



Sugarloaf Ski Club

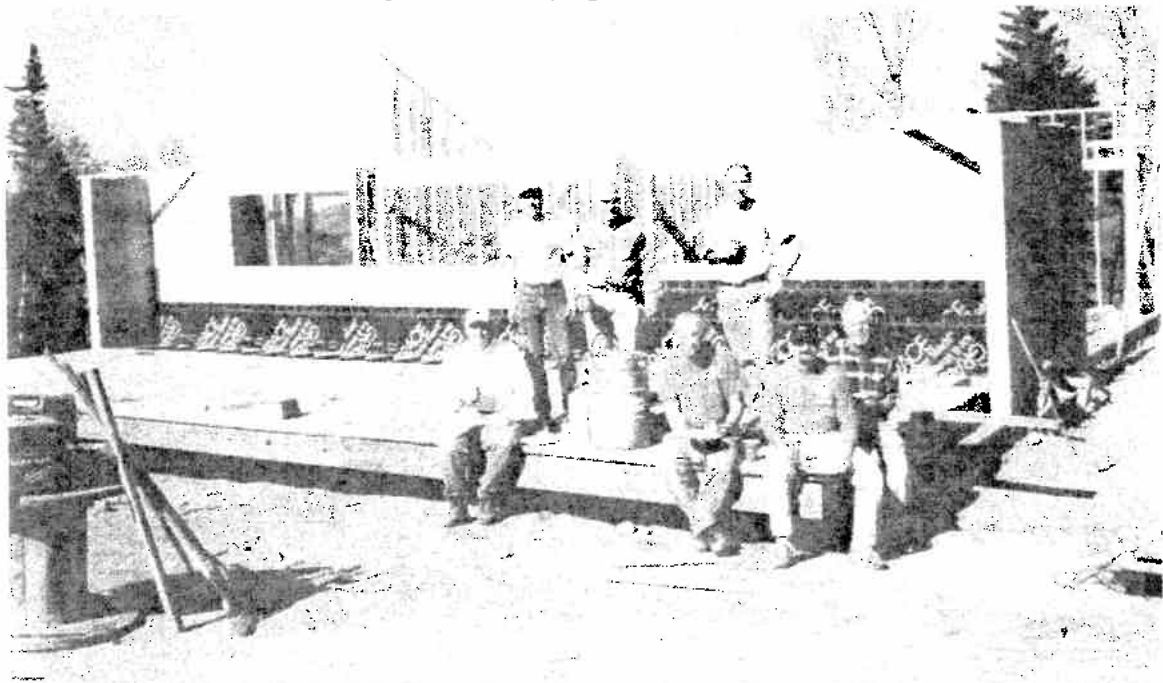
NOVEMBER 2006

LET THE SEASON BEGIN

The scheduled opening day for this our 56th Winter season is Friday November 17. That is the date we are hoping to line up for that first ride up the chairlift. However for Sugarloaf Ski Club members our season really started with the annual Sugarloafers Homecoming weekend.

And what an awesome Homecoming it was. Apart from one of the nicest stretches of October weather in my aged memory, it was a fabulous reunion for Sugarloafers young and old.

Saturday morning started out with the annual season pass holders info meeting at the Sugarloaf Inn. It was a traditional gathering of the faithful and at the end everyone was invited to take a "bite" out of Sugarloaf/USA by receiving a tasty cookie. Sugarloafers were busy all weekend attending functions, meetings and the craft fair. Pictured below is what some of us were doing Sunday. Cont. on page 6.



The Sugarloaf Story

A year ago John Christie came to the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club seeking permission to use the archives for an exciting project. John, as many of you know, is a former general manager of the mountain and also a past president of our club. John's exciting project, a book entitled *The Sugarloaf Story*, is now complete, off to the printers, and due to be released late next summer. Look in future newsletters for your opportunity to purchase your own first edition autographed copy. Until then, here is a little taste of what's to come. (Joe Tullis, Board Member)

Although every skier who had climbed the mountain to ski Winter's Way had thought, and often talked, about how great it would be to have a lift to take them at least part way up the trail, it had all been pipe dreams and speculative chatter...until the summer of 1952, when the talk not only grew louder, but began to result in some concrete action.

