

The Sitzmark

THE NEWSLETTER OF HIGH LIFE SKI
AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Visit our website at www.highlifeskiclub.org

April 2019



**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
Ski trip photos	pg 3
Meet Your...	pg 4
Pres message (cont.)	pg 5
Upcoming Activities	pg 6
Lodge Schedule	pg 7

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

Send items to:

Stephen Bolcar, Sitzmark Editor
farleyscb@gmail.com

President's Message

March was adventure month for High Life with 2 big trips. One lead by Ken Chodkiewicz headed West to Snowmass and the other lead by Bob Liput went East across the Atlantic to Innsbruck, Austria. Both trips were well attended and I'm sure members on either one came home with good memories. I heard a little about the Snowmass trip from 'Drew' while at the lodge this weekend. Apparently several members attempted the steeps of Aspen while most stayed at Snowmass. According to Uncle Bill Graham, it's been about 10 years since he and I roomed together in Snowmass but I remember the area well. For anyone who's never been, I can tell you that Snowmass is a primo Colorado resort that is groomed to perfection each morning. If you're not one for corduroy, well you may not like it but for those who like it 'soft and easy' the groomed slopes of Snowmass are about as close to purrfection as you can get. Snowmass has a high summit at almost 13,000 feet and if any on the trip summited, you hopefully found the bronze plaque erected there to commemorate the life of John Denver, the original 'Rocky Mountain High'. Apparently Snowmass was a favorite of John Denver.....and John was a favorite of many!

I was on the other trip, yeah that one....the one to Innsbruck which of course, generated its own memories. As it seems to go, about half of the folks on the EU trips either don't ski or elect sight-seeing as an alternate activity. As last year in Chamonix, I was in the 'ski group' but then again as President of a ski-club that's what I am supposed to do, right? Also as in Chamonix, we had a number of foggy days in Innsbruck when visibility was worse than poor. I don't mind a bit of fog but when vis is down to zero i.e. not beyond your ski tips....things get dicey all too quick. Ask Sal Pulitano who didn't see the side of the trail and skied head-on into a snowbank while making a right turn into the 'great-whiteout'. Thankfully it was the uphill side of the trail and not the downhill side that had an abrupt 50' drop-off. I'm not sure if dense fog is a norm in the Alps or if we just hit a weather system but fog severely shortened two of our ski days and cancelled another. I want to take this opportunity to say that it was a pleasure to ski with those I did and it was equally a pleasure to visit (and photograph) everyone at the bus-stop each morning. As expected, Oscar was ever-present and always smiling – Oscar, it's good to know you, buddy! Joe Heissler and daughter Jaime (designated Ski Princess) were off each morning to hit the high slopes, not to be seen again till dinner. I didn't ski with them but heard Joe mutter something about shooting 60° pitches which I knew was good reason why I didn't.

(President's message Continued pg. 5)

The Lodge update!

The Lodge Committee wishes our members and friends a Happy Spring!! Though the temperatures may be warming up in New Jersey, Vermont still has plenty of snow on the trails! On March 31st, both Killington and Okemo still had over 100 trails each open. Don't miss out on some great Spring Skiing!!

Please note that as of April 1st, children (8 and over) will be allowed to stay at the Lodge on the weekends. As always, children are always welcome Sunday-Thursday nights.

In addition to the great ski conditions, March featured the second annual St Patrick's dinner at the Lodge. Donna Long and friends prepared a fantastic Corned Beef dinner which was enjoyed by many. Thank you Donna for running a great event!!

Our first Work Weekend at the Lodge will be held the weekend of April 27th. As usual, the work portion will be conducted on Saturday and will include a complimentary lunch for all workers, as well as complimentary lodge accommodations on Friday and Saturday night. As a bonus for this first work weekend...if you'd like to ski either Friday or Sunday (we all know Killington will still be open), the Lodge will grant complimentary accommodations for EITHER Thursday or Sunday evening. We hope this weekend will be a great start to our work schedule, plus allow everyone a chance to get in some great Spring Skiing....perhaps use your Warren Miller discounts, use up any outstanding vouchers, or get that last click on your IKON pass. Plus....we'll likely hold a fundraiser dinner at the Lodge on Saturday evening. Chris Cooney will be handling this first work weekend...so reach out to Chris for more details or Lodge reservations.

Reminder....Club elections will be held in April. Five of the ten seats on the Lodge Committee are up for election. Please reach out to Donna Long (Lodge Chairperson) or Ron Smolt (Club Parliamentarian) for additional information about the Lodge or any Club Executive Board positions.

Stay tuned for the Summer Lodge schedule....we have some great events planned!!

Thank you,
Chris Cooney, Lodge Vice-Chairperson



High Life Ski Club Invades Austria!



Photos clockwise from top:

Bob Zega Finds the Igloo bar;
Todd and Melida Cronin out
and about; High Life Lunch
time toast; Bill Grahsam goes
down; and Oscar, Jan, and Sal
at Schlick 2000. "What a
Country"



Meet Your Officer at Large!

