



THE NH SKI CLUB NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13, Issue 7 March 2016

We don't just ski!

President's Letter

by Jim Eilenberger



It's been a long time since the club has been to Europe but we finally got a chance to go back and Chamonix gave us a taste of what it's all about. A lot of big mountain skiing, interesting lunch spots in the middle of nowhere and a good time had by all. The weather could have given us more sunny days as the upper mountain terrain was closed for wind and snow a few days but the one sunny day we were waiting for to do the famous Aiguille Du Midi (Google it!) finally arrived on Thursday. This is the run I've talked about at the meetings where you have to take a scary cable car up to a hollowed out mountain top and then walk down a knife edge roped in with your fellow skiers to put your skis on to ski a 9,200 foot run. It's not for the faint of heart

but certainly a run of a lifetime if you can make it happen. You need a guide to avoid the crevasses and a harness in case you fall in and need to get rescued. Avalanche beacons are also required as there is a real possibility of avalanches. For those of you who did it, congratulations as it certainly is a run of a lifetime.

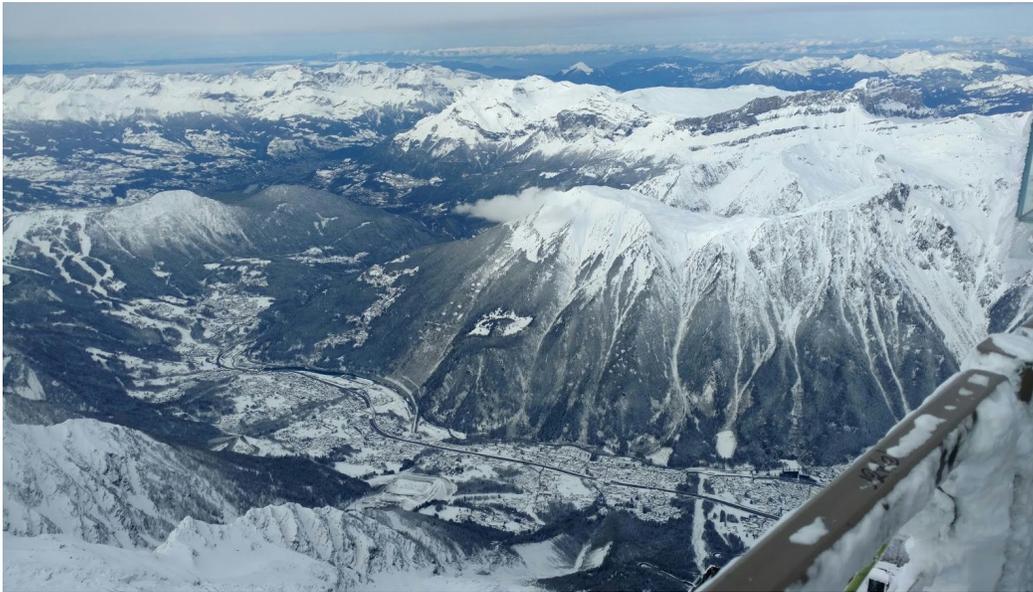
Speaking of avalanches, did I ever tell you about the avalanche at Pat's Peak? Don't laugh it's true. When I was working there in the 70's we had about 15 inches of snow fall on a very shiny crust of snow and two ski patrollers cut the rope on the Hurricane to check it out and as soon as they hit the steep part the entire slab broke loose and took them to the bottom. Both were hurt but not life threatening and the tracks remained there for several days to remind everyone of the event. When I was teaching skiing there in the 90's every time there was a crust on the Hurricane we had to side step it and break it up as Birdie Holland, the Ski School Director, remembered the avalanche and didn't want it to happen again! Sadly, there's not enough snow this year for a snow ball fight!

Think Snow!

Jim

Chamonix Trip

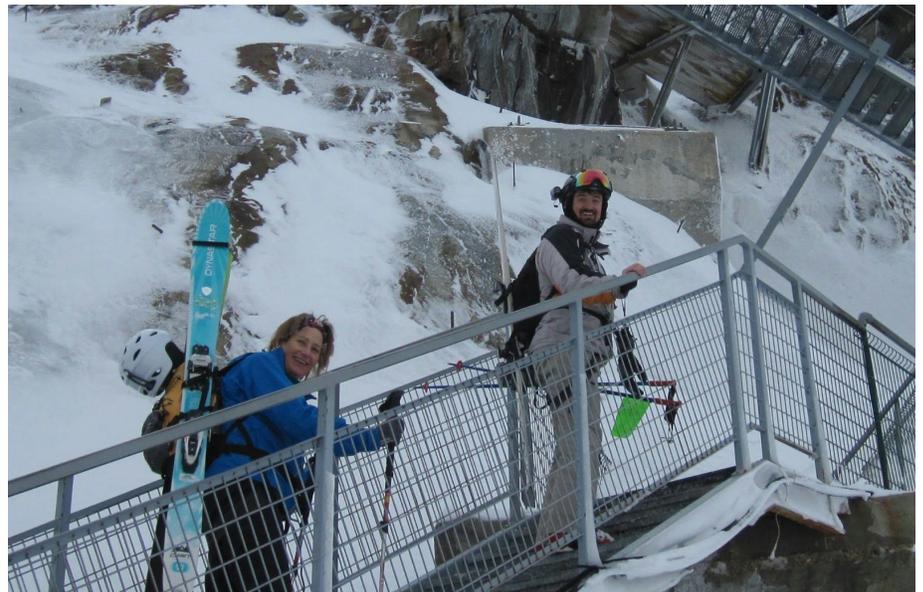
by Jayne King



Fifty three club members went to Chamonix and Geneva for 10 days. For many on the trip it was their first European experience, and for a few, their first ski trip out of New England! All will agree that the views are breathtaking. The Alps are amazing, so craggy, sharp and steep! We were blessed with snow on several occasions and depending on which ski area