The Ski Club knew that the biggest hurdle to be overcome to install a lift was the financial one, as the Club had virtually no money. What resources that had been gathered were spent on trail grooming, improving the access road, and building the warming hut. Additionally, rescue toboggans had been purchased and sheltered in strategically placed caches, materials for which had further depleted the treasury.

At an Executive Committee meeting of the Ski Club in December, 1952, Secretary George Cary noted that "the type, length, location or locations of up-ski devices were discussed...*everyone thought one would be nice*".

The 1952-53 ski season saw a continuation of the tradition of dependable snow, and the Sugarloaf Schuss was run in the spring on nearly ideal conditions. The access road held up well during the thaw, and the warming hut served well its intended use. And more and more people were discovering this behemoth of a mountain...difficult as it was to climb to ski.

The Ski Club members were realizing that the next step...installation of a lift, or lifts, would far exceed the potential financial capacity of their all-volunteer organization, and discussions were ongoing about where those resources might be found. Was there, they were asking themselves, either an individual, or a group, that might be interested in taking the necessary risk to invest the money to move the development forward. These deliberations continued into the summer of 1953, during which time there was a flurry of activity. A shelter was constructed just below the timberline at a point very close to what was to become, years later, the location of the upper terminal of the mountain's fifth t-bar, and, after that, the unloading area for the King Pine chair.

Even more important, the first tow...modest as it was...was installed on the lowest section of Winter's Way. Seven hundred feet long, and powered by a ten horse power gasoline engine, this rotating rope allowed accomplished skiers to get a short assist on their ascent to the top, and the beginner to learned some rudimentary turns on easy terrain on the flatter part of the mountain. Stub Taylor ran the lift (in addition to caring for any injured skiers) on the weekends, and Sugarloaf began to generate its initial lift income by charging skiers who were not members of the Club a fee to use the tow: *\$1.00 per day for Adults and 50 cents for Juniors*.

... continued on page 3

continued from page 2

The Club made sure that an interested and supportive media was kept informed of its activities, and the Portland Press Herald, in particular, was both receptive to news and generous in its coverage of developments. Robert "Bunny" Bass, the Club's President, was particularly adept at getting, and keeping, the media's attention, and a story in the Press Herald in November, 1953, confirms that, as it reported: "Robert N. Bass says that a chair lift to the top of the Mountain, plus modern accommodations in the vicinity would attract not only skiers from all over the East, but visitors in all other seasons who would use the lift to see the magnificent view from the summit. These, however, would call for the expenditure of a lot of money, far more than the Club will ever have. However, if private capital wishes to invest in this venture, the Club will give all those involved all the cooperation possible".

And so began the 1953-54 ski season, with the rope tow providing great assistance to "leg-weary veterans of skin-encumbered hikes", as described by Dick Bell in his recollections of Sugarloaf's earliest days. Hundreds of beginning skiers were able to enjoy countless runs on the relatively easy terrain accessed by the lift, and people who had only read about the mountain were able to experience it first-hand.

—John Christie

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Ski Museum of Maine

Maine has a long and rich ski history. Beginning in 1875 when the first Swedes settled in New Sweden Mainers have enjoyed skiing the snows of winter. After years of planning the Ski Museum of Maine is about to open to the public. The goal with the new facility is to protect and preserve Maine's skiing history and heritage.

The Ski Museum of Maine has also hired Megan Roberts as Executive Director. Her role will be to build the collections, to build our membership and to tell the story of Maine's skiing past.

Located on Church Street Commons in Farmington the Ski Museum of Maine will be centrally located and easily accessed to many skiers on the way to the slopes. The new location offers space for an exhibit. Telling the story of Maine's skiing past is a key part of the Museum. The exhibit space offers us the opportunity to share the artifacts in our collection and to illustrate stories of how skiing developed in Maine and the impact Maine has had on skiing in this country.

