

The Official Publication of the Fall Line Ski Club

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# WHAT'S 113 FEET, 7 INCHES TALL AND IS EAGERLY AWAITING OUR RETURN?

By Kathy Toenjes

Angus, the World's Tallest Snowman, remembers the last time Fall Line came to town and can't wait to see the wild party animals return. And having personally participated in Sunday River 1999, I can tell you that this trip is worth the ride! From the legendary snow to the incredible nightlife, Sunday River 2000 will be like no other trip you've ever experienced.

Sunday River is made up of eight interconnected mountains offering the best and most diverse terrain you'll find anywhere. The 126 trails include everything from gentle novice areas to black-diamond steeps and glades. Sunday River's grooming fleet covers the mountain each night to create the best conditions possible.

There's an average of 155 inches of natural snowfall and the resort has built its reputation by developing the largest and most technically advanced snowmaking systems in the industry with over 1,300 snow guns.

Fall Line will be staying two nights at the Snow Cap Inn. Each room has two queen-sized beds and a private bath. There are two fireside lounges and an outdoor spa. The Snow Cap Inn is within walking distance of the lifts and is continuously serviced by an on-mountain trolley.

Nightlife will include an optional trip to The Sunday River Brewing Company—a premier ski area brewpub featuring delicious food and 20 different recipes of fresh brewed ale. And of course there will be a return visit to Bumps! Pub and the Foggy Goggle.

Sunday River 2000 happens Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup> and opens for sign-ups on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2000. Daily continental breakfast is included.

The cost for the trip is \$309 (\$289 for the early discount on 1/4/2000). You are guaranteed a fun-filled painless ride and an incredible time that will have Angus talking for years to come. Sign up quickly—this trip is a definite sell out!

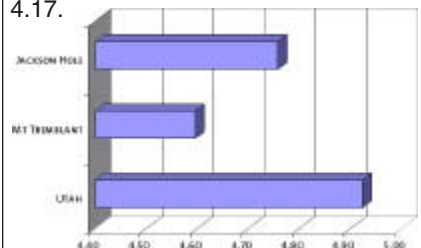
See you on Tuesday!



## fall line fact:

### Go back, Jack, do it again?

On a 1–5 scale, how much survey participants would like to return to a resort. The average for all trips was 4.17.



**Sunday river**  
MAINE

# TED'S TOPICS

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Happy New Millennium! As I write my first Fall line article of the year 2000 I wonder what changes can we expect for the next decade.

For one thing, cheaper skiing. "Cheaper skiing?" you ask?

Yes, that seems to be the talk these days. Andy Bigford of Ski magazine said "Finally, the leaders of the industry are waking up and realizing that price has become an obstacle". Resorts across the country are actually lowering the lift ticket prices. The shift comes after more than a decade of declining lift ticket sales. Ski areas sold just 52 million tickets last season, the lowest number in seven years and below the 53.3 million sold a decade earlier, according to a November 21<sup>st</sup> article in the Courier Post.

Here on the East Coast we should see lower prices in New Hampshire and Vermont. As far as I'm concerned, it's about time that things changed. Over the past 20 years the price of a single day ticket has quadrupled, rising 50% faster than inflation. But no one knows if the bargains will stay around. "This season is the test," says Tom Day of Waterville Valley. "We want to see if it raises ticket sales first before committing to the new strategy".

As I lead Fall Line into the new millennium, I would like to see our trips offer even more value to our membership. As we plan next season's winter schedule, we will be looking for reduced lift ticket prices based on changes in the industry.

But back to this season: I just got

back from the early Utah trip. I know some members were getting nervous that there wouldn't be any snow, but old man winter dumped quite a bit in the two weeks preceding our trip, and it snowed while we were there too. It was a great trip and I'd like to thank Tom and Karen Cheney for all their hard work. All I can say is that if you haven't been out West, there's nothing like it. We skied Alta, Snowbird and Solitude. At Alta, it snowed both of the days we were there. We skied in a minimum of 6 inches of fresh powder. Our second day there it snowed so hard that it was almost a whiteout.

It looked pretty bleak going into the Stowe trip too, but they ended up getting a foot of snow the night before they got there and it snowed while they were there too. And that's just the start of the season! If you're not on a trip yet, there are still some with openings. Don't miss out.

