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THIS YEAR'S SPRING FLING IS FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH!

by Barbara Vergagni

Mark your calendars for Fall Line's annual Spring Fling! This is the BIG ONE!

This is where we wrap all the wonderful times we shared with fellow Fallliners into a "dress to impress" drink, dinner, dance and awards evening.

The Venice Plaza in Berlin, N.J. will once again be our host for the evening. They did such a wonderful job last year we decided to give them some repeat business. The evening will run 7:30 pm to 12:30 am with premium open bar the whole time. And we have been promised additional bartenders to handle our festive skiers.

The evening will start with one hour of unlimited Hors d'oeuvres, followed by a four-course sit down meal with your choice of two entrees (Chicken Florentine or Grilled Sesame Tuna). So please come with your appetites and dancing shoes to celebrate yet another wonderful ski season!

And all this for a mere \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members! Where else can you go dressed in your best, have a four-course dinner, five hours of premium open bar, dance all night with the best of friends? One hundred sixty-six Fall Liners came out to celebrate last year, make sure your one of them! Please help me out and purchase your tickets early.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!

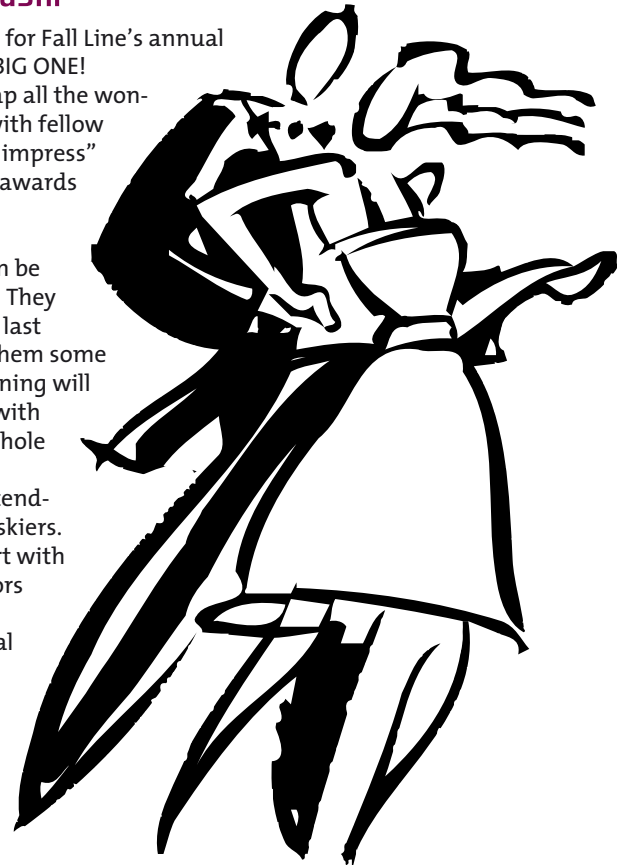
Tickets will be on sale at FLSC meetings on April 4 and April 18.

E-mail Barbara Vergagni at sushibarb@earthlink.net or call her at 856-235-6908 and send a check to:

FLSC

P.O. Box 1535

Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034



TED'S TOPICS

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dear Fall Liners, this will be the last Ted's Topics that I'll write (actually, Beverly types while I lie on the bed playing executive playboy), as my term as your president will come to an end as of the Spring Fling, April 28th. President-elect Janice Lynch will be taking over the reigns. This past September, she ran the very successful SnoBall, which was our most successful fundraiser yet. She has proven herself to be very capable, personable and I am sure she'll make a great leader.

The experience of being president of a large ski club was an education for me. At times it was very gratifying. In addition, I had the opportunity to ski Utah, Lake Placid and Italy with the club. All these trips were well run and I would like to thank the winter trip committee and the trip leaders. Without these hard working, dedicated individuals we would not have a club. I would also like to thank all the board members and each committee.

During the past year many issues presented themselves, such as "Do we run a second European trip?" "Should we raise the trip leaders comp?" "Should we change the club logo?" or "Should we hire an accountant?" Currently, we are deciding where will our Tuesday night meetings be held, because we may have to move. Please pay attention to your newsletters for an announcement of our new location.

I would like to encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming elections. You'll find a ballot in this

newsletter. On the ballot you'll also be able to vote on the club's logo. We've gotten many creative suggestions from our membership.

I'd like to conclude by saying that many people go through life either waiting for the bus to arrive or as passengers on the bus. I am grateful to have been the bus driver even if it was for only a short time.

TED



Fall Line Ski Club membership begins May 1st and ends April 30th. Membership applications for renewals and new membership are accepted any time in the year. The membership fee is \$20 until September 10th and \$25 afterwards.

Members have the privilege of attending all Fall Line Ski Club activities during the summer season as well as next ski season. Membership applications may be obtained at any Fall Line Ski Club general membership meeting, on the penultimate page of most newsletters or through the mail by contacting:

Robyn Taddei
9109 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19115-2801
Phone: 215-969-4736
E-mail: robyn@fallLine.org

The membership application should be completed in a legible manner to ensure the proper forwarding of all club correspondence. Any member not receiving the newsletter should stop at the membership table during a General Meeting.

