

# *The Yodeler*

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**March 2011** Lexington Ski Club P.O. Box 123 Lexington, MA 02420  
Editors, *Mary Speare & Jay Flynn*

#### **Executive Board**

President, *Phil Brewer*

Vice President & Lodge Chair, *John Yasaitis*

Secretary, *Jim Osten*

Treasurer, *Tom Alspaugh*

Membership, *Shari Marquis*

Activities, *Deanna Chan, Lisa Erbin Grant*

At Large, *Tom McCarthy*

Ex officio, *Wayne Foster*

#### **2011 LexSki Calendar Host/Hostess List for Meetings**

**Meetings** of the membership are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at First Parish Church, Lexington (by the Green) at 8 p.m. in Parker Hall (rear entrance, lower level) unless otherwise noted.

\* **The first family** listed is responsible for bringing the coffee, tea, dessert, etc., and also for reminding the other families listed of their host and hostess duties. Host families are responsible for set-up before and clean-up after each meeting. The supply bins are passed along to hosts at each meeting. **If you can't serve, get a sub.**

March 15, 2011: Annual Meeting, Election of Officers: Vogel\*, Tasker, Yasaitis, Alspaugh

April 12, 2011: Annual Winetasting: Forte, P.\*, Bogosian, Brandenburg, Brandon-Bemis

May 17, 2011: Annual Budget Meeting: Burnell\*, Brewer, Butler, Chan

June 21, 2011: Annual Picnic: Colby\*, Cotran, Doctoroff, Eagles

#### **President's Report March 2011**

More snow in the North country, so we're not done skiing yet. Ten years from now we may well be looking back and thinking, "remember the winter of 2010/11? We had a ton of snow!" Who knows when we'll have another winter like this?

We have also been put to the test this season, in more ways than one. We have had continual, near-capacity usage of the Lodge, which has tested our reservation and room assignment system. We had a (small) fire in one of the bedrooms, which fortunately was contained, though we were lucky not to have more damage than a ruined box spring. It could have been much worse. We will be taking a closer look at each of these concerns, and will determine what steps we need to take to improve our policies and procedures.

We have also had the challenge of a longer than expected search for the new Treasurer. We believe we have found an excellent candidate, which will be voted on at the March membership meeting. However, this year's search has made clear that we need more members to be willing to step up and actively contribute to the governance of our ski club. The responsibility cannot continue to fall on the same members; it's not fair to them to carry a disproportionately large share of the load.

My recent email alluded to the fact that a number of members contribute to the functioning of our ski club, behind the scenes. They deserve to be identified for the jobs they have chosen to do, in most if not all cases year after year, because they want to contribute. Here they are, in no particular order; Andy Levin, reservations; Susan Stone and Kathi Moore, supplies and interior decorating; Charlie Levin, kitchen committee; Pete Tasker and George Brandenburg, website and communications management; Barry and Donna Griffiths, annual budget committee; Jeff Moore, heating and hot water systems oversight; Mary Speare and Jay Flynn, Yodeler and membership packet; Bobbi Perlmutter, perennial Lodge Committee attendee and Large Group coordinator. My most sincere apologies to anyone I have missed.

If you don't see your name on this list, give some thought to how you want to contribute, because your turn will come up. The members listed above do not want to be "stuck" forever in their particular role. These spots don't turn over like the positions on the EBoard, every two years or so. The next regularly scheduled search, which will involve a nominating committee, will be next winter. If you aren't currently involved, please give some thought to how you want to be involved when it is your turn. Waiting until you retire and have more time is not soon enough!

Phil Brewer

## **Membership Report**

Many of you have really made an effort to find friends who could have interest in the club. Thank you and keep up the good work. Please continue trying to recruit friends, family, acquaintances. Welcome them to come find out about the club at a membership meeting. Invite them to social events. Bring them to the club to ski. Have them meet some members. We are looking for new members who are committed to community living, skiing, and Lexington Ski Club.

Please be willing to meet other members' friends and be open to becoming sponsors for families or second sponsors for families who need one. As we try to boost membership, it becomes important for all of us to support each other in bringing members in and getting them into the application process. It would be great if we could get new applicants who are compatible with our community style of living at the club.

The Couturier Family have almost completed their membership application requirements. They will meet with the Membership Committee in March and Executive Board in April. Christophe and Yohanna Couturier and their children Marc-Aurele - 14 and Noah - 10. The Couturiers are sponsored by the Perlmutter and the Fearnside's.

