



The Skier

Newsletter of the Winston-Salem Ski and Outing Club

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Club Meeting

Where: *Wild Birds Unlimited*
Pavilions Shopping Center,
Blvd Hanes Mall Blvd

When: Thursday, February 16th
@ 7pm

What: : Come and learn about our
feathered friends!



If No Snow at First, Try, Try Again! February Day Bus Trips to Wintergreen, VA in 2012

The first trip, scheduled for Monday, January 23 did not make due to lack of snow. We will try again on Monday, February 20, 2012. \$57 pp includes the bus, Krispy Kreme doughnuts and lift ticket. Add a lesson and rental package for \$15. Call The Board Room (Ski & Tennis' sister business) 336-724-9538 to register. Contact Ken Lumsden ken@wssoc.org for additional information. Details about departure time (expected to be around 5:30 AM) will be communicated to registered participants later.





President's Point:

At the club meeting on January 19, 2012, at Play It Again Sports, W-SSOC Secretary Jayne Warbinton distributed "Survey Forms" to facilitate members' sharing ideas for activities with the Board. Thanks to Jayne for this initiative. Ideas received included:

Thanks for your input. Please use Jayne's form, call or email any Board Member or other club leader at any time. We want your input and ideas.

Ken

New W-SSOC Tee Shirts

Our new tee shirts, available since October, will be available at meetings and activities hereafter. \$12 each for shirts in "Stone Blue" or "Prairie Dust" with the two-toned version of our logo. We also have a new supply of W-SSOC magnets (great for display on your car) for \$2 and decals for \$1.

New W-SSOC Cycling Jerseys

The end of "daylight cycling season" being upon us, we have decided to postpone development of the new cycling jerseys until Spring, in time for cycling to resume in March. Watch for details in early Spring.

RH Barringer Distributing Co.



Find Us on Facebook



Facebook offers us additional opportunities to get information out to members on short notice. Our official page has the club logo on the top.

CALENDAR

February 2012

Date	Day	Time	Event	Meeting Place	Leader
1	Wed	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Bib's Downtown, 5th St	Ken Lumsden
4-11	Sa-Sa		Ski Vacation Jackson Hole'12	Jackson Hole, WY	Leanne Brendle
10	Fri	7:30 PM	Racing Practice	Appalachian Ski Mtn, Blowing Rock, NC	Kyle Carroll
11	Sat	9:00 AM	Crescent Slalom Race	Sugar Mtn, Banner Elk, NC	Kyle Carroll
12	Sun	9:00 AM	Crescent Giant Slalom Race	Sugar Mtn, Banner Elk, NC	Kyle Carroll
15	Thu	7:00 PM	Club Meeting	Wild Birds, Unlimited Pavilions Shopping Center, Hanes Mall Blvd Hanes Mall Blvd	Myriam Griffin
20	Mon	5:15 AM	Day Bus Trip to Winter- green, VA	Behind Nawab Cuisine and Ski & Tennis Sta- tion, 119 S. Stratford Rd, W-S, NC	Ken Lumsden
24	Fri	7:30 PM	Racing Practice	Appalachian Ski Mtn, Blowing Rock, NC	Ken Lumsden Kyle Carroll
25	Sat	10:00 AM	Crescent Slalom Race	Beech Mtn, Beech Mountain, NC	Ken Lumsden Kyle Carroll
26	Sun	10:00 AM	Crescent Giant Slalom Race	Beech Mtn, Beech Mountain, NC	Ken Lumsden Kyle Carroll

March 2012

Date	Day	Time	Event	Meeting Place	Leader
7	Wed	7:00 PM	Board Meeting	Bib's Downtown, 5th St	Ken Lumsden
10	Sat	9:00 AM	Crescent Cup Slalom Race and Giant Slalom Race	Silver Creek, WV	Ken Lumsden Kyle Carroll
15	Thu	7:00 PM	Club Meeting	Wild Birds, Unlimited Pavilions Shopping Center, Hanes Mall Blvd	Myriam Griffin

Meet-
ing at
Play it
Again
Sports



Bike Rides

SUSPENDED DUE TO DARKNESS:

Evening Bike Rides on the Salem Creek Greenway and Around Salem Lake

We've been riding since March and made most Wednesdays in the Spring, Summer and Fall. But, Daylight Savings time ends on November 6, so the available daylight pretty much eliminates after-work rides until Spring.

If you are someone without a work-limited schedule and are interested in afternoon rides to continue through the rest of Fall, and maybe Winter, please contact Pat Lumsden pat@wssoc.org to express interest. Otherwise, see you in March!

