The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 28 Issue 1
September 2017

ACE Ski & Board News

General Membership Meeting September 12

Morning fog on Sheepscot River with view of Whittum Island, by Robin Diamond

Location: The general meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be **September 12** at the **Chelmsford Elks Lodge** in Chelmsford, MA. Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Meeting Highlights: The guest speaker for the evening will be **Dana Gray**, a senior alpine patroller and mountain travel rescue instructor. Dana has been on the ski patrol at ***Wachusett Mountain*** for the past 8 years and hopes to continue there for another 25 years. Dana is also sea kayak trip leader with AMC and an avid hiker and biker.

Dana works as a carpenter specializing in antique house restoration and custom furniture. He lives in ***Littleton, MA*** with his wife, Karin, 2 dogs and 8 parakeets.

Pizza will again be offered for **$2 CASH** per slice - first come, first served.

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*For an **extra door prize ticket**, bring a **backpack** or any **school supplies** worth at least $5!*

Important ACE Club Dates 2017–18

General Meetings	Board Meetings	EICSL Races
September 12	August 29	January 6
October 26	October 12	January 20
December 7	November 28	February 10
February 13	January 30	March 3

Meeting Location

The general meeting on September 12 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 Executive Board

Jonathan Levy	President
Robin Temple Diamond	Vice-president and Race Chair
Open	Secretary
Dana Blanchard	Treasurer
Michèle Grenier	Membership Chair
Rob and Ilene Titus (*)	Benefits Co-chairs
Chuck Riley	EICSL Co-chair
Bryan Woods	EICSL Co-chair
Roscoe Diamond	Marketing Chair
Ryan Conway	Webmaster
Beatrice Chaney	Newsletter Editor

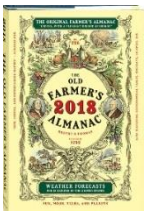
(*) stepping down at the end of the 2017-2018 season

President's Message

Welcome back! And welcome to our new members!

And I'd like to welcome **Roscoe Diamond** to the Executive Board, filling the ***Marketing Chair*** role. Roscoe had already been helping out with our apparel offerings.

The Club's scope may be changing. Our Benefits Co-chairs, **Ilene & Rob Titus** are stepping down after this year. Without a replacement, the Club **will not be selling discounted lift tickets for next year's ski season**. There would other changes to the Club as well. More details will be presented at the September General Meeting.



The ***Farmer's Almanac*** predicts a cold and snowy winter. Let's hope it's right!

Benefits Committee Update

As we announced in February, after several years of serving the Club as Benefits Chairs, we are stepping down. The Club is seeking someone to step up and take over this function.

Discount Tickets: In August, the Club through Benefits conducted a mail sale of Vermont tickets. The total price was due at the time of the sale.

You may purchase additional tickets at the ***General Meeting on September 12, 2017***. 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 12th 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 mountain tickets will continue to apply. Remaining tickets will go on sale at the October 2017 meeting.

We will be negotiating with ***Bretton Woods*** and ***Cannon*** and will update you as soon as we have information. The Club is able to offer you the best price for these mountains.

You may access other ***New Hampshire*** ticket discounts through ***Ski New Hampshire*** or by joining ***EICSL*** for an additional $10 added to your ACE Club membership. In the past, EICSL has also offered discounts on ***Sunday River Tickets***. See ***Michèle Grenier,*** our Membership Chair and ***Chuck Riley*** or ***Bryan Woods***, our EICSL Representatives for further information.

Notices from Benefits: Other than those sales at General Meetings, 2017-2018 ticket sales will be announced by email (***ACE Google Group***) 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 Pass, go to www.wachusett.com - click on ***Group Sales*** - in the drop down menu, click on ***GPS Club*** - click on the pass you want to purchase and enter your information.

The Group Name is ***Ace Ski and Board Club*** and the Group Coordinator is ***Ilene Titus***.

