

Council Tracks

The newsletter of NJ Ski Council

I apologize for the timing but I started writing this in late February. Now, it's almost April 2011, and I'm sorry this issue of **Council Tracks** will hit so late but I plead innocence!! I held off waiting for a report on the Council trip to Snowmass Colorado held earlier this month. I wasn't on the trip so needed to wait till it happened to get a report. After it was history, I put out a request to several Council members who did go and asked for a short rundown. Then I waited, waited, waited.....and you know how that goes. So better late than never, here's the March edition of **Council Tracks!**

The Snowmass trip went off without a hitch and the flights left on time with skiers and luggage arriving in Snowmass safely. The slope-side accommodations were appreciated by all. During the drive from the airport, the buses stopped at a Supermarket so people could get provisions for the week. Council Prez Susan Donlan reported the various parties and picnic were well attended. Mother Nature cooperated with sun n blue skies all week except for the day(s) that it snowed. Snow during a ski trip is always appreciated so it must have been great when the flakes fell! Council Treasurer Pat Finn was asked at the March meeting if he won the Nastar Race in Snowmass. He didn't but someone out there did so if you know who placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd in Snowmass please give me their names so I can publish in the next **Council Tracks**. I hope you all took my advice and avoided Krabloonik's restaurant like the plague. If you didn't, I know your wallet was considerably lighter and your stomach was anything but full. If anyone had a particularly good or bad eating experience in Snowmass please send it in as I'd like to hear about it.

Council Race Program: The State Race at Pico is history and everyone had a good time. The weather was another issue as it started out sunny in the morning, clouded up, then Old Man Winter turned on the snowmaker and the white stuff fell. You know, ski racing is a crazy sport.....you gotta have snow but not too much. It's nice if it's snowed recently but God forbid not on race-day! When I found out that race officials have people ski down the trail to clear off the snow I nearly died!!! OMG, what are you people doingggggg???? We wait all year for powder and now you want to rid the slope of it.....are you crazy???? The State race went off but reportedly was aborted in the afternoon due to, TOO MUCH SNOW!!!

Presidents Race 3/19/11: It's now late March so I can report on the President's race which took place this past Saturday. Four of us from High Life took my new Toyota mini-van on its maiden voyage to Catskill ski country. Upon waking up at 5am that morning, I turned on my cell-phone figuring I'd hear something negative from someone. Sure enough, Pat Finn, Council Treasurer called saying he was sick all night and couldn't make it. You know Pat, I really didn't care if you came or not, especially since you beat me in the race last year. However, I really wanted to see your girlfriend Sheila in a skin-tight race suit! The real issue was Pat had the NJ Ski Council banner, no Pat - no banner at Hunter!

NJ Ski Council races have something in common because we too had a mixed bag of weather at the President's race. Officially the 1st day of Spring was upon us yet it was 20 degrees and snowing when we arrived at Hunter Mtn. The snow stopped leaving a horribly overcast sky (Oh yuck)! Just as the race was ending, Rip van Winkle smiled upon us and the clouds disappeared, the sun came out and BINGO where did this glorious day come from? That same day Hunter held the cardboard sled races and kids slid down the hill on everything you can imagine including cafeteria trays. Hunter had a beach volley ball court on the snow near the base and a group of skiers and a few dogs were playing. Hunter brought out the lounge chairs, barbeque grills, beer tent, 7 piece band and the patio outside was mobbed with skiers n boarders enjoying a fabulous spring day in the mountains. A real credit to Hunter was that they left the lifts running till 5PM!!!!!! Oh Baby, it don't get any better.....
HUNTER MOUNTAIN YOU ROCK!!!!

Race Chairperson: Running events like this takes time and talent from someone who knows what they are doing. Karen Sanderson (Trailside Ski Club) has been the Race Chairperson for NJ Ski Council for over 20 years. Once again Karen did a SUPERB job putting the Presidents race together and we owe her a big THANK YOU!