Happy New Year,

TED



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

#### PRESIDENT

Ted Sommers .....609-561-5623

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Janice Lynch..... 856-858-6411

#### TREASURER

Nancy Peacock ..... 856-273-8064

#### TREASURER-ELECT

Bob Herrman ..... 856-235-3904

#### SECRETARY

Nona Luce .....856-778-1942

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Betty Demers .....215-342-6198

Dave Friedman .....215-342-0189

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

Jim Morris .....856-795-2446

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

Bob Schmidt ..... 856-983-6887

Wayne Schofield ..... 856-931-2173

Barbara Vergagni ..... 856-235-6908

Brad Zacharia ..... 215-969-4736

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# POP QUIZ: IT'S 6PM FRIDAY NIGHT...

and you are not boarding a bus for one of FLSC's fabulous weekend ski trips. Where would you go to find a gathering of other FLSC members who aren't skiing? Stumped? Cat got your tongue?

Give up?

Answer: Copperfields! Starting in January, 2000, Fall Liners will be gathering at the newly renovated Copperfields on Route 73 and Church Road in Mount Laurel, NJ, for Happy Hour, 5 to 7 pm. All drinks are \$1 off. Let's start off the New Year right. See ya there!

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# NEWSLETTER SNAFU!

Due to a post office problem, many of last month's newsletters arrived late or not at all. Because of this we have redesigned the back cover to make it work with automated sorting machines. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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# SURAVAGE-CONOVER WEDDING

by Mike Stavola

On a wonderfully warm and beautiful December 4th, 1999, ex Ex-Officio President Robert Charles (would you prefer Charlie or Chuck instead?) Suravage and Kathy Conover tied the knot of Matrimony at the home of friends in Medford, NJ.



A reception party and dinner was enjoyed afterwards at Braddock's Tavern in the town village centre.

As new brother-in-law and former Fall Line President Joe Durkin shot video of the occasion, all in attendance were happy to tell a short story about Bob and/or Kathy that I hope they will both share with us after editing.

The good news that day was that both Bob and his beautiful new bride, Mrs. Kathy Suravage, were as happy as two kids enjoying their best Christmas.

The best news that day, however, was that Bob already had convinced Kathy to let him go hiking/climbing with the 'boys' next summer out in California! Now if only the 'boys' can get permission too...

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# CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

**FOR SALE:** WEBER GENESIS 3000 GAS GRILL, \$500.00, 100 QUART COLEMAN COOLER \$40.00, POLAROID SPECTRA CAMERA \$75.00, ALL ITEMS ARE NEW, UNUSED, STILL IN THE BOX. Call Donna @ 856-596-2529

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# UTAH, TREMBLANT, VAIL PRICE HIKES!

by Kathie Read, Winter Trip Chairman

Due to unforeseen circumstances the following trips will have a \$10.00 price increase: Utah, Mt. Tremblant and Vail.

The price hikes on the two Utah trips and Mt. Tremblant were due to the airlines. As for Vail, the local government there voted to raise the local lodging tax effective January 1, 2000. The trip leaders will be adding the increase to your final payment.

Anyone who has any questions please see me at a general meeting or contact me at my home phone number: 856-489-5170 or e-mail: kgreen@bellatlantic.net.

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# BIG Mtn./FERNIE TRIP NOTICE

If you're signed up for the Big Mountain, Montana & Fernie, BC, Canada trip, you should know that your trip leader, Bob Suravage, has moved to:

313 Tavistock Drive  
Medford NJ 08055-9246  
609-654-2170

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# 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 meetings 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

# WINTER TRIP SCHEDULE 1999-2000

**ALL FLSC TRIPS INCLUDE LIFT TICKETS. FLSC PROVIDES BEER, WINE & SODA ON WEEKEND BUS TRIPS. EXTENDED TRIPS INCLUDE AIR AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION. LODGING IS TWO PER ROOM.**

