



The Lodge
of the
Lexington
Ski Club

THE YODELER

Read Us Online @ www.lexski.org
May 2026

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: *Kristen Butler:* president@lexski.org

LODGE Co-CHAIRS: *Ben Forman and Brian Kmetz:*
lodgchair@lexski.org

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS: *Ramona/Pablo Filipi-Acosta*
membership@lexski.org

SECRETARY: *Cindy Darcy:* secretary@lexski.org

TREASURER: *Chris White:* treasurer@lexski.org

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: *Irene Gravina:*
info@lexski.org

SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS: *Gant Redmon & Bill Hilton:*
social@lexski.org

LEXSKI MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

May 19th 7:30 PM [Club Business Meeting](#) Chapel basement at Belmont Hill School
280 Prospect St. Belmont

LEXSKI EVENTS

June 19 5 p.m. June Cook out 47 Parker Ave., Lex

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting for the budget approval!

Kristen Butler (President@LexSki.org)

PRESIDENT

SOCIAL REPORT

June Picnic: June 19, 5:00 at 47 Parker Ave, Lexington, MA. Thank you Eric Pearlman for hosting! Come celebrate Summer! Food grouping categories will be circulated closer to the picnic.

Gran Fondo Weekend: July 11 and 12 at the Lodge. Come to the Lodge for a great weekend of bicycling and hiking. Thank you Janet Westeroff and Mustafa Varoglu for helping to organize this awesome weekend!

Fall Hike Weekend: TBD at the Lodge. Come to the Lodge for a weekend of fall hiking. Time to get the legs into shape for skiing! Thank you Marc Garrigus for helping to organize this always popular event.

Gant Redmon and Bill Hilton (social@lexski.org)

SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS

TREASURER REPORT

Please find attached the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and corresponding proposed fee schedule. Thank you to the Finance Committee (Dan Buter, Matt Schopp, Keren Hamel, Josh Launer, Steve Jahnes, Cindy Darcy, Derek Chiang, Eran

Spira) for their input to our discussions and resulting proposal. **The proposal is to be voted on at the upcoming 5/19 Membership meeting.**

YTD we are tracking slightly above our target contribution to the Capital Improvements Fund, I estimate that at the close of the fiscal year we will have approximately \$30,000 to add to the Fund vs. a budgeted \$25,000. As you consider the below proposal, it's important to note the Committee's overwhelming opinion that we need to continue to grow our contributions to the Capital Improvements Fund which has been drawn down over the prior years post COVID by the large number of projects we've undertaken. Ideally, we have targeted at \$45-50k contribution which we feel will be needed in future years to address more significant projects.

I have included below a summary and rationale of the proposed changes.

Annual Dues: There are three separate items, when aggregated, that resulted in the attached proposed dues for families. The below table summarizes the current vs. proposed annual costs for the most common family structures.

- Inflation Adjustment- A 4% (rolling 12-month CPI) inflation adjustment was applied first.
- Meal Revenue Adjustment- The Kitchen Committee will be evolving for the upcoming year; with this change it is projected that meal revenue will return to neutral in the upcoming year. There was broad sentiment among the committee that the 'profits' that have been generated on meals over the prior years represented needed revenue to the Club. As a result, \$100 is being proposed to be added to base membership dues after the 4% inflation adjustment. Meals have never been intended to produce a profit for the Club, our experience over the past few years has been abnormal. As meals are not intended to produce positive cash flows it was not felt appropriate to recoup this revenue through increased meal costs.
- 2nd Adult to 1st Adult Pre-Payment 'Shift'- The Committee has been working over the past four years to narrow the cost gap between single and two adult families. It has been the opinion of the Committee that a staged approach to this strategy best suited membership, as opposed to flattening in one year. The proposal includes an additional \$100 shift from 2nd Adult Pre-Payment to 1st Adult.

Family Structure	Current Cost	Budgeted Cost
Single Adult	\$1,495.00	\$1,754.40
Two Adult	\$2,195.00	\$2,354.40
Single Adult, Two Children	\$1,605.00	\$1,864.40
Two Adult, Two Children	\$2,315.00	\$2,474.40
New Family (2 Adult, 2 Children)	\$4,315.00	\$4,474.40

Late Fees: Proposing a \$100 per month late fee, replacing the current flat \$100 late fee.

- Example: Bills paid on July 15th or November 15th under the current policy would both incur the same \$100 late fee. Under the proposed policy the bill paid on July 15th would be subject to a \$100 late fee, while a bill paid on November 15th would

be subject to a \$500 late fee (\$100 per month for each month; July, August, September, October, November).

- There has been an observed behavior in the Club of utilizing the current 'loophole' to defer payments well into the Membership year, waiting to pay until they'd like to first utilize the Club in the season.
- It is important to note, the bylaws do permit the Board to revoke the Membership of any family who has not met the required dues by September 1st.
- This also allows for Membership offers to be made earlier in the year to any families who may be on the waiting list.

Work Weekend Buyout: Proposing an increase in the per Adult buyout to \$400.

- Work Weekend buyouts were instituted in response to COVID to allow families who did not feel comfortable returning to a community environment a reasonable option to meet their annual work weekend obligation. At that time, the revenue created allowed us to 'replace' some of their work through hiring professionals to complete specific projects.
- Since its institution, the \$250 fee has been unchanged while the cost of replacing those work hours has increased.
- Current fiscal year resulted in an all-time high in members opting out of attending work weekend, approximately 25% of Members did not complete a full work weekend.
- The intention of this proposal is not to create additional revenue, but rather to encourage broader attendance at work weekend. As you review the budget you will note that it is our hope that with this increase the revenue will remain flat. i.e. fewer buyouts at a higher level and more people enjoying the company of fellow members at work weekend.