Changes in address or phone numbers should be reported as soon as possible so that you may remain informed of all Fall Line events and activities.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

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TREASURER-ELECT

Bob Herrman856-235-3904

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Nona Luce856-778-1942

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Harry Gould.....215-922-0244

Jim Morris856-795-2446

Kathie Read.....856-489-5170

Bob Schmidt856-983-6887

Wayne Schofield856-931-2173

Barbara Vergagni856-235-6908

Brad Zacharia215-969-4736

SPRING SOFTBALL Training (Yeah, Right)

Fall Line softball does not start until May 11th but if you're dying to get started early, come on out on Thursday, April 20 to the Grand Slam batting cages at 7:30 pm on 23 Roland Ave. off of Church Road (near Fellowship Rd.) in Mount Laurel. Cost: \$5.00 per person. We'll go to Jay's afterward for food and drink. Everyone must sign up for this event so we can get a feel for the number of people that want to participate.

For additional details and directions, contact Mark Goodman at 215-830-8875.

HANGOVER CLASSIC

This year's Hangover Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 29th at the Pennsauken Country Club on Haddonfield Road in—appropriately enough—Pennsauken NJ. For \$40 per person you get it all: greens fees, cart, refreshments and prizes.

To sign up or for details see Larry Franchetti at either of April's meetings or call him at: 856-661-9174.



LOST AND FOUND

A red sweatshirt and gray pair of long-john bottoms was left behind on the Killington II bus over the March 17th-19th weekend. If the owner wants to claim these items, call Siobhan Michaud at 856-894-4572.

MEMBERSHIP Renewal

by Brad Zacharia

All memberships expire on April 30th so it's time to renew again. That means you'll need an application. On the inside back cover you'll find an application that's already been filled in just for you. Could we make it any easier? Just look it over, fill in any missing information and make any necessary corrections. Then either mail it in (address is on the bottom of the application), or bring it to the next meeting. A single membership costs only \$20. After the SnoBall in September it goes up to \$25, so renew now before you forget!

Note: A few people are already renewed into next year so you can check your mailing label (on every newsletter – every month) to know when your membership expires.

HAPPY HOUR at COPPERFIELDS

It's 6:00 PM Friday night and you're wondering: where can I find other Fall Liners? The answer: Happy Hour at Copperfield's on Route 73 in Mount Laurel. Come on out and join your ski buddies for libations and conviviality (translation: beer and fun) at Fall Line's newest after-hours hangout.

DID SOMEBODY SAY MEETINGS?

GENERAL MEETINGS are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Garden Room of the Day's Inn, Route 73 and Fellowship Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ. Meetings are from 8:30 until 11:00 pm for trip sign-ups, announcements, information and socializing. Please bring a friend, for newcomers are always welcome.

BOARD MEETINGS are held the second and fourth Tuesday each month, where the club's formal business is discussed and enacted. Members are welcome to attend. If you have something you would like to discuss, just ask any board member and it will be put on the next meeting's agenda. Meetings are held from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, and locations rotate amongst board members' houses, so ask any board member for the next meeting location.

WINTER TRIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS are conducted by Kathie Read, board member and Winter Trip Committee Chairperson, and occur monthly throughout the entire year. October begins the process for the following season. Please see Kathie if you are interested in attending or participating.

For more info, call the FLSC Hotline at: 856-931-4462

TRIP RECAP ARTICLES

POWDER DAYS AT SUGARBUSH

By Tammy McCoy

What can I say? The trip to Sugarbush last month was about as good as it gets. And it was a great group of skiers that made it possible, from start to finish.

At 6 PM, the bus was ready to leave from Moorestown but the head count came up one person short. Suddenly, Suzanne Dean entered the parking lot on two wheels. We welcomed her aboard with a round of cheers and we were off.

The party started before we even hit the turnpike. Eileen (Eileen #1) Godman led the way with lemon drops for the front of the bus and Brian Carter and the Family sisters (Terry and Colleen) fired up the back. Soon it was one big party! Ava Boyce, Debbie Stellato, Eileen (Eileen #4) Sutton, Donna McGourley, Joe Alahverde and the one and only John Steel kept the party going. A special tribute was made to the newlyweds on board: Bob Suravage and Kathy Conover, Chip and Jane Smith, Billy and Dawn McCoy, and soon-to-be-married Joe Miller and Eileen #4.

A short stop was taken to smoke and buy fig Newtons and popcorn but, on the whistle, Fall Liners were back on the bus and en route to Sugarbush. We hit the Sugarbush Inn at approximately 1:15 am. Quick—find your roommate, get your lift ticket and sleep!

Saturday morning started with a great breakfast and a warm sunny day. At 8:15, 25 Fall Liners hit the bus to take the five-minute ride to the mountain. By 8:30 the lifts were full of Fall Liners. Sandy Brockington and Debbie Stellato took off for their two days of lessons. Conditions were disappointing—hard-packed—and Castle Rock was closed again! But there was still plenty of expert skiing to be had in “Paradise”.

The gutsy “team”—led by Billy McCoy—included Nick Neakrase, Michelle Sigorny, Russ Widman, Ava Boyce, Eileen #1, Dawn McCoy, Paul Fisher, Cindy Lane and Tony Norris. After surviving “Paradise”, the group headed for the soft bumps. Career runs were had by all! By now it was time to hook up with more Fall Liners at 1 PM for lunch. The afternoon got warmer and you couldn’t ski a run without seeing or hearing a fellow Fall Liner.

