



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS
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A SCHENECTADY WINTERSPORTS CLUB PUBLICATION

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SWC Events

SWC to Breckenridge: Sign-up Extension

In consideration of the Covid-19 pandemic, SWC has worked with vendors to get an extension of trip sign-ups until June 15th.

The SWC offers an exclusive opportunity for member winter-sports enthusiasts to travel to Breckenridge Colorado, one of the great vacation centers of the Rocky Mountains, February 27 to March 6, 2021. Enjoy six days of great skiing and winter adventure.

Breckenridge resort offers 2,900 skiable acres, 3,400 feet vertical from peak elevation of 13,000 feet, and 34 lifts servicing great terrain for beginners to experts. "Breck" and its nearby neighbor Keystone are EPIC pass locations, while less than 30 minutes away on free local buses you will find IKON destinations A Basin and Copper Mountain. Breckenridge Nordic Center offers 1,400 acres of Cross Country Nordic and Snowshoeing trails in pristine legend forests with soaring mountain views.

Lodging will be at the Beaver Run Resort located at the base of Peak 9, just steps away from Breckenridge Ski Resort's Beaver Run Super Chair. Their numerous amenities onsite include 5 restaurants/bars, 2 pool complexes with 9 hot tubs, steam room, sauna, work out room, a spa for that special treat, ski rental area and a retail shop, and a whole lot more.

Historic Breckenridge, a great town just down the hill with amazing restaurants, shops, and more activities, is only a short walk or free shuttle away.

The trip includes round trip air from Albany to Denver, ground transportation (including luggage handling) to Beaver Run Resort, 7 nights in a 2-

bedroom and 2-bath suite, as well as many fun activities such as happy hours and a group dinner. All this for \$1375! Please note that ski tickets are not included in this price as most downhill skiers will want to purchase an EPIC pass and Nordic skiers will appreciate the very affordable daily Nordic trail pass. SWC wants to offer options, so let us know if you want to book your own air and ground travel, what kind of tickets you may want to purchase or even if you want to upgrade to a private room.

The registration form is now available on the website. A \$175 deposit and your completed registration form will reserve your travel to Breck 2021.

SWC to Utah: February 2021

SWC is offering members a one-week budget trip to Salt Lake City, Utah in early February of 2021. It includes airfare, ground transportation, hotel, and access to four IKON mountains by free bus transport all for under \$1,100! How does that sound?

We will fly from Albany to Salt Lake City on Sunday, February 7 and stay seven nights at the base of the Cottonwood Canyons in the Crystal Inn Midvalley: 2 queen beds per room, hot breakfast buffet, daily light dinner, complimentary wifi. Then, it is an easy, quick ride to ski resorts via free UTA bus line. Alta, Brighton, Solitude, and Snowbird, all are IKON pass mountains. We return home Sunday Feb. 14.

\$100 will hold your reservation, which is fully refundable prior to June 15. The trip registration form is available on the SWC website www.SWCWEB.org. This is an unbelievable deal. We have 13 rooms reserved at the Inn. Grab it while you can!

Skiing in 2020-2021

In this age of the Covid-19 reality, we saw an early and abrupt end to the 2019-2020 ski season, and we are all left wondering what will be in store for the 2020-2021 ski season. The mountain states, east and west, have been less affected by the virus, likely due to their rural nature. We are starting to see steps being taken to reopen various industries in more populous states. So, our hope and our interest in the 2020-2021 ski season is growing, and here's a bit of an update on

SWC Trips and the multi-mountain passes. We thought you'd like to know and we need your help.

SWC Ski Trips

As you know, the SWC is sponsoring two low-cost Rocky Mountain trips in 2021, the three major components of which are transportation, lodging and lift tickets.

Transportation: Ski trip reservations on Southwest Airlines for 2021 can be booked beginning in the middle of June. Southwest has required a non-refundable \$50 deposit per ticket on a group reservation. They do have a perk that allows 2 free bags per traveler.

Reservations on Delta, American and United Airlines can be booked 331 days prior to travel. You can cancel the group reservation with no penalty 100 days before travel. However, they charge for luggage and ski equipment, which typically adds \$70 each way.

