

The EDGE



HUDSON VALLEY
SKI CLUB
NEWSLETTER OF THE

Winter In the Catskills: The Columbia Ski Resort

Originally published on www.newyorkalmanac.com January 16, 2022 by John Conway

It is unlikely that when he built the hotel with the spectacular vistas in 1891 John Harms Knapp envisioned it ever being a year-around resort, let alone one that advertised "superlative skiing," and yet that is exactly what the Columbia Hotel in Hurleyville in the Catskills became in the early 1960s.

And of all the ski areas in Sullivan County – from Glen Hill to Christmas Hills – the Columbia's was among the most successful, albeit for a relatively short time.

Like many of Sullivan County's Silver Age resorts, the Columbia included a working farm in its earliest days, including a dairy complete with Guernsey cows. Guests were treated to milk, butter, eggs, poultry, maple sugar, and vegetables, all grown or produced on the premises. By 1898, the Columbia was able to accommodate 150 guests, many of whom would check in for six or eight weeks at a time, and often brought their own staff of maids and governesses with them.

"Wide piazzas and balconies surround the main building," a 1905 brochure announced. "It is modern in style, comfortably furnished, and replete with every convenience calculated to enhance the comfort and pleasure of our guests."

Of course, the nature of the American vacation evolved over time, and hotels had to adapt in order to remain viable. The Columbia built Sullivan County's first hotel swimming pool in 1923, and not long after the trend began in the county to offer winter as well as summer accommodations, the Columbia joined a growing number of hotels with skiing on the premises.

In a brochure designed specifically to promote its ski packages, the Columbia advertised that it offered all winter sports, "blended with the best features of a royal winter resort."

"You'll enjoy our sun deck for winter tans, steam room and health club with masseur, card room, TV room, billiard-ping pong-game rooms, all-year horseback riding nearby, and a friendly, informal clientele for

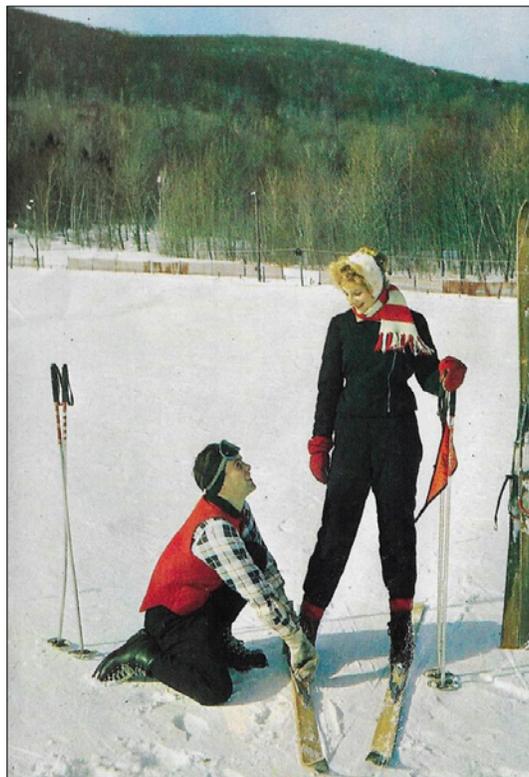


Photo of an early 1960s photo advertising the ski hill at the Columbia Hotel in Hurleyville.

you to join around the crackling open fires," the brochure promised. "Yes, bring the family. For the young set,

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Club Information

Club Officers

President:	Keith Faucher
Immediate Past Pres:	John Feilen
Vice-President:	Betty Mostachetti
Secretary:	Nonie Kelley
Treasurer:	Jim Gahn
Sergeant at Arms:	Pat Cummins

