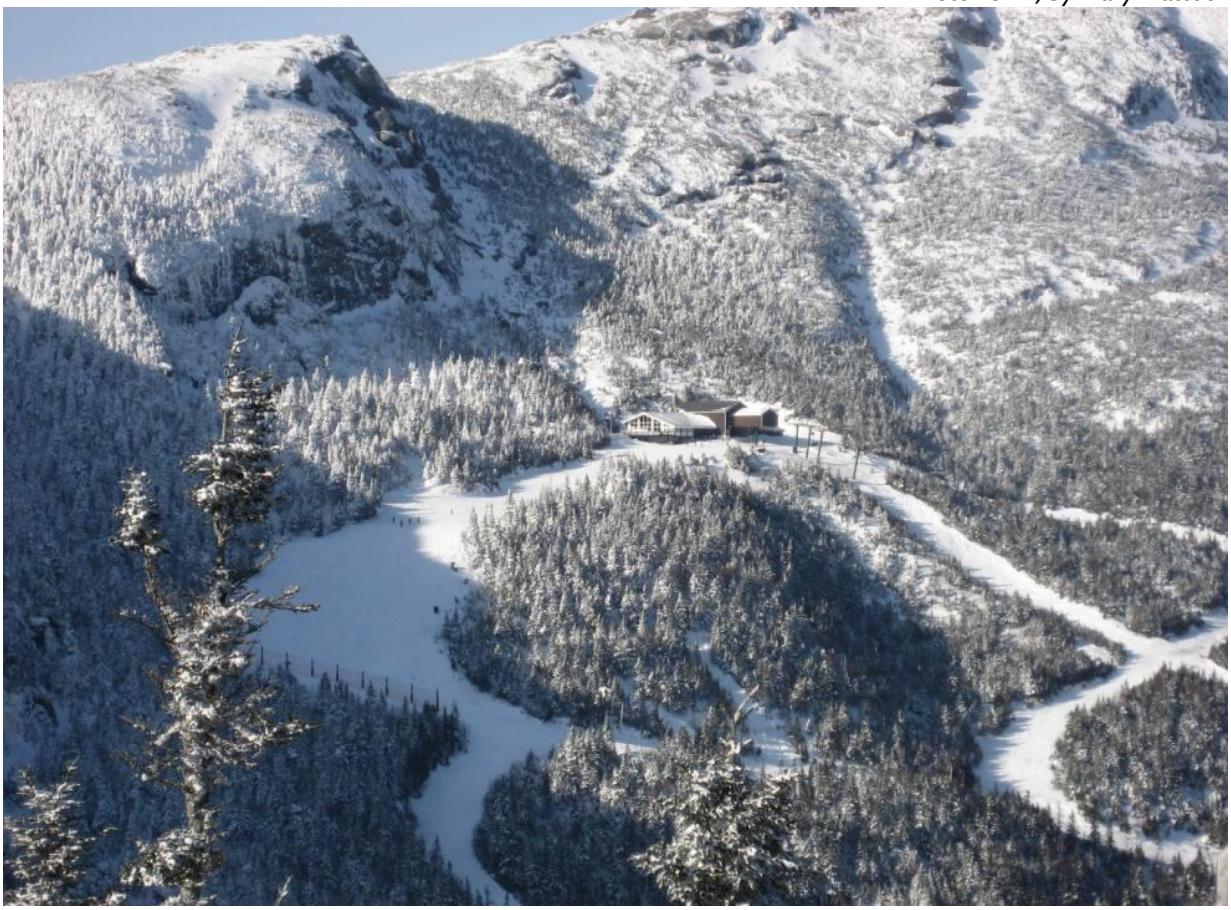
The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 22 Issue 4
January 2012

ACE Ski & Board News

General Membership Meeting January 19

Stowe VT, by Mary Mattock



Location: The General Meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be **January 19** at the **Chelmsford Elks Lodge** in Chelmsford, MA. Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Meeting Highlights: **Bill Quigly** will be presenting an update on the ***Gunstock*** Ski area www.gunstock.com.

