

Sugarloaf Ski Club

JANUARY 2005

PAGES FROM THE JOURNAL OF AN OLD SUGARLOAFER

In 1986 Martin Luther King Day became a Monday holiday. Notwithstanding the purposes for which it was intended, the side benefits included a three day ski weekend. However, at least in the first years of the holiday, weather seemed to conspire to punish those who ski.

Saturday, January 18, 1986. The first Martin Luther King Day holiday weekend. It was warm and sunny, more like March or April than January. The snow was sticky at the bottom and packed powder at the top. The only distraction was a very stiff wind, which was enough to shut down the upper lifts. Therefore at times the lift lines were long. I skied with Dick, David and Paul Crommett, Norton Luce, Ivy Ivester, Dan Valpey and Bud Ragon. We moved from lift to lift in trying to find the shortest lift lines. It was warm enough to have our picnic lunch on the front porch of the Base Lodge. This evening for supper we went to Don and Mary Fletcher's for a birthday party in honor of Neal Trask. Among those in attendance were Al and Sally Webster, Thurlow Cooper and his friend, Margaret, Bob and Patty Stoddard, Dick and Peggy Murphy, Ruth and Bernie Carpenter, and the Stan Plisgas.

Saturday, January 19, 1986. It got even warmer today, sunny at first and then turning to drippy, drizzly conditions. The skiing went from excellent packed powder to spring skiing conditions. The January thaw came on in full force. In spite of the climate change the skiing was very good. After lunch on the front porch of the Base Lodge I skied in the afternoon with Dick and Paul Crommett and Dick Keenan.

Monday, January 20, 1986. It rained all night, but let up in the morning. We arrived at the Mountain in a very heavy fog, joined up with the Crommetts, and with some trepidation started uphill in the fog. At mid-level it was sunny and the rain-slicked surfaces made for pretty good spring skiing. The rain did a lot of damage to the skimpy snow cover. Before the thaw is over skiing may be back to artificial snow trails. As the morning progressed it got foggier in stages. After lunch it started to rain pretty hard and continued for the rest of the day.

Saturday, January 17, 1987. Sunny but bitterly cold, never warming above zero degrees Fahrenheit. I skied only with Norton Luce and Dick Crommett in the morning, and then stopped for new ski boots at the Ski Rack in the afternoon. My old plastic boots have holes worn in each toe, and you can see my socks. Jim Leonard fitted me to new Nordicas.

—cont. on p. 2

Old Sugarloafer cont.....


Sunday, January 18, 1987. 10 below zero outside, and no heat in the camp this morning. We got by with the wood stove until it was late enough to call Mountain Fuel for service. I skied with Norton Luce, Ted Thayer and Dick Crommett. It started to snow this afternoon. After skiing I had a beer with Bruce Miles at The Bag. As usual, he imparted his wisdom on a variety of subjects, if not all subjects. I went on to visit Susan and John LaCasse in Carrabassett Village, who were entertaining their neighbors, the Silvers, and the Dixie Griffins from Dixfield. This evening Dick Keenan flew in from the County ahead of the storm and paid a visit, and Ronnie Allen stopped by this evening.

Monday, January 19, 1987. Last night's snow left about 3 inches of light powder. I skied the morning with Dick and Paul Crommett. There wasn't much of a crowd, and the skiing continued to be great. Haulback was especially good as well as the other trails off Number 5 T-bar.

Saturday, January 16, 1988. Warm today, in the 20's by afternoon, but some of the best skiing of the season. I started at 8:00 with Norton Luce, the Crommetts, Ivesters and Thayer, and we got 13 runs in before 11:00, despite a large crowd and the breakdown of #3 T-Bar. Skidder opened for the first time this year with a mixture of powder mounds of new snow and ice. Warm enough for lunch on the front porch of the Base Lodge. Tonight we hosted a 50th birthday party for Neal Trask. In attendance were the Hoeflers, Crommetts, Websters, Carpenters, Coggeshalls, George Abbott, Ron Allen, Dick Keenan, Ted Jones, Heinie Merrills, Grants, Murphys, Grays, and a gaggle of kids.

