

The Avalanche

MARCH 2013



From the Summit



The approach of Spring is always bitter-sweet. As an outdoorsman (I've always wanted to call myself that), I'm sad to see the winter season end; however, all the shoveling is really starting to annoy me. I'm far from being a young man and my back can only take so much of that bending over... Instead of being sad at the season's passing, let's be grateful for the season at hand. I call it "Sprinter!" (Get it? Spring + Winter = Sprinter! Anywho...) I've always said this is the best time of year for skiing. The snow is often at its best, the days are longer, the temps higher, and the sun warmer. You'll have plenty of time next month to go roller skating on the bike path in your pink leotard and sweatbands, so don't give up on the slopes quite yet. With that in mind, have you signed up for Wildcat? You know Camille is going to put on a show, so don't miss it.

We'll be having our annual end-of-year banquet on April 4 and I hope you'll all attend. Please bring your friends, family, significant others, etc. with you. It's always a good time and it's our way of celebrating a fun and successful winter season. It's cheap night out too—just \$15 for members. For that meeting, we'd also like to put a quick highlight reel together from this season. Do you have any pictures or video of a club event you'd be willing to share? If so, send them along. We'll be voting on a by-law change as well, so please attend so you can be part of that.

Finally, I'd like to share an inspirational story from my recent trip to Breckenridge. I was riding the lift up with a couple friends one morning when one asks me, "Where did you get your new skis?" I replied, "Well, I was skiing along yesterday, minding my own business when a beautiful woman came up on these skis. She unclipped them from her bindings and threw them to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, 'Take what you want.'" My friend agreed it was a good choice—the clothes probably wouldn't have fit me.

Happy Spring!

Roger Stokey,
President



COME CELEBRATE!



We're having a party!

It's time for our annual end-of-winter-bring-on-the-warm-weather celebration! Help us celebrate another great season by joining us for dinner, dessert, and fellowship. Maybe Cat Woman will make another appearance! Will she bring Humphrey along with her? You must sign up on the website by April 1st, so we know how many will be joining us. The price is just \$15 for members. Non-members and guests are absolutely welcome, so bring families and friends along! Non-members pay just \$17.

We'll be serving Chicken Parmesan, pasta, vegetables, bread, and dessert.

Thanks for a great winter season! See you on April 4!

APRIL 4, 2013

7:00 PM

THE BEACH HOUSE



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

Were you hoping for a specific mountain or particular day not listed? Sunday day trip? Weekend overnight? Let us know!

We value your feedback and can always add trips if there is sufficient interest!

- 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



WILDCAT MOUNTAIN

Wednesday, March 20

Don't miss our final day trip of the winter season!

Camille the Cat Woman will be leading you on a fun-filled day of spring skiing at one of our favorite mountains. Experience classic New England skiing and riding on some of the most scenic trails in the area. Wildcat's proximity to Mt. Washington also means some of the best snow around. The Express Quad is lightning fast, getting you from base to summit in under seven minutes. They are currently 100% open and boasting terrific conditions. Don't stay home! You'll regret it all spring, summer, and fall! Last chance...

Cost: \$75 / members

Departure: 5:00am

Trip Leader: Camille Morgan

By-Law Change

At the April 4 meeting, a change to the club by-laws will be put to vote. The change, if approved by the membership, will reduce the minimum member age from 21 to 18 years old. The Executive Board feels the change will increase our ability to attract new and younger members to the club. Restricting our membership to twenty-one years of age and older has limited our target market over the years. Those between the ages of 18 and 21 are legal adults yet are unable to join our ski and sports club. By including this age group, we may be better able to fill our buses and once again offer trips on weekends and college vacation weeks. We also hope to increase exposure to families in the process. There is concern over the consumption of alcohol on the bus with minors present. While this is a concern, there have always been minors present on our buses with no history of underage consumption. Aside from banning either alcohol or minors from our trips altogether, we will always be exposed to this risk. Furthermore, whether the change is approved or not, the Board would ask all members and trip attendees to be conscious of local laws, including the prohibition of selling or providing alcohol to those under 21. We ask you to carefully consider the change and attend the April 4 meeting to vote.

