



THE YODELER

Read Us Online @ www.lexski.org
January 2026

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Kristen Butler president@lexski.org
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MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS: Ramona/Pablo Filipi-Acosta
membership@lexski.org
SECRETARY: Cindy Darcy secretary@lexski.org

TREASURER: Chris White treasurer@lexski.org
COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: Kevin Baker info@lexski.org
SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS: Gant Redmon & Bill Hilton
social@lexski.org

LEXSKI MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

January 20	7:30 PM	Club Business Meeting	Location TBD
**NO FEBRUARY MEETING **			
March 17	7:30 PM	Club Business Meeting	Location TBD

LEXSKI EVENTS

January 24	Burns Night	Lodge
February 7-8	Women's X-Country Weekend	Lodge
March 14	St. Patrick's Day Celebration	Lodge

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a fabulous break we had! Lots of fun including New Year's festivities and even our own fire drill! Thank you, Kevin, for the fire safety tips each evening.

Patrick, our cook, is on the mend. Thank you to everyone who stepped in over the break to fix meals.

Nominating Committee is looking for a Lodge Chair/Vice President for the upcoming election. Please reach out to Jan Sciarretta the Chair if you are interested.

A couple of reminders for the season. Club food that is purchased for the meals is to be eaten during mealtime only when the cook is in session. It is not for general use.

Please make sure to sign-in yourself (and your guests) in the logbook upon arrival and departure. Please make sure all windows and doors are locked prior to your departure.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting.

Kristen Butler (President@LexSki.org)
PRESIDENT

LODGE REPORT

Planning for Lodge Maintenance and Improvements

Wow, 2026 is upon us. Although we are on a break from our Work Weekend fun, the Lodge Committee met just before Christmas and planning is afoot for 2026. I was pleased a solid group was able to join me to discuss where we have been and where we are headed.

Work Weekend Survey

The Committee members are working on preparing a survey to gather information and suggestions related to our Work Weekend efforts. We want to figure out how to make these weekends as productive as possible. This might include better understanding of who our more skilled workers are and maybe creating training opportunities for other members interested in broadening their skills.



The idea would be to provide more notice regarding the type of work for each weekend (e.g., as Steve Jahnes had to diligently do to keep Project 11/12 on track). Of course, it is important there be something for everyone to work on, and the Committee will keep that in mind.

We'll email everyone when the survey is ready, probably next month.

Work Weekend Hosts

Do you like hosting a Work Weekend? If so, book your dates now! Each month, from April to November is the plan for 8 official Work Weekends. August has already been reserved by Gant Redmon. Way to go Gant!

If we know the Work Weekend dates sooner, people can get these on their calendars and plan other activities around them instead of visa versa and we can avoid problematic times like holidays and the end of school period.

Christian Ehrbar (lodgechair@lexski.org)

LODGE CHAIR

SOCIAL REPORT

Social Report:

Jan 24: [Burns Night](#) (Celebration of Scottish Poet Robert Burns with Kilts and Scotch)

Feb 7-8th: [Women's Cross Country Ski Weekend](#) at the lodge.

March 14: [St. Patrick's Day Celebration](#) at the lodge.

If anyone has suggestions for Saturday theme nights, let us (social@lexski.org) know, particularly if you are the host!

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

SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Lodge Cleaning

Traditionally, the club has hired a cleaner each week to take care of the first-floor common bathrooms, wet-mop the dining room, and vacuum the shared spaces (Boot Room, Living Room, hallways, etc). This year, despite the Board's best efforts, we have not yet been able to secure a reliable local cleaner. The search is ongoing.

In the meantime, we ask everyone to make an extra effort to keep our common areas looking their best. A quick round of vacuuming, tidying, restocking the bathrooms, or helping with light cleanup—especially on Sundays after a busy weekend—goes a long way toward keeping the lodge welcoming for all.

Lodge Courtesy

Our club's rules are in place to help keep the lodge welcoming, comfortable, and enjoyable for all members and guests. With the Holiday Break behind us, and our busiest winter weekends ahead, here are a few important reminders:

- **Meal and Bar Duty:** One of the final tasks for any duty should always be taking out the trash and recycling. Please don't leave trash for the next meal crew—especially on Sundays. No trash should be left in the kitchen or bar for our mid-weekers to deal with. And don't forget to use the posted QR codes to ensure every required task is completed.

- **Bar Refrigerators:** Please remove or discard any left-over food from the refrigerators. No food or beverages should be left behind after a weekend.
- **TV Room, Tot Room, Puzzle Table:** If your children have used these spaces during the weekend, please check them before you leave. Toys should be put away in the Tot Room, puzzles & games returned to the office, and the TV Room should be left neat and orderly.
- **End-of-Night Lockup:** If you're among the last to head to bed, please make sure the front and back boot room doors are locked and the thermostat timer is turned to its longest setting.

Pro Tip: If you're staying in one of the motels, your room key will also unlock the rear boot room door—handy access from the back rooms without walking around the building.

Formal Bedtime Petition:

In a bold display of civic engagement, several of our youngest members recently organized a formal petition requesting that official bedtimes be moved “way, way later.” Signatures were collected, arguments were made, and at least one crayon-illustrated chart was presented as evidence that “sleep should be optional on weekends.”

The Board reviewed the petition with the seriousness it deserved—complete with a brief, heroic pause for the young rebels —before ultimately deciding to maintain bedtimes as they have always been. Tradition, safety, and the laws of biology prevailed.

