Photo: Maine Drone Imaging

Sugarloaf Ski Club NEWS

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Ski Club Mission

The mission of the Sugarloaf Ski Club is to provide the opportunity or all youth to participate and excel in skiing and snowboarding, promote community building events, support competition and preserve the history and heritage of the mountain.

Board of Directors

President - Stephen Arner
Vice Pres. - Kim Kearing
Treasurer - Phil Hunter
Executive Director/
Secretary - Bruce Miles

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Tracy Goller
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Nancy Holliday
Erik Kankainen
Christine Kendall
Greg Towle - SMC
Peter Smith
Teddy Smith
Joe Tutlis
Joyce Tobias
Patrick Willihan

Ski Club Members:
Approx. 1,500

President's Message

Stephen Arner

As I write this, it is snowing on the mountain, and ReggaeFest is just around the corner, with the pond skim and passholder BBQ right on its heels. To date, the mountain has received 135" of snow this season, behind last year's total at about this point of 160", but there have been far fewer weekends with poor weather. The lift situation has certainly been challenging at times, but the snow is holding up, despite a couple of bouts of rain and warm temperatures, thanks in large measure to the mountain's crack grooming and snowmaking teams.

Sugarloaf held a gala in celebration of its 75th anniversary recently, and Executive Director Bruce Miles' presentation was the highlight of the event (except for those who were really there to see Skosh).

Carrabassett Valley Academy ("CVA") is set to open its High Performance Center later this month, which was financially supported by the Club (and lots of others). And the club recently celebrated the coming end of the season with a potluck social organized by Joe and Doris Tutlis.

I am proud to report the Sugarloaf Ski Club is again in excellent financial shape. As of the end of March, our balance sheet shows a strong bottom line, with substantial equity. Our investments performed well last year and despite significant outlays for scholarships and other efforts to support skiing and snowboarding in our and surrounding communities, we are ahead of where we stood last year. We expect to receive fewer grant dollars this coming season, so your continued generosity – general donations are on the rise – is much appreciated.

We targeted awarding over $100,000 in scholarships and grants this season, and while not all have been awarded yet, we are on track to meet that goal. King's Kids grants continue to be a major force in getting children in the community out skiing and snowboarding at Sugarloaf in coordination with the Sugarloaf Snow Sports program (ski school) and represent nearly half of our awarded scholarships and grants. We helped over 140 kids aged 5-15 participate in the 8-week Boomaugers program and continue to support local school districts' Ski/Skate programs.

CVA students and alumni have also been strong beneficiaries of our scholarships this season, partially due to the incredible success these young athletes have achieved across many disciplines, including alpine racing, freestyle moguls, freeski, and ski and snowboard cross. Four current and former CVA athletes were awarded scholarships and/or merit awards and represented the United States at the FIS World Junior Championships in ski cross and moguls where Jack Egan, CVA alumnus and Kingfield resident, landed on the podium for a silver medal in dual moguls and he and his teammates pushed the U.S. to claim the overall trophy. Four of the ten U.S. athletes representing the country in Ski Cross at the Championships were CVA students or alumni, and three of the four received financial aid from the Club. Four CVA scholarship recipients qualified for U18 Alpine Nationals, two qualified for U16 East Finals, and many qualified for USASA nationals (one of whom won his division in ski cross). Most of these students have been long-term residents of our communities and Ski Club members since childhood. It is rewarding to watch these athletes develop into being among the world's best and the Club is proud to support their endeavors. We could not do so without your support! For more information on the Club's various scholarship and award programs, including how and when to apply for scholarships and merit awards, visit the Club's website at www.sugarloafskiclub.org/scholarship-programs.

Finally, we have a few dates to share with you for some upcoming events. The Sugarloaf Marathon and 5K is scheduled for May 17, Sugarloaf is hosting a blood drive on June 9 at the hotel, the Annual Golf Classic (benefitting the Sugarloaf Ski Club) is scheduled for Monday, June 22, and our next annual meeting, at which I hope to see many of you, will be on December 5.