Park City Recap

By Tom Burt

It felt weird to be home during the Massachusetts school vacation week. In years past, that was the week of our western trip; however, this year, we opted to stray to the following week. The teachers and school nurses in our group had all grown up, retired, and were no longer limited to school vacation week. I think we were all glad about the change—no more ridiculous crowds at Logan airport or on the slopes during the Presidents' Day holiday. Instead, it was a quiet flight from Boston early that Saturday morning. As the perennial airport shuttle, I had picked up Bud & Collette at 3:00am, making for a speedy trip to Boston. We've got it all figured out by now. I drop Bud & Collette at the terminal with all our bags, then go drop the car at the economy lot. By the time I've returned from parking, the bags are checked and we're on our way through security. About 400 cups of coffee later, we lift off. Upon our approach to Salt Lake, we learned it was snowing and the airport was closed. We circled patiently while the plows cleared a runway. Within moments, we had touched down. Amazingly, all our bags and all our people made it to Salt Lake as expected and in working order. If you've never skied Utah, one of its real pleasures is proximity. Direct flights are easy to come by and the resorts are less than an hour drive from the airport. In fact, if you show your same-day boarding pass at any of the Park City area ticket offices, they'll give you a free lift ticket for the remainder of your travel day!

We settled into our condos that afternoon, excited at the thought of skiing the next day. We had made our usual stop at the liquor store en route from the airport and the grocery store was immediately across the street from our condos. We had all our provisions well before dinner time. For me, it was the exact same condo unit I stayed in four years ago! Sunday morning arrived with about 7" of new snow; sadly, it would be the only real accumulation we would see all week. But it was a welcome sight that morning, as the area was well below average snowfall for the year. We made for The Canyons resort that first day. It's a sprawling resort—one of the biggest in the US. Elevation starts at just under 7,000 feet and peaks just below 10,000. It features 4,000 skiable acres—over 5 times the size of Killington. There is terrain for everyone here. One of the real attractions of western skiing is there is usually a huge variety of terrain under the same lift. Beginners in the group can ski the groomers while experts can huck cliffs, all meeting at the same lift again for another loop. The Canyons is great for that—they have a lot of tree and mogul skiing, but also have groomers on almost all their lifts as well. One of the highlights of this resort is "The Colony." The Colony is a super high-end residential community that weaves through one half of the resort. The homes are some of the biggest I've ever seen—think Wianno Ave on the side of a mountain. The development is tastefully done, with homes tucked into aspen groves, just visible enough to make you drool. Current listings range from \$1.2M for their cheapest lot to \$26M for a 15,000 sq. ft. custom home. When I hit the lottery, I'll have property here for sure.



Okay, back to skiing. Day two brought us to Park City Mountain Resort, the namesake of the area. Within a couple minutes of leaving our condos, we're speeding up the Crescent Hi-Speed Quad. Park City is an easier mountain to navigate than the Canyons, with more standard cut trails and generally more intermediate-level terrain. It was a bitterly cold morning for Utah standards. Temps were in the teens with the wind chill driving them below zero. We made the mistake of hitting the bumps on our very first run. Naturally, they were frozen solid and a little tricky to navigate. So it was off to the groomers until the sun softened things up. Firm, freshly groomed blue trails can only mean one thing: speed. I took it as a personal challenge to see how fast I could get my GPS up to. I managed to hit 58.9 mph just as we found the Sharpshooter on-mountain photographer. Skiing those speeds in New England would only mean certain death by unexpected ice. In Utah, even the worst days are better than New England's best. The afternoon brought some



softer conditions, so a couple of us moved over to the Jupiter Lift, servicing Park City's more challenging terrain. Those that get past the warning signs are rewarded with the best snow on the mountain. Where other trails are hard-pack, Jupiter showed us powder above the boots. Some of the terrain was steep enough to make you wonder what the hell you were doing there, but you got to the bottom and got right back on the lift to do it again. To quote one from our party, "I'm scared. I want to cry." When we got down, the quote became, "Can we do it again?" Jupiter has that kind of appeal, and that good of snow. It was hard work, to be rewarded with well-earned beers. We ski down and meet the rest of the group at the

base for some of the famous Utah 3.2 beer. State laws are finally evolving from the dark ages, but draft beer still cannot exceed 3.2% alcohol by volume. Oh well, it just means we could drink more of it. And we did.

