

Sugarloaf Ski Club

March 2007

ISN'T MARCH THE BEST !!

By now you all have made it through the cold dark days of the season and are enjoying what many feel is the best month of the ski season. Hopefully the season has been a rewarding one for you and your family.

The annual ski club meeting was a very successful event. Special thanks to Skip and Steve for providing us with Tufulio's great lasagna. John Christie had the room laughing loudly with his stories of the early days at Sugarloaf. We even conducted a little business.

Our first Wine Tasting event sold out in a heartbeat and the always popular Snowball scheduled for March 24 is selling fast.

Lots of great skiing and riding awaits us this spring. See you on the slopes.
Bruce Miles



Kirsten Clark League Racers enjoy new facility.

Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club
Annual Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2007

President Bruce Miles called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the 57th Annual Meeting of the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club. He told everyone how proud and fortunate he felt for being allowed his position as President. He felt last year was a very exciting and successful year for the club. All of our social functions went well, and they were all very well attended. Last year's Annual Meeting had more members attend than any other Annual Meeting in recent memory.

He mentioned we have added a wine tasting, scheduled for March 3rd, as a new event. This event is being sponsored by Tony Jessen of Smith Barney and put on by Bob Roy, both club members.

Last year the highlight of the winter for competition was the US Alpine Nationals, when all the well-known skiers from the US ski team participated. The US Ski Team President said he had never seen as large a crowd turn out for opening ceremonies as he did at Sugarloaf/USA. He thought the enthusiasm of the people at Sugarloaf/USA was just amazing.

Bruce introduced all the board members and thanked everyone for serving on the board.

He explained how the members do many important behind the scenes things that club members never see, and that they work very hard to keep the club running smoothly.

Bruce then mentioned the speaker for the evening was John Christie, who is a past President of the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club and also a past General Manager of the Mountain, and currently President of the Ski Museum of Maine which Sugarloaf ski club members were instrumental in creating.

The new Jean Luce Competition and Training Facility and the Slim Melvin Timing room which last year we talked about in its conceptual stage is now about 98% complete. In about two weeks, the carpet is going in upstairs and the roof is ready for the roofers. C O Beck and Sons has donated a standing seam metal roof. Carl and Sally Beck are ski club members and over homecoming weekend they offered the roof. Also the live edge siding was donated by the developers of the Timbers project and the carpet was donated by Earl Morse of Birchwood interiors. What started out as an \$80,000 project, with \$20,000 from the mountain, \$20,000 from the club, \$20,000 from the town and \$20,000 from fundraising has turned into an \$110,000 project. One of the reasons for this is because it was decided to put the building on a reinforced concrete slab with radiant heat, instead of posts as originally planned. Bruce stated fundraising has gone along so well that the extra expense will be covered. The Kagan family and the Melvin family have made several large donations. The Kagan's will have their name attached to the warming room on the first floor and the deck will be named for the Melvin's. Bruce went on to explain that the building named for Jean Luce and Slim Melvin was for their past contribution to the club and race programs, not for monetary support of the new building.

He did mention that he had two more rooms upstairs, if someone wanted to have their names attached to them. At this point, we have over 75 donors who have donated from \$100.00 to several \$1,000.00. The point was made that Bruce is still fundraising to finish that last \$10,000 necessary and that there would be a plaque on the building showing contributors' names.

The dedication for the building is going to be April 7th at the McKay/Waddle Scholarship races.

Bruce asked if there were any questions and there were none.

A motion was made to accept the minute of the last meeting. Moved and seconded. Minutes passed. It was suggested that the minutes of the present meeting be sent out in the upcoming newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. Phil Hunter stated we were in good financial shape. We have assets of about \$140,000 in our working/operating and capital funds. Our working/operating fund runs about \$25,000 to \$28,000 as of today. Our Capital fund runs about \$110,000. It is from our capital fund that we took the \$20,000 for our share of the new building. We have approximately 78% of our capital fund invested in CD's and Money Market funds; short term instruments, and approximately 22% of our capital fund invested in a balanced fund; both stocks and bonds. Our investment policy allows 0% to 40% in long term investments; equities, stocks and long term bonds and they are to be in mutual funds. We have this invested in American Fund Balanced Fund. The short term investments can be anywhere between 60% and 100% of our capital fund assets. They reside in the CD's and money market funds; short term investments with essentially no risk.

