



The Lodge
of the
Lexington
Ski Club

THE YODELER

Read Us Online @ www.lexski.org

December 2024



EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: *Kristen Butler* president@lexski.org
LODGE CHAIR: *Christian Ehrbar* lodgechair@lexski.org
TREASURER: *Chris White* treasurer@lexski.org
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: *Caren Connell* membership@lexski.org

SOCIAL CHAIR: *Marc Garrigus* social@lexski.org
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: *Kevin Baker* info@lexski.org
SECRETARY: *Cindy Darcy* secretary@lexski.org

LEXSKI MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

December 17, 2024	6:00 PM	Holiday Party	Belmont Hill School, Wadsworth Room
January 21, 2024	7:30 PM	January Meeting	TBD

LEXSKI EVENTS

January 25, 2025	Burns Night at the Lodge
February 8 th -9 th , 2025	Women's Cross-Country Weekend
February 15 th -23 rd , 2025	February School Vacation at the Lodge Res form coming in Jan!
March 15, 2025	Saint Patrick's Day Celebration at the Lodge

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The mountains are open! The skiing at Cannon the past two weekends has been great for this time of year! 8" of new powder on opening day.

As we start the season of true community living over the next few months, please remember a few things: sign-in and out of the log book, write your room assignment on the room board, shoes or slippers must be worn in the common areas, food stays on the 1st floor in the bins in the bar or in the bar refrigerators (no food upstairs or in the motels) and if you open a door or window in your room, please remember to lock it before you leave.

Reservations for the New Year holiday have been collected and are being calculated. First meal for the cook will be Thursday, December 27th.

We noticed that the reservations for the New Year's Holiday end with Wednesday morning breakfast. If members are staying Wednesday and/or Thursday nights, please send your reservations on a regular reservation form to Kristen & Dan Butler. After the Wednesday, 1/1 Breakfast, meals will not start again until Saturday, 1/4 breakfast.

Hope to see you all for the festivities of our holiday party!

Kristen Butler (President@LexSki.org)

PRESIDENT

LODGE REPORT

An additional shout out of thanks for all the work weekend hosts and participants. I got up to the club for the first time in a couple months and things are looking great. The bar looks super fresh! Of course, many of the improvements done are less noticeable but should also make the club feel great this Winter, with all the insulations, siding and new doors. We are adding some extra temperature sensors (courtesy of Peter Hardman) to better track which rooms are heating up and staying warm better than others. If you didn't make a work weekend, thank you as well as your opt-out payment will go to good use for sure (see water heater update below).

Water Heater Update

As you may have heard, one of our two 15-year-old water heaters is shot. We have quotes from two heating and plumbing service providers and are now ready to order the work to be completed. It's unclear if we can get this done before the Christmas break, but the company we have been talking to originally estimated they could get it done in a few weeks once we tell them to get started. If we cannot get it done before the holiday week, we may need to ask folks to go easy on the après ski showers or do something to stagger showering. These commercial units refresh quickly, but the tank is only so big. The current water heater is 120 gallons and typical shower flow is about 2 gallons per minute. You can all do the math and understand what will happen if 10 people shower for 10 minutes (10x10x2=200 gallons). This will be a significant expense for the club. Fortunately, we have the funds needed. This is why we maintain a reserve. Look for updates in the coming days.

Portable Heaters

We have been looking at the potential for limited use of space heaters in some rooms that do not seem to heat up as well (primarily Motel 5). The concern here is that the circuits in the club can be challenged by too much wattage being drawn. The solution is likely using oil-filled, radiator style with a low wattage draw on dedicated circuits. In motel 5 there is an outlet in the rear room that has a dedicated circuit we can use for this. Longer-term, we may even add an electric wall heater on a dedicated circuit. Stay tuned for more details on this if you are a Motel 5 fan (or get stuck in that room).