Day 3 brought us back to Park City for more groomers and, once the snow softened, some bumps and eventually laps on the Jupiter chair. Everyone was skiing well, feeling good, and loving life. Lift lines were non-existent. My GPS was showing 20,000 to 30,000 of vertical descent per day. I've never tracked my vertical back home, but I'm pretty sure those numbers would not be possible even on the quietest days. On day 4, we went back for a second day at The Canyons. They were hosting a U.S. Nationals skier and boarder cross type competition and it was pretty wild to see the course they had built up. But that was at the base area, so we generally avoided it. Up and down was the name of the game. Those of us up for a challenge hit the 9990 lift, named for the summit elevation. The lift stops a couple hundred feet short of the summit, so we shouldered our skis and hiked to the top, sucking wind the whole way. From there, options include drops into several double-black bowls, including the Charlie Brown bowl, which was jammed full of powder. A more interesting option was to leave through the gate into the backcountry and ski a huge out-of-bounds bowl with even more powder. We opted for a run down each, earning those turns by hiking up each time. It's amazing to see the difference in snow conditions in these spots when compared to high-traffic areas further down. It might take a little more work, but the rewards are worth it. We wrap up the day lapping the 9990 chair, again earning the local Cutthroat Pale Ale awaiting us at the bottom. We sit outdoors, enjoying the sun, the beer, and the company.

Thursday meant day 5 of skiing. The group had arranged an optional trip to Snowbird—about an hour drive by shuttle. It's an easy drive in fair weather, but a nightmare when the weather turns sour. In fact, the canyon leading to Snowbird (and Alta) often closes in bad weather, stranding people either in or out of the canyon. It was an easy but sweaty cruise to the mountain for us, in a 13-passenger van with a faulty heating system. Sorry to those in the back. Snowbird is more like European resorts than its western counterparts. It's wide open and you ski wherever you want. Beginners and intermediates are limited to the cat-tracks that meander back and forth across the bowls. We had near zero visibility, so staying on the cat tracks proved challenging. If you're the type that likes big, easy, groomed trails, don't waste your time at Snowbird. However, if you like off-piste and enjoy skiing anything and everything, you're sure to have an epic day



here. I really liked Snowbird, but found it to be challenging and a bit mysterious. They blocked off much of their difficult terrain with gates. The issue was that some gates had cliffs and very tight chutes behind them while others had relatively easier steps and tree runs. You usually couldn't see the terrain when you went through the gate, so it was a gamble each time. I picked a few that appeared to be safe looking and lucked out. But I'd like to go back some time with someone that really knows the mountain so I don't get in trouble. The highlights of this resort include the tram, with a 125-person capacity that travels at about 20 mph. Another cool feature is a tunnel through the mountain that carries skiers via a magic carpet to the opposite side. It's almost as easy to just ski to a lift that will take you to the summit and thus the other side, but the tunnel is far more fun.



Our final day of skiing—day 6—was at Deer Valley. We planned this intentionally so we could wrap up the week with a stop at Stein Erikson's buffet for lunch. The group had hit this same spot four years ago and we wouldn't miss it for the world. It costs about \$40, but is worth every penny. The buffet features endless gourmet options that could each be the highlight of some other high-end restaurant. Here, you get it all-you-can-eat style. Dining etiquette and diets are tossed aside as you stuff yourself with lamb, crab legs, ribs, made-to-order salads, and the biggest dessert buffet I've ever seen. I'm not a dessert person, but I couldn't pass up the mixed berry pie, then the apple pie, then the key lime pie, then the fresh fruit topped with whip cream.

By the time we had finished, two hours had passed and we were incapable of moving. Still, some managed few last runs before lifts began to close. It was a fitting ending to an amazing week.