you were at, the conditions would be different. Chamonix is a valley with mountains shooting up in all directions. The areas are all different, face different directions, have more or less trees and different snow conditions. At either end of town were some gentler terrain of Les Houches and Le Tour, but in the middle was some of the steepest terrain like at Grands Montets, La Flegere and Le Brevent. You could go to Italy or Switzerland for the day. It was so much fun to have dinner together at our hotel and talk about where you skied and what it was like. Most everyone had guides for at least 3 days and a lot had them for 6. We had to have guides to ski the Valley Blanche which is off the Aiguille du Midi- the most intense rock formation that

buildings are set on- well worth the ride even if you don't ski it. The Valley Blanche is an intermediate run however it made for a bit of a challenge for some because it had been closed for 5 days due to snow, winds and visibility, and the powder collected. There was deep fresh snow to be had for the first several miles. The snow cover to the valley got pretty thin so they took us off the glacier at about 7 miles. At this point, we climbed down several flights of stairs to the Mer du Glace- part of the glacier that you can walk through



and touch the walls and feast your eyes on the ice sculptures that were created. They had colorful lights throughout your walk. The ice felt like grease but yet when you touched your fingers together they were dry. The side trip was worth the extra steps. Then we climbed a thousand and ten stairs (I didn't count them but it was a lot), up to a gondola that took us to the cog train which took us back to town. What a cool experience and if you ever get to Chamonix, put it on your list. Our hotel was a 2 minute walk to the cobblestone streets filled with shops, patisseries, restaurants and old French architecture. After skiing all day, we'd walk the streets and



eat pastries, chocolate or drink French wine at one of the little pubs. At the end of our ski week, we boarded the bus for Geneva where we spent 2 days relaxing, sightseeing and drinking more local wines and beer. Some of the really interesting sights in Geneva were St Pierre's Cathedral, The Cern, the UN, and old town. A lot of us took the train to Montreux on Sunday and toured the Castle de Chillon which is a beautiful old rustic castle on the shores of

Lake Geneva. Some took a boat ride on the lake and enjoyed lunch. Whatever you did it was a nice city and plenty to do. I'd say this trip was 2 thumbs up!

CRANMORE TO BUILD NEW BASE AREA *Excerpt from National Ski Club Newsletter*

Cranmore has revealed a \$50 million plan to build a slopeside development called "Kearsarge Brook," which will have lodging, residential, and retail. But their goal is actually bigger: to re-invigorate North Conway, N.H., back to being the iconic ski town it was in the mid-1900s. The plan includes 106 new residential condominium residences at the base of Cranmore, and six new buildings that will eventually replace all existing facilities there, with the exception of the ticket office building that was renovated in 2010, and the newer Artist Falls Lodge. Also, the classic Meister Hut will remain as it has been for decades—part of the resort's goal to embrace its history while taking on major change.

Upcoming Ski Trips

Smugglers' Notch

March 4-6, 2016

2 Nights lodging in 2 bedroom mountainside condos

Breakfast buffet on Saturday and Sunday

Meet & greet on Friday night (BYOB)

Friday to Sunday Lift Ticket (3 day lift ticket)

Pot luck dinner on Saturday night

Drive yourself trip

****Contact is Lynda Lombardo.**

Ski/Ride Sugarloaf for 3 days

March 17 - 20, 2016

3 nights and 3 days of ski in/out condo living at the Snowbrook Condos

\$309 pp adults 13 - 64

\$294 pp Seniors age 65+

\$249 pp all age pass-holders and lodging only guests

Three days lift tickets

Three 90-minute clinics, except for teens ages 15 to 18, \$12 per day

Unlimited access to the Sports & Fitness Center - Bring your bathing suit

Friday night wine and cheese party.

This is a drive yourself event. You are encouraged to carpool

****Final payment is past due! See Deb Schelzel.**

Day Trips

Cannon Mountain March 12 \$50

Another fun day of skiing and socializing at Cannon! Spend time with your NHSC pals on the slopes and for après ski action in Cannonball pub. Prizes will be awarded for best helmet ornament and/or après ski hat.

Central MA Ski Group Skier Appreciation Days for March

5-Mar	Killington	\$54	
6-Mar	Okemo	\$53	
6-Mar	Killington	\$54	
12-Mar	Sunapee	\$45	
13-Mar	Loon	\$55	
19-Mar	Waterville	\$44	
19-Mar	Stratton	\$59	
20-Mar	Okemo	\$47	
26-Mar	Loon	\$47	
27-Mar	Mt Snow	\$39	
2-Apr	Loon	\$39	
3-Apr	Wildcat	\$47	

NH Ski Club members welcome!

All tickets pre-paid in full.

❄️ Cutoff: 3PM Wednesday for Saturday Trips ❄️

Cutoff: 3PM Thursday for Sunday & Monday Trips

Skier Appreciation Day tickets must be paid in advance.

Tickets are picked up on the day of the trip at the Ski area.

Directions to pickup tickets will be emailed 2 days prior to the trip.

No Shows must request a refund by email no later than two days after the trip.

To order click here: SKICMSG.COM

NHSC Officers and Board Members PO Box 6072, Manchester, NH 03108 email: info@nhskiclub.org

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Jayne King Dale Rogers