

# Snowflakes

A Publication of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club, [www.pvskiclub.org](http://www.pvskiclub.org)

## October Ski Sale Starts Off the 2019-2020 PVSC Season

The October Ski Sale attracted a host of enthusiastic families getting prepared for the coming season. Cold weather provided a boost for ski equipment vendors, and once again put PVSC in the Bangor area limelight. The Club extends a hearty thanks to all the volunteers who made this effort possible.

The sale was once again robust. This year's gross receipts were about 30 percent higher than last year, and the volunteer effort really paid off! The new hours -- 8 am to 2 pm -- were well received by vendors, customers, and volunteers.

Buyers will no doubt be putting their new gear to good use with an anticipated early arrival of winter, with snow already accumulating on some of the state's taller mountains.

The Club's share of the receipts, well over \$10,000, will fund programs like membership meetings, bus trips, Learn-to-Ski/Board, Racing Development, and cross-country trail maintenance and grooming. We start the season with a comfortable financial cushion! A special thanks to the Whitcombs of Hermon Mountain for helping out with new bindings.



By the way, now is a good time to get your season pass at New Hermon Mountain. Winter, with the aid of some fantastic snowmaking equipment, will come early on Hermon Mountain slopes.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

-Highlights from 2018-19

-Volunteer Appeal (p. 3)

-Alpine Racing (p. 4)

-2020 Nordic Trips (p. 5)



-Bus Trips, Learn-to-Ski/Board (p. 6)

-Baxter Trip, Orono Ski Farm (p. 7)

-Remembering Dan and Bob (p. 8)

-2019 Nordic Highlights (p. 9)





**Highlights from the 2019 Season:** Learn-to-Ski - Membership Meetings - Racing Development Jackets - Katahdin WWNM - Lonesome Pine Race







JOIN, or DIE.

It's Time to Renew your Membership for  
2019-2020

and encourage a friend to join!

– Membership Dues are Due –



Renew or join for the 2019-2020 season now, before the winter activities begin: Nordic and Alpine programs, bus trips to Sugarloaf, slide lectures, Maine Huts and Trails, and Nordic trips to exotic lands. This year renewing or joining is as easy as one-two-three: go online to the PVSC web site (<http://www.pvskiclub.org/>) and follow the link at "Join US": The website lists opportunities to get more involved in Club programs. Also, check out PVSC's fund-raising goals for the Nordic and Alpine racing programs -- upgrading grooming equipment, purchasing slalom gates and new timing equipment, completing the new starting ramp at Hermon Mountain, or funding other PVSC activities, trips, and community-based programs.

One of the many benefits of club membership is the corporate voucher for PVSC discounts of up to 20 percent on lift tickets at Sugarloaf and Sunday River. If you

plan to ski Sugarloaf and/or Sunday River, vouchers will be available through the Club. (Details later.) If you plan to go on any of the PVSC bus trips, you will need to pay your dues first. Lift-ticket discounts are also available at Hermon Mountain -- just show your membership card.

**PVSC is an all-volunteer organization, and members are expected to work the Ski Sale, serve actively on a committee, or help out with Club work in some other capacity.**

We need more volunteers to keep the Club growing and expanding. When you join or renew, please indicate your willingness to help with one of our volunteer committees: Refreshments, Event Planning, Ski Sale, Alpine Racing, Nordic Program, Trail Maintenance, Trip Development, Learn to Ski/Board, Publicity.

## Please Volunteer

-By Sally Burke

PVSC is an all-volunteer organization, and it thrives only when members step up and become active. You will notice that your club membership application includes a section on volunteer opportunities. I would like to reach out to those of you who in the past have helped with various club activities, or upon joining PVSC this year indicated an area of opportunity for participation. To learn more, please contact me at [skiclub@pvskiclub.org](mailto:skiclub@pvskiclub.org) Thanks!



**We need your ideas and input going forward! Currently we need some members to get involved in the following:**

- Membership meeting planning
- Assistance with *Snowflurries*
- Banquet silent auction
- Ski sale publicity
- Brochure design/printing for 2019-2020

We have templates for how to do all these jobs and will provide assistance to anyone who would like to help! If you would be willing to help out in any of these areas, please let me know at [skiclub@pvskiclub.org](mailto:skiclub@pvskiclub.org).

Thanks and enjoy the snow!!