As is tradition, the whole group (about 19 in total) gathered for a pot-luck style dinner on our last night in town. There were left-overs to eat up and tons of wine and beer to drink (although the Ketel One was the favorite that night). We hook our cameras up to the TV and watch a slide show of pictures and videos as we recap our favorite and not-so-favorite moments of the week. The night ends with a final toast and salute to Bud, for another tremendous week.

Another tradition following this trip is to solicit feedback on where to go next year. We're open to suggestions, so let's have 'em. Special thanks go to Bud and to all those that made the trip a success. I look forward to seeing you all next time!



Reasons to Ski with a Ski Club

From the Columbia Ski Club's (MD) *Black Diamond Xpress*



Ski club members skiing at Le Massif.

Photo: NSCN.

Why ski with a ski club?

We are a vibrant organization, with a long history and a very stable membership. The Columbia Ski Club (CC) has been in existence since 1981 and now has approximately 500 members. The CC annually selects and conducts nine to 11 long ski trips, one non-ski trip, and multiple day, evening, and weekend events, social as well as service-oriented. Each activity has a volunteer leader responsible for much of the logistics. We annually sell more than 400 skier weeks; usually eight trips to Western North America and two European trips.

Experienced vendors and trip leaders

Our club uses qualified companies, our vendors, and bids them to get the best deals for our members' ski vacation dollars. We start each February considering venues, and produce a trip schedule by early June once our destinations and trip leaders have been selected and contracts finalized. Our club has elected and appointed officers and a board of directors. We have a treasury team that manages the club finances and ensures fiscal responsibility and oversight. Our trip leaders are experienced volunteers who want to share their love of skiing and travel as they lead these trips. They apply and are selected based upon their leadership and volunteer experience with the club. Leaders help to acquaint you, the trip participants, with other members, the travel details, roommates, skiers of similar abilities, mountain orientation tours, and can assist with lessons and equipment rentals.

So you may be new to the club

When I was a first year club member, I knew only two other people on the first trip that I made to a western resort. I was excited and anxious about the trip but the trip leader made the trip easy; all I had to do was show up at the designated times and I was on my way. The trip leader even produced a list of what to bring to make it easy for first timers to pack. I could find other club members both on the hill and in the lodge by the club bannanas that we all wore. We had a list of the skiers and their ability levels, and pre- and post-trip parties to get to know each other and share memories of a great vacation.

Pairing skiers with similar abilities and expectations is one of the most important aspects of club skiing. Everyone wants to ski within or perhaps just outside their comfort zone. It's much more fun to ski with others than it is to ski alone, and it's safer as well. Many resorts will provide an orientation to the mountain and our trip leaders encourage our participants to take advantage of them. Many of our club members have traveled multiple times to our ski destinations and are comfortable showing new members of similar abilities around the mountain.

One of the most important pieces of information I received from my trip leader prior to that first trip was about altitude. She suggested increased hydration before and during the trip. She even indicated that alcohol consumption would be moderated until acclimated to the altitude.

Why do I keep coming back?

The club makes great selections of ski resort destinations. Their trip leaders and vendors make travel details easy, and it's always been a great value for my vacation dollar. But the most important reason for me is who I ski and travel with. I'm looking for skiers who wear me out, people with whom I can explore the mountain to find the best trees and deepest powder. You see, in the end, the best vacations that I have are really a combination of where I went and with whom I traveled. These people are the same ones that I hang out with year round biking or hiking, or even water skiing. I'm still skiing with a guy that I skied with on our first western trip with the club nearly 20 years ago. He and I plan to keep doing so with the club until our legs fall off.

Get on a trip or two and see some of the most beautiful mountains in the world, and make friends and memories that will last for years to come -- if not a lifetime.

This article shows many of the values of skiing and traveling with a ski club; ease of planning, vendors with whom we have experience, comaraderie, value, and trust. And, if you change just a few details, it has the selling points of most of America's ski clubs. Editor.

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ADVERTISING

In order to keep our trips as affordable as possible, we have decided to allow limited advertising on our website and newsletter. This opportunity will be announced to our members first in order to give them the first chance at becoming an advertiser. After 10 days we will announce it to the general public. We do not intend to bombard our members with ads but do wish to present this opportunity to several of our members that have requested the opportunity. Members names and contact information is never sold or given out to others.

