



The Sitzmark

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HIGH LIFE SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Visit our website at www.highlifeskiclub.org

April 2018

**Club Meeting every
Tuesday.**

*All Club meetings begin
at 8:00 p.m., at the Exchange
Restaurant, downstairs room,
160 E. Main St., Rockaway.*

**Executive Committee and
Lodge Committees start at
6:30 pm at the Exchange..**

In this Issue

President's message	pg 1
Lodge Update	pg 2
What's happening	pg 3
Activities	pg 4
Lodge sign ups	pg 5

**Submission Deadline
for the May Issue is
April 25**

Send items to:

Stephen Bolcar, Sitzmark Editor
farleyscb@gmail.com

Holy-moly, for years I've been telling people that March is a BIG snow month in Vermont. FINALLY Mother Nature awoke and brought us not one but four (4) back to back Nor-easters.

We got all the snow we want, Dudah, Dudah....we got all the snow we want Zippety Du-Dah Days!!!

Like many members I was at the lodge for the St. Paddy's Day party in the barn. The skiing was utterly SUPERB that weekend. People were rolling into the lodge Saturday and Sunday afternoons with the biggest smiles seen in years prompting some to stay into the week. Northern cold and recent abundant snows created Western-like conditions in Vermont. It didn't matter where you skied; the trail conditions and snow were THE ABSOLUTE BEST I've seen in Vermont in many years. MIRACULOUS MARCH, I don't think it could get any better. Hopefully Spring won't bring 60° temps to Vermont for awhile yet and if the heat stays where it should (in Florida) the skiing will be excellent throughout April.

Amanda & Jeff Zega accompanied by 'The Cooneys' went up earlier in the week. Carol and Jack went to work their magic in the kitchen preparing the St. Paddy's day meal while 'the kids' went out and.....SKIED. I would like to thank Carol and Jack Cooney for preparing the Saint Paddy's day meal. I know the lodge report will have more information on that event but members who contribute their time and energy are what make High Life a special club and should be acknowledged for their work.

Word has it that the Friday preceding St. Paddys day, Club Treasurer Jeff Zega rocketed down Great Eastern on the way back to the Route 4 Gondola Terminal. He was skiing an older pair of 171cm. Atomic Nomads which are straighter without much side-cut resulting in a fasssst ski. As I heard it, Jeff couldn't hold the last 90 degree turn (the one with nets to keep you from launching into outer space) before the long straight run-out to the gondola terminal. The guys following who were witness to the Killington Rocket launch, told Jeff, "Man that was totally Epic". Although Atomics are known for edge hold, they didn't on this particular 90° bend. Jeff was quoted as saying, I was lying on the snow, held back by the net at the edge of the abyss, looking up and seeing my ski stuck in the netting 10 feet above ground. Yes, Jeff it was EPIC alright.....apparently there have been historical launchings on this hairpin turn before which prompted Killington to install 20 foot high netting to prevent the ski patrol from fetching bodies before bobcats, coyotes and Vermont wolves devour them! Despite the fact that Jeff (a.k.a Rocket Man) Zega tried to become an astronaut, the nets did their job and saved him.

CLUB ELECTIONS: Per the club By-Laws we must hold elections of officers the last Tuesday in April. That means we have one (1) month before, YOU the membership get to elect a new slate of officers. All positions on the Executive Board of The Club must be re-appointed each year. This means that ALL officers' terms are for one year only and we must elect new officers each year. ANYONE can be nominated for a position on the Executive Board. If you feel like the club needs new direction, you'd like to see some different viewpoints on the Ex. Board or just want to see new -younger faces then PLEASE come to the meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday in April when Nominations of Officers will take place. Remember that YOU the Members of HLSC are the ones who decide how YOUR club will be run and WHO will run it for you. PLEASE, come to the Nominations meeting (2nd Tuesday) and Election night (last Tuesday) in April when we will have food served (\$5 poll tax at the door). Open positions on the Lodge Committee will also need to be nominated then elected on Elections night.

