



OC Ski Club Liftline

December 2025

www.ocskiclub.org

President's
Corner
Mark Wilder
president@ocskiclub.org



December has finally rolled around -- the snow is starting to fall and our ski buses are ready to roll! Some ski areas have already opened. The ski bus schedule is online and available at the Bus Committee table at every weekly meeting. Don't forget that there will be free ski instruction available on all ski buses by our ski school of PSIA-certified instructors. The ski trips are filling up fast and some trips will have to start turning back rooms/air fairly soon. So don't delay!

Coming up this month is our annual Holiday Party. We are returning to the Century House again this year. This month the OC Ski Club turns 65! Let's celebrate this occasion together.

We also have the first trip of the season, to Lake Placid and Whiteface, featuring lessons all weekend long. It's a great way to start the season and a great place to party. Don't miss it!

I missed last ski season as I was on the mend from knee replacement surgery so I am looking forward to getting back out on the slopes again. Hope to see you all out there too!

**Cheers,
Mark**

**What's happening for
the OC Ski Club?**

[Upcoming Events](#) webpage

Out of Control Ski Club

[Facebook Group](#)

[Instagram](#)



WHO FOUNDED THE OC SKI CLUB?

Sixty-five years ago, a group of 10 avid skiers became our "charter members." Thanks to their enthusiasm, initiative, and hard work, the Out of Control Ski Club quickly gained popularity and evolved with the sport to become one of the biggest ski club in the Northeast. We're proud to honor them.

- 
1. James F. Blendell
 2. Paul Hamecher
 3. Matthew Fitzgerald
 4. Charles O'Brian
 5. Edward Bingham
 6. Sue Jarrett
 7. Francis Conley
 8. Donald Cornell
 9. Edward McCumber
 10. Kenneth Jarrett, Jr.

VP for Skiing
Lynda Heaney
skiing@ocskiclub.org



ALPINE TRIPS UPDATE – YOUR WINTER ADVENTURE AWAITS!

Our 2026 trips are shaping up to be some of the most exciting we've offered, and we want you—our members—to be part of the fun. Here's the latest on what's filling, what's opening up, and where your next run could be.

Sunday River – WAITLIST

Sunday River filled faster than fresh powder on a bluebird day. If you hoped to join us, don't give up—add your name to the waitlist. Spots often open, and we'd love to get you there!

Palisades Tahoe – Space Available (Air + Land!)

Great news for our members: we can now add additional condos, and we still have air seats available. This trip has the perfect mix of legendary terrain, great company, and flexibility. A fantastic choice for anyone wanting a big-mountain experience without the stress.

Park City – Space Available (Land-Only)

Park City just expanded with new land-only condos—ideal for members who like to book their own airfare, use points, or build a custom travel plan. The OC Crew will be out in full force for this one... come join us!

Tremblant – SOLD OUT

You all showed up early for this trip, and it is officially full. Thank you! If you missed it, we have plenty of other great options waiting

Smugglers' Notch, Jay Peak & New Hampshire – Don't Miss These

These close-to-home favorites still have space, but they're filling quickly. If you want big fun without a big flight, this is your moment. These trips are always member favorites for a reason!

No matter where you choose to ski this year, there's an OC adventure calling your name. Grab your spot before these trips disappear—and let's make this winter unforgettable together. See you on the slopes!

Lynda Heaney, VP of Skiing
Alpine Trips Committee: ocskiclubtrips@gmail.com
 518-858-0000

Complete Your Reservation!

We've had an ongoing issue with people submitting only an application or only a payment when signing up online. Please remember:

Your reservation is not complete until we receive both:

*A completed application, AND
Your deposit/payment*

If either piece is missing, your name will be placed in the pending file. **No room will be held for you until your reservation is complete.**

Help us keep the process smooth — finish your reservation today! Thanks!

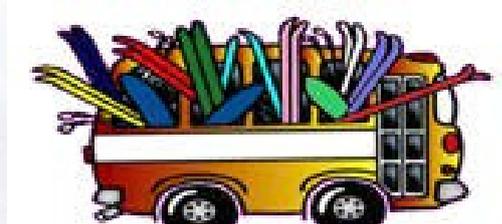
**Complete Ski Trip Details
at [OC Ski Trip Link](#)**

**Keep an eye on the weekly
email news update**



This could be you this year!.

Bus Committee



The East is beating the West for opening Ski resorts. Good news for us. Lots of snow in the hills and we are so ready to start on Dec. 7 to Killington. Killington has been open for weeks but finally it is top-to-bottom skiing. So join us for a Jello shot bus ride (kid- and adult-friendly Jello). Remember kids 5 to 17 can ride the bus with their parent(s) or guardians.

