The Sitzmark

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH LIFE SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

January 2025

Check for updates regarding in person meetings!

In this Issue.

Pres. message pg 1
Lodge Report pg 2
Dec. Events pg 3-4
January Events pg 5
Lodge Guidelines pg 6-7
Racing Schedule pg 8
Looking Ahead pg 9
Pres. msg. cont. pg 10
Lodge sign ups pg 11

Submission Deadline for the February Issue is January 27

Send items to: youngne1965@gmail.com

President's Message - President,

Submitted by Paul Roy, 917-577-3737 pauldenisroy@aol.com

As I write this article, Killington has 117 of 155 trails open (75%), and there's a forecast for snow in early January (after some rainy days unfortunately). Vermont winter is off to a strong start!

It's worth noting that a recent online Ski Magazine article named Killington Outer Limits and Sugarbush Stein's Run on a list of the top 8 mogul runs in the United States. I agree!

Our Club now has well over 300 members including about 10% brand new members. With all the membership renewals coming in, the Club's bank account is solid at about $60,000.

Once again this winter, thanks to the New Jersey Ski and Snowboard Council, Club members can purchase one-day vouchers to Killington and Pico. You can also order Stratton vouchers yourself on the NJSSC website ($99). Bob Zega handles Killington and Pico voucher purchases. I can attest that Bob handles voucher orders quickly.

On December 16, by separate email vote, the Executive Board approved the following motion: "Rebuild and re-platform the High Life Ski Club website for up to $500 with expected completion February 28, 2025. When the website is ready, the Board (or a small designated group) will be asked to review and approve it, and also approve the old website migration." Mike Fitzpatrick, a new member with professional information technology experience, has volunteered to modernize the website (which is about 20 years old), add more security, and make it more user friendly. Jason Briggs and certain other Board members will assist on this project over time.

Meetings and Other Events

We had 24 at the membership meeting on December 10. The Lodge Trustees did not meet in December. The Executive Board will meet again January 14. We'll have a Zoom meeting for all Club members everywhere January 7.

(President's Message Cont. pg 10)

LODGE REPORT

Happy New Year! Hoping you had a joyous holiday season and an exciting New Year's Eve celebration. The Lodge Committee wishes you health, success, and the creation of many happy memories in 2025. May the first portion of your New Year contain some thrilling turns.....whether they be on one of High Life's incredible trips, at your favorite local mountain, or at one of Vermont's resorts near our Lodge!!

Some early-season snowfall in Vermont has set up some great conditions and great December experiences. As of the December holiday week, Killington has over 130 open trails, and Pico has more than 80% of its terrain available.....great conditions for those who chose to spend their break at the Lodge or celebrate New Year's at Dave and Andrie's Party!! More importantly....Early January is setting up for some incredible days. There might not be appreciable snow in New Jersey....but there is plenty in Vermont!!

Don't forget to check out the Lodge Schedule as you plan your winter weekends! There are two Snowshoe weekends (Jan 17-19 and Feb 14-16), a Saint Patrick's party in March, and five family weekends scheduled for this season!! The winter schedule is included in this edition of the Sitzmark....but keep in mind that schedules can change. The most-updated schedule is always available on the High Life web page.

A few reminders: please be courteous to your fellow High Lifers and adjust your Lodge plans if you are not feeling well. Our goal is not to panic at each cough or sneeze (this happens), but we would like to minimize the exposure of the flu, COVID-19, and other illnesses which tend to be more common in the winter. If you are not feeling well, please communicate with your house-mom as soon as is reasonable.

On that note....communication is key. Please initiate all communication with the respective house-mom via phone call and/or email. Your house-moms will do their best to respond as quickly as possible.....however...we know some of you (especially during storm-chasing season) love to call your house- mom as you are walking to your car with the engine running....understand that your house-moms may be working, skiing, or unavailable for a few hours at a time. The sooner you reach out to your house-mom, the easier the signup process becomes.

The utilization of Zelle for Lodge payments has been going well...for the most part. Again....communication is key. Members are NOT to initiate a Zelle transaction without confirmation of reservation from a house-mom. In addition, house-moms request that your reservation details be placed in the comment field of the Zelle transaction and that a copy of the transaction be provided to your house-mom to confirm payment.