Sally Burke

PVSC Membership/Publicity



# Racers.... and Anyone between Ages 7 and 14 Looking for an Exciting 2020 Ski Season

The western mountain areas are open, and we will be counting down to the 2020 racing season. *If you are between the ages of 7 and 14 and can ski intermediate runs like Hermon's Cloud Nine, consider the PVSC Racing Program.* We're looking forward to an exciting and eventful season this year, with lots of enthusiastic returning racers willing to help out first-timers. We will be innovating new instruction techniques for racers this year with dual courses, one-on-one coaching, and new practice drills. We recently upgraded the timing system to allow us to time dual GS or slalom runs. We will run two sessions, with four Saturday practices each session on Cloud Nine, along with three or four "away" races and our own Chip Cochrane Invitational and Family Fun races at Hermon.

We began the PVSC Racing Development Program twenty-one years ago this year, and with solid PVSC support over the years, it has grown into a strong and varied platform for sharpening ski skills, sustaining young people's interest in skiing, and introducing our young racers to the possibilities for continuing Alpine racing in high school and beyond. The program has expanded to around forty participants, and today it enjoys a sound reputation throughout central and northern Maine for its committed racers, supportive parents, unfailing enthusiasm, and good sportsmanship. We are certainly proud of what we have accomplished, and we invite new families to join us this season to push the program forward.

Our coaches are looking forward to working with young skiers to improve style and performance. Our Slim Melvin timing hut is in its eleventh season, and has been moved downslope this year to provide a longer racing venue. We will be scheduling optional Sunday races at Lost Valley (Auburn), Camden Snow Bowl, Squaw Mountain (Greenville), BigRock (Mars Hill), and Lonesome Pine (Fort Kent), and will host our own Chip Cochrane Invitational in February and the Family Fun Race at Hermon Mountain in March.

*It's not too early to begin thinking about pre-season conditioning and equipment.* Try jogging, hiking, biking, or a brief daily regimen of sit-ups, leg lifts, or wall sits. Walking stairs is good conditioning for upper leg development, and that's important in a slalom or GS course.

*As in the past, we will depend on parents for on-the-hill help in setting gates, starting racers, working with the timing and PA systems, handling bibs, and all-around arranging and coordinating.* Thanks for your support in the past.

***If you are interested in learning more about the program, e-mail program coordinator Kristy McClure (pvscracing@gmail.com).***

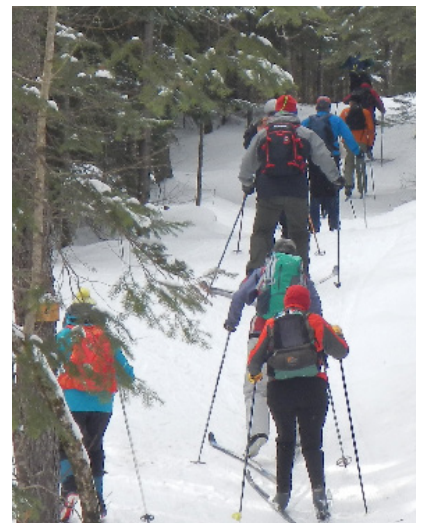




## ***Join PVSC for Cross-Country Skiing Adventures in 2020:***

- ✓ West Branch Pond Backcountry Ski Trip, January 25-27, 2020. Two nights at West Branch Pond Camps. 10 slots being held. Participants will book directly with West Branch Pond Camps. Bill Cunningham is trip leader. More details in PVSC website!
  
- ✓ Quebec Nordic Ski Trip, February 14, 2020. Three Nights at Camp Mercier, north of Quebec City - five cabins (four persons each cabin) are booked. Also one or two nights in Quebec City. \$100 deposit per person to PVSC. Final cost to be determined. Quebec City hotel will be paid separately by participants. Currently this trip is full. Contact Amy DiFrancesco to be added to the waiting list.
  
- ✓ Baxter Park Ski Trip, March 6-8. Two Nights at Dacey or Kidney Pond cabins. Amy DiFrancesco is the trip leader. More information in the PVSC website!
  
- ✓ PVSC Norway Trip March, March 13-22, 2020. Trip for up to 22 participants who should be experienced nordic skiers (one day will be 20 km). All on well-groomed trails in the Rondane area of Norway north of Lillehammer. There will be an optional side trip for Telemark and Alpine Touring skiers. Fly from Boston March 13 to Oslo, return March 22. Land cost, including lodging & meals, transport to and from airport, and gear transport between hotels, is about \$1,300 per person. Participants may want to extend trip on their own before or after the ski tour. Participants will purchase air fare on their own, and pay land cost directly to our agent in Norway. Dan Cassidy is trip leader. More details here!

