



The Lodge
of the
Lexington
Ski Club

THE YODELER

Read Us Online @ www.lexski.org

June 2026

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Kristen Butler: president@lexski.org

TREASURER: Chris White: treasurer@lexski.org

LODGE Co-CHAIRS: Ben Forman and Brian Kmetz: COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: Irene Gravina:

lodgchair@lexski.org info@lexski.org

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS: Ramona/Pablo Filipi-Acosta:

SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS: Gant Redmon & Bill Hilton:

membership@lexski.org

social@lexski.org

SECRETARY: Cindy Darcy:

secretary@lexski.org

LEXSKI Membership Meeting

June 19

5 p.m.

June Cook out

47 Parker Ave., Lexington

<https://www.lexski.org/event-details/club-picnic-2>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is great to see the usage of the Club continue to increase during the o4 season. We've also have had some visits by bears, fisher cat, bobcats and fox outside, please make sure all food is stored in the building. Here are some possible tactics if you encounter wildlife, [Wildlife Deterrent Tactics](#).

Please remember that upon your arrival at the Club, sign-in and ensure that your guests are also signed in. Payment for guests is due the last day you are at the Club. Please make our Treasurer's job easier so that he doesn't have to contact you for payment.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday for the picnic.

Kristen Butler President@LexSki.org

PRESIDENT

SOCIAL REPORT

June Picnic: June 19, 5:30 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. Thank you also to Steve Jahnes for offering to bring a grill and to Dan Butler for offering to bring a grill - Much appreciated! <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/club-picnic-2>

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! <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/gran-fondo-weekend>

Fall Hike Weekend: Date: 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. <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/fall-hike-weekend>

October Fest: October 20 at a location TBD. Time to celebrate a German kick-off to welcoming the first snow (hopefully) with a cold one. <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/october-fest>

Holiday Party: December 15 at a location TBD. This Holiday tradition is always a hit with any that have already skied but especially with the kids! <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/holiday-party-1>

Gant Redmon and Bill Hilton social@lexski.org

SOCIAL CO-CHAIRS

TREASURER REPORT

Annual Dues

Annual dues statements were distributed earlier this month and are due by member check by July 1st. In total, just shy of \$135,000 has been invoiced, which I believe is a Club record. While some of you have already paid via the electronic link, if you have yet to pay your dues, I would kindly ask that you do so via check to my address listed on the invoice. The handful of payments that have been made electronically will serve as a valuable test case for future years as we continue to move more items to digital avenues.

If you have any changes to your family structure, please let me know so I can revise and resend your annual dues. Or, if you do not plan to continue with the Club let me know ASAP as we do have a current waiting list for new member families. As a reminder, the late fee structure for annual dues was changed in the approved budget and accrues at \$100 per month. The E-Board has discretion to terminate memberships that remain unpaid as of September 1st. If there is a particular hardship that prevents you from meeting these deadlines you may petition the E-Board for consideration.

Closing the Fiscal Year

We will officially close our fiscal year on June 30th. I am still anticipating a contribution to the Capital Improvements Fund in line with what was shared during the May membership meeting, approximately \$30,000. I will share final numbers once they are available in July.

Work Weekend Reimbursement Reminders

It's great to see early attendance at our work weekends as it takes a significant amount of work to turn over and prepare the Lodge for next season. If you are utilizing your personal payment methods to purchase supplies as needed for work weekend, please submit those reimbursement requests at the close of the weekend so they may be paid within IRS guidelines. Each reimbursement request should be made using the Reimbursement Request Form which is available on the website, I will also leave some pre-printed at the Club when I next visit.

Chris White treasurer@lexski.org

TREASURER

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The rain missed us by a day and the annual picnic tonight, Friday the 19th, promises to be a fun time! See you there. Please notice a new item under the Lodge Fire and Safety Reminders at the end of this newsletter. Locking doors and windows when leaving the lodge is essential. And if you have guests, please check theirs also, since they would not know the safety rules as well as we do!

Irene Gravina (info@lexski.org)

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Count

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

Prospective Members

Following are the nine 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 family:** Archana and Arun, Aria (8) and Asha (5), from Lexington. Sponsors: Eisenman, 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 the Kmetz since college. Sponsors: Kmetz/TBD
- **Czik family:** Alex, Rebecca, and Faye(1), from Arlington, MA. Sponsors: Acosta-Filipi, Schopp
 - **Anthoine family:** Travis and Samantha, Charlie (5) and Eloise (3), from Winchester. Sponsors: TBD
- **Gerstenblatt-Mayer family:** Michael and Sara, Gillian (7) and June (5), from Winchester. Sponsors: TBD
- **Park-Chen family:** Andy and Keru, John (8) and Vincent (6). Sponsors: TBD

Prospective families on hold are Barnes-Furutani 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 CO-CHAIRS

SECRETARY REPORT

During the Work Weekend at the end of May, I surveyed all the trees growing along the fence and removed the undesirable “volunteers” that spring up each year and the ones that do not fit with the multi-year plan for the area. The desirable young trees are growing well, and are well on their way to filling in the space. Please do not cut down any trees in that area without first talking to me and the lodge chairs. Please do not dump the remains of any fires in that area, either.