(president's Message continued pg 3)

UPDATE ON YOUR SKI LODGE

By Jim Lent

Spring has sprung, or has it? Last month I mentioned that Vermont gets lots of snow in March. Well those of us lucky enough to visit our wonderful lodge, were ducking avalanches from the house roof, squeezing cars in the usually oversized parking lot and wearing a really big smile. Packed powder was the hashtag of the month, everywhere, as several big back to back storms dumped wonderful snow on the mountains.

About 40 members enjoyed Saint Patrick's weekend where great skiing & boarding was topped by dinner & a party in the barn. Dinner was the usual fare, perfectly prepared by Jack & Carol & Chris ...yum!!

The party featured lights & music by Chris while Amanda ran the crowd through fun & games ... and sipping some really special Irish ... well you know!

On the business side, club & lodge elections are on tap for April, with nominations on 4/10 & the election on 4/24. All positions on the e-board are open & 5 lodge positions are open. Several incumbents ARE NOT

RUNNING! This means YOU & your friends could step up and help a great club move ahead. We need everyone out on election night to talk about all that snow & oh yea vote. New this year ... no door charge on election night and hot food will be available. Our by-laws state that we need 10% of the membership for elections. Please come out and please, consider helping your club.

As the season winds down, it's time to look forward to the warm season in Vermont. That includes one work weekend per month from Memorial Day through November. Yes we need a little work to go along with all that fun. Our lodge is about 174 years old on about one acre of land in the green mountain jungle. Yes, maintenance is needed, inside & out.

In addition to work, we plan even more fun. Like last year, we are bringing back special weekends, including hiking, biking, kayaking and did I say partying? Keep an eye on your website activities schedule and don't miss out. Some of these events will be packed this year!

So don't just sit back ... be involved. Attend activities or run one. Run for an office on election night and remember ...

Participation is the heartbeat of High Life!

High Life Goes To France

By Bob Liput

I must be getting old--I thought I did send you some stuff about the trip 2 weeks ago--sorry-----High Life goes to France with 35 Happy faces---and came back with 35 tired , but happy faces--a great trip--Air planes, bus and hotel all on time and right on schedule--The hotel was one block from the town center which had a walking mall for 8-9 blocks, a casino (which many of us visited and won money)--There was rental shop right in the hotel lobby, which made life very easy.---The bus center, 3 blocks away had a bus to Italy, which many of the group did go to tour,shop and ski.--There was a free train which went to many other towns and ski areas --the station was one block from the hotel---some of the areas had some really tough slopes which challenged our best skiers--(they had a ball)--at the evening meal there were questions about the people on the trip, which lead to a few good stories about their past and funny events---We even had an avalanche to make some of the trips interesting---We also saw and hear the helicopter making several trips off the Mountain taking people to the local hospital---not High Life people.--but some people did have to go to the hospital and get some medicine for stomach problems--but it all worked out in the end--(PUN intended)--the one negative point---Doug Otte--purchased a new ski jacket (at a great price) and then left in on the bus going to the airport---good news --it is on the way to the USA, via UPS-- --Some of the days were blue bird days and all the skiers had a wonderful time---the non skiers had plenty of events and places to keep them occupied and busy all day long--Just another High Life trip with plenty of good memories

(President's Message Continued)

CHAMONIX, FRANCE: I'm sure that Bob Liput, the leader for this trip will write an article but I'd love to give my insight to this event because I was there. Although I've been in Europe before on business trips, I'd never skied there. I've made many ski trips in the Western US and Canada but the French Alps really rock. Chamonix is an entire region devoted to skiing and mountaineering. The valley stretches for miles and encompasses at least five separate ski areas (Les Houches, Le Tour/Balme, Le Flegere, Le Brevent, Les Grand Montets) offering more ski acreage than one could want. People from all over the world come to ski in Chamonix. Each day (and night) we met people from every country you could think of including Italy, Britain, Norway (The Norsemen), Jamaica, Australia, New Zealand and several South American Countries. It was like the entire world came to Chamonix to ski that week!

