



# Slopes & Trails

April 2009 [www.buckridgeskiclub.org](http://www.buckridgeskiclub.org)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Only two more regular meetings left for the year:

April 8—Touring the Rocky Mountain National  
Parks with Franz Fisher

May 13—Elections & Year End Review

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Look for the annual lodge committee and summer  
board meetings to be scheduled in July.

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Thanks to Wayne Michaelchuck for taking on the  
position of program chair !

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Merle Roemer

Our long-standing membership database guru will be retiring (congratulations!) , and his new email address will be mroemer27@mchsi.com. Make a note of it!

## NEW MEMBERS

### David & Leslie Allman

875 39th Ave., Montreal, Quebec Canada H8T2E5  
son Evan (01)  
email: dave\_snowfun@hotmail.com

### Margaret Bradley

9192 Germantown Ave., Phila. PA 19118  
daughter Rose LaMay (no date)  
H: 215-247-8491 / email: tiptop2@comcast.net

### Hisham & Neveen Barradah

10 Magazine St, Apt 1002 Cambridge, MA 02139  
daughter Sarah (07)  
617-492-0572 / email hbarradah@me.com

### Dale Henderson

1443 Carolina Place, Downingtown, PA 19335  
H: 610-873-1805; W: 610-873-1805  
e-mail: dalehenderson@verizon.net

## Club News & Notes

### March Meeting

Those attending the March general meeting enjoyed a presentation by Joan Strachota on her trip to Mongolia last summer. Certainly a journey off the normal tourist routes! Joan has become quite the globetrotter—Antarctica, India, Mongolia, and Nepal is next on her list.

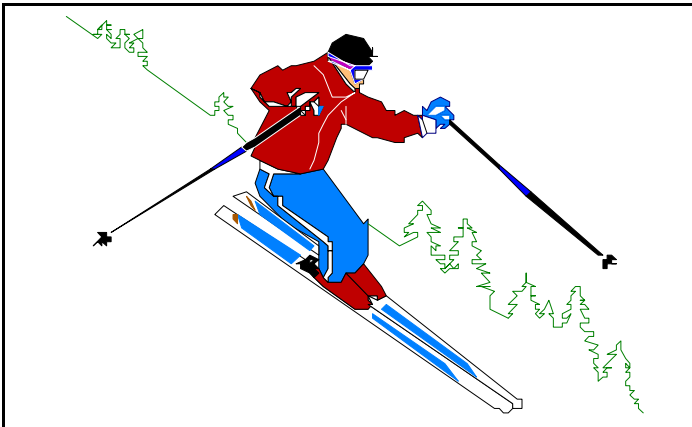
Members are reminded that nominations for club officers are now open. If any member has an interest in serving on the board, or would like to recommend someone, please contact one of the committee members. The officer nominating committee consists of Gene Adams, Mary Ann Popma, Terry McGinn, John Theodore, and Mike Fernandez.

The board is pleased to announce that Wayne Michaelchuck has agreed to serve as the program chairperson. Wayne has recently retired from a teaching career, and now has a little more time on his hands. Any one who would like to suggest a program for the general meetings should feel free to contact him.



### April Preview

The April general meeting will feature a presentation by new member Franz Fisher on his grand tour of national parks of the Rocky Mountains in Canada and the United States. Starting from Vancouver, he traveled west through Whistler to Jasper, then south to Banff, Glacier, and Yellowstone before returning west to Washington state. This promises to be a fascinating presentation—don't miss it!



The deadline for articles for the Slopes and Trails is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Send submissions to:

Michael Fernandez  
 1118 Kings Highway  
 Swedesboro, NJ 08085  
 Phone: 856-467-5189  
 Email: amf72@verizon.net

If you would like a copy of the monthly newsletter, please contact Bill Raney at 610-356-5199 to be placed on the mailing list, or check the web site.