prices are subject to change

DATE	LOCATION	TRIP LEADER	LODGING	SOME FEATURES	OPENS	PRICE
December 30 <sup>th</sup> – January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lake Placid, New York	Beverly Neal 609-561-5623	The Ramada Inn	Elegant New Year's Eve Party, Buffet Breakfast	Sold Out!	\$589
January 9 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mt. Tremblant, Canada	Jeff Carter & Wendy Crabtree 856-764-7856	Kandahar Condos	New Lodging this year, with breakfast, dinner and 14 hours of lessons	Sold Out!	\$1035
January 21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Killington-I, Vermont	Ed Keating 856-429-0708	North Star Lodge	Huge Pool/Hot Tub. Buffet breakfast Included	Sold Out!	\$269
January 29 <sup>th</sup> – February 5 <sup>th</sup>	Vail, Colorado	Nina Hodoruk 856-858-5968	Mountain Haus Condos	Luxury Condos; hot beverage & continental breakfast daily	One spot left!	\$1335
February 11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Okemo, Vermont	Lorraine Peters 856-772-2683	Brookhaven Resort Condos.	Back by popular demand!	Open	\$269
February 19 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sun Valley, Idaho	Mike Gilbert 856-983-9052	The Sun Valley Inn	One of FLSC's favorite resorts	Sold Out!	\$1259
February 25 <sup>th</sup> – March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Val Gardena, Italy with night in Venice or Munich, Germany	Pat Maguire 856-772-1120 Ann Marsteller 856-772-9414	Hotels in Italy and Hotel Platzl in Munich	Ski Italy and party at Carnivale in Venice or Fasching in Munich. Day trip to Cortina too! Breakfast and Dinner included.	Sold Out! Get on wait list!	\$1469 or \$1569
March 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sugarbush, Vermont	Tammy McCoy 856-840-1025	Inn at Sugarbush	Return to a favorite Fall Line area and Inn. Breakfast Included!	Open	\$269
March 11 <sup>th</sup> – 18	The Big Mountain, Montana & Fernie, BC, Canada	Bob Suravage 609-654-2170	Kandahar Lodge at Big Mountain & Timberline Condos at Fernie	New FLSC destination! Ski 3 days at Big Mountain and 2 days at Fernie	A few spots left.	\$1149
March 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Killington-II, Vermont	Siobhan Michaud 609-894-4572	North Star Lodge	Huge Pool/Hot Tub. Buffet breakfast Included	Open	\$269
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday River, Maine	Kathy Toenjes 215-638-1929	Snow Cap Inn	Three-day weekend w/daily continental breakfast!	January 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>\$289/</b> \$309
March 30 <sup>th</sup> – April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Snowbird, Utah	SueBabe Aitken 856-795-6976 Terri Corbo 856-231-9529	The Lodge at Snowbird	2 Days Snowbird, 2 Days Alta with best snow of the season	Open	\$739

Prices in **bold** reflect early sign-up discount. This discount is available only at trip opening for weekend trips; for weeklong trips it's available for the first two meetings the trip is open. You must be a member to sign up!

# PACKED POWDER? WET GRANULAR? CRUD? IT'S SNOW BY ANY OTHER NAME

By Bob Suravage

It's been said that the Inuits, Native Americans from the far north, have over thirty words in their language for "snow". Well, I believe that another group of hardy Americans—skiers—may have at least as many words to define this stuff we ski on.

So, let's take a look at surface conditions as determined by the New England Ski Areas Council (NESAC), which governs the reporting terminology used in ski reports, and some of the skier definitions and lingo that often go along with them:

**POWDER (PDR):** Cold, new, loose, dry snow that has not been compacted. Also known as: fluff, champagne (adopted by the marketing department at Steamboat), waysdeep, Wasatch Gold. We seek powder for "freshies" or "firstracks". Locals out West claim "there are no friends on a powder day." By the end of a busy day, it becomes broken snow, junk, or crud.

**PACKED POWDER (PP):** Powder snow, either natural or machine made, that has been packed down by skier traffic or grooming machines. Although no longer loose, it is not so extremely compacted that it is hard. Can also be: Pocono powder ("says here they got packed powder, but there ain't no snow in the woods... must be Pocono powder").

**WET PACKED SNOW (WETPS):** Previously packed and becoming wet, usually because of rainfall.

**WET SNOW (WETSN):** Powder snow that has become moist due to a thaw or rain; or snow that was moist as it fell. Variations include Sierra cement, Cascade concrete, mashed potatoes, or British slang known as elephant snot.

**LOOSE GRANULAR (LSGR):** Powder or packed powder that has thawed, refrozen, and become recrystallized; also created by machine grooming of frozen or icy snow. If granules become large: ball bearings, corn snow.