*For an extra door prize ticket, bring at least two nonperishable **food items** which together can provide a meal for a family—for example, pasta and sauce or a can of tuna and pasta sides.*

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Important ACE Club Dates 2011–12

General Meetings	Board Meetings	EICSL Races
September 15	September 1	January 7
October 25	October 11	January 28
December 8	December 1	February 11
January 19	January 5	March 4

Meeting Location

The general meeting on January 19 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 ☺

ACE Club Officers

Jonathan Levy	President
Robin Temple Diamond	Vice-president, Webmaster
Betty Ann Tyson	Secretary
Dana Blanchard	Treasurer
Michèle Grenier	Membership
Rob and Ilene Titus	Benefits Co-chairs
Dee McMaster	EICSL Rep
Gerry Welch	Racing Chair
Bill Tarkulich	Marketing Chair
Beatrice Chaney	Newsletter Editor

President's Message

The Club is always undergoing change, even during the season. I'd like to thank ***Chris Gerber*** for all her hard work as Membership Chair, and for putting us on a solid foundation of data. And I'd like to welcome ***Michèle Grenier***, who is assuming this critical position in the Club's time of need. Thanks also to Marketing Chair ***Bill Tarkulich*** for his dedication in re-designing and maintaining the Club's website; the Webmaster baton now passes to Vice President ***Robin Temple Diamond.***

Now, the question everyone's been asking:

Where's the snow?

The answer, my friend, is blowing in the jet stream. (with apologies to Bob Dylan) The mountains are making it, even if there's none in our backyards.

Get up North, and use your discount vouchers!

Jonathan Levy

Benefits Committee Update

You may purchase tickets at the January 19, 2012 General Meeting. Order forms for Vermont and New Hampshire will be available at that time. A very ***limited quantity*** of Vermont and New Hampshire tickets remain. There are ***no restrictions*** on the amount of tickets which you may purchase. After the General Meeting, there will be an open-ended email sale until all tickets are sold out.

Important Reminder! **Ace Ski and Board Club has gone Green.** Other than those sales at General Meetings, all ticket sales will be announced by email with instructions on how to place an order. There will be ***no notices sent by regular mail***, so keep your email current with the Membership Chair at membership@aceskiandboardclub.org or visit the membership table at the next meeting.

In addition to discount ticket sales, 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 then 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*.

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

Welcome Michèle!

Michèle Grenier, our new Membership Chair, has been an ACE Ski and Board member for six years and a Ski Wheeler for several more. Growing up in Vermont, she skies Cannon, Wildcat, Attitash, Sunday River, Sugarloaf and all of VT, as well as out West.

Michèle was the Environmental Director for Stratton Mountain in 1994-1998, where she lived in Londonderry and became spoiled skiing Monday – Friday.

She has served on the board for the Ski Wheelers and looks forward to serving on the board for the Ace Ski and Board Club!

LET IT SNOW!!!!!

Bring Food to the January Meeting!

At the January 19 General Meeting, the club will again be collecting food to benefit the ***Worcester County Food Bank.*** All contributions will be accepted, but to qualify for an extra door prize ticket, bring at least two items which together can provide a meal for a family–for example, pasta and sauce or a can of tuna and pasta sides.

Thanks for the food

Thanks to all who donated food at the December meeting. All donations were dropped off at the Worcester County Food Bank.

Recap of December's General Meeting

Close to 60 people attended the presentation of **Jeremy Davis,** author and founder of the New England Lost Ski Areas Project (NELSAP). His talk was very well received and resulted in a sizable number of book sales and signings!

Jeremy Davis graduated from Chelmsford High School with the Class of '96 in Chelmsford. He attended Lyndon State College in Vermont and received a degree in Meteorology. He became interested in the history of old ski areas, such as Dutch Hill, VT. He served on the board of the Ski Museum at Cannon Mountain, and managed the NELSAP website for 13 years.

He is the author of *Lost Ski Areas of Southern Vermont* and *Lost Ski Areas of the White Mountains* and is planning an upcoming book on the southern Adirondacks.

He explained that a 'Lost Ski Area' doesn't mean that you can't find it, rather that it is no longer an active ski area. He chronicled Lost Ski Areas from the 1930s to the 2000s. Older ski areas started off with just rope tows, then J-bars. For example, Bromley, VT was built on the remnants of one of the first lost ski areas, with a J-bars lift. T-bars came later as an improvement to J-bars.

