

Mt. Laurel Skiers Newsletter

May 2005



from the President . . .

Have you noticed it? I'm talking about the spirit that is back in MTL. If you've attended any recent club event, then you know what I mean. It's evident in the large turnouts and the camaraderie we all enjoy; let's keep it up!

Leading off in April were Dan Giordano, Jack Uhrynowski, and Ron Colaresi hosting the Pig Roast at the lodge. Help they received from numerous volunteers made the event another huge success.

We had a record turnout for Lip Sync thanks again to John Ewen, and those members who participated and entertained us. Thanks to them all, but especially to John whose generosity to this club is especially appreciated.

Gordon Gaulin led a hike on the 17th at Bigelow State Park in Union. It was a gorgeous day for the party that followed at the beautiful lakeside home of Ernie Riley and Judy Soule. Thanks to them for their generous hospitality. Another untiring volunteer hike leader is Alexis Kuchel, who led a trek at Valley Falls in Bolton on the 24th. Thanks again, Alexis.

Wednesday program chairpersons, Charlotte LeClair and John Bazzano, have kept us entertained, and on the 27th they helped us thank Maria and her staff at Zabbara's with an Appreciation Night. We truly do appreciate the long and special relationship we have with them.

This is my last letter as this year's president, and I look forward to supporting our new president, as I remain on the Board for one more year. I've enjoyed working with the dedicated Board members who made my job easy, and with all of the rest of the club members who have been so supportive. We have strengthened the club by dealing with key issues this year, and we'll continue to find answers to other issues as we go forward together.

Have a great summer!
Tom Knudsen

Okemo Discount Ticket

OKEMO tickets have already been returned **April 29th**. I will send them to the mountain, then in the fall (date to be announced), we each pay the difference to get them back. Remember, if you have not picked up your 2004-05 tickets, or paid the difference, those tickets have automatically become the property of **Mt Laurel Skiers**. See you all at the Annual Banquet. **Thanks, Susan Forsdick**

Important Numbers •

Membership • Alison Reno
860-977-2142

Bike Chair • Andy LeClair
860-283-4889

Hike Chair • Gordon Gaulin
860-688-2934

Tennis • Harold Barenz
860-243-8136

Summer Tennis • 7 June - 23 August

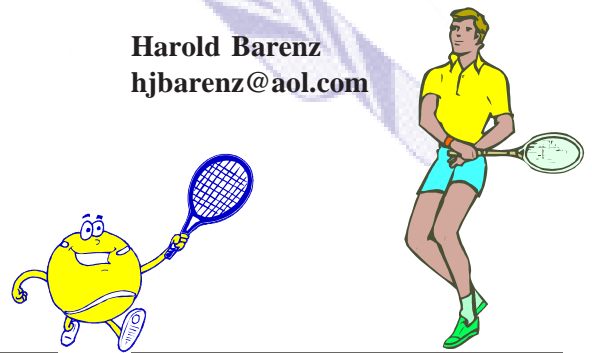
Do you like to smack the tennis balls? Well, join us playing indoor tennis during the summer at the "Tennis Center," 60 Prospect Street, Newington. We play Tuesdays, June 7 to August 23 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm.

Twelve weeks indoors rain or shine, and for a price of only \$115. All levels of play are welcome. Six pizza nights are included in the above cost. Also balls are provided each night. It is great fun and you can't beat the price!

Sign-up for *Summer Tennis* is on a first/come, first/serve basis with 24 slots available. *Summer Tennis* is an approved Mt. Laurel summer activity, but not supported financially by the club. Friends of members are welcome to participate.

Make checks for *Summer Tennis* payable to Harold Barenz. Sign up at meetings on Wednesday nights or mail your check to me at 18 Downing Circle, Bloomfield CT, 06002-2029.

Harold Barenz
hjbarenz@aol.com



Lodge Committee...

In order to collect information on members use of and thoughts about the current MTL lodge, the Lodge Committee has developed the survey. Your input is very important in guiding the Committee in the facilitation of ideas on improvements that will benefit the membership and improve the financial standing of the lodge.

