

The Lodge of the Lexington Ski Club

THE YODELER

Read us online at *lexski.org*
November 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*
Secretary: Cindy Darcy: *secretary@lexski.org*
Communications: Irene Gravina*: info@lexski.org*
Lodge Co-Chairs: Ben Forman and Brian Kmetz: *lodgechair@lexski.org*
Membership Co-Chairs: Ramona/Pablo Filipi-Acosta: *membership@lexski.org*
Social Co-Chairs: Gant Redmon & Bill Hilton*: social@lexski.org*

LEXSKI Membership Meeting

November 17, 7:30 p.m., Belmont Hill School, Chapel basement, 280 Prospect St.
Drinks, snacks and socializing begin at 7 p.m.

For those who need to be remote, please use the following link.

https://belmonthill-org.zoom.us/j/3789664037?pwd=ZDYyR29oZkxZcGhEWWdmdGlLd0ozUT09&omn=93568280318

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



And it shows promise!!

Work Weekends

Thank you to everyone who hosted a work weekend this year and to those who completed multiple work weekends in accomplishing all the projects! The Club looks spectacular! With the last work weekend this coming weekend, please make sure you communicate with the Lodge Chair and Treasurer if you are planning on taking the buyout ($400 per adult), as there are still a number of members who have not completed their requirements.

Attic Storage

At the October Work Weekend we worked on creating space in the attic for members to store their gear. Please make sure you label your bins, shelving or lockers. We found a bin that was from a former member that was over 15 years old!!!

2. ATTIC STORAGE:

A. One (1) locker or equivalent space per family, not to exceed 4 ft. X 2 ft. (3 ft. X 2 ft. preferred). Existing larger lockers are grandfathered.

B. Owners' names must be written on outside of locker.

C. Locks are discouraged. Locked lockers can be a problem if they need to be moved for Club repairs.

D. Removal/Transfer of lockers: Active members and inactive members who have been inactive for less than two consecutive years are entitled to have a locker. When a member leaves the Club (or is inactive for two consecutive years), they must dispose of their locker by:

1. Removing the locker
2. Selling or giving the locker to another member
3. If the locker is not removed/transferred within 6 months, the abandoned locker will be offered to the membership by order of membership join date (oldest to newest).

Last One to Leave? Host or Member?

There is now a clipboard on the back of the Bootroom door that has a listing of all the tasks that need to be completed when leaving the Club. Hosts should plan on signing off on this task list as part of hosting for the weekend (or delegate to a member who will complete). If you are the last one to leave the building (or there are no other cars in the parking lot), please make sure we have completed everything.

Reservation Form

With the new 2026-2027 Reservation form you will notice the year has changed and the color this year is royal blue 2026-2027. At this month's meeting we will go through how to fill out reservation forms to ensure that hosts receive the information they need for a successful weekend and to make sure the Treasurer has everything needed to account for the fees.

The Holiday Reservation form is going to come out soon. Please remember the week is divided into two parts (you may signup for both parts, but you may have to change rooms in the between because your priority number changes).

Nominating Committee

At the November membership meeting we will be selecting the Nominating Committee for the upcoming election year. This committee will be recruiting for positions on the Eboard. If you would like to learn more about the responsibilities of the Eboard and how you can help out, please feel free to reach out to any of the Eboard members. If you have been a member for a few years and have not had the opportunity to be on the Eboard or be an assistant to an Eboard committee chair, please consider it for the coming year.

See you at the meeting and think snow!

Kristen Butler President@LexSki.org
President

SOCIAL REPORT

Nov. 17: **LexSki Club Meeting**. 7:30 at the Belmont Hill School, Chapel basement. The meeting will begin at 7:30, so prepare ahead to grab a drink and snack prior to 7:30. For a remote link, please see the notice at the top of this newsletter.

Dec. 4: **Teton Gravity Research** presents "Actually It Is Rocket Science" at the Arlington High School. The tickets are available on-line and admission is general admission (no assigned seats). Doors open at 6:15 and show starts at 7:00.

December Holiday Party! 6:00 - 9:00 (set-up at 5:30). Date and location TBD, with details coming soon. Watch for announcements as we get closer. Pot Luck- bring what you most like eating. The Club will provide the beverages (for both kids and adults). Ganta Claus is rumored to be appearing. Parents may (secretly) bring a wrapped gift (with name on it) for G. Clause to present to their children.

Dec. 25 - Jan 3 (2027!): Think snow! If anyone wishes to host any theme nights, let us (Social@LexSki.org) know!

Jan. 16-18: **MLK Weekend**. Celebrating the life Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by skiing and staying at the Lodge has become very popular!

Jan. 23: **Burns Night**. Come celebrate the Scottish Poet Robert Burns with Kilts and Scotch at the lodge.

Feb. 6-7: **Women's Cross Country Ski Weekend**. Bring your waxed or wax-less cross-country skis for this always popular ski weekend at the lodge.

Feb. 13-21: **Feb Vacation**. Watch for possible fun night assignments (such as Luau night, game night, pizza night …) at the Lodge.

Mar. 13: **St Patrick's Day**: Come show your green in celebration of this Fifth Century Patron Saint of Ireland at the lodge!

Apr. 9 (tentative): **Wine Tasting**. 7:00, location TBD.

Apr. 17-25: **April Vaca**. Spring skiing for the intrepid!

If anyone has suggestions for more Saturday theme nights at the Lodge, let us (Social@LexSki.org) know, particularly if you are the host!