If you plan to pay via Zelle, your payment must be completed at the time of reservation or risk a possible late- payment surcharge. Again...communicate with your house-mom. There is an updated guideline article included in the Sitzmark. This article is designed to help each of us navigate the Lodge reservation process. The guidelines continue to evolve based on feedback from members, Lodge Trustees, and Club Leadership. Please read the article and call me if you have questions. Thank you in advance!!

Happy 2025!!

-Chris Cooney

Lodge Chairperson



DECEMBER EVENTS



12/7 WEST POINT, NEW YORK, HOLIDAY CONCERT

GARDEN STATE SKI CLUB AND HIGH LIFE SKI CLUB JOINS FORCES FOR THE FIRST TIME TO ATTEND THE FABULOUS 2024 MILITARY BAND CONCERT.

The uniformed band played many holiday songs with jazzy tunes accompanied by an outstanding saxophonist. The band practices all year long for these two performances. Marching band, soloists, singers etc... entertained us for about three hours. Lt. Col Daniel Toven, Conductor and Commander.

This performance featured a diverse range of musical talents including instrumental classics like :Sleigh Ride "The Nutcracker as well as nostalgic hits. The band presented" The Noel-Cats " program with super vocals by the Military Hellcats!

We sat behind and were honored to take a picture with the West Point Superintendent 3 star General Lieutenant General Steven W. Gilland (I really tried not to annoy him)

Submitted By Nina Tudorowsky







DECEMBER EVENTS CONT.

High Lifers met for some holiday cheer at the Readington Reformed Church on Dec. 14th. Fun was had as we listened to the WhiteHouse Wind Symphony performance of holiday classics. We even got to sing along and ring sleigh bells! Afterwards, several of us enjoyed dinner at Seasons 52 in Bridgewater.







A few High Lifers headed up to the Shannon Rose for the New Jersey Snowboard and Ski Council's Jingle & Mingle Happy Hour. We partied with fellow NJ Ski Clubs such as Ramapo Ski Club, Garden State Ski Club and German Ski Club. Lots of appetizers courtesy of the NJSSC and prizes for best festive wear! Join us at the next one coming soon.









Submitted by Melody Wenger



JANUARY EVENTS



NJ Ski Council News:

HLSC's discount lift ticket (voucher) program is taking orders for Killington or Pico. The Voucher Order Form is posted on the club website under the 'Activities' menu. Turn-around time is 5-6 days from the time I have your payment, so include a check made out to High Life Ski Club for fast service. Follow the instructions on the Voucher Order Form.

Stratton vouchers: ($99-weekdays, $135 w/e). Log onto NJ Ski Council website and scroll to .....njsc.org>Discount Programs>Membership Discounts>Stratton Mountain. There is a flyer called 'Council Days At Stratton' offering vouchers AND discounted lodging to members of NJ Ski Council Clubs. Click on the RED link to buy either one.

Whiteface Mtn: NJ Ski Council has negotiated Ski Council Appreciation Days with Whiteface. Prices range from $54 to $64 depending on the date. Log onto njsc.org>Discount Programs> Membership Discounts>Whiteface.

NOTE: Always carry your HLSC membership card with NJ Ski Council sticker with you!

Merry Christmas, Peace on Earth to All

Bob Zega rjzega@yahoo.com.

January 18	Family Weekend – Snowshoe Event
January 25	Family weekend





LODGE GUIDELINES

Hello High Lifers!

With the increasing demand of Lodge use the Lodge Committee would like to streamline the communication process as it pertains to making Lodge reservations. This document is meant to be dynamic and will be continuously updated as we figure out what works and what doesn't. The Lodge Committee asks all members to take the below guidelines into consideration as you make your Lodge reservations. Remember....the key to an effective reservation is to have clear and comprehensive communication with your House-mom.

As of November 1st, the Lodge will be collecting Winter rates for Lodge use. Please see the Lodge Rules and Regs for the current rates or ask your House-mom.

