The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 25 Issue 1
September 2014

ACE Ski & Board News

General Membership Meeting September 9

Driving over Susten Pass. Switzerland, by Beatrice Chaney

Location: The General Meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be **September 9** at the **Chelmsford Elks Lodge** in Chelmsford, MA. Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Meeting Highlights: Kevin Kieley will be our featured speaker to talk about racing and activities at ***Crotched Mountain.*** Kevin has an impressive resume as Race Director at Crotched Mountain, NASTAR pacesetter, USSA Certified Coach, Division #1 College Racing and former NASTAR National Champion.

*To get an **extra door prize ticket**, bring a **backpack!** Or any **school supplies** worth at least $5 like pocket dictionaries, calculators, three-ring binders, filler paper…*

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Important ACE Club Dates 2014–15

General Meetings	Board Meetings	EICSL Races
September 9	August 26	TBD
October 29	October 14	TBD
December 11	November 18	TBD
February 12	January 20	TBD

Meeting Location

The general meeting on September 9 will be at the

Elks Lodge in Chelmsford

300 Littleton Rd
Chelmsford, MA 01824
www.elks.org - Lodge #2310

Directions from the North:

Take 495 South to exit 34, and then merge onto Rte 110 West/Chelmsford St toward Rte 4. Turn right onto 110 West/ 4 North/Central Square. Continue to follow 110 West. The Elks Lodge will be on your left in about 4 minutes.

From the South:

Take 495 North to exit 32 for Boston Rd. Turn right onto Boston Rd. After a few lights, turn left onto Rte110/Littleton Rd (signs for Chelmsford/Lowell)
The Elks Lodge will be on your right after about 5 minutes.

From the East or West:

Get to 495 and then follow the above directions, or use your GPS ☺

Here's hoping for another great winter, with lots of snow!

***Ullr:** *Old Norse god Patron Saint of skiers*

ACE Club Officers

Jonathan Levy	President
Robin Temple Diamond	Vice-president and Race Chair
Betty Ann Tyson	Secretary
Dana Blanchard	Treasurer
Michèle Grenier	Membership Chair
Rob and Ilene Titus	Benefits Co-chairs
Chuck Riley	EICSL Representative
Ryan Conway	Webmaster
Beatrice Chaney	Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Welcome back! ***Ullr**** was again quite kind to us last winter. Hopefully, we will be in his good graces again. The Farmers' Almanac thinks so.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to **Chuck Riley**, our new EICSL representative. The Club has two votes at EICSL meetings, so we're still looking for a second rep.

Also, please welcome our Vice President, **Robin Diamond** to the additional role of ***Race Chair***. We thank **Gerry Welch** for his loyal years of service as Chair, and his many, many years as a racer. Gerry will be helping Robin as she transitions into this additional role.

The Club is offering two trips this year: The EICSL-sponsored Jay Peak/Seasons' Pass December Trip, and a TBD Western trip. Stay tuned for a trip announcement!

We're also offering our usual benefits of interesting meeting speakers, discounted lift tickets, racing, EICSL benefits, and the opportunity to win great raffle prizes at the General Meetings.

The club is completely run by volunteers. We have no paid staff. We have evolved from a company-based club to a non-profit corporation, recognized by both the Commonwealth and the IRS.

The club can do more, but it takes more volunteers to do it. Think about volunteering for OUR ski club.

We have critical openings for a **Meetings Chair, Marketing Chair** and **Snowboard Chair**. Speak to me at a meeting or send an email if interested.

Hello to Chuck Riley, Our New EICSL Rep

Chuck Riley is our new liaison to **EICSL**, the organization that provides us with opportunities for racing, low cost accommodation in the Mount Washington Valley, access to the EICSL Socials, and access to discounted lift tickets not available (or sold out) from our Benefits Committee.

He's a good guy to know! If you have joined EICSL, he will be getting you your EICSL ID Card, important for obtaining EICSL discounts, both up in the Valley and down here in MA, as well as mandatory for gaining access to an EICSL Social (along with an Invitation). See the EICSL article for more details.

Welcome to the Executive Board, Chuck!

