The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 30 Issue 1
September 2019

ACE Ski & Board News

General Membership Meeting September 17

Club trip to St. Anton and Prague, by Bryan Woods

Location: The general meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be **TUESDAY September 17** at the **Chelmsford Elks Lodge** in Chelmsford, MA.

Doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7:00.

Meeting Highlights: **Charna Cummings** from ***Alphorn Tours*** www.alphorntours.com will be back to tell members everything they want to know about the club's planned trip to ***Val d'Isère, France*** and ***Paris!***

*For an **extra door prize ticket** bring non-perishable food items for a pantry or a $5 supermarket gift card.*

Only current ***ACE Club members*** *are eligible for door prizes.*

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Pizza will be offered for **$2 CASH** per slice on a first come, first served basis.

Important ACE Club Dates 2019–2020

General Meetings	Board Meetings	EICSL Races
September 17 (Tue)	**August 27 (Tue)**	**TBD**
December 10 (Tue)	**November 19 (Tue)**	**TBD**
January 28 (Tue)	**January 7 (Tue)**	**TBD**
		TBD

Meeting Location

The general meeting on **TUESDAY** **September 17** 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 Diamond	Vice-president and Acting Race Chair
Open	Race Chair
Open	Secretary
Open	Meetings
Dana Blanchard	Treasurer
Michèle Grenier	Benefits Chair
Roscoe Diamond	Membership Chair
Bryan Woods	EICSL Chair
Open	EICSL Co-Chair
Open	Marketing
Ryan Conway	Webmaster
Beatrice Chaney	Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Welcome Back!

Our ticket program seems to be well received, with over one third of our VT tickets already purchased.

We have a **FANTASTIC** trip going to ***Val d'Isère, France*** (a bucket list item for me), followed by a TGV to ***Paris*** (food, art, churches).

We've cut back on the number of meetings but kept the door prize spending the same, so more members should be going home with swag (or skis!).

YOUR club is still a great deal, even in this age of multi-mountain passes. Consider helping out by giving back. We have open positions including **Race**, **Marketing**, **Meetings**, and **Secretary**. Contact any board member for more info!

Benefits Update

Lift Tickets

Discount tickets will again be available to members this season. The first online ticket sale of the season was announced to club members through the members-only Google group and is still open until ***September 30***.

See you at the ***September 17*** General meeting!

Michèle Grenier, Benefits Chair
benefits@aceskiandboardclub.org

ACEWOS Online Ticket Purchasing

Last season, after many years of using paper forms, paper checks and the US Postal Service, the club successfully transitioned to **online** ordering for discount tickets, membership and race registration!

A **member account** is required on the club's website, www.aceskiandboardclub.org for each person wishing to buy tickets.

Spousal/Family Memberships have been eliminated. Everyone joins as a Primary Member now.

Detailed **instructions** on how to create an account and purchase memberships and tickets is available at www.aceskiandboardclub.org/store/

Wachusett Mountain Group Season Pass

As in previous years, there is an ***"ace ski and board club"*** group set up to purchase discounted **Wachusett Mountain** Group Season Passes (referred to as GPS, for GrouPS).

Members and non-members may use this group to obtain the discount.

A minimum of 4 people are needed in order to get the discount.

In addition, incentives are offered when there are 4 or more members in the group; the name of one club member from the purchasers will be "picked from a hat" at the December club meeting to receive the incentives.

To see the **GrouPS** pass options, pricing, incentive listing, and to purchase a discounted pass, go directly to:

www.wachusett.com/Tickets-Passes/Groups/GPS-Club.aspx

Select the pass and quantity and then press the ***"Add to Cart"*** button.

View the items in the cart, then press the ***"Check Out"*** button and add the information requested (you will need to register).

Enter **"ace ski and board club"** for the group name. **Marcia Ruklic** is the group coordinator.

NOTE: All Group Season Pass prices go up $100 after 11/13/2019 (this includes both ***Junior*** and ***Senior*** passes, unlike previous years).

Thanks for the Food!

Thanks to all who brought food to the February meeting. ***Robin Diamond*** delivered your donations to a food pantry in Derry, NH,

Bring Food!

For an **extra chance at a door prize**, bring canned goods, non-perishables, or a $5 supermarket gift card.

ACE Merchandise

We have fleece jackets, vests, and some cool hats and tote bags with the **ACE logo** for sale.

Come check them out at the ***September 17*** meeting!

Checks or PayPal – no cash

Trips

Trip to Val d'Isère and Paris

Jan. 31 - Feb. 11, 2020

$2,820 / person double occupancy

$3,435 single occupancy

For details and updates, visit:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/trips/val-disere-and-paris-france/

Recap of February General Meeting

The last meeting of the season was well attended.