All reservations must be confirmed directly with a house mom before a payment is made. ***Failure to do so will result in a mandatory $5 penalty to be paid into the Lodge Supply Bucket.***

For those who wish to utilize Zelle to pay for their Lodge usage, please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. Members (only) can pay for Lodge stays and events electronically using the Zelle app on their mobile device.
2. **NO ZELLE PAYMENT** is allowed until after you've communicated with the house-mom and have a confirmation for your stay. **If a payment is made prior to confirmation from the house-mom, a *$5* penalty will be assessed.**
3. Zelle can **ONLY** be used for payments. ***No refunds will be made once a Zelle payment is confirmed***. If a change to a reservation is made and is compliant with the Lodge rules, a credit will be issued.
4. If a member uses Zelle for payments, the member is responsible for ensuring they know how to correctly use the Zelle application. High Life Ski Lodge, Inc. is not responsible for any user error, application malfunction, or security of the relationship between Zelle and your bank account.

To pay using Zelle, please follow these instructions:

Confirm the recipient information with the House-mom. Input this information per House-mom instructions.

In the comment section, please list dates of your intended overnights (ie. Jan 4,5,6) and the name of the corresponding house-mom. Including this information in the comment section eases tracking for your payments. Once you've completed the payment, please inform the house-mom. Optionally (if your personal banking information is not visible) you could additionally forward a screenshot or confirmation email.

Reservations are taken in person at Club meetings per the dates on the Lodge schedule, which is posted on the Club Web Page (or you can ask a House-mom to email you the .pdf). After that meeting, house moms will accept reservations by email or phone call only!! No initial contact with a House-mom via text-message. Please call during reasonable hours of the day (hint: if you have to ask yourself if it's a reasonable time, chances are it isn't)....and remember that many of our House-Moms still work and might not be able to respond for several hours. Our House-Moms do their best to acknowledge your communication as quickly as possible, but at times an immediate response is not possible.

If you'd like to go to the Lodge, please allow ample time for your House-Mom to get back to you.



LODGE GUIDELINES CONT.

During your initial communication please include the following information
***The High Life Lodge Committee loves our storm-chasers as well as those who love to spontaneously journey to Vermont. Please keep in mind that as you try to communicate with the house-mom, they may already be at the Lodge (especially if you are calling from Thursday-Monday). Please be sure to try calling the Lodge (802-773-9742) if you have difficulty communicating with the house-mom for your spontaneous plans.

1. **Your full name**
2. **Number in your group and composition (ie a couple, kids (ages), family, member or guest, etc) and their full names.**
3. **Date and day of arrival, the number of nights, and the date/day of departure**
4. **Your intended Payment method (Zelle, mailing a check, payment upon arrival, gift-card, voucher, etc)**

Below are some examples of the type of information that would best-help your communication with your House-mom. These are not intended to be all inclusive....they're just samples.

Example 1

Hello my name is "John Smith". I would like to arrive at the lodge on Dec 1st and stay for 2 nights, leaving the morning of the 3rd. I will be alone. If I can get bed XYZ, that would be great but will take what is available. I can give you a check upon arrival or mail to you. Thank you.

Example 2

Hello my name is "John Smith" My wife "Jane Smith" and I would like to arrive at the lodge on Dec 1st and stay for 2 nights, leaving the morning of the 3rd. Jane is also a member and we would like a couple's room if available. I can Zelle the payment and so as you can confirm. Thank you.

Example 3

Hello my name is "John Smith". I would like to make a reservation for myself, my son "Adrian Smith", my brother-in-law "Steve Harris" and his son "George Harris". Steve and George are not members. We would like to arrive at the lodge on December 1st, stay for 2 nights, and depart on the morning of the 3rd. If possible, I would like all of us in one room. I can mail you a check or give you a check upon arrival. Thank You.

Once you have your assigned bed, you are not allowed to change your sleeping location without approval from your House-mom. This includes taking a perceived empty bed in another room or in the attic. There've been a few occasions when we have had members arrive late at night only to find someone in the bed/room they have been assigned. Mayhem and chaos ensue.

As House Moms we do our best to facilitate your reservation and make your Lodge experience as enjoyable as possible. We take into consideration each scheduled member coming-and-going, changes of plans (extending/shortening their stay), groups that would like to bunk in the same room, short notice requests and overlapping stays that cover two or even three different House Moms. Eighteen hundred bed nights is awesome...but can be a bit to juggle...**so please, talk to the House Mom before moving from assigned bed/room.** We promise to do our best to help.