**OFFICERS OF THE BUCK RIDGE SKI CLUB**

President	Mel Stiles	856-478-4621 stilesmj@verizon.net
Vice-President	Dave Singer	856-424-5618 dsinger26@comcast.net
Secretary	Pat Beccia	610-664-9506
Treasurer	Terri Walklett	610-876-1728

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Activities Chair	Marge Tarte	610-874-3162
Activity Treasurer	Kay Schmader	610-527-3969 kschmader@comcast.net
Biking Chair	Susan Hearn	215-386-8008 SLHearn@aol.com
Paddling Chair	Michael & Andrea Bruno	610-328-2338 andreabruno@verizon.net
Hiking Chair	Jim Calkins	610-558-6862 Jbcalkins@verizon.net
Lodge Chair	Mel Stiles	856-478-4621
Program Chair	Wayne Michaelchuck	856-423-7517
Ski Chair	Dan Aronson	215-643-7252 d.l.aronson@att.net
EPSC Council Rep.	MaryAnn Thomas	610-648-0049
Welfare	Glenn Weisel	215-822-9459 glennskisail@comcast.net

**WOODBRIIDGE LODGE**

**Permanent Reservation Chair**

Joan Strachota 610-872-6459  
 jstrachota@comcast.net

Lodge Telephone Number 802-464-6591

Only if you have been repeatedly unsuccessful contacting the reservation chair for a key should you contact the following people:

Judie Sheffer 610-461-1848  
 Glenn Weisel 215-822-9459  
 Eliot Woodbridge 609-921-3229

**MEMBERSHIP**

BRSC is an outdoor club for people of all ages who enjoy companionship in outdoor activities.

For a membership application and procedure for joining, contact:

Mary Ann Popma, Membership Chair  
 1037 Warren Road, West Chester, PA 19382  
 email: mapopma@verizon.net  
 610-692-5928

**Annual Dues:** \$20 Individual / \$23 Family

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If you are moving or changing your email address and want to keep *Slopes & Trails* in your mailbox or inbox, please notify:

Merle Roemer  
 4 Anser Lane  
 Lewes, DE 19958  
 E-mail: mroemer27@mchsi.com

**REGULAR MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, 8 pm AT SPRINGFIELD MASONIC HALL ON RT 320, SPRINGFIELD (DELAWARE CO.) PA. NO MEETING IN JUNE, JULY, OR AUGUST.**

## ACTIVITIES & TRIPS

### SKIING

As the newsletter goes to the printer the ski season has ended for all but a few die-hards. We hope your season was an enjoyable one. In this issue you can read about one of the club's best Jay trips ever, and look forward to an article on the Park City trip in next months' newsletter. Be sure to come out to the May meeting for a preview of next season.

#### Council News

### Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council

Buck Ridge will be sponsoring the EPSC board meeting on May 14. The dinner meeting will be held at the Best Western Inn at the Lansdale exit off the Northeast Extension, and all members are invited to attend. Volunteers will be needed to assist the night of the meeting. Contact MaryAnn Thomas for more details.



### HIKING

#### SHORT HIKES ARE UNDERWAY!

There may still be snow up north, but spring is here and our Wednesday short hikes are underway. The meeting place is the Value City parking lot at Routes 320 and 420 in Springfield, just a few blocks up Woodland Avenue from the Club meeting place and near Exit 5 of the Blue Route (I-476). We leave promptly at 9:30. Bring your lunch and wear comfortable shoes and socks. Sneakers are not suitable for many of the trails. Call Jim Calkins at 610-558-6862 if you have any questions.

Here's the spring schedule:

- March 25 Struble Trail
- April 1 Bonner Park
- April 8 Valley Forge / Betzwood
- April 15 Linvill Trail
- April 22 White Clay Creek Park (in Delaware)
- April 29 Marsh Creek State Park
- May 6 Wissahickon
- May 13 Jenkins Arboretum & Valley Forge
- May 20 Smedley Park / Blue Route Trail
- May 27 Sadsbury Woods



### BIKING

**Reminder!** If you are signing up for the Kent County Spring Fling, be sure to put Buck Ridge as the club name and Western Suites as the lodging choice.