After skiing, Eileen (Eileen #2) McKernan and Dave Carroll led a group back to the mountain for a Torch Parade and fireworks. When dinner was finished, the club was off to the Blue Tooth where we boogied to the Dave Keller Blues Band. Eileen #2 and John Bruccoliere led the troops to the dance floor. Eileen (Eileen #3) Nolan, Terri Corbo, Kathy Toenjes, Sharon King, Deborah Taraska, Rick Meissner, John Kennedy, Harry Gould and Jeff Brazin had the place rockin’, so much that the band hired Eileen #2 to be its Philadelphia-based manager.

Sunday morning—hurry up and finish breakfast so we

can get fresh tracks. Yes, it’s finally snowing, just like the meister promised! And remember there are no friends on a powder day—right, Tony, Billy, Eileen #1 and Dawn?

It snowed all day and conditions were fabulous—boot-deep powder and no crowds. Some Fall Liners chose to ski half a day and take one of the many shuttle buses to town. A group of 12 hard-core skiers stayed to the last possible moment, catching the bus at 4:10 PM.

Meanwhile, back at the lodge, Kathy Conover was telling the front desk how hungry she was. The wonderful staff of the Sugarbush Inn told her not to worry because box lunches were being prepared for our bus. After much checking and rechecking, the lunches were delivered just as we were ready to leave the parking lot. Way to go Kathy! We were all hungry and psyched to get home. Thanks, Kathy,

AT OKEMO, THE MORE THE MERRIER

By Lorraine Peters

How do 43 Fall Liners have a “doubly” great weekend of fun and skiing? By doubling up with other skiers, that’s how. Our Okemo trip coincided with King of Prussia Ski Club’s Okemo weekend trip, and many Fall Liners joined up with King of Prussia club members (KofPers) for skiing and entertainment, making for a “doubly” great weekend!

We knew we were off to a great start when snowfall greeted us as we approached our destination, Brook Haven condos.

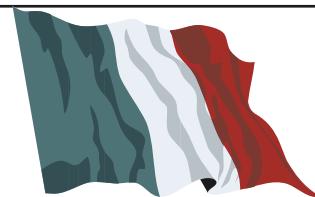
On arrival at the mountain Saturday morning some Fall Liners joined up with KofPers to enjoy a day on the slopes. Less than an inch of that newly fallen powder had covered the slopes, but there was ample base for cruising the groomed runs. The “Yellow Team”—a proud group of Fall Liners, all sporting yellow ski attire, mastered the glade runs.

On Saturday evening, dinner reservations were hard to come by at restaurants in the quaint town of Ludlow on Valentine’s weekend. One group fortunate enough to obtain a reservation at DJ’s, a downtown restaurant, were subsequently denied service, but found pizza nearby to satisfy their appetites. Others beat the dinner-crowd rush and dined at restaurants within walking distance of our condos. We even had Fall Liners with culinary talent who dined in the luxury of their own condo.

Later in the evening Fall Liners and KofPers could be found partying at the Pot Belly where the local band “Mass Confusion” was playing.

After another fine day of skiing on Sunday, we enjoyed an uneventful bus ride home. In terms of bus rides, uneventful is good.

Val Gardena II:



La Dolce Vita Revisited

by Ann Marsteller and Pat Maguire

They say that you can never go back—well it was ALMOST as good as the first time!

Ten Fall Liners re-upped for Val Gardena II, along with 60 other anxious folks who had undoubtedly heard about the great time we had in '96. Logistically, it was a trip leader's nightmare: two different airlines, two hotels in Ortisei (one of three towns in Val Gardena), two hotels in Venice and one in Munich.

Munich? Yes, the hotel in Venice, which was supposed to be renovated prior to our arrival for Carnivale, was not to be completed until this month! So, last year, about this time, we made some rather interesting changes.

GETTING THERE: Our flights were fairly uneventful for a change and we transferred from Frankfurt to Munich smoothly. We arrived to... what, no luggage? Forty-eight Fall Liners with no luggage was like Linus without his blanket.

FLASH: German Hockey Team luggage takes priority over Fall Line luggage! How dare they! We began the tedious process of completing the lost baggage forms after figuring out which luggage it was, (our skis somehow miraculously made it), DESCRIBING each piece, (what do they use those computerized scanners for, anyway?) and hoping that the next flight would somehow carry our bags. Well, it carried a few people's bags, so now there were 44 of us waiting.

Then another flight arrived from Frankfurt and—lo and behold—more luggage! Everyone found their bags, except for Rick Shiffer and Dennis Edwards (welcome to Fall Line, Dennis). We wearily made our way onto the buses for the four-hour trip to Ortisei. The good news is that we had two buses, one for each hotel, which was an unexpected gift.

We arrived at our hotels almost three hours later than the group on the earlier flight (who had been enjoying the sights all afternoon). Fall Liners in both hotels were in for a week of gastronomical delights that never disappointed. Thank goodness we had a week of skiing to offset the never-ending creations of our chefs. Dinners every night were five- to six-course creations, and even vegan Russ Consentino didn't go hungry!

SKI STORIES: We woke up Sunday morning to sunshine and blue skies. Without new snow, good weather was the next best thing. Snow coverage wasn't as good as we would have liked, but we found plenty to ski. Most of us stuck to the slopes closest to the hotels and we stopped for drinks at a great ice bar (a bar actually made of ice!) in the afternoon. Sitting outside and getting a suntan in February was not so bad!