Robin Diamond started the meeting with an update

of the upcoming trip to the Eastern Townships in March, noting that there was still room for people interested! She pointed out that besides skiing at ***Mt. Orford***, activities such as X-country skiing and snow shooing are available, currently with good snow coverage.

Robin reported on the race program and told about the extreme cold weather at the race at ***Attitash***. The last, championship race is coming up soon.

Bryan Woods, jet-lagged but feeling better after finally getting a good night's sleep, recounted the adventures of the club's trip to ***St. Anton, Austria***.

A few days before the trip, Bryan was called to an unexpected last-minute business trip to Berlin, and planned to join the group in Zurich. However, due to bad weather, the group's flight from Boston was cancelled and postponed by a day! Fortunately, his wife was able to meet everybody in Zurich and shepherd them by bus to St. Anton. After his arrival by train, and an additional quest across town, Bryan was finally able to reunite with his charges at the bus station across the river.

The first day was a powder day (although the group wasn't there yet) and the next days were blue bird days averaging 30 degrees Fahrenheit! Can't do any better :-)

There are many bars on top of the mountains. Guides from the ski school were available. Bryan joined a group on a big one-day tour of 54 miles. They ended up taking a cab back, but could boast that they did it!

Avalanche danger was still high on the 2d day (1st for the group) a 3 out of 5, and some sections were closed. On subsequent days, the avalanche danger dropped to 2 and the valleys opened up. Avalanche prevention teams would periodically trigger slabs where necessary. Berms were in place to stem the masses of snow.

Due to the vast expanse of the ski area, there is no ski patrol on the slopes, but if needed, skiers can be evacuated by rescue helicopter after calling an emergency phone number posted everywhere on the mountain. It was highly advisable to sign up for the $15 insurance to avoid incurring massive costs in case of an accident!

The hotel was conveniently located one block from the lifts.

People also enjoyed the night life at famous apres-ski bars like the ***Krazy Kanguruh*** and the ***Mooserwirt*** and some were intrigued by a style of music combining techno with a polka beat.

The last day had 2" of fresh snow but the light was a little flat. Bryan encountered a single, small patch of ice the whole week! His closing words were: "I'd do it again!!"

Almost all participants took the extension trip to ***Prague***. The scene back at Zurich airport was 'a zoo'! Swiss, the airline, required people to put all batteries in their checked baggage - for example batteries from ski boot warmers.

After their flight from Zurich, the group was welcomed at the hotel in Prague with a fabulous reception! Participants spent 3 nights in Prague, including a half day city tour to the old town, the famous bridge, as well as the new town.

In ***St. Anton***, the hotel included dinner, which was a good thing, so tired skiers didn't have to go out again at night. In Prague, only breakfast was included, leaving people free to explore all the great restaurants, at very reasonable prices!

Bryan dangled ideas for next year's trip, and asked club members for feedback and suggestions. The boldest idea was Japan, either ***Hokaido*** or ***Akuba***, in January, but the price would be higher than going to Europe. ***Chamonix*** and ***Val d'Isère*** were mentioned as possibilities, with potential extension trips to ***Paris*** or ***Barcelona***. (Note: Val d'Isère and Paris ended up as the winner for this upcoming season)

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In the second part of the meeting, **Robin** and **Roscoe Diamond** had brought a whole table-full of ***paddling equipment*** and explained and demonstrated their various uses.

They are both co-chairs of the ***New Hampshire AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club) Paddling Chapter***. They teach flat water as well as sea kayaking, and organize weekends for people who have never paddled before, as well as for experienced paddlers.

The yearly training weekend with the AMC at ***Nubble Bay***, Georgetown, ME includes instruction on gear, navigation and trip planning, for a cost of for $125.

Robin showed her life vest (***PFD***: personal flotation device) and explained the accessories she stores in its many pockets or attaches to it: water, nose clip, etc … and most importantly, an emergency radio! The radio is waterproof and floats and gives the weather forecast. Also, a thermometer for the water temperature.

Wearing a PFD is mandatory in NH for watersports, except on SUPs (Stand Up Paddle)

Critical gear to take along on a trip includes dry bags, a pump to bail out an overturned kayak and various ropes. The flyer the pair brought to the meeting shows the complete recommended list. Emphasis is put on knowing how to self-rescue. Robin showed how to inflate a special bag to wrap around a paddle, called a ***paddle float***.

It is important to guard against hypothermia at all times, even in the summer, by wearing neoprene garments and a windproof jacket. In very cold weather, you can wear a dry suit, but this is more cumbersome.

This year's ***Nubble Bay*** outing is July 6,7,8.

Many members were very interested, picked up flyers and inquired on where to get more information.

February 2019 Door Prize Winners

Lots of great prizes!

Trip Reports

Eastern Townships

Last February, the club took a trip across the border to the ***Eastern Townships*** in southern ***Quebec, Canada***, organized by **Robin Diamond**.