Reflections on membership numbers ... At some point moderately early in my membership, I joined the Finance Committee and discovered that an important part of budget planning, at that point in time, was trying to estimate the number of members we would have in the coming year. I then assembled a few years' worth of membership data and started tracking things from then on. I joined the club in 2014, the whole time of my membership, the club never had the full set of members paying a full year's worth of dues for the current year. (This year and last year, we are technically full with the full set of members at the end of the year, but the most recent members have paid a proportionate amount of dues based on their joining month.) Right now, the club has a small waiting list for membership. Depending on how many families decide to resign or go inactive, we will either be full or very close to full at the start of the new fiscal year, July 1.

Here are some of the numbers: When I joined the club (2014) there were 50 member families, 4 derivative members and a total of 101 members. The low point of membership was the 2017-8 year, with 40 member families and 2 derivative members, and a total of 79 adults. The club was bouncing back from that low point by the 2019-20 year with 45 member families and 3 derivative members and a total of 90 adults, but then, as we all know, Covid-19 hit, and membership growth was flat for three years after that. As of today, we have 55 member families, and 2 derivative members, and a total of 104 adults.

Many thanks to the membership chairs, Marc Garrigus, Caren Connell, Pablo Acosta and Ramona Filipi, for all their hard work, plus those who helped on the membership committees, plus the numerous folks who sponsored prospective members and helped them through the joining process. Also, many thanks to the various members who have pulled in neighbors and friends to the club to grow the club through direct connections. It is thrilling to me see the club at (nearly?) full membership!

Some other interesting (to me, at least) numbers are that the average length of membership of the active members in the club is 11.9 years, and the median length is 8 years. Over the past two years, 17 new families have joined the club. For people leaving the club (since 2014) the average membership length was 19.1 years, and the median length was 15 years.

A friendly reminder to all folks that payment for the coming 2026-7 season is due by July 1. Paying on time not only allows you to avoid the late fee (\$100 per month), but it **saves Chris White from extra work!** Generating invoices for the late fees and sending them is a bit of a hassle for him, so use this bit of knowledge to motivate yourself to **pay on time**. If you know you will be resigning or going inactive for the coming year, please Chris White or someone else on the e-board know, so that we can offer any open spots to a family on the wait list sooner rather than later.

May 19, 2026 – Lexington Ski Club Membership Meeting

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

Attendance: **President:** Kristen Butler, **Vice-President:** Brian Kmetz & Ben Forman;

Treasurer: Christopher White, **Secretary:** Cindy Darcy, **Membership:** Pablo Acosta, **Social:** Bill Hilton & Gant Redmon; **Communications:** Irene Gravina

Members: Kevin Baker, Sasha Brodsky, Dan Butler, Steve Canham, Deanna Chan, Sherman Chan, Caren Connell, Paul Cotran, Je4 Darcy, Christian Ehrbar, Ian Fox, John Gardner, Susan Gardner, Marc Garrigus, Keren Hamel, Tsachi Avrahami, Peter Hardman, Steve Jahnes, Josh Launer, Franz Lepionka, David Ledwig, Eric Pearlman, Hugh Reece, Alex Rock, Bill Sciarretta, Tina Harrison, Troy Wendt

Zoom: Andra Bennett, Cassy Bilton, Jennifer Eisenman, Gerald Gelfand, Jennifer Nichols, Daniela Gissara, Sara Kmetz, Rita McCarthy, Tom McCarthy, Hugh Reece, Eran Spira, Betsy Stanford, Bob Sayre,

Not represented: Bogosian, Congoran, Laviano, McVeigh, Moellering/Kraska, O'Donnell, Osten, Varoglu/Westerho4, Vogel, Yasaitis

Guests: Keru Chen, Andy Park, Gavin Strok, Hane Strok

A Quorum was established.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Kristen Butler.

Motion 1: (Cindy Darcy/Marc Garrigus) To approve the minutes from the March 17, 2026 membership meeting.

49 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carries.

Social: The June membership meeting will be on June 19, starting at 5:30. It is a picnic/BBQ, with whole families welcome to attend. Set up will begin at 5:00, and extra hands are welcome. Please bring whatever you want to grill for your family, and a dish to share.

The Gran-Fondo will be on the weekend of July 11 at the lodge – bicycle rides and/or hiking on Saturday.

There will be a fall hiking weekend at the lodge – date TBD.

Membership: Three new families have completed all the joining requirements. The Bennett family is being o4ered membership and will fill our membership cap of 55 families. Welcome! The Pastel, Wang and Norman families will be placed on the wait list in that order. Hopefully, we will be welcoming them into the club soon.

Lodge: The Lodge Committee is meeting monthly on the Thursday after the E-board meeting. (The Eboard meets on the first Tuesday of the month.) The Lodge Committee has been working on determining what projects at the lodge should be done this year; some likely possibilities are the dorms and first floor public bathrooms. All the work weekends now have hosts. Alex and Hilda Rock will be hosting the May 30 work weekend. Anyone wanting to host a Large Group at the lodge should submit a request to LodgeChair@lexski.org.