For apres-ski recreation, we went to the igloo (a circular

bar) in the town of Selva where we were entertained by a female skier dancing on the bar and semi-disrobing. We then made our way back to town, and our favorite S'iglu (another kind of bar—a glass "igloo") between the two hotels. Every night we kept the place hopping until it was time to get ready for dinner.

Monday, several of us found our way to the Seceda ski area, a short bus ride away. The runs from the top of Seceda were long, and several of us decided to try the bumps off the side of the trail. Death cookies abounded! So much for that idea. We then enjoyed another leisurely lunch in the sun while listening to two musicians play while we ate. The food and beverages everywhere were inexpensive and excellent. I actually came back with some money! (I could only drink so

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE MUNICH 22

by Betty Taylor

Our hotel was in a great location, mid-city, next to the Hofbrauhaus, but not very bus-friendly. Our ingenious driver made his way down a too-narrow street to our hotel by making two U-turns in the middle of the road and giving us a nice unexpected tour of the city.

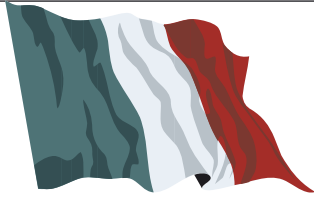
Food was on everyone's agenda, and Steven Steir and Jerry Killoran used the walkie-talkies that had been busy on the ski slopes all week to get us to the Ratskeller, which was the "recommended" place to eat. The menu was only in German, so it was a guessing game to determine what you were going to eat until Jake Collins thankfully located the Wiener Schnitzel. All the food was delicious, even though we weren't sure what it all was!

The Hofbrauhaus was the main Fall Line attraction. With table after table of beer drinkers, we fit right in! The beers were large, the music was great, the soft pretzels were better than those in Philly, and the only complaint was that Cory Glenn couldn't get any new beer bottles for his collection, since it was all draft beer! J.P. Ryan and Frank Lauletta were making friends with people from every neighboring country and the number of people that could fit at one table kept growing as more people joined us. Frank's "dad", Larry Franchetti, was one of the biggest partiers (sorry Dennis), with Rich Hunt and Ray Mancuso competing for the honors.

The Hofbrauhaus closed with Fall Line being the last table to finish their beer, and then we went off to the pubs and nightclubs (with a few new European friends plus one from Brooklyn that we'd befriended). And of course, the diehard Cindy Osborne headed this group and closed down Munich Sunday morning!

Our bus ride back to the airport gave us a second tour of Munich with Beth and Brad Kaufman keeping our driver in constant conversation with a thorough comparison of the cars in Europe vs. the U.S.

val gardena



many glasses of wine, even at the whopping price of \$1.50).

Kathie Read is now the Poma Mama instead of the cruising queen! She earned this title after leading folks on four consecutive Poma lifts. Nice going Kath! Walter Liszewski kept asking, "Did you get the male Poma or the female Poma?"

Apres-ski, we were treated to Susan Stoffel dancing on the bar. On our last night at the S'iglu, Ed Whitney bared his chest for all while trying on a T-shirt, which was too small. The bartender promptly threw it in the trash after it had graced his sweaty body!

For nightlife (not to be confused with apres-ski, which we did to excess), we had our choice of several venues: the English Pub for a quiet evening; the Mauritz for a swinging evening (where mother and daughter Goodhue, i.e. Carol and Rebecca, had a really good time; Purger's Pub, which we overwhelmed; and the Genziana bar with its patient and accommodating bartenders.

Since Wednesday was Day Four, several folks took the day off. A dozen went to Verona, nine went to Venice, and some just shopped, slept or... I'll leave it to your imagination. Those of us who chose to ski had an absolute blast! The slopes and lifts were empty, and the fresh powder was just what we had prayed for! (yes, we got an 8-inch dump Tuesday night). We skied long and hard, and could hear the call of the S'iglu. "Alice ... Alice ... where the f--- is Alice?..."

After stupendous Carnivale dinners Thursday evening, 40 of us piled on a bus for a leisurely sleigh ride to the top of Panorama (another ski area), where the stars shone brightly and you could see the beauty of the slopes around you. Alas, the trip almost didn't happen due to an overturned truck with horses in it!

We were all very concerned about the horses, and some of us tried to upright the truck unsuccessfully. Luckily an emergency vehicle came to the rescue and got the truck out of the way. Our cub reporter, Rebecca Goodhue, kept us apprised of the situation. When she asked Dennis Halterman if the horses were hurt, he said "Neigh".

Only one casualty all week: Kathy Angerman broke her arm, and had to leave us after only two days of skiing. She had successful surgery, and is recuperating. Get well soon!

CORTINA: NO THANKS: We are happy to report that Dennis Edwards and Jim Gargel did not get arrested for skiing out of bounds into a fog-shrouded, snowless, rock-infested cliff and living to tell about it. About 15 of us thanked Paul Gaudini for knowing enough Italian to ask the lift operator at the top of Tofane how to descend without getting killed.

Here's a sampling of commentary on Cortina. Most expletives have been deleted:

Chorus: "Cortina makes Kitzbuehel look good!"

Jim Prate: "This is the closest thing to death I've ever experienced. Glad to make it back alive."

Elise Alvarado: "It wasn't that bad. It was just like East Coast skiing. Nice long runs." (What East Coast is she referring to?)

Chorus: "Alice, Alice ..."