And now, our first ride for the season:  
**Spring Warm-Up Bike Ride** - Sunday, April 26, 2009

Hang up those skis and dust off the bikes, it's time to "shift gears" and get out and ride! Easy, flat (promise!) ride starts from the Art Museum and travels on traffic-free West River Drive. An excellent family ride! Meet at 1 pm at the foot of the Art Museum steps for this easy 8 miler. Option to add mileage and/or a hill, depending on the will of the riders present. Park free behind Art Museum, on Sedgwick Drive or elsewhere in the neighborhood. Call Leader Susan Hearn at 215-386-8008 by 9 pm Saturday if you plan to attend. Rain or snow cancels.

**Ride Leaders Wanted!!!**

Do you have a favorite place for riding your bicycle that you would like to share with other Buck Ridgers? Ride ideas and leaders are needed for May through October. Contact Biking Chair Susan Hearn at 215-386-8008 with suggestions or to volunteer to lead a ride.

### PADDLING

Paddling season is also underway. The Philadelphia Canoe Club (PCC) sponsors training for whitewater and flatwater—check their web site ([www.philacanoer.org](http://www.philacanoer.org)) for the current schedule.

If you are interested in paddling (or pedaling) to a farther horizon, member Ann Smith (who along with husband Dan Beideck are another couple of Buck Ridgers who have relocated to Vermont) sends word of the upcoming **Winooski River Sojourn** from June 23 thru 28 in Vermont. The Winooski flows west for 90 miles from the vicinity of Montpelier to Lake Champlain.

Sojourns are extended trips along a waterway, intended to promote watershed awareness. This Sojourn is somewhat different in that it has a pedaling option for the landlubbers! Ann is the program director for Friends of the Winooski River, sponsor of this Sojourn; see page 6 for all the details.

Going to Jay Peak this year certainly had to have been one of the best trips ever, despite some real adventures getting there and back! Our arrival brought with it snow, which did not stop until Tuesday after a total of over 4 feet had fallen in a five day period. Powder hounds were in heaven, and by Wednesday the Jay groomers had laid out some fine corduroy for those who prefer groomed runs. Despite the infamous Jay winds (and associated lift holds) at the start, temperatures were never bitterly cold and conditions just kept getting better through the week. It was almost a relief when warmer temps moved in with some rain on Friday afternoon, giving an excuse to not ski. And as usual, the food was excellent.

Only the travel gave us pause. Due to heavy snow and icing, our train died around 8 PM outside Essex Jct, one stop before St Albans. Apparently, snow and ice builds up on the electric generators that power the engine, and they overheat and blow a fuse. Who would design a locomotive like that? We were rescued at 11 PM when a bus arrived for us. The bus driver deserves a medal for getting us where we were going - at times the road was just a narrow

### Jay Peak... Can it Get Any Better?

nism on our car had seized and could not be repaired. We returned to St Albans at a walking pace, dropped off the offending car (after having to relocate all our baggage to another) and

were underway again at 11 AM. To AMTRAK's credit, we made the journey in record time—normally a 12 hr trip, we did it in 11, arriving at 30th Street Station at the somewhat reasonable hour of 10 PM.



There is a road out there somewhere...

corridor between drifts. Fortunately for us, the bus was a luxury model with video screens; thanks to the Ellisons we were able to watch a DVD of *Gran Torino* (Clint Eastwood's latest film) to keep our eyes off the road. Unfortunately for the bus driver, the last turn onto the Jay access road was his undoing and we got caught in a snow bank. Luck was with us, for a Jay heavy equipment operator just happened to be leaving (at after 1 AM? He could not leave anyway since we were blocking the road!). He returned to Jay and brought out a loader to pull the bus free, and we finally checked in at 2 AM.

