

# The Yodeler

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## February 2020

### Executive Board

President: *John Pinsky*

Vice President & Lodge Chair: *Peter Hardman*

Secretary: *Cindy Darcy*

Treasurer: *Kevin Baker*

Membership: *Lorelle and Les Yee*

Activities: *Eric Pearlman*

Communications: *Kristen Butler*

### LexSki Membership Meetings

Meetings of the membership are held on the third Tuesday of the month at First Parish Church, Lexington (by the Green) at 7:30 p.m. in Parker Hall (rear entrance, lower level) unless otherwise noted.

Host families are responsible for bringing a snack and for set-up before and clean-up after each meeting. **If you can't serve, get a sub—in advance.** According to our contract with the church, **no nuts are allowed**, so please be sure that the food you bring is nut free.

March 17, 2020, 7:30-9:00: Meeting

April Wine Tasting TBD

May 19, 2020, 7:30-9:00: Meeting

**Hosts:** Darcy, Doctoroff, Eckford

**Hosts:** Ehrbar, Fahy, Fox, I

**Hosts:** Fox, M, Freeberg, Gardner

### President's Report

The lodge is in full swing, even though the skiing has been generally mediocre. There are a few important issues to address: If you use a glass or mug in the evening, please remember that it is your (and your kids') responsibility to wash it and put it back on the shelf in the dining room. It is not the job of the families on breakfast duty or Alden to wash your dirty glasses.

There is absolutely no food or drink allowed in any of the guest rooms or motels. Food and drink are restricted to the dining room, bar area, common area, and TV room. We do not want to have an issue with mice or similar pests.

It has been fabulous to see and meet all the new member families...darts, cards, and ping pong are open to all. Just insert yourself in!!!

The March membership meeting is coming up, and we will be electing new officers to the E-Board. I want to thank the nomination committee and especially the chair, Marc Garrigus, for all his efforts. We will have a fully stocked eboard for the coming year!

I hope to see everyone at the March meeting.

John ([jpinsky@one2onebodyscapes.com](mailto:jpinsky@one2onebodyscapes.com))

President

## Lodge Report

Lodge seems to be operating smoothly. We have had one problem with frozen pipes in the lower dorm, which was caught before it became a serious problem. Thanks to Kevin Baker and Eric Pearlman for acting so quickly to shut off the water and isolate the bad part. We were able to fix the damaged section of pipe the following day. We believe that this problem occurred because cold air was getting through where parts of the siding were removed to attach the rear porch. We now have temperature and humidity monitoring in the attic and the basement, which is showing that the attic temperature is relatively stable and that the insulation is really doing its job. We also have a sensor on the oil tank which will allow us to monitor usage and make sure that we don't ever run out of oil.

In the next month a few activities should be taking place. First is the removal of the large pine trees. This is scheduled for the week after school vacation week. Second is the installation of the sprinklers on the porches. I am awaiting a firm date, but expect it to be early to mid March.

I would like to ask all member to do their part to keep the club running smoothly. If you see a problem and it is something you can fix or repair yourself, please do so. If the problem is too large to be tackled there and then, by all means make a note in the book in the office, but be proactive about letting the lodge chair, or other members who might be able to help, know about the problem.

Finally during ski season we are all responsible for keeping stairs and paths free of snow. This is for the safety of everyone who might need to use them. Hoping that someone else will do these things is not being community minded. If we all do a small part we can keep things running smoothly and safely.

Peter Hardman  
Lodge Chair/Vice President

## Social Report:

St. Patrick's Day – An early celebration of St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 14. Details TBD.  
April Wine Tasting – on a Friday TBD

I welcome suggestions from all for making the club fun throughout the year.