The 1960's were the peak years in ski resort development, followed by a wave of closings in the '70s due to the rise in insurance rates, energy crises and poor snow years, among other reasons.

Left alone, a ski area typically returns to being a forest after about 20 years.

Jeremy Davis

Michèle Grenier, Ilene Titus and Chris Gerber

Bill Tarkulich

Checking in at the door

Jon Levy

Ellen and Peter Rawlings with the December newsletter

Jeremy Davis signing his books

Bill always has tips and deals

The audience is captivated by Jeremy's talk

December 2011 Door Prize Winners

Jon Levy	2 Jay Peak tickets
Jack Coady	Socks
Vince Mattock	2 Magic Mt. tickets
Arnold Smith	Goggles
Marcia Ruklic	2 Smugglers tickets
Dee McMaster	Thermal top
Betty Ann Tyson	2 Jay Peak tickets
Rob Cheesebrough	Under Armour base layer
Kamila Meznik	2 Cannon tickets
Robin Diamond	Socks
Roscoe Diamond	Base layer
Hank Devlin	Goggles
Roxann Arey	Base layer, ski jacket
Jean O'Donnell	Ski poles
Bill Tarkulich	Snowshoes
Paul Bewersdorf	Boot bag
Ilene Titus	Skis

Roxann models her ski jacket with help from Mary Sue

Applauding door prize winners!

Member Stories

Early-season skiing in Utah

by Ilene Titus

The week of January 7th - 11th, Rob and I skied in Utah.

Jean O'Donnell emailed us that she had skied Pico and the conditions were "white cement". Mary Mattock concurred. She had skied Okemo.

Utah was the same with very little snow. But, there is never a bad day skiing!

Deer Valley ran a public NASTAR Race.
Rob, being a racer from days gone by - EICSL and Wachusett Night League Team Captain, could not pass up the chance. He was awarded with a Silver Medal. Just another day on the slopes with Rob.

Members, send us your stories and pictures!

Beatrice Chaney

newsletter@aceskiandboardclub.org

Jay Peak Trip

by Robin Temple Diamond

The trip to Jay went well – despite the rain and barely one slope to ski on for the two days. I had some fun runs on the bunny slope with the Jay Peak racers and got some great tips on how to do race starts and get my skis up on edge.

Leta and I did race drills for about an hour.

The water park was an experience I won't ever forget. The Lazy River to the Blue and Green water slide. No WAY were they getting me in to the one that dropped the floor out from under the rider! Leave it to the little kids.

Did someone call our condo at 10pm to tell us of the nightly – are you kidding! I heard they were fun…

Then there was skating in the hockey rink. Muscles I didn't know I had started to hurt. The rental skates were like wearing cement on your feet. After a while you got used to them and the cuts on your ankles. After a few spins around the rink I was done and headed for the water park. I will bring my own skates for the next time we visit Jay Peak, but I really hope Mother Nature helps out by bringing them lots of snow.

Came home early to get some Christmas wrapping done.

ACE Club Day at Burke

by Bill Tarkulich

The club day at Burke was a great success. A free goodie bag for all club members, après-ski and prizes.

The day started a bit rainy, but turned to heavy snow. Ski up to the lift service, lots of new trails opening. Looks like winter is here!

Don't forget to join us next month for our ***Sugarbush/MRG trip***. There is a good list of participants. Do as little or as much as you like.

Love to ski with you for a day or a single run. Join us for a great weekend!

Trips, Etc …

Mad River Glen/Sugarbush

February 2 - 5, 2012

Organizers: ***Bill Tarkulich and Michèle Grenier***
Contact us: trips@aceskiandboardclub.org

Overview

Make plans to join us for some of the best New England skiing of the winter. We'll split our time between ***Mad River Glen*** and ***Sugarbush*** in the Mad River Valley of Vermont. We'll be staying at a historic New England accommodation, the ***Inn at Mad River Barn***, a fading institution. The barn is located one mile from MRG and a couple miles from Sugarbush.