Benefits Committee Update

Discount Tickets In July and August, the Club through Benefits conducted a ***mail sale*** of Vermont Tickets. A deposit of at least 50% of the total price was due at the time of the sale. ***The balance is due by November 1, 2014*** by check or money order made out to Ace Ski and Board Club. Payment may be brought to the General Meeting on September 9, 2014 or mailed to Ilene Titus, P.O. Box 392, Southborough, MA 01772. If you do not remember your balance due or what you ordered, email IleneTitus@charter.net and you will be emailed a PDF of your order form.

You may purchase ***additional tickets*** at the General Meeting on ***September 9, 2014***. Order forms for Vermont Tickets will be available at that time. You must attend the meeting to purchase tickets in this sale. Some Vermont Mountains are sold out and there are limited quantities of other Vermont Mountains so come to the General Meeting for the best opportunity to get the tickets you want.

Restrictions for Vermont are currently 16 ticket maximum with no more than 2 tickets from any one mountain. After the September 9th meeting, there will be an ***email ticket sale*** on a first come, first serve basis with confirmation by return email. Restrictions on the purchase of Vermont Mountains will continue to apply. Remaining tickets will go on sale at the October and December meetings.

Notices from Benefits Other than those sales at General Meetings, all further 2014-2015 ticket sales will be announced by email with instructions as to how to place an order. There will be no notices sent by regular mail, so keep your email current with the Membership Chair.

Wachusett Mountain GPS Club Benefits is participating in the Wachusett Mountain GPS "Greatest Possible Savings!" club.

To sign up for a Wachusett Mountain GPS Club – Century Pass:

Go to www.wachusett.com Click on Group Sales - In the drop down menu - click on GPS Club - Move your cursor to right to click on GPS Order on Line - Click on the pass you want to purchase - Enter your information.

The Group Name is ***Ace Ski and Board Club*** and the Group Coordinator is ***Ilene Titus***. One does not have to be an ACE Ski and Board Club member to join our GPS group.

Robert and Ilene Titus
Benefits Co-Chairs
P.O. Box 392
Southborough., MA 01772
ilenetitus@charter.net

Bring Backpacks or School Supplies

For an extra chance door prize ticket, please bring new, not used, school supplies to the September 9 meeting, especially backpacks, or items for older children such as pocket dictionaries, calculators or three-ring binders.

Thanks for the Food

Thanks to all the members who brought food donations to the last meeting. Your donations went to ***Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Devens, MA.***

Recap of February's General Meeting

The February meeting was a little more sparsely attended than others, as is usual at this time of year. However, as **Jon Levy** pointed out in his introduction, there were more chances for the attendees to win a prize!

Jon announced several openings on the club's board: a marketing chair, a racing chair to be trained by outgoing chair ***Gerry Welch***, and a vice president.

He then showed a video he took with a ***Go Pro*** camera mounted on his helmet while skiing down the ***Polecat*** trail at ***Wildcat Mountain, NH***. The conditions were quite challenging that day, with rutted moguls not typical of Polecat, which is ordinarily rated as a green trail. The weather was sunny and beautiful though, with stunning views of Mount Washington. All along you could see Jon's ghost shadow skiing down the mountain with the camera visible on his head, with occasional glimpses of Dana Blanchard flitting by.

Robin Diamond made a number of announcements and proposed some ideas for summer activities.

The featured speaker of the evening was **Peter Nelson** of the ***Friends of Tuckerman Ravine*** www.friendsoftuckermanravine.org .

Peter described some of the activities sponsored by the organization: for example, volunteers help to maintain the ***John Sherburne*** trail, which descends from the foot of the headwall down to ***Pinkham Notch***. They clean up and repair hiking trails after major storms such as Sandy. Last year they built two new avalanche kiosks, which post avalanche forecasts and warn skiers of dangerous conditions. More volunteers are needed!

Tuckerman Ravine is a great spot for spring skiing, long after all the region's ski resorts have closed, sometimes as late as June! It is a historic place, known as a cradle of extreme skiing in the U.S.A.