Again this past year we were able to move \$10,000 from our operating fund into the capital fund. This is because our various categories of activity generate income above and beyond expenses that allows our assets to grow and therefore we can increase our capital fund assets on a regular basis.

Membership, which is our largest source of income, brings in about \$18,000 a year. Our social events will bring in between \$7,500 and \$8,000 and Cardiac Club brings in over \$4,300.

Our social functions represent our largest expense with the newsletter next. The expense of the newsletter has increased recently due to more pages and higher postage. It is considered a direct service to the membership in that it disseminates club information to the members. Our community programs and grants to children, which we are proud of, are of major importance. We budget \$10,000 a year; \$6,000 of which comes from the town, to grant funds to children who apply for scholarships that enable them to participate in the programs on the mountain. Also recently we have given money to the Kingfield Recreation Department to help support a free bus on weekends to get children to the mountain who couldn't normally get here.

—minutes, continued

There being no questions a motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded and the motion passed. Old business. There was no old business.

Before the nominations for new board members, Bruce thanked Don Fletcher and Mary Jean Doyle for their participation on the board.

Lev Steeves then put in nomination the officers for 2007, and Board members for a 3-year term and asked if there were any further nominations:

Bruce Miles President
 Steve Schaefer Vice President
 Nancy Holliday Secretary
 Phil Hunter Treasurer

Three-year term: Susan Manter, Nancy Holliday, Lev Steeves, Bob Friedrich, Tom Hildreth

There being no further nominations the secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers, and one vote for the slate of Board members.

New Business:

Steve Schaefer made a resolution asking for a standing ovation for all Bruce's work in bringing the new building to fruition. Lev Steeves then brought up lifetime membership. At present we have five living lifetime members: Audrey Leonard, Jerry Hopson, Dana Wallace, Joseph Sewall and Stub Taylor. To this list we added Jean and Norton Luce and Mary Jean Doyle.

Bruce mentioned that Mike Rowland is working with the mountain on developing a web page for the Club on the mountains web site. Any input from members once it is up and running would be appreciated.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn, and it was seconded and passed.

Respectively Submitted

Nancy Holliday
 Secretary, Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club

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Jean Luce Facility Update

Thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity of Sugarloaf Ski Club members, friends, Sugarloaf/USA, and the Town of Carrabassett Valley, the new Jean Luce Training and Competition Facility and the Slim Melvin Timing Room was up and running for the 2007 competitions. This would not have happened if it were not for the hard work done by many people. I want to especially thank Ski Club Board Members Mike Rowland and Joe Tutlis for the many hands-on hours they have put into the project. Also a big thanks to Club Member and architect Rick Goduti for designing a great building with the help of CVA alumnus Ross Thompson. Also thanks to Nickerson Septic Services for the use of a porta potty for the rest of this season.

As you know, the building has several rooms in addition to the Slim Melvin Timing Room. The front Warming/Viewing room on the ground floor is named after Irv and Paula Kagan, long-time Ski Club members and supporters of Freestyle and CVA. The upstairs Communications Room, the Viewing/Press Room, the Equipment Room and the Deck have also been named and will be announced at the dedication.

Dedication of the facility is scheduled for noon on Saturday April 7, 2007 at the site. It will be a fun day with some surprises added.

As you know from previous articles, the levels of contribution are: Gold at \$1000.00 or more, Silver at \$500.00 to \$999.00, and Bronze at \$100.00 to \$499.00. Below is a list of over 90 contributors as of Feb 12, within categories in no particular order. I apologize if I have missed anyone.

GOLD LEVEL— Bob and Jane Luce family, Norton and Jean Luce family, Walter and Sarah Melvin family, Paul and Jill Dugas family, Peter Delinda and Pete Smith, Tom and Heidi Pelletier family, Regis and Carolyn Lepage, John and Cathy Witherspoon family, Max Kagan Family Foundation, Tom and Rachel Thompson family, Warren and Brammie Cook family, Tony and Hilary Jessen family, Gepetto's, C O Beck and Sons, Bill and Ann Beck, Carl and Sally Beck, Franz and Anne Colloredo-Mansfield family, The Timbers and Timberline Condos, The Holliday family in memory of Paul and Dixie, Tom Hildreth and Claudia Diller, Ronn Gifford and Mary Dennison, John Diller family, Scott Beliveau family, Paul and Carol Fremont-Smith family, The Gatz family, Birchwood Interiors, Frank and Jean Woodard family, John and Susan Lacasse in memory of Bunny Bass, Cooper and Meredith Friend family, Marshall and Webber families in memory of Nana Webber, The Cardiac Club, CVA, SMC Employees, Linwood and Kay Doble, Rick and Shannon Goduti, Carrabassett Coffee and Java Joe's, the Carrabassett Valley Taxpayers.

