

The Avalanche



Upper Cape Ski &

Sports Club

MARCH 2011

From the Summit



Welcome to March!

We have a lot to look forward to this month. March is often our snowiest month, at least in the mountains. The snow has all melted here on the Cape but it's still flying up north! The recent snowfall has softened things up nicely. Be sure to check out our schedule and sign up for those last few day trips remaining. We also have a cool meeting planned for this week, so be sure to come out and join us. There's more info about it later in this newsletter. Be sure to print up some of your best club-related photos—we'll be awarding the winners of our photo contest at this meeting.

Also in this newsletter, you'll find two stories. One is a celebration of a wonderful life while the other is a celebration of an incredible trip. The two are connected. Sadly, while skiing with the club last week at Jackson Hole, WY, club member Willis (Bill) Matson passed away. Bill was a decorated member of our club and our society. We'll share his story with you here. If given the chance to choose my final moments on this planet, skiing a powder day at Jackson Hole would probably be right up there near the top. Details on services are provided at the bottom of page 3. Bill's passing was tragic, but it could not bring down the other members that had joined him on that trip last week. It was an otherwise wonderful vacation, so we'll share that story with you as well.

Finally, I'm looking forward to our final meeting on Thursday, April 7. We're meeting in March, of course, but I wanted to mention April's meeting so you can all plan accordingly. Instead of a Pot-luck style dinner like we've done in the past, the Beach House will be serving a buffet dinner. Details are forthcoming but please put it on your calendar.

See you all Thursday!

Steve Carr
President



Featured Member

BILL MATSON

(1928-2011)

Editor's Note: Just prior to leaving for Jackson Hole, Bill and I had discussed his being the next "Featured Member." He seemed quite excited to share his story and was quick to remind me when I forgot to send him some sample questions for his post. His submission for this newsletter was quite lengthy and I had planned on doing some editing; however, most the story is now included exactly as he submitted it to me. I changed only the "short answer" section at the bottom, to include some the titles for his answers. When Bill passed away last week, I struggled with the decision over whether or not to run this. I didn't want this to be an obituary; however, Bill had an amazing life and I'm sure he would want his story to be shared with all of you. Bill, you're a friend and will be missed.

-TB

I grew up in western New York and attended schools in Rochester and a little town called Naples in the Finger Lakes region. My first attempts at skiing were on my father's mink farm. There were no ski tows or lifts nearby so it involved using very long skis to walk up a big hill at the back of the farm.

After graduating from Naples High School I entered the Naval Academy, graduating a few weeks before the Korean War started and quickly found the Destroyer I was assigned to in route to Korean waters. We had many adventures with floating mines and being hit by North Korean/ Chinese shore bombardment. One shell penetrated our topside ammunition storage compartment but fortunately didn't explode. Our Chief Gunner's Mate entered the compartment, picked up the shell and through it overboard (he received the Silver Star for his exploit).

After a year in the Pacific I was sent to Mine Warfare school and then to a 136 foot mine sweeper which was the only ship I seriously thought might sink in a gigantic North Atlantic winter storm. I decided to volunteer for submarines. While attending Submarine School we were allowed to visit Nautilus, our first nuclear submarine under construction at Groton, CT and became resolved to serve on her someday.

After qualification on a diesel powered submarine in Pearl Harbor I wrote Admiral Rickover (the father of our nuclear powered Navy) and told him I wanted to serve on an "Atomic Submarine". I was interviewed by his staff and eventually by him in Washington DC. I was selected and sent to serve in the crew of our second nuclear submarine Seawolf. Seawolf had a different type engineering plant and although successful was not considered appropriate for large scale production. Seawolf was converted to a Nautilus engineering plant and I was assigned as the engineer officer. I was sent to Nautilus for several months for indoctrination. After finishing the conversion I became the Executive Officer of Skate which was involved in under ice operations. After about a year I was assigned to Andrew Jackson, a ballistic missile firing submarine under construction in Vallejo, California. After making the first patrol in the Mediterranean Sea I was assigned as Commanding Officer of Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, MD. The school was the first 6 months of a one year training program for officers and enlisted men. It was at a graduate school level for officers and a junior college level for enlisted men and very difficult. The curriculum was controlled by the Rickover organization and I reported to the Admiral directly. It was a fascinating 2 years.