On April 12, the organization featured a grueling race, the ***Inferno Pentathlon***, which could be entered by individuals, duos, or teams of 5. This extremely difficult event consisted of an 8 mile run followed by 6 miles of kayaking, then biking 18 miles to Pinkham Notch, running up Mount Washington and skiing down Tuckerman Ravine!!! More than 200 racers signed up for the challenge.

A "toned down" version of the race replaced the Mount Washington leg with running up Wildcat Mountain and skiing down the Wildfire trail.

Peter Nelson talks about Tuckerman Ravine

Joining the ***Friends of Tuckerman Ravine*** will get you a free ski ticket for the special (tax-deductible) price of $35 for ACE Club members, ordinarily $50.

The friends also organize joint parties with ski clubs for fundraising and to rally support for the ravine among skiers. They plan periodic trips to destinations such as ***Chamonix, France***, known as a center for extreme skiing in the Alps. Every profit is put back into the mountain. Members also provide advice and guidance for people interested in going into the ravine, such as how to prepare, etc.

An exciting project is under way by film students from ***Emerson College in Boston*** to make a documentary of Tuckerman Ravine in ways not yet captured. Any donations to support this film project are welcome!

Finally, Peter showed an impressive video of skiers and snowboarders hiking up and skiing or riding down the ravine, including some spectacular falls and illustrating the incredible power of avalanches. Always pay attention to avalanche warnings!

February 2014 Door Prize Winners

Jeff Tobin	Jacket
Ryan Conway	Boot Bag
Mary Stillson	Boot Bag
Jean O'Donnell	Goggles
Vince Mattock	Goggles
Mary Mattock	Base Layer, 2 Burke Mountain
Rick	Under Armour and Foot Warmers
Bethany Karcher	2 Bromley, Toe and Hand Warmers
Bryan Woods	2 Mad River tickets
Rob Titus Jr.	Socks and Toe Warmers
Ilene Titus	Socks and Toe and Hand Warmers
Leta Markham	Socks and Toe and Hand Warmers
Jack	Socks and Toe and Hand Warmers
Marcia Ruklic	Toe and Hand Warmers
Greg Ruklic	Toe and Hand Warmers
Roscoe Diamond	Toe and Hand Warmers
Carlos Herpin	Toe and Hand Warmers

Jeff Tobin

Jon Levy

Jean O'Donnell

Robin Diamond

Mary Stillson

LOTS OF

HAND AND TOE

WARMERS

Roscoe Diamond

Leta Markham

Greg and Marcia Ruklic

Members Listening

Winter Trips 2014-2015

EICSL Trip to Jay Peak, December 2014

As in previous years, EICSL is offering an early season trip to ***Jay Peak*** on **December 16-21, 2014** or **December 18-21, 2014**. Contact your EICSL Rep for details.

Trip Out West, Winter 2015

by Ryan Conway

Where would you like to go?

Jackson Hole, Snowbird, Big Sky, Mt. Bachelor, or Ski Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine in Canada?

Send your thoughts and suggestions to Ryan!

Club Activities

Sun Valley, Idaho, March 4 – 11, 2014

by Michèle Grenier

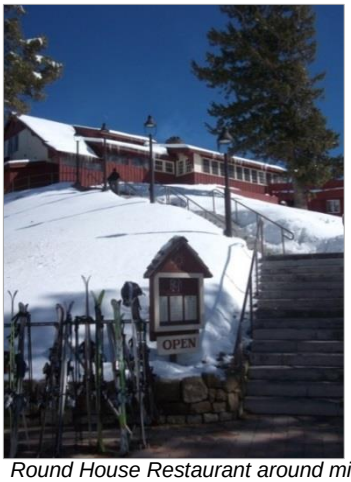
ACE members had lots of fun in **Sun Valley**! It started out with a scenic three hour bus ride from ***Boise, Idaho***. We arrived to a ski-in-ski-out condo around 4 PM Tuesday March 4, with a 6 day ski ticket, a deal as the window ticket is $99 a day. It had snowed 10 inches the night before we arrived. With the mountain's automated snow making the lower elevations were completely covered and higher elevations had lots of snow.

