

Ski Scoop



The Newsletter of the Short Hills Ski Club

Spring 2007

What I did on My Winter Vacation by Chad Watkins

It's that time again. Time for another long winded spiel on my winter vacation. If you're one of those people who hate long emails, here's the reader's digest version. We went to Vail, CO, had record snow fall and had the snowboarding experience of a lifetime. The end. Do not feel obligated to read on. I promise not to quiz you on it. If, however, you care to hear the details of digging a gopher hole, the mad race, scary cliffs, knee deep powder, snowmobiling, avoiding snow-cats, and effects of a monster storm, then please read on. Luckily Vail has not changed its slogan to what happens in Vail stays in Vail since it allows me to write about my favorite subject, ME!

THE DEAL: So that I don't come off as a bragging about going to Vail, I need to preface this story with the deal that got us there. This trip was put together by the NJ Ski Council, which is an umbrella organization that covers most NJ ski clubs including the Short Hills Ski Club of which I am the lodge VP. Susan Donlan ran the trip and on behalf of the 190 of us who attended, I thank her for a great vacation.

For just \$1100, the package included air fare, lodging, 5 days of lift tickets, 3 dinner parties and a lunch. The lodging was a 2-bedroom condo, complete with a full kitchen, dinning room and living room with a gas fireplace that turned itself off and on to control the heat, which was adjustable by remote control. Daily maid service was included and the location was less than 300 yards from the gondola, easily in walking distance, but you could also take the shuttle to get you within 100 yards. The lunch was a BBQ on the mountain. The 3 dinner parties consisted of a welcome party the day we arrived, another party in the ski museum (very cool) and a third that was held on a horse ranch that provided horse drawn sleigh rides to go along with some excellent food.

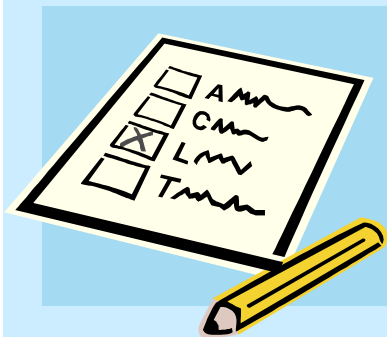
The only other needed expense was the cost of food for the remaining meals, which we split up between going to some of the finer restaurants and cooking at home. We did treat ourselves to one indulgence, ski storage, which included having the skis, snowboard and boots taken right to the gondola and then picked up at the end of the day. For the few bucks a day, it was a true bargain, well worth not having to lug the gear around.

Continued on page 2

View from Sugarbush!



ELECTIONS!



Annual Elections for officers for the 2007/2008 season and the Annual Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 17th.

The ballot will be open from 7:30 until the meeting begins at about 8:30 pm.

All ACTIVE Members are encouraged to come out and vote. Active members who are interested in running for office, please contact Rob Pabst at rpabst@kautexinc.com. The slate will be closed at the end of the meeting on Tuesday April 10th.





February Mardi Gras Party

Many thanks to Bob Frank & Linda Moakler for coordinating this party on February 20th. It doubled as a Membership Recruitment Party.

It was a Mardi Gras Party with all the fixin's. There was Cajun good and dancing, and attendees were encouraged to dress in Purple, Gold & Green.



The New Woodshed

What I Did on My Winter Vacation, continued from page 1

THE WEATHER: Hard to believe it's been six years since my wife, Mariann, and I went out west to ski. That trip was to Big Sky, MT and unseasonably warm weather forced us to ski in 55 degree temperatures all week. On this trip, when we got off the plane in Denver, it was 50 degrees. Vail had received 14 feet of snow for the year, but didn't have any for a couple weeks and the warm temperatures put a pretty big dent in that 14 feet. I began to wonder if we would be riding the slush again.

Fortunately my prayers to the snow gods were successful as mother nature treated us to record snowfalls (according to the locals). It snowed several inches every night creating a clean slate to ride on each morning. Like shaking an etch-a-sketch, yesterday's tracks were erased. It then continued to snow through most days with the sun popping out for just minutes at a time. If you were real quick, you could get a picture with a blue sky.

THE MOUNTAIN: For those of you who are unfamiliar with Vail, it is the largest ski resort in North America, consists of 3 mountain faces, is 7 miles wide and is 100% wind powered except for the hybrid shuttle busses. This way no one can complain about wasting energy as all of the villages are lit with Christmas lights. These villages are all at the base of the first mountain side appropriately named "The Front Side". If you go over the ridge at the top and go down the other side, you enter the "Back Bowls" which are huge expanses of open snow speckled with a few trees here and there. No green (easiest) trails here, and only one blue (intermediate). So, if you are not an expert skier capable of handling black (expert) trails, you need to take care not to go off the wrong side of the ridge or you will be in way over your head.

