

The Avalanche

OCTOBER 2012

From the Summit

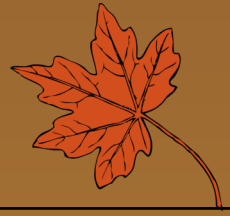
And so it begins. The last hot, humid air of summer has finally surrendered to fall's relentless onslaught. On the Cape, the trees are just starting to turn, but up in ski country, fall foliage is in full swing, the leaf peepers are peeping, and temperatures at the peaks are beginning to dip down into low thirties at night. On the internet, the debate begins among skiers and riders: "Who will be the first to open?" Oh, I know many people reading this won't ski until Christmas or even after the first of the year, but the ski areas are getting ready. Out in Colorado, Arapahoe Basin, which has often been first in North America, has announced on their website they hope to open mid-October. That's not hyperbole, they can do it, they've done it, and that's a scant two weeks away. Meanwhile, in the East, both Sunday River and Killington are expected to battle for the "crown." Both expect to be open by Halloween on upper mountain lifts, and as temperatures allow, will expand terrain to the base. Both have powerful snow making systems, and even though early season snow making is expensive, both have shown the will to use them. The guns and hoses are already being pre-positioned and in less than few weeks time, the snow makers will start looking for a window—a sustained period of 3 or 4 days of cold weather that will allow them to fire up the compressors, water pumps, and guns, and to blow snow to get open for the season. Looking for that window, there is no shortage of weathermen, kibitzers and second guessers: "Maybe Tuesday?" "Nah, the window's too short, they won't go for it." Sometimes an area will fire up the compressors just to test the pipes that have been rusting away for the last 7 months, and blow a test patch of snow. Wags refer to this as "blowing out the mice," with its cartoon image of mice, having taken up residence in the pipes for the summer, suddenly getting launched out of the pipes and across the hillside by a blast of air. (Relax, it doesn't really happen that way). But at some point, snow making will begin for real. Since the coldest temperatures are late at night, it will likely be around 1 AM, and word on the street will quickly spread. At first light, photographers will be out taking long range pictures of a small patch of white on the upper mountain, and interested hikers will head up hill to inspect the "production." Sometimes the snow is just left in piles called whales (because that's what they look like) so it won't melt as fast if there's a warm up. With a little luck, within a few days following, the groomers will spread it out and the area will open.

Yep, it's beginning. But really, all of this is just a long winded way of saying that now would be a real good time to figure out where the devil you left your equipment last spring. You'll be needing it soon!

Roger Stokey, President



DEALS!



Bring A Friend Raffle!

Members, please bring a non-member friend to the October and/or November meetings! If your friend(s) joins the club before December 1st, you (the club member) is entered into a raffle for a \$50 certificate towards a future trip with the UCSC! Get a raffle entry for each non-member friend that joins! Raffle will be drawn at the December meeting.

See Len Hills for details and to participate.



\$99

Membership & Trip Special

- Are you a new member? -or-
- A prior member that has not joined in at least 3 years (09-10 season)?

\$99 gets you a one-year membership and a day trip of your choice!

Contact: Michael Finegold (774-392-2567) or Len Hills (508-563-3941)

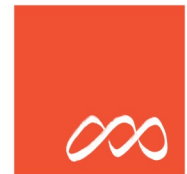
\$5 OFF YOUR MEMBERSHIP
IF YOU JOIN AT OR
BEFORE OUR FIRST MEETING!
(DISCOUNT ALREADY APPLIED ON WEBSITE)



DEER VALLEY™



February 23—March 2, 2013



CANYONS

Skiing in Utah has long been a favorite destination for skiers and riders, due to its world-famous snow, abundance of resorts, and proximity to the airport. We'll be staying in the Park Avenue condominiums—lodging we've used before and are comfortable with. Free shuttles run regularly between the property and the three major resorts in that area (a very short ride). Additional lift tickets at group rates can be arranged for any of these resorts as well as those in nearby areas. Round up some friends and join us as we ski the "greatest snow on Earth!"

