The Newsletter of the
ACE Ski & Board Club

Volume 31 Issue 2
January 2021

ACE Ski & Board News

Virtual General Membership Meeting January 12

Bullock Lodge at Wachusett Mountain, by Dana Blanchard

Location: Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the general meeting of the ACE Ski and Board Club will again be held online via **Zoom** on **TUESDAY January 12** from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Meeting Highlights:

ACE welcomes **Jeff Leich (**pronounced 'Like') of the ***New England Ski Museum*** newenglandskimuseum.org, as the featured speaker of the evening. Jeff will tell us stories about the 10th Mountain Division in ***"Tales of the 10th".***

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

*See inside for a list of **most needed items.***

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

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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	January 23
		February 6
		March 6

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 **TUESDAY January 12** from 7:00 to 8:30 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

President's Message

It's been a tough early season. Mountains have opened later than usual; the weather has not been that cooperative; and the nearly-virtual requirement of reservations makes an excursion more deliberate. Pass holders have certainly benefited and the lack of discount tickets has been an impact to everyone's wallet.

Perhaps the mid and late seasons will offer more opportunities. Stay safe out there.

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 Co-Benefits Chair
Roscoe Diamond	Membership Chair
Bryan Woods	EICSL Co-Chair and Winter Trips Chair
Open	EICSL Co-Chair
Open	Marketing
Ryan Conway	Webmaster
Beatrice Chaney	Newsletter Editor

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

Benefits Update

Lift Tickets

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, the club was not able to offer 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)

The club is now in its second season of having successfully transitioned to **online ordering** for discount tickets, membership and race registration.

A **member account** is required 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/

Donate to your favorite food pantry!

This website shows a handy list of items that food banks need most, such as:

- Soups, especially hearty meals like chili or stew
- Canned chicken, tuna, ham, canned vegetables, canned fruit, individual fruit cups
- Spaghetti, marinara sauce, rice, instant food mixes that only require water, spices
- Shelf stable milk or alternatives (rice, soy, etc.)
- Cereal, peanut butter or other nut butter
- Chips and crackers, snacks for kids to take to school
- Bags of apples or potatoes
- Infant formula, infant cereal, diapers, and wipes
- Toiletries: toothbrushes, soap, toothpaste, lotion, shampoo & conditioner, Chapstick
- Feminine hygiene: unscented pads not tampons

And also what they **can't use:**

- anything that has to be refrigerated
- homemade food
- glass or plastic jars of baby food
- expired food, …

Wachusett Mountain January Update

by Marcia Ruklic

Wachusett Mountain is open for skiing and is following COVID-19 guidelines throughout the resort. See www.wachusett.com for details, restrictions, and all other information.

Season passes sold out early this year because quantities were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For those who purchased season passes, note that Wachusett is still offering "Pass Assurance" for a **pro-rated** credit or deferral for this season (Conditions for the full credit/deferral expired as of opening day.) Please see the website for details.

For non-pass holders, daily lift tickets must be purchased online in advance, as available; there are several timed sessions daily. As of this printing, there is an option to combine sessions 1 & 2 mid-week (9am-4pm) for a discounted price. Click on the "***Daily Lift Tickets***" link in the "***Tickets & Passes***" tab and scroll down to "***Session 1 & 2***".

This year, our club's Wachusett Mountain ***"ace ski and board club"*** Group Season Pass (GPS) group has 9 people signed up to take advantage of the discount. Six (6) of those in the Group are active ACE club members and 3 are non-members.

The 6 active ACE members met via Zoom on December 10th to officially raffle off the incentive earned: 1 Anytime & 2 Weekday/Night lift tickets. ***Greg Ruklic*** was the lucky winner – congratulations Greg!

Note: As in past years, the ***"ace ski and board club"*** group is available for ACE members and non-members to purchase discounted **Wachusett Mountain** Group Season Passes (**GPS**); **Marcia Ruklic** is the group coordinator.