Rey Pollini: "I'm not going to talk. If you can't say some-

thing nice..."

Betty Taylor: "It was a shitty day until we found this really great bottle of wine, and we drank 7 bottles of it, and then it wasn't a shitty day at all!"

Nancy Aquadro and Kathie Read: "We rode the local bus to nowhere, and after 45 minutes more Fall Liners got on and we rode some more!"

Joyce Scheswohl: "Hello! I'd like to say what a beautiful trip, beautiful snow, beautiful people, beautiful sun, beautiful personalities! Give everyone another joint!"

Ray Mancuso: "Bad news is, Joyce was talking about the Vail trip!"

VERONA: TWELVE APOSTLES: Since there was not much skiing in Cortina, a group of us had a nice lunch and discussed a side trip to Verona for Wednesday. Twelve of us ventured on buses and trains and made our way to the "old" section of town and found the Arena, a coliseum-type structure built around year 1 A.D. Now that's old!

We had heard about a fine restaurant from someone at the Hotel Posta. It was the oldest restaurant in Verona. We found it tucked away in a small courtyard and through a narrow alley. "Ristorante 12 Apostoli" (12 Apostles) has been there for 250 years. We walked in and were greeted by "Johnny", the owner. The restaurant was richly decorated with stained glass, rough brick arches, fresco walls and ceiling, and ornate cabinetry with a wide assortment of wines. We were the only ones there, and Johnny treated us very well, with English translations of the menu.

We agreed that this was one of the finest meals we've ever had.

After lunch, Johnny took us for a tour of the restaurant, which included the wine cellar. Below that, the ground had been excavated to expose sections of older building foundations and, beneath that, another excavation exposed a section of the original Roman Road and a portion of wall of the original City Hall, dating from the first century A.D. We then made a quick tour of cathedrals, plazas, and remains, and returned to the snow in Ortisei.

VENICE: CARNIVALE! On the 8th day, our bus traveled to Venice and the lovely Villa Soranzo, the evening home of 23 Fall Liners, where Ginny Schoultz and Janet Mitroscak toasted each other with champagne in the 400-year-old mansion. We then took a boat ride to the Hotel Malibran, where 24 of us checked in.

Then, onward to the parade cavorting through Saint Mark's square.

Costumes, bands, face-painters, hats and masks were in abundance. Some of us shopped our way to the Rialto area; others found the exclusive shops of the Mercurie. Some of us hit Harry's bar, where at \$11 a pop the Halterman clan (minus Dennis, who was lost) downed too many Bellinis. We found several places to have excellent Venetian dinners on the canals, as well as the alleys, all flowing with bottles of excellent vino.

After returning to the Villa, the only daring soul to join Pat Maguire for a barefoot frolic in the fountain was Lisa Hulik. J.T. Smith captured the moment on film for posterity, with the remaining Fall Liners gaping from their windows.

NOTE: Special thanks to Kathie Read for her generosity and thoughtfulness in providing us with special luggage tags and info cards.

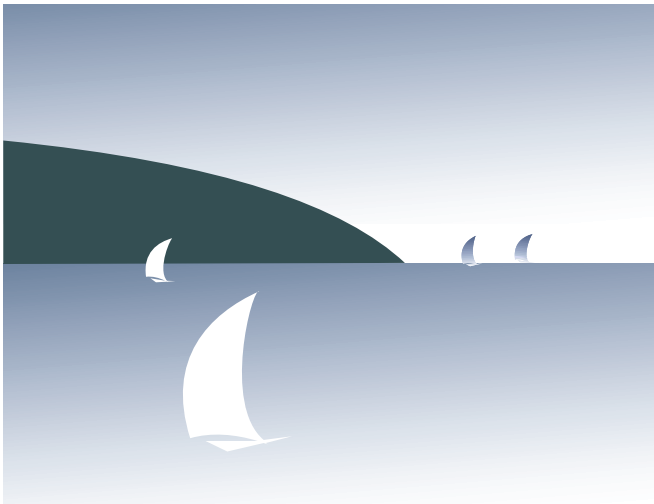
Thanks to everyone for making this a most memorable trip! CIAO!

BACK TO THE CHESAPEAKE!

By Bob Schmidt

It's that time again. SAIL HO!! Back to the Chesapeake for what will be another exciting summer of sun and fun on the bay.

Fall Line will be running two trips on the Chesapeake this year. The first will be the weekend of June 1- 4 and the second on the weekend of September 14 - 17. By popular demand, these are now "long weekend" trips. Specifically, we arrive at the sailboats Thursday evening and begin our excursion bright and early (well, for Fall Line, "early" means anytime after 10 AM and when the coffee is ready) on Friday morning.



The trips run through early Sunday evening.

Where are we going this year? Well, we've been experimenting with what we are calling "Mystery Cruises". No, it's not an "Orient Express" kind of thing. What we mean by this is that our captains will make recommendations and our ultimate destination will be chosen by majority vote of the crews on Friday morning. There is some logic to this. For instance, there have been times we've chosen ahead of time to go to Annapolis and PRESTO! The morning we leave there's not enough wind whirling in that direction to blow your hair out of place. The new approach gives us a lot of flexibility for the best sailing experience possible.

Next big question: What do you get for the money? Heck, where do I begin?? Three days' accommodations on a sailboat with breakfast and lunch provided. Plus we have "Happy Hour" with all the beer, wine and shrimp you could want. We also anticipate cooking at least one dinner right on the boats with the cost included in your fare. All this plus exciting ports of call where the winds take us. Is this "living" or what?