In the interest of obtaining an accurate representation of the members views, please complete only one survey per person.

Please complete and return the survey by May 25th. Your input is appreciated!

TO RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEYS:

- Place in the Return Surveys envelope available on the membership table during meetings
- Give to any committee member listed below
- Email or fax to Stacy (riley3s@comcast.net) or 860-769-9927 or Russ (Rpac43@aol.com) or 860-623-7331.

**MTL Lodge Committee: Russ Pacino, Chairperson
Stacy Riley, Kathy Amenta, Ken Ryan, Ray Taksar, Karen Grossman,
Maureen Gaherty, Jim Mays, Alison Reno, Bill Yeske**

2005 Connecticut Race in the Park •

We want to thank those of you who made pledges - we raised over \$250! Our team is comprised of 14 walkers this year, who will join thousands of others on May 7 at Walnut Hill Park in New Britain. The event raises money for breast cancer research and other initiatives.

Charlotte will have the T-shirts and bibs available at the first Monday night bike ride on May 2, or at the club meeting on May 4. If you do not get your shirt by then, we meet at the Sponsor's tents between 8:30 and 9:00 on May 5. Everyone should arrive by that time to ensure that you get parking and the opportunity to pick up some of the freebies from the sponsors.

Karen Grossman and Charlotte LeClair



Deadline for June • 18 May 2005 • Third Wednesday •

May 18 is the deadline for receipt of new information for the June 2005 newsletter. All information should be to **Kathy Augustyn** by that date.

If you do not see Kathy at a meeting, please mail to:

17 Rising Trail Drive • Middletown CT 06457

or email kathleen.augustyn@inginvestment.com

or fax: 860-275-2845 • h 860-632-1280 • w 860-275-2389

Killington, Etc., Bulk Tickets •

I have all the tickets, now off to the CSC, then the mountains. In June, I should have the status as to what has been accepted by them. I'll keep you posted.

Eila McCloskey

Wednesday Night Programs • May

11 May Roling Presentation.
Come and hear about this unique form of massage.

As Co-chairs, we are interested in hearing your ideas about programs during the summer and in the upcoming year. Please contact us!

**Charlotte LeClair &
Joe Bazzano**

Lodge News from Ray Taksar •

Another Ski Season and the start of all the other fun stuff we do. Do you have enough new golf balls? Are your bikes tuned up? Just not enough time for all the toys.

I would like to thank all who helped out the Lodge with Innkeeping. Also, to Chef Peter and Moe for great parties. To Kathy Amenta for all of her help at the Lodge and filling in for Lisa. Speaking of Lisa, a very special thanks for the impossible job of Lodge Reservations. Don't know how she did it again. So long for now and enjoy your summer.

Best Always, Ray

Pig Roast Thanks...

A special thanks to all the MTL bikers and skiers @ the 12th Annual Pig Roast: Jack the Roast Man • Ron the Fry Man • Dan the Sauce Man. P.S. "Remember there is always room for J-E-L-L-O!" Thank you, Alison.

Jack

Monday Night Bike



The snow has melted, the flowers are blooming and Mt. Laurel Skiers are getting ready for the warmer weather activities. Join your friends and make new ones by participating in the club sponsored bike rides. All rides begin at 6:00 and are hosted by different club members each week, except holidays through the summer. Helmets are mandatory and water is recommended. All rides are marked and maps are also available.

The first two rides in May are joint rides with our friends from Newington Ski Club. Other rides are hosted by Newington Ski Club members. All rides held in May will be followed by pizza.

May 2 • Bristol • St. Gregory's Church • Andy & Charlotte LeClair • 860-283-4889 From Rt 84 take Rt 6 to Bristol. Turn Right onto Stafford Ave., just past Stephen's Auto Mall. St. Gregory's Church is on your left. Pizza will follow at the Pavilion, of course.

May 9 • New Hartford • Maridino Plaza • John Eason • 860-674-9348 From Hartford take Rt 44 west to New Hartford. Ride starts at Maridino's grocery store parking lot, across the street from Satan's Kingdom State Park.