SILVER LEVEL— Mike and Cheryl Rowland family, Joe and Doris Tutlis family, Dana and Heidi Bullen family, Phil and Mary Hunter family, Steve and Debbie Pierce, Bill and Jane Moody family, John Poirier and Laurie McCreel family, George Hanlon family, Lee Silverman and Margaret Butler family, Clem and Rolande Begin family, Neil and Maggie Newton family, Steve and Gail Guthrie family, John and Ann Parker family, Kimberly and Andrew Couch family, Steve and Laura Schaefer, Jim and Deb Costello family.

BRONZE LEVEL-- Longfellows, Bob and Else Boylestad, Ron and Audrey Leonard, Richard Foote, Reggie and Ann Marie Cobb, John and Joyce Tobias, Colon Durrell and Mary Frank, Lionel and Jennifer Hering, Bruce and Jennifer Cassidy, Karl and Sherrie Anderson, Phil Coffin and Susan Peck, Rick and Karen Clement, Jim and Betty Ann Listowich, Cliff and Laura George, Farmington Ski Club, Malcolm and Luli MacNaught, Crusher and Jano, Jeff and Judy Rosenberg, Jim and Jennifer McCormack, John and Andrea DeBiase, Scott and Melissa Hoisington, Dick and Joan Marshall, Jay and Nancy Marshall, Jill Marshall and Michael Prior, Peter Webber Jr and Sally Keefe, Peter Webber, Peter and Nancy Clark, Greg and Cindy Foster, Bill and Cindy Gilmore, Kate and Sam Punderson, Donald and Nancy Fowler, John Christie, Dan Cassidy, Kevin and Mary Burns, Greg Sweetser and Deborah Freeman, Charles and Kathy Brown, John and Betsy Chapman, Scott Houser, Don and Mary Fletcher, Alan Redden, David and Karen Pier, Tom and Anne Hanson, Gene and Joanne Howland

The building is just a part of this huge project, and the fundraising is ongoing. We hope to continue on improvements to the on-hill facilities over the coming years. If you want to be a part of this, please send your tax deductible donations made out to: S R S E F, to the Ski Club office, Village West 13, Carrabassett Valley ME 04947

Thank you all for your support
Bruce Miles



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CONGRATULATIONS
To The Members of The
Sugarloaf Ski Club

The New Jean Luce
Competition and Training
Facility and the Slim Melvin
Timing Room would not
have happened
without your dedication
and generosity.

This Building will be
enjoyed by many for many
years

The following is the third in a series of excerpts from *The Story of Sugarloaf Story* by John Christie. This coffee table-style book will be released late next summer and your Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club has been working with John and Downeast Publishers to secure a limited number of autographed first edition copies. Look for a future mailing with ordering information. Until then, enjoy what John has shared with us.

Growth and Transition 1990-2000

The bankruptcy during the preceding decade caused ripples that brought real estate activity in the early '90's to a virtual standstill, as potential property owners waited to see what the future might hold. The Corporation reorganized its financial and equity structure, with the assistance of various interested individuals with regularity, and even faced the prospect in the early part of the decade of another bankruptcy filing. It wasn't until 1993 that the situation would begin to stabilize with the sale of some assets and the infusion of new capital.

Finances aside, Sugarloaf continued to be the choice for a faithful cadre of recreational skiers, and a preferred competition site for the racing community. In 1993 the Sugarloaf Competition Department was formed assuming what had historically been the responsibility of the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club. It would function as a department of the Mountain, to be assisted by the Ski Club and Carrabassett Valley Academy. This level of organization, and the Mountain's reputation as a premier competition venue, resulted in the conduct of a nearly mind-boggling succession of races during the 1990's: U.S. Snowboard Championships, U.S. Chevy Trucks Alpine National Championships, U.S. Snowboard Grand Prix, U.S. Chevy Trucks Freestyle National Championships, U.S. Masters Alpine Championships, North American Junior Alpine Championships, and the Eastern Junior Olympics.

As a result of its now well-established reputation for conducting first-class competitions, Sugarloaf was twice awarded the prestigious Paul Bacon Award by the United States Ski Association.