My next assignment was as the Prospective Commanding Officer of Narwhal which was designed to be the world's quietest submarine. It became a 5 year tour, 3 years under construction and 2 years with the pleasure of operations. It achieved its goals and the best features of the ship were used in all subsequent submarine classes. The operations were at the height of the cold war and involved our two adversaries Russia and China and were as realistically close to war as one could imagine.

My final assignment was as Chief of Staff of the Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force which involved a force of 65 nuclear submarines, several shore bases on the east coast, Scotland, Spain, Sardinia, Italy and many submarine tenders. We were outnumbered 3 to 1 by the Russians but had vastly superior technology and eventually convinced President Gorbachev that the Cold War was unwinnable. The fun of the job was that any time my boss—a Vice Admiral—was at sea or on travel, I was in charge and did not have to refer any decision to him. This was particularly interesting when a topless go-go dancer was observed on the bridge of one of our submarines getting underway from Cape Canaveral FL and my boss was at sea!

Upon retirement I joined Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation in Boston as a Project Manager and eventually became an Executive Vice President. The company built 13 commercial nuclear power plants throughout the United States.

I did not ski much during my naval career but really committed to skiing after I joined Stone and Webster. I spent a week at Killington, VT with the Graduated Length method, was hooked and have been skiing every winter since 1977. I joined the Upper Cape Ski Club 4 years ago when I began to live permanently in East Falmouth. I had been living in Wellesley, MA and NYC before that. I had been doing mostly western skiing in Colorado and Utah where the conditions are generally superior to the East. I do prefer the weekly trips the Club arranges and the opportunity to meet so many great ski club members.

PS : My short answers

| | |
|--|---|
| Nickname: | Bill |
| Drink of choice: | Heineken, Beefeater Gin |
| Favorite resort: | Aspen/ Snowmass |
| Resort most frequently visited: | Aspen |
| Other sports: | Bicycling, Tennis |
| Favorite sport: | Skiing |
| Occupation: | Management Consultant |
| Name of spouse/partner, etc: | Widowed/Divorced |
| Preferred trail color: | Blue |
| Preferred trail type: | Groomed |
| Ski resorts you'd like to visit: | Europe |
| Ski resorts you plan to visit: | Europe |
| Ski days per season: | 10 |
| Favorite food: | Fish |
| Number of years skiing: | 35 years |
| Number of years in the club: | 4 years |
| Primary reason for membership: | week long trips with club |
| Offices/functions held in the club: | none |
| Family (children, grandchildren, etc): | daughter and son, 3 grandsons—skiers and boarders |

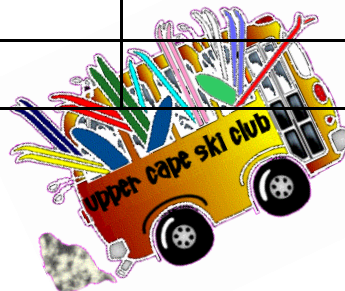


Visiting hours: Thursday, March 3, 4-7PM—Chapman, Cole & Gleason, 475 Main St., Falmouth, MA
Funeral: Friday, March 4, 11AM—St. Barnabas Episcopal, 91 Main St., Falmouth, MA