The schedule is up, a printable, downloadable PDF file on the website. The PayPal buttons are operable now. We will keep 6 bus dates active at a time. As one is finished, a new one is added to the grid. Members and their children pay \$12 per seat and guests are \$22. If you purchase online there is a small PayPal fee. Skip the PayPal fee by paying in person at meetings and Happy Hours, and also on the bus ride home.

DISCOUNT LIFT TICKETS

Killington/Pico: Ikon pass, or we get a discount code about 10 days before the bus date that you can use to purchase a K ticket or P ticket online at the mountain's website. You buy directly from the mountain.

Stratton: Ikon pass or go to the NYCDSC site to take advantage of the \$99 lift ticket price. You will be purchasing directly from the mountain per the directions on the website. You must buy at least 48 hours prior to the bus date.

Gore & Whiteface: Ski3 season pass or purchase the \$59 Frequent Skier card that gives you 50% off lift ticket price weekdays and 25% off on weekends. The Frequent Skier is limited in sales. You must buy one on or before Dec. 10, 2025 while supplies last. This is the best deal available. The card is good at Gore, Whiteface and Belleayre.

Bus Committee (continued)

Sugarbush: Ikon pass or go to the Sugarbush website and purchase **The Best Deal (“TBD”)** lift ticket for \$99. It is good any day, no blackouts, and gives you a free bonus ski day after April 1, 2026. Two for \$99 is a super price! This is a limited-time deal and last year they stopped selling about Dec. 15. Buy now! I suggest you buy 2 “TBD” tickets if you want to ski with us on Jan. 23 and Feb. 6. Both will have the bonus ticket for April skiing.

Okemo and Mt. Snow: Epic pass or we may have a discount price, usually about 25-30% off list price online. We are in talks with the mountain on getting an OC Ski Club appreciation discount ticket for dates not listed on the bus schedule. We definitely will have a discount ticket for the March 21, 2026 bus trip to Reggae Fest. I will announce that price in mid-February.

The Bus Committee is looking for discount prices for our Club members at other local mountains. Maple Ridge has \$5 off the 4-hour lift ticket; just show your membership card at purchase in the lodge. Other mountains are Willard, Snow Ridge, Butternut, Catamount, Berkshire East, Greek Peak, Bousquet, and Plattekill. One ticket per membership card. For children, purchase an OC Junior ID card for \$6 each. You can order online from Membership or at meetings. The Bus Committee has created a huge poster with the particulars for each mountain. Stop by our table at meetings to learn more. Be sure to visit the NYCDSC page as well for more lift ticket deals.

THINK SNOW!

Your Bus Committee: Sylvia Haefeli, Josh Nixon and Barbara Sorrell
Questions: email ocbus@ocskiclub.org



From left: Barb, Josh and Sylvia

December Day Buses!



Killington: Sunday December 7
Whiteface: Friday December 12
Killington: Friday December 19
Stratton: Sunday December 21



**AS THE SKI TURNS
OC SNOWSPORTS SCHOOL**



CLINICS

CONDITIONING AND PREVENTING SKI INJURIES. Thursday December 11, 6:00 p.m. at the PCC (back half of the big room). Open to all members.

Injuries and wear and tear on the knees and other weight-bearing joints are unfortunately common among skiers. Come learn about types of ski injuries and how to prevent them with Kelly Chang, a physical therapist and avid skier. The clinic will include 15-20 minutes of education followed by a strength and conditioning circuit designed specifically for skiers to build strength and prevent injuries.

SKI CARE AND TUNING CLINIC. Thursday January 15, 6:00 p.m. at the PCC (back half of the big room). Open to all members. Learn how to take care of your skis, how to determine when they need tuning, how to do minor repairs or complete sharpen-and-wax yourself. We will also discuss the latest in ski technology.

CALLING ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS! As in the past our instructors are available as a no-cost member benefit whenever we run a single-day bus. Prior arrangements must be made for snowboard, telemark, and children's lessons.

PRIVATE-LESSON DAYS

This season there will be four private-lesson days where you can choose your favorite instructor for one-on-one feedback:

SUNDAY January 4 - Stratton
FRIDAY January 9 - Gore
FRIDAY March 6 - Gore
FRIDAY March 20 - Pico

For private-lesson signups or any additional information, you can contact me at skiinstruction@ocskiclub.org or see me at any meeting or Happy Hour.

Jeff Kenton

OC Snowsports School Director



Let It
SNOW

**VP for Administration
Steven Ford
admin@ocskiclub.org**



Greetings OCers,

Mark your calendars! The snow is starting to fly. The season is picking up and we have a lot of exciting activities coming up in the month of December.