Just to extend our adventures a little longer, AMTRAK thoughtfully gave us a little more excitement. After a fantastic week at Jay, we departed St Albans for Philly at 8.30 am, right on schedule. After about 15 minutes our car was filled with the acrid smell of burning brakes. Coming to a halt, the train crew found the brake mecha-



Not an encouraging sight

And what about next year? We have already put our request in. For the past few years, we have been hearing that the new hotel will be ready next year... well, next year has finally come. Construction of the new Hotel Jay is well under way (complete with elevators!) and they have a target opening in February 2010 to take advantage of the important President's Day holiday period.



The new Hotel Jay under construction—finally!

Yes, thanks are due to Dave Stern for organizing this trip, but unfortunately he had to drop out at the last minute. He'll just have to live vicariously through this report! Read what others have to say on the following page.

-text by D. Editor, photos by Ed S. (of course)

What a week!  
Never skied in  
that much powder  
before, and with  
all my Buck Ridge  
friends.

*John Theodore*

Great time, but  
Beaver Pond put  
the hurt on me.  
Great company,  
great food, great  
mountain.

*Bob Hollenweger*



Evan Allman is attacked by a killer JayBurger

That famous Jay cuisine everyone always raves about

Mmmm... lamb lollipops....



Great snow,  
delicious food,  
fantastic people... Loved  
everything  
about our  
week. The in-  
struction was  
greatly appreciated. Thanks  
you for running  
a great trip!  
*Toby Pennock*

This week  
we skied the  
extremes—from

winter blizzard with heavy snowfall to warm and rainy thick  
spring snow—and embraced it all! *Rex Miyashiro*

Another stellar year at Hotel Jay—Check in if you Dare!  
*Susan Hearn*

We had it all—powder,  
groomed, clouds, wind, sun-  
shine—a great week.  
*Barbara Baker*

Great snow. One of the  
best ski trips I have ever  
taken. Awesome glades, and  
good food too! *Steve Ellison*

Jay Peak is so fun. I like to  
ski at Jay Peak. Thank you  
that they fixed our TV!  
*Matthew Ellison*

I loved Jay Peak! Especially  
the Jacuzzi, because we  
made snow angels in our  
bathing suits! *Katelyn Ellison*

Great Food, great fun, new  
friends, what a blast!  
*Kim Ellison*

Last year was great and  
2009 did nothing but better  
it. Great people, adventure,  
snow, and memories.  
*Gene Adams*

## Jay Peak Memories...

What an adventure—from the train engines that died near  
the end of the ride in the blizzard to the bus that got stuck in  
the snowdrift at the entrance to Jay. It was all worth it: great  
snow, super ski lessons, fun camaraderie among Buck Ridge  
friends, fabulous meals, etc. What a week—thank you!  
*Mary Ann Popma*

Nothing beats skiing while it is snowing, and that is what we  
did on Monday. We also learned that in powder, the most im-  
portant thing to know is "Be First". *Dan Aronson*

I knew this trip would be outstanding & I was not disap-  
pointed. Where else can you find 6 nights lodging, super break-  
fast buffet, excellent dinners, 5 days of instruction and lift  
tickets for about \$750? I hope to return every year.  
*Wayne Michaelchuck*

Wow... best powder ever, new members, old members &  
friends, some great dinner guests, sea bass extraordinaire, and  
hopefully a train and bus adventure not to be repeated. The  
new hotel is taking shape, and next year's trip is booked al-  
ready. Good-bye to the old Hotel Jay and it's in-room snow-  
drifts! *Mel Stiles*

Another great trip to Jay Peak is over, and finally the  
Snow Gods were looking kindly on us although our luck ran out  
while trying to get there and back but that is a fair trade. On  
Monday I had possibly the best powder day ever, and that in-  
cludes all our trips to the west. The following days were also  
superb; the food was as good as any previous year and the  
staff at Jay is in a class of its own. The only exceptions this  
year were the lessons. I miss having the same instructor on  
every day. *Ed Sobelewski*



Group photo op!