Can't get enough of this story? There's lots more! But you'll need to go to <http://www.shorthillsskiclub.org/> and click on the link on the front page to finish the rest of it.

American Skiing Company Announces Sale of Killington and Pico Resorts For \$83.5 M



PARK CITY, UTAH – February 20, 2007 – American Skiing Company (OTCBB: AESK) announced today that it had entered into a definitive agreement to sell its Killington and Pico resorts in Vermont to SP Land Company, LLC, a major area landowner, for \$83.5 million. The announced sale follows the recent announcement of the sale of Mount Snow and Attitash resorts for \$73.5 million and the December announcement of the planned \$265 million sale of Steamboat resort.

For the full Tuesday February 20, 2007 story, go to:

<http://peaks.shareholder.com/ReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=230386>



President's Day Weekend

Snow, snow and more snow. It was an EXCELLENT weekend for skiing.



Trip Captains take a break with the new cook, Anne.

See page 3 for a great French Toast recipe, similar to what Anne cooked at the lodge.



The Woodshed

by Lodge VP Chad Watkins

The 4/17/2007 general meeting will have the elections for officers for the 2007/2008 season. On the ballot will be a question as to whether or not the membership wants to approve the costs for the woodshed. Didn't we already build the woodshed? Yes, we did, so if this seems like putting the cart in front of the horse, it is.

The club used to have a woodshed, but it was taken down to make room to for the new dining room back in 1994. This was done with the intention to rebuild it when the dining room was finished, but for whatever reason it fell off the radar until recently. As Lodge VP for the last 2 years, experience has taught me that using tarps to cover the wood is not a good idea. Simply put, tarps are a poor ventilation system, which is required to properly season wood. This is the reason I brought the idea of building the woodshed to the Board.

What was the original estimate to build the woodshed? \$300. What was the final cost of the woodshed? \$2,381. How did that happen? When I asked Bill Selvidio how much it would cost to build the woodshed, he felt it would only be a few hundred dollars since we had the donated 4X4s to build the frame. What I didn't realize was that Bill had a much different idea in mind than I did. He wanted to build an open air woodshed (i.e. no walls), figuring that he could make the roof overhang enough to block any falling snow from hitting the wood. I did not like that idea because the snow drifts would still cover the wood as soon as the wind started to blow, defeating the purpose of building the woodshed. By the time we realized we were not on the same page, we had already poured the cement and started building the frame.

Isn't it the responsibility of the Lodge VP to make sure the volunteers are on the same page? Absolutely. I take full responsibility for the mistake and ask that no one try to throw Bill under the bus on this as he did nothing but donate seven weekends in a row to build the woodshed, bore the costs on getting up there as well as donating the 4X4s. Also, Bill never spent any money that I did not authorize. He must have put in close to 100 hours of labor, maybe more and I applaud him and all of the other volunteers such as Shaun Rice, Maria Ospina, Marian Mann and everyone else for a job well done.

Why wasn't the Lodge VP concerned about the escalating costs when the total exceeded \$1000? At the annual budget meeting last September, the membership approved \$4,100 for the lodge improvement budget. That money was earmarked for other items such as painting the exterior of the lodge, putting in tile in the bathroom, replacing the bulkhead to the basement, etc. None of these items had been done, so I was working under the assumption that this was my budget. The \$2,381 spent on the woodshed, a lodge improvement, was well within that budget. Similar situations have occurred in the past.

What is the justification on spending money to build a woodshed? Simple mathematics. We currently spend \$250 per cord for kiln dried firewood and go through about 4 to 5 cords a season. That puts our firewood costs in a range of \$1000 to \$1250 per year. If we were to buy green wood and let it season, that would save us about \$100 per cord or between \$400 to \$500 per year. If we do what the Eatons do across the street and buy green logs and cut and split them ourselves, our cost per cord would come down to \$65 or about \$260 to \$325 a year. That would save us \$185 per cord or between \$740 and \$925 per year. This is where the woodshed comes in because it allows us to properly season green wood. Since we will be saving hundreds of dollars per year buying the green wood instead of the expensive kiln dried wood, this savings will pay for the woodshed in a few years. After that, we will continue to save every year as long as the woodshed remains standing. Judging from the sturdiness of the woodshed due to the quality work that has gone into building it, that will be a very long time.