Outing Reports

Bus Trip to Wintergreen, VA, Monday, January 23, 2012

Trip was cancelled due to insufficient sign-ups (hardly surprising following the unseasonably warm and rainy early season!!). We'll try again for February 20. See "Report from Alternative Carpool Trip...."

Alternative Carpool Trip to Beech Mountain, NC, Monday, January 23, 2012

Unanimous opinion of the three participants (Steve Gorham, Ken Lumsden, Gary Robinson: "Exceeded expectations!"

When the weather was promising storms all over the southeastern USA, we considered a carpool to Wintergreen, but as the forecasts worsened, we decided to switch to Beech Mountain, NC, where a) more terrain would be open (turned out: a toss-up); b) weather might break sooner (turned out it did, but the improvement only affected our last hour of skiing); c) lift tickets cost less (\$30 at Beech vs. discounted \$40 at Wintergreen); d) Beech was one-hour drive closer in both directions; and e) both had bad weather forecasts: 80% chance of rain at Wintergreen and 90% with possible thunderstorms at Beech (turned out: rain quit by the time we arrived at the parking lot, then sprinkled for about an hour before stopping for good; no thunderstorms; tolerable fog). Skiing at Beech comprised Shawneehaw from top to bottom where snow coverage was good, conditions firm in AM but softened by lunchtime. Sun even came out in late afternoon as the fog began to dissipate. With no lift lines (only 8 lift tickets sold before our arrival circa 9:45 AM) and, maybe 50-60, people, total, on the mountain by the end of the day, we skied right up to the lift on every run and enjoyed uncrowded conditions. We all got in plenty of skiing and it was a good day of skiing---definitely EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS!!



CSC RACE SERIES SPONSORS OF THE MONTH

The following businesses have donated merchandise and/or certificates to the Crescent Ski Council. Their merchandise and certificates will be used as prizes to the top three finishers in each flight of the CSC Race Series. Please support these establishments and product lines at every possible opportunity.



Ski News

Report from Race Training at Appalachian on Friday night, January 6, 2012

47 skiers from Crescent clubs (representing Asheville, Chattanooga, Greensboro, Charlotte, W-SSOC, Palmetto and Raleigh) got in plenty of practice in two hours on a modified GS course set by Ja Davis. W-SSOC participants included Dena Carroll, Kyle Carroll, Thomas Carroll, Ken Lumsden and Eric Tippett. Weather was pleasant and course conditions held up well. Appalachian did a great job of recovering from the washout over the Christmas-New Year's period when conditions

Report from Crescent Races, Sugar Mountain, NC, January 7-8, 2012

Sugar Mountain also did a great job recovering from the Christmas-New Year's wash out, but with more terrain to cover, it was a daunting task. In the end, Big Red could not be made ready, so the Division II races were held on Big Birch. Division I raced on Sugar Slalom, but also due to insufficient time to recover the conditions, had to race from the $\frac{3}{4}$ point instead of the top. Conditions on the Div I course on Sunday once again aroused questions about course grooming and racer safety. Experienced racers acknowledge that questions of risk vs. safety, and the racer-specific correct balance, are in every racer's mind for all races, regardless of course conditions, but when some racers consider the conditions extraordinarily abnormal, the questions bubble to the surface, sometimes boiling over. Normal practice, for purposes of racing, is to groom the night before and then let conditions "set up" overnight. This usually works well except when the conditions still include rough spots. If not smoothed out when the course is still soft (night before), the frozen potholes are almost impossible to fix the next day. Racers always have an opportunity to inspect the course prior to the race. Upon finding rough spots in critical spots in the course, racers who considered it a safety problem (course groomers and the top Crescent official did not consider it a problem) were faced with opposing questions: "Do I go for it, anyway, knowing I risk injury in a crash that might result? (Some did crash and suffered injuries—thankfully all minor.) "Do I just trip the wand, then ski off the course and take a DQ, thereby hurting my team score?" (A few did this.) "Do I 'ski-but-not-race' the course, thereby finishing safely but unfairly raising my handicap for future races?" (Some did this.) "Do I quit in protest?" (No one chose this option, except, perhaps for future races at Sugar). The W-SSOC Racing Team's policy, in order of application, is 1) Race safely; 2) Have Fun; 3) Finish on your feet; 4) Score points. The condition of the Div I course on Sunday made it difficult for some racers to strike an acceptable balance. We would rather race under conditions where the physical condition of the course is optimized in the same order of preference.

Forecasted rain did not materialize, except for eight or ten sprinkles on Saturday.

W-SSOC tied for second in the Eastern Division on Saturday and came in fourth on Sunday.