We thank you for your cooperation and wish you to a wonderful Winter season.
The Lodge Committee



RACING SCHEDULE

RACING. 2024-2025

1/06/25 -1/09 Race Camp, Hunter Mountain GS and SL with racing to follow.
Contact me for details and I'll pass on prices and contact people, these are not Highlife Events, but you can certainly make reservations to stay at our lodge.

Killington Ski Bums- GS course on Highline

each Wednesday 10:00 Am -2:00 Pm

1/8/25– Race 1
1/15/25 -Race 2
1/22/25 -Race 3
1/29/25 -Race 4
2/5/25- Race 5
2/12/25 - Races 6 & 7 (DOUBLE RACE WEEK)
2/19/25 - Race 8
2/26/25 - Race 9
3/5/25 - Race 10
3/12/25–Finals

Pico Ski Bums every Thursday

Afternoon 1:00 to close

1/16/25 - Race 1
1/23/25 - Race 2
1/30/25 - Race 3
2/6/25 - Race 4
2/13/25 - Race 5
2/20/25 - Race 6
2/27/25 - Race 7
3/6/25 - Race 8
3/13/25 - Race 9
3/15/25 - Vertical challenge special event race

The following events are tentatively scheduled:

1/10, 1/11 Hunter Mountain NY
1/18, 1/19 Willard Mountain NY
2/02 Greek Peak NY
2/09 Catamount Mountain NY.
2/14, 2/15, 2/16 West Mountain NY
2/21 Jack Frost PA
2 /23 Montage Mountain PA
3/07, 3/08, 3/09 Finals TBD

Race Leagues:

United States Ski and Snowboard Association www.usskiandsnowboard.org
Michelob Ultra Ski Bum Race Series - Killington- Pico www.killington.com
Nastar- www.skiracing.nastar.com events in PA. Shawnee, Bear Creek, NY. Hunter Mountain, Vt. Okemo and Sugarbush

2/8/25 NJSSC State Race, High Life Ski Club Pico Mtn. VT.

Racing schedules are posted on individual association websites for places of events, dates and times.
I'll keep you posted as to upcoming race events and training days throughout the season. Remember race camps are a great way to train and improve your skills for the upcoming season. Contact me if you have any specific questions and I'll do my best to get back to you with the right info or contact. David Young: youngdavid020@gmail.com

If you are interested in racing for Highlife, contact Linda Burns lbsilbert@aol.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Skier Appreciation Days!

White Face Mountain: 2/3, 3/7 $64 3/30 $62 4/4-6 $54

Present your club card with the NJ Ski & Snowboard Council Sticker and a photo ID to obtain NJSSC discounts. Go to group sales if there are any problems.
Please contact Robert Zega at rjzega@yahoo.com or njssc.org if you need more information.

February 8	Super bowl Sunday
February 8	NJSSC State Race, High Life Ski Club Pico Mtn. VT For more information contact Linda Burns at lbsilbert@aol.com or 973-632-0060
February 15	Family Weekend - Snowshoe Event Bring your snowshoes and join us with your family for a fun Snowshoe Event. If you don't have snowshoes no worries. They are available for rent. Contact Andrie for further details at youngne1965@gmail.com 732-939-7879 Children need to be supervised by the parents.
February 22	Family Weekend

HLSC TRIPS

HLSC trips to Aspen/Snowmass and Bormio Italy, 2025 are filled. You can still add your name to either trips by contacting Nina Tudorowsky 973.900.4412 or email: tudorowskynina@gmail.com

SNOW ALERT CHILI, SOUTH AMERICA TRIP STARTING AUGUST 22, 2025

Some of our members are booking Chile for August 2025. Air is on AA , departing 6:40pm on August 22, EWR connecting in Miami and arriving Santiago Airport SCL at 6:45am on Saturday August 23. The return flight is Friday August 29, 2025 on United to Bogata to EWR. (45k points) There are 12 people going and more to join them next year. Booking early is the way to go. Fred has all the must need details and important information. For further information, please contact:
Fred Ensminger at 973.216.3341 or email: fred@educated1.com



Here are detailed links to all 3 ski areas:
Valle Nevado tickets are IKON
Brush up on your Spanish This is a trip into another world!
https://www.powderhounds.com/SouthAmerica/Chile/Farellones.aspx

Submitted by Nina Tudorowsky HLSC Ski Trip Chair

Here are the January-April meeting dates (including the late April elections). Check the Club website, Facebook, and your email for the latest schedule.