Lodge Committee Forming

I slogged through this year so far without a committee. My own fault ultimately. But I'm now looking for committee members. This will help us manage ad hoc projects through the Winter and get better prepared for the next Work Weekend season. If you are a new member and you are not on Caren's awesome membership committee, you will be getting a ping on this, but anybody can join the fun.

Repair / Problem Log

We are still working on updating the Repair / Problem Log on the new ski club website member area. We'll let everyone know when that is working again, which I'm hoping to address by year end. In the meantime, feel free to send an email with any issues you encounter at the club and I will add them to the log.

Christian Ehrbar (lodgechair@lexski.org)

LODGE CHAIR

SOCIAL REPORT

December Holiday Meeting! Dec 9th (Wadsworth Room, Belmont Hill)

This meeting is one to bring the kids to! Hopefully Ganta Claus (a message has been sent by reindeer to the North Pole to see if he's available) will make an appearance and distribute gifts (provided and wrapped by the children's parents) to the kids.

Items to remember:

- 1) This one is a pot luck meal, so members are asked to sign up for apps, sides, mains, or desserts using the link sent by email (or contact Marc at social@lexski.org)
- 2) If you want your child to receive a gift from Ganta Claus, please bring a PRE-WRAPPED gift with their name on it.

60th Anniversary Party

Betsy Stanford, Sue Gardner and Irene Gravina have volunteered to help with the 60th Anniversary Celebration! Details to come. **If you're interested in making the dream a reality, please reach out to me, Betsy, or Sue and join us on our planning call on December 10th.**

Theme Weekends

I'm planning some Theme Weekends for the club this upcoming season. On the calendar so far are:

Jan 25th [Burns Night](#)- A celebration of Scotch poet Robert Burns. Kilts and Scotch.

Feb 8th/9th [Women's X-Country ski weekend](#). All skill levels welcome!

Feb 15-Feb 23 [School Vacation](#) - Sometimes we have a Pizza party but may be a TBD weekend.

March 15/16- [St. Patrick's Day](#)

If you have any suggestions (Hawaiian/Tropical, 80's, Viking?), particularly if you're the host for a weekend, let me know. Thank you to Sarah Hvass Kmetz for volunteering to help me organize the theme weekends!

Local Events

Nothing planned currently. If you're interested in planning an event, or helping generally, please let me know!

Marc Garrigus (social@lexski.org)

SOCIAL CHAIR

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The LexSki.org website continues to be updated with new photos and information. Many of the reference documents (club rules, hosting duties, reservation forms etc.) were updated or added just this month. Please be sure that you are always using the most current reservation form from the website. For the 2024-2025 season, the Reservation Form displays a green **2024-2025** at the top.

Website Access:

If you haven't signed up for access to the new website, it is important that you don't wait. All members should have created an individual login and password by now. If you don't have a login yet, please, [go to lexski.org](https://lexski.org), click the FOR MEMBERS button along the top ribbon, and at the login page, click "Sign Up" where it says "New to this site?" If your registration matches what is on file with club records, I will approve your new sign-up quickly, most likely within a few hours. However, please don't wait until the last minute on a Monday night when you need to figure out who's hosting an upcoming weekend, as the initial one-time approval process is not instantaneous!

EV Chargers Update:

The EV charger project is nearing completion, and by the end of this month, I expect we will have two pay-per-use EV chargers up and running for member use. More information will be shared with the membership once the new EV chargers are online.

EV Survey:

All members should have received a link to an EV survey with their Yodeler email so that we can better assess plan for the number of EV's currently in the club. We may add additional capacity (charger stations) based upon the survey results. The current infrastructure we have is capable of up to four EV charging stations, although we are starting with two. If you don't own an EV, or don't intend to purchase one in the next 12 months, please disregard responding to the survey.

LexSki Swag:

We are in the process of creating Lexington Ski Club logo items that will be available for order. More information will be announced about this very soon.

