

Mt. Laurel Skiers Newsletter

November 2009



from the President . . .

Can you believe that we are talking about the lodge and skiing already? Where did the summer go? I know we all had a great time this summer, bike weekend, summer picnic and other various events. I'm sad to see it go, but looking forward to a great fall full of events and being at the lodge with all the members of our great club. The lodge is going to be crazy busy with special events scheduled all winter long. Look at the lodge calendar on the web site to find out what is happening. Thanks to a very enthusiastic lodge committee for their hard work.

I encourage all our new members to come up to the lodge, it's a great way to meet many of our members and have a great time while there. Make sure you have Nov 11th marked for our new member orientation meeting, we will answer all your questions (I hope) and give you all the information you will need to be an active member of our club.

Thanks to all that helped with the Halloween dance and Fall Hike weekend at the lodge. We really do have such a great group of members that are dedicated to making sure our events are the best!!

Don't forget the annual Snow Ball on Nov 21 at the Windsor Marriott. This is always such a great time, great dancing, fantastic raffle prizes and fun with many of our MTL members. If

you have never gone before, make a point to join us this year, our hospitality suite is an event that is legendary! We party until the weeeeeee hours of the morning.

I am writing this with a heavy heart, because as you know we are mourning the passing of one of our long time members, Dan Giordano. He was "bigger than life" and so full of life it's hard to believe that he will not be around physically to add his own personal style to our MTL events. Dan will be missed but will remain in our hearts. Pat has put up a great picture montage on the web site, check it out, that's our Dan!!! Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kathy and his family.

Happy Fall ... Kay Leatherman

Prospective Member's Evening •

Our Prospective Member Orientation Meeting will be held on Wednesday November 11, 2009 at 6:30pm at our regular meeting venue, the Whinstone Tavern, Stanley Golf Course, 245 Hartford Road, New Britain.

If you are a new member this year or a prospective carry-over member from last year, you are invited to attend. There will be a number of members who will give brief overviews of various club activities. This will be an important opportunity for Prospective Members to ask questions, learn about the lodge, and meet the Board of Directors. We look forward to seeing you.

Chuck Hannah, Vice President & Membership Chairman,
membership@mtlski.com

Lodge Reservations: Lisa Durland will start taking reservations on November 4. See Lisa at a meeting or call her at 860-533-1981 (no calls after 9 pm please) and/or email mtlres@cox.net.

Noreast'r Dreamin' • 21 November

Noreast'r Dreamin' is right around the corner. The CSC annual Snowball is CSC's largest fun raiser and fundraiser at the Hartford Windsor Marriott in Windsor on November 21st. The festivities start at 8pm and music will be provided by Steppin' Out. And there are great prizes! If you would like to donate something to this cause, please see Betsy Chase.

Tickets are on sale until November 4, so see Betsy Chase at the weekly meetings or get your request in the mail to her now. Tickets are \$20 now or \$25 at the door. See the flyer in this newsletter.



News from the Lodge •



Wax your skis, buy your vouchers, let's go! Mid-October and Okemo has already had four inches of snow! HO HO HO! Killington is planning to open the first week of November, with Okemo's opening day scheduled for November 21. The opening weekend of The Lodge is December 4-5, with ASIA ski instruction. December 11-12, come join us for Wassailing in Woodstock on Saturday (parade at 2:00), with a murder mystery. "Twas a Night of Pandemonium: A Christmas Murder" on Saturday evening. Calling all wanna-be thespians - I have roles for elves, reindeer, and of course, The Jolly Old Man. Lisa or I will have a list of available roles at the meetings, or send me an email for more info.

A MTL "gala" dinner party will be held on New Year's Eve. Menu and cost is yet to be determined, but expect to pay between \$15 and \$20, BYOB. If you would like to help plan and cook dinner, please let me know. On Saturday, January 2, Anne Alden is coordinating down-hill ski instruction and that evening, Jeanne Delehanty will host a moonlight snowshoe excursion. Trust me, since New Year's Eve is on a Thursday, this weekend will fill up very quickly! We have many other events planned for the season, go to the MTL website, click on "lodge" and scroll down to "lodge calendar of events."

Lodge Vouchers are on sale through December 9. See Kathy Amenta at the meetings to purchase your vouchers. Prices are the same as last season, \$45 per 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. Buy multiple weekend vouchers and save! Refer to the "lodge" drop down and click on lodge prices. Lodge vouchers are available for prospective/regular club members only, and cannot be purchased for guests, are not transferable and are non-refundable. Prospective members: If you received a coupon for a free weekend, you must trade it in by December 9 for a regular voucher.

Lisa Durland will begin taking lodge reservations on November 4. Don't delay! Beds will sell out quickly!