Website ads will be as follows: We will only have 1 advertiser per month with the location being on our home page. This would bring you immediate exposure when someone clicks on our homepage. Additionally, there will be at least one mention a month via email. Available by the month or 6 months or on a yearly basis.

Newsletter ads: Available in 1/4, 1/2 and full page, by the month or per year.

Rates: All prices are extremely reasonable and you can request a copy of our pricing by contacting the webmaster at: mfskier@comcast.net

Advertising with the club in our various media is an opportunity to connect directly with our members and is also an expression of support on your part to the club!

Who should consider this? Realtors, service providers, retailers and anyone else that wishes to reach our members.

PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Did you know we offer alternate pick-up locations for our day trips? We offer several alternatives, depending on where the trip is going. To minimize disruption to the majority of our members, we will only make one stop per trip. You **MUST** coordinate the stop with the trip leader at least one day in advance.

- Route 495 Exit 4—MBTA commuter rail lot (charges a minimal parking fee for the day)
- Route 3 Exit 10—Park and Ride (free)
- Route 3 Exit 14—Park and Ride (free)

The Route 495 option is available on all trips, regardless of destination. Route 3 locations available only on NH and ME trips. All trips originate from Portside Drive, Pocasset.

BOWLING FOR DOLLARS

Okay, the “dollars” part was a tease... But we are going bowling! Be brave—come out and make a fool of yourself along with the rest of us. No, this isn’t a bowling league, so don’t worry. We all suck at it and we’re all going to make fools of ourselves. But we’ll have fun doing it!

Here’s the scoop: We’re offering three nights of bowling over the next three months. They fall on the second Tuesdays of March, April, and May. You need to sign up on our club website so we can get an accurate count of the lanes to reserve. \$30 gets you food, shoes, and 2 hours of bowling. A full serve bar is available, with waitresses working the lanes.

Dates: March 12, April 9, May 14

Time: 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Place: The Lanes Bowl and Bistro, Mashpee Commons

Cost: \$30

Contact: Michael Finegold at 774-392-2567

Sign-up: <http://www.uppercapeskiclub.com>

More info: <http://www.lanesbowlandbistro.com>



S U M M E R

Before we talk summer activities, have you signed up for Wildcat on March 20? It’s not summer yet, so let’s finish winter with a bang! But in case you’re the type that thinks months in advance (who does that anyway?), here are a few obvious notables from this summer’s schedule:

July 4: Fireworks Cruise

September 21: Poker Ride V

TBA: Kayak & Cookout

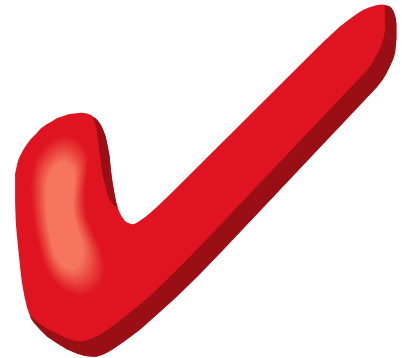
TBA: Steamer’s Nights Out!

What else would you like added? Tennis? Golf? Shark-wrangling?



April 4 Meeting:

- Dinner Banquet!
- Vote on By-Law change!
- Utah 2013 Ski Movie!
- 2012/2013 Season Recap!
- Summer Activities!



Have any interesting pictures or video from this season? Please send them to thomas.burt@comcast.net to be included in a video on April 4.

~ 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?



 **By Mail:**

Upper Cape Ski & Sports Club
PO Box 2123
Teaticket, MA 02536

 **By Phone:**

Tom Burt
508-392-9672

 **By Web:**

www.uppercapeskiclub.com



President:

Roger Stokey

Treasurer:

Leonard Hills

Membership:

Scott Northrop
Pam Tremarche

Website:

Michael Finegold

Vice President:

Scott Northrop

Secretary:

Rick Howe

Newsletter:

Tom Burt