**** Make sure to sign up for the OC Holiday Party. The party will be held Saturday December 6th from 6 to 10pm at The Century House in Latham. Cost is \$60 for members and \$65 for guests. Deadline to sign up is November 30th! A big thank you to Kate for organizing.**

**** As part of our regular Thursday meetings, Thursday December 4th will be Game Night at the Polish Community Center (PCC).**

**** Our third clinic - Conditioning & Preventing Ski Injuries will be held Thursday December 11th at the PCC from 6:00 - 7:30pm. Come learn about types of ski injuries and how to prevent them with Kelly Chang, a physical therapist and avid skier. The clinic will include 15-20 minutes of education followed by a strength and conditioning circuit designed specifically for skiers to build strength and prevent injury.**

**** As part of our regular Thursday meetings, Thursday December 18th will be Santa Night at the PCC. Bring your family and your Santa suit and celebrate the holidays with your favorite OCers.**

**** December Happy Hours will be Tuesday December 23rd and Tuesday December 30th from 4:00-7:00 pm at Smokey Bones located at 1557 Central Ave. Colonie. Once the holidays are behind us happy hour will be returning to the usual Wednesday time.**

**** As a reminder there will be no weekly meetings on Thursday December 25th or Thursday January 1st. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! There will however be informal offsite meetings at our Happy Hours on Tuesday December 23rd and Tuesday December 30th. Swing by to get your weekly dose of OC fun. Our weekly meetings returns to the PCC on Thursday January 8th.**

Until next time. Think snow!

**Best,
Steve**



NOVEMBER 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

The OC Ski Club 2025-2026 Board of Directors met October 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

In attendance: Mark Wilder, Steve Ford, Lynda Heaney, John Wimmer, Gail Marotti-Hossan, Greg Bockis, Matt Fabrizio, Judy Franze Tewey, Fred Haefeli, Sylvia Haefeli, Doug Harrington, Lauren Harrington, Kate Karlok, Jeff Kenton, Cynthia Ward

APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES & TREASURER'S REPORT

Agenda: Motion: Sylvia Haefeli 2nd Gail Marotti-Hossan Passed

Minutes: Motion: Gail Marotti-Hossan 2nd Lynda Heaney Passed

Treasurer's Report: Motion: Sylvia Haefeli 2nd Gail Marotti-Hossan Passed

VP Admin

- o Membership Stats
- o Happy Hours: November 25, December 23 & 30 @ Smokey Bones (Tuesday evenings)
- o Gear Swap had a great turnout
- o New Member Party: November 6th, discussion of committee roles for the party
- o Holiday Party: December 6 @ Century House, Latham
- o There will be a repeat of the Game Night (Nov. 13)
- o Bowling is back with the next night to be Nov. 24

VP Skiing

- o Ski Instruction: season shaping up with clinics scheduled. Coming up is the Stance & Balance clinic on November 20th
- o Bus Committee: A Schedule has been assembled and distributed
- o Ski Council:
 - We will not be utilizing the stickers from the Council as the value has diminished
- o Trips are open and the clock is ticking on the turnback dates
- o Family Committee to launch a new resource: Family Steals & Deals for smaller mountain resorts & beginner-friendly discounts

NOVEMBER 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

OLD BUSINESS

- VB Tourney Update: New location was successful with some minor glitches... Approximately \$11.5k raised this year. We saw an increase of teams (4+) so that 59 teams were registered with 293 pre-registered players (28+ from last year). It was a beautiful day which brought out many spectators.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nomination of Club historian: Sylvia Haefeli
- Modify our existing policies to allow children to attend events/activities/trips unless designated as "adults only"
- Holiday Party Subsidy
- New Member Party attendance fee for volunteers/committee chairs
- Holiday Meeting Schedule:
 - o No meeting November 27th
 - o No meeting December 25th, January 1st

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting will be December 4th, 2025; PCC: 6:30 p.m.

MOTIONS:

NOMINATION OF SYLVIA HAEFELI TO BE CLUB HISTORIAN

Motion: Steve Ford 2nd: Doug Harrington Passed: Unanimously

HOLIDAY PARTY SUBSIDY OF UP TO \$25 PER PERSON

Motion: Gail Marotti-Hossan 2nd: Cynthia Ward Passed: Unanimously

MODIFY POLICIES TO ALLOW CHILDREN AT OC EVENTS NOT DESIGNATED AS "ADULT ONLY"

Motion: Fred Haefeli 2nd: Lynda Heaney Passed: Unanimously

MOTION TO ADJOURN TIME: 7:38 p.m.