Hope you have a great summer!

Steve Arner

President

Upcoming Events

Check our website calendar for other events sugarloafskiclub.com or email questions to info@sugarloafskiclub.com

May 17

Sugarloaf Marathon

June 9

Sugarloaf Blood Drive

June 22

45th Annual Golf Classic

July 25

Carrabassett Summer Festival

October 9

Swig & Swing

Sugarloaf Golf Club

October 9-12

Sugarloafer's Homecoming

Dec 5th

Ski Club 77th

Annual Meeting

Jack Egan class of 25 and Sugarloaf Ski Club member wins Silver at Junior Worlds Dual Moguls

Left to right Iron Men Dave Millar, Sue Currier, Dave Currier, Pat Carlton, Randall Lord. These five Sugarloafers tied for the Paul Schipper Iron Man award by skiing every day the mountain was open. Congrats to all. Story about the award and past recipients can be found on the Ski Club website 75th magazine.

Yes, I would like to be a member of the Sugarloaf Ski Club!

Name: _____ Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

( ) Individual $30 ( ) Couple $50 ( ) Family $60 ( ) This is a renewal

I've been a member since:_____

Please make checks payable to: Sugarloaf Ski Club, • 9008 Main Street • Carrabassett Valley, Maine 04947
Or join at our online website store at sugarloafkiclub.com

The 45th Annual Sugarloaf Ski Club Classic Golf Tournament

Jay Marshall, Jamie Marshall, Rich Smith, Jeff Rosenberg.

Presented by The Bag & Kettle and the Sugarloaf Golf Club

This year's event will take place on Friday, June 22nd, at the Sugarloaf Golf Club. Ski Club Board members Patrick Willihan and Joe Tutlis will co-chair this important scholarship fund raising event for the Dick and Martha Ayotte Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The fee of $700 per team is all inclusive with lunch, golf cart, Mulligan, all contests and Raffle. Many prizes will be awarded.

Sunday night Jun 21, will be a pre Classic gathering at The Bag & Kettle

Monday morning June 22, 7:30 registration, 9:00 am Shotgun start Scramble format.

Awards and luncheon at Golf Club House included at 2:30 pm

The purpose of the Dick and Martha Ayotte Scholarship Fund is to assist needful youngsters who live in the Sugarloaf region with the costs associated with their ski and snowboard training programs at Sugarloaf Mountain. Next season the Club will be awarding over $100,000 to assist local kids in being able to pursue their skiing and riding dreams. The Sugarloaf Ski Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has been supporting ski training and educational programs for kids since 1950..

Sponsorship opportunities are available at several levels and in-kind gifts for the silent auction are most welcomed. For more information contact Bruce Miles at the Sugarloaf Ski Club email TheClub@sugarloafskiclub.com or sign up on the Sugarloaf Ski Club website www.sugarloafskiclub.com

Ski Museum

The Maine Ski & Snowboard Museum has moved to the Mountain. The Museum is now located in the former Condo Check-in Center on the access road. The museum is looking for volunteers to act as docents.

If you are interested call 207-265-2023

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Volunteer Appreciation Party

The Sugarloaf Competition Dept's annual volunteer appreciation party was held on Saturday April 4. As always this a great end of season social event for the very appreciated competition volunteers.

Annually, an award is given to the outstanding volunteer of the year. It is called the Gleason Rand / Lev Steeves Award

Greg Towle and Laurel Lashar presented the award to Leslie "Mitzi" Guenther . Mitzi took on the task of being volunteer coordinator, a job previously held by Mark Swisher and lev Steeves. Mitzi did an outstanding job. Her organizational skills were very apparent. It is no small task to fill all the positions on event day.

Greg & Laurel present award to Mitzi

2026 Volunteers

Olympian Sam Morse posing with Laura Schaefer

Josh Paquette class of 26 took National Gold in Junior division Slopestyle at Copper Mtn.