We anticipate opening the June trip at the April 18th general meeting. There's only going to be 15 slots so get there EARLY!

Looking forward to seeing you on one of our three ships, the "Titanic", the "Lusitania" and the "Andrea Doria"...JUST KIDDING! The "Adventure", "Atlanta" and "Dissertation" are waiting for you!

POLLIN' ON THE RIVER WITH JOHN STEEL

Attention happy campers: John Steel is looking for folks to join him on one of his legendary camping and canoeing trips next month. Here are some details:

WHERE: Wading Pines Camping Resort, Chatsworth, NJ

WHEN: Friday, May 5th to Sunday, May 7th (canoe on Saturday)

COST: Canoe trip only—\$25.00 per canoe (2 people per canoe)

Camp only: \$25.00 per site/per night (2 people) plus \$5.00 for each additional person up to 6 people per site.

Campsites include water and electric. Restrooms and showers are available as well as swimming pool, volleyball and basketball. There's also a stocked fishing lake with no license required.

If you have your own canoe or kayak, they will transport you and your canoe for \$10.00.

If you're not a camper, join us Saturday for the 3-hour canoe ride on the Wading River. Bring a cooler and stay for dinner.

Sign up by May 2nd at a general meeting or call John Steel at 856-547-3018.

FRENCH CREEK STATE PARK DAY HIKE IS SATURDAY, MAY 13TH

by Kathy Gramick

Join your friends on Saturday, May 13th for a hike through picturesque French Creek State Park, located in Elverson, PA. French Creek State Park (FCSP), is one of southeastern Pennsylvania's largest and most heavily forested areas with plenty of scenic hills and parks to explore. It offers recreational facilities such as lakes, dams, roads, picnic areas, group camps, tent camping, mountain biking and two frisbee golf courses.

We will hike either Boone Trail (6 miles) or part of the Horseshoe Trail (8 miles), both over rocky terrain; hiking books required, no sneakers, please. We'll meet promptly at 10 AM at the FCSP Office / Main Day Use Office. After the hike, we'll stop for food and drinks at St. Peter's Inn, in St. Peter's Village off of Rt. 23 (look for green "St. Peter's Village" sign). St. Peter's Village is a quaint small town, offering antique shops, an art gallery, etc.

For further information, call Kathy Gramick at home (856) 779-0259, before 9 PM, please, or at work (856) 608-6588. Or stop by a Fall Line meeting prior to May 13th for further information and trail maps of FCSP. Rain cancels hike.

SUMMER activities

HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at Copperfields.

SOFTBALL: Every 2nd & 4th Thursday starting 5/11. Contact Mark Goodman (215-830-8875) for more information.

TENNIS: Mondays starting 5/1. Call Lou Fiume (856-727-1602)

	DATE	DAYS	EVENT	LOCATION	TRIP LEADER (PHONE)
APRIL	15	Sat.	Heart of Camden	Camden, NJ	Harry Gould (215-922-0244)/ Janice Lynch (856-858-6411)
	20	Thu.	Batting Practice	Mount Laurel, NJ	Mark Goodman (215-830-8875)
	28	Fri.	Spring Fling	Venice Plaza	Barbara Vergagni (856-235-6908)
	29	Sat.	Hangover Golf Classic	Pennsauken Country Club	Larry Franchetti (856-661-9174)
MAY	5-7	Fri-Sun	Kayak/Camping	Chatsworth, NJ	John Steele (856-547-3018)
	13	Sat.	Day Hike	French Creek, PA	Kathy Gramick (856-779-8774)
	21	Sun.	Rollerblading/Party	Moorestown, NJ	John Steel (856-547-3018)
JUNE	1-4	Thurs-Sun	Sailing the Chesapeake	Maryland	Carol Goodhue (856-866-9097)
	3	Sat.	Medford to Margate Biking	Medford, NJ	Leader Needed
	3	Sat.	Margate to A/C Rollerblading	Maloney's in Margate, NJ	John Steel (856-547-3018)
	9-11	Fri-Sun	Shenandoah Hike/Camping	Virginia	John Steel (856-547-3018)/ Jim Morris (856-795-2446)
	17	Sat.	Triathlon (Bike/Canoe/Hike)	Pine Barrens, NJ	Mike Stavola (856-985-4605)
	23-25	Fri.-Sun	Halterman Golf Tourney.	Halterman Pocono Villas	SueBabe Aitken (856-195-6976)
JULY	14-16	Fri-Sun	Vermont Hike Weekend	TBA	Bob Suravage (609-654-2170)
	21-23	Fri-Sun	Canoe/Camping	Delaware River, PA	Steve Archibald (856-795-4565)
	29-8/2	Sat-Wed	Hut-to-Hut Hike	White Mountains, NH	Gerallyn Valls (856-428-2773) Jim Morris (856-795-2446)
AUG.	4-6	Fri-Sun	Whitewater Rafting/Camping	Upper Yough, MD	Tony Robideau & Jennifer (609-704-0325)
	12	Sat.	Breakfast Rollerblade	TBA	John Steel (856-547-3018)
SEPTEMBER	8	Fri.	SnoBall	TBA	TBA
	10	Sun.	Annual Rollerblade Party	TBA	John Steel (856-547-3018)
	14-17	Thurs-Sun	Sailing the Chesapeake	Maryland	Donna Parisi (856-596-2529)
	23	Sat.	Road Rally	TBA	John Kennedy (856-784-5114)
	24	Sun.	Margate Skate	Margate, NJ	John Steel (856-547-3018)
OCTOBER	1	Sun	Golf Outing	Miry Run, Robbinsville, NJ	TBA
	6-8	Fri-Sun	Hike Weekend	Lake Placid, NY	Jim Morris (856-795-2446)
	13-15	Fri-Sun	Halterman Getaway Weekend	Halterman Pocono Villas	Betty Taylor (856-783-7567)
	21	Sat.	Fall Foliage Hike	PA	Mike Gramsammer (856-810-1196)
	21	Sat.	Heart of Camden	Camden, NJ	Harry Gould (215-922-0244)/ Janice Lynch (856-858-6411)
	28	Sat.	Bike Ride	TBA	Mike Stavola (856-985-4605)
	28	Sat.	Haunted Hayride/Bonfire	TBA	Leader Needed

