

APRIL 2003

LiftLine

The Official Newsletter of the Garden State Ski Club

February Race Weekend In Vermont

By LauraGaines

February 1-2 was race weekend at the VT house. Kas ran a Great Race. The club had an excellent showing. The weather was warming but the winds were cold and strong. I had my 2 liter coke bottle cooling outside number 5 at the VT house when it became entombed by the cascading snow falling from the roof. In front of our entrance was two feet of snow. Some one very nice (Mark) shoveled a walk way through the snow eventually. So come spring if someone does find my coke bottle, please dispose of it correctly.

Saturday was the Council races. Eight clubs participated. We were able to run racers and qualify in all categories: Men's-Women's A and Men's-Women's B. We had at least five in each group. An excellent showing. I did notice (the other ski teams) the better the ski outfit, the better the skier. I think we should all get those hot body suits for next year. Because if you look hot you ski hot. That's what I figured out from this trip. I think the GSSC needs to have the style police near by for some counseling. In the morning a slalom was run. This is a race with short radius turns with quick foot movement. In the afternoon a full-length Giant Slalom was run. This is a race with wider turns with more cruising ability needed. Both courses were difficult, long and endurance was a factor. There were many people who didn't finish their run, but somehow almost all of the GSSCers did. That's how we came in a strong eighth.

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looking for liftline contributions:

articles

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and other entertainment where you might have talent.

contact lauragaines@prodigy.net

or any board member

On Sunday, we returned to Pico to run a club race. Pico set a nice Giant Slalom for us. It required the racer to skate the start, get on the ski and stay in a tuck the rest of the run, if you dared. All of our times were nicely grouped. Times ranged from just above 30.0

On Saturday at the Chinese restaurant (that night, it was Chinese New Year's, did anyone know?) and a bit in the lodge after racing, secrets were learned about several of our members: Dennis always carries an extra pair of

tighty whiteys (underwear) with him. We all got to see the pair (shutter the thought). Adrienne had to go to one ski store four times to try to get an exchange on a jacket she wore before. It apparently worked because she didn't get the exchange but they gave her a very nice discount on the coat she bought (wore). She then spent all the money at the Ski Shop. Ann lost her shoulder pads. Why one wears shoulder pads skiing is confusing. I would wear them on my butt if I needed padding. Hank's car broke down Sunday morning on the way to the race. He had to stay until Monday to bring the car to the dealer and while it was being repaired, ski with Ray. Ray had planned to board Monday any way. I want one of those cars, that make me stay an extra day to ski. Is that a special sales pitch? He also told me that he cleaned out the water filters in the basement so the toilets were all flushing with pride and the rest of the water flowed well. Thank you Hank. Maureen does a great job of keeping the VT house running. We should all thank her for that. I suggest you folks come out and join us for a racing night, racing day or a racing weekend. It can only improve your skiing skills and it will let you ski with some pretty good recreational skiers as well. Ski you on the Slopes.

Epilogue (from Hank) As it turned out, it was a major component with the fuel injection system. In technical terms, the mass air flow sensor only produced a 1 volt reading rather than the entire range. Fortunately, with a 1 volt reading the car could be driven but not that well. I hung around the dealer all morning

Tuesday. I told them it was Pat's birthday on Monday so I think they felt sorry for me because they just opened the hood of a new car and took the entire assembly out of the new car (rather than just the part) and put it in my car. Talk about Vermont's friendly people. Of course they told me not to tell Nissan that they did that because they would get into big trouble.

Banff/Lake Louise Trip (2/22/3-3/1/3)

By RonLichtman & MelissaSandberg

The participants in the Lake Louise/Banff trip all came back with big smiles on their faces. We were a happy bunch! The goal of our trip was to have fun. And what a fun time we had! Our travel arrangements were perfect. All flights on time. No delays!

Conditions at Lake Louise were sensational. Out of 5 ski days we had 5 perfect days. The whole group skied 3 days, took a day off and then skied the last 2 days. We skied 2 of the 3 areas in Banff - Lake Louise and Sunshine.

Much of Sunshine is above the tree line, which means the terrain is totally open and totally awesome. It also means you need a sunny day or you have "whiteout" conditions and can't see the terrain features. We had incredibly good weather and enjoyed an exhilarating day there (in fact we had 5 exhilarating ski days).

