

CONNECTICUT SKI COUNCIL

skiclub.com

February, 2026

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

"If you choose not to find joy in snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow." - Unknown

I do not know who authored that quote, but I find it popping up in many places and so fitting right now. I, for one, love snow, and I always have! Although I didn't learn to ski until the "tender age of 42" ... I embraced the sport and find more joy in snow now than ever before. We, who reside in CT, have been blessed with more natural snow this year than in many years past. As I sit to write this, I have just finished racing in the fifth of our Monday Night Racing series, and that comes off a record-breaking day of ski enthusiasts who joined us at Mount Southington today! Wow! If you weren't with us at Mount Southington, I hope you were somewhere "to find joy in the snow!"

Rob Dexter continues to shine as our leader, coordinating our ski clubs and stats for all who enjoy participating in our Monday night race league. The natural snow has helped him this year, as well as the groomers and snowguns at Mount Southington!! The league series encountered one postponement due to rain, but the natural snow and snowguns have definitely made up for it. The racing staff at Mount Southington is doing a good job, striving to realign the gates following the high school racers. Rob has made it possible to coordinate with Mount Southington to restore our State Open Giant Slalom and Slalom Races, and only three more Monday nights left! Please review the details outlined in Rob's Racing Message in this newsletter.

Robert Kot continues to manage the "Kids CSC Learn to Ski/Snowboard Day" at Mount Southington as well. It will be held Saturday, January 31, 2026, and is open to all youth ages 16 and under, sponsored by a CSC member. The registration fee is only \$25.00, and that entitles each child to a lift ticket and a 2-hour group lesson at Mount Southington by their highly trained and

licensed ski school instructors. Please review the details on the Council's website and contact Robert to register your child. The maximum number of youth that we can accept is 60, so don't delay – register today!

This is the peak of our winter snow season, and with that, I am happy to share with your Council representatives (and in turn all CSC members) the restoration of so many CSC-specific benefits! Mark Robitaille has graciously embraced the return of discounted vouchers to Killington and Pico for all CSC members. Mount Snow has restored the offer of several CSC Appreciation Discounted Ski Days. Whiteface Mountain at Lake Placid has offered us discounted Appreciation dates. Stratton Mountain continues to offer us discounted rates every day of the ski season (and during golf season as well). Plattekill Mountain has offered discounted days for us in February. Please check with your CSC representative for details, as well as our CSC website. Always know that by showing your CSC member card, you will save at the window when purchasing a ticket at our friendly CT mountains: Mount Southington, Powder Ridge, and Mohawk Mountain. Please patronize these ski areas proudly so that they will continue to offer the discounts to us!

Is it clearly snow season and a busy time for all of our "snow bunnies"! In the background, the SnowBall for 2026 has set the date of November 14, 2026 at the fun site of the Middletown Elks Club Crystal Ballroom. Cheryl Parmelee

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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Feb. 10, 2026

7:30 PM

**Back Nine at Stanley
Golf Course**

**Following meeting:
MARCH 10, 2026**

Webmaster's Email

Please send all information you wish to have posted on the CSC's website to Cheryl Parmelee at: cparmelee@aeski.com

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the March newsletter is February 20. Please send info to me at: don.ludwig.45@gmail.com. Thanks, Ginny Ludwig

Council Appreciation Ski Days

Our CSC APPRECIATION DAY COORDINATOR is Ian Ellmore, and his contact info is: ian.ellmore@gmail.com.

CSC Racing

We have had 5 nights of Monday night racing in this, our 53rd year of competition. After 5 weeks, the current club standing is:

- 1) New Haven 3809
- 2) Newington 2453
- 3) Danbury 2368
- 4) Mt Laurel 1687
- 5) Hamden 1142
- 6) NAVA 736
- 7) AE 256
- 8) New Britain Falcons 158

We had early snow and the conditions have continued to be great. The cold is setting in, and the next few days as of this writing will be in the single digits – with a storm behind it.

Please note: our webmaster will be on vacation for a short period and results will not be updated on the CSC racing web page for a bit, but as soon as she is back, results will be there. I will still send out results to all team captains – please forward them to your racers.