One of our first donations came from Scott Marshall who gave us his Paris Manufacturing skis. This donation illustrates both the history and the heritage that we are working to preserve. His two pair of hickory skis are the history. They are tangible artifacts. He also sent us a letter telling about purchasing the skis. This brings in the heritage, the memories that we also want to preserve. Heritage has been described as the smell of wet wool and taste of the hot chocolate of years gone past. While intangible it is really what we want to hold onto.

Scott Marshall writes, "In the fall of 1938 I was invited by one of my old neighborhood friends to go up to South Paris to the Paris Manufacturing Company to look at the hickory skis they sold. I paid about \$20.00 for a pair of skis at the factory and had steel edges put on. I had an old pair of skis with leather toe straps which most of us had used on past days but with these new skis I had to buy boots and the metal clamps which kept them solidly on my feet. So I learned to ski for the first time with feet together and found it was great fun. We used to drive from Portland to Douglas Hill which had a cleared hill about 300 yards top to bottom. It was just the kind of easy slope for a novice such as I and despite the walk up gave us a great ride and chance to learn."

Scott goes on to tell about skiing on Mt Washington, Cranmore and other adventures. His story illustrates a period of transition in the sport. Equipment was evolving from the toe loop binding which made the skis almost impossible to turn a more modern form which offered control and allowed the sport to grow. It is interesting to note that he bought the steel edges separately and had them installed, they were an option. At Douglas Hill he was climbing the slope.

These Paris Manufacturing skis will be featured in our first exhibit titled "Skiing In America- Made in Maine." In the days of leather boots and wooden skis Maine equipment makers were leaders nation wide. The opening exhibit will honor these entrepreneurs and their work. During the period beginning in the 1930s when skiing boomed in popularity as a form of recreation ski makers such as Tubbs and Paris Manufacturing produced some of the best and most popular skis in the country. Bass boots were among the best known. Other Maine companies were not as well known but still had an impact. Nautilus Ski & Pontoon Company, in Mechanic Falls, made one of the early laminated skis. It was marketed under the Trailmaster name and was "Guaranteed not to break."

The opening of this Museum is an exciting moment in Maine's ski history. If you have an artifact you would like to donate or a story you would like to share please send a letter to:

Ski Museum of Maine, PO Box 567, Farmington, ME 04938

The best way you can support our efforts to preserve Maine's skiing history and heritage is by becoming a member.

—Glenn Parkinson, Ski Museum of Maine

“Never the Same”

Carrabassett Valley Academy

As you drive into Carrabassett Valley the sign reads “From here on your life will never be the same.” Have you ever thought to yourself: The same as what? Or perhaps, why won't it be the same? For the passing traveler these questions are answered as they drive through on Route 27 and the majesty of the Valley unfolds before them - there is no question of the sign's intent. Perhaps more than anyone, Ski Club members understand that life will never be the same because Carrabassett Valley is rich in natural beauties, world class amenities and caring friendly people.

Take inventory for just a moment of the world-class attractions laying in the Valley that draw people here from all over the world. The famed 2,174 mile Appalachian Trail travels through the Valley up and over the Bigelow Range. In the 1930s the Appalachian Trail culminated on Sugarloaf and Avery Peak is named after Myron Avery, one of the original visionaries of the through trail stretching from Georgia to Maine. Sugarloaf, pioneered by Ski Club members, rises above seas level at 4,237 ft. With 2820 vertical feet, the most continuous in New England, Sugarloaf is consistently ranked in the top ten resorts in the East. Lying at the foothills of these magnificent mountains, carving through the Valley is the Carrabassett River. Today motorists can enjoy the winding beauty of this rocky waterway as they pass between Sugarloaf and Kingfield. The Narrow Gauge Pathway offers non-motorized travelers the opportunity to parallel the rugged shores of the Carrabassett River where, from 1900 to 1927, railroad passengers clacked along on the twenty-four inch tracks of the Narrow Gauge Railroad from Bigelow Station to Huston Brook. Beyond the river, quietly resting behind the Bigelow range lays breathtaking Flagstaff Lake, a pure playground for the naturalist. Winters on Sugarloaf provide the only above treeline skiing in the East and Sugarloaf's services receive top honors year after year from industry reports. In the summer golfers travel from all over to the awe-inspiring, Robert Trent Jones, Jr. designed, 18-holes that make up the Sugarloaf Golf Club.