Eric Pearlman  
Social Chair

## Treasurer's Report:

(As of 2/1/2020):

TD Bank

Money Mkt	\$	<b>50,418.63</b>	
Emergency Fund MM	\$	<b>43,500.00</b>	Approx. 6 months operating expenses
Cap Improvement Fund MM	\$	<b>21,836.67</b>	
Cap Improvement Donations	\$	<b>970.00</b>	(Donations above and beyond Dues, for special projects)
Checking	\$	<b>12,158.02</b>	
<u>BNE Escrow Funds</u>	\$	<u><b>32,201.38</b></u>	
<b>Total:</b>	\$	<b>161,084.70</b>	

January 2020 is in the rear-view mirror, and the finances of the club remain strong. We had minimal payments to contractors this month, so this was the first month in a while that our accounts didn't experience major outflows. Fee revenue accounted for in January totaled approximately \$9K and expenses were approximately \$14K, of which approximately \$8K was for meal related costs. Our food costs are currently not tracking evenly with our meal income, so that is something that we will have to watch carefully to remain on budget. Heating

oil was our next biggest expense of the month, totaling a little over \$2K which included costs of deliveries in both December and January.

Several large projects, including a roof are on the horizon for the Spring. Once these projects get underway, they will be drawing down most of the remaining insurance settlement funds, so members can expect to see the funds on hand continue to be spent down on worthwhile repairs and improvements to the lodge.

A few quick announcements and reminders:

- The Finance Committee needs volunteers. This Committee will meet once or twice at the end of ski season to draw up a proposed budget for the membership to vote on at the May meeting. Let me know if you can help on this.
- Legible receipts are required for all reimbursements and I need to retain a digital copy for tax purposes. All reimbursements should be up to date as of February 11, 2020. If you have submitted a reimbursement that has not been paid, please let me know.
- I have been trying to make as much of the treasurer job as paperless as possible. I prefer PDF documents (res forms, receipts, reimbursements requests, etc.) whenever possible as they can be easily uploaded to our accounting software.
- Please make sure fill in the “**Total #**” Column for each line on your Res Form. This makes processing the forms much easier each week.

Kevin Baker  
Treasurer  
617-293-9545

### **Membership Report**

The current Prospective Families are as follows: Filipi/Acosta Family, the Goudreau/Betres Family, the Smith Family, the Bell Family, the Leitch Family, and the Coakley Family.

We now have a new Membership Committee consisting of Christine Alaimo, Eileen Pattinson, Mustafa Varoglu, and Janet Westerhoff. We would also thank departing members Kristen Butler and Cathy Fahy for their many years of service on the Committee.

Lorelle and Les Yee, Membership Co-Chairs  
[leslieyee@yahoo.com](mailto:leslieyee@yahoo.com)

### **Prospective Spotlight**

The Membership Committee would like to introduce you to our newest Prospective Members, The Oates Family.



Barry (the Dad), Kirsten (The Mom), and Aksel (son, age 12), Haakon (son, 10) and Mika (daughter, age 6). Aksel goes to Clarke Middle School and Haakon and Mike attend Bridge.

***Where did they learn to ski?***

Barry learned to ski at Killington with his best friend and his family; Kirsten fell in love with skiing on the ant hills of Minnesota; Aksel and Haakon started to ski at Waterville and Mika quickly caught up to her brother's learning to ski at Bretton Woods.

***Where was their last family vacation?***

We celebrated my father's 80th birthday in Sorrento, Italy during the Christmas break

***What are their hobbies?***

We love to play bocce, golf, and still enjoy

bribing our children with chocolate to go on hikes with us. Kirsten enjoys needlepointing and Barry is often found in his garage working on his latest carpentry project (the Lodge Chair will love to hear this!)

**Communication Report**

As we update the website, there may be things that look broken, please let me know if there is anything that you can't find. The following forms have been updated:

[2019-20 season priority numbers](#)

[2019-20 Host information](#)

[Member List](#)

[Reservation Form](#)

[NEW Reimbursement Form](#)

If you haven't already joined our Facebook page please reach out. This is a closed Facebook page.

Only a few families have sent me their family photos, please send me a great photo of your family to include in our directory.

Kristen Butler  
Communication

**Lexington Ski Club**  
**Membership meeting minutes**  
**1/21/2020**

24 members were in attendance.

