



The Lodge
of the
Lexington
Ski Club

THE YODELER

Read us online at lexski.org

October 2026

“If they mean to have snow, let it begin here!”

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Kristen Butler: president@lexski.org

Treasurer: Chris White: treasurer@lexski.org

Secretary: Cindy Darcy: secretary@lexski.org

Communications: Irene Gravina: info@lexski.org

Lodge Co-Chairs: Ben Forman and Brian Kmetz: lodgechair@lexski.org

Membership Co-Chairs: Ramona/Pablo Filipi-Acosta: membership@lexski.org

Social Co-Chairs: Gant Redmon & Bill Hilton: social@lexski.org

LEXSKI Membership Meeting

October 20 7:30 p.m. Octoberfest! Belmont Hill School Chapel.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Fall is definitely in the air as the leaves in Massachusetts reach their peak of color. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Octoberfest this Tuesday, 7:30 pm at Belmont Hill Chapel Basement.

A few reminders:

Locking Windows and Doors

We continue to find windows and doors unlocked when no one is in residence at the Lodge. Please take extra care when leaving your room and the Lodge and check everything. If there is no one else in the parking lot and you are leaving, please make sure to check all of the doors.

Lockers in the Attic

This coming work weekend we will be clearing out lockers of members who have resigned. If you are interested in putting your things in the attic, please let us know and we can find space.

It has already been snowing at the top of Mt. Washington!!

See you Tuesday!

Kristen Butler President@LexSki.org

President

SOCIAL REPORT

Octoberfest: Oct. 20, 7:30 at Belmont Hill School Chapel. Come celebrate the beginning of the colder seasons with a stein (or a plastic cup)! <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/october-fest>

November 4 and/or Nov. 5: Warren Miller 2026 movie. Watch as skiers drop crazy descents in Canada, Japan and Alaska. Let us know what day is best for you and we will call out the one most of us can make work.

November 12 and/or December 4: Teton Gravity Research produces "Actually It Is Rocket Science". In November the show is at The Royal in Boston. In December the show is at Arlington High School. Again, let us know what day is best for you, and we will call out the one most of us can make work.

December 15: Holiday Party TBD. Come join the fabulous LexSki welcoming of winter and holiday vacations with great food, even greater people and maybe even a special guest visit!

<https://www.lexski.org/event-details/holiday-party-1>

If anyone wants to host or support any other events, reach out to:

Social Co-Chairs:

Gant Redmon

Bill Hilton

Social@LexSki.org

TREASURER REPORT

Bank Accounts		
TD Bank North Checking	\$	22,636.07
TD Bank North Savings	\$	240,948.37
Capital Improvements (>\$10k)	\$	77,992.97
Capital Improvements Donations	\$	2,403.00
Emergency Fund (>\$35k)	\$	50,000.00
Oper MM	\$	110,552.40
Total for TD Bank North Savings	\$	240,948.37
Total for Bank Accounts		

With the Lodge starting to take shape the Treasurer's office is preparing for winter operations!

Thank you all for your attention over the summer to submitting reservations forms, paying guest fees, and most importantly payment of annual dues in July. Through July we collected just shy of \$120,000 in annual dues (new and continuing members). This places us on solid footing heading into the ski season. Our account balances also reflect an increased capital improvement fund (prior fiscal year savings) and emergency reserve. An election to increase our emergency reserves was made due to inflationary pressures over the past seasons; it has not been increased in several years.

I am currently engaged with our accountant on finalizing our tax returns for this past fiscal year. These will be finalized and filed prior to the November deadline.

On the non-financial front, I'd like to give a huge thanks to both Kevin Baker and Sarah Kmetz. Kevin was integral in our identifying and hiring a new cook for the season in record time. And Sarah has been leading the charge of the newly re-formed kitchen committee along with Jerold Gelfand. Each of their hard work has ensured meal service, a vital component of our community, is in good shape for the season.

Chris White treasurer@lexski.org

Treasurer

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

These days, when I think about the club, I can't wait to get up on top of a mountain!

But, certain items in this newsletter stand out—Octoberfest on Tuesday the 20th (social), Kristen's reminder to lock up when leaving the club (see the last page for related points), the need for sponsors for prospective members (membership), reaching the milestone of full membership (secretary), the hiring of a new cook (treasurer), and the upcoming two work weekends—the last for this calendar year (lodge chairs).

