



Snowflakes

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A Publication of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club, www.pvskiclub.org

Got Snow!

Despite the ultra-dramatic January thaw this year, snow conditions everywhere are excellent, with more on tap over the next week or so. Sugarloaf reports a 40-inch base; Hermon Mountain has 12-42 inches of groomed packed powder with all trails open; and BigRock has enjoyed record snowfall this year, making for some of the best skiing and riding in years: 16-30 inches on the mountain and an incredible season total of 100 inches. The Friends of Squaw Mountain are offering affordable family skiing with groomed cross country trails across the road from the refurbished base lodge.

Thanks to good Club publicity, skiers and snowboarders are showing solid interest in our programs, with strong enrollments in Learn-to-Ski/Board, Nordic, and Alpine Racing. The Racing Development Program has enrolled 42 participants, with many veteran racers returning this year to help newcomers learn the ropes. We have some photos of our new PVSC team coats inside. Our racers practice on Saturday mornings at Hermon Mountain. If you are a reasonably good skier and would like to try out your skills in the gates, we would be happy to let you take a turn or two. We are looking forward to the Chip Cochrane Invitational, hosted by Hermon Mountain and PVSC Racing Development, on February 10. Come out and cheer our racers on. *On Right: BigRock and Hermon Mountain.*



January 22 Membership Meeting Featured a Talk with Friends of Squaw Mountain's Rodney Folsom

The January Membership Meeting featured pizza, a nice spread of salads and desserts, and a lively talk with Rodney Folsom of the Friends of Squaw Mountain. The Friends have been operating the mountain since 2012, relying on volunteer labor and generous donations from the Greenville community and others around central Maine. Big Squaw reopened with its triple chairlift in February 2013, and since then the Friends have added improved base facilities, snowmaking, and an interesting schedule of after-ski events.



Alpine Racing at Hermon Mountain

The PVSC Racing Development Program hit the slopes on January 5 with a good mix of returning and new racers and, as of January 26, sixty new slalom gates with brush bases for stick-in convenience. These gates replace our older, now more brittle poles, and with more of our young racers practicing gate-clearing, the new more flexible 27 centimeter (thinner) poles are a lot safer.

Our coaching staff is looking forward to guiding new racers and vets through the ins and outs of Alpine racing. This year we have a packed racing schedule, with our first race at Camden Snow Bowl already under our belt and another on February 3 at Lost Valley in Auburn. We host the Chip Cochrane Invitational at Hermon Mountain on February 10. Squaw Mountain is our next stop on the 17th, and the BigRock Winterfest will be held on March 16, with Lonesome Pines in Fort Kent on March 23. In between, we'll squeeze in our much-heralded Family Fun Race.



Our young racers are snowplowing and side-slipping through a course inspection at the BigRock Winterfest race last March. A good run depends on a good line through the gates. Here the coaches are helping racers plan their line through a slalom run on the course's lower headwall.

PVSC Nordic: Learn Basic Skills

PVSC is excited to offer a new program for Nordic skiers, ages 6 through 12. The program fee is \$30 (additionally, families need to be a member of Penobscot Valley Ski Club). Participants meet at the Orono High School twice weekly on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 pm and Sundays from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. Parents who drop off their children are welcome to get in a ski around the track for themselves. The program will run to March 3. Skis are also available on a rental basis. You can register for the Orono Ski Farm and check rental options on the Penobscot Valley Ski Club website. For more information, contact Jen at jenbflower@gmail.com.

Cross-country ski leasing for kids in grade 8 and younger is available through the Outdoor Sport Institute (formerly Maine Winter Sports Center). For just \$65, the ski lease program provides xc skis, boots, poles, and a ski bag for the entire season.

For information on Nordic skiing opportunities in Hampden, contact Peter Buzzini (peter.buzzini@ubs.com.)



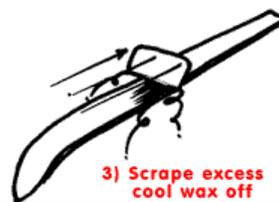
Prep your skis! It's as easy as one, two, three (four).