One guest was in attendance: Ramona Filipi.

The minutes from the November 19 meeting were approved.

Marc Garrigus presented the nominations for the March election.

President: John Pinsky

Vice-President (and Lodge Chair): Peter Hardman

Treasurer: Kevin Baker

Secretary: Cindy Darcy

Membership Co-Chairs: Les Yee and Lorelle Yee

Activities Chair: Eric Pearlman

Communications: Kristen Butler

Monday January 27, 9:00 p.m. is the deadline for February Vacation reservation forms to get your priority number in full effect.

**Membership:**

We have 43 member families, 3 derivatives, and 1 alumni family.

We have 6 prospective families. The Gelfand/Nichols family has completed all prospective membership requirements and their pending membership has been announced in the Yodeler. The Filipi/Acosta and Goudreau families have each visited at least the lodge at least two times and will be meeting with the membership committee. The Bell, Leitch, and Coakley families have visited the lodge at least once.

There are 8 pre-prospective families and 5 of them are actively discussing dates they will visit the lodge.

**Activities:** Saturday night of MLK weekend was Hawaii night and was a big success. Kids and adults participate in limbo, which was a lot of fun. Pina coladas were available on Sunday night, and we have a new commercial grade blender at the club.

For February Vacation, on Sunday 2/16, there will be make your own pizza for the kids (and interested adults) and a celebration of winter birthdays of club members.

**Treasurer:**

The club currently has about \$166,000 in various accounts. Much of this money is earmarked to be paid to contractors once their work is completed.

Work to prepare the annual budget in time to be presented at the May membership meeting is coming up. If you are interested in being on the Finance Committee to do this work, please contact Kevin Baker. Typically, much of this work is done via e-mail discussion, allowing people to fit it into their own schedules (rather than needing to attend meetings at specific times).

Per IRS rules, reimbursements for expenses to members need to be made within 60 days of the purchase, so please get your reimbursement requests submitted within that time frame and please include "reimbursement" in the subject line to make it easier for Kevin to identify such requests.

The TV/phone/internet change over is complete and is working very well. The internet band width is higher than before and signals from the routers and repeaters are much improved. The new setup is saving the club \$50/month compared to the previous setup, and during the off season the savings should be in the \$70 to \$120 per month range, depending on exactly what level of service we decide to have during that time. The new equipment and TV cost about \$900, so the total cost of this year is about even with last year, but going forward there will be significant savings.

On Sunday night of MLK weekend, fire fighters from the North Woodstock fire department came to the lodge to help us conduct a fire drill. They talked to the kids about fire safety, and then conducted a practice fire drill and evacuation of the lodge. They gave us some feed back on some small things we could do to improve fire safety and then gave the kids a chance to explore the fire engine they brought to the lodge parking lot and take pictures with the fire fighters. They noted that we should NOT turn off the alarm system, and that they will NOT charge us for responding to alarm activating from a non-emergency (such as a steam from a shower). We will probably repeat the fire drill once a year.

Kevin Baker wrote an excellent note of thanks Woodstock board of selectman, expressing our appreciation of the fire fighters taking the time out a weekend evening, and noted what an excellent job they did.

The host instructions need to be updated to include instructions so that a host can be prepared to take attendance in event of an actual fire emergency.

It is good for all members to know where all the ladders are on the porches, and the suggestion was made for work weekend hosts to lead members around the lodge to familiarize everyone on the ladder locations. (Also pointing out the locations of all the fire extinguishers would be good.)

NH requires 9% taxes on lodging and meal charges, and non-profit organizations are not exempt (except for hospitals and schools). Kevin Baker thought it might be possible to switch from our current room and meal charges to per day use fee to better reflect our usage. Proposal to get a professional opinion on the matter.

### **Communications:**

Things are being fixed on the web site. If you tell Kristen Butler about a host change or swap, please check the website a day or two afterwards to check whether change is there on the host list. If it is not, please send Kristen Butler a reminder about it.