Family Photo Page:

45 families have provided a family photo to be added to the private Members Area [Family Photo Directory](#) so far. We're aiming for 100% participation. With a record number of new member families

joining the Club recently, this photo directory is very helpful to our members, both new and old. Prospective member families are also encouraged to submit a photo, and many already have. If you haven't submitted a family photo, please do so using this easy link: <https://tinyurl.com/3akaukw>

Kevin Baker (info@lexski.org)

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Count:

We currently have 50 active member families, 2 derivative members and 3 alumni member families.

Welcome, Eisenman Family!

The Eisenman family, Keith and Jen and their two children, Zoey (8) and Emilia (5) from Lexington, completed the two-week feedback period and received only glowing reviews- please join us in welcoming them to the club!

Two-Week Feedback Period Begins for Dennis Family:

It is our pleasure to submit the Dennis family for your consideration of membership in the club:

Katherine and Josh Dennis and their two children, Thomas (6) and Miles (3), live in Lexington in the same neighborhood as the Jahnes family (as well as a few other new members). They are sponsored by the Jahnes and Gardner families and visited the lodge several times in different seasons and attended the holiday party last December. They met with the E-Board on December 2nd where we discussed their experiences at the lodge, requirements of membership, answered questions, etc. The E-Board enthusiastically recommends them for membership.

Recruitment:

We continue to actively promote the club and encourage a steady flow of interest. Building a strong pipeline of potential members is important as not everyone completes the journey to joining. Look for a LexSki blurb in the Lexington Community Program December Catalog and please let the committee know if you have other ideas as to where we can get the word out.

Prospective Families:

Following are the current prospective member families:

- **Cantoni family** (Winchester): Adalberto, Laura, Giacomo (24), Gabriele (22), Giorgio (17); Sponsors: Chan, Fox
- **Celler-Bilton family** (Winchester): Cassy, Gregory, Levi (10), Zachary (8) and Samuel (6); Sponsors: Kelly-Coltran
- **Chiang family** (Winchester): Derek, Dorothy, Sonia (7), Hillary (4); Sponsors: Scholl
- **Congoran family** (Lexington): Tom, Adela (9), Isla (7), Lily (4); Sponsors: Kmetz
- **Dennis family** (Lexington): Joshua, Katherine, Thomas (6), Miles (3); Sponsors: Jahnes, Gardner
- **Guidice family** (Weston via referral): Kate, Paul, Isley (8), Teddy (6); Sponsors: Fahy
- **Launer family** (Arlington): Josh, Oksana, Maya (13), JJ (12), Claudia (8); Sponsors: Curtin, O'Donnell
- **Rock family** (Arlington): Hilda, Alex, Torsten (6), Otto (3); Sponsors: Pearlman
- **Sayre family** (Lexington): Emily, Bob, Henry (15), William (12); Sponsors: Nichols-Gelfand
- **Wang family** (Lexington): Guan, Tong, Lucas (7), Adrian (1); Sponsors: Darcy

Sponsors:

Many thanks to the members who have reached out about sponsoring! If you haven't gotten an assignment yet, please stay tuned.

Caren Connell membership@lexski.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

TREASURER REPORT

TDBankNorth Checking	8,235.99
TDBankNorth Savings	
Capital Improvements (>\$10k)	68,674.56
Capital Improvements Donations	2,403.00
Emergency Fund (>\$35k)	43,500.00
Oper MM	64,179.25
Total TDBankNorth Savings	<hr/> \$178,756.81 <hr/>
Total Bank Accounts	\$186,992.80

While the finances of the Club remain strong, we are anticipating a large, unexpected, expense to replace the two hot water heaters in the Club. This will represent an approximate \$30,000 expense, which will reduce our Capital Improvements fund. This will certainly not halt all ongoing improvements to the Lodge but will cause us to evaluate projects more closely while we work to replenish the funds.

With the season beginning, please keep in mind the following reminders as the Treasurer's office gets exceedingly busy.