The Gondola Reopens

In December 1991, the Gondola, which had been out of service since the accident in 1987, reopened for passengers from the mid-station to the summit. Due to the unique configuration of the original lift, which was really two separate lifts driven by a single power source at the mid-station, and due to the fact that the launching, disengaging and other mechanisms were identical for both the upper and lower sections, enough parts could be cannibalized and scraped together from the two stages to enable one section to keep operating. The upper section would continue running through the 1995-96 ski season, and lucky Sugarloafers remember those last days of glorious spring skiing. The Snow Gods must have known this would be the final year for the "Mighty Gondola", for they dumped three hundred and eighty nine inches of snow on the Mountain during that season, the most in the Mountain's recorded history. So skiers could always remember with great delight their final runs off the lift that had marked Sugarloaf's appearance on the world stage.

To provide skiers continuing access to the snowfields, a T-Bar was installed west of Tote Road. The diesel engine powering #6 T-Bar could be heard far and wide, but it enabled the faithful to get to the highest reaches of the Mountain.

—continued from p 6

The following year a fabulous fund-raiser would be held in the Base Lodge, when a dozen gondola cabins were auctioned for the benefit of local charities in a festive Gondola Auction. My heart was especially warmed when one of Jud Strunk's sons, Rory, became the proud owner of one of them. I'm sure Jud was smiling down!

Today, the old lower terminal (the one I had located in the brook) houses the Sugarloaf Competition Center as the headquarters for all competitions held on the Mountain, as well as housing the offices and archives of the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club.

Snowboarding Arrives

It was also during the '90's that snowboarding was beginning to take its place alongside skiing, and an argument can be made that that without the advent of that sport, and its attraction to a whole new generation, ski areas in general, and Sugarloaf in particular, would have faced even tougher, perhaps devastating, financial times. In response to this new sport, and the need for somewhat non-traditional terrain, Sugarloaf welcomed snowboarders and constructed Half-Pipes and Terrain Parks specifically designed for their use.

While a debate was taking place, fueled by traditionalists and purists, about whether skiing and snowboarding were even compatible, management recognized the economic reality and embraced this new and growing clientele.

The Town Comes To The Rescue

In the fall of 1992, Warren Cook and his management team turned to the Town of Carrabassett Valley to assist them in the development of a financial plan to enable Sugarloaf to continue as a viable operation. The Town purchased Sugarloaf's wastewater treatment facilities for three million dollars, created the Carrabassett Valley Sanitary District, and issued \$3.7 million in general obligation bonds of the Town to provide badly needed mortgage financing for the Mountain. A half million dollars of the Town's recreation reserve funds was pledged in escrow as debt service reserve funds for the new bonds. The Finance Authority of Maine's loan guarantees that were in place on already existing Corporation debt were redirected at securing another two million dollars in working capital loans. In return for the implementation of the Town's refinancing plan, Fleet Bank wrote off some \$1.7 million of the debt it held, which further helped to stabilize the Corporation's finances. In return for its support, the Town included as a provision of its financing a requirement that Sugarloaf pay a six hundred thousand-dollar fee on final repayment of the bonds.

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FOUNDING FATHERS

Every long term Sugarloafer has heard of Amos Winter, the crusty Kingfield man who is credited with establishing skiing on this best of all Maine mountains. Not so well-known are some of Mountain's other founding fathers, the men who also served on the first Board of Directors of the Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, founded in 1956.

Bravely purchasing stock in this new venture and energetically moving forward to realize the Sugarloaf dream, the 17 original members of the SMC Board were pioneers and visionaries. Many, but not all of them, were part of the original Sugarloaf Ski Club founded in 1950. Hailing from as close as Kingfield and Farmington and Wilton, as well as Augusta, Portland, Bath and beyond, they included a dentist, a stockbroker and several entrepreneurs. Watch for thumbnail sketches of these founding fathers in future issues of the Sugarloaf Ski Club newsletter.

—first in the series introducing members of the **original SMC Board of Directors.**

C. RICHARD LUCE, Vice-President of the Board, Farmington

Although Richard Luce never skied on Sugarloaf Mountain (polio as a young man left him unable to ski at all), his roots went deep in the area. A farmowner and entrepreneur most of his life, Luce founded Farmington Oil, a thriving local business which supplied gasoline (yes, gasoline!) to run the ski lifts. His son Norton remembers driving the Farmington Oil gas truck up the mountain in the fall to fill the tanks for the winter, going all the way to #3 T bar. Norton, along with his wife Jean, just honored with lifetime membership in the Sugarloaf Ski Club, was one of five Luce kids who grew up on Sugarloaf. And Richard's great-granddaughters are now frequently seen racing and winning on the mountain. So, though he never had the pleasure of pointing his own skis down the hill, Richard Luce left a family legacy as a founding father of Sugarloaf Mountain.