We will monitor the pricing route availabilities and make a decision on which airline carrier we will use in June. We can mix carriers as long as we have at least ten people on each, but we will work to get the best deal for club members.

You may choose to book your own flight with money or points and still travel with SWC. Please verify the current airline policies as changes have occurred.

Lodging: This year, lodging properties are being very flexible and are allowing changes free of charge until early October. We do need to make some commitment on the number of rooms in fairness to the property owners. At this point, we are keeping the trips on the smaller side as the future is so unpredictable. On the same note, if we don't book enough rooms, we may not be able to book more later under the same rates. The SWC deposit requirements and payment plans allow you to make your intentions known with the availability of a full refund months later.

Lift Tickets: Usually, the best value for downhill skiers is a multi-mountain pass. However, SWC trips include the option to purchase single or multi-day tickets, and we can inquire whether a mountain has early-bird ticket prices. Let us know your plans.

Epic and Ikon Passes

In the limited space of this article, it's impossible to provide all the details of the many changes these multi-mountain passes have made for the 2020-2021 ski season. Please read about each pass online via the club website (swcweb.org). Everyone's situation is different, so it is best to read all the facts online when choosing a pass. Some highlights follow.

Alterra's Ikon Pass has extended early-season-pricing deadline until May 27th and doubled the renewal savings discount to \$200; the pass comes with the new Adventure Assurance Program, providing

you flexibility on year of usage and allows payment to be spread over time. Ikon's resorts include the eastern destinations of Windham Mountain in NY, Killington/Pico, Stratton, and Sugarbush in VT, Loon in NH, and Sugarloaf and Sunday River in Maine.

Vail Resort's Epic Pass has extended early season pricing until Sept. 7th, gives credit for unused days in 2019-2020 season, and comes with the Epic Coverage Plan for refunds. Epic's resorts eastern destinations include Hunter in NY, Mount Snow, Okemo and Stowe in VT, Attitash, Crotched and Wildcat in NH.

Remember, your SWC 20-21 membership is free when you purchase these passes through SWCWEB.org. Please consider buying your pass on the link two or more days before the deadlines as all passes must be processed by the date posted.

Decision

Making a commitment at this time is a tough call. That's why we seek out airfare and lodging with extensive refunds written into the contracts. That's why the lift ticket passes are including the refund plans.

Please try to make a refundable decision by the middle of June, so at least we can book enough lodging for each trip. We understand that your decision may change, but it is easier to drop rooms than add rooms with the special early-bird deals. Trip applications are available on SWCWEB.org.

Editorials **Work Weekend**

by John Bidell

Hope everyone is doing well and transitioning to the new normal of what we can expect. We just returned from the Clubhouse, where we swapped out new donated mattresses, did a deep clean, and organized the basement for recreational use. We also power washed the deck and scraped the siding to get ready for exterior paint. There were five of us, and we wanted to keep the group small to stay in compliance with Vermont guidelines.

Thanks to all who renewed memberships and/or purchased patches and stickers. This is a big help with our budget demands. Please consider spending a little of your stimulus check for a worthwhile investment in your recreational future.

We are offering two trips out West next season. Look them over, as they are great bargains. The purchase of an Epic or Ikon Pass through our website gets you a free club membership. You can use your Epic credit from this year towards next year's pass. There are also partial payment options.

We will be having another 10-person work weekend before you read this. These volunteers will

be painting the road and parking lot side of the house. If you find the time, you could head to the Clubhouse and paint on your own. This would be done on the ground, at your pace, with a free voucher for a future stay. Contact me if interested.

We have had interest in the \$500 rent-the-house-for-a-week program. The house will be professionally cleaned before and after your stay. Canoes are in the back for your use on the reservoir. Hiking and biking options are abundant. I am doing everything I can think of to ensure the club is available to you when you make the decision to participate.

Thank you to those of you who made room upgrade donations. The rooms are fantastic. We do have other rooms to decorate. Thank you for furniture donations that make the house like your home, not Grandma's old living room.

Contact me with any questions or comments: johnbidell@yahoo.com.

Biking from the Clubhouse

by Bill Kornrumpf

While we are still watching how Vermont is going to handle the relaxation of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I think that we can start to think about what can be done in VT when it opens. John Bidell is coordinating the opening of the Clubhouse and make sure you read his articles as they appear. This month, I would like to talk about bicycling in northern VT. I happen to be a firm believer in the advantages of biking as a form of keeping in shape for skiing so that is why this article is about biking.