We are taking reservations for these backcountry trips NOW! To reserve your spot, please contact the designated trip leader!







**PENOBSCOT VALLEY SKI CLUB  
LEARN TO SKI/SNOWBOARD PROGRAMS  
2020 Information**



**Ski and Ride Lessons with Hermon Mt. Ski School: Register on line at PVSC Web Site**

**LTS consists of two four-week sessions for members ages 3-Adult. Sign up through the ski club for a group discount. PVSC subsidizes the lessons by \$15.00 a member. Membership is open to all. <http://www.pvskiclub.org/become-a-member/>**

**The PVSC member price for 2019 is \$115/ four-week session for youth (ages 3-12) and \$130 for teens and adults (13+). This is a package deal only, including lessons, lift tickets, and rentals (supplied and fitted by Hermon Mt.).**

Youth Ski/snowboarding lessons, ages 3-12, will begin on Saturday January 4 at 9:30. Lessons last 1 hour for 3 & 4 year olds and 1½ hours for older youth. Skiers and boarders ages 5-12 have the option of lessons on Saturday or Sunday. Teens and Adults will meet Friday evenings beginning January 3 at 6:00 PM. Lessons last for 1½ hours. Second session starts in February. You may choose to ski or ride. Skiers/Riders will be placed according to age and ability when signing up. Please read the link to the ability levels if your child has some experience. If s/he has signed up for both sessions s/he will be placed by the instructor for the second session.

**Participants requiring equipment need to report to Hermon Mountain to arrange for rentals and be fitted no later than 1 week before lessons begin.** All PVSC registrations will be sent to the mountain two weeks before lessons begin to have groups ready to go on the first day. For more tips on Learn to Ski/Snowboard, including level descriptions, check the Hermon Mt. site at <http://www.skihermonmountain.com/learn-to-ski>. Contact Barbe Miller PVSC LTS Cordinator [back4ty@gmail.com](mailto:back4ty@gmail.com), or 478-7733. Go to <http://www.pvskiclub.org/learn-to-ski/> for registration.

## *Local Bus Trips*

PVSC sponsors bus trips to Alpine and Nordic skiing venues, approximately once a month during the season. The trips leave the Park-and-Ride site just off I-395 between 6:30 and 7:00 AM, and leave the mountain in the afternoon at 4:00 sharp. Leave the driving to Cyr and the low group prices to PVSC. Check the PVSC web site for details, schedules, and discounted group passes at Sugarloaf. Bus fare is \$20 (member), or \$35 family (member).

Photos by Susan Lancaster (below) and Ken Miller (right).



## *Learn to Snowboard in four easy lessons...*



Baxter State Park Nordic Trip March 2020  
 Date: March 6-8 (2 nights).

We are planning another trip to Baxter Park this winter. This is a back-country Nordic ski trip that requires intermediate skiing skill and excellent fitness level. We will ski from the Abol Bridge parking lot to the cabins at either Daicey Pond or Kidney Pond campgrounds. This is a 6 or 7.5 mile ski on hilly terrain. You must be able to pull a pulk (sled) or carry a large backpack loaded with gear. The cabins are equipped with propane lanterns. We will prepare meals on the wood stove or camp stove, and filter water that we collect by melting snow. The weather and trail conditions are unpredictable.



### PVSC Officers and Program Chairs

President	Peter Buzzini (peter.buzzini@ubs.com)
Vice President	Kristy McClure (kpm795@yahoo.com)
Treasurer	Bob Bass (rbass@midmaine.com)
Secretary	Peggy McKee (mcrubin@gmail.com)
Alpine	Kristy McClure (kpm795@yahoo.com)
Nordic	Deanna Prince (deanna.prince@me.com)
Membership and Publicity	Sally Burke (skiclub@pvskiclub.org)
Alpine Trips	Ken Miller (ken.miller@emeramaine.com)
Nordic Trips	Dan Cassidy (pvscnordictrips@gmail.com)
Fundraising	vacant
Finance	Jonathan Rubin (jdrfirst@gmail.com)

### At-large Board Members:

Ruth Williams (term exp. 2021)  
 (RuthDWilliams@yahoo.com)  
 Peggy Huntley (term exp. 2020)  
 (huntleypatty@roadrunner.com)  
 Mats Hidestrand (term exp. 2022)  
 (mathid@gmail.com)

### Orono Ski Farm: A Youth Nordic Development Program

PVSC will be hosting a Nordic ski program in Orono based on the extremely successful “ski play” model used in Anchorage and the Bill Koch League programs. We will meet twice weekly for a nine-week Nordic ski program for children grades 2 through 6, beginning January 8, 2020. The group will meet from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm Wednesdays and 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm Sundays. The primary venue will be the high school trails in Orono.