At the base of Sugarloaf is Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA), another Ski Club inspiration, where in just 25 years the school has produced ten Olympians, one Olympic gold medal, two silver medals, one bronze medal, and a host of successful alumni. Shared between Carrabassett Valley Academy and the town of Carrabassett Valley is the Antigravity Complex (AGC) where twelve months of the year Carrabassett Valley school buses, CVA vans, Sugarloaf shuttles, and buses and vans from towns all around Maine bring children of all ages.

Today CVA is in the process of building another facility that will add to the Valley's world-class inventory of attractions. Over the next several months local crews will construct Murfey Hall, the next building phase of CVA's New Campus. Named in honor of the generous support and commitment of the family of CVA alumnus, Spencer Murfey, this residential facility is the latest addition to CVA and the Valley's state-of-the-art facilities. The construction of this dormitory is a reflection of the pride that CVA takes in Carrabassett Valley.

Carrabassett Valley is steeped with natural beauty, world-class amenities and caring friendly people. Winter, summer, spring, and fall: each season is a playground of limitless exploration and enjoyment. Living in the colors and pleasure of each season we anticipate the change of seasons. We live in a world where our lives will never be the same.

---Rick Bisson, Communications, Carrabassett Valley Academy

From Page 1 : That picture was of a few of us building the deck on the new Jean Luce Competition and Training Facility. The building's second floor will house the Slim Melvin Timing Room. The deck will be a great gathering place for many seasons to come.

Aside from working, many of us got to relax at the annual Pig Roast held at the Town's Outdoor Center. Over 130 Club members and friends enjoyed a great meal and conversation. Many events were held, but the highlight of the weekend as always was the opportunity to reunite with old Sugarloaf friends.

The upcoming snow season holds the promise of being a fun filled one. You will see that our social and competition schedule is packed with exciting events. We will once again have the annual meeting at the golf course clubhouse. It will be sat Jan 27. We will have a guest speaker that is sure to be interesting and we will have a great social evening. We are also in the planning stages for a Ski Club member wine education and tasting night in early March. Stay tuned.

Jim and laurel have a busy season ahead at the Competition Center. With the numbers continuing to grow in the S/CVA Programs, it will be a busy season with many days of training and competing. They will need many volunteers , so let Lev know when you can help. Don't forget to come to the volunteer sign up social at the Comp.Center on sat. Nov .25. 4pm. This gathering is for Snowboard ,Freestyle and Alpine volunteers and potential volunteers.

Without the help of your ski club and our volunteers, the cost of running the youth programs and competitions would be a lot more than it currently is. That is one reason why all members of the S/CVA and CVA programs are members of the Sugarloaf Ski Club
So, have a great season stay in touch and see you on the hill. — Bruce Miles



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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Just as CVA is constructing a World Class Campus, Your Ski Club is building a World Class on hill facility to ensure that we provide the best training and competition venues for our program members and visiting teams.

In the last issued I described the new Jean Luce Competition Facility and Slim Melvin Timing Room in detail.

Now I am asking for your help. Just as the Town, SMC and your Club have put in equal amounts of dollars into this project, we are looking to you our members, parents, and supporters to help contribute to this facility.

About the fundraising. We will have a plaque on the building acknowledging the individuals, families and companies who have helped us construct this much needed competition and training arena. In keeping with the Olympic tradition, we will have Gold Silver and Bronze levels of support.

Gold level is a contribution of \$1,000 or more, Silver is \$500 to \$999 and Bronze is a \$100 to \$499 contribution. Also any contributor no matter the amount, will be acknowledged in our Ski Club newsletter. All contributions are fully tax deductible and should be made to the Sugarloaf Regional Ski Education Foundation and mailed to the Sugarloaf Ski Club, Village West 13, Carrabassett Valley ME 04947.

