The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 20 Issue 1
September 2009

ACE Ski & Board News

General Membership Meeting September 23

NEW LOCATION The General Meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be September 23 at the Franco-American Club in Westford, MA. Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Meeting Highlights Representative from RJ Bradley's Ski & Sports Shop will be presenting new products and technology. Win Great Door Prizes, including Lift Tickets!

To get an extra door prize ticket, donate a backpack or school supplies to be given to Worcester's Friendly House (goods should be new and worthy of a charitable contribution to get an extra ticket).

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Important ACE Club Dates 2009–10

General Meetings	*Board Meetings*	*EICSL Races*
September 23	September 16	January 9
October 27	October 13	January 30
December 17		February 13
February 11		March 6

New Meeting Location

This year's general meetings will be held at the

Franco-American Club in Westford

55 West Prescott Street
Westford, MA 01886
(978) 692-7013 - Lounge

Directions from Westford Center:

Take Main Street to Forge Village Road, to Pine Street. Go 2.2 miles to a stop sign (it's a straight run from the center of town to the stop sign!).

Go right at the stop sign, and go down the hill to the railroad tracks. There is a stop light that might be flashing yellow (a couple hundred yards), then go left over the railroad tracks, and the Franco-American Club is 4-tenths of a mile on the left across from the baseball fields. If you pass the VFW, you have gone too far!

From Route 495/ Rt. 119:
Take exit 31 (Rt. 119) toward Groton, MA. Turn right on Beaver Brook Road. Turn left on Rt. 225. Go 1.1 mile. The Franco-American Club is on the left after the ballfield sign.

ACE Club Officers

Jonathan Levy	President
Robin Temple Smith	Vice-president and secretary
Jean O'Donnell	Membership
Dana Blanchard	Treasurer
Rob and Ilene Titus	Benefits co-chairs
Dee McMaster Elaine Lussier	EICSL reps
Bill Ralph	Racing chair
Bill Tarkulich	Meetings, website
Betty Ann Tyson	Newsletter editor

Benefits Committee reports . . .

- Benefits had two successful mail sales, one for Vermont and one for New Hampshire ski areas. Some Vermont mountains have sold out.
- Both Vermont and New Hampshire tickets will be for sale at the next meeting.
- Benefits received the Wachusett GPS information, and it will be available at the next meeting.
- There will be an email sale of tickets in October.

Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed! We need people to help organize trips. We need someone to take over the Newsletter.

Recap of February's General Meeting

Our last meeting of the season was held February 10 at the Boxborough Holiday Inn. Presenter was Casey from RJ Bradley's Ski & Sport Shop in Westford. He is shown here discussing the latest ski offerings.

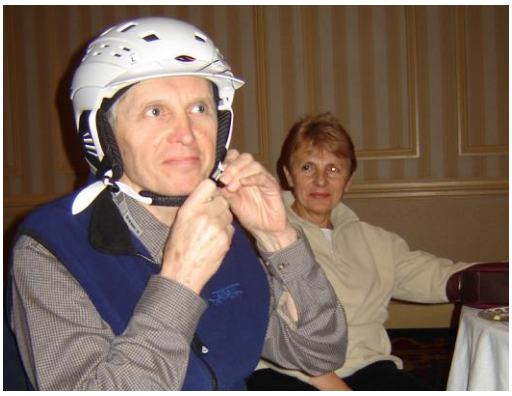
The turnout was not large but it was a fun evening as is evident from the audience participation.