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Ski Museum of Maine

In 1895 Fridtjof Nansen wrote, "Can there be anything more beautiful than the northern winter landscape, when snow lies foot deep, spread as a soft mantle over field and wood and hill? Does it not feel as though the mind is suddenly cleansed of a trying civilization and smoky city air? One's complete awareness is absorbed by the skis and surrounding nature. It is like something which develops not only the body but also the soul."

The first skiers in Maine were Swedes who settled New Sweden in 1875. They brought with them the knowledge of skis and how to make them. At first skiing was utilitarian, simply a way to get around in the snows of winter. But the joy of sliding and gliding on snow soon had people wanting to ski for fun. The problem was that few people made skis.

There are several examples of homemade skis. One pair from the Augusta area is made out of tongue and groove cedar wallboard. The tongue was cut off one side and nailed into the groove on the other, resulting in an eight foot long board. Screwed to the tip is a piece of pine that was carved to create a rounded, uplifted tip. The cedar wallboard was chosen because it has a V groove running the full length. This solved the problem of how to put a groove into the ski; it was already there.

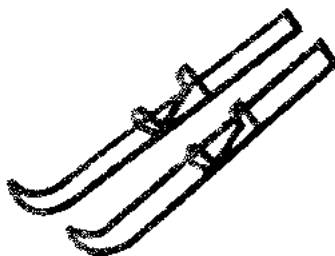
Many of the homemade skis are small, probably made by a father for his child. One of my favorites is a pair of skis made from scrap wood; there is still a little bark on one side. The skis are about three feet long. The tip is square but was steamed to create the needed bend.

Both of these skis had a leather toe loop to hold the skier to the ski. By today's standards they are very crude tools. But, think of what they allowed the skier to do. They got the skier out in the "northern winter landscape, when snow lies foot deep, spread as a soft mantle over field and wood and hill". When we ski on today's technological marvels we obviously have fun. We can ski places and do things on skis never even dreamed of by skiers a century ago. Think about the equipment you learned to ski on. Leather boots, wooden skis. Being on those skis transported you, didn't it? Like me I will guess your "mind was suddenly cleansed of a trying civilization."

Skiing does many things for us. The progression of equipment has made it easier, safer and more efficient. At its core however it is timeless.

The Ski Museum of Maine (www.skimuseumofmaine.com) is at Church Street Commons in Farmington. There you will find artifacts and stories from Maine's skiing past, maybe even your past. Stop by and appreciate our sports roots and the timeless nature of its appeal.

---Glenn Parkinson, Ski Museum of Maine



Safe Slopes

The Safe Slopes program was started last year by Sugarloaf Mountain. The program addresses on-hill safety concerns brought to management by our guests, mountain staff, and other ASC mountains. Sugarloaf's safety program is overseen by the Sugarloaf Ski Patrol and Sugarloaf Ambassador Program. They work together to educate the skiing public and mountain staff on the Skier's Responsibility Code, our slow family ski trails, and good skiing/riding etiquette. "Respect Gets Respect" has become our mantra. We all need to respect one another's right to a safe, enjoyable skiing/riding experience. Please join us in getting the word out. "Know the Code". Thank you.

Susan Adams
Sugarloaf Mountain Ambassadors

You're Responsible – Straight Talk On The Responsibility Code

1. Always ski with the flow and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects. No matter how skilled you think you are, if you are unable to avoid other people or objects, then by definition, **YOU ARE OUT OF CONTROL!**
2. People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them. If someone cuts in front of you and you collide with them, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE!**
3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible from above. Pick an out of the way safe spot to stop. Yes, the uphill traffic must avoid you, however, you are still responsible for **NOT OBSTRUCTING A TRAIL!** This also includes lift unloading zones.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others. The best way to avoid a collision is to be aware of what is happening around you. **ALWAYS LOOK UPHILL BEFORE YOU MOVE** or as you merge with other traffic. Help us out by reminding others as well!
5. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas. Ending up on a closed run because you went through the trees is no excuse. If you are not sure what runs are open, ask or consult the daily conditions report.
6. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely. If you are not sure about how to use a lift, ask the attendant for instructions.