Motion: Gail Marotti-Hossan 2nd: Lynda Heaney Passed: Unanimously



65th



Member Profile

OC Members since 1965
Jerry & Donna McGraw

The OC Ski Club was founded in December 1960, and by 1965 it had already grown into a vibrant organization known for its day buses, social events, and ski trips. It was around this time that Gloria Gardner persuaded her coworker and fellow skier, Donna, to join her at a club gathering at the Italian American Club near the old Tobin Packing Plant off Everett Road in Colonie. Donna was immediately drawn to the camaraderie of the lively group. The members were not only strong skiers – this was long before the era of snowboarding – but also enthusiastic socializers. Early on, Donna met two of the Club's founders, Earl Evens and Jack Kingsley. The following year she met her future husband, Jerry McGraw. Though it took until 1972 for Jerry to finally walk her down the aisle, their partnership on the slopes was instant: Donna's smooth, elegant skiing matched Jerry's adventurous style, and together they were at home on any mountain.

By 1967, the Club had moved its meetings to Panetta's Restaurant on Broadway in downtown Albany. Social events were frequently held at Cedar Hill near what is now Henry Hudson Park, as well as at a lively house on the corner of Manning Boulevard and Washington Avenue. These gatherings were large, energetic, and unforgettable. Donna often spent time with her friends Joan Benedick, later Hudecek, and Carol Phillips, while Jerry ran buses with Marty Hudachek, who would eventually marry Joan. From the beginning, the Club provided a warm, welcoming space where lifelong friendships and even lifelong partnerships could begin.

One lesser-known tidbit from those days involves Jerry and Marty, who kept a standing order of two cases of white wine, about four gallons, for their weekly bus trips. Red wine was avoided not only because it could stain the women's white ski outfits, but because the bus company wasn't interested in cleaning red-streaked seats. It wasn't unusual back then for the Club to offer wine and beer on the ride home from a day of skiing.

The group often arranged spontaneous carpools to nearby mountains for night skiing. Brodie Mountain in the so-called Irish Alps, Jiminy Peak, and West Mountain were frequent destinations. In 1965, at the old North Creek Ski Bowl, the Club organized an OC Ski Patrol for the mountain. When the patrol later moved to Royal Mountain, the National Ski Patrol began encouraging ski areas to discontinue club-run patrols. Still, several OC members – Donna, Jerry, and Dick Hoffman -- continued to patrol at Royal Mountain in Caroga Lake for decades.

Donna has since retired, but Jerry remains active, and Dick, the longest continuously active Club member since 1963, still patrols alongside him. If you visit the mountain, keep an eye out for their red jackets; each gets more than 30 days on snow every season.





65th

Member Profile

(continued)

As the Club continued to grow, so did the roles its members took on. Jerry served as trip leader throughout the 1960s and as OC president in 1969-70, while Donna served as membership chair. One memorable trip that Jerry organized brought more than 100 members to Stowe, where they all stayed at the Snowflake Lodge. Jerry recalls a grocery run with Marty when they loaded an enormous quantity of cheese, salami, crackers, and wine onto the checkout counter, fuel for a very hungry group of OCers.

Not all memories involve skiing. On one occasion, a disgruntled member attempted to sue the Club. Jack Kingsley, serving as the Club's lawyer, represented the OCs in court. Donna and Jerry attended the hearing, where the judge repeatedly remarked about Jack, "Such a nice boy!" Those who knew Jack couldn't help but smile; his reputation as the life of every OC party made the judge's comment especially amusing. The case was ultimately dismissed, and the Club prevailed.

Another good story was from a trip to New Hampshire near Cannon Mountain. The hotel was to provide dinner for about 100 people but backed out the night it was scheduled. The members simply sat down at all the tables, grabbed their knives and forks, and began pounding the tables, demanding the dinner they had been promised. The hotel caved and served the meal exactly as per the contract.

No history of the OCs would be complete without the tale of how Mash got his nickname. That story dates back to the early 1970s. During a summer hiking trip near Stowe, the group reached the summit to find that Jim Waugaman and George had laid out an impressive spread of food and drinks. Mash, then a new member (he joined in 1969), had helped haul everything up the mountain. Donna laughed and told him he was like a "MAS*H unit" from the TV show, someone who arrives fully prepared with everything needed. The name stuck and has followed him ever since.

Through all the stories, one theme remains constant: the OC Ski Club has always been built on the dedication of volunteers. The Club couldn't function without them, and members have long been committed to serving not just within the Club but in the larger skiing community as well. Giving back is an essential part of OC identity, something as true today as it was in 1960. As you enjoy your LiftLine, remember that volunteers keep our traditions alive. Stop by any Thursday night to meet committee chairs and get involved. The Club needs you, and there's always room for another helping hand.