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Keep 'Em Skiing!

"Keep 'Em Skiing" is Petersen Water Skiing Foundation's summer initiative to help passionate young skiers stay on skis after the snow melts. Petersen Water Skiing Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit , operates right here in the Sugarloaf area to offer local kids the opportunity to water ski for free or at a deeply discounted rate. This program is modeled after the Sugarloaf Ski Club's Boomauger program and serves kids in the same local school districts. If you know of local families who may be interested please direct them to www.petersenwaterskiing.com/non-profit for more information. If you would like to support this effort with a tax deductible donation click the "Donate" button on that page. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Dan Petersen
Owner/Instructor
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danpetersen65@gmail.com
www.petersenwaterskiing.com
Kingfield, Maine

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sugarloaf ski club SUGARLOAF maine

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I've been a member since:_____

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Boomauger Ski & Snowboard program.

Thank you King's Kids Supporters!

For local kids ages 5-15

In 2018 we launched a new program with a generous $500,000 gift from the H. King and Jean Cummings Charitable Fund. This gift is the foundation of an endowment fund for the King's Kids initiative to help kids ages 5-15 in Franklin and Somerset counties learn to alpine ski, snowboard, and nordic ski and to support other local initiatives.

Eighth season accomplishments

Winter 2025 King's Kids funded the following:

- Kids from RSU 58, RSU 74,Stratton, andRangeley participated in the 8-Sunday PM Boomuager program through the Sugarloaf Perfect Tum Ski School. King's Kids underwrote over 75% of the cost of this program, including lift ticket, lessons , *and rentals*. Each child only paid $40 for the entire 8 session program.
- King's Kids assisted the Titcomb Mtn. Ski & Snowboard Nana Webber program.
- All volunteer run Baker Mountain in Moscow and Spruce Mountain in Jay were given funds by King's Kids.
- Many local children received scholarships to Sugarloaf Mini & Bubblecuffer programs (in addition to significant monies from other club funds).
- We awarded several thousand dollars to Stratton School to help with middle school ski team.

For 2027 season:

We are funding at least 75% of the cost of The RSU58 and Stratton Ski/ Skate programs. Kids come up during school week to Ski, Snowboard, Skate or Xcountry Ski for free.

The Boomauger program pro, vides local kids with 8 days of skiing or snowboarding lifts, lessons and rentals at the low cost of just $40 for all 8 sessions. Even operating under a Pandemic, King's Kid's had a very successful third season

"My first,grade son is enrolled in the Boomauger program and I'm writing to thank you for the incredible opportunity you've given him and other local kids this year. Many thanks to the generous donor(s) who have made this program possible. We can't thank you enough.,"

– Parent

"We wanted to thank the Sugarloaf Ski & Snowboard School and the Sugarloaf Ski Club for offering the Boomauger program for local kids. The extremely generous donation from the King's Kids Fund made the program affordable for everyone and opened up skiing for a lot of kids."

– Parent

"It was fantastic. An opportunity he would not have had without this program. He definitely will do it again."

– Parent

Stratton Elementary Schoolkids were given a bonus day of skiing and riding provided by Sugarloaf Ski Club and the Cummings Luce Fund.

Baker Mtn group Loaf March 2026

Boomauger Snowboarders.

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Sugarloaf Locals Racing

The big surprise this year was the newcomer team to locals.

The Red Pony team took first place this year followed by last year's winner The rack.

They beat out 6 other locals teams that were comprised of more than 130 ski & snowboard racers. As usual there were weather disruptions throughout the season but weather did not dampen the camaraderie of the locals teams or make for any less fierce competitions.

The biggest news for the Sugarloaf Locals racing series was not the results.