May 16 • Manchester • Joann Fabrics • Joe Mangione and Angie Testa • 860-646-7505 Rt 84 east to exit 62, Buckland Hills Mall, end of exit, take left. 3rd light, take left, Exxon station. Next right into Joann Fabrics. Meet in parking lot in front.

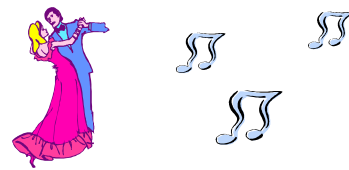
May 23 • Berlin • Ann Alden and Bruce Alexander • 860-828-3378 Meet at Suburban Sports, 25 Webster Square Road. **Route 9 South** to Exit 22, right off exit onto Mill St., right onto Webster Square Road. **Route 9 North** to Exit 22, left off exit on Frontage Rd., left onto Webster Square Road. Short, medium, long, and "macho" loops.

June 6 • Manchester • Deane Young • 141 Center St • 860-283-4884 Rt 84 to Rt 384 East, Exit 3, bear right off the exit, straight through downtown. At the top of the hill see the big white church, left on Center St. at light. Second house on right after the first light #141. A gourmet picnic to follow, rain or shine, bring a chair.

In the event of rain, please call our answering machine to see if the ride is cancelled.

Andy LeClair, 860-283-4889

AMBASSADOR'S ANGLE •



Well, my year as Ambassador has come to a close and I would like to say how enjoyable and special it was to represent the Mountain Laurel Ski Club. This year experienced a fantastic open house which has brought in so many new prospective members to help carry on the tradition. Halloween and Christmas brought us the dances that so many people enjoy, and we rose the bar with the New Year's Eve Dinner and weekend.

In February and March the club went to Taos and Jay Peak for two outstanding ski trips with much anticipation of where the trips will be next year. As you can see the activities are endless and too numerous to list here, and to be the Ambassador to such an outstanding club is a privilege.

Which brings me to this year's Annual Banquet on May 14th where we will unveil the new Mountain Laurel Ambassador for the 2005-2006 season. I encourage everyone to attend what promises to be a night to remember - dancing, music, great friends. What more can anyone ask for?

I would like to thank Mandy Lavallee for all her help and special thanks to Kathy Amenta and Stacy Riley as well. It has been a great year and I will cherish the memory.

Thank You, Ambassador Russ

Annual Mt Laurel Banquet • 14 May

The Annual Banquet is not that far away. This year it is being held at the Marinelli's Supper Club in Burlington CT. This is our first year here and we hope to have a great time!!! Our entertainment is still TBA but as in the past it is sure to be spectacular!!!



The Banquet will begin at 6:30pm for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres (cash bar) and Dinner will be served at 7:15pm with dancing to follow until 12:30am.

We have a good committee who are working diligently to make this a success for the club. We still need more members **to help sell tickets at the April meetings** and also to solicit raffle prizes. We will also need help the day of the banquet. There are a lot of talented and generous people in the club, and we would greatly appreciate anyone who would donate a raffle prize. Last year we were fortunate to receive many gifts donated by club members. Raffle prizes do not have to be ski or bike related. All raffle prizes will be acknowledged by who donated or solicited them and by what business is associated with the donation on our program.

RAFFLE DONATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY MAY 4, 2005. THIS WILL ENSURE ALL PRIZES WILL BE PRINTED IN THE BANQUET PROGRAM.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US!!!!

**Banquet Chairs: Alison Reno membership@mtlski.com
or Susan.Forsdick@us.ing.com**

Sunday Hikes • May 2005

Continue hiking with fellow Mt. Laurel members on Sunday through June. All hikes are of moderate length and difficulty, and begin at 12:30pm followed by beer and pizza after, of course. Bring snacks, water, rain gear, and sturdy hiking shoes. I am looking for leaders to help me lead hikes this spring. For more info call individual hike leader or Gordon Gaulin 860-688-2934.