Includes:

- 7 nights lodging at Park Avenue Condominiums (pool, hot tub, sauna)
- 2 out of 7-day lift ticket to Park City Mountain Resort
- 2 out of 7-day lift ticket to The Canyons
- 1 out of 7-day lift ticket to Deer Valley
- Additional options for Alta, Brighton, Solitude, and others
- Round trip airfare
- Transportation between Salt Lake City airport and Park City lodging

Outline of the state of Utah, for those that are geographically-challenged.

Price:

- \$1495 per person, based on double occupancy

Contact:

- **Bud Shaw at 508-477-3717 or budco1@comcast.net**

Availability:

- Our initial reservation of 20 spots is currently sold out. Additional spots can be booked provided they are done so with double or quad occupancy. In other words, all our condo units are currently full and we would need to fill another condo before committing to additional spots. Alternatively, we are filling a waiting list. Contact Bud for details.

12 / 13 Trip Schedule

DATE	DAY	DESTINATION	COST	TRIP LEADER	TIME
January 9	Wednesday	Stratton, VT	\$75	Mimi Schlichter	5:00
January 16	Wednesday	Okemo, VT	\$75	Steve Carr	5:00
January 20-25	Sun-Fri	Sugarloaf, ME	\$380	Bud Shaw	DY*
February 5	Tuesday	Cannon, NH	\$75	Len Hills	5:00
February 13	Wednesday	Sunday River, ME	\$75	Scott Northrop	4:30
Feb 23-Mar 2	Sat-Sat	Park City, UT	\$1495	Bud Shaw	FLY
March 6	Wednesday	Mount Snow, VT	\$75	Brenda Purdy	5:00
March 20	Wednesday	Wildcat, NH	\$75	Camille Morgan	5:00
<i>Were you hoping for a specific mountain or particular day not listed? Sunday day trip? Weekend overnight? Let us know!</i>					
<i>We value your feedback and can always add trips if there is sufficient interest!</i>					

- Trips highlighted in **GRAY** are overnight trips
- *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!
- Live on the south shore or Middleboro area and want to attend our trips? We can stop either on Route 3 (for NH and ME trips) or 495 (for VT trips). Just let the trip leader know!



12/13 TRIP LEADERS

Roger Stokey 508-292-8370	Bud Shaw 508-477-3717	Camille Morgan 508-759-7616	Mimi Schlichter 508-548-3278
Steve Carr 508-563-9498	Len Hills 508-563-3941	Brenda Purdy 508-540-4268	Scott Northrop 508-563-6731

Did you know we have a photo site where we capture pictures from many of our events? It's a Shutterfly site, so you can even order that poster-size print of Roger that you always wanted or put his face on a coffee mug so you see his ugly "mug" each and every day!

<http://uppercapekisportsclub.shutterfly.com>



Rebecca and Ian—1st and 2nd place winners at the 4th annual Poker Ride!
Congratulations to both!



WHAT IS THAT FAT MAN DOING IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

He's reminding you that it's never too early to start thinking about a Yankee Swap gift! As much as we all love the bottles of wine and gently-used ski socks that dominate our always popular gift swap, a truly original idea sometimes takes time to think about! Just a friendly reminder...

Agenda:

October 4 Meeting:

- Membership sign-up! (Discounted rate before 10/5)
- Officer nominations!
- New Trip Schedule!
- Club initiatives!
- Free food!
- 7PM start @ The Beach House



Summer Summits

Despite what many skiers and boarders think, the mountains don't go away in the summer! I know, it's a bit of a shock, but it's true. Equally shocking, they can be just as much of an adventure during those hotter months. We're very fortunate to have this playground in our background, so why not use it year-round? That was the intent this past summer. Did it go according to plan? Does it ever? Of course not.

This summer's adventure actually started last winter, when a couple of friends (who shall remain anonymous, but let's just call them Sharon and Don!) started planning the latest of their 4,000'er adventures. Sharon and Don are becoming quite the regulars in the White Mountain hiking scene and are well on their way to bagging all of the peaks over 4,000 feet. After a day of skiing Wildcat, they told me of their intent to climb Mount Washington and the surrounding Presidential range. It was to be a 3-day trip, staying in the AMC huts along the way. It took all of about 10 seconds for me to invite myself along. Because the huts are very popular, we booked immediately for a late June trip. We and two other friends planned a standard south to north "Presi" traverse, starting in Crawford Notch and ending north of Mount Madison on Route 2. Our route would take us over Mounts Pierce, Eisenhower, Monroe, Washington, Clay, Jefferson, Adams, and Madison. Night one would be spent at the Lake of the Clouds Hut below Washington, and night two would be at Madison Hut. The White Mountains had other plans, however.

