

Council Tracks
The newsletter of NJ Ski Council
Written by Bob Zega

May has arrived but for some reason April's rains have not ended! If they ever do maybe we can get outside to enjoy Spring before Summer sneaks in. Before I go any further I have to apologize for missing the April issue of ***Council Tracks*** but April was a very busy month as I traveled for several weeks then scrambled to play catch-up afterwards. Like the young boys who didn't show up for church on a hot Sunday morning in August and later were spotted by Father Paddy McFinn at the old swimming hole.....I had good intentions, really I did.....

As snow sports people we know when it's over; we shift gears and move on to the next season full of exciting adventures that beckon us. Here we are, the ground is thawed and the moles are already tearing up my newly fertilized lawn. The little bas....s, if I ever catch a few I think I'll use 'em for catfish bait on my first outing this year. Although much maligned, New Jersey offers tremendous variety for outdoor recreation this time of the year. There's golf and tennis for those who chase balls but for many of us other adventures call. The Delaware with Wild n Scenic status is a great river to paddle as it winds through untouched country in NY, PA and NJ. Deer feeding in waist high grass and bald eagles searching the river for fish are often seen. For cyclists the tri-state area offers countless on and off piste bicycle trails. It doesn't matter what kind of bike you have there's a place to ride it. The Great Swamp and Patriots Path in Morris County have been popular rides for years. Central NJ offers the D&R Canal and Lambertville rides and the Jersey shore has many flat places to ride a bicycle. But one of my favorites is a ride in Northern NJ through Sussex County wine country with the obvious benefits!

Council clubs with lodges have work weekends, which despite the name are a lot of fun. My own club kicks off its "project" season on Memorial weekend in Vermont. Its 1 day of work, 2 days of barbeques, evening dinners outside, biking or anything else we think up in the way of fun. Speaking of endless recreation, Vermont has it all: green golf courses, trout streams, micro-breweries, craft fairs, alpine slides, mountain concerts, Mtn. biking, rock climbing, the Appalachian Trail and the newest addition Zip-Lines through mountain canopies! All this with the mountains of Vermont as the backdrop!

It's time to turn the page to summer activities but as we do that, take a minute to reflect on what NJ Ski Council accomplished this season. Thanks are in order for Susan Donlan and the Ex. Com of NJ Ski Council who did a great job stacking the deck in our favor. The Jamboree kicked off the season; followed by the Wednesday night race league, races at Pico, Hidden Valley and Hunter; trips to Snowmass and Sunday River; the season-long voucher program enabling affordable skiing to Council clubs, the ski travel show and of course, the introduction of ***Council Tracks***. Quite a list of accomplishments I must say! If there was a hero in it all, it was Al Modugno who tirelessly delivered BIG quantities of vouchers to Club Reps on time! Thanks Al -you did well!!

The May meeting of NJSC will be the last for this season and this will be the last issue of our newsletter until next season (unless I am busting at the seams and can't wait till the fall). I hope you enjoyed reading ***Council Tracks*** because I really enjoyed writing it. Next season I plan to make some changes hopefully adding some color. For me, this season was as rich as they come but for now my skis and poles have been replaced with bicycle, fishing pole, scuba gear and a paddle. The 2010-2011 ski season was one for the record books but now it's Summer, Sandals and The Shore! Whatever you choose, get outdoors, be active and LIVE!

See ya in September!
Bob Zega
PR Chair, NJ Ski Council