Lodging – Book and pay directly

The ***Mad River Barn*** www.madriverbarn.com is recommended. It is operated by the renowned Betsy Pratt (83 years young), a matriarch of New England skiing. She and her husband were early owners of Mad River Glen. It is Betsy who banned snowboarders. Betsy presides over the barn and you will most certainly have the opportunity to meet and talk to her. Betsy is welcoming, colorful, opinionated and entertaining. She skis just about every day of the season. Breakfast is included, as is dinner on Saturday. For larger groups, the barn is willing to prepare a dinner.

Tickets – Purchase directly or in advance

Participants are responsible for obtaining lift tickets. Members can use their ACE ticket vouchers, as they are your best deal. For other options, contact the trip organizers.

Transportation

Participants are responsible for transportation to/from lodging, meals and ski area. Car Pooling is recommended, which we'd be happy to coordinate.

Non-members

Non-members are welcome as ACE is not invested.

Daily Schedule

We will coordinate each day:

1. Meet for Breakfast
2. Start each day at a selected resort
3. Lunch
4. Après-ski
5. Dinner (Saturday at Mad River Barn)

Free mountain tours are available.

You are of course free to set your own plan for one or all of the days, meeting us for some or all of the events.

SIGNUP

Send email to Bill or Michèle at trips@aceskiandboardclub.org. We'd be happy to coordinate.

Summary

All lodging, meals, gratuities and other expenses are paid directly by the participant. The club is not involved in fund collection. Refunds and changes are entirely between you and the establishment.

For more information on the resorts and lodging:

- The Inn at the Mad River Barn - www.madriverbarn.com
- Mad River Glen - www.madriverglen.com
- Sugarbush - www.sugarbush.com

If you are interested, please sign the interest list at a club meeting, or send an email to trips@aceskiandboardclub.org

Hope to see you there!

Bill and Michèle

Membership Update

To learn of all the great deals that ACE membership offers, you need to be a current member. Membership for the 2010–2011 ski season **expired on 9/30/11.**

Membership forms are available via the club's website: www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership.html

Please bring the completed form and your dues (checks, no cash) to the ACE meeting on January 19 2012 at the Chelmsford Elks. Forms and dues can also be mailed to:

Michèle Grenier
1 Riverview Blvd. 9-201
Methuen, MA 01844

Membership cards are distributed at the club meeting. If you need your card mailed to you, send email to membership@aceskiandboardclub.org.

If you are already a member, please make sure you are signed up with our Yahoo group:

http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/AceSkiandBoardClub/

See detailed instructions on how to sign up on the next page, or send email to the membership chair at:

membership@aceskiandboardclub.org.

New members will be signed up with the Yahoo group automatically unless the "Do not add me to the Yahoo Groups" box is checked.

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 snow boarding 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)

What 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 boarding

Benefits of Membership

- Bimonthly newsletter
- Free classified ads
- Discount lift tickets
- Social meetings with presentations on aspects of skiing and boarding
- Active race program at: the White Mountains
- Occasional ski trips to the west or Europe and to Northern New England or
- Member organized day trips to New Hampshire / Vermont
- Some shop discounts
- Cross-country skiing outings
- Summer activities: of cycling, hiking, and camping trips
- Yahoo! Groups distribution list: AceSkiandBoardClub@yahoogroups.com
- Optional EICSL membership
- Opportunities for family member racing
- Eligibility to win gear worth over $ 2,000 at general meetings

For details of our winter trips, tickets, EICSL, racing, meeting, and membership, look at the club website:

www.Aceskiandboardclub.org

Michèle Grenier, Membership Chair

membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

YAHOO! GROUPS

The club uses a Yahoo list distribution as our means of communicating with members. It is necessary that you be 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.

Signing up with the Yahoo Group

NOTE: New members will be signed up with the Yahoo group automatically unless they check the "*Please do not add me to the Yahoo Groups Email distribution"* box on their membership application form.

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 User Profile 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 (also available on the website). We are using the YahooGroups Calendar to send out reminders to members about upcoming meetings and trips.

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 is for members only; email attachments are allowed but are not stored.