Directors

Alan Imhoff	Charles Shanes
Frank Ruggiero	John Ollive

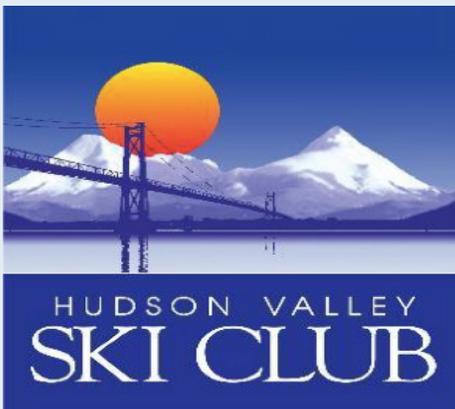
Committee Chairs

Budget and Finance:	Pat Cummins
Constitution:	John Macek
Instruction:	Herb Eschbach
Marketing/Publicity:	Alan Imhoff
Membership Services:	Pete Gray
Sub-Chair: Welcoming, Mentoring, Retention:	Susan Eschbach
Newsletter:	Melanie Michon
Website:	Donna Augustine Rich Partridge
Ski Council/Discount Tix:	Jim Gahn
Ski Trips:	Jim Gahn
Events:	Vacant
Audit:	Vacant

Contact information is available in the
Online Membership Directory
on the club website.

www.hudsonvalleyskiclub.org

Or queries may be sent to
info@hudsonvalleyskiclub.org



President's Message



I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and ski, whether locally with friends or with one of HVSC's planned trips. As always, the Trip Committee has done an incredible job setting up and running these trips.

As has been our routine for the past five plus years, Terry and I spent January on Anna Marie Island, Florida. We return just in time to unpack and head to whatever western ski resort HVSC has arranged.

As you read this, I should be back in NY...well, actually

Colorado. (It's always interesting for us to watch the weather from Florida and hear how they describe the 'harsh' conditions up north while lamenting the cool temperatures it causes down south. I'll take sunshine and 70s every day of the week.)

I have been looking forward to going to Crested Butte since it was announced. It's a chance to ski new terrain on fresh powder... with the group comradery of these trips, learning the history of the towns we visit and the chance to explore the local sites and restaurants, and converse with likeminded folks. I strongly recommend, when you feel comfortable flying, signing up for a western trip.

Finally, at the April meeting we will hold the annual elections. I will be appointing a Nominating Committee Chair in February. That person, along with two Directors not up for reelection, and any member-at-large the Chair chooses will be assigned the task of finding candidates for the ballot. Please consider being a part of your club's governing body. Reach out to any member or myself to be considered for the Chair or to be a nominee for any of the Board positions.

NOTE: The Board's decision to hold member meetings only on the first Wednesday of each month will continue in the new year. You must show proof of vaccination and wear a mask to attend.

Until we meet again, stay healthy and safe my friends.

Keith R. Faucher

krfauch@optonline.net or
President@HudsonValleySkiClub.org
Cell 845-282-0387

FEBRUARY 2 CLUB MEETING CANCELLED

Due to the number of members traveling to Crested Butte, the February 2nd HVSC Member Meeting is CANCELLED



Connect on Facebook

Check the [HVSC Facebook page](#) to connect with members on current club events and happenings.

Be sure to check our spring/summer activity schedule on the HVSC Website and also the HVSC Facebook page to connect with members for current club events and happenings.

Planning an outing? Want to hike, bike, or hit the road for a day but need a buddy? Post the details on our Facebook page and find other club members to join you.

Don't go it alone, that's why you joined a club! Post on our Facebook page and invite your HVSC friends.



Blake Singer

RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY B. PRICE



Newsletter Content Submission Deadline

The next newsletter deadline for the March Edge is February 20. Please send all content, stories & photos to Alan Imhoff @ alanimhoff@gmail.com



Social Media Submissions

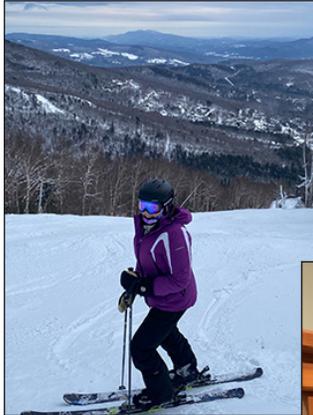
The HVSC social media coordinator is Melanie Michon. If you have events or announcements you would like posted on the Club's Facebook or Instagram pages, please contact Melanie @ melaniemichon@yahoo.com

The club was at Sugarbush in Vermont January 18-21. There were record cold temperatures but also bluebird days and plenty of snow. Thanks to Bette who put together a great trip for everyone.

slopes, and we were able to commandeer the great room and bar every night. A highlight was Pat Cummins dancing on the bar – something he apparently does frequently.