Lake Louise is immense with both a front side, as well as a backside which includes a huge bowl. It is hard to decide where to ski. All of it is wonderful. Fortunately, another wonderful aspect of skiing at both Lake Louise and Sunshine are volunteers who guide you on their personalized mountain tours. Whether you are skiing on your own or in a group, these "friends" (Lake Louise) or "snow hosts" (Sunshine) form groups by ability level,

and ski with you on the mountain. There are runs we might not have tried without the "friends" to guide us. How nice it would be if the concept became widespread in the US.

We were tired after our long ski days (some of us were tired after shorter ski days). Fortunately, our hotel, The Lake Louise Inn, had a wonderful pool, hot tub and steam room.

Unfortunately, Lyle Shaw and Ken Van Horn could not use it the last few night. Their bathing suits disappeared from their room. Wonder if the chambermaid had a fetish for them. Guess they will have to return to look for them.

The food was wonderful and varied. A real culinary adventure. It ranged from a pub featuring a Caribou Pasta to a Hostel with a very nice dining room, featuring all you can eat Spaghetti & Meatballs for \$9.00 (that's Canadian - about \$6.00 US). While no one in our group could finish even one plate, we were told the record was four - By a 12 year old - Maybe a myth but the server told us that with a straight face.

Another evening, a spectacular restaurant, one of the best on the continent (with prices to match) gave us the opportunity to sample outstanding dishes presented in a most artistic manner. Venison, Bison and other dishes not widely available at home were available at Lake Louise. Desserts were also special. A "Friend" tipped us off to ice cream with a dark chocolate sauce served alongside, in a dish like a gravy boat. A chocoholic's dream come true!

On our non-ski day most of us went to the Chateau Lake Louise, a world class hotel sitting on one end of Lake Louise (a glacier is on the other end). Many ice sculptures had been built by the lake providing a wonderful viewing experience. Some of us hiked out on the lake and then to a frozen waterfall, where some brave souls were climbing on the ice (not from

our group).

Did someone say there is no nightlife at Lake Louise? Although most of us were too tired to participate. Among the other activities: A Pajama party & Disco (over 18 only); Karaoke Night, where our own Melissa Sandberg sang her heart out to great acclaim; an evening of DJ and Dancing.

And oh yes - For those who wanted to check the news while they were away - one choice was the hit Canadian show "Naked News" (see www.nakednews.com for a taste of the show.)

In summary - Lake Louise is one of the worlds great ski areas, arguably the most scenic and definitely worth the trip.

Courmayeur and Budapest 2/22-3/5

by FredHotz

At a photo swapping party hosted by Barbara Johnson, a stranger would have thought that people from different trips had assembled to compare pictures of their respective trips, such was the range of spectacular photography on display. There were the breath taking scenery shots that were unique to the Alps and Courmayeur, vistas from nearby ski areas such as Monterosa, Pila, and La Thuile and a bevy of shots of the castles of Aosta Valley, as well as Milan and Annecy (The "Venice of France"). There were also a wide variety of photos of Budapest contrasting its well preserved heritage and culture with its emergence from the yoke of the Soviet Union. The varied pictures illustrate the many advantages of a European trip. Beyond the skiing experience itself, a European ski adventure affords numerous opportunities to sightsee in the surrounding area and cities, and reunions with friends and

trips and to meet new people and make new friends, and enjoy a different culture at a very reasonable cost.

Courmayeur, a quaint Italian village, is nestled on Mt. Blanc. The traffic free pedestrian mall was a few steps from the Crest et Duc Hotel and offered typical village shops and restaurants thankfully devoid of the chintzy souvenir shops and American fast food chains. The narrow winding back streets gave a clue to its medieval origins.

The weather Gods smiled on us having dumped ample snow in the past weeks prior to our visit blessing us with packed powder and perfect sunny days. The 100+ person gondola was an easy 5-10 minute jaunt from the hotel. Within a few minutes it arrived at the mid station which was equivalent to a base area. There you could store your equipment overnight and avoid the hassle of lugging it around. Primarily an intermediate area with pleasant cruising runs and a modern network of lifts, all levels of skiers seemed satisfied. Those who visited some of the nearby areas were equally happy.

