



March Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

by Karen Simmons, SWC Secretary

The meeting was called to order and opened with the treasurer's report. Detailed copies of the report were provided by Don to all board members prior to the meeting. There are many financial issues of concern: income from dues YTD is about half that of the previous year. Can we expect membership to return to pre-COVID numbers? Is the \$500 weekly rental working and should it continue? Will the Warren Miller fundraiser return and can we plan social events and afford the expense?

Maureen reported that the club-sponsored trips have been successful.

Ellen reported that she has scheduled Clubhouse rentals into the summer months. Moving forward, she suggested that we consider theme weekends with hosts for individuals who have completed vaccinations for COVID. Some suggested themes are: fishing, tasting, biking, golf, disc golf, and paddling.

There will be a work "weekend" on Wednesday May 19 - Sunday May 23. There are many items, both interior and exterior, which will be scheduled. Hopefully the extended time frame will allow volunteers to have some "play" time during their stay.

Karen reported on the Capital District Ski Council sponsored ski race which took place on February 27 2021 at West Mountain. There were a total of 48 registrants with many of those under the age of 16 and many competing for the first time. The event was a success with SWC competing as one of four clubs that had entrants.

Ed provided information about upcoming events with Northern New York Paddlers. There will be specific dates and times for time trials and races provided in The Chatter. As with the ski racing, all of these events and competitions are open to paddlers of all ages and skill levels.

John R will discuss plans for a hiking weekend with John B.

Rick presented benefits of establishing SWC as a 501C3 organization. The process of application and requirements will be investigated.

Under new business Bill S suggested that we should investigate installing a charging station at the Clubhouse for the increasing number of members who drive electric or hybrid automobiles. Karen will research the topic.

Club Financial Results (June 2020 - February 2021)

by Don Streed, SWC Treasurer

Administration

- Membership dues for the first nine months total \$8,346, compares with prior fiscal year \$15,696 YTD.
- The Ikon and Epic ski pass sales program produced \$1,790 of income.
- Administrative expenses paid through first nine months total \$4,037.
- \$6,377 YTD gain on invested savings through 12/31/20.
- This has produced a net gain on administrative operations of \$11,476.

Clubhouse

- Lodging cash receipts YTD \$9,072 compared with \$21,444 YTD FY20. This includes \$1500 lodging revenue for 2021 summer rentals.
- Nine months expenses total \$22,896.
- The nine months net deficit is \$13,823; compared with FY20 YTD deficit \$16,064.

Trips

- Two successful Western ski trips resulted in an absolute financial breakeven: \$17,522 receipts and \$17,522 expenses.

Cash Position

- February 28, 2021 balances in operating accounts total \$23,438.
- The long-term savings account 3/5/21 balance was \$87,901.

FY 21 YTD Analysis

- In this turbulent Covid-19 year, operational adjustments have been implemented so that a near breakeven has been achieved for the Club.
 - The shortfall in membership has been slightly greater than the 40% anticipated.
 - Administrative spending has been restrained to absolute essentials.
 - The implementation of the Clubhouse \$500 weekly rental program has kept receipts flowing while meeting Covid hospitality requirements.
 - The efforts of a few dedicated volunteers has kept the Clubhouse maintained and operational, while reducing cash expenses.
 - Good fortune of a strong investment market has helped considerably in the net result.

Outlook

- We all hope there is a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel which will lead us to more normal operations maybe as early as this fall.
- After multiple years of renovations and upgrades, the Clubhouse is staged for greater year-round utilization.
- Enhanced emphasis on activities year-round with biking (road and mountain), hiking, paddling, as well as skiing; both locally and at the clubhouse.
- Return of monthly membership programs.
- Old and new social events such as the holiday party and maybe a fishing trip.

The FY22 budget planning process has begun. We welcome your input!

Lodge Donations

Thanks to those who donated to the Lodge over the winter. We collected \$650 to help with some of the costs to keep the Lodge going. THANK YOU!!

Notes from Capital District Ski Council Meeting, via Zoom

by Karen Simmons

The treasurer reviewed the report previously provided to all Council members showing a total balance of \$14642.52 as of 02/28/2021. COVID-related downturns in paid membership within Council clubs, affecting dues income for the upcoming year. Ray has reached out to unpaid clubs with no response thus far.

The Council-sponsored ski race at West Mountain on Saturday February 27 2021 was a success. With a total of 48 registrants there were 14 in the under 16 category. Going forward there will be more races planned with an emphasis on encouraging first-time and youth racers.

The OC ski club rented Plattekill Ski area for March 10 2021, and they raffled off five \$50.00 certificates to High Adventure. The trips to Plattekill have been successful enough that the club has already reserved 02/17/2022.

A Spring fundraiser was suggested. This would be an online auction of Spring and Summer items related to fly fishing, golf, biking, etc. Details to follow.

