



Slopes & Trails

April 2011 www.buckridgeskiclub.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome to a returning member!

Matthew Shane

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 13 — *Trekking in Nepal and a special event to honor a special member*

May 11 — *Last meeting for the year! Season wrap-up and preview of the 2011-12 season!*

June 8 — *Annual Woodbridge Lodge committee meeting (regular place and time, open to all members)*

July—*Annual Summer board meeting—details TBA*

CLUB NEWS & NOTES

Officer Elections:

A proposed slate of officers was introduced at the March meeting. It includes Mike Fernandez as president, Pat Beccia secretary, Linda Bailey treasurer. We still need to fill the VP position! Additional nominations may still be made to the nominating committee (Wayne Michaelchuck, Mary Ann Popma, John Theodore). Phil Donohue has agreed to take on the newsletter, with some training from the current editor.

Program:

Our program was a presentation by Mike Fernandez on back-country skiing, as well as downhill skiing, in West Virginia, an area often overlooked. While it does not have the vertical potential of skiing in New England, it more than makes up for it in snow quality, which can rival some of the best powder anywhere. Equipment for all levels of back-country skiing, from easy kick-n-glide cross country gear to full alpine touring, was displayed.

Any member with ideas or suggestions for programs next year is encouraged to contact Wayne Michaelchuck, program chair, with their ideas.

BUCK RIDGE GETS WILD 'N WOOLY IN JACKSON HOLE

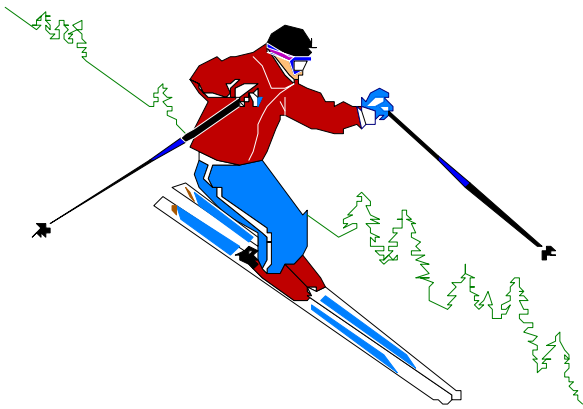
Thanks to all who helped make the trip to Jackson Hole a success. Twenty-nine Buck Ridgers, including a few friends & neighbors, ended up venturing out to Wyoming from various point of the country - California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, New York, and of course Pennsylvania and New Jersey. And unlike last year at Whitefish, we all returned intact and (relatively) injury free!



**JACKSON
HOLE**

The Parkway Inn, our base for the week, was situated off-mountain just a few short blocks from the town square in Jackson. It was very convenient for walking to dining and après-ski activity in town. A dedicated shuttle bus was provided at the hotel in the morning and afternoon; combined with regular bus service from town to the mountain about every half hour until 9 pm it made getting to and from the mountain a breeze. There were several other ski clubs there at the same time - the SLO skiers (from San Luis Obispo, CA) and the

(Continued on page 3)



Deadline for articles for the Slopes and Trails is the 15th of the month. Send submissions to:

Michael Fernandez
 1118 Kings Highway
 Swedesboro, NJ 08085
 Phone: 609-254-8461
 Email: amf.snj@gmail.com

For a paper copy of the monthly newsletter, please contact Bill Raney at 610-356-5199 to be placed on the mailing list, or download from the web site.

OFFICERS OF THE BUCK RIDGE SKI CLUB

President	Dave Singer dsinger26@comcast.net	856-261-7187
Vice-President	Michael Fernandez amf.snj@gmail.com	856-467-5189
Secretary	Pat Beccia beccia2@verizon.net	610-664-9506
Treasurer	Linda Bailey lbailey1@verizon.net	610-789-6823