Here's to an excellent season,

Irene Gravina info@lexski.org

Communications Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New Members

Since we last reconvened the Pastel, Norman and Wang families became full members 🍌🍌🍌

Prospective Members

Following are the eleven prospective member families in process:

- Sapkota-Buduri family: Archana and Arun, Aria (8) and Asha (5), from Lexington. Sponsors: Eisenman, TBD
- Tocci family: Brian and Amanda, from Somerville, MA. Sponsors: Butler, White
- Guy family: Marc and Emilia, Delilah (9) and Rowan (6), from Weymouth. Friends of the Kmetz family since college. Sponsors: Kmetz
- Czik family: Alex and Rebecca, Faye (1), from Arlington, MA. Sponsors: Acosta-Filipi, TBD
- Anthoine family: Travis and Samantha, Charlie (5) and Eloise (3), from Winchester. Sponsors: TBD
- Gerstenblatt-Mayer family: Michael and Sara, Gillian (7) and June (5), from Winchester. Sponsors: TBD
- Park-Chen family: Andy and Keru, John (8) and Vincent (6), from Arlington. Sponsors: TBD
- Strok family: Gavin and Marie, Ethan (12) and Ella (11), from Arlington. Sponsors: TBD
- Armstrong-Martin family: Alexander and Katherine, Warren (4) and Martin (1), from Winchester. Sponsors: TBD
- Mazumdar-Bashkar family: Varun and Vinita, Vivek (5) and Vidhi (2), from Concord. Sponsors: TBD
- Hernandez family: Alfonso and Lisa, from Lexington. Sponsors: TBD

🌟🌟🌟 As you can see, we have a healthy number of prospectives families. Rather than hound people to sponsor these lovely folks, **be on the lookout for a message from membership where you can sign up to sponsor these families.** If we don't get enough volunteers the hounds will be released 🐕

Errors?

Spotted an error in the members list? Let us know at membership@lexski.org

SECRETARY REPORT

The ski club is nearing the end of the period that the 2025-2026 reservation form can be used, with the week starting on Friday, October 30 being the last week. I will be working on the priority numbers and host assignments for the 2026-2027 period very soon, and will have the host list available for viewing at the Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 20. Consider it another incentive for attending the meeting in person! The meeting is also an October Fest celebration. The host list, priority numbers, and new reservation form will all be available on the web site shortly after the meeting.

This is a friendly reminder that ALL families (and derivatives) are expected to have an adult at each Membership Meeting. Plan ahead now by putting the meetings in your calendar: October 20, November 17, December 15, January 19, March 16, April TBA – probably a Friday, May 18, June TBA – probably a Friday. (No meeting is held in February due to February vacation.)

The club has reached an exciting milestone – a full set of families members have paid for a full year's membership! (This is in contrast to the club briefly having a full set of members for a short period, but the most recent members paying for a proportional amount of dues, with new members joining in the spring.) We currently have 55 families, and 2 derivatives, which are made up of a total of 105 adults, which is the largest number of people in the club since I joined in 2014.

For those prospective members who are wondering when a space might open up for them to join the club, I can offer some information based on the data I have been compiling for many years. The club has an average of 4.5 spaces open up each year. For the past five years, the average has been 4.8, with the exact numbers being 6, 4, 2, 9 and 3. But, as the financial products people like to say, past performance is no guarantee of future results. One dynamic to be aware of is that any inactive members who choose to return to active membership for the 2027-28 ski season will have priority over prospective members who join the wait list during the 2026-27 ski season. New slots would become available in July 2027, or later in the summer.

Here's some nerdy information for those interested in club history and membership numbers: When I joined the club (2014) there were 50 member families, 4 derivative members and a total of 101 adult members. The low point of membership was the 2017-8 year, with 40 member families and 2 derivative members, and a total of 79 adults. The club was bouncing back from that low point by the 2019-20 year with 45 member families and 3 derivative members and a total of 90 adults, but then, as we all know, Covid-19 hit, and membership growth was flat for three years after that.

Many thanks to the membership chairs, Marc Garrigus, Caren Connell,

Pablo Acosta and Ramona Filipi, for all their hard work, plus those who helped on the membership committees, plus the numerous folks who sponsored prospective members and helped them through the joining process. Also, many thanks to the various members who have pulled in neighbors and friends to grow the club through direct connections. It is thrilling to me to see the club at full membership!

Some other interesting (to me, at least) numbers are that the average length of membership of the active members in the club is 11.6 years, and the median length is 6.5 years. Over the past three years, 26 new families have joined the club. (Yearly numbers are 10, 9, and 7.) For people leaving the club (since 2014) the average membership length was 18.4 years, and the median length was 12 years.

Cindy Darcy, secretary@lexski.org
Secretary

LODGE CHAIRS REPORT

Project Updates

This offseason turned into a larger effort to improve the club, but thanks to the work of so many members (thank you WW hosts and Stephen Jahnes!) the lodge will be better than ever for the winter of 2026-2027. You'll find a fresh new bathroom off the main living room, much improved upper and lower dorms, new drop ceilings in the boot room and throughout the club, and more warmth in the motels and dining room.