Sugarloaf On-Mountain Safety Policy

Failure to follow the guidelines of the Skier/Rider Responsibility Code may result in the loss of your skiing/riding privileges for the season. Implementation is at the sole discretion of mountain staff.

1st warning: Guest info recorded, verbal warning, pass/ticket is marked.

2nd warning: Pass blocked for 7 days or day pass taken; returned at discretion of Patrol director.

3rd warning: Pass voided for the season.

Any collision may result in your pass being taken on scene. It may be returned after Ski Patrol investigates the incident.

Skiing any closed terrain, ducking any rope means automatic loss of pass/ticket for time period to be determined by the Ski Patrol.



SCVA Freestyle



The S/CVA program continues to flourish here at Sugarloaf. This winter there are approximately 50 young athletes involved in the weekend freestyle program, many new to the program this year. Over the years, it has been rewarding to watch the athletes involved with the program improve their skiing skills, move on to compete at the highest levels of competition and develop a sense of camaraderie amongst their peers.

The goal of the freestyle program is to give each athlete the opportunity to be the best skier that he or she can be while also fostering a love of the sport. While fun is emphasized, it is expected that the athletes involved will work hard and be on time to train with their coaches each day. Athletes participating in the S/CVA Freestyle Program spend the majority of their time developing a solid foundation in basic skiing technique as well as learning specific mogul, half pipe and terrain park skills.

All of the athletes involved with the program compete in the intra-mountain Junior Freestyle League (JFL). JFL competitions are open to all Sugarloaf skiers between the ages of 7 and 13. The series includes mogul competitions as well as terrain park competitions on age-appropriate terrain. S/CVA freestyle competitors are automatically entered into all of the JFL's during the winter. Youngsters not involved with S/CVA Freestyle may sign up for a competition by going to the Competition Center and signing up with Laurel Lashar.

Most of the athletes involved with the S/CVA Freestyle Program compete in regional USSA sanctioned events throughout the Northeast. The entry level of USSA competition for new freestylers is called the Eastern Qualifying Series (EQS) or "B" level series and is primarily for competitors under the age of 13. The Eastern Championship Series (ECS) or "A" level is for competitors who are 13 years of age or older. Competitors are divided into levels by age and gender.

Many S/CVA Weekend Program participants have gone on to ski competitively with the best in the world. One recent, shining example of competitive success is David DiGravio, a former weekend program participant and CVA graduate ('05). Last year he stood on the podium at two Freestyle World Cup events. He is currently skiing for the U.S. Ski Team and ranked in the top 15 in the world. His introduction to freestyle skiing was through the S/CVA Weekend Freestyle Program.

If you know of a young skier who likes to bump and jump, please let them know about the S/CVA Weekend Freestyle Program. It's a great program that develops accomplished skiers and the best of friends.

Joan M. Dolan
CVA Director of Athletic Program
S/CVA Weekend Freestyle Program Director



A Special Meaning to CVA Olympic Gold



According to Sugarloaf's Maine Special Olympics Winter Games event organizer, Steve Pierce, the Special Olympics Winter Games take place throughout the country, but only at the Maine Special Olympics Winter Games at Sugarloaf is there a one-on-one coach for each Alpine athlete, due in good measure because of CVA student's participation. Steve also noted that for over twenty years the Special Olympics has been an integral part of the CVA curriculum.

Carrabassett Valley Academy junior, Marissa Cap, shares her thoughts on her Special Olympic experience.

"Some of my most memorable and rewarding experiences while I have been attending CVA have not been on the slopes or in the classroom; they have been the two days spent each year working with the Maine Special Olympians.

For the past four years I have been volunteering with my classmates at the Special Olympics. It is exciting to enter the base lodge the first day of the games and meet an Olympian who has been looking forward to this event throughout the year. Their passion and enthusiasm is something to admire. The memories of these Olympians continue to inspire me. Not once the entire day did I hear an athlete complain about the bone chilling cold they were competing in this year. One Olympian I met this year was named Stephanie. While I was starting the race, she would always get into the start gate and say, "I'm ready to go! Can you count for me? I'm ready to go!" and when we would count down for her, she would take off out of the gate cheering so loudly I am sure people on the chair lift could hear her excitement. When she would make it to the finish line, she would begin cheering again, no matter what her time was on the course. Now, when I think about how I did in a competition or if I did poorly on a test and I feel ready to quit, I think about Stephanie and her passion, which was based not on how she did in the competition, but on how much she cared about the sport.