Our local guide, Chris, organized a trip to Monterosa, an unknown gem, about one hour and a half bus ride away. Once off the modern highway, we started our ascent on a very narrow, sinewy road through a few alpine villages. The sharp turns were negotiated with care since passing vehicles had to yield to each other. We all wondered how anyone could or would attempt to drive those roads on snow or ice. Monterosa is a fairly vast, interconnected area, where we skied all day long, journeying across several mountains on very solid intermediate trails, a very European experience. The faster skiers were able to ski across most of the area, while the rest of us managed about more than half the distance. In Italy, as in most of Europe, there is a relaxed view of a ski day. The areas are peppered with smallish mountainside

restaurants most with decks where the locals indulge in sunbathing, dining with waiter service and incessantly chatting on their cell phones. It's easy to pick up on this relaxed style. There's much to be said for a leisurely lunch hour or two savoring the freshly prepared food and vino, basking in the sun, inhaling the fresh mountain air and immersing yourself in 'la dolce vita' while enjoying the natural beauty of the Alps.

Everyone returned with their personal memories of what comprised a memorable vacation, whether it be the skiing, the wonderful weather, the interesting places visited, the ambiance, an amusing incident or two, the other vacationers one got to know or a Gestalt of many factors. Food is always a topic and our hotel served a wide variety of gourmet type meals with decadent desserts under the very experienced eye of Roberto, the maitre d'hotel. To a person, everyone loved the offerings. Guido, the hotel manager, was very attentive to our requests and the staff was dedicated to their guests' comfort. Most of us flew on to Budapest for a three night stay. Our modern "four star hotel", Mercure Korona, made our stay very comfortable and the bountiful breakfast buffet assured us that we were well nourished for our morning sightseeing treks with Katie our gracious guide. Budapest is about 13 years into its independence from the Soviet Bloc and is a dynamic city of contrasts. The museum-like Parliament Building tour was a highlight. The memorial to the 1956 Hungarian uprising was in the courtyard and gave an insight into Hungary's struggles for freedom and independence. Many of the buildings still bore the pock marks of bullets from WWII. Rather than destroying the statues of the Soviet era, they were transplanted to a park on the outskirts where they will become part of the history and heritage. There were many interesting points of interest that gave us

Budapest's long history and rich culture. A few visited the mineral baths which they found to be relaxing and rejuvenating. Not to be missed was the weekly indoor market with hundreds of vendors, which gave one a good sampling of how the average person lived. Small restaurants and bars flourished and one could eat and drink very well for a fraction of the prices we pay here. The friendly people and old world charm makes Budapest a 'should visit' city. We saw and did a lot in those ten days and had a great time. I would like to extend a hearty 'Thank You' to the group for making my job a lot easier and being such good company.

Wayne's Park City Ski Trip 3/1-8 2003

by LouMortaro

This trip started early, how early you ask? There were some rumors that some members of the trip never made it to bed the night before. Our group needed to be up gone before dawn to make a 5:30 a.m. departure. This is a time my wife may never forgive Wayne for such a departure. Then again early for Susan is 10 a.m. on the weekends.

Our flights to Salt Lake were uneventful with everyone making the plane. The airline understands the shortest distance between two points is a straight line so they routed us to Salt Lake via Huston. Upon our arrival in Salt Lake we were greeted by fellow Garden State Club members on Weavers trip heading back from their week of skiing. Good luck was exchanged, and best wishes for some snow were passed on to us. The hurry up and wait for the luggage was followed up by a dash for the bus. The loading of the luggage on the bus was accomplished because we were only 30 people. If there were more people the bags would have gone in with us, not under the bus.

We arrived at our Hotel the Chateau Après, or better know to those on the third floor as the Stairmaster. The location was excellent. It was truly walking distance to the Park City area and one block from the city bus route. There was no bar and the accommodations were Spartan. Wayne and Cathy did an excellent job as our host and hostess. We had a wine and cheese party every night. The hotel personnel were very attentive and even made us excellent apple cider nightly. Unfortunately, this being Utah it wasn't spiked.

Sunday was our first day of Skiing. The sun was bright and every one was full of energy. Wayne had arranged for tours of the mountain. We broke up in three groups by ability level. There were about 20 of us in the cruising group. I took some pictures, some of them would have been better if I remembered to put my camera on automatic. The one picture I could not get was of this mass group of people in unison going charging after our guide. I only wish I had a moving picture, it must have been a site to behold. I can only guess what the locals may have thought.