#### Details:

Nine-week session: enrollment beginning around November 15, 2019.

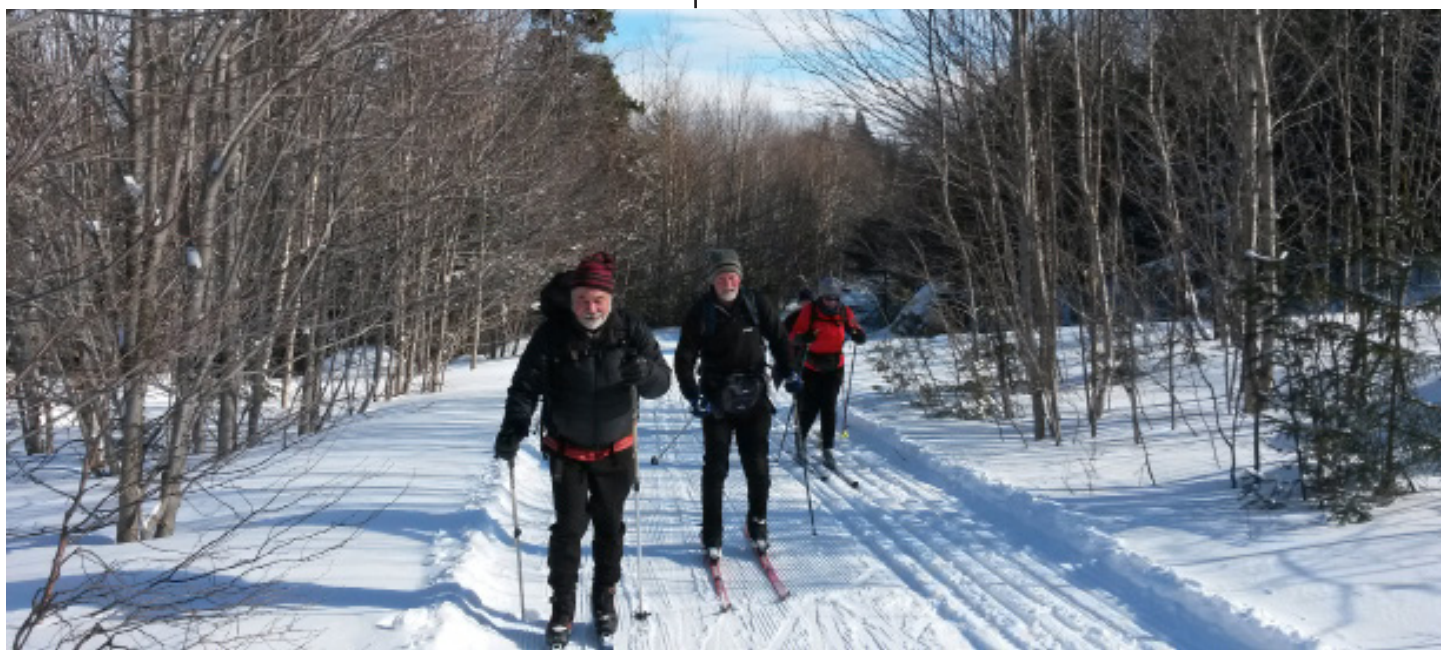
Fee: \$50 plus PVSC membership.

Number of participants: 30 maximum.

Skis: We use waxable combi skis. Skis, boots, and poles should be available to rent through the new PVSC community ski lease.

If your child would be interested in Ski Farm, please take a second to drop us a note at volz@gmail.com.

Thanks! Jen Branchflower and Karl Volz, coaches.





## PVSC mourns the loss of two founding members



**Daniel M. "Danny" Gagnon**, 68, passed away on September 13, 2019 at a Boston hospital after a sixty-four day battle with an immunosuppressive illness, with his wife by his side throughout. Dan and his wife Gretchen were mainstays of PVSC activities. Dan helped out with ski sales, attended virtually every membership meeting since joining the Club, and participated in trips to Sugarloaf and Quebec. After many, many years of service on the PVSC Board of Directors, Dan retired from his post at the end of the 2019 season. Dan had been with the ski club for approximately twenty-three years, and served as a Board member for fifteen years. He also served on the PVSC Investment Committee for five years. In recognition of his tireless service, Dan received a Silver Ski award in 2011.

