



**The Lodge
of the
Lexington
Ski Club**

THE YODELER

Read Us Online @ www.lexski.org

December 2025



EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Kristen Butler president@lexski.org

LODGE CHAIR: Christian Ehrbar lodgechair@lexski.org

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

December 19	TIME TBD	LexSki Holiday Party NEW DATE	First Parish Church, Lexington
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

Let it snow and keep snowing and keep snowing!! Skiing this past weekend was spectacular!

Kitchen Committee

As the new Kitchen Committee works on their weekly procedures, it is important that they have accurate meal counts to plan for the weekend food. Please make sure all changes are in to the host by Wednesday evening at 8:00 pm. As we mentioned Patrick is returning to being our cook again this year, and meals will start with breakfast on December 27th (provided there are the minimum numbers). All food and beverages that are served by the Club should be consumed on premises.

Nominating Committee for EBoard Positions

Reminder that the Nominating Committee has been selected to seek people to be on the EBoard. If you are interested in becoming involved with the EBoard please let them know or reach out to any of the EBoard members. The Lodge Chair/Vice President role is available for the coming year starting in March of 2026.

Bed Times and Quiet Time

Reminder that bedtimes are posted and that parents may not retire prior to their child(ren) who are 17 and under have also retired for the night. Quiet time at the Lodge is at 11:30 pm until 7:00 am. All noise should be kept to a minimum during that time.

Reservation Committee

As we gear up for the weekly reservations of the winter after the winter break, it is very important that we fill out reservation forms accurately and provide as much information to the host and reservation committee. Please put as many rooms as possible on your reservation as we expect high usage of the Club. If you decide that you are not going to be at the Club for a meal, please make sure to check off "meals not taken", this will ensure that the duty assignments are assigned to those who are in residence. Any changes in your reservation are due on Wednesdays by 8:00 pm; changes after that time are subject to cancellation fees.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the holiday party on Friday, December 19th at the First Parish Church at 7:00 pm and then at the Club during the winter break!

Kristen Butler (President@LexSki.org)

PRESIDENT

LODGE REPORT

Lodge Repairs and Upgrades – Be on the Lookout!

Tis the season to enjoy the fruits of everyone's labor. Soak it up! While at the lodge, please be on the lookout for repairs that are needed and report them in, especially if they need prompt attention (e.g., leaks or any sort of things that if not fixed ASAP will do more damage). Also, start thinking about upgrades and enhancements that club still needs as that input is always welcome.



Lodge Committee

I've been slow to organize this but propose we meet at 7:30pm for an hour or so Thursday 12/11, Wednesday 12/17 or Thursday 12/18. Look for an email and we'll find the best night to get as many folks as possible together. This will be a debrief on the year and a prompt to start thinking about next year.

Fire safety – Please Read!

Our fire protection systems are all tested and tuned, but the best fire protection is prevention. Remember that no open flames are allowed anywhere in the lodge except the fireplace. Please also keep all the exits from the building clear of any gear or anything that would slow the evacuation. Anybody having a fire needs to regularly attend to the fire, you may not leave the building with a fire unattended, and you really should stay in the living room. Finally, if you need to smoke something, our designated smoking area is between the dumpsters.

Christian Ehrbar (lodgechair@lexski.org)

LODGE CHAIR

SOCIAL REPORT

Note the New Date, **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19th for the Holiday Party at the First Parish Church Basement, 7 Harrington Rd, Lexington.** The start time will be announced this week, which will be either 6:00PM or 7:00PM. Ganta Claus is rumored to be appearing. Children are welcome, and parents may (secretly) bring a wrapped gift for Ganta to present to their children.

Upcoming Dates:

- Dec. 19: [LexSki Holiday Party](#), TIME TBD; First Parish Church (Basement), 7 Harrington Rd, Lexington.
🎄 Watch for an email soon on what to bring! 🎁
- 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

Stay Connected at Lexski.org

Our Lexski.org website is continually refreshed with new documents and information to keep members informed.

- 📝 In the [Members Area](#), you'll find the [Holiday Reservation Form](#) along with helpful directions.
- 📅 All [LexSki Events](#) are posted to the online Event Calendar so you can plan ahead.
- 📝 For weekly reservations, always use the [most current form](#) directly from our website. For the 2024–2025 season, the Reservation Form is marked with a purple “**2025–2026**” header at the top.
- 📸 Want to update your family photo? Just use update link at the top of the [family photo directory](#).
- 🏠 New phone or address? Correct your contact information now [online at the bottom of this page](#).