W-SSOC Points (NR = Not Registered on that day)

Kyle Carroll	Div I, Flight 3;	SAT: 10 + 0	SUN: 5 + 6;	Total 21.
Cary Popour	Div I, Flight 4;	SAT: 7 + 7;	SUN: 0 + 8;	Total 22.
Buddy Black	Div I, Flight 4;	SAT: 5 + 0;	SUN: 9 + 0;	Total 14.
Ken Lumsden	Div II, Flight 12;	SAT: 10 + 9;	SUN: 10 + 7;	Total 36.
Dena Carroll	Div II, Flight 13;	SAT: NR;	SUN: 3 + 4;	Total 7.
Thomas Carroll	Div II, Flight 16;	SAT: 0 + 8;	SUN: 8 + 0;	Total 16.
George Wunker	Div II, Flight 17;	SAT: 10 + 10;	SUN: NR;	Total 20.

Subaru Ends Hugely Successful VIP Program

The Crescent Ski Council's Racing Director, Ron Scott, announced that their principal sponsor, Subaru, is ending its sponsorships due to the economy and cutbacks in Subaru's marketing programs. Subaru provided racing bibs for all races, but the most valuable part of their sponsorship was the VIP Program. Over 60 members of clubs of the Crescent Ski Council took advantage of this program, acquiring Subarus for 2% lower than dealer invoice. Thanks to Subaru for their years of support.

Racing News

Crescent Ski Council Racing Schedule for 2011-2012

Fri, Feb 10	Friday Night Practice, Appalachian Ski Mountain, NC
Sat-Sun, Feb 11-12	Crescent Series Races at Sugar Mountain, NC
Fri, Feb 24	Friday Night Practice, Appalachian Ski Mountain, NC
Sat-Sun, Feb 25-26	Crescent Series Races at Beech Mountain, NC
Fri-Sun, Mar 9-11	Crescent Cup Season-Ending Race at Silver Creek, WV

***Regular Crescent Races at Appalachian: Register in the Snow Cloud Room, third level of Appalachian Ski Mountain Lodge. Lift tickets: Adult: \$46; Jr/Sr: \$38. CASH ONLY PLEASE. NO CREDIT CARDS OR CHECKS**

Friday night Practice events at Appalachian are from 7:30 PM-9:30 PM.

Sign up at the French-Swiss Desk, Lower level of Appalachian Ski Mountain Lodge. Racing Practice fee: \$10; Discounted night slope ticket: \$22 (or, regular night ticket available for more hours—check Appalachian's web site for details). **CASH ONLY PLEASE. NO CREDIT CARDS OR CHECKS.**

STEAMBOAT RACE CAMP



JOEL REICHENBERGER/STAFF

Brad Bilfelt, of Winston-Salem, N.C., flies down the NASTAR course at Steamboat Ski Area on Friday. Bilfelt was one of about 250 skiers in town from the South for the week and one of about 50 who spent that week working on their racing.

South by Northwest

Carolina racers head to Steamboat to fill need for speed

Steamboat Pilot & Today, "Sunday Focus", page 4A, December 11, 2011.

Story by Joel Reichenberger. Reprinted with permission from Steamboat Pilot & Today. Michael Schrantz's original page design transcribed and reformatted to fit the SKIER by Ken Lumsden.

[SKIER Editor's note: All Crescent racers mentioned by name (Brad Bilfelt, Deb(bie) Hood, Greg Sowers, Caron Sowers, Michael Stern) and shown in all photos (Brad, Greg, Debbie) in the original article are members of the Winston-Salem Ski & Outing Club. Want to go to the Crescent Steamboat Ski & Instruction Camp? Watch for details available in May 2012 for the December 2012 trip.]

It was all there. From the tuck to the turn, everything screamed "elite ski racer."

It was the twang, however, that signaled this was something a bit different.

The Crescent Ski Council is an organization of 21 ski clubs in North Carolina, South Carolina,

Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and West Virginia. The group boasts 3,500 members, and every year about 250 of them make the trek to Steamboat Springs for a week of guided skiing. About 50 of those don't come for the food or the drinks, the sights or the springs.

They come to race, and Friday

afternoon, the streaks of skiers tearing down Mount Werner and through courses of gates did so just like so many others will this winter. But these racers did it with a distinct Southern drawl.

Best way down

The week's skiers were split into



JOEL REICHENBERGER/STAFF

Above: Greg Sowers eyes the giant slalom course in the Bashor Bowl on Friday.