ACE Merchandise

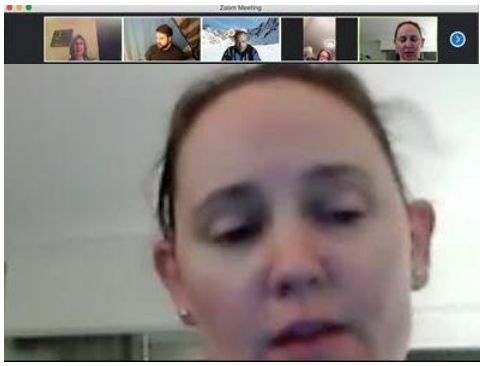
We still have fleece jackets, vests, and some cool hats and tote bags with the **ACE logo** for sale!

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

Recap of October 2020 Meeting

On October 8, the club conducted its first online meeting via ***Zoom!*** **Ryan Conway**, the club's webmaster, hosted the meeting.

Jon Levy gave an update on the club's plans and offerings for the upcoming season. In light of the current pandemic, he stated that the club would be unable to offer any discounted lift tickets, trips or door prizes for this season. However all basic memberships will be valid for **two years**. He announced that an Amazon gift card would be drawn as a prize among attendees of the meeting.



The featured speaker, **Jillian Williard**, then showed up on screen to give us an in-depth presentation on all styles of ***backcountry skiing***, as well as an overview of related ***AMC programs***. Jillian has been with the New Hampshire AMC Chapter for a long time and is currently a ski leader. She got involved in backcountry skiing through alpine skiing.

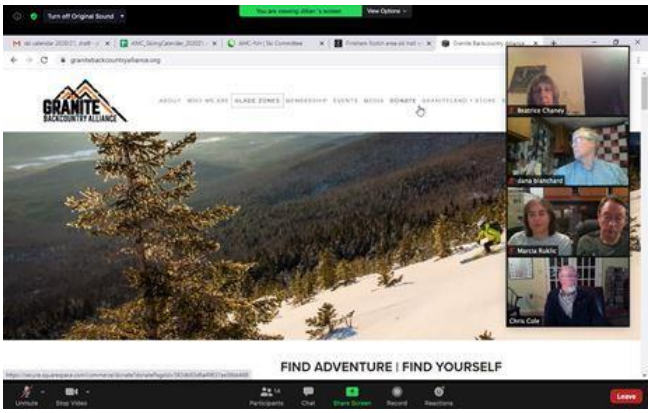
AMC (Appalachian Mountain Club) is a pretty big organization; it is divided into chapters by region, such as New Hampshire, Boston, New York, ... Some chapters run trips with paid guides, but the New Hampshire chapter is entirely powered by volunteers. You can check out the website for the ski committee at amcnh.org/ski/ to see a list of ***planned trips*** and find out whether a trip is right for you by contacting the trip leader. You can also sign up for their newsletter. Day trips are free and you don't (officially) need an AMC membership.

Backcountry skiing covers a wide range of styles, from lighter to heavy-duty cross-country to telemark to alpine touring, which can involve really steep stuff. Each style requires different equipment. Find the style you enjoy and depending on your fitness level.

Backcountry cross-country touring style is a great way to get outside: skis have metal edges and call for burly, heavier boots. Skis have a scale or wax base and allow more hills than you would find at a touring center. You can do shorter trips of 3-5 miles or longer all-day trips. Every year NH AMC offers a challenging 20 miles trip from dark to dark, a fantastic trip but unfortunately it will not run this year. They also offer a family series, suitable for kids of all ages, even 18 months to 4 years old, who get to ride in a sled when tired!

Alpine touring uses climbing skins, and specialized boots and bindings, or ***telemark*** equipment with a touring setup. ***Light backcountry*** is more like cross-country skiing. Then there is ultra-light ***skimo racing***, crazy! Super-light boots and bindings, skiers always look like they are almost falling down. Other options include ***split-boarding***, or a ***snowboard*** paired with ***snow shoes***.