If you spot any errors, outdated information, or would like to add something to the Event calendar, please [let me know](#) so updates can be made promptly.

Safety Communications

Beginning this year, each dinner will include a brief set of **Lodge Emergency Safety Announcements** during the evening announcements. These reminders are designed to help both members and guests know what to do in case of an emergency.

You'll also find the full list of safety reminders at the end of this month's *Yodeler*. Please take a moment to review them and be sure to share the information with your guests—it's an important part of keeping the Lex Ski community safe and prepared.

A practice fire drill is scheduled for December 27, 2025, after dinner. More information will be shared as the date approaches, but as in the past, we will have a Woodstock Fire truck on-site, and children, with their parents supervising, may check out the fire truck and chat with the fire fighters after the fire drill is complete.

Loon Mountain Ski Patrollers Awarded for Saving Lex Ski Member's Life

When Lex Ski Member (Massachusetts State Police Sergeant) **Mike Cherven** fell on his dislodged ski on Loon's Upper Speakeasy trail last March, what should have been an ordinary run on a bluebird day turned into a fight for his life. The freak accident left him with a bone deep, 18-inch laceration to his thigh, and a catastrophic amount of blood loss on the trail.



In those first critical seconds, fate delivered two heroes. Loon Mountain Ski Patroller **Andrew Formalarie**, who was on the way to another call and happened to be skiing just behind Mike, stopped immediately to help. Recognizing the severity of the injury, he clamped a tourniquet on the wound, slowing the bleeding — the first time in his 15 years of ski patrolling that he had ever needed to use one on the slopes. Moments later, fellow Loon Mountain Ski Patroller **Daniel Tousignant** arrived to assist with first aid and help transport Mike down the mountain. Once at the Loon base, the Loon Ski Patrol and Medical Team applied a second, stronger tourniquet and started an IV, further stabilizing Mike before a helicopter rushed him to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for emergency surgery. Doctors later credited the Loon Mountain Ski Patrollers' quick initial actions with saving Mike's life.

On December 4, in Framingham, MA, the story came full circle. Before an audience that included **Formalarie's and Tousignant's families** and **Loon Ski Patrol Director Marc Abend**, MA State Police Colonel Geoffrey Noble awarded the two ski patrollers the **MA State Police Civilian Medal of Lifesaving**.

Now, nearly fully recovered, Mike has already planned a return to the slopes — this time to spend a day skiing with the men who saved him. It is certainly a happy ending to Mike's harrowing ordeal.



On December 4, 2025, at Massachusetts State Police Headquarters, Loon Mountain Ski Patrollers Andrew Formalarie and Dan Tousignant were awarded the State Police Civilian Medal of Lifesaving. Joining them were Loon Ski Patrol Director Marc Abend, Lex Ski members Mike Cherven and Kevin Baker, and other State Police troopers who had been skiing with Mike on the day of his accident.

Club History

The [Club History](#) page on our website is due 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—I'd love to include your voice in the next chapter.

EV Chargers

We've experienced some intermittent issues with the EV chargers going off-line, which occasionally requires a manual reboot.

- If you encounter a charger that is off-line, please try using the other charger first.
- If that's not possible—or if the other charger is already in use—you can easily reboot the charger by following the directions shared at our last meeting. If you need guidance, don't hesitate to reach out.

Reminder: The “**Tap to Pay**” credit card feature is disabled on both chargers. To initiate charging, **you must scan the QR code displayed on the charger** and follow the payment prompts on your phone.

As the lodge gets busy, please keep in mind that we currently only have 2 EV chargers on-site. Please coordinate with other members to ensure you aren't blocking an EV charger when not in use, or once your EV is fully charged.

Reminder from the Food Committee

Club-provided food is purchased for enjoyment by our members and guests together during mealtimes at the lodge. Please do not use club purchased food or club hot chocolate to prepare lunch or snacks to take with you to the mountains. Thank you for your cooperation on this issue.

Lodge Courtesy

Our club's rules are in place to help keep the lodge welcoming and enjoyable for all members and guests. With the Holiday Break approaching, this is a good time to revisit a few of our guidelines that are especially important on busy weekends. A selection of highlights from our rules appears below, and members can find the [complete club rules here](#).