Monday was another day of skiing in the sun. The group split up and there were people skiing Park City, and Deer Valley. Then the fun started as we had three days of snow or partial snow. In total we had almost 2 feet of new snow on the slope. This is where skiers have nothing on fishermen. Everyone gave descriptions about the area they skied. The tales of how much powder and how well we all skied were passed around at the wine and cheese party. It was one of those days that Wayne took some hearty souls down Jupiter Bowl. I think it was, "follow me it's not bad", and they followed. All survived with no injuries. They were glad they had done it. Stan and Mary Ellen Dziedzic did some Nastar racing to win bronze medals. Someone needs to check their level on the race committee.

On days that people did not ski, our group was like locust covering all the Salt Lake area: from down town, to the Olympic site, there were Garden State people. There were rumors that someone even took a bob sled run, and someone else was going to become a Mormon until they learned that drinking was out. You know Garden Staters. Our trips into town were also fun as we all did "our thing". By the end of the week we knew the bus schedule cold. I met an old Garden State member Dave Dilloway, who is a 15 year resident of Park City now. We skied one day. I didn't know telemark skis could ski that fast and how he zipped in and out of the trees was beyond me. At night we went to dinner and had a few drinks at Renee's, a local hang-out. It was there that Dave introduced me to Dana William. He is the mayor of Park City. He ran under the planned growth platform. If you have seen the area lately I would hate to see unplanned growth. The Garden State cocktail place was Bistro 412. Wayne arranged for a group dinner at the Grub Steak our last night in town. The food was excellent.

The trip was a great success thanks to the efforts of Wayne and Cathy. Everyone had a great time and new friends were made. Wayne naturally took full credit for the weather. We all arrived home safely.

Dolomites Set the Stage for Skiing, Sight-seeing

By Janet Earley Manning

An Italian odyssey of skiing, sightseeing, dining, wining (no whining) and wonderful times took place from March 8th through March 18th as 48 members and guests traveled to Cortina d'Ampezzo and Florence. With the world poised for war, some trepidation about international travel was to be expected. But time was on our side and the only incidents we encountered were enlightening and exciting.

One day when travel to the moon becomes available, we'll be ready---because we've journeyed to Cortina. Getting to Cortina seemed to take forever. But it's relative remoteness helps make it even more desirable. Combining Aspen chic with European charm, Cortina d'Ampezzo remains a timeless jewel in the crown of international ski resorts. Old world cobblestones, churches with melodic campaniles, elegant hotels and restaurants co-exist with the 21st century trappings. It's a common sight: a mink-clad mother with cell phone to ear and a loaf of bread under the arm pushing a stroller through the narrow streets of the quaint village. Fashion statements abound in the Cooperativa, the post office, and the shops. The locals sport sleek, stunning ski wear - whether or not they ever see the slopes is not the issue.

Our hotel, the Grand Savoia, is nestled in a valley facing pink-tinged peaks. It's actually two hotels, with accommodations on either side of the busy strada. Access to the dining room was made easy by an underground tunnel. The architecture and ambience is a pleasant mix of Tyrolean folksiness and Italian elegance: lace curtains in the cozy wood timbered lounge and dazzling Murano glass chandeliers in the more formal dining room. The accommodations were fine; the wait staff, attentive and gracious. Waiter of the week award went to Giuseppe, who was right out of central-casting, Italian charm school. At our welcoming party we met our guides, Clarissa and Peter, who presented the week's options for skiing and non-skiing excursions. We were also introduced to prosecco, the sparkling aperitif wine, a local product from the Conegliano region. One new GSSC member, who staunchly announced that he didn't drink soon developed quite a fondness for that variety of bubbly by week's end.

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Our group ran the gamut from very experienced serious skiers, to strong intermediates, to non-skiing sightseers. And typical of all Carol Alesso's carefully planned trips, there was something for everyone. Comments on the ski areas and conditions are not covered in this article.