The election committee of Jerry Danielski, Sally Vanderzee and Cynthia Ward are preparing a list of candidates. There is still no nomination for the Secretary position. Any club representative is encouraged to volunteer for a Council position.

NNYP's 2021 Outlook

Monday Night Paddling: May 3 through Sept. 27

We gather at Kiwanis Park in Rotterdam at 6:00pm to be on the water at 6:30 for recreational and instructional paddling. Depending on the number and ability of those present, we may split into two or more groups. Those seeking instruction will be paired with more experienced paddlers. Some may go off on their own. Canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are all welcome. Nobody gets left behind. Some canoes may be available to borrow, but bring your own if you can.

Wednesday Time Trials: May 5 through Sept. 15

A short weekly race against time, held at Aqueduct Park in Niskayuna, to gauge your performance improvement throughout the year. Distance is 3.6 miles. Canoes, kayaks and SUPs are all welcome. Typical time range is 29 – 45 minutes.

Donald Patneau Memorial Towpath Regatta: Thursday June 17

Start time 6:30pm

A short, fun race down the Mohawk River from Gateway Landing (SCCC ramp) to Aqueduct Park in Niskayuna. Distance is 4.5 miles. All boats are welcome.

Contact: Geoff Moore 518-331-2761

Electric City Regatta: Saturday July 10

A more serious and competitive race with a short recreational class option.

Begins and ends at Lock 9 Park in Glenville on the Mohawk River

First start 10:00am

Distance: 12 miles and 3 mile Rec race.

Entry fee: \$20 \$15 for NYPRA and SWC/NNYP members

Contact: Kim or Ed Greiner 518-421-2947 eleccityrace@yahoo.com

Barge Chaser: Sunday July 11

Begins and ends at Kiwanis Park in Rotterdam on the Mohawk River

A double loop course that is great for spectators.

First start 10:00am

Distance: 10 miles and 3 mile Rec race

Entry fee: \$15 and 45 for youth

Contact: Linda or Bob Cooley 518-393-9201 cooleylinda9@gmail.com

All races are online registration only. Website information will be available soon. There will be no pre-race meetings or awards. Look for results at www.nypra.org.

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Spring is Here

by John Bidell

As I write my article this month, I am trying to get my last 5 days of skiing on the calendar. It was a good season with a late start. This newsletter contains information on our finances and upcoming activities after the ski season. We are ramping up bike rides, paddling, and hiking opportunities. With that in mind, we are hoping the mountain bikers, disc golfers, and regular golfers are thinking about a stay up at the house. We have an open stretch on the calendar this spring and if a full week is not convenient, think about a long weekend. Please contact Ellen at ebidell@yahoo.com for details. We had a great article concerning short hikes in the Stowe region which is available on our website.

The work weekend is coming and we need your help. We will be painting, landscaping, and doing some carpentry. Bill will be getting us a punch list so many jobs that can be tackled alone or with a partner are available. Camping in the backyard will be offered as will meals that are safely planned.

I hope you see the degree of enthusiasm that the board and members have for this club. We are unique as far as outdoor clubs go, and we have an incredible history of contributions from members over the years. We would not have come through this year without innovative thinking, incredible volunteers, and your support. Please think about renewing your membership, sharing our club with friends, and booking a spring or summer stay. All reservations are refundable.

In closing, I want to thank the board for their efforts especially those of you who travel to the house for cleaning and property checks.

Get on that bike. Paddle that boat. And get the hiking boots out.

Great News for Ikon Epic Pass Purchasers!

by Maureen Klein

If you are thinking about buying a pass, why not get a personal perk and help support the house too?

If you buy a pass through this link, <http://skiing-friends-passes.events.ski.com/>, the SWC is willing to give you a free night at the house... any season!

If you haven't been to the house in a while, it's time to come up and check out the changes. Here is a chance to do it for free when you buy your pass.

Join Local Friends On Two Amazing Ski Trips for 2021-2022!

by Maureen Klein

The first trip is to Zermatt Resort in Utah January 29th to March 5th, 2022. This is a perfect opportunity to Ski Deer Valley (Ikon) and/or Park City (Epic) as well as Sundance Mountain. We have lots of options for activities including the famous Homestead Crater and Midway Ice Castles (It's worth a google search to check them out.) as well as great dinner options from eating outside in a heated Aspen Globe while the snow shines through the sparkling lights to eating in a Yurt with farm-to-table food.

This great trip includes airfare, airport transfers, lodging, a welcome party and an additional event sponsored by Heber Valley Tourism in the base package. Daily mountain transportation is also included. Ski passes (Ikon, Epic, Sundance) must be purchased separately, but you can receive a \$50 trip credit when your pass is purchased through the following link: <http://skiing-friends-passes.events.ski.com/>. All activities and dinners are optional, so you pick your own package based on what you want to do! You even pick a hotel room or a condo. Everything is your choice!