Casey showing new skis

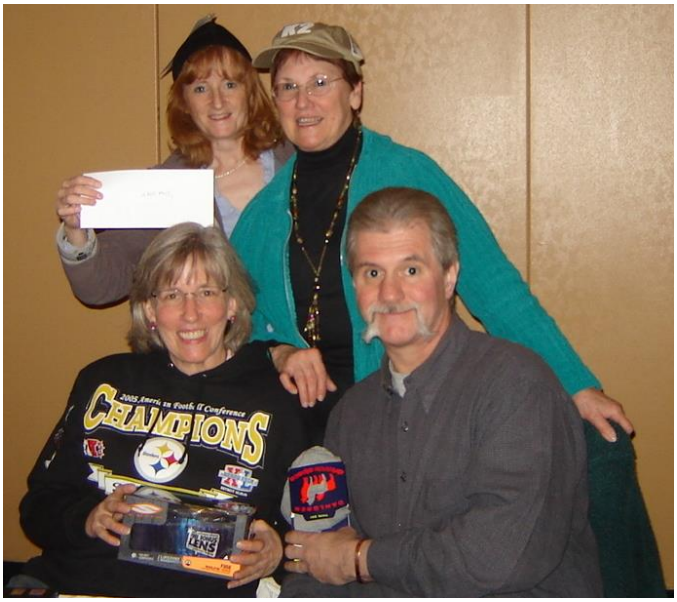
February 2009 Door Prize Winners

Betty Ann Tyson	Cap
Artemis Agelaridou	2 Black tickets
Vince Mattock	Socks
Atrina Haynes	2 Bolton tickets
Mary Mattock	Goggles
Dee McMaster	Headliner
Michael Socaciu	Socks, 2 Pats Peak tickets
Jim Twohig	Gloves
Jean O'Donnell	2 Bolton Valley tickets
Robin Smith	Skull liner
Mary Mattock	Socks
Marcia Ruklic	1 Ascutney ticket
Ivo Meznik	Hot Chillys top
Robin Smith	2 Pats Peak tickets
Marty Stark	Jacket

Marty Stark modeling his new jacket



Trying on the latest in helmets



More door prize winners

From the Membership Corner

It is time again to renew your ACE Ski and Board Club membership. Joining the ACE Ski and Board Club or both ACE and EICSL allows you to:

- Buy discount lift tickets
- Race and practice gate training
- Socialize at meetings
- Go on winter trips
- Use the EICSL race days at the White Mountains as a day or weekend trip
- Join EICSL to buy New Hampshire tickets

The club needs your help! You don't have to head a committee or organize a trip. You can help out and socialize at the same time by volunteering to help out with membership, ticket sales, racing, EICSL, general meeting planning, or coordinating the newsletter.

What appeals to you?

- Acting as a greeter for the meetings
- Tracking door prize winners
- Suggesting ideas for speakers
- Working at the various committee tables
- Organizing skiing/boarding activities
- Offering a day trip to a ski area in southern New Hampshire or Vermont
- Helping to set up a night at one of the local mountains
- Running a summer activity, such as walking, hiking, canoeing/ kayaking, biking, wind surfing, camping or staying overnight

Talk to one of the board members about helping out.

If you haven't yet joined, please return the 2009 – 2010 membership form (can be found on the ACE Ski and Board Club web page) and your membership fee to either the membership table at the next meeting or to the club mailbox: ACE Ski and Board Club Membership, Attn: Jean O'Donnell, 22 Palermo Street, Westford, MA 01886.

A Plea to Sign Up for Yahoogroups.com

The club uses a Yahoo list distribution as our means of communicating with members. It is necessary that you are on the list to hear about the benefits that the club offers. But you can also communicate with each other. You can ask if others want to organize a last-minute ski trip, find some extra ski tickets, or pass on tickets that you cannot use.

It's very easy; all you have to do is send email to:

ACESkiandBoardClub-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Or go to our website www.AceSkiandBoardClub.org . At the bottom of the home page, type in your email address.

Go one step further and create a YahooGroup UserProfile by going to www.YahooGroups.com and clicking on "click here to register". With a YahooGroups Profile you'll be able to post photographs of your latest ski trip and view other members' photographs and documents, like the membership form. We are also using the YahooGroups Calendar to send out reminders to members about upcoming meetings and trips. Can you help? We need a person to be responsible in keeping the calendar up to date.

Once you have a YahooGroups Profile, you can also choose how you receive the email sent out. You can choose to get each individual email as it is sent out or as a daily digest of all the email from that day.

Our club's General YahooGroups is Private and not listed in the YahooGroups directory. Membership is restricted—all members must be approved. Any member can send out a message, but all messages are approved before they are released. The club Archives are for members only; Email attachments are allowed but are not stored.

Group Email Addresses

Related link: http://www.aceskiandboardclub.org

Post message: AceSkiandBoardClub@yahoogroups.com

Subscribe: AceSkiandBoardClub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: AceSkiandBoardClub-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

List owner: AceSkiandBoardClub-owner@yahoogroups.com

School Supplies to Go to Worcester's Friendly House

School supplies collected at the September meeting will be donated to Friendly House.

Friendly House provides services for thousands of low-income families and individuals.

EICSL News

The ACE Ski and Board Club is one of the 23-member clubs of EICSL **(**Eastern Inter-Club Ski League). Members of our club can join EICSL for an $8 fee, which entitles ACE members to all the benefits available to EICSL members.