In celebration of Dan's life: *"Begin what you want to do now. We are not living in eternity. We have only this moment, sparkling like a star in our hand-and-melting like a snowflake. Let us use it before it is too late."* (Marie Beyon Ray)

Moe Gaherty, Lodge Manager • mgaherty@sbcglobal.net

Holiday Dance • 9 December • Whinstone Restaurant

The holiday dance is on December 9, 2009 from 7:30 to 10:30pm at the Whinstone Restaurant. Featuring the favorite... Bobby Darling and Dr. Divine! Come join us in celebrating the holiday season with great music, friends and fun. Cover charge will be \$10, a portion of this will go to The Black River Good Neighbor food bank in Ludlow VT. This food bank provides food and monetary help for residents in Proctorsville. In the past we have had a terrific outpouring of nonperishable goods, all donations collected will be delivered to Vermont on Wassail Weekend. Volunteers needed. Prospective members this is an opportunity to work on a committee. Bring your holiday spirit! Organizers: Jean Leonard (872-6740) and Ellen Gilbert (658-9419).



Cheer •



Let every Mtn Laurel member lift a cup of Cheer to our good friend Dan Giordano. All who knew him loved the warm, generous and crazy guy. Here's to you Dan!!!

We have a few members who have recently gone under the knife: Wendy Fitzsimons, is recovering from abdominal surgery but that didn't stop her from running the Golf Weekend; Diane Dubreuil, had an emergency appendectomy and Tom Marino, had or is due for ankle surgery as a result of an old motorcycling injury. We're wishing all of you a speedy recovery so you'll be back on the slopes this coming season. If you have any news of members, please let me know at 860-871-0484 or milliarnold57142@aol.com.

Fall Hiking Schedule •

Hikes begin at 11:30am. For the rest of the year due to the daylight savings change and the shorter days. Anyone interested in leading a hike this fall, please call either Jeanne (860-651-3257), or Rick (860-675-3403) before the newsletter deadline for that month.

Nov 1 • Burlington-Sessions Woods+Picnic @ Rick & Mary Sullivan's (860-675-3403, cell 860-324-4952) • From the intersection of route 6 and 69 North in Bristol follow route 69 north approximately 3 miles to area entrance road on left. Follow signs to Beaver Pond Trail; park at Beaver Pond Trailhead. Hikes of varying length and difficulty available. After the hikes we'll gather at Rick & Mary's (close by). BYOB and something to share. We'll have hamburgers and salmon burgers for everybody.



Nov 15 • Holyoke MA • Mt Tom • Fred & Irene Murray (860-628-5364) • We will carpool from a commuter parking lot in Windsor. **Meet at 10:30am** (note early departure) at the Commuter Parking lot off Exit 37 (Bloomfield Avenue, rt. 305). Take a right off the exit, the lot is immediately on your right. It will take us about an hour from there to reach the trailhead.

Nov 29 • Plainfield • Rattlesnake Mountain • Rick Sullivan (860-675-3403, cell 860-324-4952) • Take I-84 west to rte 72/372. Turn right at end of ramp go past Loew's Plaza, and past Crooked St. to parking lot on right where the Metacomet trail crosses route 372. Hike is 6 miles with nice views at Pinnacle rock and goes past an old Nike Site on the way to Will Warren's Den and the peak of Rattlesnake Mountain.

Fall Hike 2009 •



Our weekend stay at Base Camp and 3-front assault on Mt Tabor was a great success. Hikers staying at the lodge were greeted with interesting Tibetan-themed decorations by Rhonda, Chuck, Mary & Lynn and provided a great dinner by chefs Ron and Jack with assistance from Patty (who might just make the world's best pesto sauce), Paula and Wayne.

Over forty hikers, divided into three teams, enjoyed a variety of trails with beautiful scenery, pretty foliage and a snack break beside a sparkling mountain lake. Each team achieved its hiking goal and everyone met at the trail head parking area for an apres hike party and Mary's amazing gazpacho.

Upon returning to base camp we were treated to white chocolate trimmed glacial martinis at Joe & Angie's Mountain Martini Bar, great appetizers (with thanks to Happy Hour sherpas Pat B, Patty, Mary and Lorie and a delicious Mountain Feast prepared by Ron and Jack and their dinner sherpa Paula. Dessert sherpas were Jean L, Linda D, Sharon, Paula, Cindy A and Gerty. As usual, after dinner, frivolity ensued with Patty & Rich calling the square dancing and Novlette spinning the discs and a great time was had by all.

Thanks to everyone who participated (including any other sherpas I may have forgotten to name) and helped make this another great fall hike weekend.

We're already working on next year's weekend - think Oktoberfest in the Alps!!