We hope you join the people and organizations listed below who have pledged their support for this important project. The list is as of Oct 23 and their may be some omissions at this time.

John and Ann Parker
 Norton and Jean Luce
 The Walter Melvin family
 Greg and Cindy Foster
 Paul and Carol Fremont Smith
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 The Peter Clark family
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 The John Debiase family

Tom and Heidi Pelletier
 Joe and Doris Tutlis
 The Jeff Rosenberg family
 Bill and Cindy Gilmore
 Malcolm and Luli MacNaught
 The George Hanlon family
 Paul and Jill Dugas
 Colby Ski Team
 Scott Beliveau and family
 Rick and Shannon Goduti
 Peter Webber and family
 Tony and Hillary Jessen
 Tom Hildreth and Claudia Diller
 Jim and Jennifer McCormack
 The Cardiac Club
 The Poirier and McCreel family
 The John Diller family
 The Scott Hoisington family

Letter from John Ritzo Carrabassett Valley Academy

Dear Ski Club Members:

With early snowfalls frosting the top of Sugarloaf and the excitement of the coming winter season, I would like to share with you my thoughts on the state of Carrabassett Valley Academy. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Ski Clubs founding of CVA and I share the view of CVA's Board of Trustees when I say that the school is in the strongest position in its history. From enrollment to programs to facilities - and especially with respect to support from CVA friends and family - CVA's 25th year will truly lay a foundation on which to build on tradition and forge our future.

CVA is governed by a dedicated and talented Board of Trustees, ably led by Chair Tom Pelletier. The Board's strategic directions for 2006-07 include: sustaining full enrollment, operating with a balanced budget, retaining students, faculty and staff, planning for Board and administrative succession, successfully completing the fundraising for the first stage of the dormitory, constructing Murfey Hall and the atrium of the new dormitory, and implementing the programming and facility adjustments needed to incorporate the new dormitory and maximize the use of all facilities.

Enrollment this year is strong with a full complement of 121 students. The alpine program continues to draw the most student-athletes, followed by snowboarding, freestyle and ALPS. I am proud of the faculty and staff who are taking care of our kids - employee retention is at its highest mark and everyone is working well together as a team. Continued success for CVA depends on the development of future student-athletes. The S/CVA weekend training programs provide the foundation for many future CVA students. It is during these early years that the passion for their sport is kindled and the fundamentals are taught. The S/CVA staff is committed to making S/CVA one of the premier junior snowsports programs in the country.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges recently approved the CVA's 5-year interim report with commendations. Our continued effort to improve existing programs and create new challenges for the Big Dogs has resulted in new programs in both academics and athletics. A matching grant has helped to establish a pilot environmental science course and a competitive Nordic team will be reintroduced for the fall of 2007. The hiring of Doug Williams last spring as the Alpine Program Director is a huge benefit for CVA, as Doug brings with him a national reputation and many years of experience. Glenn Eddy, Freestyle Program Director, was honored last spring by the United States Ski and Snowboard Association as the 2006 Coach of the Year in Development as well as the 2006 Freestyle Domestic Coach of the Year, a prestigious recognition of his success in consistently developing top level athletes. Seth Wescott '94 has elevated the snowboard program to gold medal status and the ALPS program steadily grows in numbers.

The construction of the first stage of the new dormitory, Murfey Hall and the atrium began this summer and as I write this the walls are going up. The goal is to have the building enclosed around the first of the year, continue construction through the winter and be ready for occupancy in the fall 2007. The New Campus Campaign has raised more than \$5,400,000 to date.

The positive momentum illustrated above is the result in good measure of the generosity of many people who have helped to annually sustain the school. Although in a stronger position than ever before, Carrabassett Valley Academy is still a young institution that faces many challenges. This is an exciting time for the school but it is also a pivotal period. The building of a new campus is an enormous undertaking requiring the full energy of the extended CVA community. To complete Murfey Hall and the atrium an additional \$1,000,000 needs to be raised this year. Concurrently with this effort, annual giving must also reach its goal of \$275,000 in order to fund daily operations such as technology, athletic travel, teacher and coach salaries as well as vital financial aid dollars.