We applaud our junior members for their enthusiasm, creativity, and early mastery of grassroots organizing. We look forward to their next proposal, which we assume will involve greater access to unlimited hot chocolate. Rumor is that Willa is already spearheading a successful fundraising effort to hire a professional lobbyist for their next petition.

As a reminder, Bedtime (curfew) Hours are as follows:

i.	<i>Ages 9 and under</i>	<i>9:00 p.m.</i>
ii.	<i>Ages 10 thru 12</i>	<i>10:00 p.m.</i>
iii.	<i>Ages 13 thru 14</i>	<i>11:00 p.m.</i>
iv.	<i>Ages 15 thru 17</i>	<i>11:30 p.m.</i>

Please note that children are not allowed out of their room before 7:00 a.m. without a responsible adult, and that the TV is not to be on between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 a.m.

Club History

I'm still looking for one or more volunteers to add a few paragraphs to the [Club History](#) page on our website. It's long overdue for a refresh! Originally written in the late 1990s by life-long member **Bruce Sebell**, his essay beautifully captures the club's journey and spirit. If you haven't read it yet, I highly recommend checking it out [here](#)—it's truly a fantastic story of how our club came to be.

Bruce's story will remain fully intact, but I'd like to add updates covering the past 25 years to bring the story up to the present. If you'd be interested in contributing a few paragraphs to this ongoing history, please reach out!!

Kevin Baker (info@lexski.org)

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

WE NEED SPONSORS

As you can read below, we have 11 families (!!) in the prospective pipeline, and ski season is heating up. Some of these great families do not currently have sponsors, so we would appreciate it if members stepped up to show them how awesome our club is. Just look for which families have a TBD for sponsors. As an incentive, we hear from a reliable source Willa Jahnes is selling Girl Scout cookies, so we *may* consider splurging and give new sponsor families a (single) cookie. Do not rush all at the same time. While supplies last.

Membership Count:

We currently have 53 active families, 2 derivative members and 3 alumni families.

New Members:

No new members joined in December. But wait, the membership count changed, what happened?? The Launer family was inadvertently not added to the list, and there was a miscount of member numbers (MS Excel-fu not strong). Membership team apologizes for these errors and will report to the flogging stations (i.e. ski in Cannon Mt.'s "firm and fast" conditions)

Wait-List:

We currently do not have a wait list. We have room for 4 more families until we are at capacity again.

Prospective Members

The following are the seven prospective member families in process:

- **Bennett family:** Andra, Matthew (15), Vlad (12), Madalina (7) from Lexington; Sponsors: Hardman, Forman
- **LaCroix/Lepionka family:** Jennifer and Franz, Helen (12) from Cambridge (referred by Tubman/Reece); Sponsors Tubman/Reece, Kmetz
- **Brodsky/Brune family:** Lasse and Sasha, Alec (8), Oskar (8), Esther (3 months) from Arlington , Sponsors: Garrigus, Spira
- **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
- **Wendt-Harrison:** Troy and Tina, and Hazel (7) from Arlington, MA. Sponsors: TBD
- **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: TBD
- **Czik family:** Alex, Rebecca, and Faye(1), from Arlington, MA. Sponsors: TBD
- **Fletcher family:** Gordon, Janet, and Emily (15), from Lexington, MA. Sponsors: TBD.

Prospective families on hold are Barnes-Furutani, Wang, and Doyle

Errors?

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

Pablo and Ramona Filipi-Acosta membership@lexski.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

TREASURER REPORT

Bank Account Balances will be shared at upcoming membership meeting.

Finance Committee

I will be convening this year's finance committee earlier than usual. For those who are not aware, the finance committee is separate from the e-board. We assemble once per year and are tasked with developing and proposing the upcoming year's budget, mainly the proposed dues and fees schedules. While this has traditionally been accomplished in one annual meeting, there are a number of items that have been proposed to me recently. In order to allow for sufficient dialog and consideration, I will be expanding the committee's responsibility to two meetings. Our first meeting will take place in late February/early March with the purpose of strictly discussing and gathering opinions on a variety of issues at hand. We will then meet for a second time in April for the formulation and approval of the proposed budget. As always, participation in the committee requires no finance background. My only ask would be is that if you have a strong opinion please come to the meeting with that opinion loosely held as this is a collaborative process. It is a great opportunity for anyone to express their opinions and participate in the financial planning of the Club. Please e-mail me directly, treasurer@lexski.org, if you'd be interested in participating.

Property Taxes

As shared in last month's Yodeler, the Town of Woodstock undertook a townwide re-assessment of property values resulting in an increased property value (\$519,490). However, at the time revised tax rates had not yet been established. I recently received our latest property tax bill and am happy to report that our taxes due have actually decreased. Our latest bill was in the amount of \$2,787, this is an \$855 reduction from our July billing statement of \$3,642.

Trash & Recycling

Please continue to be mindful of our trash and recycling dumpsters. If you are a weekend host or have bar/dinner duty I would ask that you pay extra attention to the fullness of the dumpsters. We had a second incident over the winter break where I was not made aware that our trash dumpster needing dumping until it was nearly overflowing. It does take a few days to get Waste Management to make a pickup. If the dumpster appears to be greater than 75% full please reach out so I can arrange a pickup. You can e-mail me at treasurer@lexski.org or by text message at 781-535-2930.

Chris White (treasurer@lexski.org)

TREASURER

SECRETARY REPORT

No New Information.

Cindy Darcy (secretary@lexski.org)

SECRETARY

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.