Name: Melody Wenger **Hometown:** Lake Hiawatha, NJ

Career: Science Teacher

HL Title: Officer at Large, High Life Ski Club

How long have you been in High Life? 3 years

Why did you join HL?

To enjoy the extended Zega family and their passion for skiing. With their help, I have taken the old rusty ski skills from my youth and have improved to a beginner intermediate. I love being outdoors with all the snow and adrenaline. I enjoy it so much that I now have brought my own family into the club.



What club events do you enjoy most?

Of course skiing is the main goal and I hope to soon enjoy many of the club trips out west or to Europe (I went to Telluride last year and it was amazing). But the fun does not end there, the club parties (with dancing) and special lodge events like kayaking and hiking are always great because the attendees are all interesting and a load of fun

Can you tell us about your funniest or best memory of High Life? At the first spooky weekend run by the lodge, we had many planned activities but my favorite was lunch at a local Vermont winery. The air crisp, the wine flowing, the view relaxing, and the new friends I was making... Priceless.

The elections are coming up this month- do you have any advice for the overall membership about nominations or running for the Executive Board or Lodge Committee?

The best way to understand the ins and outs of the club is to get involved. Most executive board positions do not require loads of work or experience. And besides, everyone helps out everyone else to bring people up to speed. I've only been participating in this club for a very short time but I feel I understand its history, its philosophy and hopefully its future. But I know one thing, new blood is the best way to secure our future and make the club the best it can be.

What is advice you would give to a new member coming into High Life?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Walk up to people you don't know at weekly meetings, social events, or the lodge and introduce yourself. An easy ice breaker is to talk skiing... because that is something many of our members like to share about themselves.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Since joining the club 3 years ago, I am so fortunate to have FIVE grandbabies enter my life. And this past February I already took the 3 year old skiing!!!! Future High-Lifer for sure!

(President's Message Continues)

The groups changed daily but most days I enjoyed the company of Ron Smolt, Bill Graham, Shawn Stinnett, Jan Dabal, Sal Pulitano, Dominick, some days Oscar and one day Todd and Melida. Hey Shawn, you're a very good skier and Jan provided lots of smiles while, 'Doing what I'm told to do'!

Our best day of the week was Monday because Sunday night the mountains received 1.5 feet of new snow making conditions utterly superb at Schlick 2000, a ski resort with breath stopping views. The day after the storm, the sky cleared, the sun shone bright and OMG it was GREAT to be alive! After skiing the morning, our group stopped for lunch and beer at mid-mountain.....and do the Austrians know how to make beer!! Here's to Paulaner and their Weitzenbier! Lunch was outside at a Bavarian-style mid-mountain lodge. The beer flowed and so did the smiles! Thankfully Schlick 2000 was devoid of fog and one of the few ski resorts where we could ski to the bottom. At the end of the day, it was a long descent and worth every foot. The trail loaded with switchbacks snaked its way down this grand mountain giving us one last chance to enjoy it on a stunning day. As we descended through the thermoclines and into softer snow Bill Graham was caught off-guard in a 90° bend and unintentionally found himself launched uphill into a pine forest....Bill didn't you see the sign.....sharp left ahead! That run and our day ended at the bottom where everyone who skied Schlick 2000 found each other in an Austrian style Lodge (with Mountain goat skulls adorning the walls) for beer and music.

Rock music sung in German definitely has a different sound but after a few beers it began to sound pretty good!

Club Elections: I want to remind Club Members that the annual Election process of Club and Lodge officers will take place as follows:

Nominations: Tuesday, April 9th

Elections: Tuesday, April 23rd

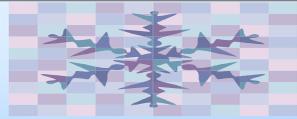
Our club has almost 400 members and although some live out of state, it would be great to see more of our local and more younger members come out to participate in the Nomination & Election process. The election process is a night for the club to celebrate as we carry on the now 55 year old tradition of choosing new officers. As in previous years, we will have food (\$5 at the door) to help defray the cost of providing good food on election night (April 23rd).

Recording Secretary: Barb Lent after many years of service to the Club has expressed a desire to step-down as Recording Secretary so we need a volunteer to take over her duties. The club has two secretaries, Recording and Corresponding with the Recording Secretary basically taking minutes of Executive Board meetings and disseminating them at the next meeting. Not a hard job in exchange for free Membership!

President: unless I can't count, I've been Club President for (7) years and before I step-down, I'd like another year to make it an even eight. It's a job that I totally enjoy but realize I can't keep forever. My birthday is in early April and it would be a great 'gift' if the membership of High Life would allow me one more year to lead the Club. I truly hope you give me that chance. During my tenure and due to good financial guidance and fiscal oversight we managed to build the club treasury and make High Life stronger than it had been. My hope, several years ago was to use some of the money to build a bathroom over the kitchen so folks staying in the dorm rooms in the rear of the Lodge don't have to go downstairs. At the time, an offer was made to fund it, the Lodge committee was not receptive but I'm hoping that might change in the future. During the last year we implemented a few new ideas as a way to add fun to Tuesday night meetings. These included a Halloween party and the hopefully annual Snowflake Festival where we crowned King Christopher and Queen Carol Cooney.....incidentally thanks to both, I hope you enjoy your reign as King and Queen of High Life!