Spawned from the vision of Ski Club members, Carrabassett Valley Academy continues to stay out in front with new programs and innovative ways to teach and train our student-athletes. We are very proud of our beginnings, they keep us focused on our future. Thank you Ski Club members for all of your support and encouragement on and off the hill.

Sincerely,

John C. Ritzo
Headmaster

"The Quest" - Twelve consecutive months of skiing! --- by Dick Foote

Things just fell into place, --- just like the snow that I experienced in 2005-2006. I didn't plan on going skiing in twelve consecutive months, --- but then again when the opportunity presents itself you just have to "go for it!"

It all started when I took my first ski turns in the Andes Mountains on August 20, 2005. This was the second year that Greg Foster of Sugarloaf and I had made a pilgrimage to Portillo, Chile to enjoy a week of summer skiing, great food, and the camaraderie of other skiers from around the world, --- including Bob Aillard of Sugarloaf. It never occurred to me that this would be the beginning of a quest.

The week in Portillo was as different as day and night from the week of August 2004, where we had lots of sun and melting snow, to this year where the sky was often overcast and it would be snowing. We had a two foot storm on Tuesday, a beautiful powder day on Wednesday, and a promise of things to come that would drive away 300 of the 450 Portillo guests by Thursday evening. Yes, --- it was the prediction of the "Santa Rosa" that had guests heading for Santiago so they could escape from this legendary storm. I opted to stay.

The blizzard lasted three days, with winds sometimes exceeding 100mph. Late Monday afternoon, the first opportunity to ski in awhile, I noticed that two of the ski lifts had been damaged by avalanches. The storm had dropped 6 feet of snow. On Tuesday I had some of the best powder skiing of my life. During that day mini buses were arriving from Santiago with guests, and I would be leaving on one of these buses at 9:30PM to return to Santiago. I stayed in Santiago for a few more days due to unavailability of an airline seat.

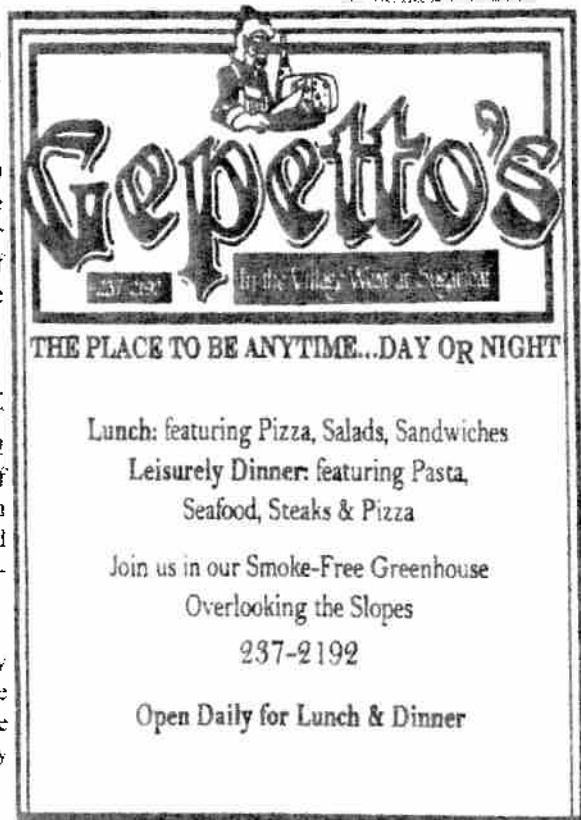
On September 1st I skied untracked powder at Valle Nevado while the local day-trippers from Santiago skied the groomed slopes. At that point in time I had skied two months in a row, --- but still had no idea that this would become part of a "quest."

In late October, 2005 a snowstorm dropped over 40 inches at Sugarloaf, and at Wildcat Mountain in New Hampshire where ski lifts were opened for a few days. I went skiing there on a beautiful day with spring-like conditions. I realized that I had skied three months in a row and now was on a "quest" to ski 12 consecutive months, --- a bit challenging for a person who is 60 and still works full-time.