The "Lev Steeves Cup", named for long time Competition Department volunteer and locals supporter Lev Steeeves was awarded to the Red Pony at the end of season party at The Rack. Lev worked many hours to insure that locals racers were scored fairly and accurately. Lev loved the Sugarloaf Locals Race Series and all it entailed. His locals spirit will live on through this annual trophy

Rack Captain Chris Prudente hands trophy to Red Pony captain Patti Raitto

Paisley Fredette CVAWP athlete earned gold in Boardercross Menehune class at USASA National Championships

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14th Annual WinterKids Downhill 24

This year's WinterKids Downhill 24 took place Feb 26-27. Teams skied and snowboarded 24 hours straight and raised almost $600,000.00 for WinterKids. The Sugarloaf Ski Club "Supersquad" team participated for its 4th year.

"SuperSquad" consisted of 5 amazing young Sugarloafers led by Collectively they raised almost $8,000 for WinterKids. The team members were Robinson Jones, Suzy Hauser, Thomas Ricker, James Ricker, Spencer Ricker, Sully Masterman and Max Kelly

The Sugarloaf Ski Club is so grateful to these young Sugarloafers for putting in the hours to participate in a very important event. While it is a lot of fun, the event is so important to the Ski Club's mission of helping local youth be able to afford to ski or snowboard. The club got to keep half of the over $30k that was raised by the team and WinterKids also awarded us $10k to help us with our programs. The club was involved heavily in the DH24 supplying many volunteers to help with running the event.

Special thanks to Megan Ricker for all her help.

The WinterKids DH24 is a great event to participate or volunteer in. I encourage any of you to participate in next year's event. If you do, you will help a lot of Maine kids get access to the slopes.

SuperSquad 2025

Volunteers Bruce, Scott, Jerry, and Ralph heading out for the midnight shift.

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Legends GS March 6 2026

After a hiatus of 5 years, the Maine Ski and Snowboard Museum hosted the Legends GS Race for racers ages 50 and older. The event was held at Black Mtn in Rumford on March 6th. Peter Thompson represented the Sugarloaf Ski Club and logged a time of 43.57 seconds, just behind the third place finisher Dan Boudreau in the Male age 60-69 category. Pete should do well next year as Dan will move up to the 70+ category. Next year's Legends race will be held at Black Mtn. on Friday March 5, 2027.

Photo of Pete Thompson

Sam Morse with long time volunteers Al & Alice Cole

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My husband Dave and I moved full time to Sugarloaf 23+ years ago. We have met many great people being members of the ski club. The Club supports local kids who participate in winter sports and they have been instrumental in our children's success as competitive alpine racers, THANK YOU!

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Photo of Mike Waddle in the early 70's

The winners of the 44th annual McKAy/ Waddle Scholarship race encompassed a pretty big age spread. 44 year old Coach Erik Kankainen and 12 year old Molly Holman took to the podium with the fastest overall times of the day. The event raised more than $17,000 for the Dan McKay/ Mike Waddle scholarship fund. This fund helps accomplished ski and snowboard competitors pay for the costs of their continued success.

Molly Holman: By Ron Bonnivie

As a first year (12 yrs old) U14 CVA athlete, Molly Holman's racing results have been impressive all through the qualification season, bringing that momentum into the postseason championship events. She also demonstrated a high level of technical skills that earned her significant recognition at this year's postseason championship events. The U.S. Ski and Snowboard association uses a set of technical alpine skiing skills called 'Skills Quest' to evaluate and rank athletes for their technical skiing outside the gates at championship events. At the U14 Eastern Championships March 18-21 at Sunday RIver, Molly tied for 2nd place in the Skills Quest event, among the top alpine racers from Maine to North Carolina. A week later, at the CanAm U14 championship at Sugarloaf, March 30-April 2, where 60 of the fastest eastern American boys & girls competed against 60 of the fastest Eastern Canadian U14s from Nova Scotia to Ontario, Molly followed up by taking first place in that event's Skills Quest competition. Molly grew up in Carrabassett Valley and has had access to many professional ski instructors as well as her coaches through the CVA weekend program and now as a winter term student at CVA. She's a dedicated young athlete with a level of maturity and curiosity well beyond her years. She has a bright future in this amazingly challenging sport.

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