

Council Tracks

The newsletter of NJ Ski Council
November, 2011

Uncle, Uncle, enough already, what did we do to tick off the big guy upstairs! It might be November, but 2011 is not done dishing it out! As I write this, I am still without power or heat as a result of the early season Nor-Easter last weekend. Thankfully my house has city water and gas so at least I can cook and take a hot shower but have you ever showered in a house that is 50 degrees? When the hot water hit the cold air it created fog so thick I couldn't see the soap dish. I groped my way around the bathroom but no way was I going to open the door to let the fog out and let my only heat, however transient it was, escape. I'm looking out the window of my office at work today and see that just now many of the trees are developing the real colors of fall and there is snow on the ground! What gives with this year?? Floods, hurricane Irene and now an early season snow that took down electrical lines all over NJ, enough already! The heavy snow last weekend was too much for the beautiful Magnolia which was planted in my father's front yard, when I was a little boy. That tree was the envy of the neighborhood, a traffic stopper when the flowers are in bloom. The tree is still standing but its size was reduced by about 70%, I think there is enough to salvage and although misshapen, hopefully there's enough left that it will fill out and look presentable come spring.

The storm did some good somewhere (I think) as Hunter announced two small snowfalls last week prior to getting a one foot dump on Saturday. They announced that if the weather stays colder in their neck of the woods, they'll crank up the snow making system at every opportunity and open Saturday Nov. 19th almost a week in advance of the traditional kickoff to the New England ski season. With some luck we WILL be skiing on or before Turkey Day. If Hunter opens early so will Windham and that means Ski Skills Tune-Up day will go off as planned. Thanks also to early cold and snow, The Beast of the East, The Big K-Mart up North opened last Saturday. Reportedly they had several trails or parts of trails open at the summit but it was enough to grab the title of First to Open. Since Powder Inc. acquired Killington several years ago a number of changes went into effect and bragging rights to first tracks didn't make the list of Top 10 must do's. That honor was nailed by Sunday River, three years in a row. Now, it appears that after a shaky start under new ownership, normalcy is returning to Killington. Regaining some status lost in the acquisition process as "First to Open" and other positive changes are indicators that the new owner realizes what side their bread is buttered on! I can speak for thousands that 'We The People' who support you, welcome positive change. Killington, keep us happy and we'll return the favor!!

The Jamboree: This issue of Council Tracks may or may not be posted before the Jamboree occurs. If it does get posted soon enough, do yourself and The Council a favor and bring a non-club member, even a non-skiing friend to The Jamboree. Introduce them to the idea of joining a year round social club with skiing as one of its many activities. Explain the benefits of ski club membership including: discount lift tickets to major New England Ski resorts, the obvious value of staying at a ski club lodge vs. a high priced hotel, the camaraderie and the lasting friendships made as a result of being a member. Don't ski, who cares??? You can still have loads of fun in a year round social club with an addiction for snow! You'll do your club a favor and as we all know, your friend will thank you for opening their eyes to a new social life!

Hopefully this WILL make the website before the Jamboree because I want to remind you that Staci Mannella, the 14 year old partially sighted skier from Randolph, NJ will be there with her guide Kim SeEVERS. Kim and Staci will be representing Windham Adaptive Sports Foundation (WASF) who Staci has been associated with since she was 4 years old. Staci was born

partially sighted and can see only a few feet in front of her. WASF taught Staci how to overcome her condition and in the process gave this young girl pride and purpose in life. Staci has excelled while skiing with Windham Adaptive Sports Foundation and is making a bid for the 2014 Paralympics in Russia. Staci and Kim will be at the Jamboree at The Council's table. Please stop by and meet the girl who was clocked at 55 MPH on the downhill course! While there buy a T-shirt and have it autographed by Staci. T-shirt sales help Staci stay on the snow. You better get there early in the evening because if I beat you to it, I'll buy every T-shirt Staci brings and hoard them until she wins the Gold Medal in 2014. Staci has her own website, www.stacimannella.com where you can make a direct donation to help her attain her goals in our wonderful sport. Please help Staci bring home the Gold Medal for herself, for Windham Adaptive Sports and for us. You Go GIRL!

Voucher Program: Thanks to Susan Donlan, Al Modugno and Pat Finn, the discount lift ticket (voucher) program is up and running. The Council does a lot of planning and work to deliver this program and would appreciate your cooperation. Place orders on time, include a check made out for the correct amount and don't over-order. People/Clubs who buy big quantities of vouchers then don't use them create problems at the end of the season come time for returns. One club with a huge overage can muck up the system. Negotiating returns is a troublesome process for the council and in reality there is no reason for it to happen. If everyone obeys the rules and doesn't overbook, we won't have any issues come next spring.

The Season: The season has not gotten off the ground yet, but NJ Ski & Snowboard Council has a lot of work to do. The Council sponsors various events, such as Ski Skills Tune-up day, the State Race (including the Jr. race), the Consolation race, Presidents Race, The Membership Discounts Program, etc. Although you might not be an elected officer you can still help! We need someone to help out with the State Race this year and welcome any help we can get with other programs. It is not difficult and the Council Ex.Com would greatly appreciate you help to run our programs. Don't be afraid to suggest and activity and don't be afraid to run one. There is no pain involved!!

Last Tracks:

- Killington - it's now 2pm on Nov 2nd and I just checked Killington's website. They are reporting 10 trail segments (which ski more like 3 trails) open.
- ASIA program - Amateur Ski Instructors Association. Ed Dalton and other members of the council will be happy to speak at your club meeting to explain the benefits of participation in the ASIA program. With The Council contributing 50% of the cost of this program, it's a good deal and you come out as an Amateur Ski Instructor.
- Guidebook Cover Contest: As you know by now, High Life Ski Club won bragging rights to the design for this years Guidebook cover. Artist Madeline (Mad Dog) Giotta of High Life will be at the clubs table at the Jamboree. Grab a copy of the Guidebook, locate the High Life Table, meet the artist and have your Guidebook autographed!
- This is a reminder that **Council Tracks** is YOUR newsletter; I am just the guy who gives it life. Please submit any noteworthy news about your club or other ski industry news to me and I will be happy to include it in the next issues. Pics. are welcome.

Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Bob Zega
Chair, Public Relations
NJ Ski & Snowboard Council
rjzega@yahoo.com