Well-planned excursions gave participants an opportunity to tour key areas in the Veneto region. A walking tour of Cortina's environs took us on back roads and paths, providing a glimpse of local houses as well as vacation retreats of the rich and famous such as the members of the Ferrari family. Alfresco lunch overlooking a small lake gave us a taste of local cuisine. Driving through the Dolomite villages revealed remnants of World War I history and the 1956 Winter Olympics. The original ski jump from the event is still intact, used today for a version of 'snow tubing.' Those Olympic games really put Cortina on the world map, magnifying its appeal as a jet set destination. In the late 50's and early 60's, it was the backdrop for celebrity getaways. It was not unusual to spot the likes of Marcello Mastroianni, Carlo Ponti, Sophia Loren, Porfirio Rubirosa, Vittorio de Sica and film glitterati among the skiing superstars of the day. Indeed, the area still bears a kind of 'fifties faded elegance' that is like stepping back into time.

Tours took us through the scenic Val Pusteria and the Alto Adige region. (Read the label on your wine bottle; that's where much of the Pinot Grigio comes from). Conquered by Napoleon, ruled by the Austrian Hapsburgs and returned to Italy at the end of World War I, this is now an autonomous region, more German in feel than Italian.

We visited Bolzano, the capital of the Sudtirolo. The museum here is home to "Otzi the Iceman," whose mummified remains were found on a nearby glacier.

In the city of Bressanone (called Brixen by the Austrians), cameras captured the typical Tyrolean architecture, porticoed sidewalks, cloisters and open squares. Here the trappings of modern life (like stylish shops and gelaterias) coincide with well preserved historical sites.

Another excursion took us to the unique village of Cibiana di Cadore. Once a bustling center for making tools and keys, it became a virtual ghost town when the iron mill closed. For months of the year, the men of the village left to make ice cream, leaving the town even more desolate. To drum up visitors and business, the enterprising mayor began inviting artists from all over the world to paint murals on the stucco exteriors of the buildings. Today it is a stunning open air art gallery, where impressive paintings depict the history of the village and its inhabitants in styles ranging from traditional to abstract. After much climbing and picture taking we gathered for a prosecco break at the local café. A tour of Conegliano, capital of one of Italy's most important wine regions, gave us time to check out a flea market and the remains of a medieval hilltop castle. On to Treviso, capital of the Veneto region, lined with waterways and frescoed buildings. Here we braved the crowds in the museum to view an Impressionist exhibit featuring works by Van Gogh, Monet, Cezanne, Sisley, Tissot and others.

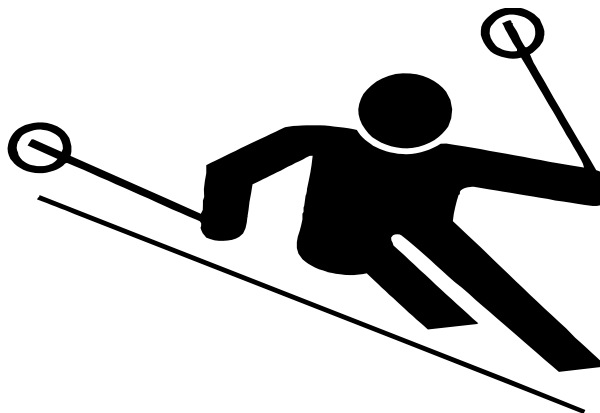
For many, the day trip to Venice was a high point of the trip. All the familiar postcard settings of "La Serenissima," the 'serene one,' unfolded slowly on a misty morning. From the glass furnaces on the island of Murano to the majesty of St. Mark's Square to the parade of gondolas on the Grand Canal, Venice is magical. With much to see in limited time, some toured the Doges' palace, a few hopped on the vaporetto to visit Peggy Guggenheim's art filled home and everyone squeezed in shopping

Speaking of wine, one might say it dominated the trip. There was wine before dinner, lots of wine during dinner (the sparkling red raboso was a favorite), wine at lunch at the refugio on the mountain, wine on the bus...well, you get the idea.

Drinking in the incredible art treasures of Florence wrapped up our week and half. As we sped our way from the mountain scenery of Cortina, down mountain passes punctuated by hairpin turns, we watched the landscape change from Tyrolean to Tuscan. Vast olive groves and vineyards dotted with stucco farmhouses led us into Firenze, where we exchanged tranquility for city energy.

Like extras in a Chevy Chase vacation movie, we dashed from monuments to markets to museums, catching what we could of the Uffizi, the Ponte Vecchio, the Accademia and all the treasures of Florence. Exchanging insider information on restaurants, the best places for leather (did everyone buy a jacket?), the scoop on gelato and more varieties of wine, we savored the sensory temptations of this amazing city.