1) Clean base



2) Iron wax into ski or board base



3) Scrape excess cool wax off



4) Brush and polish for maximum glide

We have great news on our February 10th Sugarloaf Bus Trip! PVSC is cooperating with Bangor Parks and Rec to offer online lift ticketing for this trip. And we have greatly reduced our bus ticket prices to \$15/PVSC member and \$45/PVSC family of 3 or more! Check for details and registration on the PVSC website.



Skiers: Welcome to the PVSC Racing Development Team!

The PVSC Racing Development Program has registered more than 40 racers this season, and it practices every Saturday morning at Hermon Mountain. We will be racing against skiers from across the state on most Sundays. Here are answers to questions you may have about the program:

1. Before practice, racers and parents should check in at the table to the right inside the lodge door coming in from the parking lot. Skiers who have selected the punch-card option can pick the cards up at the table. Card holders will be responsible for keeping their own cards.

2. ***Racers must wear helmets.***

3. Before each practice, skiers should warm up with a couple of practice runs with a buddy or a coach.

4. At the start of practice, racers will meet at the top of Cloud Nine. *After each run, racers should stop at the finish line to talk with the coaches about their technique.*

5. Racers who need a break during the practice can return to the lodge. On most days there will be a PVSC parent at the check-in table. Parents must stay to monitor their own children, *unless they make arrangements with another parent or with the program director.* (Because some of our racers are very young, we must be extra diligent about their safety and whereabouts.)

6. If the weather is questionable, please check with Hermon Mountain before you drive out. If the mountain is open, we will practice (maybe with some accommodation for the weather, such as a shorter schedule on extra-cold days or a shorter course on icy snow).



PVSC Racers model their new team coats. With 42 participants in sharp (and warm!) black coats, complete with Club logo on the front and "PVSC Racing" on the back, our program commands a noticeable presence at Hermon Mountain and at our away races.

News from Greenville: Squaw Mountain Operating with Improved Runs and Snow-making Equipment

Two years ago the state launched a lawsuit seeking to force the mountain's owner to increase investment in the lodge and facilities, as per the purchase agreement with the state. In the meantime, the mountain remains open thanks to the Friends of Squaw Mountain. The lower lift is operating, serving about 20 runs, and the lodge provides food, snacks, and a comfortable place to warm up. The lower section affords some exhilarating skiing with grand vistas of Mooshead Lake. It also provides a training area for the Greenville Red Eagles Alpine race team. Improvements over the last two years include new anchor bolts for the top lift terminal, better snowmaking and grooming capacity, and a more comfortable and accommodating lodge.



Membership Meetings: Stay Informed!



The November meeting (above) brought us all together for a potluck and discussion of the upcoming club activities -- Nordic, Learn-to-Ski/Board, Alpine Racing, bus trips, and more. In December (below) we heard from Lindsay Downing from Mt. Chase Lodge on Upper Shin Pond talking about recreational activities in the Maine Woods near the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Lindsay and her husband Mike are updating their facilities to offer a full service, year round lodge and also building trails in their area for cross country skiing.



The January 22 Membership Meeting (right) featured pizza and drinks with salads and desserts supplied by members. Rodney Folsom of the Friends of Squaw Mountain discussed the history of the Friends, described the improvements on the mountain, and took questions from the members about the future of the mountain.