We stayed at the Sugar Lodge, close to the

A good time was had by all!



Useful Links

Ski Information

[SnowPak](#) - your guide to the best ski resorts in North America and around the world!

[On The Snow](#) - Check out the current snow reports for United States, Canada, Europe. etc. ski resorts, updated daily with new snow, base depth, the number of lifts open, skiable acres and weather conditions. Also, lift ticket deals, historical snowfall for the last 8 years, apps and forums. Anything and everything you ever wanted to know. Explore, it'll be worth it.

[I Ski NY](#) - information and deals for NY ski areas.



Ski Clubs and Councils

[Trailsweepers Snow and Sports Club](#) - HVSC's sister club in Kingston.

[New Jersey Ski and Snowboard Council](#) - represents Ski & Snowboard clubs locally and nationally. NJSSC is the source of Discount Lift Tickets available for purchase by ski club members.

[Family Ski Meisters](#) - a local ski club for entire families.



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there are sleigh rides, flying saucers, snow sculpturing, and their own winter sport activities.”

The Columbia advertised T-Bar lifts, snow making equipment, a ski shop, and a ski school with certified ski instructors, in addition to a “giant toboggan chute and horse drawn sleighs.” It also offered its winter guests some of the same amenities that made it so popular with summer vacationers, including “a cocktail lounge, dancing, and special entertainment.”

“We’re informal but festive where food is concerned,” the brochure boasted. “Our reputation for pampering palates is 70 years old! You can see that our sumptuous offerings must be something special.

“After soaring down our smooth slopes in the crisp air, just wait till you introduce your hearty appetite to the bountiful meals served in our spic-and-span dining salon. There’s no satisfaction

just like it!” The hotel’s ski operation was open from December through March, and special “learn to ski weeks” were offered throughout, as were “special group and family package plans.”

“Special arrangements and attention given to groups, conventions, meetings, and all types of commercial, fraternal and social get-togethers,” the brochure promised.

Shortly after the Columbia added its ski facility in 1961, it celebrated its “Diamond Jubilee” in the summer of 1966, marking 75 years in business. By that time, the Columbia could accommodate about 330 guests, and featured an Olympic sized swimming pool, two golf courses, and tennis courts in addition to the skiing. The brothers who ran the facility had high hopes for the future and promised to continue the traditional homey atmosphere of the hotel.

“We plan to make it a quaint old-fashioned looking resort with every modern facility,” they told a local newspaper. There were plans for an indoor pool, additional suites, a new night club, and more public space for conventions and meetings, but every attempt would be made, they noted, to avoid turning the place into “one of those modernistic, glass and steel structures which eliminate the personal touch.”

Sadly, none of it came to be. The Catskills resort industry was entering hard times, and by 1969, the Columbia had closed. In September of 1970, Ray Parker, president of the Concord Hotel, purchased the hotel for \$111,000.

The Columbia was destroyed in a massive fire on Christmas Eve, 1971. For decades thereafter, the rusting remains of the ski operation were among the only surviving aspects of what had once been one of Sullivan County’s most successful resorts.

I AM

PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

THAT I AM NOW PART OF THE

Berkshire Hathaway
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Therese “Terri” Searle

Associate Real Estate Broker
has joined the LaGrange Office

1100 Route 55, Suite 201
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

Contact Terri at:
m: **845.546.9260**
o: 845.473.1650
tsearle@bhhshudsonvalley.com

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Iceland's Magical Northern Lights

October 8-14, 2022

An Iceland trip is scheduled for October 8-14, 2022 with 20 slots reserved for the HVSC. These slots will go fast!!!

- Total cost of the trip is the same as last year - **\$2999**
- **\$600** deposit required.
- Trip insurance is **\$399**.
- **7 Days • 10 Meals**



Please read the details regarding the trip on the link below. The sign-ups will be handled directly online through Collette. Look for the "sign up now" in the top left side of the link.