Sunday, January 17, 1988. There was a big crowd at the Mountain, and a substantial line after the first couple of runs. Wind problems shut down the top chair lift at times, which of course caused even longer lines. Dick and Paul Crommett, Norton Luce, Ivy Ivester, Ted Thayer and I tried various maneuvers to escape the crowds, with mixed success. The highlight of the day was the opening of the Upper Gondola Line, after a week of snowmaking. We were there when the rope went down. John Diller himself was there to take down the rope. We got four runs in before it got too populated. Warm and sunny, the early signs of a January thaw. We ate lunch on the front porch.

Monday, January 18, 1988. By the time we got to the Mountain it was raining. I headed up the Mountain around 7:30 on a road that was a virtual skating rink. Dick Keenan, Ron Smith and I were at the lift when it opened. We found that in spite of the light rain the skiing was super, and of course we had no company to speak of. The snow surface consisted of fast, greased ball bearings.



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SUGARLOAF SKI CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2005 4:30 pm ---to be held at the Sugarloaf Competition Center

The Board of Directors has scheduled the Annual meeting of the Sugarloaf Ski Club for Saturday afternoon, on the 22d of January. Each year one third of the positions on our 15-member Board are up for election or re-election. Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer) are also elected. Committee reports are heard from our Communications, Competition, Merchandise, Membership, Social, Community, and Historical Committees. Several lifetime memberships will be awarded this year.

The following members of the Board will be retiring and we thank them heartily for their service: Linda Cloutier, Charlotte Zahn, and Jack Weir. The Board is always interested in hearing from members who would like to volunteer to become Board members and/or work on committees. Nominations may be made both from the floor and by the Nominations Committee.

The more members and member-input, the better. As always, a great social reception with refreshments accom-

Ski Club Community Committee Awards Financial Aid

The Community Committee, consisting of Greg Foster, Phil Hunter, and chaired by Sue Manter, again administered a large program of financial grants to local and to CVA skiers and boarders. The town of Carrabassett Valley voted \$6000 for grants to SAD 58 weekend program participants, and the Ski Club budgeted another \$4000 for additional grants outside of the SAD 58 group.

The Ski Club promotes both recreational and competitive snow sport activity. While there will be some children who take part in competition, these funds also hope to encourage children to develop a healthy outdoor interest in a lifelong sport which is such a significant part of both work and play in this region. Programs include the Mini-cuffer and Bubblecuffer programs, the SAD #58 Punch Pass Lessons, the Sugarloaf/Carrabassett Valley Academy program, and CVA.

The Club works with the Ayotte Fund and with the Sugarloaf Regional Ski Education Foundation to aid these applicants. The grants enable many children to learn to ski and to compete who would otherwise not be able to participate. It is the philosophy of the Club and of the committee that every local child who would like to learn should have the opportunity.

The Ayotte Fund raised \$4000 through their annual golf tournament and aided SAD 58 children with those funds, including a special grant for equipment to the middle school ski team group led by Dennis Olsen. The Sugarloaf Regional Ski Education Foundation distributed \$2200 to aid several CVA athletes and one older athlete participating in an SCVA program.

*10th Annual Sugarloaf Ski Club Snowball
Saturday, March 26 at the Sugarloaf Inn
6:30 pm to midnight with dinner and dancing*

SNOWBALL!

This year the snowball will be held much later, and hopefully will provide some great late-season fun for members, guests, and others. This is the day before Easter, and provides something else to look forward to all season. As those who have been regulars know, this is a great event, and not to be missed. The band this year will be Ross Thompson and "Elmore Twist" and should provide an outstanding background for a superior social event! Tickets will be \$50 per person. The theme is yet to be decided. Stay tuned so that you may come up with some "appropriate" attire. Tickets will go on sale in early March. Come to the ski club office to reserve and pay for your tickets (cash or check).

Something new for this season will be the allocation of all profits from this event to the Sugarloaf Ski Club Scholarship Fund. This fund gives grants to snowsport competitors, some from the weekend programs, some at Carrabassett Valley Academy, for training and competition expenses.