After a pleasant drive north through the Green Mountains of Vermont, we arrived Friday afternoon at the beautiful ***Manoir Des Sables*** hotel in the town of ***Magog***. The weather was spectacular and participants were able to snow shoe and cross-country ski right from the hotel on a network of snow-covered trails.

That evening, we went to dinner at a local restaurant, ***'Le four à bois'***, specializing in pizza and local brews, where we got to the opportunity to practice our French to decode the menu.

Our package included two day passes at nearby ***Mount Orford***, so we headed there on Saturday and skied all day under blue sky and great conditions.

Back at the hotel, after relaxing in the outdoor hot tub, we were served a delicious gourmet dinner, also included, in the elegant dining room in front of a fireplace.

Sunday was a snow day, but several of us went back to Mount Orford and enjoyed the powder until it was time to head home, driving all the way back through what had become a real snow storm!

Although it was a small group, it was a fun adventure, good skiing and great company!

Newsletter - Member Stories

Members, send me your stories for the next newsletter!

If you have a picture, add a few words and email them to: newsletter@aceskiandboardclub.org

Beatrice Chaney, Newsletter Editor

Membership Update

Thank you everyone for being so patient through this first year of transition of purchasing your membership online and using PayPal! Be sure to renew your membership by **September 2019.**

For detailed instructions on how to purchase your membership and tickets through the online ***ACE Web Ordering System (ACEWOS),*** see: https://www.aceskiandboardclub.org/store/

Spousal/Family Memberships have been eliminated. Everyone joins as a Primary Member now.

Although the club strongly encourages everyone to purchase memberships through **ACEWOS**, you can still sign up or renew your membership by downloading forms from the ACE website at www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership and mail your completed form and dues (checks, no cash) to:

Roscoe Diamond
ACE Ski and Board Club
50 Hillside Ave
Derry NH 03038

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

If you are purchasing your membership through **ACEWOS** or 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 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 get help in signing up or renewing your membership at every general meeting.

Roscoe Diamond, Membership Chair
membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

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

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

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

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

Groups

Members-only Google Group

New and renewing members are added to the club's **"Members Only" Google Group** unless they explicitly request not to be included.

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.

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.

Purchase Membership and Tickets:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/store/

Membership:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/

Email: membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

Tickets:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/tickets

Email: benefits@aceskiandboardclub.org

Racing:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/racing/

Email: racing@aceskiandboardclub.org

Newsletters:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/newsletters/

Email: newsletter@aceskiandboardclub.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/aceskis

EICSL:

www.eicsl.org

ACE/EICSL Update

Bryan Woods,

ACE EICSL Representative

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! Contact **Bryan Woods**, ***ACE Ski and Board EICSL Chair,*** to inquire.

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

EICSL Guest Lodging

For EICSL Members interested in weekend lodging in the North Conway area, one option is to stay at the ***Wedeln Ski Club***. Contact VP **Rob Murphy**, robertmurphy.wedeln@gmail.com by the Wednesday prior to the weekend you wish to stay.

Cost is $25/night, payable via ***PayPal*** in advance to treasurer@eicsl.org .

2019-2020 EICSL Applications

The EICSL signup or renewal **deadline for the 2019-2020 season is October 31, 2020**.

Jay Peak EICSL Trip

5.5 Day Trip: 12/12 to 12/17/19
3.5 Day Trip: 12/12 to 12/15/19

Registration for the EICSL ***Jay Peak*** trip is now open.

You must be an EICSL member to go on this trip.

This trip is dependent on early season snow conditions.

Price is lower than past few years.

Check out www.eicsl.org/trips--discounts.html for details and updates on this season's EICSL trips.

ACE/EICSL Racing 2019–2020

Robin Temple Diamond, Race Chair

Race Program Details

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

If you are interested in racing, please contact ***Robin Diamond*** at: racing@aceskiandboardclub.org with Subject: ACE RACING 2019-20 INQUIRY ***or see Robin at the meeting!***

You must be an **ACE Ski & Board Club Member** and **EICSL Member** to race. The EICSL membership payment and signed form must be submitted to the ***ACE Ski & Board Club Membership Chair***.

You can get forms at the upcoming General Meeting or by visiting the Club's website at www.aceskiandboardclub.org.

2019-2020 Race Dates and Locations

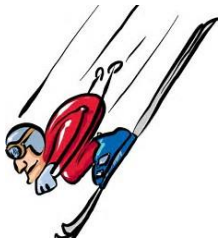
Stay tuned for details on race dates and locations at:

www.aceskiandboardclub.org/membership/racing/

Robin Diamond - Acting Race Chair

Race Registration and Payment

Race registrations can now be purchased online through the **ACEWOS** system on the Club's website at www.aceskiandboardclub.org.

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

Or you can mail a check payable to ***ACE Ski & Board Club*** to Robin.