Please send Kristen Butler a picture of your family, to help members learn faces and names. The pictures will not be public; they will be in the password protected section of the web site.

### **Lodge:**

There will be a Lodge Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 28 at the Belmont Hill School, at approximately 7:00 p.m. (exact time TBA). New members are required to send one adult to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is plan work to be done on the lodge from April to October. People should come to discuss ideas AND to do work to move plans forward before the next meeting, such as meeting with contractors to price out an idea.

We have a new oil tank sensor on the oil tank with internet access so that we can monitor the oil tank level from afar and prevent running out of oil. The new sensor costs less than what the plumber

charges for flushing out the system after running out of oil. (The furnace burns about 2 gallons/hour and we have a 600 gallon tank.)

There are now security cameras on the front and rear doors of the boot room, which allow us to monitor who is coming and going from the lodge, both contractors and members. This makes the lodge more secure.

A pipe over the downstairs dorm froze and began leaking on Friday evening. It appears that the work on replacing the rear porch resulted in some clap boards (and maybe some insulating material) being removed and not replaced, creating a draft onto the pipe. The pipe has been repaired and for now the ceiling is being left open to allow warm air to flow into the area by the pipe.

With the attic now insulated, the heating system behaves differently in how the heat is distributed throughout the lodge, and we are working to try to balance the heat evenly. For now, when the lodge is occupied, please keep the doors between the boot room and the living room close to keep the heating system running longer, which should allow more heat to reach the motel rooms. (When the lodge is not occupied, please open the doors.) Peter Hardman will be installing more monitoring sensors to evaluate how well the heating system is working. It may end up being necessary to change how the heat is delivered to motel rooms and other building areas, such as adding another zone to the heating system or another type of heater in some rooms.

Please remember to keep the fire exits clear of snow. Assigning teenagers to shovel the exterior stairs cases is a good way to do this.

The recent charge the club got from Waste Management was due to some unknown person putting construction trash into our recycle dumpster. We now have locks from Waste Management to put on the dumpsters to prevent this problem. The key for the locks is near the kitchen door and is attached to a large yellow plastic rectangle labeled "DUMPSTER", which should (hopefully) make it hard to lose the key. The recycle dumpster is now locked, and Waste Management will soon be replacing our trash dumpster so that it can be locked.

#### **General:**

Reminder that the Sunday breakfast crew should bring the dirty dish towels home and wash them. If those people are not returning to the lodge soon, please give the clean towels to another member to return. (Advice from Cindy Darcy: wash the towels in a separate load – you do not want their odors transferred to your own clothes. Giving them a long soak in a strong oxiclean solution gets rid of a lot of the odors.)

The breakfast crews and anyone using the toasters away from the time where there is a breakfast crew on duty need to empty the crumb trays under the toasters, as mice are being attracted to the toasters.

Discussion about the eliminating the Alumni membership category. Rather than having a special discount for people living outside of New England, people can pay the full membership rate to be a member or come as guests of club members. This change would be effective July 1. The members at the meeting were in favor of this change. Cindy Darcy will come with the by-law change wording and publish it prior to the March membership meeting, so that it can be discussed and voted on then.

Discussion about pro-rate of membership dues for new members. Currently, the prepayment obligation for new members is based on the month of acceptance as follows:

1 July to 31 Jan.	100%
1 Feb. to 28(29) Feb.	80%
1 Mar. to 31 Mar.	60%
1 Apr. to 30 Apr.	40%
1 May to 31 May	20%

This means that a someone being offered membership on January 15 would be charge 100% of the annual dues for usage of the club until June 30, less than 6 months. The membership agreed this does not seem fair, and the membership co-chairs reported that this has been an issue for more than one prospective family. As the club is a **ski** club, the months of the ski season (December through March) are more valuable than the off-season, so there was a proposal to value those months more (perhaps at 70%) and come up with a corresponding pro-rate for different joining points. The e-board will work on coming up with one or more proposals to be discussed at the March meeting, and then hopefully vote on a proposal at the May meeting.

Submitted respectfully yours,

Cindy Darcy