<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1065927>



WILLIAM D. DUNSTAN, CLU, ChFC
Vice President

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860-355-2001

Visit Us At skihausonline.com

There may be limited openings on our 2022 Western trips. We will fill spots from the names on our waiting lists. Please contact Trip Leaders for more information.

Hudson Valley Ski Club



January 29 – February 5, 2022



Off the beaten path, Crested Butte offers spectacular scenery & few crowds, billing itself as Colorado’s last great ski town. Slope elevations from 9,000+’ - 12,000+’, make it one of the highest areas in Colorado. Although known for its challenging expert terrain, 50% of the trails are rated intermediate or advanced.

Trip Leader: Jim Gahn treasurer@hudsonvalleyskiclub.org 914-213-7250



Hudson Valley Ski Club

February 26 – March 5, 2022



With over 8,000 acres, 200 runs, and over 5,000’ vertical, Whistler/Blackcomb is the largest ski area in North America. The PEAK2PEAK Gondola interconnects the two massive mountains, offering skiing to delight every ability.

Trip Leader: Patrick Cummins pecummins22@gmail.com 845-519-7585



MOUNT SNOW

VERMONT • U S A

February 14–17, 2022
(Monday-Thursday)



We're returning to a favorite, the ski-in/ski-out

Grand Summit Lodge

Package includes: 3 nights lodging, daily breakfast, lodge amenities

Price: \$440.00/person (Double occupancy)

Payments: \$100.00 at sign-up Final payment by 12/7/2021

Make checks payable to "HVSC Trips" write "Mt Snow" in memo area.

Lift passes are not included. Mount Snow is part of the EPIC Pass system.

- Use your **EPIC Local Pass** or your **EPIC Northeast Pass**
- Buy multi-day pass at <https://www.epicpass.com/passes/epic-day-pass.aspx?days=4>
(3-day \$192, 4-day \$248 plus tax)

Trip Leader: Nonie Kelley, nkelley902@gmail.com, 914-443-9163

Send registration and payments to: Nonie Kelley
10 Laddie Road
Middletown, NY 10941

Registration Deadline is February 6



Established 1934, 4 years before HVSC was formed,
Gore is a favorite Adirondack Skiing Mountain for the club.

2537' vertical, 122 trails, 2 new quads

HVSC's Tuesday–Thursday, March 8-10, 2022 [+ Friday option] trip includes:

- 3 or 4 nights lodging at Comfort Inn & Suites, Lake George, NY
- Continental Breakfasts
- 3 or 4 days skiing/boarding
- Group Dinner (*Add'l \$ - TBD*)
- FREE ski improvement clinic (*optional*)

Lodging

\$116.00 ea. – 3 nights double

\$232.00 ea. – 3 nights single

\$155.00 ea. – 4 nights double

\$310.00 ea. – 4 nights single

Lift Tickets (*subject to 2022 increases*)

3 days: Adult – \$131.00

Senior (65+) – \$102.00

4 days: Adult – \$166.00

Senior (65+) – \$131.00

\$100.00 deposit with registration, balance due by Feb. 16, 2022

Cancellation charge \$50.00 after Feb. 16, 2022

Send completed trip registration and deposit or full payment to:

Herb Eschbach, Trip Leader

208 Leedsville Road; Amenia, NY 12501-5838

Email: docherb47@gmail.com Phone: 845-242-6699



Hudson Valley Ski Club Membership Application

(September 1, 2021 – September 7, 2022)

Please **print clearly!** Application must be received by December 1st for you to appear in the Annual Membership Directory.

Check here if you **DO NOT** wish to be listed in the Annual Membership Directory.

Name(s): (1)* _____
(2) _____

*Name (2) becomes the "X" member (same membership number as (1) followed by an "X").

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone: Home: _____

Check box for any phone # you **DO NOT** want listed in the Membership Directory.

Work (1): _____

Work (2): _____

Cell (1): _____

Cell (2): _____

Membership Committee use only:

Check #: _____

Check Amount: _____

Cash Amount: _____

Date: _____

Membership Number(s): _____

Check the membership fee which applies:

	<u>New Member</u>	<u>Renewal on or Before 9/1</u>	<u>Renewal After 9/1</u>
Individual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00
Couple Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00

Make your check payable to:

H.V.S.C.