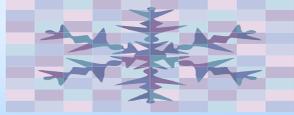
I skied with daughter Amanda and Chris Cooney each day—actually they were they to keep an eye on me. Two days brought thick fog limiting our visibility but we had two days that were bright sun and blue skies and another two that were somewhere in-between. On day 3 a group of us headed over to Le Tour after a night of snow. Trail conditions were great but visibility was partially limited by fog. A group of about 10 High Lifers consisting of Sal Pulitano, Domenick, Maggie, Mille, Amanda, Myself, Chris and a few more who got lost in the fog which is why I don't know who they were. I was wearing a bright cherry red ski parka and was given Leader's duty because I was so visible. Chris and Domenick were protecting the rear flank from prowling alp-hounds while Amanda was busy retrieving Maggie who 'slipped' over the edge of a ten foot drop and needed a bit of coaxing to calm her frazzled nerves and get her to climb back up. While Amanda tended to Maggie, I continued to lead the group but abruptly stopped after dropping over a slight dip and seeing a helicopter coming in for a landing below me. Apparently an injured skier was being airlifted out which meant that the hordes of skiers coming in behind us could (if they didn't stop) force us all into the whirling blades of the hovering copter which would have made a mess of the clean white snow. Since I was in bright red and highly visible, I crossed my ski poles and held them over my head so skiers coming straight at me could see them. That plus the ominous sound of the whirling helicopter blades caught everyone's attention, and the pack factor on the slope just above the whirlybird, increased considerably as skiers came to an abrupt halt after dropping over the rise above. Meanwhile, Maggie's blood-pressure was returning to normal after Amanda talked her through the 'ascent' back to the trail. Domenick on the other hand, slipped out of one of his skis on a steep section of the slope and not realizing that snow had balled up under his boot, couldn't get his binding to lock in. Chris was helping Dom, when Amanda pulled up and together they got him straightened out. Once the chopper left and the trail was returned to its rightful owners we made a few more runs then broke for lunch at the mid-station Lodge. As it turned out, it was Sal Pulitano's birthday so we bought a bottle of French bubbly from the bar and the group of crazy Americans sang Happy Birthday to Sal in the middle of the mid-mountain lodge amidst a large group of 'foreigners'.

Although most High-Lifers on this trip didn't ski every day, Amanda, Chris and I did. Each day we visited a new area or went back to one that had been blanketed in fog earlier so that we could see what we had missed. The views everywhere were stunning and different in each ski resort but some were totally breathtaking. Mt. Blanc, at 16,000 feet altitude was directly across from the ski resort, 'Le Brevent'. In late afternoon of the day last day, we pulled up to the bar/sky deck at Brevent, hoisted a beer and toasted Mt. Blanc on a crystal-clear afternoon with the sun shining as brightly over a cobalt-blue sky – a fitting end to an unbelievable week of skiing.

The food in Chamonix village was excellent but I found it very odd that the best pizza I've ever had was found in Chamonix! That comes from someone who is 100% Italian and worked in the 'pizza room' of his grand-parents restaurant! Reportedly, the night life in Chamonix Village was equally good, that is if you waited until 12 midnight when the bars opened. Odd hours for sure.....12 midnight until 2 or whatever .am. which is not easy to handle if you skied all day and plan to the next! Although I didn't travel to remote resorts, a number of Club members went to ski resorts in Italy (Courmayeur) and France (Megeve).

However you look at it and by whatever barometer you use to measure satisfaction, the Chamonix trip was great and I'd do it again in a heartbeat!