01 May • Meriden • Chauncey Peak and Lamentation Mountain • Joe Mangione and Angie Testa • 860-646-7505

Directions: Take I-91 north or south to exit 20, Country Club Rd. At the end of the exit, head west on Country Club Rd. It will turn into Westfield Rd, in Meriden. About 2 miles from I-91, look for the trailhead on the right (Mattabesett Trail). Parking is just past the trailhead on the right in Gionfriddo Park. This hike is rated B.

08 May • Manchester • Case Mountain • Alexis Kuchel • 860-432-0015 • Directions: Take I-384 west to exit 4. Turn left at end ramp onto Spring St. Turn right at light onto Highland St. Pass under the highway and turn right onto Birch Mt. Rd. Parking on right 200 yards after Sharon Dr. Parking is limited. You can car pool from Highland Market. Hike is rated C.

15 May • Somers • Soapstone Mountain • Gordon Gaulin • 860-688-2934 • Directions: From the junction of CT 140 and CT 83, drive north on CT 83 for 4 miles to Parker Road and turn right. After 1.3 miles (the last 0.4 miles is a rough, three season dirt road), at the four-way junction with Soapstone Mountain Rd and Sykes Rd, park across the way on your left. This hike is rated C and is 4 miles.

22 May • Meriden • West Peak and Castle Craig • Michael Smestad • 860-620-9111 • Meet at the parking lot at Hubbard Park. There will be a picnic after the hike, bring something to share with 4 people. For more detailed directions, please contact Mike. This hike is rated C.

29 May • NO HIKE • MEMORIAL DAY



Gordon Gaulin - Hike Chairman

MTL Election •

Congratulations to these newly elected Mountain Laurel Skiers Officers and Board of Directors:

President	Jonathan Houck
Vice President	Alison Reno
Secretary	Jim Mays
Treasurer	Eric Ardolino
Assistant Sec/Treas	Tina Oswald
Directors (2 year term)	Russ Pacino and Stan Wasel

Continuing on the Board of Directors to finish their two year term are Dan Giordano and Kevin Neary. Tom Knudsen will also serve on the Board as Past President. Please support these members as they lead the Mt. Laurel Skiers through new challenges in the 2005-2006 season.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to our Nominating Committee for presenting this highly qualified Slate of Officers. The Committee is: Pat Revoir, Dan Giordano, and Kevin Neary. THANK YOU also to the Election Night Committee whose support ensured a smoothly run Election. They are: Paula Felt, Carol Rowan, Barbara Murkowicz, Charlotte and Bob Provencher, Terri Tabshey, Faye Ewen, Kevin Neary, and Ernie Riley.

Also, JOIN IN THE FUN and plan on attending our ANNUAL OFFICERS AND AWARDS BANQUET on Saturday MAY 14 for the Installation of our newly elected Officers and Board of Directors. At the Annual Banquet we will also be handing out our Alpine and Nordic Race Awards, Tennis Awards, and Member Awards. See Alison Reno or Susan Forsdick for tickets.

**Respectfully,
Karen Grossman, Election Night Chairperson**

Celebrations and Concerns •

Our sympathies to Kim Foscolos in the death of her father, Betsy Bayne in the death of her mother, and Dennis Burns in the death of his mother last month.

Thanks, Susan Forsdick

Proposed Bylaw Change for the Membership Year 2005

Currently our bylaws state:

Article III Section 6. Membership Term A. Regular membership in the Club shall date from September 1 through August 31.

And

Article V Section 2. Annual Dues shall be due September 1 and payable no later than September 30 of each year or thirty days after mailing of the renewal notice to Club membership whichever is later. Any dues paid after this date shall be levied a late fee; the amount of the late fee will be determined by the Board of Directors. In the event of some unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Directors shall rule when dues become delinquent and shall determine new due date for membership dues. A delinquent member forfeits his or her membership pursuant to Article III, Section 5.

Due to problems collecting membership dues and the delinquency of many of the members returning their membership applications after the 30 days specified in the bylaws I would like to reword them as follows:

Annual Dues shall be due July 1 and payable no later than August 31 of each year or sixty days after the mailing of the renewal notice to the Club membership whichever is the latter. Any dues paid after that shall be levied a late fee which will be enforced, the amount of the late fee will be determined by the board of directors.

