

# Hill Echoes For The Watchung Amateur Ski Club

President's Message

by Deena

FEBRUARY 17, 2003

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This is the time of the year of the "State of the Union Address" and the "State of the State Address." In that spirit, I would like to bring this home to us and call this message the "State of the Watchung Amateur Ski Club Address."

Watchung was founded in December, 1938. This is the beginning of its 65<sup>th</sup> year and I'm glad to report that the club is very healthy and strong due to many factors. The success is due to the desire of the members to ski, to help with club functions, and to socialize within the club. Many good things are happening as a result.

To begin with, Thursday night meetings are very successful. The meetings start earlier in September and continue with monthly meetings after the season is over. Our members have a need to stay in contact formally and informally throughout the year, not just during the skiing months. The business meetings and social events are attracting a growing number of people. Although we try to keep general business meetings short, it is often impossible due to the enthusiastic participation from many members. The Club belongs to its members, and this participation input has led to many successful ventures.

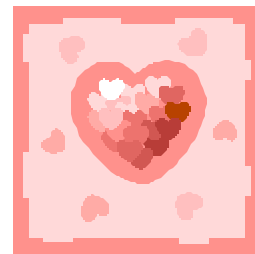
TRIPS, TRIPS, TRIPS!!! Our Sunday bus trips are successful. The Windham bus was packed to the gills with every seat taken. For early in the season, the Hunter trip did well and Plattekill promises to do so also. (Is it the breakfasts?) John "Ski's" magic as extended trip leader is strong as ever. He has filled up both his Western trip to Mammoth and the four day trip to Mt. Saint Anne. Ascutney had a nice turnout too. Another filled up bus and the discovery of a new place to ski. The Club Outing this year, a one day trip to Bromley, is innovative. People are signing up with support and enthusiasm.

Who is coming on our trips? We are reaching out to many new prospective members. They hear about us from the web, Jamboree, Open House, and even the telephone book. By word of mouth, current members are speaking to skiing friends about WASC. And equally exciting, some of our members, who have been absent for a few years, are returning to meetings and trips. As a result, our treasury is doing well and our fiscal health is sound. For one thing, more people are more timely in paying for trips as well as dues. So far, the trips, dinners, and cheesecake sale have all made a profit for the club. With the remaining events also selling out, this trend should continue.

So, what is the "State of Watchung?" It is alive and well and kicking. Thanks to the current members and soon to be members, 2002/2003 is a great year for WASC. (Of course, good snow conditions on the mountains helps.) In addition, we must remember that we have our club due to the efforts of people like Erling Omland and his friends who started WASC in 1938. Let's hope we can proudly carry on the traditions they established. There is still a lot of winter left for skiing. The banquet is planned for May 17, 2003 (please plan to attend) and then summer events take over. Watchung has much more living to do before this season comes to an end (and then there is 2003/2004).

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Happy "Belated"  
Valentines Day!

#### Special points of interest:

- Happy 50th Birthday Paul K!
- Our condolences to John Ski and Dee on the loss of their Mom
- Get well wishes to Bob Hach..feel better!





# February 2003

## Schedule of Events

- Western Night at the Elks, 2/20
- Business meeting 2/27
- Payments due for Mont St. Anne Trip, see John Ski
- Mammoth Trip, 2/22—3/1

## UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

- Business Meetings, 3/6, 3/20 & 3/27
- St. Patty's Day Dinner, 3/13
- Club Outing @ Bromley, 3/16
- Mont St. Anne Trip, 3/19-3/23

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu       | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |           |     | 1   |
| 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | <b>6</b>  | 7   | 8   |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | <b>13</b> | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | <b>20</b> | 21  | 22  |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | <b>27</b> | 28  |     |

Sign up for the **CLUB OUTING!**

See Paul or Anna for details. The date, time and place have been set: **March 16th, 5:00 am @ Watchung Pool**

**Skiing BROMLEY** for the day...join us for the best trip of the year!

## WASC WESTERN NIGHT!

Join us for our Traditional Western Style Bar-B-Que Dinner!

**Thursday, February 20th, 2003, 7:30 pm**

BBQ Spare Ribs—Fried Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad  
and all the fixins'.

Please **RSVP by Tuesday, 2/18**. Call John Ski @ 908-241-1945.

**Note:** Due to the high cost of some of the food, it is important that we have an accurate count on the number of people attending. If you plan to attend, please sign up and avoid showing up at the last minute! Thank you!