1. All payments are due to the Club on Saturday evening of your stay for traditional weekends. Mid-week payments should be submitted upon your departure from the Lodge.
2. Please pay extra attention when cashing out with the host to ensure proper completion of your reservation form. This greatly reduces the need for additional follow-up, refunds, extra payments, etc..
3. All reservations should be sent to the host only during ski season. The host is responsible for compiling and providing to the Treasurer upon completion of their assigned week.

Upon further research and conversation with Kevin Baker, we are back to exploring additional credits for which we may be eligible related to the EV Charger project. I am in the process of engaging with a new CPA in these efforts.

Finally, thank you to those who have proactively submitted your work weekend buyout payments. Those will be deposited shortly. I will follow those deposits with formal invoices per the list provided to me by the Lodge Chair. We estimate to collect approximately \$5,000 as part of this process. Below are the balances of club accounts as of November 10, 2024:

Chris White (treasurer@lexski.org)

TREASURER

SECRETARY REPORT

For new members who did not pick up their food bin at the November meeting, your bin is now in the bar area at the lodge. **A reminder to everyone:** all food should be stored in bins, not in grocery bags or out loose. There are extra bins for guests and anyone who forgot to bring their bin. This is important for not having any bits of food that could attract mice.

During the walk through of the reservation form, it came up that it is easy to forget to fill in the information about children (age, whether a member or guest, dorm or not). I figured out how to add error checking for this and the updated reservation form is now available on the web site. Using this newer form will help you avoid making an easy mistake.

At the November meeting, printed packets were distributed to members who have joined since 2019. If other members would like a hard copy, the .PDF file is available on the web site in the "Reference

Materials” section. If you are printing the entire packet (rather than just a portion of it), print the first page one sided (this is the cover sheet), and then print the remaining pages double sided. To any hosts this year, please be aware that the web site host instructions are more current than the printed packet handed out in November and should be your ultimate source. (The instructions on the web site and the .PDF for the whole packet are currently in synch. For now.)

Meeting Minutes:

November 19, 2024 – Lexington Ski Club Membership Meeting

Chapel basement meeting room, Belmont Hill School, 280 Prospect St, Belmont, MA

Attendance: **President:** Kristen Butler, **Vice-President:** Christian Ehrbar, **Secretary:** Cindy Darcy,

Communications: Kevin Baker, **Membership:** Caren Connell, **Social:** Marc Garrigus

Members: Kathy Baker, Dan Butler, Steve Canham, Mike Cherven, Beverly Colby, Frank Colby, Dan Connell, Mike Fahy, Ian Fox, John Gardner, Sue Gardner, Irene Gravina, Samuel Gravina, Peter Hardman, Keren Hamel, Bill Hilton, Mea Hilton, Stephen Jahnes, Brian Kmetz, Kevin Martin, Rita McCarthy, Jennifer Nichols, Eric Pearlman, Bill Sciarretta, Eran Spira, Karen Spira, Betsy Stanford, Erica Tubman, Mustafa Varoglu

Guests: Derek Ghian, Losh & Oksana Launer, Tom Congoran, Alex & Hilda Rock, Kate Giudice, Guan Wang

Not represented: Brewer, Chan, Curtin, Fayngold, Filipi/Acosta, Forman/Cody, Marsha Fox, Kelly/Cotran, Laviano, Millett, O'Donnell, Osten, Redmon, Rodriguez/Gissara, Moellering/Kraska, Puscasu/Nottleson, Scholl, Schopp, Mike Sciarretta, Sebell, White, Yasaitis

A quorum was established.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Kristen Butler.

Motion 1: (Darcy/Garrigus) Motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on May 21, 2024.

34 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carries.

Lodge Report: It was a good season of work weekends, with new exterior doors installed and new siding, deep cleaning done, including getting the new rugs cleaned.

Bills will be coming soon for those who opted out of doing a work weekend.

One of the water heaters in the lodge needs to be replaced.