Dan was born on November 4, 1950 at home in Madawaska, the son of Lionel and Simone (Bouchard) Gagnon. Dan graduated from Madawaska High School and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Maine. In 1979, he met the love of his life, Gretchen Dyer. They were married on July 6, 1985, and together they raised three sons.

In addition to skiing, Dan enjoyed golfing, cribbage, and barbecuing for his family and friends.



**Robert Downing Dunlap**, age 97, died on September 18 at Dirigo Pines in Orono. Bob is pictured above with his wife Cindy at a PVSC event at BigRock in Mars Hill. Bob joined PVSC in 1950, and he and Cindy participated in the major events of the Club's founding years, particularly upkeep of the Bald Mountain Ski Area and the establishment of the Club's early racing programs. Bob and Cindy were recipients of the PVSC's first Silver Skis Award. Bob served most recently as Club's archivist and historian and wrote often in the *Snowfuries* of the Club's founding years, the highlights of the early Alpine racing circuit, the many notable skiers the Club nurtured, and the Club's early adventures at the King's Mountain and Bald Mountain ski areas.

Bob graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School in 1940, received a BA in chemistry from Colgate University in 1944, and a PhD in physical chemistry from Penn State University in 1949. He was a professor of chemistry at the University of Maine from 1949 until his retirement in 1991. Cindy and Bob were married for 66 years.

In addition to Club work, Bob was active in the Green Lake Association and the Maine Lakes Society, where he helped monitor and analyze water quality data, and in the Boy Scouts. Bob enjoyed the outdoors and when he was not skiing he made frequent trips to Baxter Park, Acadia National Park, and the Allagash country.



# Nordic Highlights - 2019

PVSC Nordic members traveled to Quebec this past spring, March 21 to March 27, to ski amongst the Chic Choc mountains on the Gaspé. There were seven members led by Dan Cassidy and Amy Di Francesco, including Karen Hover, Beth Smart, Jim Nichols, Ian Ogilvie, and Peter Buzzini. We drove through New Brunswick to Quebec along the shore of the St. Lawrence River and then east toward the Gaspé peninsula, entering the Parc National de la Gaspésie. We stayed at the Village Grande Nature lodges for the first night, then entered the park system trails the following morning. The first day was mostly a long, fairly flat ski in, but then we quickly ascended into the Chic Choc mountains. Our first hut inside that park, Le Huard, had a nice elevated perch above a small lake. We enjoyed a fondue dinner the first evening at Le Huard which was well provisioned by the snowmobile service that transported our gear duffles to each hut. The next day we skied nearly 20 km to our next hut, La Nyctale, which has a nice view of Mt. Logan, the highest peak in the Parc. We spent two nights at La Nyctale, using the extra day to explore Mt. Logan and the surrounding backcountry. High winds prevented us from climbing Mt. Logan (which was very icy!) but we were able to find good snow and slopes in the area. The following day we explored a northern side route on our way to Le Carouge hut just above Lac Choc and not far from Lac Chic (hence the Chic-Chocs). Each day's

trip ranged from 12 to 20 miles of tracked touring skiing that occasionally required skins on the uphill. We brought all our own food and cooking equipment, but gear was delivered each day to our next hut destination. The huts were well stocked with firewood and usually a source of water. On the last day we skied from Le Carouge back down and out to Village Grande Nature, jumped in our vehicles and drove to the other side of the Parc to stay in a roadside lodge beneath Mont-Albert. On the last day several of us climbed Mont Hog's Back and skied down before heading home for Maine. The Parc is beautiful and well suited for hut-to-hut skiing. The services are quite good by any standards and made for a trip well worth the effort.

Peter Buzzini







## Promoting Skiing Since 1936

Peter Buzzini President  
Daniel.M.Perkins@gmail.com

Kristy McClure, Vice-President  
peter.buzzini@ubs.com

Peggy McKee, Secretary  
mcrubin@gmail.com

Sally Burke, Membership  
skiclub@pvskiclub.org

Richard Judd, Newsletter  
rjudd@maine.edu

*Stay Connected!*

[www.pvskiclub.org](http://www.pvskiclub.org)

## Club Volunteers and Program Participants



Snowflurries Newsletter  
Return to:  
Sally Burke  
2757 Western Ave  
Newburgh, ME 04444



November 2019