10 | 11 Trip Schedule

| DATE | DAY | DESTINATION | COST | TRIP LEADER | TIME |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------|------|
| Dec. 8 | Wednesday | Mt. Snow, VT | \$70 | Roger Stokey | 5:00 |
| Jan. 5 | Wednesday | Stratton, VT | \$70 | Mimi Schlieter | 5:00 |
| Jan. 9 | Sunday | Waterville Valley, NH | \$70 | Cape Cod Ski Club | |
| Jan. 19 | Wednesday | Okemo, VT | \$70 | Suzanne Schermer | 5:00 |
| Jan. 23 | Sunday | Okemo, VT | \$70 | Cape Cod Ski Club | |
| Jan. 23-28 | Sun-Fri | Sugarloaf, ME | \$355 | Bud Shaw | DY* |
| Feb. 5 | Saturday | Wildcat, NH | \$70 | Cape Cod Ski Club | CCSC |
| Feb. 9 | Wednesday | Cannon Mt., NH | \$70 | Roger Stokey | 5:00 |
| Feb. 13 | Sunday | Killington, VT | \$70 | Cape Cod Ski Club | CCSC |
| Feb. 20-27 | Sun-Sun | Jackson Hole, WY | \$1495 | Bud Shaw | FLY |
| Feb. 23 | Wednesday | Waterville Valley, NH | \$70 | Pam Tremarche | 4:30 |
| Mar. 2 | Wednesday | Stratton, VT | \$70 | Mimi Schlieter | 5:00 |
| Mar. 6 | Sunday | Sugarbush, VT | \$70 | Cape Cod Ski Club | CCSC |
| Mar. 9 | Wednesday | Mad River Glen / Sugarbush | \$70 | Roger Stokey | 5:00 |
| Mar. 16 | Wednesday | Wildcat, NH | \$70 | Camille Morgan | 5:00 |
| Mar. 23-25 | Wed-Fri | Jay Peak, VT | TBA | Michael Finegold | DY* |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |



- *DY—Drive Yourself
- All trips subject to our deposit and liability policies, found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.
- Non-members are subject to a \$15 surcharge.
- Don't sign up at the last minute! You may incur additional fees!

Stratton, VT

March 2, 2011 5:00am



Don't miss this perennial favorite! Stratton is an amazing resort, with perfectly groomed cruisers everywhere. Their four six-passenger lifts—distributed throughout the mountain—get skiers and riders up the mountain quickly while avoiding the base areas. If you're one to prefer the warmth of a gondola, they've got you covered there too. It's an easy bus ride to southern Vermont, so we'll get you there quickly and safely. Make Mimi's day, sign up today!

Sugarbush / Mad River Glen, VT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Two mountains? What's the deal? Well, we like both and can't decide. Where will we go? Only the snow will know! If the snow holds up and VT gets a serious dumping, then you can't beat MRG! However, their lack of snowmaking makes Sugarbush a little more attractive during dry spells. Have a strong preference either way? Let the trip leader know. Otherwise, it might just be a surprise. Stay tuned to the website and e-mail for further details.

Trip Leader: Roger Stokey - (508) 292-8370

March 16



**WILDCAT
MOUNTAIN**
pure vertical fun

Join us for our final day trip of the 2010-2011 season! Camille runs a craaaazyyyy trip, so you don't want to miss out! Wildcat is one of the coolest areas around—it's got skiing for everyone, a quad that cranks you to the top in no time, and it's never crowded. Whether you wedge down Wild Kitten or practice those jump turns on Hairball, you're sure to have a good time. After this, it's back to mowing the lawn on Wednesdays so get your fill while you still can!

Trip Leader: Camille Morgan—(508) 759-7617



PHOTO CONTEST!

At this Thursday's meeting (3/3/11), we will award the winners!

MEDIA:

- 8 by 10 photo, framed if possible or on a posterboard for display
- Only still photos are eligible although you may take a single frame from a video to submit.
- You should also be able to submit a digital copy for use on our website and in our emails. The photos are your property but the club reserves the right to use them as we see fit via our emails, newsletter and/or website or in any other advertising we may conduct.

CATEGORIES (2 entries per category allowed):

- Best ski or snowboard action photo
- Best scenery/wildlife photo
- Best social photo

JUDGING AND ELIGIBILITY:

A panel of 3 club members will judge the photos. Photos must be taken on a club ski trip or club event. Any photo taken within the last 10 years is eligible. Only active club members are eligible to participate.

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

Questions??? Call or email Michael at 774-392-2567 or at mfskier@comcast.net



March 23—25
\$110
(not including lift tickets)

It's the last run of the season and there's no better place in New England than Jay Peak to do it! We will be staying at the Cedarwood Resort, approximately 3 miles from Jay Peak. Cost is \$110 per person for 2 nights lodging, including a Continental breakfast. Lift tickets must be purchased separately through Jay Peak. A 2-day adult lift ticket is \$119, 2-day junior (<18) is \$89. 3-day adult is \$169, 3-day junior is \$129. Extra nights of lodging is optional. This is a "drive-yourself" trip.