Prices for passes increase $100 on November 15, 2017 at midnight. Check out the link "Perks our PassHolders Receive". Among others, there are discounts for Wachusett Mountain products and amenities, and discounts for select mountains in New England and Western Resorts.

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 School Supplies!

For an **extra chance at a door prize**, bring new, not used, school supplies to the September 12 meeting, especially **backpacks**, or items for older children such as pocket dictionaries, calculators or three-ring binders.

Thanks for the Food!

Thanks to all who brought food to the February meeting! Jon Levy took your donations to the ***Loaves & Fishes Pantry*** in ***Devens, MA***, which was very happy to receive your contributions.

New Merchandise with the ACE Logo

Check out these brand new Club items with the ***ACE logo!*** These cool **hats** and handy **tote bags** will be available at the September meeting.

$15 Check or PayPal – no cash

Recap of February 8 General Meeting

For the last meeting of the season, the ACE club welcomed special guest speaker **John Marunowski**, ***Backcountry/Wilderness and U.S. Forest Service Manager.*** This special event drew attendance from the public in addition to ACE members, filling the Elks Hall venue. **Robin Diamond** emceed the meeting, filling in for John Levy.

John gave a comprehensive overview of the various volunteer programs available at the ***White Mountain National Forest*** in ***New Hampshire***. Volunteers play a critical role in improving the safety of visitors to the White Mountains. John was accompanied by several members of his team, including a cameraman and our own **Bill Tarkulich**, who was instrumental in inviting John to the ACE Club meeting. Bill shared some of his personal experiences since becoming involved with the programs 3 years ago.

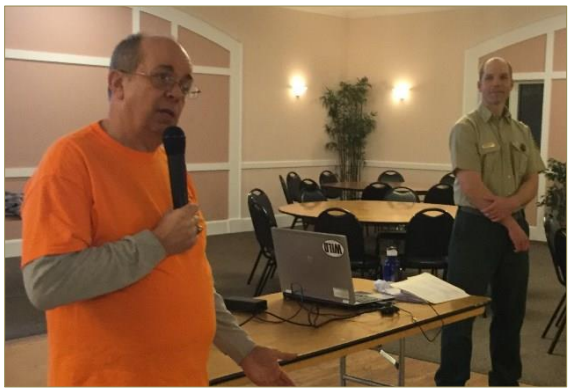
Marcia Ruklik chats with the cameraman

The ***Trailhead Steward*** program's main emphasis is on safety. Volunteers set up info booths at selected spots to talk to hikers before they head off on the trails. Many are unprepared, leading to as many as 200 rescue missions per year in NH. They may not realize that the temperature may be 70 degrees at the start of the hike but could drop to 40 at the top and it's windy!

Volunteers may suggest a different route, recommend bringing water, the right clothes. Some people also start really late which may get them in trouble. Many people change plans after talking to the volunteers.

The goal is to protect people from danger and also to protect the wilderness environment from the people. Hike safe cards - little card put in your wallet - are available online for $25.

Bill's experience: you know a lot more than you think! It is amazing the number of things people don't know: *"is it slippery?" "how much further?" "thunder - what to do?"*



I didn't realize how many different things people need help with. Some questions: *"when do you turn off the waterfall?" "when do deer turn into moose?" "can I leave food in my tent?" "can I hike in flip-flops?"*

You have to be social, walk around, reach out, but be mindful that you can't enforce anything! When you start a conversation, some people don't respond and that's ok. The uniforms and information flag make people feel safe asking questions. Some come with no maps or guides. Most people are very appreciative, which is rewarding.

Other volunteer programs include ***Trail Adopter***, with basic maintenance responsibilities like cutting trees. Training is provided and volunteers can call on professionals.

There is desk work at a number of locations: dealing with historical aspects (for example the historical house on ***Kancamangus***), coordinating events like parades and more. ***Campton, NH*** has a beautiful office, always in need of people with computer skills!

Recap of February Meeting – continued

A fun activity is ***Back Country Patrol***: going for a hike in uniform, answering questions from hikers on the trail. Wilderness rangers function as the agencies' eyes and ears, clean up trash, spot fire hazards.