JANUARY CALENDAR OF ALPINE RACE EVENTS

Jan 16: Schiavi Cup SL at Mt. Abram: J 1,2
 Jan 16: Titcomb Dual GS: J 3,4,5
 Jan 17: Lost Valley J P Parisien Open SL: non-MARA, for middle school ages
 Jan 23: Camden Snow Bowl Ragged Mt Seacoast Classic GS: non-MARA, middle school
 Jan 23: Mel Jodrey GS at Sunday River: J 1,2
 Jan 23: Mt. Abram SL: J 3,4,5
 Jan 24: J 3 Super G Camp at Sugarloaf
 Jan 25: Sugarloaf Schuss SG: J 1,2,3
 Jan 28: Ryan Lavagnino Memorial DH/MARA DH: J 1,2
 Jan 29: Shawnee Peak SL: J 3,4
 Jan 30: Sunday River GS: J 3,4

OTHER COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Jan 15: A Freestyle Moguls
 Jan 16: A Freestyle Dual Moguls
 Jan 17: Half Pipe/Big Air
 Jan 29: B Freestyle Moguls
 Jan 30: Half Pipe/Big Air

In February, March, and April, look for Men's and Women's FIS Downhills, USASA Half Pipe, Eastern Alpine Championships, J2 National Championships, and MARA Cup Finals all to be held here at Sugarloaf under direction of the Sugarloaf Competition Center.

MARA, the Maine Alpine Race Association

Many of our younger members of the Sugarloaf Ski Club are members of MARA, particularly if they participate in the SCVA weekend program or are CVA students.

MARA is a non-profit corporation active in the State of Maine and affiliated with the alpine division of the USSA program. It is one of eight state organizations in the Eastern Region: the other seven are NHARA (New Hampshire), VARA (Vermont), Tri-State (MA, CT, RI), NYSSRA (New York), NJSRA (New Jersey), PARA (Pennsylvania), and SARA (Southern, including VA, WV, NC, SC, GA).

At the state level, USSA alpine racing competition takes place from early December through early April at various ski areas in Maine. In March, post season regional events take place at ski areas throughout the Northeast bringing together athletes selected through qualifying procedures of the different state organizations. The qualifying procedures of MARA are described in detail in the Seeded Competition and Children's Competition sections on the website.
www.skimara.org

According to the Executive Director of MARA, Fran Varney, racer membership in MARA as of December 29th is as follows: in the seeded category there are over 36 senior members (ages 20 and older), 69 J 1's (ages 17, 18, 19), and 64 J 2's (ages 15, 16). In the children's racing categories, MARA membership includes 92 J 3's (ages 13-14), 88 J 4's (ages 11-12) and 73 J 5's (ages 10 and younger). More are still joining, and updates will be made on the MARA website. Coaches also belong.

Check the website, as shown above, for race schedules, a bulletin board, and other information.

One Thing in Common



Since 1982 CVA has been producing top alpine, freestyle and snow-board competitors. Throughout the school's relatively short history 70 national championship titles, 13 NCAA and USCSA All-Americans, 20 national team members, 5 world champions and 9 Olympians have emerged. Perhaps you recognize a few of these alumni: Bode Miller, Kirsten Clark, Forest Carey, Sharon Petzold, Emily Cook, Boyd Easley,

Seth Westcott, Mark Fawcett and Jeff Greenwood to mention a few. As CVA student-athletes they all shared a passion for personal excellence. Dry land training, hill sprints, physical testing, study-on-the-road and senior thesis papers, each of these successful individuals embraced CVA academically and athletically and rose to prominent heights.

But what about the CVA alumni who embraced the CVA experience and maybe didn't reach Olympic success but discovered their own individual success. CVA is not just about developing Olympic or national champions, CVA is all about creating a whole person, an individual who can thrive and succeed in any circumstance. Through college-preparatory course work, athletics, and life at CVA, student-athletes develop basic skills such as organization, critical thinking, and problem-solving strategies. The primary goal of CVA's programs is to foster the aspirations of student-athletes by providing them the opportunity to reach their intellectual and physical potential while developing into concerned and responsible citizens.

Whether CVA alumni have found success on the mountain, in a court of law, doctor's office or small business venture they share in common the skills they learned in pursuit of their academic and athletic aspirations – self-discipline, time management, responsibility, and organization. In fact, those skills are what most CVA alumni credit most frequently with their success in college and in their career and family life. Each CVA alumni is a testimonial to the statement that CVA is more than a school, it's a way of life.

—article provided by Rick Bisson,
Communications Coordinator,
CVA

HAPPY TUNES!