If you attend the Special Olympics you could find hundreds of people who participate in the games because of their passion and this could be one of the most rewarding parts about the Special Olympics because you know someone appreciates what you are doing. If recognition does not come from someone in charge, your help will be acknowledged by an Olympian because this is an event many of these participants look forward to every year. As a starter for the race course I was lucky enough to meet every participant in the level 2 division, and I feel grateful for that experience.

The people you meet at the Special Olympics are people who will become your friends, and remember you for the help you have given them, and that is the most rewarding thing of all."

Calendar of Events March / April

March 10—11: Mogul B Regional Finals

March 24: Ski Club Snowball at the Inn

**March 24: MARA Spring Series SL for 3,4,5
Ski Club Spring Series BBQ**

March 25: MARA Spring Series GS for 3,4,5

March 30: MARA SL for 1,2


Social Events in March

SNOWBALL

Don't forget the *Snow Ball* on March 24th at the Sugarloaf Inn. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and can be picked up at the Ski Club office. Elmore Twist is the band again this year!

When you purchase your tickets, you will need to indicate your choice for dinner. The selections for this year are: Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Baked Stuffed Chicken, or Prime Rib. All come with Garden Salad, Vegetable, Red Potatoes, Blueberry Pie, Coffee or Tea, and 3 bottles of wine per table.

This is a sold out event every year, so make your plans and get your tickets early!



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Open Daily for Lunch & Dinner

MARA SPRING SERIES BARBEQUE

March 24th is the scheduled date for the annual MARA Cookout. Come buy a burger and watch the children race. It's always a fun event

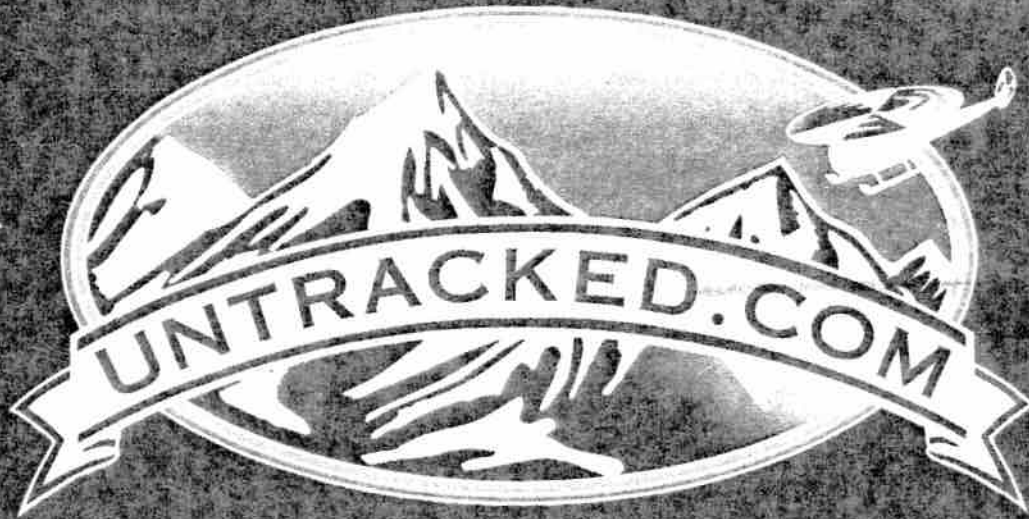
VOLUNTEERS AND COMPETITION

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Ski Club and the Competition Center!

Although we have not had the national events (US National Alpine and USCSA Nationals), it has still been a busy year for competition, and therefore, the volunteers. We appreciate the help received from the "regulars" who volunteer year after year, as well as our new volunteers, both parents and others, who have helped us out this year. — Lev Steeves

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CONTACTS

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Steve Schaefer, Vice-Pres	237-2120
Nancy Holliday, Secretary	235-3446
Philip Hunter, Treasurer	246-6181

Sugarloaf Ski Club
Village West #13
Carrabassett Valley ME 04047



CHERYL & MICHAEL ROWLAND
PO BOX 117
STRATTON ME 04982

YEAH FOR THE REAL SNOW AND SOON MARCH TEMPS!!!

SIGN UP FOR THE SNOWBALL AT THE OFFICE SOON !!