The ***Alpine Steward*** program, coordinated by AMC, monitors alpine plants.

Adopt A Shelter may involve putting on new paint, taking out trash, etc...

Front Country tasks are especially suited for teenagers, like painting tables, kiosks, trail signs. Recently a team constructed tent pads for volunteers.

There are opportunities for anyone, of any abilities. Volunteers receive extensive training and work closely with the ***Forest Service*** and ***NH Fish and Game***, who are responsible for search and rescue. There is a minimum commitment but it is very flexible.

Volunteers can work alone or in a team. Programs attempt to fit skills to needs; special skills are always appreciated. A great deal of planning takes place during the winter. A lot of seasonal positions rely on volunteers, which has become all the more critical in the face of potential budget cuts. Many permanent government employees started as volunteers.

Rob Titus Jr. at the benefits table

February 2017 Door Prize Winners

Ryan Conway	Goggles
Ken Kozik	Under Layer
Carol Bower	Under Layer
Andy Sage	Goggles
Jean O'Donnell	Socks & Under Layer
Shelly Sage	Socks & Under Layer
Robin Diamond	Jacket
Dana Blanchard	Ski Bag
Chris Gerber	2 Mad River tickets
Greg Ruklic	2 Pico tickets
Andy Sage	2 Magic tickets
Shelly Sage	2 Bromley tickets

Ken Kozik picks the next ticket while Robin holds the bin

Nice goggles, Ryan!

February Door Prizes – continued

Warm socks and under layer for Jean O'Donnell

Carol will be toasty in her under layer

Dana loves his ski bag and Robin has a new jacket!

Shelly does a happy dance with her new socks and under layer!

Member Stories

ACE Members attend Trailhead Steward Training

By Robin Temple Diamond

Following the presentation by John Marunowski at the February 8 ACE meeting, several ACE members attended the ***Trailhead Steward Training*** in Campton, NH in April of this year.

Bill Tarkulich at the Trail Steward Training

It was a good presentation - located at the headquarters in **Campton, NH** - a very nice, large, building.

We met representatives from NH parks, Fish and Game, including a Federal Forestry rep. and a federal (police) officer for the New Hampshire region. We also met the officer who is called for most of the search and rescue requests that come in; he had some good stories.

From all the promoting they have been doing they had about 120 people show up today for the training/information on how and what to do as a Trailhead Steward for the White Mountain National Forest - part of the US Forestry.

One thing they made sure we all knew was that we can't enforce anything, but rather we inform hikers and make suggestions for better choices. We greet hikers, answer questions but never enforce.

Of the 120 attendees, 100 were new volunteers and they are in need of more!

August Kayaking Trip

By Robin Temple Diamond

Paddling on ***Hockomock Bay*** North of ***Beal Island*** near ***Georgetown***, Maine.

Members, I need your stories!

When you go on a trip, why not send me a picture or two with a few lines describing your adventure, and I'll publish them in the next newsletter!

Beatrice Chaney – Newsletter Editor
newsletter@aceskiandboardclub.org

Membership Update

Dear Members:

Now is the 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 mail 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 still need to complete the membership process by sending your signed form to the above address**, or you may **scan and email** it to mgrenier444@gmail.com 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.

NOTE: If your email has changed, please put a note on your membership form that ***"my email has changed".*** Thank you!

Let it Snow!!!!!!!!

Michèle Grenier, Membership Chair
mgrenier444@gmail.com

New and renewing members will be automatically added to the club's ***"Members Only" Google Group*** unless they explicitly request not to be included. This email list will be used to disseminate club news and announcements to ACE Club members.

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 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

Google Groups

Members-only Google Group

New and renewing members are ***automatically 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, assuming 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 **post** to this group, send email to aceskiandboardmembers@googlegroups.com

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

The club's Google Group is **private** and not listed in the Google Groups directory. Membership to this group is **restricted** - all group members must be approved and must be members of the ACE Ski and Board Club.