From November 2005 through April 2006 I skied about 50 days at Sugarloaf and a week at Whistler/Blackcomb. On the first weekend in May I hiked Sugarloaf to the top of Skidder via West Mountain and skied down on large patches of snow, grass and mud. I now had been skiing ten consecutive months and had two more to go!

On June 28th I flew out to Portland, Oregon to ski Mt. Hood. I skied from June 29 through July 1st. This ended the "quest." I had now skied a total of 68 days in 12 consecutive months! Was it worth it? Absolutely!!! Would I do it again? Only if I'm caught in a snowstorm in August and end up skiing in September. Will it happen? Possibly. Why do I think it could happen? Because I'm planning a ski trip to Las Lenas, Argentina for the last week of August, 2007.

If you want to start a quest of your own join me, and possibly others from the "Loaf," for my next ski adventure in the southern hemisphere. Maybe you too can experience the "Santa Rosa." In the meantime THINK SNOW, --- and may most of it fall on Sugarloaf this year!



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Ski Club Calendar

- November 25: Ski Club Board meeting 3:00
 Volunteer party: Competition Center 4:30
- January 27: Ski Club annual meeting
- February 20: Pot luck dinner for Ski Club families
- March 24: Ski Club Snowball
- March 24 or 25 (raindate): MARA BBQ

Competition Center Calendar—early season

- December 2: Opener SL
 December 3: Dax Brown GS
 December 9/10: Greg Francoeur Mogul meet
 December 18/19: Men's FIS GS
 December 20: Men's FIS SG
 December 28: Bill Bousum GS
 December 30: USASA Snowboard Half-Pipe
 January 7: MARA GS
 January 12: USASA Snowboard SL/GS
 January 11/12: FIS SG

Letter to the Ski Club from a "new" volunteer:

I would like to congratulate Sugarloaf Mountain, the Competition Center, and the Ski Club for so successfully hosting the U.S. National Alpine Championships last March. The entire event was exciting to watch, and beautifully orchestrated; thanks to the help of all the volunteers, Mountain and Comp. Center employees. This was the first event at which I had volunteered.

Under the tutelage of Peter Smith, I learned a great deal about ski racing and all the work and effort that goes into hosting such an event. Peter and I, and a raft of other volunteers and employees, were on the chairlift at 6:30 or earlier every morning; and on some nights we did not get off the hill until after 5:00. I never realized how much effort was involved in putting on a safe and quality event.

This was an eye opening occasion for me; and I would like to stress to every parent of a snow sports competitor that they need to strongly consider being a part of the events that their children take part in. It would be impossible to host any competition without volunteers. Not only did I learn a great deal, but I had a lot of fun. I would encourage every parent to at least volunteer once during the ski season to see what goes into making the events their children participate in happen.

Sincerely,
 Charlie Brown

(parent of a CVA student and new race volunteer)

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Competition Center News

Don't forget the party for old and new volunteers at the Competition Center on Saturday, the 25th of November, at 4:30. The usual refreshments will be provided. Come and kick off the season, say hello to old friends, and find out about events on our Sugarloaf agenda — see Laurel Lashar to sign up for volunteer spots!

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Sugarloaf since '74 -- Many local references

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:

- Vintage note cards \$10
- Windproof fleece hats from Silverfoot \$25
- Roomy gray sweatshirts: \$25
- Heavy white tee shirts, with an outline of Maine: \$12
- Also gray tee shirts: \$10
- Great blue denim shirts: \$35
- Long-sleeved golf shirts: \$20
- Baseball hats: \$15
- Child-size baseball hats: \$12
- Pushovers: \$8 on sale
- First Trail posters: \$5

The office is open every weekend when the mountain is open for skiing from about 8:30 to 1:30 or 2, and sporadic weekday hours.

Sugarloaf Ski Club Membership Form: 2006/2007

Have you renewed??