If you have any questions or would like further clarifications on the proposed items please feel free to reach out to myself, or another member of the Committee, in advance of our vote on May 19th.

Chris White (treasurer@lexski.org)

TREASURER

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter. Communication snafus got in the way. However, the information about the budget, above, will be discussed in full at the meeting tomorrow night at the Belmont Hill School Chapel basement, which begins at 7:30. (See above for the address.) Thank you for your patience!

Irene Gravina (info@lexski.org)

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Count:

We currently have 54 active families, 2 derivative members and 3 alumni families.

New Members:

A warm congratulations and welcome to the club to the Brune, LaCroix-Lepionka and Wendt-Harrison families!!!! Thank you again to the sponsors of these families for helping them through the process and submitting timely letters of recommendation.

Wait-List:

We currently do not have a wait list. We have room for 1 more family until we are at capacity again. There are three more families scheduled for the April eBoard meeting, and one inactive member coming back to active status, so it is highly likely that we will have a wait list for a few months at least until membership renewals in July.

Prospective Members

The following are the ten prospective member families in process:

- **Bennett family:** Andra, Matthew (15), Vlad (12), Madalina (7) from Lexington; Sponsors: Hardman, Forman
- **Norman family:** Anne and Chris, Mikayla (13), Adelaide (11), Claudia (9) and Benny (3) from Lexington, Sponsors: Jahnes, TBD
- **Pastel family:** Gabe and Amanda, Raea (4) and Atley (3) from Beverly. Gabe's family was a member in the early '00s. Sponsors: Curtin, Schopp
- **Sapkota-Buduri:** Archana and Arun, Aria (8) and Asha (5), from Lexington. Sponsors: TBD
- **Tocci family:** Brian and Amanda, from Somerville, MA. Sponsors: Butler, White
- **Guy family:** Marc and Emilia, Delilah (10) and Rowan (6), from Weymouth. Friends of Kmetz since college. Sponsors: Kmetz/TBD
- **Czik family:** Alex, Rebecca, and Faye(1), from Arlington, MA. Sponsors: Acosta-Filipi, Schopp

Prospective families on hold are Barnes-Furutani, Wang, and Doyle. The Wang family is coming out of hold and attending the April eBoard meeting.

Errors?

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

Pablo and Ramona Filipi-Acosta membership@lexski.org

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS

SECRETARY REPORT

There is no report this month since we had a social, not business, membership meeting in April. To resume next month!

Cindy Darcy, secretary@lexski.org

Secretary

LODGE CHAIRS REPORT

Lodge Survey Results

The results are in, thanks to all of those who filled out the survey. We received 36 responses with some valuable feedback and are taking everything into consideration. Some high level notes:

- We have a solid crew of painters and cleaners with 27 and 25 respondents checking that skills box, respectively. Landscaping was at 24 respondents, carpentry at 17, electrical and 12, and plumbing at 10.

- Biggest lodge improvement areas of need: bathrooms in the sleeping areas with 16 respondents, dorms with 14 respondents, family wing rooms with 13, common area bathrooms with 12, and safety upgrades at 10.
- While 46% said they would NOT be willing to host a work weekend, 51% would help with safety checks and documenting processes.
- Finally, 45% said they would be more likely to attend a work weekend if there were options to help with younger children. Think: assigned caretakers, kids camp, or kid-friendly jobs/activities.

Work Weekends

Thank you Karen and Eran Spira for hosting the April work weekend. Much cleaning and organizing was done to get the lodge in offseason shape. Next on the work weekend list is the Rock's hosting May 30-31. Please send reservation forms to them if you plan on attending.

The last two host-less work weekends are September 26-27 and October 24-25. Please email lodgechair@lexski.org if interested. For those nervous about hosting, the Lodge co-chairs will help with prep and project lists; you will be fully prepared come work weekend time!

Lastly, we received feedback about a kid's camp or kid-friendly tasks during work weekends. If you are up to leading something like this (or have older kids who do) please let the lodge chairs and hosts know.

Large Group Weekend Reservations

Summer and fall weekends are filling up quickly. Please bring any large group (15 or more) reservations to us for approval so we can manage the calendar and accommodate everyone as best we can.

Club Calendar

Work Weekends

April 25-26: Eran and Karen Spira

May 30-31: Alex and Hilda Rock

June 13-14: Christian and Carrie Ehrbar

July 18-19: Steve & Laura Canham

August 15-16: Gant Redmon

September 26-27: Bill and Mea Hilton

October 24-25: Hosts TBD

November 14-15: Sarah and Brian Kmetz

Offseason Member Weekends

July 11-12: Gran Fondo – hosted by Varoglu-Westerhoff

October 16-18: Large group music weekend – hosted by Gelfand-Nichols

TBD - Fall Hiking Weekend

Large Groups

July 31 - August 3: Launer Large Group

September 12 -13: Butler Large Group

October 16 - 18: Gelfand/Nichols Large Group Music Jam weekend - club members welcome to bring an instrument and join the fun!

Ben Forman & Brian Kmetz, Lodge Chairs

lodgechair@lexski.org

LODGE FIRE AND SAFETY REMINDERS

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.