FALL LINE PEOPLE



by Harry Gould

It would be nice to say that Mike Stavola's marriage proposal to Marie Holmes last February was brought on solely by a sudden fear of mortality.

It would be nice to say that his impromptu broadcast of marital intentions over the Fall Line Channel 13 Walkie-Talkie Network was simply an act of pure impulse fed by the physical and psychological trauma of sitting for hours on a cold, windblown chairlift during a power outage.

It would be nice—but only partially accurate. Truth is, Mike was gonna do it anyway. But the timing had to be just right. It had to be dramatic. It had to be sufficiently bizarre to make it into the newsletter.

Congratulations, Mike. You made the newsletter.

In case you haven't heard, the former Fall Line president and avowed bachelor chose the Sun Valley trip to pop the question to Marie, his main squeeze for seven years. We're happy to report that Marie responded affirmatively. Actually, what she said was: "Oh, what the hell..."

But we're getting ahead of our story.

Mike met Marie in 1993, the year each of them joined Fall Line and signed up for the trip to Zermatt, Switzerland. Mike had been divorced for only a year. Marie had been divorced for 11 years. Both of them had often described themselves as "commitment-phobic." They'd often talked of marriage, but for years that's all it was—just talk.

But several weeks before the Sun Valley trip, Mike had come to a decision—that it was finally time to set aside his fears. He'd already sought the support of his close friends and relatives. His daughter, Adrienne, told her dad to just "go for it."

On the flight to Sun Valley, he packed an exquisite heart-shaped gold pendant studded with 2-karat diamonds, carefully wrapped in tissue paper and inserted in a prescription medicine bottle. Adrienne was also on board the flight; she was the only other person who knew what was coming.

All Mike needed was an appropriate occasion to present his gift and pop the question. But the right moment never seemed to arrive.

"I wanted to give it to her on the ice rink the night before, but she wouldn't skate," Mike recently recalled. "Then I thought about doing it on the sleigh ride but it was Joanne Monahan's birthday that night, and I didn't want to rain on her parade."

On the fourth day of the trip, Mike agreed to meet with Marie and dozens of Fall Line friends for a lunchtime gathering at the Roundhouse, a mid-mountain restaurant. This wasn't exactly the right moment either—the engagement gift was still back in the hotel room.

The bigger problem, though, was the weather. In the near-blizzard conditions, many Fall Liner groups were splitting up and struggling to return to the hotel -- including

Marie and her skiing partner for the day, Steve Comroe. Mike doggedly stuck to his plan, boarding a chairlift with Juan Carro.

About halfway up the mountain, the power went out. All the lifts stopped running. Mike and Juan sat there dangling in the cold and the blowing snow. Each passing moment brought a sense of impending doom. Who knew how long they'd be sitting there? Who knew when—or if—they'd ever get out of this predicament?

Hours passed. Mike and Juan bucked each other up, swapping personal stories, reflecting on the deeper questions of life, love and the pursuit of perfect ski days. Mike suddenly got an urge. If he was going to freeze to death on a chairlift, well, he might as well make this his "moment".

He grabbed the walkie-talkie.

"I don't even remember what the hell I said," Mike remembered later. "Something like, 'Oh my God, I thought I was gonna die on that lift.' Juan kept telling me to think warm. I said something about a near-death experience. At that time, I just decided to propose to her."

Meanwhile, Marie and Steve had returned to the hotel when her walkie-talkie suddenly crackled to life.

"Mike calls me on the radio," she remembered. "Of course we're all on the same channel (13-13). He tells me he's having a life-threatening experience. And that he'd better ask me now."

"I said, 'Oh, what's the matter?' Steve stops in his tracks. ... We both stopped."

"Mike says, 'Would you marry me?' I said to Steve, 'Help! What should I say?' Steve said, 'I don't know.' Mike is saying, 'Come in, come in, can you read me?'"

"It took a minute or so. I'm saying, 'Excuse me?' I'm dumfounded. I'm looking at Steve and he's no help. So my exact words were, 'Oh, what the hell ... OK ... over...'"

All over the mountain, Fall Liners stared at their walkie-talkies, not quite believing what they were hearing. As many as 15 to 20 reportedly heard Mike's marriage proposal over the radio.