Below: North Carolina skier Deb Hood tucks as she nears the finish line of the NASTAR course Friday.



groups of about eight, and everyone in the top group hailed from either North or South Carolina. They bore several significant traits in common with their Ski Town USA Brethren. They love the snow, and they love the race. Friday marked their sixth day of work on the

Steamboat slopes. They started early with a few practice laps on the Bashor Bowl course, ran two “official” timed laps for the Crescent Ski Club (*sic. Council*) on that long giant slalom course, then decided to make one more run through the gates, this

time on the NASTAR course.

They all met at the bottom, assessed their times and agreed one more trip through was in order. That turned in to two more, and finally, one last time “before lunch.” One skier got separated from the group at that point

and headed for the cafeteria, but his classmates reneged on their word and all went back up to the top of the course again.

Four members of the group finally skied down to the gondola, on their way to eat. They probably wouldn't have, however, had they seen their three final classmates slip one last time back into the Bashor chairlift line.

"I still didn't get him," Greg Sowers said when he finally ambled into the Thunderhead cafeteria, at least momentarily giving up his attempt to chase down classmate's Robin Hood's NASTAR course time.

He didn't seem content, though he gave in to a smile that seemed a mask for his disappointment and at the same time a hint that he'd probably get over it.

The group represented the fastest of the Crescent skiers, and in many ways, they were similar to Steamboat's dedicated racers. They weren't alike in every way, though, and the differences were greater than opinions on Tarheel basketball and where the

country's best barbecue hails from.

Each drives at least two hours for a single day of skiing, and they often can make that trip in short-sleeves.

These weren't former racers who spent their childhoods racing to the slopes with the sounding of the school bell. The sport didn't come ingrained in their way of life. They all had to seek it out, to add it, and together they make for a uniform bunch.

"We'll usually have a Christmas party with all of our friends," Caron Sowers began, "because we know we won't see them again until March."

They discovered they loved to ski, and in their minds, racing is the best way to do it.

Where they're from, temperatures are warm, resorts are small and lift lines are long. Powder days are so rare that they border on being a figment of the imagination, right there in the netherworld with backcountry access and extreme terrain.

Racing offers a whole new way to experience the sport.

"We just got bored with skiing so we

started racing," Deb Hood said. "Now we enjoy the people, the camaraderie. It's a great group."

Time to race

They love the workshop's consistency. They love that they can take a 20-year break from it, as Greg Sowers and Caron Sowers did, come back and have the very same instructor.

"When you have the same one over and over again, they can really work on something with you," said Michael Stern, who took no such break and still has little trouble finding portions of his form that he'd like to tighten up and improve. "That really brings a lot to it."

For most of those years, the man behind the technique and trips has been Kris Hagenbuch, who long ago earned a coveted spot in each racer's cell phone directory. Throughout the years, he helped guide through the transition from straight to shaped skies, from fast to scorching, and up, down and all around Mount Werner.

Hagenbuch actually got hurt early in

this year's camp and Steamboat instructor Erik Trabka stepped in to be bombarded for points and tricks by a group eager to shave even just a fraction of a second from its times.

The camp has remained much the same, the regulars concluded. The schedule has varied little in nearly three decades. Many of the faces are the same.

Most of the change has come from Steamboat, which has

exploded in those years, and in the technology of skiing.

"I don't think we'd be skiing any more if it weren't for shaped skis," Stern said. "At least we wouldn't be racing."

That comment drew some long looks from his classmates.

We'd still be out there racing each other on shingles," Caron Sowers said. "We'd still be yelling 'I'm gonna get you!'"

She seemed right as the crew got up from lunch and prepared for its final afternoon on the mountain.

Trabka asked what they had in mind, where they wanted to go.

"Group freeskiing?" he asked to several nods and affirmations.

The idea didn't seem to take, however, and an eager voice cut through.

"Maybe we could run some gates."



Night Skiing at Sugar





The Winston-Salem Ski & Outing Club
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BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Change of Address Info

Submit changes of address to Tammy Cooper (Membership@wssoc.org) or mail them to the address below. That way you keep your monthly *Skier* coming and don't miss a thing!

Suggestions, Ideas & Comments

Please feel free to send an email to any of the Board members or send by mail to:

WSSOC
 PO Box 24304
 Winston-Salem, NC 27114-4303

Editor's Note

The WSSOC policy is to provide factual articles concerning upcoming and past outings of interest to the general membership. Due to the time necessary to publish the newsletter, it is requested that all copies be typed, neatly printed, and/or emailed (skier@wssoc.org) by the 15th of each month for publication in the next month's issue. Articles WILL NOT be accepted after the 15th. The editor(s) reserve the right to refuse,

WSSOC Bylaws

Copies of the Bylaws of the Winston-Salem Ski and Outing Club are available to members by contacting the Membership VP.