



Sterling Ski Club Newsletter

JANUARY, 2010

www.sterlingskiclub.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR

"Enthusiasts soon understand each other." - Washington Irving

IMPORTANT DATES:

Summer Meeting/Event Schedule

Meeting-SPECIAL GUESTS	1/7
Club Races-Butternut	1/9
Board of Directors Meeting	1/14
Regular Meeting	1/21
Improvement Weekend-Mt Snow	1/23
Bake Auction	2/4
Big Girls Weekend-Brattleboro	2/6-7

Stay Current with Important Club Events and News! Please provide us with your Email Address and Email changes immediately.

JANUARY 7TH MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS

CSC Ski Trip to Valle Nevado, Chile. - Gabe Cordova will be presenting the trip and having a Q&A. This is a great value and a wonderful chance to ski in South America and tour Santiago, Chile.

Lance Conklin will share information on tax updates for 2009/2010.

STERLING SKI CLUB RACES JANUARY 9TH AT BUTTERNUT

Club Ski Races and a Race Clinic are scheduled for January 9th at Butternut Ski Area. No experience racing is required and snowboarders are welcome. Joe Greene has put together an interesting day of skiing, which will include a \$35 lift ticket on a Saturday in January - prime time for local skiing. *We need at least 15 members to sign up by the third week of December to have this event.* We have a challenge set with Winterset (they expect about 30 people) for the following:

1. A 2 hour racing clinic to be given by the racing instructors at Butternut. This will be professional racing coaches that will teach people to ski better. We can have a class for first timers, and a class for our semi-pro racers and 2 classes for everyone in between (we scheduled for 4 instructors.) The classes will be held from 10 to 12 noon. This gives people plenty of time to get to Butternut, get

LODGE RATE SCHEDULE OFF SEASON - 4/16 TO 11/30

Adult & Child Members	\$10/night
Guests	\$20/night
Exclusive Lodge Rental (5/1 to 10/30)	\$125/night

IN SEASON - 12/1 TO 4/15

Priority Members	\$15/night
Non-Priority Members	\$20/night
Child Members	\$12/night
Guests	\$25/night



THE 2009-2010 CLUB CALENDAR IS OUT, SEE IT AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. WE ADDED SOME NEW EVENTS AND MADE SOME CHANGES TO OLD ONES. SO STAY TUNED AND ENJOY!

equipped, get in a few runs and then be ready for the class.

2. A 2 run Slalom and a 2 run GS. Prior to the GS race, each club will select 6 racers to be a team. The club with the best total time of 4 of the 6 racers, 1 of which must be a woman, will be declared the winner. Joe is going to have a perpetual trophy made up that will be held by the winning club until the next race, with a plaque to be engraved with the winning club each year.

STERLING IMPROVEMENT DAY JANUARY 23 AT MOUNT SNOW

The annual Sterling Improvement Day is scheduled for January 23rd. This is a CSC Discount Weekend at Mount Snow. So get your reservations in early at the Brattleboro Lodge (it was full last year) and contact Kristen Cable to sign up for lessons. The Club's certified ASIA and PSIA instructors will be giving free lessons. Kristen can be contacted at kris33mouse@sbcglobal.net.

BAKE AUCTION FEBRUARY 4TH

Connie Greene has volunteered to chair the annual Bake Auction at the February 4th meeting. We need members to volunteer too prepare their special baked and other items and of course we want a large turnout to bid on these very special treats. More to come.....

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following members were elected to the Board of Directors:

Jay Murray
Tom Velkey
Jim Alimena
Glenn Madden
Cal Smith
Debbie Danaher
Blase Lutheran

Thanks to the 2009 Board members that served the club.

MONDAY NIGHT RACING

As always, this winter our club is participating in the Connecticut Ski Council's Monday Night Racing series at Mount Southington. Races are scheduled to begin on December 21st (weather permitting), and continue each week for 8 weeks (you don't have to attend every week, come as often as you like!). Registration begins upstairs in the lodge at 5:30 and races begin at 7:45. The \$29 (to be confirmed) fee includes an all night ticket and 2 runs on the race course. DO NOT buy your ticket at the window as tickets are distributed at the registration table. Make sure that you bring your Sterling membership card the first night you attend in order to register! If weather makes the race status questionable, check Mount Southington's website and call the listed race hotline to see if the races are still on (they usually are).