As an EICSL member, you can go on their ski trips, purchase EICSL's discount ski tickets, get merchant discounts, participate in the EICSL race program, get discount ski tickets at the mountain where the EICSL race is held on the day of the race, book inexpensive lodging at a club house, and attend club parties.

Deadline for payment of EICSL dues is **October 31** if you want to get your membership card at the December 17th meeting.

EICSL Trip to
Breckenridge • Keystone • Arapahoe Basin

February 23–March 2, 2010

A-Basin Lodging Choices

Space has been reserved for 24 people in the initial offering: 6 double-occupancy hotel rooms and 3 quad-occupancy condos less than 2 blocks apart that are "on mountain." Space for the lodging will be allocated on a first come, first served basis based on when full payment is received.

Condo Property: Village at Breckenridge
www.breckresorts.com/villageatbreckenridge/

"Where Breckenridge Meets the Mountain," the Village at Breckenridge has long been a favorite year-round destination. The Village is Breckenridge's only ski-in/ski-out resort just steps away from historic Main Street. The Village is anchored by an ultra-convenient pedestrian plaza with shopping, dining, recreation, and activities.

Hotel Property: Great Divide Lodge
http://www.breckresorts.com/greatdividelodge/

Breckenridge's only full-service slopeside hotel. From the moment you walk from the sunny atrium into the inviting lobby, a fresh experience of Breckenridge hospitality begins.

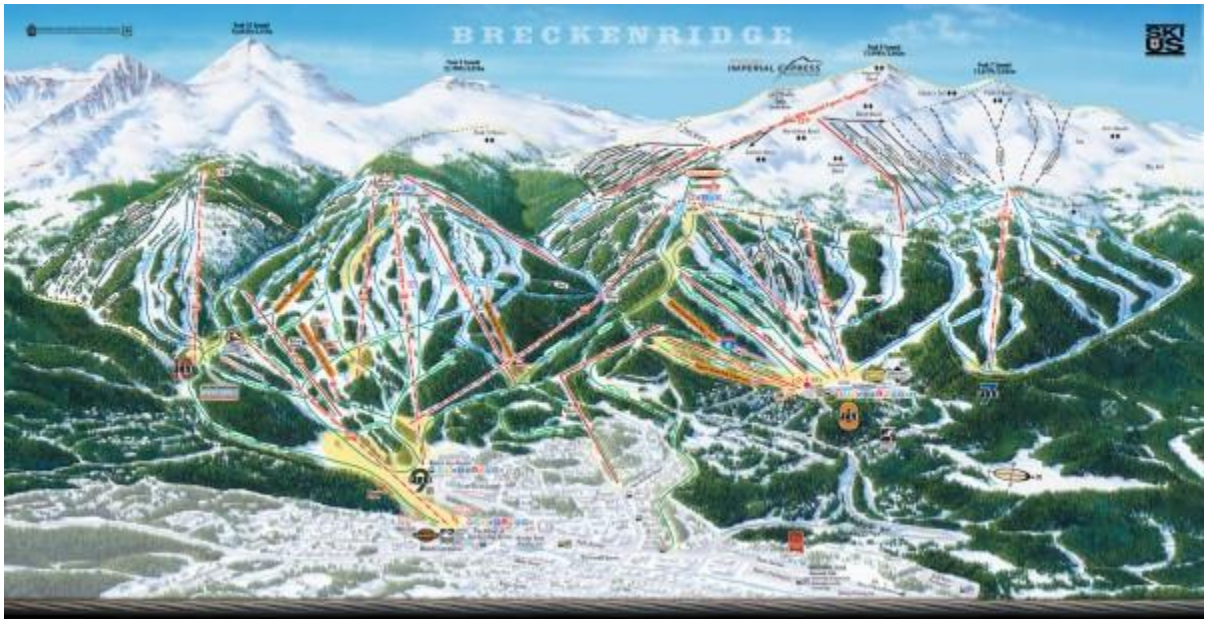
Trip Cost

Includes for all; airfare, transfers, and 5-day lift ticket which includes up to 3 days' use at Vail and Beaver Creek. Includes continental breakfast for hotel property only.

Hotel: $1520, Condo: $1485 based on PayPal payment $45 discount if paid by check, non-skiers deduct $200, Non-EICSL members add $50.