Ric West & Beth Karthe

The runs are steep, most at a 45 degree angle; there were bowls, woods. We enjoyed sitting on the decks in the sun and had great dinners in our condo. It was nice to swim and relax in a large outdoor heated pool after skiing.

Sue Trent, Leta Markham, Ann Bedell, Beth Karther, Michèle Grenier

We took a free bus that ran on the half hour to ***Kethum*** and to the ***Sun Valley Lodge*** area. There we saw a year round, outdoor, Olympic size ice rink, where Olympic skaters put on summer shows, and an indoor rink where Olympic skaters practice year round. We had sunny days, cloudy days and even a rainy night and day (sort of felt like New England).



Round House Restaurant around mid-mountain

The lodges in the Sun Valley area are spectacular, with large stone fireplaces and columns.

Summer Ice Cream Social

A small but dedicated group trekked to ***Kimball Farms*** in Westford for the club's annual ice cream social.

Membership Update

Michèle Grenier, Membership Chair
membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

Dear Members,

Now it is time to sign up or renew your ACE Ski and Board membership!

You can download membership forms from the ACE website at www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/ and then send your completed form and dues (checks, no cash) to:

Michèle Grenier
ACE Ski and Board Club
46 Kelly Road
Dracut, MA 01826

If you are a **PayPal** user, just send your payment to payments@aceskiandboardclub.org.

If you are paying by PayPal you will need to complete the membership process by sending your signed form to the above address, or you may scan and email it to membership@aceskiandboardclub.org, or bring it in person to any general meeting.

I will email you a confirmation that I received your membership application.

You may also sign up or renew your membership at every general meeting.

New and renewing primary members will be automatically added to the club's "Members Only" new Google Group (formerly Yahoo!Group) unless they explicitly request not to be included. This "Members Only" Google Group will be used to disseminate club news and announcements.

What the ACE Ski & Board Club Does

- Encourages camaraderie and enjoyment of skiing and riding
- Encourages and promotes an active recreational race program
- Provides availability of reasonably priced tickets
- Encourages participation in skiing in new and exotic places
- Promotes a greater knowledge of ski/board techniques, ski resorts, and technical knowledge of skiing and snowboarding

Brief History of the Club

- 25+ years old – the former Digital Ski Club
- Became the ACE Ski & Board Club, a Compaq employee club, in 1998
- Became a MA Chapter 180 nonprofit corporation, and an IRS 501(c) 7 organization in 2003
- Members are adult fans of skiing and snowboarding in the greater New England area including some former Digital, Compaq, Intel, Cabletron, and Hewlett Packard employees
- An original EICSL club (Eastern Inter Club Ski League)

Benefits of Membership

- Newsletter published four times a year
- Discount lift tickets
- Social meetings with presentations on aspects of skiing and boarding
- Active race program
- Occasional ski trips to the west or Europe and to Northern New England
- Member organized day trips to New Hampshire / Vermont
- Some shop discounts
- Timely information on coupons, special discount days and other deals
- Cross-country skiing outings
- Summer activities: cycling, hiking, camping trips
- Google Groups and Yahoo!Groups distribution lists; see details
- Optional EICSL membership
- Opportunities for family member racing
- Eligibility to win gear worth over $ 2,000 at general meetings

For details on winter trips, tickets, EICSL, racing, meetings and membership, see the club's website:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org

Members-only Google Group

For the upcoming season the Club has moved the members-only list from Yahoo!Groups to Google Groups to disseminate club news and announcements. Members-only Yahoo!Groups emails will be discontinued on or about Sept 30th 2014.

New and renewing members will automatically be added to the club's "Members Only" **Google Group,** unless they explicitly request not to be included. Family/Associate members will also be included automatically if an email address was provided on their membership form. If you are **not** receiving emails, please contact the Membership Chair at membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

To **unsubscribe** from Google Group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to: aceskiandboardmembers+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To **post** to this group, send email to: aceskiandboardmembers@googlegroups.com.

It is necessary that you be on this "Members Only" list to hear about **benefits, newsletters** and late breaking **deals** that the club offers.