As a member of this group you can send out messages to the whole group – see email address above for posting. However - to avoid spam - all messages are approved by a **moderator** 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.

Old Yahoo!Groups

The **general Yahoo!Groups** is still around for general discussions related to the club. It may include current members as well as past members who still hold an interest in the club. However, it does not necessarily include all current club members, since signing up for it is optional. This group, like the members-only Google Group, is also a moderated group. Yahoo!Groups requires that participants send an acknowledgment when they are being signed up.

Links and Forms

Check out the club's public website at www.aceskiandboardclub.org.

In addition, look for news about coupons, special discount days and deals available only to club members in your members-only email.

Membership:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/

Tickets:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/tickets/

Racing:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/racing/

Newsletters:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org/newsletters/

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/aceskis

EICSL:

www.eicsl.org

ACE/EICSL Update

Chuck Riley, Bryan Woods
ACE EICSL Representatives

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.

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.

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 now! Email **Chuck Riley**, ***ACE Ski and Board EICSL Chair*** @ slohand53@gmail.com to inquire.

For more information about EICSL, go to www.eicsl.org.

EICSL Applications

The EICSL signup or renewal **deadline for the 2017-2018 season is October 31, 2017**. No exceptions will be made!

If you have **PayPal** you can make your EICSL and Club dues payment by sending your payment to payments@AceSkiAndBoardclub.org.

ACE Club Application Form and EICSL Release are required.

EICSL Kick-off

The EICSL kick-off at ***Bretton Woods*** is Saturday, December 9. Tickets are $25 for returning EICSL members, free for new EICSL members.

EICSL Trips

Jay Peak

5.5 Day Trip	December 12 - 17, 2017
3.5 Day Trip	December 14 - 17, 2017

Cortina d'Ampezzo and Venice, Italy

January 26 – February 3, 2018

For details on this season's EICSL trips, check out www.eicsl.org/trips--discounts.html.

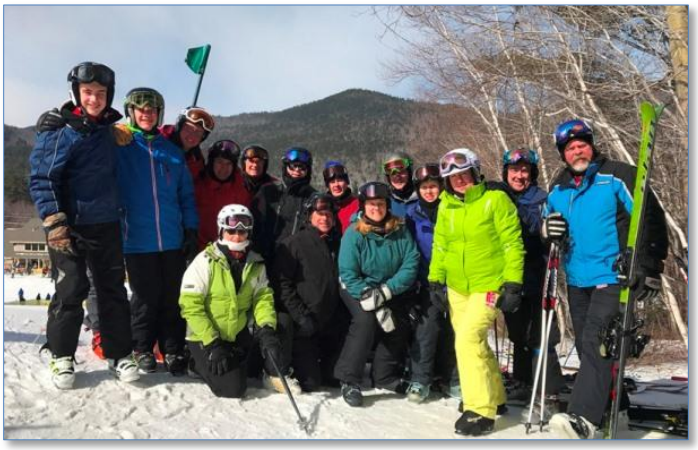
ACE/EICSL Racing 2017–2018

Robin Temple Diamond, Race Chair

Dear racers and non-racers:

If you would like to race as part of the **ACE team**, send email to: robintdiamond@comcast.net, or inquire at the Club's next general meeting.

Last year's EICSL Race Chairs



Details

- Four races per year.
- Participate in two races to qualify for championship.
- $20.00 to register for the year (make check payable to ***ACE Ski & Board Club***).
- Discounted lift tickets available at each race.
- You must be an active member of EICSL and the ACE Ski & Board Club.

On-Line Registration

Stay tuned for detailed instructions on how to **sign up online** for the upcoming ACE/EICSL race season 2017-2018.

2017-2018 Race Dates and Locations

1st	**January 6, 2018**	**Bretton Woods**
2nd	**January 20, 2018**	**Shawnee**
3rd	**February 10, 2018**	**Cranmore**
Champ.	**March 3, 2018**	**Attitash**