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ S'Loaf phone _____

E-mail address: _____

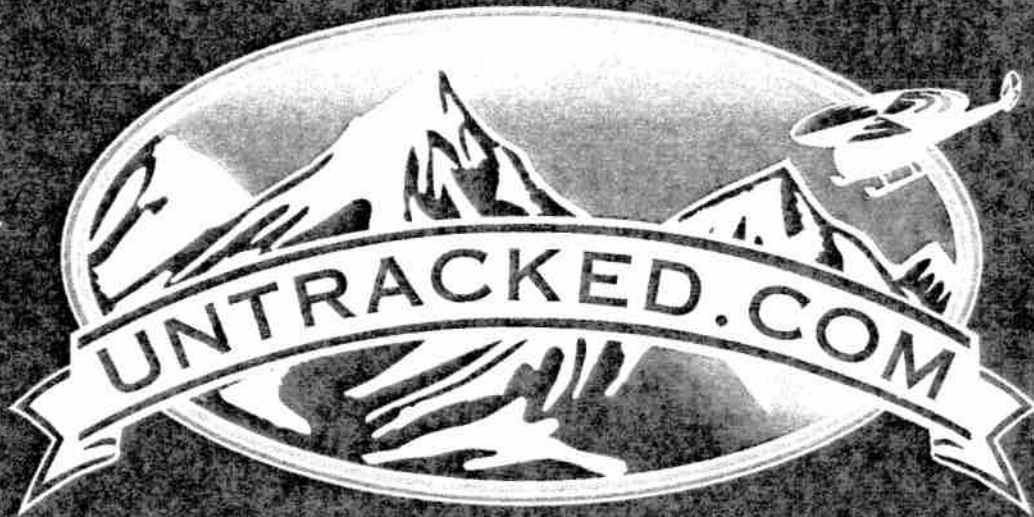
Would you like to receive occasional club bulletins by email? yes no

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Children in family membership _____

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CONTACTS

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Bruce Miles, President	235-2495
Steve Schaefer, Vice-Pres	237-2120
Nancy Holliday, Secretary	235-3446
Philip Hunter, Treasurer	246-6181
Mary Jean Doyle, Membership	246-3283

Sugarloaf Ski Club
Village West #13
Carrabassett Valley ME 04947

OPENING DAY coming soon. Be There !!



ROBERT "BUNNY" BASS
Sugarloaf Ski Club President, 1952-1954

A Remembrance

By
John Christie

When Bunny Bass died early in the morning of October 27th, 2006, on the third Anniversary of his induction into the first class of The Maine Ski Hall of Fame, I remarked to his daughter, Betsy, that "first class" was always the characterization that came to my mind whenever I thought of her father.

She reminded me that Bunny's great love, next to his family, was Sugarloaf. He died quietly, surrounded by trail maps and other memorabilia from the ski area he helped create and develop.

Betsy shared a wonderful story with me. She told me that after she had gotten her driver's license, and was driving to Sugarloaf every weekend, when she returned to Wilton late on Sunday afternoons, her dad didn't ask, "How was the skiing?" His first question was always "How many parking lots were full?" The consummate businessman's mind at work!

Born into, and ultimately head of, the G. H. Bass footwear family and company, Bunny combined a love of the sport of skiing, a businessman's recognition of growth opportunities for his family's business, the political skills to assemble like-minded people to work toward common goals, and the personality to motivate everyone with whom he came in contact to eagerly follow his lead in both his entrepreneurial and recreational pursuits.

As one of the Directors of the Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Club in 1950, Bunny was part of that small group of visionaries who saw the potential for developing Maine's second highest mountain into a major ski facility. Elected the Club's third President in 1952, he spearheaded the dual efforts to hold annual downhill competitions on the mountain and to install the first lift, a 700-foot rope tow.

As subsequent President and then Board Chairman of the Sugarloaf Mountain Corporation, active member of the Maine Ski Council, the USEASA, the Eastern Ski Area Operators Association, and the New England Council for Economic Development, Bunny's enthusiastic involvement in and support of Maine's emerging ski industry lent credibility to what people might have otherwise assumed was a fleeting folly at best and a foolish investment at worst.

It has been said, "every great enterprise is the lengthened shadow of one man". Sugarloaf and Maine's ski industry stand today as monuments to the vision and commitment of this remarkable man.