## ASCUTNEY Weekend in Vermont – January 10-12, 2003

by Michele Marron

Well, we got off to a great start, almost on time. There were a few new people who got lost on the way to the Mountainside Pool. Once we were on the road, the food started. A shrimp platter, vegetable platter and cheese and sausage platter and of course, the famous Cronos Pizza's. Not to mention the "beer and wine" and I don't know what else as I was in the front of the bus and the liquid refreshments were in the back. Sounded like everyone was having a grand time. That is except Sharon, who was freezing. Something was wrong with the heat for the driver. We stopped along the way so Sharon could get warm and shortly after we started again the heat came on.

Skiing was great and a few guests from the "house" surprised us. I was most surprised when I went in to get warm and there were Joan and Dan with Don, Mike, Linda and Sonya. After skiing we met in the bar and had a few and bid them farewell as they were off to Manchester. You made my day, thanks for coming!!! Dinner on Saturday night was on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the hotel with many Italian specialties, but nothing could top the desert table. Sunday was another good day of skiing. And then there was the job of loading the bus and leaving for home. Some loaded and some got loaded. I think they are called "rusty nails"? Eventually I pulled the last of the "skiers" out of the bar and we were on our way. The trip home went quickly with one stop for dinner. I wish to thank all my skiers who came on the trip. This was without a doubt the biggest weekend group ever.

Where would you like to go next year? Please give it some thought; I will start making arrangements in August. Running a weekend trip requires a lot of planning and negotiations with the resort for room arrangement, meals and lift tickets etc. The weekend trip leader does all this, I do not use a travel agent, and so any suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Thank you to Tom Flynn and Ted for getting the beer, Deena for getting the wine and Jack who did his trip to Crone's for the Pizza and Paul Y. and Jr. for the wonderful platters from ShopRite. I appreciate all the help I received on the bus, and a special thank you to Bob G!

**A special note:** Thank you for the gift, but in the future please, it is not necessary. We are a volunteer organization and we have many volunteers, our President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Vice President, and Treasurer in addition to members who arrange for special events, fund raisers, dinners, the Banquet, Christmas/Birthday Party and the Open House. We all volunteer in one way or another.

### **ANNIE MOUSE....**

### **keep 'em coming!**

BG was so sorry he made Sharon make a K-turn at Plattekill that he spent the entire ride home feeding her hors'd ouvers!

I hear Dale Boot company ran out of plastic & leather making Kurt his new boots!

Click, click, click, click!! What does that mean JR and Bobby G?!!

Rumor has it Rob Andersons' personal concierge forgot to load his skis on the bus coming home from Ascutney!

## NEED GOGGLES! MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY!!

By Ernie Bieser, Safety Chairperson

1. **Insist on ultraviolet light protection**—Long term exposure can permanently damage your eyes. Look for goggles that block out 95% of UVA & UVB rays.
2. **Polycarbonate lenses**—This material is much more impact-resistant than glass or regular plastic.
3. **The lenses should be large**—look for good peripheral vision, you should be able to see 180 degrees.
4. **Make sure they fit snugly**—goggles provide protection for the face as well as the eyes. A snug fit around the eyes prevents snow & wind interfering with vision. Make sure they are compatible with your helmet (low profile fit better). If you wear glasses, make sure the goggles fit over them.
5. **Look for anti-fogging features**— choose goggles with double lenses. Check for vents, look for anti-fog coating. One manufacturer has a tiny fan in it's goggles that brings in air from the vent.
6. **Choose the right lens tint**—yellow, gold & amber are for low light & fog. Rose is for low-light gray days. Green is for bright light. Clear is for night skiing. Polarized is for bright reflection and Mirrored give you very little block.

***Did you know prolonged exposure to invisible UV radiation is a contributing cause of macular degeneration? UV rays bounce off the snow and into your eyes even on cloudy days! Short-term exposure can give you sunburn on your eyes, called photokeratitis.***

***It can be like buying a car...how much do you want to spend, what size, style and color?***

WATCHUNG AMATEUR  
SKI CLUB  
PO BOX 61,  
FANWOOD NJ 07023



**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING!**

**EVERY THURSDAY—EXCEPT SOCIAL NIGHTS—8:30 PM AT THE  
MOUNTAINSIDE ELKS, ROUTE 22 EAST, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ**

We're on the web!  
[watchungskiclub.com](http://watchungskiclub.com)