NOTE: Renewing members from last year may not receive an email depending on **when** they renewed. If you are a **primary** member (Full or Basic) and are **not** receiving any news or information from the club, please send mail to the Membership Chair at membership@aceskiandboardclub.org.

General Yahoo!Group

We will continue to use the club's **General Yahoo!Group** for open communication with each other; asking if others want to organize a last-minute ski trip, find some extra ski tickets, or pass on tickets that you cannot use and other public information.

At this point in time, the ***Yahoo!Groups Calendar*** will continue to be used to send out reminders about upcoming meetings and trips.

BTW: The Club could use a helper to keep the calendar up to date! Contact a board member if interested.

ALL Members are encouraged to subscribe to the General Yahoo!Group's distribution list.

To **subscribe** - very easy ☺ - just send email to: ACESkiandBoardClub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To **post** to this group, send email to: aceskiandboardclub@yahoogroups.com

To **unsubscribe**, send email to: aceskiandboardclub-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

To **join** this group and create a Yahoo! Profile, go to: http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/AceSkiandBoardClub/ Click on ***"Join This Group!"*** and follow the instructions.

With a ***Yahoo! Profile*** you'll be able to post photographs of your latest ski trip and view other members' photographs and documents. You can also edit your preferences to get each individual email as it is sent out, or as a daily digest, or as web-only.

Both of the club's Google Groups and Yahoo!Groups are **private** and not listed in the respective groups' directory. Membership to these Groups is restricted - all group members must be approved. As a Google Groups or Yahoo!Groups member you can send out messages to the whole group. However - to avoid Spam - all messages are approved before they are released.

Updating your email address
Please let membership know ASAP if your email address changes from when you filled out your Membership form, so that you continue to receive the latest news and updates from the club.

If you **need any help**, send email to the Membership Chair at membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

Links and Forms

The club's website www.aceskiandboardclub.org no longer has a members-only area. Instead, look for news about coupons, special discount days and deals in your members-only email.

Membership:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/
Tickets:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/tickets/
Trips:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/trips/
Racing:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/racing/
Newsletters:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/newsletters/
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/aceskis

ACE/EICSL Update

Haven't skied in the last couple of years? Last couple of decades? Never skied at all? What's your excuse? No money? No time? No skis? Whatever your reasons, we've got an answer.

The **Eastern Inter-Club Ski League** (EICSL), which began in 1950 as a small group of ski clubs, is an organization comprised of clubs with over 1,200 members. Don't let those numbers scare you. Each of the clubs has anywhere from 25 to 150 members and likes to keep things as intimate and family-like as possible.

Each individual club has its own elected board of directors and numerous committees to take care of the needs of its members. EICSL binds all clubs together. EICSL' s most important function, according to **John Bycina**, Past President (1998-2000) of EICSL, is *"to help clubs communicate and to obtain benefits for a large group such as a race program, social activities and discount tickets."*

Once a member, perks like 10% off purchases from certain merchants and restaurants in the North Conway area plus - the important thing - discounted lift tickets are organized by EICSL. This year's deals included discounted tickets at **Mount Cranmore** and **Wildcat**.

Because the clubs are centrally located in the ***Mount Washington Valley***, mountains like Wildcat, Attitash and Sunday River in Maine are all within an hour from the clubs. Most people decide the night before where they'll be skiing and share rides the next morning.

Although ACE doesn't have a lodge, we have standing agreements with a few clubs if you are interested in staying at their house as a guest. Cost is very low (about $25/night), so don't expect the Marriott.

This year the **ACE Ski & Board Club** would like to invite **YOU**- to join EICSL as well. For just $10 per member in addition to your ACE Membership dues you can take advantage of all the discounts - but most important - the social atmosphere!

Join today! Email **Chuck Riley**, ***ACE Ski and Board EICSL Chair*** @ slohand53@gmail.com to inquire. Don't forget to put EICSL in the subject line.

All EICSL applications are **due by Oct 31, 2014**. There is a strict adherence to this policy and applications will not be accepted after this date.

ACE/EICSL Racing 2014–2015

Robin Temple Diamond, 2014-2015 Race Chair

Stay tuned for this season's race program in the next newsletter!