There are photographs and souvenirs and memories to remind us. And in view of turbulent times that still remain, there is an incredible sense of gratitude for the opportunity of sharing an unforgettable trip with special friends.



CATAMOUNT BUS TRIP

by: PatYoung

The alarm went off on Sunday morning at the ungodly hour of 4:30 a.m. I grabbed my cup of coffee and had a vague recollection of a vow I took several years ago, "for better or worse..." With that, the "friendly" bus trip was off and running.

About 40 intrepid Garden Staters boarded the bus to Catamount on March 23, munching along the way on a hearty breakfast of bagels and CHOCOLATE donuts. Snow conditions were less than optimal that day, but we pretty much had the mountain to ourselves, and that just meant that Happy Hour started a little earlier than usual.

Those of us who quit early (hey, I took two runs!) had a bird's eye view of the double-combined racecourse, and it was very interesting to watch the various racing styles and "wipeouts".

As the VCR was not working on the bus (AGAIN!), we held "open mike" auditions for Rascals Comedy Club. I've been fielding non-stop calls ever since from agents who are very interested in our future Jerry Seinfelds! All in all, we had a great time, the mountain treated us very well, and we are looking forward to going back to Catamount next year.

and as close

RACING the end of a SEASON, Hmmmm... what was it about?

By KasKasrowicz

Phew, sigh, another season put to rest. At least 'till the "Prom". No sooner do you get started and hope that we get a good dump of snow to entice the red-blooded racers, then it's all over. Time now to reflect on what could have been. The old "if only....but if....maybe if...all the 'ifs' " kick in". That old-so-and-so beat me again, I'll get him next year. I won't warn him/her". The old excuses go on and on. Like the saying goes...excuses are like an ---, everybody's got one. (to put it fit for print).

Anyway, it was a good year after last year's dearth of snow and all finagling that had to go with it. We had the usual wars raging in the divisions. Anita's season unfortunately cut short by an, "I went that way but my leg didn't" episode.

It thwarted the promise of a ding dong battle with Kathy R. Laurie was juggling teaching and racing. Our Ambassadors in Vermont, Kathy the Kat, well who knows what the heck she was up to. Lower down we had Kathy M polishing up her vocabulary for the trickier gates. Nancy A analyzing the snow before approval for self-torture and many others, all characters, giving it their all. It was great to see some 'new bees' out there. They did their first run and realized what a great way to vent your daily frustrations and have a good time. It wasn't any different for the boys. In the A's there was Joe, Cliff, Ray, James, Pierre et al, all going to war. But, wait a minute....where was Vincenzo?...it's not the same without him. Sorry to report, it seems like he has fallen in love. Vince, this is not good enough. A Marine does not wear a skirt.

(Only in Scotland). Maybe his young lady will let him loose a little next season, so he can mix it up. WE MISS YOU VINNIE!! Of course we had Paul K with his trademark stein looking for any excuse to party. Mark E steady as ever, but throwing in a 'fastest run of the day' just to wake us up. He even had time to get some great pictures of us. Of course we also had some first time racers in the men's ranks. People like John T and others showing some latent talent like Steve C dancing his way to a perfect score. Way to go guys!

A little faster each year and start nipping at the A-men's corner. We could not get through these reflections without mentioning the perennial battle between Dennis, Steve and Pete. Each one out-bragging, out-psychoing or out-threatening the other. Steve naturally plays the percentages! The mountains were good to us except for one that forgot we existed before the season even got going. Never mind, send in the Marines, wake 'em up! So there we go sit and wait for next season. I'll be looking out the window all summer when the temperature plunges to 60 deg.



MEET THE BOARD

In this issue we continue to meet the board members of the ski club. Here are a few more:

Carol Barnes is our club treasurer. She joined the Garden State 3.5 years ago and began skiing at that time. Carol had heard how active our club was, and she enjoys keeping busy. She also looked on this as an opportunity to meet new people. Carol is primarily a downhill skier, but this winter she began cross-country skiing as well. When ski season is over, Carol passes the time traveling, playing golf, attending art exhibits and spending time with family and friends. Oh, and there's always the club treasury to oversee.