If you have an e-mail address you would like listed in the Membership Directory, write it here:

(1) _____ @ _____ (2) _____ @ _____

I (we) am (are) at least 21 years of age.

Signature (1): _____

Date: _____

Signature (2): _____

Date: _____

Submit this application and payment at the Membership Desk at any meeting or mail to:

Peter Gray IV, 55 Hagan Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-5016

Please read & sign the Waiver and Code of Conduct on the reverse side of this form.

Waiver and Release of Liability

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in **Hudson Valley Ski Club, Inc. (HVSC)** sponsored activities, related events, or trips, each of the undersigned:

1. Agrees that prior to participating, he/she will inspect any facilities and equipment to be used, and if he/she believes anything is unsafe, he/she will immediately advise a club officer of such condition(s) and refuse to participate.
2. ***Acknowledges and fully understands*** that each club member will be engaging in ***activities that involve risk of serious injury, including permanent disability and death***, and causing severe social and economic losses which might result not only from his/her own actions, but inactions or negligence of others, the club rules, the rules of play, or the condition of the premises or of any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known or not reasonably foreseeable at this time.
3. ***Assumes all risks and accepts all responsibility*** for ***the damages*** following such injury, permanent disability or death, ***even if caused, in whole or in part, by the negligence of the “releases” named below.***
4. ***Releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue*** the Hudson Valley Ski Club, Inc., its affiliates, their respective administrators, directors, agents, officers, and other employees of the organization, other club members, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and leasers of premises used to conduct club activities, premises or event inspectors, surveyors, underwriters, consultants and other persons or entities which give recommendations, directions or instructions or engage in risk evaluation or loss control activities regarding the program or premises, all of which are hereinafter referred to as “Releases”, ***from demands, losses or damages on account of injury, including death or damage to property whether caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the releases or otherwise.***

Code of Conduct

I understand camaraderie among the members is a crucial component of HVSC’s purpose and enhances the enjoyment of club activities by everyone. My conduct as a club member impacts the public’s view of our club and the willingness of organizations to co-sponsor activities with our club. As a result I agree to the following: a) I will exhibit courtesy, good behavior and show respect for fellow members and other parties while on any club trip or while involved in any club-sponsored activity; b) I understand that offensive conduct, making threats, sexual harassment and intimidating behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated; c) I will obey all federal, state and local laws while participating in club functions and the rules and authorities of establishments where functions are held; and d) I will support and promote safety at all club-sponsored functions.

I understand and accept that violations of this “Code of Conduct” can result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of membership.

Signatures:

The undersigned have read and agree to the above Waiver and Release of Liability and Code of Conduct and understand that they have given up substantial rights by signing it and sign it voluntarily.

(1) _____
 Print Name Signature Date

(2) _____
 Print Name Signature Date

Friday Race Training

On Friday evenings, Club members meet at an area restaurant for a couple hours of friendly conversation. We welcome new members and old.

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:
Susan Kokosa @ 845-229-6786 or
race_training@hudsonvalleyskiclub.org

February 4 di'Vine Wine Bar
1 Market St Wappingers Falls

February 11 Beekman Arms
6387 Mill St Rhinebeck

February 18 Hyde Park Brewing Company
4076 Albany Post Rd Hyde Park

February 25 Shadow's On The Hudson
176 Rinaldi Blvd Poughkeepsie

All event dates are subject to change.

Please use the HVSC Website Events Calendar and Facebook page for up-to-date event and meeting information.

Calendar of Events

February

2 NO Club Meeting

14 Mt Snow Trip

26 Whistler/Blackcomb

March

2 Club Meeting @ 7:30PM
American Legion, 55 Overlook Rd, Poughkeepsie

8 Gore Mountain Trip



HUDSON VALLEY
SKI CLUB

Hudson Valley Ski Club
PO Box 2704
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603-2704
www.hudsonvalleyskiclub.org
info@hudsonvalleyskiclub.org