10/11 TRIP LEADERS

Bud Shaw
84 Lakewood Drive
Mashpee, MA 02649
508-477-3717

Roger Stokey
31 Riddle Hill Road
Falmouth, MA 02540
508-292-8370

Camille Morgan
4 Thorne Road
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
(508) 759-7616

Mimi Schlicter
95 Palmer Avenue
Falmouth, MA 02540
508-548-3278

Michael Finegold
88 Palmer Avenue
Falmouth, MA 02540
774-392-2567

Pam Tremarche
24 Monomoscoy Road
Mashpee, MA 02649
508-274-5283

Agenda:



March 3 Meeting:

- Photo Contest
- Michael's Trivia
- Irish Joke Telling Time
- Raffle for 5 Gift cards
- Guinness 6 pack give away
- Fleece, bumper & small sticker sales!
- Free Food!
- 7PM start!





A WEEK TO REMEMBER

Jackson Hole, WY

February 20–27, 2011

By Tom Burt

Alright, so we never really have a bad time on these trips and my post-trip reports usually reflect that. This one was truly special though. When you bring together the right group, the right destination, and amazing conditions, something magical happens. Combine that with the tragic loss of a friend, and the group bonding is intensified. Bill was the type of guy you never forget—I'll remember his stories forever and will certainly tell friends and family about him for years to come. He had many passions in life and skiing was one of them. I'm quite sure he was enjoying life at the time. We were all enjoying life. From waist-deep powder to hot springs in Yellowstone, this was a week to remember.

I think we were all a little nervous watching the snow reports prior to the trip. While JH was having a great year for snowfall totals, they hadn't received anything in a couple weeks. Clearly, we brought some luck with us. It started snowing the day we arrived and didn't stop until the last day of the trip. Relatively small amounts each day sure added up to quite a bit! During our stay, the base never dropped below 100" and the season total accumulation crossed the 400" mark (that's over 33 feet of snow!). Sure, we didn't see the Grand Tetons until we were headed to the airport to leave, but who cares! We got to see them and we had amazing snow the rest of the time!



Jackson Hole is known for its challenging terrain and it certainly lived up to its reputation. The great part about the deep snowpack was that everything was open. There are runs there that you won't find anywhere else, but they need lots of snow to open up. But don't worry, there is more than just blacks and double blacks there. Over the years, JH has opened up some pretty spectacular blues and double blues—perfect stuff for the average skier. Be warned, if it's a powder day (or powder week, in our case), don't expect to see the groomers out and about (In fact, anything gasoline-powered is forbidden from crossing a certain elevation. This mountain is in the Teton National Forest and is subject to pretty strict regulations. It's for the better though—take one look from the summit and you'll understand why). The terrain truly is epic. You'll probably find more skiable chutes and couloirs here than anywhere else in the US. Being my second time at Jackson Hole, I added Corbet's Couloir to my wish list. Because of the huge snowfalls, I was confident it was my year to ski it. One look from the top was enough to turn me away. Look it up on google or youtube and you'll understand why. I was more tempted as the week went, but never took the plunge (literally). It's that type of terrain that makes Jackson Hole famous.

We spent the first couple days skiing Jackson Hole but ventured out to Grand Targhee on day 3. Targhee is a completely different mountain. In general, the terrain is much gentler and is more suited to intermediate skiers. It has something for the more adventurous too, but it's not known for that. What it is known for is its wide-open terrain and deep, deep snow. It's totals are often similar to Jackson Holes'; however Grand Targhee measures their snow at mid-mountain! It's usually pretty quiet there too, so you can find untracked powder late in the day. We did just that and were skiing trees loaded with snow until our legs couldn't handle it anymore. Sadly, the main lift at Targhee was down



that day, so we missed out on the best terrain up top. We also missed out on some of the best views of the Grand Teton, which are visible only from the summit. Of course, it was snowing, so we wouldn't have been able to see them anyway.