We should have final pricing shortly, but we will be running an early-bird special during the month of April. Take a minute and check out Zermatt Resort in Midway Utah and be ready to sign up in April to get the best rates!

The second trip is to Banff in Alberta. We are staying at the Ptarmigan Hotel in Banff and skiing the over 7,000 acres of Lake Louise, Sunshine Village and Norquay. This trip is scheduled to leave on February 26th and return on March 5th, 2022.

The hotel will start your day with a nice breakfast as you decide which of the mountains you will be skiing that day. The town bus transportation is the most efficient that I have ever seen! You come and go as you want with ample buses to and from the mountains on a very regular schedule. Then, after skiing, you can enjoy the Italian restaurant in the lobby or one of the many restaurants in town which are within walking distance.

There are lots of things to see and do in Banff, but the skiing and natural beauty is enough for anyone to want to enjoy.

More details pending on this trip as they become available.

We should have the final pricing soon...just waiting on the airfare prices. I expect this trip to open with an early-bird special in early April. The hotel price combined with the airport transfers is really good!

This trip is limited to one bus, so expect a quick sell out once it opens. All those flying with the club are guaranteed bus space. The basic package will include air, transfers and lodging.

This is an IKON trip, so don't forget to get your pass through the link above and receive a \$50 trip credit.

For more information, please contact skiingmaureen@gmail.com.

Racing News

by Ed Greiner

Recently, four SWC members were registrants in the Capital District Ski Council race at West Mountain. There were 48 entrants, with many of them under the age of 16. Certainly, the solid number of racers was due, in part, to our desire to break out of the COVID-19-induced quarantine we've all been living through. Additionally, it was just a great day of fun. I don't know exactly what I thought the race environment would be like, but what we all experienced was encouragement, support and many laughs. I would definitely encourage everyone to join in the fun next ski season. If you don't want to wait, the Northern New York Paddlers have opportunities to learn, improve or show off your paddling skills in several upcoming events. Everyone will continue to respect

COVID protocols and have some fun, while doing so.

Theme Weekends at the Lodge

by Ellen Bidell

While many of the summer weeks are already booked, there are some openings in late spring and late summer. We are discussing the possibility of hosted "theme" weekends (or mid-week for the retired crowd), including golf, disc golf, biking, paddling and tasting tours. Participation would be limited to ten people, and everyone would have to abide by the Vermont COVID rules in affect at the time of the event. Contact Ellen Bidell at ebidell@yahoo.com for ideas or more information.

Summer Picnic

by Ellen Bidell

It has been a while since we have gotten together as a group (following all the COVID rules and putting our member's safety first). We are gauging interest in a summer picnic at Thacher Park or the Crossings, where people could be socially-distanced and still get together. Contact Ellen Bidell at ebidell@yahoo.com to express your interest.

Florida Timeshares for Sale

Four consecutive weeks from mid-November to mid-December in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Ocean Landings Resort boasts a beautiful beach, and is only an hour from Orlando and Cape Canaveral. All units are hotel/studio style, but are red weeks that can easily be traded for more luxurious accommodations. We have traded to resorts throughout the U.S. and the world (Costa Rica, New Zealand, Costa del Sol Spain, and Malta), always into a one or two-bedroom unit. Maintenance fees are \$284, and the next usage is for 2022. Buyer pays all closing costs. Weeks can be sold separately for \$300, or all four for \$1,000. Contact Ellen Bidell: ebidell@yahoo.com for more information.

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 Newsletter

Send articles that you would like to have published in the following month's SWC Newsletter to swcchatter@gmail.com by the 15th of the month and include a contact name and phone number. Content that needs to be run in subsequent Newsletters must be resubmitted each month.

Names and Numbers to Remember

2020/2021 Board of Directors

John Bidell, President, C 518-207-5961

Don Streed, Treasurer, C 518-339-2150

Ellen Bidell, VP Administration, ebidell@yahoo.com

Susan Knapik, VP Nordic, sbknapik@yahoo.com

Maureen Kline, VP Activities, C 518-257-0593

Bill Simmons, VP Alpine, C 518-526-0882 or simmons872@aol.com

Karen Simmons, Secretary, C 518-361-8836

Bill Kornrumpf, Clubhouse Director & Host Coordinator, C 518-209-3244 or wkornrum@nycap.rr.com

Bill Schaefer, at large, H 518-728-9395

Bridget Barrett, at large

Ed Greiner, NNYP President, C 518-421-2947

John Rack, Mohawk Valley Hiking Club, H 518-399-5081

Dorie Valenti, Past President

Others:

John Boscarino, Membership, C 518-355-7319

Bridget Barrett, Newsletter Editor, C 518-300-0163

David Bensley, Newsletter Editor, C 845-750-0780

Newsletter Contact: swcchatter@gmail.com

Clubhouse at Waterbury Center, H 802-244-8918

2020-2021 Membership Renewal

Visit www.swcweb.org to renew online. You must be a member to stay at the house this season.