It wouldn't be right to end this article without acknowledging the skiing of the Grand Masters of this trip.....Peter Bagley, Joe Heissler who was later joined by Glen Kunstle. These guys skied the steep and the deep. One day Amanda, Chris and I got to trail in the snow dust of Peter and Joe and I can tell you, that these guys are GOOD skiers. Anyone who skis in their company is keeping up with the 'good-ole boys' for sure.



Club Activities



Date	Activity/Event	Event Leader &Phone
------	----------------	---------------------

4/6
Fri

Happy Hour at Tiffany's

One more time--enjoy the gang and share a drink or two with fellow High Lifers--some finger food will be on the tables--and also available for purchase--Tiffany's Restaurant Rt 46 Montville--happy hour prices 4 to 7 pm--stay later if you wish--enjoy the evening



Bob Liput
bobski711@optonline.net
Phone: (973) 839-9124

4/14
Sat

A Night at the Races

Price is still \$12--Beer, wine, hot and cold buffet and back by popular demand--Hot Dogs after the 5th Race--American Legion Hall 20 Cortland Place Newark--off street parking--food is served at 6:00 pm --races start at 7:00 pm

Bob Liput
bobski711@optonline.net
Phone: (973) 839-9124

4/21
Sat

Thomas Edison Historical Tour

Free 90 minute tour of the Historic landmark in West Orange

Bob Liput
bobski711@optonline.net
Phone: (973) 839-9124

4/24
Tue

Annual High Life Elections

Come out and support the club. As with every year all e-board positions and half of the lodge positions are up for re-election. WE need member participation to fill positions and to vote so please be at the meetings!

HIFELIFE Lodge SCHEDULE 2017 Winter FINAL

WEEKEND Saturday	EVENT	START SIGN UPS Tuesday	TRUSTEE	COMBO
4-Nov		24-Oct	Cliff Gawel	
11-Nov	Work WeekEnd	31-Oct	Chris Cooney	
18-Nov		7-Nov	Donna Long	
25-Nov	Thanks/WorldCup	7-Nov	Kenny Chodkiewicz	
2-Dec		21-Nov	Jim Ferrone	
9-Dec		28-Nov	Mike Burbridge	
16-Dec		5-Dec	Chris Cooney	
23-Dec		12-Dec	Jim Lent	
30-Dec	New Years Party - Dec31	Dec 5 Party Goers/ Dec 19 Others	Cliff Gawel	
6-Jan		26-Dec	Bill Swayze	
13-Jan	Kid	2-Jan	Chris Cooney	
20-Jan		9-Jan	Mike Burbridge	
27-Jan		16-Jan	Jim Tobey	
3-Feb	SuperBowl	Jan 09 Party Goers/ Jan 23 others	Donna Long	
10-Feb		30-Jan	Mike Burbridge	
17-Feb	Kid	6-Feb	Kenny Chodkiewicz	
24-Feb		13-Feb	Cliff Gawel	
3-Mar	Trips Week	20-Feb	Jim Lent	
10-Mar		27-Feb	Bill Swayze	
17-Mar	St Patricks	6-Mar	Chris Cooney	
24-Mar	Kid	13-Mar	Kenny Chodkiewicz	
31-Mar		20-Mar	Chris Cooney	
7-Apr		27-Mar	Mike Burbridge	
14-Apr		3-Apr	Donna Long	
21-Apr		10-Apr	Amanda Zega	
28-Apr		17-Apr	Jim Ferrone	
5-May	Summer Season	24-Apr	TBD	
12-May		1-May	TBD	
DONNA LONG	201 317 7830	JIM TOBEY	973 202 7028	
BILL SWAYZE	973 479 5055	KEN CHODKIEWITZ	973 919 1962	
JIM FERRONE	973 650 7060	JIM LENT	973 670 8827	
CHRIS COONEY	201 400 4021	AMANDA ZEGA	201 213 3637	
CLIFF GAWEL	201 394 0623	MIKE BURBRIDGE	973 610 3692	
HL Lodge	802-773-9742			