After 3 days of skiing, it was time for an off-day for most of us. Most of the group met up with a snowmobile outfitter and rode 45 miles into Yellowstone National Park. They were rewarded with views of Old Faithful, wildlife aplenty, and some of the most beautiful waterfalls you've ever seen. Yellowstone is a very unique place—drive through sometime and you'll understand. Even in winter with a huge snow base, bare ground can be found all around due to the thermal activity that goes on. Actually, the park is one big volcano waiting for its next 15 minutes of fame. While the others went off on sleds, I hopped aboard a safari van (actually a Suburban with roof panels cut out) for a 4-hour wildlife tour. This area is home to at least 4 National Forests, so there is no shortage of animal activity. During those four hours, I saw thousands of elk, hundreds of bison, 4 moose, 1 porcupine, 6 sage grouse, dozens of bighorn sheep, 2 trumpeter swans, many magpie, 1 golden eagle, 2 bald eagles, countless mule deer, and a bunch of the biggest ravens I've ever seen! If you're into wildlife, you must visit this area.



After a day of rest, the skiing continued after even more snowfall. A few of us even "earned our turns" by hiking up above the lifts. We were rewarded with completely untracked, waist-deep powder. Hiking at that elevation in full ski gear carrying your skis and poles is no walk in the park, but it is certainly worth it for snow like that! This is now day 5 and we've become regulars at The Mangy Moose. I highly recommend the brown ale, although I could never remember the name of it. The entire group gathered that night for a cookout at our condo, featuring Elk and Buffalo burgers by Dave. Great grillin' hoser! We were full of emotions by then—saddened by the loss of Bill but ecstatic over an otherwise tremendous trip.



One more day of skiing remained, this time under some blue skies. Riding the tram to the top, we caught our first glimpse of the Grand Teton just barely emerging out of the clouds. This was Saturday and the weekend crowds were out in full force. Still we managed four trips up the tram by day's end—that's 4,100 vertical feet per trip. Add a few other lifts and 20,000 vertical is a piece of cake. The tram takes about 8 minutes to cover 4,000+ feet, not nearly enough time for your legs to recover from the last run. But they pack 100 people in it (have you ever seen the videos of Asian subways? Picture that...) and get the tunes cranking for the race to the top. Take a peek into Corbet's on the way up and you might spot someone cartwheeling down the mountain with one ski. Truly an amazing experience.

Sunday was a sad day as we packed up and departed for the airport. It was a bluebird day and we had a perfect view of the Grand Teton in all their glory. In fact, they tower over the local airport, so I sat watching from the terminal, wondering when the next trip to Jackson Hole will be. I'm hoping soon.

Trip Application for 2010-2011 Season

Name: _____ Roommate: _____

MAILING Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

Email address: _____

Trip desired _____ Date: _____

Downhill Cross Country Snowboard

YOU MUST FILL IN ALL BLANKS. I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE LIABILITY POLICY AND WAIVE ALL LIABILITY.

Signed _____ Date _____

LIABILITY POLICY: Participants acknowledge that there are inherent risks in skiing, whitewater rafting, and other sports, and agree to hold harmless the Upper Cape Ski & Sport Club, its officers, directors, and agents, from any claims whatsoever resulting from participation in any club related activity. The Upper Cape Ski & Sport Club acts solely as agent carrying out services and assumes no responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to persons or property, not for faults or defaults of companies or those carrying out services; nor accident, injuries, delays, cancellations, changes due to weather, baggage, lodging, insufficient participation, or reasons beyond the control of the Upper Cape Ski & Sport Club. Make all checks payable to: Upper Cape Ski & Sport Club.

~ Deposit/Refund policy ~

Deposits help ensure that a space is reserved for our members. These deposits apply to bus trips, weekend trips, week-long trips and more. Late cancellations are not entitled to a refund, nor is the club responsible for finding a replacement for you. You must find your own replacement, although we will endeavor to help you whenever possible. Deposits are further subject to the conditions imposed upon us by our suppliers, agents or other providers. We make every effort to refund as much money as possible but cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Inquire of your trip leader for specific information regarding your particular trip. The club recommends that you consider trip insurance whenever possible.

Contact Us?

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508-392-9672

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Steve Carr

Secretary:

Andrea Stokey

Membership:

Pam Tremarche, Scott Northrop

Vice President:

Scott Muma

Newsletter:

Tom Burt

Treasurer:

Leonard Hills

Website:

Michael Finegold

Next Board of Directors Meeting (members welcome):

- Monday, March 14
- The Courtyard Restaurant
- 7pm



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