



THE NH SKI CLUB NEWSLETTER

Vol. 14, Issue 8 April 2017

*We don't just ski!*

## President's Message



As the ski season starts slipping away there remains one place left in New England where die hard skiers/boarders can go well into the summer to get the adrenaline rush they're looking for. I'm talking about Tuckerman's Ravine which was first skied in 1914 and is still a destination to check off your bucket list. Skiing the headwall at 55 degrees is certainly a challenge but it also comes with crevasses, falling ice chunks, rocks and cliffs. There are other less challenging runs but it does require about a three hour hike to get in and climb up for your run which is exciting but only lasts a quick minute or two.

Tuckerman's became popular in the 1930's when the famous "Inferno" races started. The course started up in the snow fields on Mount Washington down over the headwall all the way down to the road. The first two years had the skiers stopping at the headwall to pick their way down but in 1939 a young Austrian skier named Toni Matt was unfamiliar with the course and went off the headwall at speed dropping way down into the bowl and cut the finish time almost in half. He became an instant legend and that was the last Inferno race as it was unsafe to duplicate his run.

To honor the old race a new race called "Son of the Inferno" was born in 2000 but you now need to run, kayak, bike, hike and then ski a giant slalom course in Tuckerman's Ravine. You can enter as an individual or as a team and the money raised helps the Friends of Tuckerman's group whose mission is to protect and maintain Tuckerman Ravine and the surrounding area. This year's race is on April 8<sup>th</sup> and I believe the ski club has a participant whose story I'll get to tell at the next meeting. Even if you don't ski Tuckerman's it's worth hiking in to watch on a nice sunny day in late April or May. Bring lunch, an adult beverage and sunscreen as the reflected sun is brutal.

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers and board members as they will do a great job leading the club for the next two years!

Think Snow!

Jim

## \*\*\*\*\*Important Notices\*\*\*\*\*

**Location Change** - The meetings will be held **upstairs** at the Yard for the rest of the season. Same entrance, just go up the stairs to the left.

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### Club Calendar

April 12	Club Meeting
May 10	Club Meeting

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### New Board of Directors Elected

Last month new board members were elected by the voting club members. The new officers are: Kevin Reigstad, President, Troy Schwotzer continues as VP, Debby Schelzel continues as secretary, and Don Eaton is the new treasurer. Board members include Jeff Sanders, Bill Driscoll, Lynda Lombardo and Nancy Caron (Nancy KC) who will take over as the Membership chair. Vic Snowdon has been named to the position of Operations Director. The new board members will work with the current board for a few months before they take the reins.

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### How new “Ski Design” is shaping up these days

By John Herlihy

I've been a rather reluctant adopter of new technology in skiing. Though I've been skiing for several decades, I've generally upgraded equipment when the buckles snapped off my boots, or I've delaminated a ski, or left an edge of one up on a piece of ledge in my wake.

So, as I tend to ski 99% of the time in New England, I didn't see any reason to adopt this new “Rocker” design of skis.....as I'm happy “ice skating” down the slopes with a sharp, rigid edge on my skis. But then there are those trips, to places with abundant snow, glades and ungroomed expanses....where the traditional skis become lost....they are still very heavy.....and purpose built for cruising on hard-pack snow and ice.

Then came Chamonix, Whistler, Heavenly, Squaw....etc, and though people would say... “Those skis are wide enough”, I found that skiing in those environments were very unpleasant. I would sink down in the snow....my ski tips would be buried, and I'd strain to swing my skis about in what seemed like a deep tapioca pudding. When my skis resurfaced...I'd be in the lift line again. I couldn't wait to get back east!

But just recently Jackie and I went to Park City and Brighton, where we chose to use our own boots and rent some demo skis. What an epiphany! We were put on Rossignol Sky 7 skis. These were a very current version of the “Rocker” ski technology in an “All Mountain Ski”. They were fantastic! We felt like we were gliding upon the snow...as if on “Hoverboards”. The conditions there were variable, 8-10 inches of tracked snow...some groomed, and some open terrain. These skis floated, but allowed us to edge sufficiently, for the few areas we crossed that had some hard cover.

We loved these skis so much, that we bought a pair immediately upon our return to New Hampshire. And

amazingly, we went to Killington the very next day, and they had 10 inches of nice cold snow the night before, and we verified that these skis were exactly what we had been missing for our trips that included “Off Piste” skiing with deep and ungroomed snow.

Apparently the creator of the Rocker concept was trying to make a snow ski behave much more like a water ski. Now not many of us would try to use a snow ski on water, (I have, but only under duress, at Cannon in the Springtime dressed as a skunk), but the concept is proven in deep snow skiing.

On water the skis are wider for flotation. In deep snow....my normal skis sink..they are heavy and relatively thin. I needed more flotation. Amazingly, the manufactures have used this “Rocker” design to push both the front (tip) and heel (tail) upward, so they are elevated, and cause less drag on deep snow. They have even used air or “Nanogel”, a special carbon form that is very light, as a filler....to help make these skis light as a feather....okay, maybe as light as a Pterodactyl feather...but still light.

I found these skis to be a joy to use in powder, clutter, ungroomed and groomed trails. They turn on a dime....as though they are half their length. Skiing in the trees is made easier since turning is lighter, turning radius is shorter and they do not have a powerful spring to them, so all landings, leaps and hops result in a soft, cushioning beneath your feet. In soft moguls they are great fun, and easy on the body due to their soft flex. Jackie often shied from the moguls and glades....now she’s always on the lookout for another place to dive in and experience this new form of skiing unleashed by the “Rocker, Elevated Tip, All Mountain, Reverse Camber, Ultra-Light, Free Ride skis”!

Oh, by the way....keep your stiff edging skis on hand....these are still unbeaten on NE “Boilerplate”!

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## Park City Trip a Blast

by Lynda Lombardo

Powder fantasy week, best skiing of my life, Dreamcatcher. It truly was a wonder of a week. We had fresh champagne powda for two days and Utah's snow is incredibly soft and fluffy. I still have the visual image of floating through the Aspens on a white cloud in my recent memory. It hasn't been swept over with daily mundane memories: remember to call furnace repairman, remember to pay credit card bill, remember to take out the trash, blah blah blah. But definitely I keep remembering skiing down McConkey's bowl.



Yes, it stopped snowing and the next best thing happened, the sky turned bluebird blue. We had a clear day at Deer Valley and enjoyed the opulent lodges. Everyone says nobody skis Deer Valley on a powder day, well, that's a falsehood. The snow was pretty tracked out when we skied there which was the day after. Still, I am not complaining. There were plenty of soft pillowy patches in the trees. The groomed trails are some of the best looking ski runs you can imagine. The Park City /Canyons terrain is immense and we didn't come close to skiing every trail. And some of the group did their best at achieving this by skiing all 6 days.

Socially, we had a full dance card. Sunday night was a Meet 'n Greet with wine & cheese. Tuesday, we had a taste of smoked appetizers at Collie's Bar and Grill. Nobody went looking for dinner. Although, we did go looking for more beverages at the local saloons. No Name has a heated outdoor deck complete with custom