More trip Information: www.eicsl.org/eicsl-trip.html

Contact Clark Linehan, trip@eicsl.org
P: 781.562.0032



About EICSL

Incorporated in 1953, the **Eastern Inter-Club Ski League** (EICSL) promotes recreational skiing, boarding, and racing at the amateur and club level. We are an organization of ski clubs of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, most with ski lodges in the Mount Washington Valley area. The clubs offer year-round sporting and social activities individually and through the league in addition to skiing and winter outings. Clubs offer a wide variety of membership options for singles, couples, and families. Member benefits include discounts on lift tickets, food, clothing, equipment, and travel not only though EICSL, but through our membership in the National Ski Council Federation.

From the EICSL website

An Insider's Look at EICSL

Realize that the lodging at any of the clubs is not designed with the glitzy Ritz-Carlton person in mind. Lodging varies greatly from club to club, but most are bunk-style rooms. Lodging may be a determining factor in which clubs you check out when trying to decide on a club to join. The Ski Bees, for example have segregated floors with seven women's bunk rooms on the second floor and seven men's bunk rooms on the third floor. Two bathrooms are shared by the women on the second floor. And two men's bathrooms are shared on the third floor. Club rules for smoking and quiet hours are instituted. Each club has its own constitution and by-laws which it hands out to its members. Rules on these and other issues are made known and failure to follow these rules may result in exclusion from the club. Since the clubs vary so much and are all within 10 miles of each other, it is strongly suggested that newcomers visit at least two or three before deciding on one to join. Once a prospective member decides to join a particular club, they are automatically considered a member from year to year assuming dues are paid. They also have the opportunity to join a different club each year if they choose.

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. 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.

Most clubs have a race team that members can join. Team levels range from Snow Plow Division including 3–60-year-old beginners to AA and Open Divisions, for skiers who make most of us look like it's our first day on skis. Many members of these ski clubs have been skiing for over 40 years, and they'll earn your respect right from the first race you see them run.

Club teams race against one another about four times per year, and some organizations have their own club race once a season. The ultimate ski challenge, though, is left each year to the daring few who hike with skis to the top of Tuckerman's Ravine. For those of you who've heard of it, you know that it means taking your life into your own hands (or feet as the case may be.) For those of you who haven't heard of it, my advice is to live life a bit longer before considering it.

For those members who like to ski outside the Mt. Washington Valley, several clubs plan week trips open to all clubs to destinations like Colorado, Utah, and Europe. Weekend trips are usually somewhere a little closer like Stowe or Killington. Again, group discounts usually follow you wherever you go. Last year a large group from three or four different clubs skied at Breckenridge for seven days. Another group of 15 from various clubs joined together for a major discount on a Caribbean cruise in the spring when the skiing was done.

Don't think just because they're called ski clubs that's all they do. To be honest, some members have never skied a day in their lives. The nightlife après ski is an experience like no other. Clubs take turns hosting afternoon socials and after-dinner gatherings at their clubs. This makes for a great opportunity to visit other houses and meet new ski partners. But don't stay out too late . . . remember you have to get up at 7 am to catch that first lift!

Another attraction are all the tempting factory outlet stores you pass on your way up to the clubs. I once got a pair of Timberland high-top workboots for $20! I don't shop much, but once one person in your club gets a bargain the news gets out fast. The word spreads and before the weekend's over the store is mobbed.

Recreational Racing – 2009–10

–Bill Ralph

Over the past 25 plus seasons, our racers have built quite an enviable record of accomplishments, while also acquiring an impressive collection of awards and trophies for the ACE Ski and Board Club. When at our peak Club size, over 200 racers competed in as many as nine separate programs or events. More recently, with less than 50 racers representing the Club, a considerably improved "return on assets" has enabled us to maintain the same level of achievement.

Over the years, our teams won significant season and championship awards for Corporate Team Racing at Nashoba Valley and Wachusett Mountain and numerous team and individual wins in EICSL's White Mountain Racing as well as USSA participation.

While we are proud of our many successes, the Club's racing program is designed for skiers of *all* experience and ability levels. In addition to highly skilled competitors, each season we attract many entry-level and first-time racers. Our program is designed for FUN. We think that having a good time, in a friendly environment, will help you in improving your skiing.

Please join any and all the programs to ensure that the ski season is as successful as last year. The Club offers these programs:

• EICSL's White Mountain Racing

• Team Racing (Nashoba and Wachusett)

• USSA Masters

A summary of each program follows. If you need more detailed information about a specific program, please feel free to contact me directly. Also included is a combined race application for EICSL's White Mountain Racing program and free agent submittal form for the team racing programs. Applications for team racing can be obtained from the respective mountain coordinators. You must be an ACE club member to participate in EICSL.