The race format is best run, so only your best run counts towards the results. Skiers of any age (18 and over) and any ability are encouraged to attend. Overall, participants' racing experience range from grizzled veterans down to first time racers. Results are sorted by age class so racers are only racing against others their own age. The focus for most racers is on fun, not results, so if you're an experienced racer, or if racing is something you've always wanted to try, come out and give it a shot! You may even win an award at the end of the year! If you have any questions, the full race schedule and other information (including state race info) can be found in the racing section on the CSC website (<http://www.skiclub.com>) and on Mount Laurel's racing website (<http://www.mtlski.com/Racing.htm>), or you can contact me at racing@sterlingskiclub.org.

This year our Monday night racing league is again being integrated with NASTAR racing! For those who don't know, NASTAR is a fun nationwide racing circuit based at many different ski areas. Normally it's about \$5 per run with NASTAR, so it's a pretty good deal to not have to pay anything over what we normally would for Monday night racing. The neat thing about NASTAR is that there is a nationwide handicap system, so racers can use handicaps to see how they really compare to friends (even if you're racing at different mountains on different days!). For more information on NASTAR racing, you can go to their website at www.nastar.com.

**CSC AWARENESS DAYS
LIST AVAILABLE**

The list of CSC Awareness Days is now available.
The Internet address is:

<http://www.skiclub.com/documents/CSC-Awdays0910.pdf>

**STERLING SKI CLUB GROUP
ON FACEBOOK.COM**

Several members have asked if we have a Sterling Ski Club Group on Facebook.com. The answer is yes. Just go on Facebook (open an account if you don't have one) and then in the search box enter SterlingSkiClub with no spaces between the words and join the group and start sharing pictures, stories, blogging, etc. Anyone can join, they don't have to be Sterling members, so your friends can get in on the fun.

TRIPS, TRIPS, TRIPS!

Sterling Ski Club and Winterset Ski Club are sponsoring many ski trips this year. Members from both clubs are eligible to attend all the trips.

January:

Whistler, BC - Week Long (Winterset Trip)

Stowe, VT - Weekend Bus Trip (Winterset Trip)

February:

Utah - Long Weekend (Winterset Trip)

Cortina, Italy - Week Long (Sterling Trip) - See Details below.

March:

Sugarloaf, ME - Week Long (Winterset Trip)

If you are interested in attending any trips sponsored by Winterset Ski Club, the following INTERNET link will supply details.

http://www.wintersetskiclub.org/Trips/OvernightSkiTrips/overnight_ski_trips.htm

BIG MOUNTAIN SKIING – CLOSE TO HOME



Ski Club Members SAVE!

\$35 WEEKEND LIFT TICKETS
REG. \$50 Not valid 1/16-18 & 2/13-15 2010.
Show Ski Club ID at Group Booth – just \$25 for immediate family members too!

\$25 LIFT TICKETS MON-FRI
Includes holiday periods.

Rated #1 by SNOWEAST MAGAZINE for Mtns. up to 1100'
www.SkiButternut.com 413-528-2000
380 State Road, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

ADVERTISING IN THE CLUB NEWSLETTER

The Club will be accepting Club Member and Club related Vendor advertising for the Newsletter. Club Members may advertise their business or other personal Ads. Vendors may advertise only club related product/service offerings. The Board of Directors will have final say on acceptable advertising. Contact the Corresponding Secretary at correspond@sterlingskiclub.org to place Ad's. Rates: Members \$10 for quarter page, \$25 for half page, \$35 for page. Vendors \$25 for quarter page, \$35 for half page, \$50 for page.

OUR VERMONT LODGES

One of the best benefits of being a Sterling Ski Club member is our Vermont Lodges. Open year-round, they offer an abundance of recreational opportunities. With the beautiful Fall season rapidly approaching, what a wonderful way to enjoy the foliage season, hiking, touring, road and mountain biking, golfing (and disc golf), canoeing, kayaking, horseback riding, or just plain relaxing in beautiful settings. Most of the resorts offer Lift rides, zip line rides, etc. so you can easily access the mountains for views, hiking, and mountain biking. Also, many of the resorts offer concerts and other activities, check the web sites of the resorts for lists of activities and schedules. Just imagine sitting in front of a crackling fire on a crisp autumn night in Vermont with a hot chocolate (or beverage of your choice) in your hand. Make your reservations soon!

LOW OFF-SEASON RATES: During the Spring, Summer, and Fall, the Club offers special **LOW RATES** for use of the Lodges. \$10/night per person for members and \$20/night for guests. A special group rate is also available where a member may rent an entire Lodge for \$125/night (non-refundable and Sterling Member must be present). So if you are planning a family reunion or other special group event, consider exclusively renting one of our Lodges.