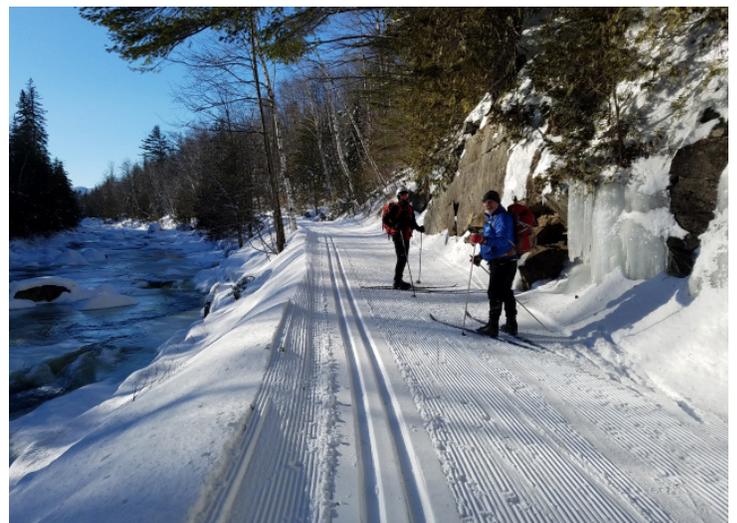
Learn to Ski and Board: PVSC launches the next generation of skiers and boarders



Each year Penobscot Valley Ski Club works with New Hermon Mountain and its staff of instructors to bring sixty or so new skiers, young and old, into the sport. Learn-to-ski/board lessons are a membership benefit available to families and individuals by joining the club. Hermon ski instructors take participants through the fundamental steps in the sport from wedge to parallel, and then hopefully the younger set will graduate into our Racing Development Program. Learners begin on the gentle slope in front of the lodge, move on to Slowpoke, then try their new skills on Cloud Nine, where they can eventually advance to PVSC's next adventure: slalom and giant slalom racing.

Nordic Trips

The 2019 PVSC Gaspé' Backcountry Ski Trip is set for March 21-27. The Gaspé Peninsula stretches out into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and features the Chic Choc Mountain and some of the deepest snow found in eastern North America. PVSC offers an opportunity to tour this incredible region during early spring. The price for the trip, \$425, includes food, lodging, transportation, and park pass. Previous backcountry skiing experience is strongly recommended. For further details, see the PVSC website or contact Dan Cassidy at d.cassidy@myfairpoint.net.



Please Volunteer:

-By Sally Burke

PVSC is an all-volunteer organization, and it thrives only when members step up and become active. I am reaching out to those of you who in the past helped with or noted upon joining PVSC this year that you would be willing to assist with club membership/publicity. First of all, thanks!

I want to share with you the varied tasks and the members associated with this committee.

Membership registrations - Sally Burke

Website - Sally Burke, Gretchen Schaefer

Member emails - Sally Burke

Snowflurries newsletter - Richard Judd

Facebook page - Barbe Miller, Cynthia Buzzini, Lauren Jacobs, Ruth Williams

Membership meetings - Sally Burke

Silent auction - Gina Schuck, Jamie Pangburn

Brochure design/printing - Daniel Perkins

Ski Sale publicity - Tom Hanson, Kristie Miner, Sally Burke, Cynthia Buzzini

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! And we welcome your ideas. **I would like to meet with this group on Monday February 4th from 6:30-7:30 pm in the library at George B. Weatherbee School (22 Main Road North) in Hampden.** If you are unable to join us, but would like to help out, please reply to skiclub@pvskiclub.org and let me know!

Thanks and enjoy the snow!!

Sally Burke

PVSC Membership/Publicity





Promoting Skiing Since 1936

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Stay Connected!

www.pvskiclub.org

CHIP COCHRANE INVITATIONAL YOUTH ALPINE RACE

February 10, 2019

New Hermon Mountain

Sponsored by the PVSC Racing Development
Program



Online registration is now open and will close Saturday, February 9th at noon. <https://www.SkiReg.com/chip-cochran-alpine-race-at-hermon-mountain>

The race is open to U8-U16. Bib pick-up is between 8:15-9 in the lodge. Course inspection and coaches meeting at 9:00. Slalom course will be first, followed by Giant Slalom.

Registration \$20. Hermon Mountain will offer \$17 lift tickets to race participants on the day of the race.

Medals will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place racers and ribbons to the 4th place racer in each category. Additional prizes will be raffled off by bib number prior to the award ceremony. Racers must be present to claim their prizes.

Snowflurries Newsletter
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February 2019