## BUCK RIDGE SKI SCHEDULE 2008-2009

**Ski Chair: Dan Aronson – 610-643-1608**

DATE	TRIP NAME	LOCATION	LEADER	DEPOSITS *	
				MEMBERS	GUESTS
<i>Last Trip of the Year!</i>					
Apr 16-20 Thu-Mon	Tuckerman Inferno	Mt Washington, NH	Mel Stiles 856-478-4621 stilesmj@verizon.net	See Web Site	
<b>Woodbridge Lodge 2008-2009 Season</b>		* Member's Rate	<b>\$ 15.00 Per Night</b>		
		* Guest's Rate	<b>\$ 20.00 Per Night</b>		

*To sign up for ski trips, please send a (signed) release form to the trip leader along with your registration form and deposit for each Buck Ridge ski trip. \* NOTE: Above deposits are based on the lodge fee times the maximum number of days in the trip. Please adjust (increase or decrease) deposit to account for the number nights that you will be staying at the lodge. There is no deposit required for children six years of age and under, but the trip leader needs to know his/her name.*

### REGISTRATION FORM

TRIP NAME:

DATE OF TRIP:

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE #:

OPTIONAL: Please indicate your roommate preference(s):

### RELEASE FORM

*In consideration of the benefits derived by me from membership in the Buck Ridge Ski Club and the use of its facilities, I release said club and its members from all responsibility on account of personal injury to me or my minor children, or damage to my personal property which may occur by reason of my/our participation in the activities of the club.*

SIGNATURE(S):

DATE:

SPOUSE (or Guardian) SIGNATURE:

## Winooski River Sojourn

Paddle and Pedal Through History

June 23 to 28, 2009

Please join the Friends of the Winooski River on the 2nd annual Winooski River Sojourn! The Winooski River Sojourn is a multi-day paddling and biking trip on the Winooski River, during which participants will learn about this great Vermont resource. Because 2009 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in the region, many of the Sojourn events will focus on the unique history of the river basin. The Sojourn will begin in Marshfield and reach Lake Champlain six days later.

Paddlers may sign up for the entire trip, multiple days or just one day. All meals and camping are provided. For those who prefer to see the river from solid ground, there will be a small bicycling contingent.

You can help raise money to protect the Winooski River by inviting your friends and family to 'sponsor' you. For more information, see the Friends website [www.winooskiriver.org](http://www.winooskiriver.org) or email [fwr@sover.net](mailto:fwr@sover.net).



## WOODBIDGE LODGE – RESERVATION FORM

*Note: Ski season reservations may only be made after October 1.*

### WOODBIDGE LODGE USAGE RATES (rev. 7/2004)

Season	Nov 1 – Apr 30	May 1 – Oct 31
Members	\$15.00	\$7.50
Guests	\$20.00	\$10.00

Rates are the same on weekends and weekdays. Children 6 and under are free.

Member's Name	Date: (nights)	COST
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS are welcome when accompanied by a member. Maximum three (3) guests per member.  
Inviting member is responsible for guests complying with the Lodge rules and regulations.

Guest's Name	Accompanying Member	Dates: (nights)	COST
1.			
2.			
3.			

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name, phone number, or Email where you can be reached:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to BUCK RIDGE SKI CLUB LODGE. Mail reservation form and payment to:**

Joan Strachota, 114 Maple Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086

Key Deposit - \$75. Issue a **SEPARATE CHECK** and send with reservation form & payment.

- Enclosed is my check for \$75. I understand that this key is due back **within 2 weeks after my planned trip** or my deposit check will be cashed. My check will also be cashed if key is lost in the mail.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions, email [jstrachota@comcast.net](mailto:jstrachota@comcast.net)

**RESERVATIONS will be CONFIRMED after payment In full is received.**

PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR ALL RESERVATION REQUESTS



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- Last scheduled ski trip of the season!*

**Buck Ridge Ski Club**  
c/o M Fernandez  
1118 Kings Hwy, Swedesboro, NJ 08085