Submitted by Sylvia Haefeli





DID YOU KNOW?

As a member of the OC Ski Club, you are also a member of the New York Capital District Ski Council (NYCDSC). The New York Capital District Ski Council is an association of ski clubs in the general Capital Region.

The purpose of the Council is to promote interest and participation in skiing. The Council provides opportunities to the members its different clubs to mingle and get to know each other.

Presently the Council consists of a number of ski clubs totaling 4,000+ members. Our member clubs ski here in the Northeast, all over North America and Europe. The Council has special promotional days set up with a large group of ski areas to help promote skiing.

BENEFITS of your NYCDSC membership:

- The NYCDSC sponsors family fun days and many other activities such as biking, hiking, camping, golfing, etc. offered by individual clubs are often open to all NYCDSC members.
- Since the NYCDSC is also a member of the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF), our Club members are entitled to take advantage of all the benefits offered by the NSCF. These include all kinds of discounts on products and services such as equipment, ski travel and resorts, car rentals and many others.

Check out these benefits at
<https://skifederation.org>

See you on the slopes!
Your NYCDSC representatives,
Cynthia Ward and Sylvia Haefeli



Judy Franze Tewey



*Off-site OC meetings in December
due to holidays on Thursdays*

Tuesday December 23rd 4-7 p.m.

Tuesday December 30th 4-7 p.m.

Smokey Bones

1557 Central Avenue in Colonie

[Smokey Bones Website](#)



Kate Karlok

A&E Committee

Activities & Entertainment

Our Club members enjoy many great "off season" activities. **Got any ideas?** Shoot me an email at activities@ocskiclub.org



Holiday Party
Deadline to Sign Up
Tuesday December 2 at noon

Here is the website link
[Holiday Party](#)



Come Celebrate our
65th Year Anniversary Together
of Being Out of Control

Holiday PARTY

Location: *The Century House*
997 Loudon Rd, Latham, NY 12110

Date: *Saturday, December 6th*

Good Food
Good Company
& Tons of Fun

- 6 PM: Party Starts
- 7 PM: Dinner
- Beef: Herb butter steak tips with mushrooms, onions, and oven roasted potatoes
- Chicken Mediera: Chicken breasts in a Mediera wine sauce, mushrooms and asparagus
- Pasta Bruschetta: Pasta with fresh tomatoes, basil and garlic
- Chefs Vegetable: TBD

Salad, desserts, and coffee or tea included.

* Vegan and GF options available on request five days before the party

10 PM: Party Ends

DJ Andy Pratt
With Photo Booth!!

Tickets: \$50/Member
\$65/Guest
RSVP: November 30, 2025

DELICIOUS FOOD, MUSIC, DANCING, AND PRIZES



Bowling Nov 24, 2025

We had 3 teams battling for good scores and it was close, but the team winning the non-existent prize was:

Kate, Rich, Sylvia and Fred with a 481 followed closely by Kim, Robin, Phil and Bill with a 479.

High Men's score was 156 by "Big Boy" Rich, who had a Turkey (3 strikes in a row) to help his team advance.

High Women's score was by Robin with a 137.

Didn't matter what team you were on, we all cheered for everyone and sighed for all the misses.

We will be taking off a few months to SKI!!!!

Hope everyone has a Good Holiday Season!!!!

Cathy

We would love to show **your awesome photos** in the Liftline and on our website. But first you need to send them to us. Go to this [WEBPAGE](#) and upload to our private cloud storage. Photos and videos will only be used for OC Ski Club business.

Who is in this Photo?



Where was this taken?



The OC Ski Club is a member of the New York Capital District Ski Council (NYCDSC). As an OC member you receive the benefits from that organization which include discount lift tickets to various ski areas in our area plus other benefits. Find out more [HERE](#)



PO Box 13901, Albany, New York 12212

Website - <https://ocskiclub.org/> Instagram - [OC Ski Club](#)

OC Facebook Group - [Out of Control Ski Club](#)

OC Facebook Page - [OC Ski Club, Inc](#)

Contact a Club Officer or Board Member - [Click Here](#)

Contact a Committee Chairperson - [Click Here](#)

Officers

Mark Wilder - President
Steven Ford - VP for Admin
Lynda Heaney - VP for Skiing
Gail Marotti-Hossan - Secretary
John Wimmer - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Greg Bockis
Fred Haefeli
Doug Harrington
Jeff Kenton
Judy Franze Tewey
Matt Fabrizio
Sylvia Haefeli
Lauren Harrington
Kate Karlok
Cynthia Ward