XI. NOISE

1. *Consideration should be shown members who go to bed early. TV should be turned off at 11:00 p.m. No noise objectionable to the majority should be allowed. After 11:30 p.m. downstairs area shall remain quiet.*
2. *Refrain from yelling, slamming doors, talking loudly above the first floor and in bedroom areas.*
3. *Children are not allowed out of their room before 7:00 a.m. without a responsible adult.*
4. *Bedtime (Curfew) Hours:*
 - i. *Ages 9 and under 9:00 p.m.*
 - ii. *Ages 10 thru 12 10:00 p.m.*
 - iii. *Ages 13 thru 14 11:00 p.m.*
 - iv. *Ages 15 thru 17 11:30 p.m.*

This applies to all children in residence. A parent or sponsoring adult must not retire until their children 17 or under are in bed.

VII. MEALS

1. *Members bringing their own food must not interfere with the storage of community food. All non-community food and beer requiring refrigeration must be stored in designated refrigerators on weekends when community meals are being served. NO FOOD OTHER THAN COMMUNITY FOOD MAY BE LEFT AT THE LODGE AFTER ALL THE MEMBERS LEAVE. ALL PERISHABLE FOOD LEFT IN THE REFRIGERATORS WILL BE DISCARDED AND ANY FOOD LEFT AT THE LODGE AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES COMMUNITY FOOD. Refrigerators in the bar area are for storage of members' personal food. Refrigerators in Lodge kitchen are for Lodge kitchen use only.*

IX. BAR STORAGE

- B. *The two refrigerators in the bar room may be used by members and guests. All items placed in these refrigerators must have your name on them. Amounts of beer and wine should be no more than you plan to consume during the next 24 hours. At the end of your stay remove all items from the refrigerator.*

Attendance at Meetings:

Our meetings are an important way to share key information with members and also a wonderful opportunity to connect socially outside of the lodge.

-  It has long been expected that **at least one adult from each family** will attend every meeting.
-  To support full participation, a Zoom link will be provided for **business meetings** (November, January, March, April, May) as we understand that from time to time, it may be difficult to attend every meeting in person.
-  For **social meetings** (October, December, and June), no Zoom link will be shared—members are asked to make every effort to attend these gatherings in person.
-  Zoom links are distributed by **Dan Butler**, typically on the day of the business meeting.

Your presence—whether in person or online—helps keep our community strong and engaged.

Kevin Baker (info@lexski.org)

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Count:

We currently have 51 active families, 2 derivative members and 3 alumni families.

New Members:

No new members joined in November.

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

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

Pablo and Ramona Filipi-Acosta membership@lexski.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

TREASURER REPORT

TDBank Checking:	\$ 6,620.33
TDBank Savings:	
Capital Improvement (>10K)	\$ 52,307.07
Capital Improvement Donations	\$ 2,403.00
Emergency Fund (>35K)	\$ 43,500.00
Operating MM Account	\$ 89,106.66
Total TDBank Savings	<u>\$187,316.73</u>
Total All TDBank Accounts	\$193,937.06

Property Assessment

The Town of Woodstock recently completed a townwide property value re-assessment. Property values were last re-assessed in 2020. The Town cited the continued increase in sale prices, along with other aggregated data, to determine that a re-assessment was necessary. For example, in 2020 the ratio of assessed value to sales price was more than 98%. This figure declined to less than 50% over the past five years. As would be expected, the Club was assessed at a higher value; \$519,490 in 2025 vs. \$357,830 in 2020. While this represents a 45% increase in the property value, it does not necessarily equate to a 45% increase in our property taxes. The exact impact on the property taxes will not be known until the Town establishes the new tax rate. I will share that information with membership as soon as it becomes available. I will also make available the notice from the Town Select Board should you wish to review and read the full rationale for the townwide re-assessment.

Reservation Forms & Payment

The blessing of cold weather and early snow has our season starting earlier than any recent memory. As a reminder, when the host is not onsite all final payments are due upon vacating the Lodge. When the host is on site (beginning holiday break) payments are due during Bar of your final night. If you are hosting prior to the holiday break, please do your best to aggregate and send the Reservation forms to the Treasurer. Hosts (me included) not being onsite does make accounting for stays slightly more challenging.

Trash & Recycling Dumpsters

Please be observant of the amount of trash and recycling in the dumpsters and notify me if you notice either dumpster is more than 75% full. Given the location of the Club, Waste Management is only in the area completing pickups at intermittent periods of time. This can lead to a handful of days, or even up to a week, for a pickup to be completed. Animals get hungry during winter, I think we'd all prefer that we not feed our wild neighbors.

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.