At the last Board meeting, the Board decided to ask the Membership for approval for the cost of the woodshed. I felt it was appropriate that I abstain from this vote.

So, if you think it is a good idea to spend \$2,381 on the wood shed that will save us several hundred dollars per year, then vote YES to the woodshed approval question. If, on the other hand, you do not think this was a good idea, vote NO to the approval. However you feel about it, it is important that you come out and vote so that the wishes of the membership are known.

This article was edited due to space restrictions. For the unedited version go to our website.

Skier's French toast



Thanks to Renee Gelblat for sending in this recipe!

This version came from her friend in Colorado and is just about the same as the one Anne Ryan uses at the Lodge.

For the Syrup:

- 2 T. Corn Syrup (Anne uses Maple Syrup instead)
- ½ Cup Butter
- 1 Cup Brown Sugar

For the Toast:

- 1 Loaf French Bread, sliced in ¾ inch thick pieces (or the equivalent in any bread)
- 8 Eggs
- 2 Cups Milk
- ¼ t. Salt
- 2 t. Vanilla

(Optional additions: other extracts or liquors to flavor the liquid. I have used Gran Marnier and Raspberry flavored Brandy. Cinnamon and Nutmeg to sprinkle on top)

Simmer the Syrup ingredients together until they form a thick liquid.

Pour the liquid into a 9 x 13 inch baking dish and distribute it evenly.

Lay the bread on top of the syrup. Pack the bread in tight and fill in all the spaces.

Beat together the eggs, milk, salt, and vanilla (and optional flavorings). Pour mixture over bread, sprinkle cinnamon and nutmeg on top, cover, and refrigerate overnight.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 -50 minutes. I cook it covered for the first 30 minutes, then uncovered until it is a bit brown on top. Cooking time depends on your oven.

Serve with maple syrup, fruit, etc.



SHORT HILLS SKI CLUB

P.O. Box 116, Short Hills, NJ 07078

www.shorthillsskiclub.org

2006-2007 Board Members

President	Doreen Cashen
VP Membership	Keith Wilcox
VP Lodge	Chad Watkins
General Treasurer	John Zimnoch
Lodge Treasurer	Dotty Klein
Secretary	Tim Brogran
Elected Trustee	Tom Brogan (2005-2007)
Elected Trustee	Rob Pabst (2006-2008)
Board Chairman	Tom Brogan
Trustee	John Adamson
Trustee	David Kapner
Trustee	Mariann Mann
Trustee	Marie Nardino
Trustee	Jack Walker

2006-2007 Other Contacts

Competition	Bruce Roberts
Discount Lift Tix	Joel Blank
New Membership	Linda Moakler
Recruitment	& Bob Frank
Newsletter Editor	Irene Huhner
NJ Ski Council	Susan Donlan
Party	Bob Frank
Ski Jamboree	Linda Moakler
Spring Banquet	Ann Hopkins
Trip Chair	Bill Selvidio
Webmaster	Ted Heidemann



Congratulations to all the SHSC Racers who participated in the PICO Race this year.

Killington K-1 Webcam

Submitted by Keith Hopkins

Here is a link for the new web camera at Killington. The user can control the camera for 40 seconds.

<http://www.killington.com/K1WebCam.html>



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 17th – ELECTIONS!

Consider running for a position – ask any officer or the nominating committee for details

Saturday, April 21st – Spring Banquet!

The SHSC Spring Banquet is at Il Villagio in Carlstadt

Cocktail hour, dinner, dancing, awards, lots of fun and an open bar

Price \$95 per person—Tickets on sale at the meetings and through Ann Hopkins

Ann can be contacted at ahopkins@sjm.com

May 5th - Revlon Run Walk

Contact John Strauss for details at John_Strauss@Merck.com

SUMMER

Remember the July 4th and August BBQ weekends!

SHSC meets at 8:30pm at the Elks Club,
40 Maple Street, 2nd floor, Summit NJ.

Want to get in touch with a few former members?

Jan Zymroz has been in touch with the following alumni: Laura Bexer, Don & Dot Brown, Eileen George, Gail Gray, Dianne Henn, Jayne & Carl Koch, Linda & Bill Kratt, Adrienne & John O'Toole, Rosemary & Herman Schmidt. You can either contact Jan for their contact information or get in touch with the Ski Scoop editor (irene0001@yahoo.com)



Weekly meetings held until the end of April! Then monthly until November.