Work Weekends

Thank you to the Ehrbar's, Canham's, and Redmon's for hosting productive work weekends over the summer months. And to the Hilton's for getting the fall going with another great effort that included pulling down the ceiling and insulating Motel 4, dry walling the bathroom, carpeting the upper dorm, and lots of other refresh projects throughout the Lodge.

There are just two work weekends to go! October 24 - 25 and November 14 - 15. By our estimates only about half of eligible families have completed a work weekend. We absolutely need as many of you as we can muster to wrap up the projects and get the lodge ready for the season. All experience levels welcome, there is plenty to do! However, if you can't make either of these final dates and you're opting for the buy-out, please let us know ASAP so we can measure our strength and plan accordingly.

Club Calendar

Work Weekends

October 24-25: Rita and Tom McCarthy

November 14-15: Sarah and Brian Kmetz

Ben Forman & Brian Kmetz, lodgechair@lexski.org

Lodge Chairs

LODGE FIRE AND SAFETY REMINDERS

LOCKING DOORS AND WINDOWS

Please do not forget, at the end of your stay at the lodge, to lock the doors and windows to your room or motel unit. And, if you have guests, please check that theirs are locked as well. Some of the motel doors need an extra tug from the outside to make sure they are closed. And don't forget the rear doors and windows, including those that open to the balconies upstairs, along the back of the family wing.

EMERGENCY MEETING LOCATION

If the fire alarm sounds, everyone should quickly exit the lodge and meet outside at the dumpsters. This is the Fire Department's recommended spot where we can quickly take attendance and confirm no one is missing. Firefighters will ask right away if everyone is out — gathering in one place ensures we can answer confidently and keep people safe.

EXITS

Know the closest exits to your room. If the fire alarm sounds, don't automatically head for the boot room — use the nearest safe option: dorm stairs, family wing stairs, or hallway stairs. If those are blocked, emergency ladders are also available: There is one on the front porch (on the Old Colony Ski Club side) and one on the rear porch (on the parking lot side). These ladders are for emergencies only, but they provide a safe escape if you're trapped.

CO DETECTORS

The lodge has six **Carbon Monoxide detectors** (one in the kitchen, the bar, the basement near the furnace, and one in each hallway wing of the second floor). If a CO detector alarms, **call 911 immediately and move outside to fresh air** — unlike our fire alarm, our CO detectors don't alert the Fire Department automatically. Remember, CO is invisible, odorless, and deadly! The furnace or water heaters could be malfunctioning, and firefighters have the tools to check safely. Always err on the side of caution, and rest assured there isn't a cost to have the fire department respond to confirm if everything is safe.

AED

An **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** is in the boot room. If someone is unresponsive or needs CPR, remove the AED from its cabinet, open the case, and follow the voice prompts. It gives clear, step-by-step instructions — no special training required — and can save a life.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are located near all exits. If a small fire breaks out, first call for help and dial **911** or pull the fire alarm – remember fire can spread quickly in an old building. Only attempt to use an extinguisher if you have a clear escape route. Stand 6–8 feet back, pull the pin, aim at the base of the fire, and squeeze the handle. Even if you put the fire out, make sure firefighters are still coming to check for hidden fire or smoldering items.

KITCHEN HOOD ANSUL SYSTEM

The kitchen hood has a **wet chemical fire suppression system** designed for stove, oven and vent fires. During a kitchen fire, it should activate automatically and notify the Fire Department. If it

doesn't, there's a manual pull handle to the right of the kitchen sink — use it immediately to release the system.

SMOKE

If you open your bedroom door and encounter **smoke**, remember that most bedrooms have alternate exits: porches, windows, or emergency ladders may be a better option. In a real fire, always find the safest, quickest way to exit the building.

FIRST AID KIT

A **first aid kit** is in the office for bandages and basic supplies. If you notice items running low, notify the Lodge Chair or Treasurer so replacements can be ordered before we run out.

EMERGENCY EXIT MAPS

Every bedroom door has an **emergency exit map** showing the nearest two exits, along with the location of fire extinguishers, pull stations, and the AED. Review it when you arrive. If you ever find yourself trapped, call **911** immediately and give your exact room location.

FIREPLACE ASH DISPOSAL

Always dispose of ashes from the fireplace and firepit carefully. Never put ashes in the trash or dumpster and always wait until they've cooled completely. The safe place to discard ash is near the wood line behind the dumpsters — not in our backyard, not near the propane tank, and not along the fence. Once you've spread the ashes, use snow or a rake to make sure they're fully extinguished. Taking this extra step prevents accidental fires and helps keep our lodge safe.