SKI SERVICE CENTER



Winter Hours
Mon-Thurs 7:30-10 and 2-8 pm
Friday 7:30-10 and 2-10 pm
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Sunday 7:30-10 and 1-6 pm

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Ski Museum of Maine



WELCOME

you in Fryeburg”.

In 1935 few people skied, or had ski equipment. To accommodate these people the snow train was equipped with a baggage car stocked with winter gear: skis, boots, snowshoes and toboggans could all be rented. Today when we think of a ski area an integral part of it is the base lodge, a place to warm up. The Winter Sports Committee printed window signs showing a sports enthusiast above a big “WELCOME”. Townspeople were asked to display the signs in their windows. When skiers wanted to warm up all they had to do is find one of those signs and they knew they were welcome to come in and sit by the fire.

That first snow train from Portland carried 229 people to Fryeburg. Fourteen members of the YWCA Business Girls Club went, they posed on the cowcatcher of the train for a photo first. Maps were distributed on the train showing the locations of all the snowshoe trails, toboggan chutes, ski runs and of course local business establishments. Others came from the surrounding area and the crowd was estimated at 500 winter sports enthusiasts.

Horse drawn hay wagons met the train and carried many people to Pine Hill and Jockey Cap. The Portland Press Herald reported that, “Youthful and light hearted the crowd romped informally through the town carrying toboggans, snowshoes, skis and ice skates.” Observing the occasional crashes at the toboggan chute they reported, “The aplomb with which you

On February 3, 1935 the feature movie at the State Theater in Portland was the Gilded Lily starring Claudette Colbert. The weather forecast was for partly cloudy skies with southwest winds and a chance of snow. At 9:00 that Sunday morning the first snow train left Portland bound for Fryeburg.

Maine, like the rest of the country, was working its way out of the dark days of the Great Depression. In Fryeburg local businessmen wanted to bring people to town in the winter to add a boost to the local economy. In other parts of the country skiing was becoming popular so a Winter Sports Committee was formed. Four ski trails were cut, two on Jockey Cap and two on Pine Hill. Logging roads were marked for snowshoeing. Two toboggan chutes were made. Ice was cleared for skating. Ads were run in local papers saying, “A hearty welcome is awaiting

welcome gobs of snow down your neck and up your pantleg is a barometer of your age." Noting the general mood of the crowd the Press Herald commented that, "They're bursting with the racing red blood of healthy youth."

Fryeburg's winter sports experiment was a success. It was agreed to run the snow train from Portland again. Downhill skiing in Maine had finally achieved a foothold. For the winter of 1936 the Winter Sports Committee built Maine's first rope tow on Jockey Cap. From there the sport rapidly grew across the state.

You can support the museum's efforts by becoming a member.

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Corporate	\$100
Lifetime	\$500

Please send your check to:
Ski Museum of Maine
PO Box 359
Kingfield, ME 04947

www.skimuseumofmaine.org

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WHERE'S THE SNOW ??

Many of us like to know (whether to torture ourselves or to gloat) what the snow fall has been in other ski areas, and how our skiing conditions compare. So, here is a little comparative info taken in an area-by-area internet search on the 8th of January, as this newsletter was being finished to send to the printer!!

<u>Ski area</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>New Snow, 24 hrs</u>	<u>Recent Snow</u>
Vail	50 "	15"	34 in 4 days
Steamboat	43	8	
Mammoth	10-12 feet	20	30 in 48 hrs
Taos	58	1	27 in 5 days
Whistler	48	0	
Park City	110	10	
Canyons	94-110	8	36 in 5 days
Sun Valley	80-106	25	
Big Sky	33-49	1	1
Mt. Snow	28-42	4	10 in 10 days
Stowe	26-38	1	10-13 in 7 days
Jay Peak	18-40	9	
Cannon Mt	base? total received 40	0	
Sunday River	22-48	1	7 in 48 hrs
Sugarloaf	14-40	4	

**DISCOUNT PROGRAM
FOR SSC MEMBERS**

Present your membership card at these area businesses to take advantage of benefits. Many discounts are for regular priced items only, and some may not be used for alcoholic beverages, or during holiday weeks.

SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN AREA

- The Bag and Kettle** - 10% off dinner Sun-Thur (excludes specials, excludes holiday weeks)
- D'Ellie's** - 10% off sandwiches before 10:30am and after 1:30 pm, every day
- Gepettos** - 10 % off lunch (Mon-Thurs)
- Gold/Smith Gallery** - 10% off jewelry over \$100
- Hug's Italian Cuisine** - 10% off dinner, food only (Sun-Thurs, excludes holiday weeks); must show card before ordering
- Java Joe's** - \$1.00 for a medium coffee
- Perfect Turn** - package of 5 clinics, any discipline, for \$99
- Sugarloaf Outdoor Center** - 20% off services (lessons, rentals); show card

STRATTON AREA

White Wolf Restaurant - 20% off entrees anytime, each patron must show membership card before ordering

CARRABASSETT VALLEY & KINGFIELD AREA

- Julia's** - Complimentary Boutique wine tasting with purchase of prix fixe dinner (one time only)
- Longfellow's** - complimentary wine or soft drink with dinner
- Nostalgia Tavern** - complimentary dessert with dinner
- Scent-sations** - 10% off store-wide

AROUND THE STATE

Hilltop Ski & Bike, Manchester, ME - 20% off all skis, snowboards, and other winter-related purchases (except sale items and labor)

Kentucky Fried Chicken & Taco Bell, Farmington Only - 20% off items or meals with the exception of Combo meals or Special price meals. Must show SSC Card.

McDonald's in Farmington, Skowhegan, Jay, Winslow, Waterville (x2), Newport, Augusta— With the purchase of a Value Meal, your choice of a free item from the \$1 menu. Please present your card to your order taker at the counter.

Norwegian Moen Cheering Bells

For Sale at the Ski Club Office
Bring one to cheer your daughter or son
on at local and traveling races!!

Gold bell engraved with the Ski Club
emblem, on a decorative sturdy ribbon

\$20

SKI CLUB LOGO ITEMS

We have lots of nice Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club logo items for sale. Support the Club, show you are a member—all at the same time!

Such items as:

- Roomy grey sweatshirts: \$25
- Heavy white tee shirts, with an outline of Maine: \$12
- Also gray tee shirts: \$10
- Great blue denim shirts: \$35
- Golf (long sleeve) shirts: \$25
- Baseball hats: \$15
- Child-size baseball hats: \$12
- Pushovers: \$8 on sale
- Full aprons (with pockets) for ski tuning or barbecuing: \$20
- First Trail posters: \$5

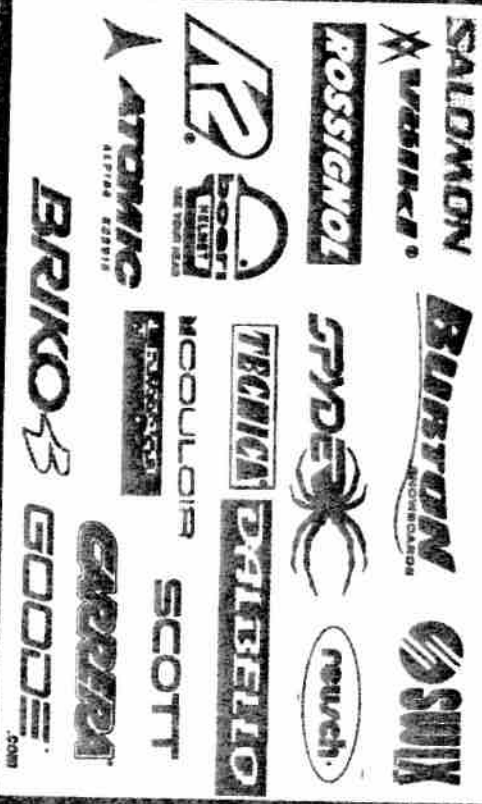
****Our windbloc, Silverfoot fleece hats with club logo \$25**

The office is open every weekend from about 8:30 to 1:30 or 2, and unpredictable week-





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CONTACTS

Ski Club Office at the Competition Center
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 sugski@tdstelme.net (EMAIL)

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|-----------------------------|----------|
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Sugarloaf Ski Club
 Village West #13
 Carrabassett Valley ME 04947

ANNUAL MEETING AT THE COMP CENTER JANUARY 22