We're looking forward to another outstanding season. Come join us!

EICSL's White Mountain Racing

The Eastern Inter-Club Ski League, better known as EICSL, runs a competitive team and individual racing program in New Hampshire's White Mountains that is designed for all ages and abilities. Our club members have been racing in this league for almost 25 years. Almost 200 racers from over 15 ski clubs compete in the league.

Major improvements in the program this year should make racer participation even more enjoyable. We run single run races typically. The races will continue to use separate courses for men and women, resulting in fewer ruts for the men and typically pristine snow conditions for the women. Eligibility for the championship race requires participation in at least two of the qualification races, with a finish in at least one.

Skiers of all ability levels compete in six separate ability-level classes. The classes are defined by NASTAR handicap ranges – for men and women in junior (18 and under), senior, veteran (35–49 for women, 40–54 for men), and super-vet (50 and older for women, 55 and older for men) age groups. Those competing range from recent college racers to very first-time racers. The ability-level class structure provides entry-level racers the opportunity to race against their peers and to win individual awards.

Season awards are given for both individual and team competition—a team being comprised of three or more club racers in the same ability class. Awards are presented at the annual White Mountain Racing banquet. Historically, ACE racers have one of the highest success levels of racing of all the clubs (winning numerous individual awards and team awards).

Each of the League races is run by one or two of the participating clubs. This season most likely we will be assisting at Shawnee, and we have gate-keeping and course maintenance responsibilities at the other races. All ACE racers are expected to participate in these Club responsibilities at each race. Lodging in the North Conway area is available at very reasonable rates at some of the other EICSL clubs.

The individual racer entry fee for all five days of racing is expected to be $20.00. In addition, racers will need to join EICSL (an $8.00 fee) when they submit their ACE Ski Club membership application, along with their signed EICSL Release Form. The EICSL races are on Saturdays, with the championship race in early March. In addition, there is training on Fridays before races, typically at Black Mountain:

Gate Training – **December ?**
Demo/Gate Training – **December ?**
Qualifier 1 – **January 9, Bretton Woods**
Qualifier 2 – **January 30, Wildcat**
Qualifier 3 – **February 13, Sunday River**
Gate Training – **February ?**
Championship Race – **March 6, Shawnee Peak**
(Juniors invited to participate)

Team Racing

This season ACE will compete in the Nashoba Valley Team Racing and Wachusett Mountain Team NASTAR programs. Teams compete one evening a week over a seven to eight week period beginning in January. All programs also include an additional championship race. The race format is dual slalom, with each racer taking a run on both courses. Team applications and payments are submitted directly to the mountain**.** Application forms for team submittals are available from the mountain websites.

If you would like to race in one of the programs, but do not know of a team, you should submit the Free Agent Submittal Form included in this newsletter. Your name will be distributed to team captains that are short of members. In addition, program coordinators will attempt to create teams from the free agent pool. To ensure that you get on a team, you should become a team captain and start recruiting. Team racing programs are limited and do fill quickly, so submit your applications early!

Since most of this year's program information has yet to be received, descriptions of last season's programs follow below.

Nashoba Valley Team Racing

Nashoba teams compete on Monday through Wednesday evenings over a seven-week period, with the top teams for each night advancing to a championship race. Teams are comprised of four racers (no gender stipulations), and the team race and lift ticket fee are approximately $860 ($215/racer). Although not a NASTAR Mountain, the pacesetters are NASTAR calibrated, and team scoring is based on NASTAR-like medal performances, plus additional considerations. The Nashoba program is unique in that the courses are much tighter than NASTAR courses (an additional gate is added to the course each week), and racer seeding is against a peer, based on performances from the previous week.

Wachusett Mountain Team – NASTAR

Wachusett's program has two separate divisions. Division I is intended for ski shops and other extremely proficient teams (usually 10 teams compete). Division II is a typical corporate industrial league (with 60+ teams). Racing is on Monday through Thursday nights over a nine-week period. The top teams in both divisions are invited to an additional championship race, known as the Great Race, a double-pole, two-run, combined time, Masters style G/S. A team is comprised of four to six racers, with at least one male and one female member. Team points are based on the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals won by team members. Team scoring is the sum of the best four racers' points, defined as the best male score plus the best female score plus the next best two scores.

An awards banquet is held in the evening after the Great Race. The team entry fee for last year (through November 30) was approximately $100 per racer, plus you will need to buy tickets – some as low as $189. Again, we currently do not believe that pricing increases will be significant.

