs count toward the NASTAR racing national program. If you haven't already registered with NASTAR, please go to nastar.com and do so. You will be assigned a permanent NASTAR registration number. Once you have obtained that, please email it to me at racing@mtlski.com so we can update the database.



Go Fast! Pat Moore, Monday Night Racing Captain

mt laurel skier's calendar

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2	3 Board Meeting Regular Meeting	4	5	6 Wine Tasting Weekend @ Lodge
7  Sunday Hike Middletown/ Meriden	8	9	10  Christmas Party	11	12	13 Wassail Weekend @ Lodge
14  Sunday Hike Cheshire	15	16	17 Regular Meeting News Deadline	18	19	20
21  Sunday Hike Barkhamsted	22	23	24 NO MEETING	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31 NO MEETING	December 2008 NEW YEAR'S @ Lodge		 Happy New Year

MtL Skier's newsletter is designed and produced by MG Marketing Associates of Madison 203.421.4840

December Meetings •
Zabbara's Restaurant
Stanley Golf Course
245 Hartford Road
New Britain CT
Wednesdays, 8:00pm
SAVE THE DATES



December

- 01 LODGE OPENS!!!
- 03 6:30 Bd Mtng/8pm Reg Mtng @ Zabbara's
- 06-07 Wine Tasting Weekend at the Lodge
- 10 CHRISTMAS PARTY!
- 13-14 Wassail Weekend at the Lodge
- 17 Regular Meeting, NEWS Deadline
- 24 NO MEETING
- 31 NO MEETING
- 31-04 New Year's Weekend at the Lodge

January

- 07 6:30 Bd Mtng/8pm Reg Mtng @ Zabbara's
- 10-11 Full Moon Snowshoe @ The Lodge
- 14 Regular Meeting location TBA
- 17-18 Family Weekend @ The Lodge
- 21 Regular Meeting location TBA
- 24-25 Murder Mystery @ The Lodge
- 28 Regular Meeting location TBA

Mt Laurel Skiers
P O Box 4
Farmington, CT 06034

2007 - 2008 Officers

President • Jonathan Houck • president@mtlski.com
 V President • Kay Leatherman • vicepresident@mtlski.com
 Secretary • Mandy Lavalley • secretary@mtlski.com
 Treasurer • Eric Ardolino • treasurer@mtlski.com
 Asst Sec/Trea • Kathy Culhane
 Past President • Tom Knudsen

CSC Ambassador • Gerti Laesser

Board Members • Board@MtlSki.com

Hank Berger
Ellen Gilbert
Chuck Hannah
Fred Murray
Irene Murray
Rick Sullivan
Angie Testa