We've all heard of the extreme weather that can be found in the White Mountains, even in summer. I had heard the stories, but never quite believed them all. In the few days leading up to our trek, I started to get a better picture of just what is possible up there. Forecasts were calling for lightning, downpours, flooding, high winds, and low temperatures. Sounds like fun! Knowing it's New England and things would likely change, we continued preparing. The day before departure, I'm forced to stop at EMS to buy a larger pack to fit the overabundance of gear one needs for a wet hike in the mountains. The forecasts never changed...

Day one:

We awake early, mount up, and head north in 3 vehicles. One was to be delivered to Route 2, and the other two at the AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch. It's raining and cold as we depart Highland Center along the Crawford Path. The staff at the Center didn't advise us not to go, but did ask us to be careful. Slow and steady was the name of the game, as the rain was falling and the trail was quickly collecting water. Very few hikers were headed up—most were headed down. Never a good sign. Those descending told us the trail was flooded up ahead, visibility is down to nothing, that it was blowing in excess of 80 mph above treeline, and that AMC was strongly recommending not climbing beyond that point. Excellent. Sounds like fun. On we went. Our chances of making Lake of the



Clouds (LOTC) were diminishing though. Between Jackson and Pierce, in the trees, lies the Mizpah Spring Hut. Arriving there, the staff confirmed what we had already heard—the trail beyond that point was not safe. We quickly had our hut reservations changed from LOTC to Mizpah. We selected our bunks, grabbed the BananaGrams and the “jungle juice” (a home-made liquor concoction guaranteed to warm the bones) and remained there for the afternoon and evening.

Ever restless, I wasn't able to stay in the hut very long and opted for a quick hike up Jackson. Not on our original itinerary (the others had already climbed it), this was a chance for me to grab one more 4,000'er. Jackson is relatively sheltered, so it was deemed safe to climb. Don and I headed up together, the wind and rain pounding us at the summit. There was no visibility, no scenery, just rain, clouds, and lots of wind. Thirty seconds at the top was sufficient—just enough time to snap a couple photos.



Back at the Hut, we dried off and tried to warm up. There is no hot water at the huts, so a hot shower was out of the question. Coffee, hot chocolate, and jungle juice would have to do. The meals at AMC huts are what they're known for. We enjoyed a tremendous spread for dinner—all homemade by the staff that dutifully carried everything up and spent the day preparing it. Early to bed and early to rise is what happens when there is little source of entertainment other than sleep (not to mention exhaustion from hiking). We went to bed dreaming of blue skies and sunshine for our

long trek over several summits on our way to Madison Hut the next day.

Day Two:

We awoke to pouring rain, zero visibility, and high winds. But we got the clearance to climb above treeline. After breakfast, we pressed on. The packs seemed a little heavier that day, and the legs a little more tired. Just days before, I had raced a triathlon and also completed a 150-mile bike ride, so my legs were pretty well trashed at that point. We summited Pierce then ventured onto the ridge that comprises much of the traverse from there north. Once on the treeless ridge, the winds picked up, visibility got worse, and the rain started to really come down. We hiked from cairn to cairn, never able to see past the next one. Eisenhower was an optional summit and the others had already climbed it.

My legs were about as bad off as the weather was, so I opted against summiting Eisenhower. Instead, we all stayed below the summit and hiked around. Monroe was next, and it was not to be tackled easily. It consisted of a very steep scramble over large boulders. We eventually summited, took some pictures and started down the other side.



When the trail started climbing again, we realized we had been duped by a false summit and hadn't actually found Monroe's peak yet. More climbing, more wind, more rain. Despite our head-to-toe waterproof gear, we were completely soaked through at this point. We reached the real summit this time and took more pictures. From the summit of Monroe, you can just about throw a rock and hit the LOTC hut. It wasn't until we were within 100 yards that the hut and the lakes came into view.