Lionel Chaliar, a lodge trustee, has belonged to Garden State for 3.5 years. Born in France, Lionel spent much of his childhood in Mexico and is fluent in both Spanish and French. His favorite language, however, is snowboarding which he does as much as he can! Lionel's occupation is printing salesman. When asked why he ran for the Lodge Committee, Lionel said he thinks every member should give back for the fun they get from the club. Lionel had purchased a share in the Vermont lodge in the past. So this seemed like a natural way to give back while at the same time having lots of fun. Aside from boarding, Lionel's pastimes are painting, collecting and refinishing antique skis and collecting pre-Columbian statuettes. Lionel is in his 2nd winter of providing the club with

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Hank Mazzucca is in the 2nd year of his 2-year tear on the Lodge Committee. He has been in the club 3 years, which coincides with how long he has been skiing. Hank initially cross-country skied and enjoyed it so much that he became AISA certified as a cross-country instructor. It wasn't long, however, until the "need for speed" overtook him. He got involved in downhill skiing. In January 2003, he earned ASIA certification as a downhill instructor as well! Hank feels that the spirit of giving is what GSSC so successful. When a position became available on the Lodge Committee, Hank felt it was his time to give back. Having participated on some work weekends, he felt that his occupation as an environmental engineer, as well as, experience building systems could be an asset to the committee. Hank's off-season interests include fishing (deep sea and sport), riding his motorcycle and just having a good time.

Vince Paruta is serving a 2nd 2-year term on the Lodge Committee. It is a natural for Vince, who works in the field of building and construction management. He has been a GSSC member for almost 10 years and is involved in downhill skiing and racing. He finds the club a terrific platform for meeting people, saying

"Where else can kids our age get together and stay out of trouble? I've made a lot of good friends and had great times with Garden State, so I wanted to give something back. I felt serving on the Lodge Committee was a way to contribute my skills and abilities to help improve the lodge. I don't think it should be a free ride, you know." Vince is an ace roller blader and helped run spring and summer roller-blading gatherings for the club. He also enjoys photography, woodworking, Aquarian interests and beaching the day away.

THE PREZ SEZ.....

by DennisYoung

Well, for the majority of us, the ski season has come to an end. A couple of die-hards will be up at Killington until June. This was a great ski season with lots of natural snow. We were able to get in all of the Club races, and we ran five of the six scheduled bus trips. The instruction program was successful, as usual. The Club's ski trips went well too. This year Melissa Sandberg and Ron Lichtman decided to pitch in and run their first Club trip to Lake Louise/Banff.

The cross-country skiing program also enjoyed a good year. Now the mountains are shedding their winter cover to make room for the hikers and bikers.

With the ski season behind us, we can look forward to the Spring banquet, tennis parties, golf outings, and the camping and canoe trip. "The Mix at Six" is a new theme started this year and seems to have caught on. Also, I am happy to report that Herm Schamber will run our BBQ program--AGAIN! Anyone who has attended one of the BBQ's can attest to the fact that it is not an easy task. Herm would welcome your help in making the BBQ's run smoothly. However, I understand that this will be his last year running the BBQ's. This would be an excellent time for someone to come forward so that Herm can show you the ins and outs of running a BBQ so that they can continue in the future.

I would like to thank the membership for approving the By-Laws change in February, making the membership process easier. It took a lot of work but I know it was in the Club's best interest. Sue Amdur-Coburn will be Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

The Vermont lodge doesn't close when the snow melts! We run a year-round lodge. The spring, summer and fall seasons are great

biking. You can also use the lodge as a base camp to explore Vermont and nearby New Hampshire. It's great for a long weekend. The price is right. Give it a chance. The house is yours so take advantage of it. Contact Maureen Lent for reservations.

This year brought the debut of the GSSC Newsletter, which adds another dimension to communicating the Club's activities. It's a great way for me to inform all members who have email at once (sometimes 2 or 3 times!) of upcoming ski and social activities. I would like to thank our Webmaster, Ken Levins, for his help in setting up this program and his continued work on the GSSC website.

Coming upon us very soon is the election of a new Board of Directors. I just would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Board and various members for putting together an excellent ski and social program this year. If I attempted to thank each of you, I'm sure I would miss someone. (I will mention Laura Gaines for tackling the Lifeline!) You know who you are... and it's people like you who make GSSC the great Club it is!! Keep up the good work.

For the most up-to-date information, please check out the GSSC website at www.gardenstateskiclub.com.

For any last minute trip cancellations, call the GSSC hotline at 973-478-8722.

See you at a GSSC function soon.

Dennis

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