Bike Paths: Stowe has an excellent bike path that starts in Stowe Village and ends up just short of the Stowe Ski area. It follows the Little River and has a very gentle climb for the entire 8-mile length. It is an excellent paved path that does not expose you to traffic and the ride back to town is almost relaxing. Morrisville, 9 miles north of Stowe, has a rail trail that will eventually travel 34 miles from St. Johnsbury to Swanton and has no significant hills. It is a crushed stone surface, and the 17-mile Morrisville to Cambridge section is finished and runs along the Lamoille River valley.

Road Biking: While Rt 100 in front of the Clubhouse has become a busy highway, rural roads south of Waterbury are pleasant to ride. North of Stowe and Morrisville, there are great rides with moderate hills for those who like to get more exercise. For the best exercise, there is a loop that I call the Mt. Mansfield loop. Start anywhere in Stowe or the parking lots along Rt 108 and head up the mountain road to Smugglers Notch (1,500-foot climb) just past the Stowe Ski area then continue on down the far side to Jeffersonville (8.5 mile downhill) where there is a great place to stop for snacks. Then, continue back to Stowe

by heading East to Hyde Park and then South to Stowe.

Mountain Biking: Stowe has over 30 miles of trails managed by the Stowe Mountain Bike Club. They range from relaxing to Oh-My-God! Technical. There are also trails in the Mad River valley and the North East Kingdom (East Burke) that can challenge the best mountain bikers and others that are just a great ride in the woods. It seems that most villages in VT have opened land up for mountain biking.

In summary, the Clubhouse is a great place for bikers no matter what bikes they ride or how hard they want to ride. I hope to spend some time on the roads up there this summer when Vermont is opened again. In the meantime, keep safe and keep in shape for next year's ski season.

Keep watching the Chatter and website for more information on the use of the Clubhouse as VT opens. John Bidell is organizing the early usage rules and regulations.

Mountain Biking

Kingdom Trails East Burke, VT

More than 100 miles of logging roads, fire roads, and single-track on legal-access private land take you to open meadows, dense foliage, groves of giant birch trees and spooky abandoned shacks. Do not miss the 14-room Inn at Mountain View Farm, located on 440 acres. You can ride off the front porch onto the trail system. Bring: your hardtail. These rolling trails are smooth, even without full suspension. 1.5 hours from clubhouse.

Reservations

(You cannot do it by yourself)

If you would like to make reservations for later in the summer or fall, Ellen Bidell at swsctreasurer123@gmail.com as she is the only person who can make those reservations for you. Tell her what you would like to do in your email, and she will make it happen.

Change of Address Notices

Change of Address notices should be sent to:

John Boscarino* boscarino126@aol.com

126 Polsin Dr, Schenectady, NY 12303-2516

Submissions for the Chatter

Content submissions for the SWC Newsletter should be emailed to swcchatter@gmail.com by the 15th of the month and should include a contact name and phone number. Content that needs to be run in subsequent Newsletters must be resubmitted each month.

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TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Membership Renewal Application 2020-2021

Membership is from June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

Please check your Newsletter delivery preference:

Email version of the Newsletter _____ (this saves trees & club resources)

Receive Newsletter by postal mail: _____ (slower, higher club cost)

Name _____

Age Group (circle one) 18-29 30-39 40-55 56-69 70+

Address _____

_____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

New Member or Renewal

\$25 individual or \$35 Family

For Family Membership, please indicate:

Name of Spouse _____

Age Group (circle One) 18-29 30-39 40-55 56-69 70+

Names and Ages of Junior Members _____

To qualify for family membership, children must be under 18 or 18 and still in High School.

Interested in volunteering? Circle any that you are interested in: Clubhouse, SWC Board, Snow Show, NY Capital District Ski Council, Activities, Warren Miller Movie, hiking, biking, and other Club help such as outreach. **Make check payable to SWC** and mail with the completed application to

John Boscarino, 126 Polsin Dr., Schenectady, NY 12303-2516

**Buy your Epic or
Ikon Pass now
through the SWC
and get your
membership free!**