Christian Ehrbar and others are working on getting the repair log on the website functioning correctly. Christian Ehrbar is getting the Lodge Committee running again. Please let him know if you would like to be on the committee. (**Reminder:** all new members are required to have one adult serve on either the Lodge Committee or the Membership Committee during their first year as members. During the second year, members are required to have one adult serve on a committee of your choice.)

Social Report: Seven people went to the Teton Gravity Research ski movie and had a good time.

The December 17 meeting will be a potluck dinner, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Santa Claus will attend; if you would like your child to receive a present, please bring a wrapped present with the child's name clearly on it. (Please do not write small – Santa's eyes are aging.)

Robert Burns night at the lodge will be January 28.

February 8-9 is the planned weekend for women's X-CC skiing weekend.

There is a committee working on planning the 60th anniversary celebration: Marc Garrigus, Sue Gardner, Irene Gravina, and Betsy Stanford.

Membership Report: The club currently has 49 active member families, 2 derivative members, 3 alumni families. The Eisenman family is in the feedback period, and the Dennis family will be meeting with E-board in December.

Communications Report: The web site is updated with a new look and feel. Many thanks to Marsha Fox to greatly improving the text on our last website to be more useful to inquiring people viewing it! There are now 15 different temperature monitors showing the heating situation at the lodge. The hosting guides are posted – please review them when you are hosting.

No photos or other attachments should be sent on the club mailing list. We have a 1 GB/month data cap, and large photo files can quickly eat up that quota. To send a picture, get your photo loaded onto the web and then send a link to it. (Flickr is one free photo posting site; there are many others.)

Prospective Members – if you are not receiving club e-mails, please contact Kevin Baker.

The project to get EV chargers installed at the lodge is on track. The chargers will take payment by credit card or phone (tap). Initially, there will be two posts, each with a charger on them, and 4 or 5 parking spots. As part of this project, the lodge now has 400-amp electrical service, which required a new transformer and two poles. Dan Cowen has been replacing old wiring and setting them up into a new panels with circuit breakers and clearly labeled. No more old fuses!

Reservation form walk through: The club is volunteer run organization, and botched reservation forms take a lot of time for a treasurer to deal with. It is members' responsibility to make their best effort to fill out forms correctly, and to make corrections when requested to do so. It is hosts responsibility to check over forms and request members to correct any errors. (Please have members make the corrections so that they learn how to do it correctly rather than repeating the mistakes.) It is also hosts responsibility to check over reservation forms VERY carefully when any changes have been made by altering the printed form at the lodge. Take extra care to make sure the "Total #" column (highlighted in yellow) is correctly updated. Members, please list as many rooms as you can in your preferences so that the host does not need so that the host does not need to request more from you. Slow down, take a breath, and take the time to get the form correctly filled out. (If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Cindy Darcy or your sponsor family.)

Reservation Committee: Reservation forms for the New Year's vacation period are due Monday, December 2.

Duty assignments have been streamlined. There will be fewer people assigned to breakfast and bar shifts.

Dan Butler is buying the common supplies for bar, e.g. veggies, cheese, crackers, salsa, chips, hummus. If you have bar duty and want to purchase some extra supplies, please contact him ahead of time to let him know your plans.

Reminders: All of members' (and their guests) non-refrigerated food must be stored in a plastic bin in the cabinets in the bar area, not in a bag or out loose. This is to avoid attracting mice. There are extra bins in the bar area for use by guests and members who have forgotten their bin.

Nominating Committee: The following names were drawn for the Nominating Committee: Marsh Fox (chair), Sherman Chan, Bill Hilton, Karin Laviano, Mateo Millett, Lia O'Donnell, Gant Redmon. The committee is responsible for meeting and nominating candidates for election. The committee announces the nominations at the January membership meeting. The election is at the March membership meeting.

Motion 2: (Baker/Connell) To adjourn meeting at 8:50 pm.
34 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carries.

Cindy Darcy (secretary@lexski.org)

SECRETARY