It was noon-time and we were less than halfway to Madison Hut, our intended destination. The staff told



us we would have to leave immediately to make it before nightfall. It meant no rest and we would have to eat on the trail if we were going to try it. The likelihood of our making it to Madison in time for dinner was not good. We would also have to summit Jefferson and Adams on the way. Near hypothermic (this was late JUNE!) and with aching legs, I hoped the others would decide to stay here for the night. Sure enough, we were all in the same state and we dropped our bags and started the long process of warming up and drying off. Break out the jungle juice! The clouds broke that evening and we watched the sun set over the Mount Washington valley. It was an amazing sight!

Day Three:

That next morning, I thought our luck had turned sour again. It was cloudy, cold, and raining again! By the time we had finished breakfast and packed our bags, the rain had tapered off and the clouds were dispersing. We started up Washington under clearing skies! Unfortunately, with the change in plans, we had put ourselves in a tough spot. One of the group had to be to work that afternoon, so we didn't have enough time to hike the remaining peaks and traverse. However, our cars were at the north and south ends of the traverse and we were in the middle. Fortunately, there is a shuttle that circumnavigates the range twice a day. Two volunteered to hike straight down from LOTC to the cog railway station in time to catch the shuttle. Don, Sharon, and I would continue up Mount Washington and descend in time to meet our friends who, by that time, would have retrieved one of the cars. The plan worked perfectly. It was a beautiful day on top of Washington and we basked in the sun. The raingear, long pants, jackets, and fleece all came off and I was able to hike down in shorts and a long-sleeved shirt. It was quite a change from the prior two days!



In the end, it was an amazing adventure that I would not hesitate to repeat. Our group never felt that we were in danger, but we did play things safe and hold up at the huts when necessary. Had we ventured on instead of staying at LOTC, it would have made for a stressful situation. A twisted ankle above treeline in the cold, wet, windy weather (when you're already in the early stages of hypothermia) can make for a VERY dangerous situation. Spending a night outside awaiting rescue would certainly mean trouble. I was glad to not be in that situation but could imagine just how easily one can find themselves in that exact position. Hiking in the summer is an amazing opportunity and we are fortunate to have it. Enjoy it, but be safe!

Next weekend, it's off to the White Mountains again for a one-day, 11-mile trek bagging several more 4,000'ers! I'll be bringing my raingear...

—Tom Burt

More pictures available at: <http://2012traverse.shutterfly.com/pictures>



SUGARLOAF, MAINE

January 20—25, 2013

\$380

- White, White, World Week
- 5 nights condominium lodging
- 5 1/2 day ski pass
- Free group lesson each day
- Singles can be accommodated (fee)
- Monday evening “Welcome Social”
- Daily use of the Health Club

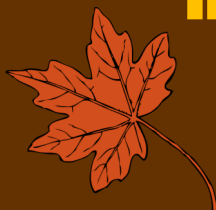
Deadlines: \$190 due November 15
 \$190 due December 15

Contact: Bud Shaw @ 508-477-3717 or budco1@comcast.net

Note: Membership dues MUST be paid prior to sign-up

First meeting!

This Thursday, 7pm, at the Beach House in North Falmouth.

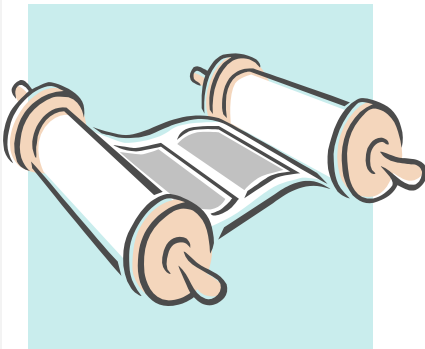


NOMINATIONS!

are being accepted for all officer positions.

(although we hope to have sufficiently bribed the existing slate to re-enlist)

Elections will take place at the 11/1 meeting.



BY-LAWS & POLICIES

Are posted on our website under the “Club Information” section. Members are encouraged to read the by-laws and are expected to adhere to the policies.

~ 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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Roger Stokey

Treasurer:

Leonard Hills

Membership:

Scott Northrop
Pam Tremarche

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Michael Finegold

Vice President:

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