Spring is here and with it, the lazy, zany days of Spring-skiing. Before long, the Summer sun will be here and the snow will run out but for now, have fun and enjoy it!

Best Regards to all,
Bob Zega



Club Activities



Date	Activity/Event	Event Leader &Phone
4/4 Thur	A Comedy of Tenors For ticket info call Chilton Medical Auxiliary office 973-831-5345--show starts at 8:00 pm--light refreshments will be served at 7:00 pm site is at The Barn Theatre -- 32 Skyline Drive Montville NJ--\$40 per person.	Bob Liput bobski711@optonline.net Phone: (973) 839-9124
4/5 Fri	The Secret Garden 7:30 pm---at the County college of Morris---Student Community Center Draonetti Auditorium--Parking Lot 6--214 Center Grove Rd, Randolph NJ 07869----Based on a 1911 Novel a young English Girl raised in India is sent to England at age 10 and brings new life to a neglected garden and a sickly cousin and uncle---\$10 senior price	Barbara Capsouras bcapsouras@ccm.edu Cell: (973)713-4951
4/18-4/19 Thu-Fri	Cherry Blossom Event Guided Historic Park tours of Branch Brook Park--meet at Welcome Center Extension Mill Street & Franklin Ave Belleville--View the beautiful cherry Blossoms, Prudential Grove 11 am to 2 pm--tours and all events are free	Bob Liput bobski711@optonline.net Phone: (973) 839-9124
4/19 Fri	Essex County Fine Arts and Crafts Show 140 vendors--Fine artists, crafters, specialty food vendors--Parking is free around the park--rain or shine event--Verona Park--Corner of Bloomfield Ave and Lakeside Ave Verona--10-am to 5-pm	Bob Liput bobski711@optonline.net Phone: (973) 839-9124
4/28 Sat	Rosedale Cemetery Tour Founded over 175 years ago--new guided tour Appox 2 miles of walking--meet Rosedale Chapel 408 Orange Road Montclair Tour 1:30- 3:30 pm--\$10--Registration required 973-744-1796--or www.montclairhistory.org --car pooling is suggested as parking is limited and driving to distant parts of the cemeter	Bob Liput bobski711@optonline.net Phone: (973) 839-9124
5/18 Sat	A Night at the Races \$12 gets you hot and cold buffet Beer, wine, coffee, soda all night--Hot Dogs after 5th race--\$2 bets--off street parking American Legion Hall 20 Cortland Place Newark (Ironbound Section)--food goes out at 6:00 pm--races start at 8:00 pm--see Bob Liput at club meeting for any details and to reserve a table for the group	Bob Liput bobski711@optonline.net Phone: (973) 839-9124

HL Lodge 2018-19 Winter

WEEKEND Saturday	EVENT	START SIGN UPS Tuesday	TRUSTEE
24-Nov	Thanksgiving	30-Oct	Kenny Chodkiewicz
1-Dec		20-Nov	Jim Ferrone
8-Dec		27-Nov	Jim Tobey
15-Dec		4-Dec	Bill Swayze
22-Dec		11-Dec	Cliff Gawel
29-Dec	New Years	18-Dec	Chris Cooney
5-Jan		18-Dec	Mike Burbridge
12-Jan		18-Dec	Chris Moser
19-Jan	KIDS / King Weekend	8-Jan	Bill Swayze
26-Jan	Metro Race	15-Jan	Amanda Zega
2-Feb	SuperBowl Mt Bachelor Leaves	22-Jan	Donna Long
9-Feb	Mt Bachelor Returns	29-Jan	Jim Tobey
16-Feb	KIDS / Presidents Weekend	5-Feb	Chris Moser
23-Feb		12-Feb	Chris Cooney
2-Mar		19-Feb	Cliff Gawel
9-Mar	Innsbruck / SnowMass	26-Feb	Bill Swayze
16-Mar	Ski Trips Return St Patrick	5-Mar	Bill Swayze
23-Mar	KIDS Weekend	12-Mar	Kenny Chodkiewicz
30-Mar		19-Mar	Donna Long
6-Apr		26-Mar	Chris Moser
13-Apr		2-Apr	Mike Burbridge
20-Apr		9-Apr	Amanda Zega
27-Apr		16-Apr	Jim Ferrone
4-May		23-Apr	Chris Cooney
11-May		30-Apr	Cliff Gawel
18-May		7-May	Donna Long
25-May		14-May	Mike Burbridge
DONNA LONG	201 317 7830	JIM TOBEY	973 202 7028
BILL SWAYZE	973 479 5055	KEN CHODKIEWICZ	973 919 1962
JIM FERRONE	973 650 7060	AMANDA ZEGA	201 213 3637
CHRIS COONEY	201 400 4021	MIKE BURBRIDGE	973 610 3692
CLIFF GAWEL	201 394 0623	CHRIS MOSER	856 905 7960
HL Lodge	802-773-9742		