Accommodations: The Glen Ellen Lodge sleeps 20 and the Brattleboro Lodge sleeps 33. Both have fully equipped kitchens, fireplaces, and that special comfortable Sterling feel. Contact a reservationist for details.

STERLING SKI CLUB LODGE RESERVATIONS PAYMENTS VIA PAYPAL

See end of Newsletter for details.

CONNECTICUT SKI COUNCIL EVENTS

As CSC members we enjoy many benefits. Make sure you are getting all the benefits. Check out the CSC Web Site at www.skiclub.com and also the CSC Awareness Days and other Resort Discounts.

Calendar of Events 2009-2010

Recurring Events:		Regular Meetings, Twice a month on Thursdays at 7:30PM at the Sterling Community Center unless otherwise communicated.
		Board of Directors Meetings Monthly, at 7:30PM at the Sterling Community Center, see calendar for specific dates.
January (2010)	7	Regular Meeting - CSC Chile Ski Trip - GABE CORDOVA and TAX UPDATE PRESENTATION - LANCE CONKLIN
	9	Club Races vs. Winterset Ski Club at Butternut
	14	Board of Directors Meeting
	21	Regular Meeting
	23/24	Improvement Weekend - Mt Snow - Brattleboro Lodge
February	4	Bake Auction - Regular Meeting
	6-7	Big Girls Weekend at Brattleboro
	11	Board of Directors Meeting
	12-20	Winter Trip to Cortina, Italy - Contact Joe Greene for details
	18	Regular Meeting
March	4	Regular Meeting
	5-7	On Snow Weekend at Mt. Snow (make your Brattleboro Reservations early)
	11	Board of Directors Meeting
	18	Regular Meeting
	TBD	Family Weekend at Brattleboro
April	1	Regular Meeting
	8	Board of Directors Meeting
	15	Regular Meeting: NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS
	29	Regular Meeting: NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS
May	6	Board of Directors Meeting
	13	Regular Meeting (Last for the Season): ELECTION FOR CLUB OFFICERS
	15	ANNUAL BANQUET
June	10	Board of Directors Meeting
	17	Regular Meeting
July	8	Board of Directors Meeting
	15	Regular Meeting
	TBD	LOBSTER COOKOUT
August	12	Board of Directors Meeting
	19	Regular Meeting

Sterling Ski Club

www.sterlingskiclub.org

Board of Directors

Cal Smith
President- Dennis Demchak
Past President- Mark Lewis
Vice President- Ed Seeber
Treasurer- Peggy Reavely
Recording Secretary- Joe Greene
Corresponding Secretary- Lance Conklin
Jay Murray
Jim Alimena
Cal Smith
Tom Velkey
Debbie Danaher
Glenn Madden
Blase Lutheran
Open - First Year Member

chairman@sterlingskiclub.org
president@sterlingskiclub.org
firedog61@sbcglobal.net
veep@sterlingskiclub.org
treasurer@sterlingskiclub.org
record@sterlingskiclub.org
correspond@sterlingskiclub.org
jaym1@aol.com
jbalimena@charter.net
chairman@sterlingskiclub.org
tsvelky@sbcglobal.net
ddanaher@sbcglobal.net
ambassador@sterlingskiclub.org
blutheran@sbcglobal.net

Ambassador/Queen - Pat Kelly
Welcoming Committee - Pat Kelly
Membership - Jim Alimena
Sunshine - Connie Greene
Racing Chairman - Michael Misencik (203) 261-8234.
Historian - open
Forum Administrator-R.T. McKenzie
Web-site Administrator-R.T. McKenzie
Webmaster-Jay Marcoux

ambassador@sterlingskiclub.org
welcome@sterlingskiclub.org
membership@sterlingskiclub.org
cagdmscfwn@hotmail.com
racing@sterlingskiclub.org
open
admin@forum.sterlingskiclub.org
admin@sterlingskiclub.org
webmaster@sterlingskiclub.org

Lodge Chairmen

Brattleboro- Karen Desautelle
Glen Ellen - R.T. McKenzie - (203) 878-2132

lodge.brattleboro@sterlingskiclub.org
lodge.glenellen@sterlingskiclub.org

Lodge Reservationists

Members should try to make reservations at the meetings. *Please no calls before 9am or after 9pm. As a courtesy to Clarissa and Blake, please do not stop by their homes unannounced or uninvited.*

Brattleboro - Blake Conant - (203) 877-4130
Glen Ellen - Clarissa Alimena - (203)452-9663

brattleboro@sterlingskiclub.org
glenellen@sterlingskiclub.org

CT Ski Council Reps

Todd Lutheran
Mike Colonnese

tmlutheran@sbcglobal.net
bean53ec@cs.com

Meeting Schedule

Meetings

Regular weekly meetings are held Thursdays at 7:30 pm at Sterling House Community Center, 2283 Main Street, Stratford. (Unless otherwise specified)

Board of Directors Meetings

Monthly at 7:00pm, check club calendar for specific dates. Meetings are held at Sterling House. Any member can attend.