CSC State GS returned, on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at Mount Southington. It was fantastic hero snow! We had 27 racers; short of our goal but was a good turnout, and we had 2 brand-new skiers. We typically have a separate snowboard race, but for this GS snowboards were mixed in with the skiers by age. Since the 2 snowboarders were the only ones in their age groups, they both earned first place in their age group! They are Art Dutra in MJ, and Kevin Blagys in MF.

In the future, there will be better advance notice of these races, so our participation should grow. Don't forget the

STATE SLALOM (note advance notice!) is set for Wednesday night, February 11.

Rob Dexter
CSC Racing Chairperson
860-835-9304

Other Races to Check Out

Vertical Challenge events this season are: Ski Sundown, Feb. 21, 2026; Mount Southington, Feb. 28, 2026; and Butternut, January 24, 2026. Full schedule at: ski-vc.com/2026-schedule/

President's Message, continued

continues to post updates, ski trips, discounts, benefits and items that are important to all CSC members on a continuing basis on our CSC website. Nancy Nolan continues to disseminate updates and newsletters to everyone, and Ginny Ludwig continues to edit and publish our informative monthly newsletter. This is your Connecticut Ski Council. It will and can be as vibrant as you wish to make it. Matt Manzella has stepped up to assume the role of Hybrid Meeting manager (thank you, Matt!!) and he is even helping Rob with the State Race stats! Jack Fede has stepped up to review our financial status and take over as our CSC Treasurer, and Dave Coles has stepped up to serve as our CSC Recording Secretary. The revitalized benefits and fresh minds in leadership help to strengthen and revitalize our Council. Carnegie Mellon University Professor Randy Paush once reminded us, "Complaining does not work as a strategy, and it won't make us happier." Let us remember not to complain about our inadequacies and weaknesses, but capitalize on our strengths and grow them!

See you on the snow! And I hope you find "joy" in the snow!

Kindly,
Marsha

From Our Vice President

While writing this newsletter, I am watching the snow falling, what a pretty sight!

The 2026 SnowBall will be held Saturday, November 14, at the Middletown Elks Club Crystal Ballroom. They did a fantastic job last year, so plan on attending this fall for another successful SnowBall! We are working on the details of the event now.

Unfortunately, the Rumrunners will be unable to play for us as they already have a commitment, so we are searching for a band. I did receive some recommendations, but if you have any suggestions, let me know.

The following clubs are due to serve on the SnowBall committee: AE, The Cast, Electric Boat, Metroland, Mt. Laurel Skiers, NAVA, Newington, and Norwalk. There will be a SnowBall committee meeting at 6:30 before the regular February CSC meeting.
Jane Suto

KILLINGTON/PICO 2025/2026 DISCOUNT VOUCHER PROGRAM

The CT Ski Council is providing a 2025/26 Killington & Pico discount voucher program. This program is being offered to all current CT Ski Council members for the 2025/26 season. Details of the program can be found in the linked pdf document below. Club members interested in purchasing vouchers must place orders through your club's Club Voucher Coordinator (CVC). Each club's CVC will be responsible for coordinating its club's orders and collecting funds. Individual members can only order vouchers through their identified CVC (they cannot order directly from Killington nor directly through the CT Ski Council.)

2025/26 Voucher Pricing

Killington Resort: 1-day bulk lift ticket voucher –
Adult/Youth: \$139 (with blackout dates)

Pico Mountain: 1-day bulk lift ticket voucher –
Adult/Youth \$72 (no blackout dates).

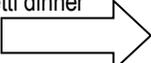
KILLINGTON/PICO DISCOUNT PROGRAM

DETAILS: https://www.skiclub.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/61/2025/11/KillingtonPicoProgram_CSC2025-26.pdf

We placed our initial order and have satisfied the minimum requirements so **NO MINIMUM AMOUNT NECESSARY TO PLACE AN ORDER!** Subsequent orders will be placed on the 1st and 15th of each month. The digital vouchers will generally be available several days after the order has been placed. If there are questions, please reach out to your club's CVC. If you are having difficulty identifying your club's CVC, you may contact Mark Robitaille for assistance. (CSCVouchers@gmail.com)

Thanks for your participation!
CSC Discount Voucher Team

FROM DANBURY SKI CLUB

Looking for a low-cost ski trip? We may have what you seek! Join us at the Barn Door Hostel in Rumney, NH, Fri., Mar. 13 to Sun. Mar. 15, 2026. Ikon Pass is good for Loon Mtn, and Indy Pass works at Waterville Valley or Cannon. You can purchase lift tickets directly from the mountains too. Gunstock Mtn. is also nearby. DSC reserved all 25 beds at the hostel, which is dormitory style in 3 rooms. Individual toilets and showers are enclosed for privacy. Linens and towels are provided. There is a large central gathering area with TV, and a full kitchen. A group spaghetti dinner Saturday night is included. Continued 

KID'S LEARN-TO-SKI DAY

WHEN – Saturday, January 31, 2026.

