The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 31 Issue 1
October 2020

ACE Ski & Board News

Virtual General Membership Meeting October 8

Val d'Isère, France, by Jon Levy

Location: Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the first general meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be held online via **Zoom** on **THURSDAY October 8** from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Meeting Highlights: The featured speaker will be **Jillian Willard**, a ski leader with the ***AMC New Hampshire Chapter***, who will be talking to us about backcountry skiing. Jillian was a downhill recreational skier most of her life until she met her now husband, who introduced her to backcountry skiing and the AMC. She does a combination of down mountain and cross country style backcountry skiing and is excited to talk to us!

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*We encourage all members to continue to donate to their local **food pantry.***

*An **Amazon** e-gift card will be raffled off to a lucky member attending the meeting!*

What ***Pizza*** ?? You are welcome to bring your favorite food (and drink!) to munch on and quench your thirst while congregating virtually with your fellow club members.

Important ACE Club Dates 2020–2021

General Meetings	Board Meetings	EICSL Races
	September 14	
October 8	**October 5**	
January 12	**January 5**	

Virtual Meeting Location

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the general meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will be held online via **Zoom** on **THURSDAY October 8** from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

How to join the meeting:

An email was sent out with an invitation and instructions on how to install **Zoom** on your device and join the meeting. If you didn't receive it, contact membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

ACE Club Executive Board

Jonathan Levy	President and Co-Benefits Chair
Robin Diamond	Vice-president and Acting Race Chair
Open	Race Chair
Open	Secretary
Open	Meetings
Dana Blanchard	Treasurer and Acting Benefits Chair
Roscoe Diamond	Membership Chair
Bryan Woods	EICSL Chair
Open	EICSL Co-Chair
Open	Marketing
Open	Trips
Ryan Conway	Webmaster
Beatrice Chaney	Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Welcome to what will undoubtedly be an unusual ski season for both the mountains and the club!

Basic Memberships will be valid for this year and next year, as there is very little we can offer of value with the ongoing pandemic. (EICSL memberships are still annual.)

We are unable to offer discounted lift tickets, hold in-person general meetings with door prizes, or offer a European trip.

The planned trip to ***Zermatt, Switzerland*** has been postponed until next winter.

Most/all visits to the mountains will have to be reserved in advance, with pass holders receiving priority.

Consider exploring cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing this winter as an alternative. There are still ways to get out and enjoy the outdoors!

The club is still looking for a person to take over **Benefits** (lift tickets). Now would be a good time to apprentice this role for the next season!

We also have openings for club **Secretary** (an Officer's position), and committee chairs for winter **Trips**, **Meetings**, and **Marketing**.

Benefits Update

Lift Tickets

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, the club will not be offering any discount tickets this season.

You may still choose to join the club or renew your membership at this time, in which case your **Basic Membership** will be extended until the end of the next season **2021-2022**! Note that EICSL Memberships must still be renewed yearly.

ACE Web Ordering System (ACEWOS)

As of last season, the club has successfully transitioned to **online ordering** for discount tickets, membership and race registration, a final goodbye to many years of using paper forms, paper checks and the US Postal Service!

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

There are no Spousal/Family Memberships; everyone joins as a Primary Member.

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

Thanks for the Food!

Thanks to all who brought food to the January meeting! Your donations were delivered to the Sonshine Soup Kitchen in Derry, NH.

ACE Merchandise

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

To see what is available, email ***Roscoe*** at membership@aceskiandboardclub.org

Wachusett Mountain Group Season Pass

At least some good news: as of this printing, ***Wachusett Mountain*** plans to open for the **2020/2021** season, albeit with restrictions and limitations due to COVID-19.

Season pass quantities are limited this year due to the pandemic (note that the new Steel Pass is already sold out) and they are offering ***"Pass Assurance"*** for a (full or pro-rated) credit or a deferral for this season. Please see their website for details concerning their operating plans, restrictions, and for pass assurance specifics.

As in previous years, there is an ***"ace ski and board club"*** group to purchase discounted **Wachusett Mountain** Group Season Passes (referred to as GPS, or GrouPS.) **Marcia Ruklic** is the group coordinator.

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

Several people have already signed up, so we have reached the minimum of 4 people needed 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" on December 15 to receive the incentives.

To see the **GrouPS** pass options, pricing, 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.

Hope to see you, with your ski masks on, out at Wachusett Mountain this season!

Trips

Due to the uncertainty of the current pandemic situation and travel restrictions, the club has postponed the planned trip to ***Zermatt*** until **2022.**

EICSL is still offering the ***Jay PeakTrip***: www.eicsl.org/jay-peak-trip-registration.html

Member Stories

A Crêpe Awaits in Tignes

by Jonathan Levy

The ACE Ski Club went to ***Val d'Isère*** last February. We stayed right on the slopes at the ***Hotel Altitude***. We had a great week weather-wise, losing only one day to shut lifts, which was rewarded by a powder day following.