Gant Redmon and Bill Hilton, *Social@LexSki.org*

Social co-chairs

TREASURER REPORT

TDBankNorth Checking	**14,128.35**
TDBankNorth Savings	
Capital Improvements (>$10k)	70,945.97
Capital Improvements Donations	2,403.00

Emergency Fund (>$35k)	50,000.00
Oper MM	116,498.78
Total for TDBankNorth Savings	**$239,847.75**
Total Bank Accounts	**$253,976.10**

We will soon transition from summer to ski season operations. As we transition, please ensure you're sending your ResForms directly to the host only. During the ski season the host will gather all forms, complete room assignments, and provide them to me at the conclusion of the hosting period.

This past weekend marked the final work weekend of the year. Thank you to everyone who has already made us aware of their intention to 'buy out'. Now that this year's work weekends are over, I will distribute invoices for each adult member who has not fulfilled their commitment. As a reminder, at the budget meeting we voted to increase the per adult buyout to $400.

As previously discussed with membership, I completed the ordering of two upright freezers to support this year's kitchen committee. The total cost of the two freezers, including delivery and disposal of the current freezer was $1,788. They were delivered at the work weekend and installed, following completion of the needed electrical update to the closet.

You will see the work done around the Lodge on your upcoming visits. Big thanks to Steve and Sandra Jahnes for their project management over the past six months, as well as all the members who completed additional work weekends to ensure their completion prior to the beginning of the year. The project's conclusion will bring some larger expenses (drop ceiling, electrical, additional materials, etc.). Brian Kmetz has been tracking the total cost of the project, once finalized we will share with membership.

Chris White *treasurer@lexski.org*

Treasurer

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Members busy at the club this past work weekend were happy to see a light snowfall dusted the trails at Cannon, Loon, and nearby mountains. The season is about to begin! The club welcomes a full roster of prospective families this year, and an updated lodge to hold everyone. But before we do, please come to the membership meeting tomorrow night at 7:30 in the Belmont Hill Chapel basement, 280 Prospect St., Belmont. If you need to attend remotely, please see the link near the top of this newsletter. See you there!

Irene Gravina *info@lexski.org*

Communications Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New Members
No new members joined the club in October.

Wait List
No wait list for now, we cleared it at the start of the membership year.

Prospective Members
Following are the twelve prospective member families in process:
- Sapkota-Buduri family: Archana and Arun, Aria (8) and Asha (5) from Lexington; Sponsors: Eisenman, Gravina
- Tocci family: Brian and Amanda from Somerville; Sponsors: Butler, White
- Czik family: Alexander and Rebecca, Faye (1) from Arlington; Sponsors: Acosta/Filipi, TBD
- Anthoine family: Travis and Samantha, Charlie (5) and Eloise (3) from Winchester; Sponsors: Schopp, TBD
- Gerstenblatt-Mayer family: Michael and Sara, Gillian (7) and June (5) from Winchester; Sponsors: Chiang, Spira
- Park-Chen family: Andy and Keru, John (8) and Vincent (6) [and third child] from Arlington; Sponsors: Canham, Kmetz
- Strok family: Gavin and Marie, Ethan (12) and Ella (11) from Arlington; Sponsors: Gissara/Fernandez, Launer
- Armstrong-Martin family: Alexander and Katherine, Warren (4) and Charlie (1) from Winchester; Sponsors: Celler-Bilton, TBD
- Mazumdar-Bashkar family: Varun and Vinita, Vivek (5) and Vidhi (2) from Concord; Sponsors: Tubman/Reece, TBD
- Hernandez family: Alfonso and Lisa from Lexington; Sponsors: Darcy, Pearlman
- Shaughnessy family: Dan and Savannah, Colin (1) from Charlestown; Sponsors: McCarthy, Gardner
- Reid family: Elliot and Ema, Finn (8) and Mak (6) from Winchester; Sponsors: Rock, Gelfand

Thank you for all who volunteered to sponsor all our awesome prospective families, **we still need 4 member families to volunteer** (see the TBDs above).

Pablo and Ramona Filipi-Acosta, membership@lexski.org

Membership Co-Chairs

SECRETARY REPORT

With the approach of winter, the 2025-2026 reservation form has reached the end of its life, and there is now a NEW 2026-2027 reservation form available on the web site. (Hosts – if anyone tries to submit an old form to you, please have that person resubmit with the new form.) The host list for the entire 2026-2027 period is also posted. Please check when you are assigned to host. In particular, hosts for the ski season (12/23/26 – 4/9/27) are: Bilton, Brune & Brodsky, Canham, Cantoni, Chiang, Dennis, Eisenman, Hamel & Avrahami, Launer, Ledwig, Pearlman, Puscasu & Nottleson, Rock, Sayre, Schopp, Tubman & Reece. If you are one of these folks, please mark your calendar with the date. If you

know now that the week you are assigned is bad for you, please first try to TRADE weeks with someone else, before trying to find an outright substitute.

This is a friendly reminder that ALL families (and derivatives) are expected to have an adult at each Membership Meeting. Plan ahead now by putting the meetings in your calendar: November 17, December 15, January 19, March 16, April 8 (Friday), May 18, June TBA – probably a Friday. (No meeting is held in February due to February vacation.

Cindy Darcy, *secretary@lexski.org*
Secretary

LODGE CHAIRS REPORT

Project Updates

Thanks to an impressive October work weekend effort led by Rita and Tom, the club is one big step closer to being ready for the approaching season.

The gaping hole in the dining room floor has vanished, and you'd never know that it had been there. The two new first-floor bathrooms (dorm and main living room) are now just waiting for finish plumbing and a final coat of paint. Once the radiator's back in place, the upstairs dorm will be ready to go too. We reclaimed new attic space for member storage by laying floorboards over large stretches that were previously just insulation. And we also completed some exterior work to shore the building up for ice and hopefully a lot of snow.

All that said, we still have quite a long punch list for the November work weekenders. Come one, come all, and let's get 'er done.

Ben Forman & Brian Kmetz, *lodgechair@lexski.org*

Lodge 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 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.