Yahoo Group Email Addresses

Yahoo Group Address:
http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/AceSkiandBoardClub/

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

Updating your email address

Once you are a member, and signed up with the Yahoo group, please make sure that your email address is up-to-date, for you to receive the latest news and updates from the club.

If you need help …

If you need any help with signing up to the Yahoo Group or updating your email address, send mail to the Membership Chair at membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

Links and Forms

The 2011–12 forms as well as the current and past newsletters are available on the club's website: www.aceskiandboardclub.org

Membership:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership.html

Vermont Ticket Order Form:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/tickets.htm

Racing:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/racing.html

Newsletter:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/newsletter.html

EICSL News

The Eastern Inter-Club Ski League (EICSL), which began in 1950 as a small group of ski clubs, is an organization comprised of clubs. EICSL binds all clubs together.

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. 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. The clubs vary and are all within 10 miles of each other.

We have a standing relationship with the ***Ski-Wheelers*** for lodging; they are located at Kearsarge Road, North Conway, NH 03847 (603) 356-9793. The Ski Wheelers make their home in a turn-of-the-century grand style lodge. It's one of the largest lodges in the Mt. Washington Valley. It was the site of the 1970's movie, "Return of the Secaucus Seven." The spacious 3-story lodge (also known as the Winwood Lodge) has 23 bedrooms with 88 beds. All bedrooms are semi-private with a sink and sleep from 2-6 people. Beds are available to accommodate guests almost every weekend. There are 9 bathrooms, a large dining room (also the party room!) with a fireplace, a cozy living room with a wood stove, a fully equipped industrial size kitchen, and plenty of room to store your gear.

Once an EICSL 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 clubs have a race team members can join. Team levels range from Snow Plow Division to AA and Open Divisions. Club teams race against one another about four times per year and some organizations have their own club race once a season. 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 night life après ski is an experience like no other.

IMPORTANT – Every Ace Ski & Board member that joins EICSL **MUST** sign the **EICSL Release Form** separately. It is has to be printed independently from any other document - in other words, **one sided**. If a couple joins there must be two (2) forms submitted.

The deadline to join EICSL through the ACE Ski & Board Club has passed. You may still join, but I cannot guarantee when you will receive your EICSL membership card and you must have your card to enjoy the EICSL benefits.

If you cannot attend the meeting when the cards will be dispensed, you can mail a SASE (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope) to Dee McMaster, 25 Pierce Street, Pepperell MA 01463-1402 and your card(s) will be mailed to you in the SASE.

Visit www.EICSL.org for a listing of the discounts available to you in the North Conway area and more!!!

Recreational Racing 2011–2012

Gerry Welch - Race Chair

ACE/EICSL Race Team

Our team has grown, we are now in double digits for the first time in almost a decade!

We also had great results from our new racers at the 1st Qualifying race held at Bretton Woods. Lack of snow didn't stop many racers, with 140 + EICSL racers attending this first race.

Again, we welcome guest racers to race one free race at the qualifying races.

EICSL Racing 2012 Schedule

2nd Q	**1/28/2012**	**Shawnee Peak**
3rd Q	**2/11/2012**	**Attitash**
Final	**3/4/2012**	**Black Mountain**
		Sunday morning race

EICSL Race/Gate Training

At ***Wildcat*** – Fridays before race weekends only.

EICSL Racing Awards Party 2012

March 24th Ceremony held at **Wildcat Tavern, in Jackson NH.**

All EICSL members and racers are welcome, just bring your membership card. Cash bar and food provided during awards presentation.

GS Racing at Wachusett Mountain

Ralph Crowley Classic
Friday, March 2, 2012

This exciting race features the finest competitors racing down the challenging ***Smith Walton*** trail. Open to the public and to all staff members! Don't miss this top to bottom one of a kind event!

Registration: 8 – 9:30 AM
Race: 10:00 AM
BBQ Lunch: 1:00 PM

Register at the ***Customer Service Desk*** or call 978-464-2300 ext. 3200
(Pre-register for $39 or pay $49 the day of the race.)
Must be 18 + to enter.

Gerry Welch - Race Chairperson
41 Mathew Circle
Goffstown, NH 03045
978-387-2893
gjwelch@netzero.net