Shawnee Peak – Racing with the Moon

If you are in Maine (or northern New Hampshire) and have in interest in racing at Shawnee Peak on Wednesday or Thursday nights, please contact Bill Ralph.

USSA Masters Program

The United States Ski Association Masters Program (a.k.a. Masters Circuit) is FIS-like seeded competition for racers 21 years of age and older. FIS is the international governing body for Olympic and World Cup ski competition. While Masters racing is not the World Cup, it is the closest we non-US Ski Team racers can get both in format and race course layout. The USSA Eastern Division program, known as the Sise Cup, is the largest, and by far the most competitive program run by USSA. This is your opportunity to compete and compare yourself against former US national and Olympic team members!

For the past several seasons, over 20 Club members have competed in this, the most challenging racing program available to recreational racers in the East. Although everyone competes as an individual, the number of ACE racers at a given race creates a "Club team" environment. The circuit starts the first week in January and lasts through the month of March. The format is typically a Slalom on Saturday, followed by a Giant Slalom on Sunday. The Slalom and G/S are usually held at different but nearby mountains as the circuit travels through New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. A few Super G and Downhill races are also available on selected weekends. The race trail is FIS Homologated, which means we use the same race hill that the mountain uses for Eastern competition or NORAMs. The gates are break-away style, and a Slalom run lasts about 50–60 seconds, while a G/S run takes about 70+ seconds (fastest times). The race format for Slalom and G/S is one run in the morning and one run in the afternoon with combined time determining the winner. Trophies are awarded at each race for each age group (five-year intervals), and World Cup style points are earned which accumulate to determine the Sise Cup winners at season end. Competitors can enter all races or just some, but to race you must join USSA as an Adult Masters Competitor ($75) and New England Master's ($25). Contact Bill Ralph for more information). Membership includes a subscription to *Ski Racing* or S*ki Trax* magazine and a comprehensive competition handbook. Entry fees last year averaged about $50 per race, which included a day's lift ticket and the race. Once affiliated with the USSA Masters Program, racers will have access to other training and racing options.

Corporate/Club Challenges

The Club, from time to time, enters teams in both ski club and corporate challenge events. We have participated in the Eastern Corporate Ski Championships, the Jeep Ski Club Challenge, the Ski Classic, and the Ski Race for Wednesday's Child. Team members are selected by the Club Race Committee based on performance in other Club racing programs. While all Club racers in all programs are considered for these teams, participants in the White Mountain Racing and Masters programs have an advantage in being selected. For only in these two programs do all ACE racers compete against each other on the same course on the same day, thus providing head-to-head comparisons.

Bill Ralph, Race Chairperson
wralph@maine.rr.com

119 Berryfield Road.
Yarmouth, ME 04096

(207) 377–9295

WHITE MOUNTAIN RACING/EICSL Race Application / Team Racing Free Agent Form – 2009/2010

Participant Must Be a Member of the ACE Ski and Board Club
Note: If this application is being submitted for multiple programs, copy the completed form and send to each program coordinator.

[ ] WHITE MOUNTAIN RACING

Submit application to Bill Ralph – 119 Berryfield Road., Yarmouth, ME 04096. Include $20.00 check for WHITE MOUNTAIN RACING race fee (made payable to ACE Ski and Board Club); a $1.00 refreshment fee will be collected later. This race fee is in addition to the $8.00 EICSL membership fee on the Club Membership Application. Cut-off date is November 30th, for EICSL or WHITE MOUNTAIN RACING racers. A Release Form (available from Bill Ralph) must also be completed, signed, and submitted with this application.
Note: Racers submitting applications after November 30, 2009 must pay an additional $5.00 to participate in the first race in early January 2010.

Team Racing Free Agent

Electronic submittal preferred (on-line application form available from Bill Ralph (wralph@maine.rr.com)
[ ] Nashoba Valley or [ ] Wachusett Mt.
Submit application to Bill Ralph, wralph@maine.rr.com or call (207–377–9295) if U.S. mail address is necessary. Cut-off date is November 30, 2009.

Racer Information

Name: _____ Home Phone: (____)_____

Work Phone: (____)_____

Email:_____

Home Address:_____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____Male _____Female ____

Describe Previous Racing Experience and/or Current Skiing Ability

(Not Necessary if Recent ACE EICSL/WHITE MOUNTAIN RACING Racer):

_____

_____

Typical NASTAR Handicap: _____ Best Recent NASTAR Handicap: _____