Newsletter Deadline

Please have all information to Lance Conklin at newsletter@sterlingskiclub.org by the 27th of each month (no exceptions).

Membership - If you change your email address, mail address or phone number, contact Jim Alimena, or mail your change to Sterling Ski Club, Attn: Membership, c/o Sterling House Community Center, 2283 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615-5991. Directories are available at the meetings.



c/o Sterling House Community Center
2283 Main Street
Stratford, CT 06615-5991

Join Sterling Ski Club and save 30% to 50% on Ski Lift Tickets!

STERLING SKI CLUB LODGE RESERVATIONS PAYMENTS VIA PAYPAL

As most of you are aware, lodge reservations are officially "booked" only after payment is received, i.e. you can't "hold" a reservation pending payment - the space is not reserved until you've paid for it. The accepted forms of payment up until now have been:

- Cash or check, paid in person at a Thursday night meeting.
- Cash or check mailed to the reservationist.
- Credit from a previously canceled reservation applied to a new reservation.

For your convenience we are adding a new form: electronic payment via *PayPal*.

There are both advantages and disadvantages to making payments via *PayPal*, but we hope most members will find the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Advantages

You can make payments at any time from anywhere that you have internet access, and they "bind" your reservation **(subject to confirmation by the reservationist)** at the time the payment is made.

You can use your credit or debit card, or fund the payment directly from your bank account.

Disadvantages

There will be a small *PayPal* processing fee added to the payment. For example, if the reservation cost is say, \$100, then you will have to make a \$103.30 payment to *PayPal*. (Note the processing fee will typically be about 3%, but actually includes a fixed per-transaction fee plus a percentage of the total amount paid - your reservationist will tell you the exact amount required.)

Payments made through *PayPal* will not be refundable for any reason except for those rare cases in which the reservation is bumped. If cancellation of a reservation is made in a timely manner, as defined by the current lodge rules, the net amount of any *PayPal* payment for the canceled reservation will be credited to the member making the *PayPal* payment. The credited amount may be applied to any other reservation made by that member in the same fiscal year, but if it is not used during that time it will revert to the club treasury.

How it Works

1. Contact the lodge reservationist by any acceptable means and provide the information for your desired reservation.
2. The reservationist will confirm that space is available, and quote the cost for the reservation. Both the "net" cost (what the club must receive) and the *PayPal* cost (what you must pay if you choose to use *PayPal*) will be quoted.
3. Make your payment in any form listed above, including via *PayPal*, and the reservation will be booked. (See below for details on making *PayPal* payments.) If the space is still available, you will receive a confirmation of the booking and the combination to the lodge door lock.

Note that if another reservation was made and paid for prior to your payment, and that reservation eliminates the space you requested, your reservation will not be booked, and you will be notified of the conflict. If the payment was made via *PayPal*, your payment will not be refunded, but will be credited to you for use during the current fiscal year, as described above.

How to use *PayPal*

How to use *PayPal*

1. Use your internet browser (*Internet Explorer*, *Netscape*, *FireFox*, etc.) to navigate to <https://www.paypal.com> and then click on the "Send Money" tab.

2. Fill in the "To:" field with either book (Be sure to book the appropriate lodge that you are applying your payment for so that the funds go into the correct lodge account):

book.brattleboro@sterlingskiclub.org or

book.glenellen@sterlingskiclub.org

3. Fill in the "From:" field with your email address (use one listed in the Sterling membership database).

4. Fill in the "Amount:" field with the *PayPal* cost the reservationist quoted you.

5. Select "Service/Other" in the "For:?" field.

6. Click on "Continue" and follow the directions. Add a comment to the payment describing the reservation(s) to which the funds should be applied, i.e. who will be staying and on which nights.

PayPal will charge your credit/debit card or withdraw the funds from your bank account (as you specify), transfer them into the appropriate lodge account, and (when that transaction is successfully completed) send the reservationist an email, including your comments along with the date and time of your payment.

Further Information

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following:

Brattleboro Reservations: brattleboro@sterlingskiclub.org

Glen Ellen Reservations: glenellen@sterlingskiclub.org

Website Administrator: admin@sterlingskiclub.org

The PayPal accounts are set up, and you may begin using them immediately.