Jeanne & Rick, Hiking Co-chairs

Deadline for December 2009 • 18 November

The deadline for the December Newsletter is November 18 - Third Wed. Please email news items to: irene_murray@sbcglobal.net or fax 860-644-3951 if you do not see Irene at a meeting.



mt laurel skier's calendar

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	
1  Sunday Hike Burlington	2	3	4 Bd & Reg Meeting	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11 New Member Meeting Fire Safety Talk 	12	13	14 	
15  Sunday Hike Holyoke MA	16	17	18 Fidelco Guide Talk News Deadline	19	20	21 Annual CSC Snow Ball, Windsor Marriott	
22	23	24	25 NO MEETING Happy Thanksgiving	26	27	28	
29  Sunday Hike Plainville	30 	November 2009					

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

Mt Laurel Skiers
P O Box 4
Farmington, CT 06034

2009-2010 Officers

President • Kay Leatherman • president@mtlski.com
 V President • Chuck Hannah • vicepresident@mtlski.com
 Secretary • Bob Wallace • secretary@mtlski.com
 Treasurer • Rick Sullivan • treasurer@mtlski.com
 Asst Sec/Trea • Betsy Chase
 Past President • Jonathan Houck

CSC Ambassador • Betsy Chase

Board Members • Board@MtlSki.com

Kathy Amenta
 Scott Farrar
 Irene Murray
 Pat Revoir
 Angie Testa
 Mandy Weber
 Scott Weber



November Meetings •
 Whinstone Tavern
 Stanley Golf Course
 245 Hartford Road
 New Britain CT
SAVE THE DATES

November

01 Sunday Hike, Burlington
 04 Bd Mtng 6pm, Reg Wed Night
 meetings begin @ 7:30pm
 11 New Member Mtg 6:30pm,
 Reg Mtg: Fire Safety Talk
 15 Sunday Hike, Holyoke MA
 18 Reg Mtg: Fidelco Guide Talk,
 News Deadline
 21 Annual CSC Snow Ball,
 Windsor Marriott
 25 NO MEETING,
 Happy Thanksgiving
 29 Sunday Hike, Plainville

December

02 Bd Mtng 6pm, Reg Wed Night
 meetings begin @ 7:30pm
 09 Holiday Dance w/Bobby
 Darling & Dr. Devine
 16 Reg Mtg.
 23 NO MTG
 30 NO MTG



Celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the Mt Laurel Skiers with a luxurious Cruise in 2010! • October 16

We will cruise on Royal Caribbean's newest and biggest ship, "Oasis of the Seas." The first in the line's all-new and awe-inspiring Oasis-class of vessels, Oasis of the Seas will set sail in 2009 as the largest and most revolutionary ship at sea. Port Everglades will serve as Oasis of the Seas' home port. Depart Ft Lauderdale on Saturday, Oct 16, 2009 and cruise the western Caribbean with ports of call at Labadee, Haiti, Costa Maya, Mexico, Cozumel, Mexico.

Prices range from \$899.00 for inside room to \$1199.00 for outside room with balcony, based on 2 people. The 3rd and 4th person in room is \$699.00 each. Federal tax, gratuities and airfare are extra.

Reserve now for best choice of rooms. Deposit \$300.00/per person.

Contacts: Karen Grossman - 860-261-4041

Eric Ardolino - 203-265-9293



Winter Ski Trips 2009-2010 •

Sunday River Ski Drive Trip (March 2010) is **FULL**. Annie Alden is holding 3 slots open for new members and wait listing all others, contact her for more information: Aalden30@netzero.com



Ski Trip Switzerland 2010 Update, January 29 - February 6 •

We are currently full with 66 people and 3 people on wait list. Final payment will be due at the end of November. Statements will go out at the beginning of November. These statements will include a currency adjustment as the Dollar has now dropped and is almost par with the Swiss Franc. Any questions, please call Eric. Also, for those wishing to stay at a B and B, there is a hotel called Hotel Garni Elite, which has great rates (but very limited space). It does not include dinner. Call Eric at 203-265-9293 for more info. Again the date is January 29 - February 6.

MTL Instruction Days • 2010

Down Hill: January 2, 2010
February 6, 2010
March 20, 2010

Lesson Time: 9:00 - 11:30am

Place: *Okemo

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

Free Instruction: All levels downhill, cross country, & snow boarding



Cross Country: January 30, 2010
(tentative)

* **Down Hill and Snowboarders Meet outside Jackson Gore base lodge.** Gore opens at 8:00am and ski instruction starts promptly at 9:00am, so come early, take a few runs and meet me there before 9:00am. **Down Hill and Snowboarders Meet outside Jackson Gore base lodge at the picnic tables.**

* **Cross Country Skiers Meet at MTL lodge** at 9:30am, then drive to Okemo Valley

Contact: Anne Alden via email: Aalden30@netzero.com MTL web page instruction



GUIDELINES FOR NEWSLETTER INSERTS

- There will be a limit of two flyers per issue of the newsletter.
- Flyers will be put in the Newsletter two times for each event. The flyer can be posted on the website as soon as the event is approved by the board.
- Flyers will be inserted in the newsletter in a date-sensitive manner, with those that occur closest in time to the date of the newsletter having the first priority.
- Flyers are allowed for events that require sign-ups and have a cost connected to them and/or reservations required.
- Newsletter editor has final say on what is included in each Newsletter.



Nor'easter Dreamin'

A semi-formal dance featuring live music by Steppin' Out

Saturday November 21, 2009

Hartford Windsor Marriot Hotel

28 Day Hill Road, Windsor

Tickets: \$20 in advance

\$25 at the door

Name: _____

Address: _____

Make checks out to MTL Skiers

Mail to: Betsy Chase, 23 Kenwood Circle, Bloomfield, CT 06002