"Then he instructs me to go into the room and look in his little pill bottle, wrapped in tissue paper," Marie continued. "I say, 'Steve, you have to come in with me.' So we go in and I find this bottle. I told Mike a long time ago that I didn't want any diamond rings ... Instead he gets me this diamond heart pendant. I got back on the radio and told Mike it was beautiful."

And so, Mike finally had his moment, somehow finding a way to share it with fellow Fall Liners in dramatic fashion. A Sno-Cat generator finally arrived, providing enough power to get the chairlift moving. Mike and Juan made it back to a bar, drank a beer and went back out to ski some more. "Great conditions," he said. "Over a foot of powder."

So it's full speed ahead on those wedding plans. Right, guys?

"No wedding date yet," Marie declared emphatically.

"Next year sounds good," says Mike.

"Will you marry me?...
...Over?...Hello?!?"



CANDIDATE BIOS

LOUIS J. CULLEN

Louis J. Cullen is running for a one-year term as treasurer-elect and a one-year term as treasurer.

A couple of days ago, when I was sorting out mounds of currency and negotiable bonds, I remembered that Fall Line needed a treasurer. Then the thought of my three girls came to mind. They have taught me responsibility through the years.

The next day, while I was balancing books at my store (this is how I learned to be so organized), I laughed as I recalled that my picture was still in the Boy Scout Handbook under the chapter titled "Most Trustworthy." I froze. My only thought was of Fall Line and their need for a treasurer...their need for me.

PATTY SHEARER

Patty Shearer is running for a 2-year term on the board. SWF, 41yo, ISO oops sorry wrong ad. But seriously ...

My name is Patty Shearer. I joined Fall Line Ski Club late last year and have really enjoyed it. My first trip was to Sunday River, Maine and I had an awesome time. I've volunteered to be on the board because I would like to become more involved in the organization. I currently work as an administrative assistant in the legal department of ARAMARK Corporation in Center City Philadelphia.

I believe I would be a good candidate for the Board because of my past experience (18 years) working for Adventure Unlimited ("AU"), a ski tour company. I started with AU working on weekends so I could ski for free as a tour guide on the buses, worked my way up to mountain area coordinator and, finally, as general operations director, running the program at the hotel. I moved in-house and worked as the product personnel director, responsible for all facets of weekend staffing, uniform control and planning various social events.

I then worked as the administrative assistant to the president of the company for approximately five years, which enabled me to become more involved in every facet of the organization. Additionally, I conducted promotions in night-clubs for local bands who sponsored trips through AU, and assisted in the organization of their trip itinerary.

I believe that my experience can make me an asset to the board and the organization. Please vote for me.

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SIOBHAN MICHAUD

Siobhan Michaud is running for a 2-year term on the board.

I've been a member of Fall Line for almost four years. As a member, I've participated in several week-long ski trips and numerous weekend trips, including skiing, golf and white-water rafting. And even though I don't play softball, I attend most of the games to cheer.

This year, I'm running my first trip (Killington II) and I'm amazed at how much work it really takes to run even a week-end trip. Even with all the time involved, it's a rewarding experience and it's enabled me to meet even more people in the club (and get a few new people to join).

After four years of enjoying the activities offered by Fall Line and making friends while doing it, I decided it was time to give back to Fall Line and volunteer some of my time to help keep the club an enjoyable experience for others. I welcome serving you on the Board and helping in any way needed.

KATHY TOENJES

Kathy Toenjes is running for a 2-year term on the board. I was encouraged by a friend (thanks Bob Schmidt—I owe you one) to reach beyond ... to go for the gusto ... to do something meaningful for my fellow club members ... to be a real s***** ... uh, errr ... to give back to Fall Line for all the great times I've had these past seven years. OK, ok ... it's time ... I'll do it—I'll answer the million-dollar question ... "Who Wants To Be a Board Member?" I DO!

My name is Kathy (you'll never remember how to pronounce my last name) Toenjes. I've been involved with Fall Line since 9/1/93 at approximately 9:15 p.m. (according to Brad Zacharia). For the past three years you've seen me behind one of those trip tables—Mt. Tremblant in '98, Winter Park in '99 and, as I write this, I'm doing a last-minute push for Sunday River (yes—I swear it isn't THAT long of a bus ride).

In my real life I am a property manager and run the Bourse Building and Constitution Place in Philadelphia. I also work part time using my weekends and vacation time as a tour director for Starr Tours (yes—THAT'S how I know all the bus drivers who drive for our club).

I've truly enjoyed all the friendships I've made (I love you man!) and the experience I've gained being a trip leader. I'd appreciate the opportunity to expand my involvement by being a board member.



OFFICIAL 2000 FLSC ELECTION BALLOT

Member Name (required for mail-in ballots or if someone turns in your ballot for you):

Print _____

Signature _____

President-Elect – vote for one

Write-In _____

Treasurer-Elect: - vote for one

Lou Cullen

Write-In _____

Board Member At Large – vote for a maximum of 3

Siobhan Michaud

Patricia Shearer

Kathy Toenjes

Write-In _____ Write-In _____

Write-In _____

The current Fall Line logo is at the top of this page. There has been debate as to whether Fall Line should produce a new logo or possibly several. No future design has yet to be decided on. The first step would be:

Do you wish to change this logo? Yes No

Turn in ballot at the General Meeting on April 4th, vote on-line at www.FallLine.org or mail it to:

Election Committee

FLSC

P.O. Box 1535

Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Mail-in ballots **MUST** be **received** by April 10 to be counted.