New England typically involves 100% un-groomed terrain and can be survival skiing, with trees, exposed rocks, bumps, icy areas, ... Conditions can be highly variable and depend on altitude: the top can be powder to really crappy! For longer trips there is no guarantee on conditions! Shorter trips with less elevation can be more predictable. The ***"Sherbie"*** is a popular trail close to civilization.



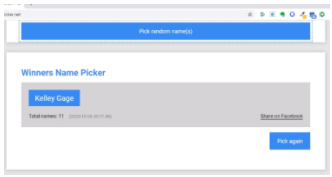
Also check out the ***Granite Backcountry Alliance*** at granitebackcountryalliance.org. The ***Glade Zones*** are great places but expect them to be very busy this winter, as things are somewhat uncertain this year.

Trips are available from beginner to advanced. When planning a trip, keep in mind that there is no lodge! Dress in layers, as you can get very hot climbing up. Bring snacks, water, essentials like you would on a winter hike. Higher elevations make for long days, and possibly steep terrain on the way down, so consider that you will get very tired going up and may get exhausted. If you rent equipment, take the time to familiarize yourself with your gear ahead of time, as it may work differently depending on the brand and your leader may not be familiar with it.

Overnights trips are another Covid casualty this year, but do check out outdoors.org for information on AMC's extensive huts system: ***Jackson*** has a hut on ***Doublehead***; ***Cardigan Lodge*** has great, easy backcountry and cross-country skiing, and offers a package with breakfast and dinner, more an inn than a hut! Maine also has a great hut system. ***Maine Huts & Trails*** mainehuts.org have a 3-4 day trip hut to hut (lodge to lodge) all groomed! Also check out the ***AMC Maine Wilderness lodges***.

For ***training*** on backcountry skiing and related topics, be sure to check out the ***Winter School*** at Cardigan, although this year's offerings are limited because of Covid, especially the weekend courses. The current leader has been there for 15-20 years and is also an excellent chef! Courses include introduction to cross-country on un-groomed terrain, advanced techniques on groomed trails and down mountain training, as well as courses on safety such as avalanche awareness (more focused on how to keep out of trouble, as opposed to rescue), wilderness first aid (offered through other organizations), all a great way to minimize risks while backcountry skiing in remote areas in the winter.

To conclude the meeting**, Ryan** then used a special app **t**o randomly pick a winner for the *$25 Amazon* gift card, and drew **Kelly Gage** as the lucky recipient!



The meeting ended with a lively conversation among attendees, exchanging news and information about ski resort plans, travel restrictions and more.

All in all, the first online ACE meeting can be deemed a success!

Trips

The Club is still cautiously optimistic about requesting a quote later in the spring for the planned trip to ***Zermatt*** in **2022.**

EICSL's ***Jay PeakTrip*** took place as planned last December. For up to date information on further EICSL trips, see www.eicsl.org/trips--discounts.html

Member Stories

ACE Members at Wachusett

by Marcia Ruklic

Marge and Marcia

To date, several ACE GPS members and friends have already been recognized on the **Wachusett Mountain** slopes, despite the masks and goggles and neck gaiters and helmets.

Some have even been in the daily report video posted online (go ***Dana***!).

It's great to see folks getting out and getting in some runs!

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!

Although the EICSL signup or renewal deadline for 2020-2021 has now passed, contact **Bryan Woods**, ***ACE Ski and Board EICSL Chair,*** to inquire about joining next season.

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

COVID Update

For those ACE members who have joined EICSL this year, note that:

- 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 was still able to offer the annual trip to **Jay Peak** in December 2020.

For up to date info on EICSL trips, visit www.eicsl.org/trips--discounts.html

2020-2021 Race Dates and Locations

2nd	**January 23, 2021**	**Shawnee Peak**
3rd	**February 6, 2021**	**Shawnee Peak**
Champ.	**March 6, 2021**	**Shawnee Peak**

See www.eicsl.org/race.html for further race details and registration.