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Activity Treasurer	vacant	
Biking Chair	John Theodore johntheo9@yahoo.com	610-623-3737
Paddling Chair	Michael Fernandez amf.snj@gmail.com	856-467-5189
Hiking Chair	Jim Calkins Jbcalkins@verizon.net	610-558-6862
Lodge Chair	Mel Stiles melstiles435@comcast.net	609-230-5046
Program Chair	Wayne Michaelchuck wmichaelchuck@verizon.net	856-423-2179
Ski Chair	Dan Aronson d.l.aronson@att.net	215-643-7252
EPSC Council Rep.	MaryAnn Thomas mat_ski_stuff@msn.com	610-648-0249
Welfare	Glenn Weisel glennweis@comcast.net	215-822-9459

WOODBRIIDGE LODGE

Permanent Reservation Chair

Joan Strachota — ph. 610-558-2384
 535 Gradyville Rd, G145, Newtown Square Pa 19073
 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

MEMBERSHIP

BRSC is an outdoor club for people of all ages who enjoy companionship in outdoor activities. For a membership application and procedures for joining, visit our website (www.buckridgeskiclub.org) or contact:
 Mary Ann Popma, Membership Chair
 1037 Warren Road, West Chester, PA 19382
 email: mapopma@verizon.net / ph. 610-692-5928

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 420, SPRINGFIELD (DELAWARE CO.) PA. NO MEETING IN JUNE, JULY, OR AUGUST.

Jackson Hole (Continued from page 1)

Fredericksburg Ski Club from Virginia were both in the same hotel, and we also encountered skiers from the Florida ski club (you could pick them out by their green "gator" flag) and the Morris County NJ ski club throughout the week.



Big 'n steep

If you have never skied Jackson Hole before, it is a BIG mountain resort - over 4000' vertical, sprawling for over 4 miles along the face of the Teton Mountains immediately south of Grand Teton National Park. The aerial tram running directly to the summit at Rendezvous Peak from the base is almost 2.5 miles long! The free mountain guide service - which takes all of a morning or afternoon - was a

real plus in figuring out how to ski the mountain. This was important to know through the week, as the ski area faces generally south-east with steep canyons cutting northwest to the mountain crest. We had a couple of sunny days where temperatures rose above freezing. Slopes on the south-facing sides of the canyons would get crusty overnight, while those on the north-facing sides would remain soft and powdery. Sometimes the transition zone between sun and shade could be rather abrupt!



Jackson admittedly has a reputation for being a difficult mountain, with more than its share of steeps, cliffs, and chutes to back it up. Folks looking for a challenge certainly were able to find one, and even some folks who were not looking had the challenge find them (if the cell phone call for help one day was any indication). But the blue runs were generally well groomed and it seemed that anyone with solid intermediate skills was able to find runs to their liking. I should emphasize solid, for even a blue run with 3000+ feet of vertical will put you to the test. But after all, if those Florida gators were able to ski it, we certainly could!

We really only had one snow day, which turned out to be Thursday when we went to Grand Targhee. GT is a little over 10 miles northwest of Jackson but on the other side of the Tetons, so it took a good hour plus to drive there. The drive took us into Idaho and through some stunning scenery, and best of all past the famous Idaho Spud Drive-In theatre (a



The Spud Drive-In Theatre, with giant spud on the truck.

Roadside America recommended site). With a fresh coat of snow, it looked like it had a sour cream topping!

But back to the skiing... at less than half the size of Jackson (still not a "small" area compared to our eastern hills), GT has a reputation for its powder skiing. With only three lifts - two high speed quads and one slow double - and no sprawl of development at the base, it reminded me somewhat of Mad River Glen in Vermont. While it apparently has its share of cliffs, the runs seemed to be not as steep and the glades a little more user friendly than Jackson... I say "apparently" because the mountain stayed socked in by clouds all day and you were lucky to get visibility of 50'! It would be a great place to get back to on a sunny day. Despite the lack of visibility, I was surprised to find the fresh powder pretty well tracked - I'm sure the locals know where to find it and could get there blindfolded.

Folks not up for skiing every day had lots of other activities to choose from. Tours by horse-drawn sleigh of the National Elk Refuge, winter home for several thousand



Home on the Range—National Elk Refuge

elk, started within walking distance of our hotel. Tours were held hourly every day and were quite interesting. The Jackson town square is famous for the archways on each corner made



Antler arches at night

of elk antlers; the antlers, which are shed each year in spring before the herd moves out, are collected by local boy scouts and sold at auction as a fundraiser for both the scouts and the wildlife refuge. Last year (Continued on page 4)

ACTIVITIES & TRIPS

SKIING



Our trip schedule may have wrapped up for the year, but there is still plenty of time for some good late season skiing at the lodge. Make your reservation and enjoy some soft & warm spring skiing before its gone!