Val d'Isère is part of an inter-connected set of ski areas called ***Espace Killy***. *[Jean-Claude Killy is probably the most famous French alpine ski racer, having won three gold medals at the Grenoble 1968 Winter Games.]*

Furthest from Val d'Isère is the ***Tignes*** ski area, reachable completely by ski lift, but it takes a few hours to get there. The skiing itself isn't that difficult, but some of the views are incredible.

I had a goal that week of skiing to Tignes and enjoying an afternoon crêpe, and then returning via lift. *[A return trip via taxi can be quite expensive, costing more than a day's lift ticket.]*

I had made an attempt mid-week, but felt compelled to turn around before reaching Tignes.

With only one ski day left, I had one last opportunity to reach my goal. I was already partly familiar with the journey.

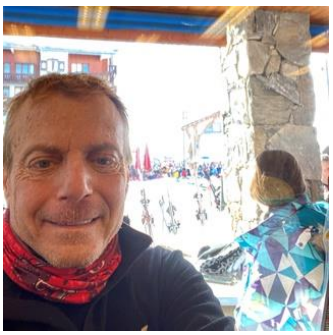
I got an early start, after enjoying our terrific breakfast buffet at the hotel. The first lift is literally a short ski and 30-yard walk to the ***Olympique gondola*** entrance. It was past the opening crush, so I had a car to myself.

Things were going smoothly. I was stopping along the way to capture some amazing vistas, some of which are presented here.

The rock which forms a circle was quite striking.

There's a junction of lifts about two-thirds of the way to Tignes at the village of ***Val Claret***. As I was skiing towards the village, I noticed there seemed to be an unusual number of skiers milling about.

As it turns out, there was a power outage, and none of the lifts were running. I waited a short time to see if it was a brief stoppage. After about 10 minutes, I did the only sensible thing and popped in to a local restaurant for a meal.



The selfie shows part of the junction area in the background.

The power was restored about halfway through my meal.

Now fully recharged, I continued my journey.

There is a dam visible from the slopes above Tignes, the ***Barrage de Tignes***. The barrier is wide enough for a two-way road.

A Crêpe Awaits in Tignes – Continued

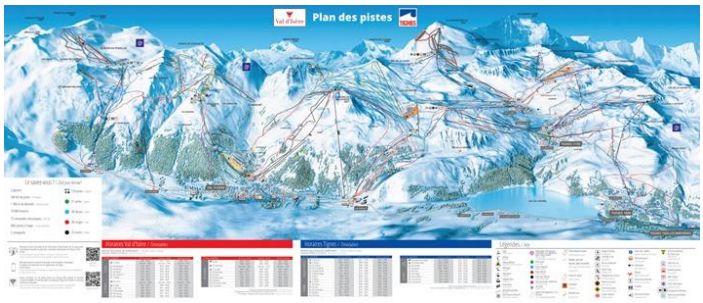
Tignes is actually three different ski stations, differentiated by altitude: 2100m, 1800m, and 1550m. Tignes 1550 is the furthest point of Espace Killy from Val d'Isère.

In mid-afternoon, I reached my destination: Tignes 1550 ***Les Brévières***. There weren't many other skiers about (it was rather overcast), but fortunately a few outdoor cafes were open.

It was time for my ***Crêpe Marron*** (chestnut cream) and ***Vin Chaud*** (hot mulled wine).

I felt complete: satiated, and having achieved my goal, with sufficient time to return via lift. I lingered a few minutes to bask in my endorphins, then strapped on my boards to begin the journey home.

There was some serious group après planned for that afternoon/evening.



Recap of January 2020 Meeting

Door Prize Winners

Christopher Cameron	Vantage Atomic Skis
Dana Blanchard	Boot bag
Ryan Conway	Boot warmers
Barbara Patzner	Gloves and socks
Duane Delfose	Gloves and socks
Ryan Conway	Goggles
Ken Kozik	Goggles
Andy Sage	T-Shirt
Marcia Melanson	T-Shirt
Bryan Woods	Fleece
Marcia Melanson	EMS Gift card
Jean O'Donnell	2 Bromley tickets
Andy Sage	2 Bromley tickets
Robin Diamond	2 Pico tickets

Membership Update

Although the club is unable to offer discounted lift tickets this year, you are still welcome to join the club or renew your membership! If you do, your **Basic Membership** will be valid until the end of the following **2021/2022** season! Note that EISCL memberships must still be renewed on a yearly basis.

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

Although the club strongly encourages everyone to purchase their membership 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. I will email you a confirmation that I received your membership application.

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.

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 to coincide with club meetings
- 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

For more details, see the club's website:
www.aceskiandboardclub.org

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.

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 .

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.

COVID Update

As an ACE member, you can still join EICSL this year. However:

- There is no EICSL racing this year
- There are no EICSL socials
- Guest policies have been revised, and vary by club

See www.eicsl.org for a complete update.

EICSL Trips

EICSL is still offering the **Jay PeakTrip**:
5.5 Day Trip: 12/15-12/20/20
3.5 Day Trip: 12/17-12/20/20

For full details, see:
www.eicsl.org/jay-peak-trip-registration.html

ACE/EICSL Racing 2020–2021

Robin Temple Diamond, Acting Race Chair

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, there will be no EICSL racing this year.