There are many reasons behind this change-Here are some of them

Membership renewals went into the middle of November with over 1/3 of the club renewing after the Sept 30 deadline, because we did not enforce the late fee this year we lost approximately \$1500 in revenue we could have had.

13 of the other main Clubs in the CSC have the same membership year as we do but are in the throes of their renewal time RIGHT NOW with the renewal forms on their websites NOW!!!!

I was not able to give the CSC our complete roster until the middle of November hence the delays of our CSC membership stickers.

We need the fall to concentrate on building our membership and focusing on our new members to make them feel welcome in our club. Our Open House was moved from November to September last year and we had a record Number of people attend and also a record number of prospective Members sign up; 17 to be exact!

Remember that you will not be losing money this year because our membership year will be staying the same.. Any suggestions that you have to make the membership year run smoother for next year will be welcome.

MT. LAUREL LODGE SURVEY

1. How many times per year do you stay at the lodge (count a weekend as 1)?
 1-2 times/year 3-5 times/year 6 or more 0

2. How many times per year do you stay at places other than the lodge in the Okemo area?
 1-2 times/year 3-5 times/year 6 or more 0

3. How do you feel about having a policy of charging less for top bunks compared to lower bunks?
 Like the idea Don't like the idea Don't care

4. How much (additional) would you be willing to pay for a bottom bunk compared to a top bunk?
 \$5.00 per night \$10.00 per night \$15.00 per night \$0

5. How much (additional) would you be willing to pay for a bed in a room without bunks?
 \$10.00 per night \$15.00 per night \$20.00 per night \$0

6. Rate the weekend breakfasts at the lodge (excluding special/event weekends):
 Great Very Good Good Fair Poor

7. Would you like to see one of the bedrooms made into an entertainment/extra TV room?
 Like idea Don't like idea Don't care














8. Children (ages 17 and under) should be welcomed at the lodge:
 Anytime Any non-party wknd Designated wknds Not at all

9. Would you participate in a working weekend at the lodge (no charge to stay)?
 Yes No Don't know

10. List four things you would like to see improved at the lodge:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

SEE MAY NEWSLETTER FOR INFO ON RETURNING COMPLETED SURVEYS

mt laurel skier's calendar

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
1  Sunday Hike Meriden	2  Monday Bike Bristol	3	4 Board & Regular Meeting	5	6	7  "Race in the Park"
8  Sunday Hike Manchester	9  Monday Bike New Hartford	10	11 Rolfing Presentation Regular Meeting	12	13	14  Annual Banquet
15  Sunday Hike Somers	16  Monday Bike Manchester	17	18 Regular Meeting News Deadline	19	20	21
22  Sunday Hike Meriden	23  Monday Bike Berlin	24	25 Regular Meeting	26	27	28
29 NO HIKE	30 NO BIKE	31	  			

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

2003-2004 Officers

President • Tom Knudsen • President@MtlSki.com
 V President • Alison Reno • Vicepresident@MtlSki.com
 Secretary • Jonathan Houck • Secretary@MtlSki.com
 Treasurer • Tina Oswald
 Asst Sec/Trea • Susan Forsdick
 Past President • Eric Ardolino

Board Members • Board@MtlSki.com

Kathy Amenta
 Dan Giordano
 Karen Grossman
 Kevin Neary
 Pat Revoir
 Carol Rowan
 Ray Taksar



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

Save These Dates

May

- 01 Sunday Hike - Meriden
- 02 Monday Bike - Bristol
- 04 Board/Reg Meeting
- 07 Breast Cancer "Race in the Park"
- 08 Sunday Hike - Manchester
- 09 Monday Bike - New Hartford
- 11 Rolfing Presentation, Regular Meeting
- 14 Annual Banquet
- 15 Sunday Hike - Somers
- 16 Monday Bike - Manchester
- 18 Regular Meeting, News Deadline
- 22 Sunday Hike - Meriden
- 23 Monday Bike - Berlin
- 25 Regular Meeting
- 29 NO SUNDAY HIKE
- 30 NO MONDAY BIKE

June

- 03-05 Block Island
- 06 Monday Bike - Manchester