BIKING



Don't forget the Kent County Spring Fling—see the February newsletter for details. It usually fills up fast. Contact MaryAnn Thomas with any questions.

If you have any ideas for local rides this season, please contact biking chair John Theodore to discuss them.

Jackson Hole (Continued from page 3)

over 40,000 pounds were collected and sold for almost \$8 a pound! In addition to elk, the refuge is a winter home for bison, trumpeter swans, eagles, and even wolves. More lengthy outings included full day excursions in Yellowstone by either snow-mobile or snow-coach or a full day snow-mobile tour to a nearby hot spring.

Our late departure on Saturday allowed for some last minute shopping in town. Despite a few airport delays, I believe most folks made it back to their place or origin incident free. Next year's western trip will be with the EPSC to Steamboat Springs, Colorado January 21-28. Put it on your calendar now!



Article by Mike Fernandez, photos by Mike, Dave Singer, Kathleen Scannapieco, and Franz Fischer



HIKING SHORT HIKE ARE UNDERWAY!

The Wednesday short hikes started again on March 16. The meeting place is at the Granite Run Mall on Baltimore Pike (Route 1) between Routes 352 and 452. Going west from the Media area on Route 1 or Baltimore Pike, turn right at the second stop light after these two roads merge together (you will see McDonalds on the right and the large Rothman Institute on your left.) At the first cross road turn right and then left. We meet on the far side of this cross road. We leave promptly at 9:30 AM. Bring your lunch and wear comfortable shoes and socks. If you have questions, please call Jim Calkins at 610-558-6862. After 8:30 AM on hike days call his cell phone at 610-368-5976. Here is the spring schedule:

- March 23 Okehocking Park
- March 30 White Clay Creek (PA.)
- April 6 Kelly Drive
- April 13 Wissahickon
- April 20 White Clay Creek (DE)
- April 27 Fort Washington State Park
- May 4 Jenkins Arboretum/Valley Forge
- May 11 Smedley Park/Blue Route
- May 18 Ridley Creek Park White Trail
- May 25 Darlington Trail

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PADDLING

The Schuylkill River Sojourn will run from June 4 to June 10 this year. This is a 112 mile guided canoe or kayak trip beginning in Schuylkill Haven and ending at tidewater in Philadelphia; Sojourn participants can register for as many days as they want or the entire trip.

"Sojourns" are typically multi-day supported paddles providing an in-depth look at a watershed. The Schuylkill River Heritage Area sponsors the Sojourn on the Skook, and provides meals, gear and equipment shuttles, and camping space (byo tent & sleeping bag, or arrange for b'n b or motel stays). Boat rentals are available for additional cost.

Registration for the Skook opens on April 1; visit the web site at www.schuylkillriver.org and click the "Sojourn" link for details.



WOODBRIIDGE LODGE – RESERVATION FORM

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

WOODBRIIDGE LODGE USAGE RATES (effective 9/1/2010)

Season	Nov 1 – Apr 30	May 1 – Oct 31
Members	\$20.00	\$10.00
Guests	\$30.00	\$15.00

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

A family of three or more pays a maximum of \$60 per night, but all family members must be listed..

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 "BRSC LODGE". Mail reservation form and payment to:

Joan Strachota, 535 Gradyville Rd , G145
Newtown Square Pa 19073

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

RESERVATIONS will be CONFIRMED after payment In full is received.

PLEASE USE THIS FORM FOR ALL RESERVATION REQUESTS



In this Spring has Sprung issue:

Club news & notes —p. 1

New members, upcoming meetings, & a special event in April

Jackson Hole - p. 1

Activities & Trips —p. 4

Short hikes are underway!

Schuylkill River Sojourn

Reminder!

If you have a lodge key outstanding, please return it

Joan Strachota by the end of April.

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