Treasurer: Christopher White presented the budget prepared by the Budget Committee. It changes the late fee for annual dues to \$100 **per month**. The work weekend buyout fee is increased to \$400/adult, with the intention of encouraging more participation from members. Dues are increased by about 4% for keep up with inflation.

Motion 2: (Chris White/Je4 Darcy) Motion to approve the budget from the Finance Committee.

Motion 3: (Kevin Baker/Alex Rock) To amend the budget to increase meal fees \$1 for meals taken.

Vote Motion 3: **29 in favor / 7 opposed / 13 abstain. Motion carries.**

Vote Motion 2: 48 in favor / 0 opposed / 1 abstain. Motion carries.

During the o4-season, hosts do not need to be at the lodge, but they do need to handle communications with the various people who will be at the lodge during the host's week. (Please do NOT ask the Treasurer who else will be at the lodge; that is a question to send to the host.)

Members should send reservations to both the Treasurer and the assigned host for that week.

YouTube TV will be turned off at the conclusion of the ski season. All TVs in the Club are smart TVs, you are free to log in to any personal accounts while at the Club. Bonus points to any family who forgets to logout before they leave.

Payments are due at the time you vacate the Lodge at the conclusion of your stay.

During the off-season, the dumpster is emptied on an as-needed basis, so it can go for long stints of time with everything sitting in the summer heat. Please do NOT put any diapers into the dumpster during the off-season; you can bring them to the transfer station to dispose of them (no fee; no proof of residency needed; just tell them you belong to the Lexington Ski Club). **If you see that either of the dumpsters is close to being full, please let Chris White know.**

The propane stove and oven is turned off for the off-season. The electric stove and oven is available for use.

Motion 4: (Cindy Darcy/Marc Garrigus) To adjourn meeting at 8:31 p.m.

49 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cindy Darcy secretary@lexski.org

Secretary

LODGE CHAIRS REPORT

New upper dorms and a new first-floor bathroom! That's the plan for this o4-season after a thorough review of the member's survey and further study of our options. Thank you to the lodge committee members for their help with project planning, especially Stephen Jahnes, who once again has gone above and beyond contributing his skills to the club.

Thank you to all the members who have volunteered to lead the remaining work weekends. We hope that everyone else will do their best to participate in at least one—we're going to need lots of help getting these jobs done in time for ski season.

Lastly, a shout out to the Rocks for leading a productive May work weekend. The intrepid discovers in that crew unearthed a leaky radiator pipe below the dining room floor. Please pardon the disruptions in the area over the next few weeks. The plumber will be working to access the pipe for repair.

Hopefully we'll have better heat in the dining room next winter with more steam making it all the way through the new piping and into the radiators.

Large Group Weekend Reservations: Summer and fall weekends are filling up quickly. Remember, 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 <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/work-weekend-2>

August 15-16: Gant Redmon <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/work-weekend-7>

September 26-27: Bill and Mea Hilton <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/work-weekend-2>

October 24-25: Rita and Tom McCarthy <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/work-weekend-3>

November 14-15: Sarah and Brian Kmetz <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/work-weekend-4>

O4season Member Weekends

July 11-12: Gran Fondo – hosted by Varoglu-Westerho4 <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/granfondo-weekend>

October 16-18: music weekend – hosted by Gelfand-Nichols
<https://www.lexski.org/eventdetails/music-weekend>

TBD - Fall Hiking Weekend <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/fall-hike-weekend>

Large Groups

July 31 - August 3: Launer Large Group <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/large-group-hosted-bythe-launers>

September 12-13: Butler Large Group <https://www.lexski.org/event-details/large-group-hosted-bythe-butlers>

Ben Forman & Brian Kmetz, lodgechair@lexski.org

Lodge Co-Chairs

LODGE FIRE AND SAFETY REMINDERS

LOCKING DOORS AND WINDOWS

Please do not forget, at the end of your stay at the lodge, to lock the doors and windows to your room or motel unit. And, if you have guests, please check that theirs are locked as well. Some of the motel doors need an extra tug from the outside to make sure they are closed. And don't forget the rear doors and windows, including those that open to the balconies upstairs, along the back of the family wing.

"# 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 a headcount 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 **Automated 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.

+ - / 0 1 2 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.

3 4 5 6 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 beEer opGon. In a real fire, always find the safest, quickest way to exit the building.

789;<=>?@ABCD **FIRST AID KIT**

A **first aid kit** is in the office for bandages and basic supplies. If you noGce items running low, noGfy 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 locaGon of fire exGnguishers, pull staGons, and the AED. Review it when you arrive. If you ever find yourself trapped, call **911** immediately and give your exact room locaGon.

"# **FIREPLACE ASH DISPOSAL**

Always dispose of ashes from the fireplace and firepit carefully. Never put ashes in the trash or dumpster and always wait unGl 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 exGnguished. Taking this extra step prevents accidental fires and helps keep our lodge safe.