High Life Ski Club Meetings Schedule

- Tuesday January 7 Zoom
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday January 14 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Executive Board Meeting
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday January 28 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Lodge Trustees
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday February 11 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Executive Board Meeting
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday February 25 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Lodge Trustees
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday March 11 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Executive Board Meeting (appoint Nominating Committee)
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday March 25 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Lodge Trustees
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

- Tuesday April 8 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Executive Board Meeting
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting (present slate of candidates)

- Tuesday April 22 at Exchange Restaurant
  6:30 pm Lodge Trustees
  7:30 pm Membership Meeting

HLSC Lodge 2024-25 Winter Season

WEEKEND Saturday	Dates	Event	START SIGN UPS Tuesday	Trustee	NOTES
23-Nov	11/20-11/26		12-Nov	Jim Ferrone	
30-Nov	11/27-12/3	**Thanksgiving**	19-Nov	Ken Chodkiewicz	
7-Dec	12/4-12/10		26-Nov	Dave Young	
14-Dec	12/11-12/17		3-Dec	Dave Young	
21-Dec	12/18-12/24		10-Dec	Mike Burbridge	
28-Dec	12/25-01/01	**New Year's**	10-Dec	Dave Young	New Year's Eve Party
4-Jan	01/02-01/07		24-Dec	Chris Moser	
11-Jan	01/08-01/14		31-Dec	Donna Long	
18-Jan	01/15-01/21	**MLK Weekend**	7-Jan	Chris Cooney	Snowshow/Family Week
25-Jan	01/22-01/28		14-Jan	Chris Moser	Family Weekend
1-Feb	01/29-02/04		21-Jan	Kerry Klotz	
8-Feb	02/05-02/11	**Superbowl**	28-Jan	Mike Burbridge	
15-Feb	02/12-02/18	**President's Weekend**	4-Feb	Dave Young	Snowshow/Family Week
22-Feb	02/19-02/25		11-Feb	Ken Chodkiewicz	Family Weekend
1-Mar	02/26-03/04		18-Feb	Kerry Klotz	
8-Mar	03/05-03/11		25-Feb	Jack McDevitt	
15-Mar	03/12-03/18	**St. Patrick's Dinner**	4-Mar	Chris Cooney	
22-Mar	03/19-03/25		11-Mar	Nancy Mathieson	Family Weekend
29-Mar	03/26-04/01		18-Mar	Donna Long	
5-Apr	04/02-04/08		25-Mar	Jack McDevitt	
12-Apr	04/09-04/15		1-Apr	Mike Burbridge	
19-Apr	04/16-04/22		8-Apr	Kerry Klotz	
26-Apr	04/23-04/29		15-Apr	Jim Ferrone	
3-May	04/30-05/06		22-Apr	Chris Cooney	
10-May	05/07-05/13		29-Apr	Dave Young	
17-May	05/14-05/20		6-May	Donna Long	
24-May	05/21-05/27		13-May	Jim Ferrone	
31-May	05/28-06/03		20-May	Chris Moser	

DONNA LONG (201) 317-7830 dannl100@yahoo.com	KEN CHODKIEWICZ (973) 919-1962 kchod27@gmail.com
KERRY KLOTZ (973) 420-5444 kerryklotz@ymail.com	DAVE YOUNG (609) 571-5002 youngdavid020@gmail.com
JACK MCDEVITT (845) 988-6081 jack.mcdevitt@gmail.com	NANCY MATHIESEN (201) 400-2597 nhackelberg@yahoo.com
JIM FERRONE (973) 650-7060 jimbikeski@aol.com	MIKE BURBRIDGE (973) 610-3692 tyrus8@aol.com
CHRIS COONEY (201) 400-4021 chriscooney5150@gmail.com	CHRIS MOSER (856) 905-7960 jeager1234@yahoo.com
HL Lodge 802-773-9742	