Karen swears she is stepping down as Race Chair this season and we NEED someone to step up and fill the void. Maybe one of our younger people out there would like the recognition of being Race Chair for NJ Ski Council –quite a credit when you think of it! If interested, please contact me (rjzega@yahoo.com) or Kathy Mancini (secretary@NJSkiCouncil.org) to let us know you are interested in this great position!

Eastern Ski Writers Association Conference: Feb 6th-8 at Mad River/Sugarbush kicked off with a social evening and Super Bowl party. It was a great conference and as last year, I met some great people. Pam Fletcher a downhill racer from the Calgary Olympics enthralled us with her story on her tragic quest for Gold. Pam held a ski clinic the 2nd day of the conference and I can tell you that anytime you get to ski with Pam Fletcher, it's a special day in your life as a skier. All conferences have meetings but at one point, the Corporate members (such as NJ Ski Council) got together to discuss what they expect from membership in the ESWA. Those expectations were delivered in front of the Ex. Board of the ESWA. The last day of the conference began with a professional development seminar and then we all went skiing!

Tucker Hill Inn: I can't end this discussion without putting in a plug for the Tucker Hill Inn in Waitsfield, Vermont where I stayed during the conference. Owners Phill and Alison Truckle are quite proper Brits from the UK. As Alison related how they came to the US with their own careers to make their fortune. The years passed and at some point the Truckles realized their children, born in the US wouldn't relate to British customs. They decided to stay which is good fortune for us because the Tucker Hill Inn is a lovely quaint B&B in Waitsfield and located only 5 minutes from Mad River or Sugarbush ski areas. If you are looking for a quality Inn any time of the year, I'm sure you'll find the Tucker Hill Inn a very good choice. Tell them, the guy from New Jersey Ski Council sent you and that plus a dime won't get you anything more than a beautiful room in a beautiful Inn! Please visit them at (www.tuckerhill.com) and say hello to Phill and Alison Truckle!

Nominations/Elections:

Like other volunteer organizations NJ Ski Council holds elections each spring for the following season. A number of positions on the Executive Board are open and ANYONE from a member club is able to volunteer or be nominated. The Council Reps attend meetings so they are a known available pool but anyone from a member club can volunteer to serve the Council - you don't have to be a club Rep. Please take this message back to your respective clubs as there might be someone out there who is willing IF they know they can do it.

My association with the Council has been FUN and very rewarding. I enjoy it so much that I intend to stay on so don't even think about volunteering for my job as PR Chair! There are positions whose terms will expire and Karen Sanderson would like to step down. The only way this can happen is if YOU volunteer. People from the member clubs make this organization and we need you to help make it work. Skiing is fun and a sociable sport that puts you in contact with lots of people. Many times we make friends for life because of our sport. Serving on the Council, I've met a lot of interesting people, done some really neat things and look forward to more years of the same. Please consider a position and get an insiders look at the ski industry!

Below are results for the Consolation and State races. The results for Presidents Race will be reported in a few weeks in the April newsletter.

Consolation Race (Hidden Valley): January 20, 2011

	Women	Men	Combined
1	Trailside	Ski Bums	Ski Bums
2	Garden State	Ramapo Mtn.	Garden State
3	Ski Bums	High Life	Ramapo Mtn.

State Race (Pico): February 5, 2011

	Women	Men	Combined
1	Trailsweepers	High Life	High Life
2	High Life	Ramapo	Trailsweepers
3	Ramapo	Trailsweepers	Ramapo

Presidents Race Results will be printed in April Newsletter

End of Year Race Party: Each year NJ Ski Council hosts an end of the year Race party. This year it will be held on April 28, 2011 at The Exchange Restaurant on Main Street in Rockaway, NJ. Details for this party will be provided at the next meeting of NJ Ski Council on Monday April 12th.

Spring Skiing: It ain't over till it's over! Spring skiing is a zany time with slush ponds, soft moguls, cardboard sled races, base lodge barbeques and of course, THE BEER! Spring snows are sure to hit New England and skiing in the North will be good for another month. Today's wider skis make it easier for you to get out there and enjoy Spring Skiing.

BE THERE and live LIFE!

Bob Zega
Public Relations Chair
New Jersey Ski Council