Tony and Kerry Kilbridge and their children Daniel, 16 years old, and David, 12 years old. The Kilbridge Family is sponsored by the Griffiths and the Yasaitis's.

Lorelle and Leslie Yee and their sons Colby - 14 and Carter - 11. The Yees are sponsored by the Chans and the Erbin-Grants.

Blaine Schamber and Birgit Schultes with their children Pascal - 14 and Chantal - 11. The Schamber-Schultes are sponsored by the Pinskys and the Cotrans.

Ralph and Melinda Smith. The Smiths are sponsored by the Vogels and the Sciarrettas.

Thank you.

Shari Marquis and The Membership Committee

## **Lodge Committee Report**

This has been a busy month for the Lodge Committee. In addition to dealing with the usual collection of leaks, there was a severe banging situation in the radiator plumbing during the second half of the Feb. vacation week. Our plumber, Brad Fitzgerald, found this was due to a stuck float valve causing excessive water build up in the radiator plumbing, and loud evaporation banging from pooled water when steam was flowing to supply heat. After flushing the system, draining off the excess water, and replacing the float valve, all is quiet, but we will need to continue to monitor this situation.

If all that wasn't enough, we also had a fire incident in room 11 on Feb. 25, which Phil Brewer and Kevin Martin have described. We were very fortunate that this was contained with little damage. After further review, the fire appears to have been due to the wire for a lamp electrical plug protruding directly out from the wall outlet and into a bed box spring which was directly in front of it. The pressure and motion from contact with the box spring over time had worn the wire such that it broke that night and shorted, igniting the surface material of the box spring (which is not required by code to be flame retardant). At this point people tried to smother the small burning area with blankets, which worked temporarily but in a few minutes the fire was again evident and eventually the box spring was thrown outside through the room door to the upstairs porch and yard. The upstairs alarms which are all wired together went off but apparently weren't extensive and loud enough to wake up everyone. This was an unfortunate situation, but is also an opportunity to make significant improvements at the club. I have reviewed the particular cause of this incident; i.e., electrical plugs directly behind beds in contact with the bed, and found 8 incidences where this occurs and have addressed this by putting a 3-outlet plug in all of them with the outlet going out from the wall plugged so that only side outlets can be used where plugs and wires go parallel to the wall, and therefore can't contact the bed mattress or box spring. Eventually we may move these outlets to the baseboard (as occurs in many other rooms) so that there is no possibility of contact with the bed. Another lesson is that we need more education for what to do in the event of a fire. For example, only one person thought to use a fire extinguisher, and then went to the kitchen to get it rather late in the process. It turns out there was one on the wall directly outside the door to room 11!. Everyone needs to be aware of where these extinguishers are and how to use them (there is one in each upstairs hallway, the kitchen, next to the fireplace, in the bar, in the bathrooms for all motel units, and in the downstairs workshop). As Phil mentioned in his email, we have asked Rick Crocker, who maintains our sprinkler system and has had extensive experience initially as a fire chief, and later in fire system maintenance, training, and also does fire code research (all in NH), to do an audit of our system and provide a prioritized plan to upgrade the club. The alarm system is probably one of the first priorities. We will also need to develop better protocols for fires, and training to follow them. Finally, thanks to my wife, the odor from the fire has been removed by cleaning the mattresses and rug with a Rug Doctor from Aubuchon and by laundering all the sheets and curtains. We are getting a used box spring thanks to Amelia Mueller, and room 11 should be back in business by March 11.

And for one final item, I would like to again remind people that we are separately disposing of redeemable containers (e.g., beer and soda bottles and cans with a redemption value - not wine bottles) using a plastic waste basket in the corner of the bar which is marked redeemables. We also have a new task for bar duty (on the bar duty sheet): to empty the plastic trash basket into another black plastic trash basket marked redeemables just outside the kitchen door for pickup by someone who removes them for the value of the containers. Please remember to do this when you have bar duty!

John

## **Treasurer's Report**

Bank Balances, March 1, 2011:

Business Core Checking: \$6,004.86

Business Super Money Market: \$0,000.66

Activities Committee Report

**LEXINGTON SKI CLUB**  
**2011 Wine Tasting Party**

**Come sip, mingle, chat and guess  
your vintages!**

**Tuesday, April 12th**  
**7-9 p.m.**

**At the home of Betsey and Mark Rose**  
**21 Normandy Road**  
**Lexington**

**Coffee and desserts as usual!**

Deanna Chan and Lisa Erbin Grant