WHERE – Mount Southington

FOR WHOM –

- Kids from 6 (turn 6 before Jan. 1, 2026) through high school senior (graduate in 2026)
- Kids sponsored by an identified Council club in good standing.
- \$25 registration fee per child to be sent in with registration form.
- Participation limited to 60 kids, per Mount Southington.

WHAT'S INCLUDED –

- Kid's Day lift ticket, valid from 2:00 PM until closing.
- Registration sign-in: 2:00-4:00 PM. Free lesson from 4:00-6:00 PM.
- Adult lift tickets available at \$10 discount for 8-hour Flex Ticket with CSC club card and this year's sticker.
- The mountain can add \$5 for a new RFID card.
- Kid's equipment rentals (skis, boots, and poles) available for \$45.00. Helmets are additional.
- Food is available at the mountain.

FILL OUT – The registration form with skill level **MUST** be filled out and emailed to me. Forms are posted on the Council website. The \$25 registration fee must be sent to my address and made out to Connecticut Ski Council.

MAIL TO – Robert Kot, 126 Hidden Valley Dr., Meriden, CT 06451
robertfk@hotmail.com, 860-810-4238.

DEADLINE – Registration and payment must be received by Saturday, January 24, 2026.

It is impossible to predict conditions related to weather, but we are basing our information on last year's conditions. We will communicate any changes in the Kids Day section of the Council website and CT Ski Council Facebook page. Please check these for updates and plan your participation accordingly.

The mountain is limiting participation to 60 kids, as this is the capacity for group lessons. A waiting list will be maintained if we exceed this number. Anyone dropping out due to unforeseen circumstances up to the January 24 deadline will be refunded their registration fee. However, we ask that you inform us immediately if this is the case, so we can open the spot to the wait list.

To go up on Thursday, contact the hostel directly.

COST PER PERSON:

15 participants - \$210; 20 participants - \$175; 25 participants - \$145
A \$100 deposit secures your reservation. Full payment due Mon., Feb. 23.
Leaders: Jim Seri at jimseri@yahoo.com, 203-300-3172; Dorrie Panayotou, dorotheastream@gmail.com, 303-704-0187.

CONNECTICUT SKI COUNCIL

2024-2025 Season Officers

PRESIDENT: Marsha Baretta

skimars93@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Jane Suto

hamdenskiclub72@gmail.com

TREASURER: Jack Fede

johnjfedegmail.com

SECRETARY: Dave Coles

davecolesskis@gmail.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Nancy Nolan; nancynolan@snet.net

GROUP SPECIAL PRICING

COORDINATOR:

Mark Robitaille

cscvouchers@gmail.com

APPRECIATION DAYS: Ian Ellmore,

ian.ellmore@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER: Ginny Ludwig

don.ludwig.45@gmail.com

RACING: Rob Dexter,

skicouncil@gmail.com

WEBMASTER: Cheryl Parmelee

cparmelee@aeski.com

HISTORIAN:

PAST PRESIDENT: Ben Tomczak

president@skiclub.com

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Marsha Baretta

skimars93@gmail.com

CT SKI COUNCIL MEETING LOCATION:
The Back 9 Restaurant at Stanley Golf Course,
245 Hartford Avenue, New Britain

CONNECTICUT SKI COUNCIL

Visit our website at skiclub.com.

The purpose of the Connecticut Ski Council is to foster and encourage organized amateur skiing and riding, to assist in the development of new clubs, to sponsor and run inter-club competition, promote club activity on and off the snow, and to teach skiing and ski safety skills to others. The Council offers discounts on lift tickets, ski trips, lodging, competitive racing, Nordic programs, ski instruction, and social and sporting events, community involvement, physical conditioning, meeting people and having fun.