**FROZEN GRANULAR (FRGR):** A hard surface of old snow formed by granules freezing together after a rain or warm temperatures. Often the most misunderstood, there is a wide range of frozen granular. To pass the test, it is opaque, will support a ski pole when stuck into it, will not chip as ice does, and may return to loose granular by the warmer temperatures caused by machine grooming. New England's can be "somewhat carvable" or "somewhat less that carvable"; it can also be known as "terra firma." Skiing often accompanied by loud, scraping sounds.

**WET GRANULAR (WETGR):** Loose or frozen granular snow that has become wet after rain or warm temperatures. Also known as slurpee, and can also be called mashed potatoes, or

that British variety known as elephant snot.

**ICE (ICY):** Not to be confused with frozen granular, icy is a hard, glazed, transparent surface created by freezing rain, ground water, or rapid freezing of wet snow. Also can be known as boilerplate, bulletproof, crust (both unbreakable and breakable, which may create dinner plates), Zambonied.

**MACHINE GROOMED (MGS):** Loose granular snow that is repeatedly groomed to a mix of loose granular and packed powder. Also: corduroy, or, when the groomers had a rough time of it, death cookies (sometimes placed there by snow snakes).

**WINDBLOWN SNOW (WBLN):** A surface of powder or granular that has drifted and become firmly packed by strong, steady winds. Also: windpack, windcrust.

**VARIABLE (VC):** When no primary surface (70% or more) can be determined, i.e. part packed powder, loose granular, frozen granular and wet granular. Sometimes called "Spring skiing."

*Editor's note: This article is a reprint from an earlier edition of the Fall Line Powder Express.*



# Lake George N.Y. SNOWSHOE HIKE

By Jim Morris

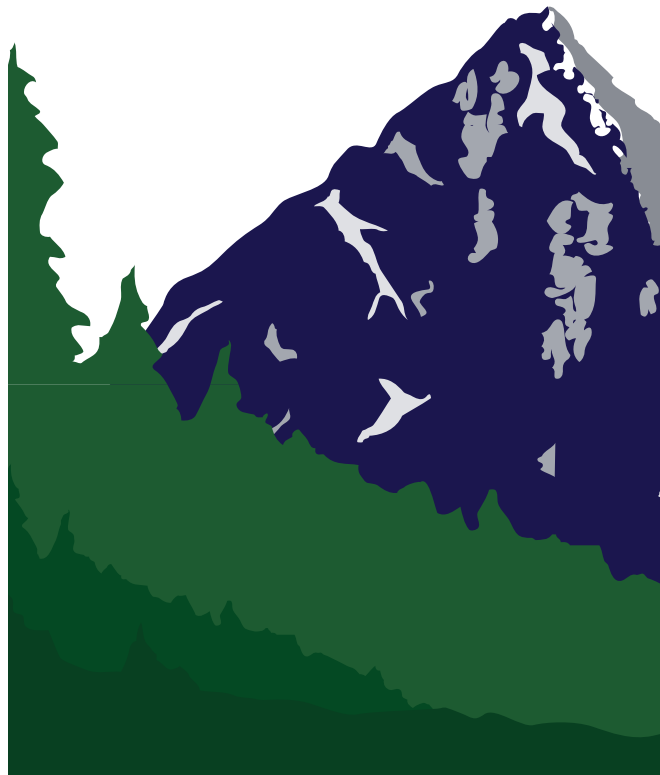
On the weekend of March 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, we will be heading north to the eastern shores of Lake George, N.Y. for our second club snowshoe hike. Sofia Dobkin, our trip leader, has reserved a spacious cabin at the YMCA Camp Chingachgook with bunks for up to 10 people. If we get a large response, we should be able to get an additional cabin.

Last year, six Fall Liners participated in two day-hikes of 10 and 6 miles respectively on Saturday and Sunday. This year we decided to get a little more adventurous and added an option to winter camp.

The campers will stay in the cabin Friday night with the day hikers and then head out early Saturday morning for a 7-mile snowshoe trek over a peak and then along the lake-shore to a campsite below Black Mountain. Our plans are to set up camp, cook dinner and then enjoy the tranquility and beauty of the mountains. Sunday we expect to summit Black Mountain, the highest peak in the vicinity on our way out. With a little luck we will have a clear day to get a winter view of the frozen Lakes George and Champlain.

So, you'd like to snowshoe but camping out in the winter is out of the question? You're still in luck. Dave Friedman and Betty Demers will be leading interesting day hikes on Saturday and Sunday. You can stay in the cabin both nights for a price soon to be determined. Saturday and Sunday breakfast will be included.

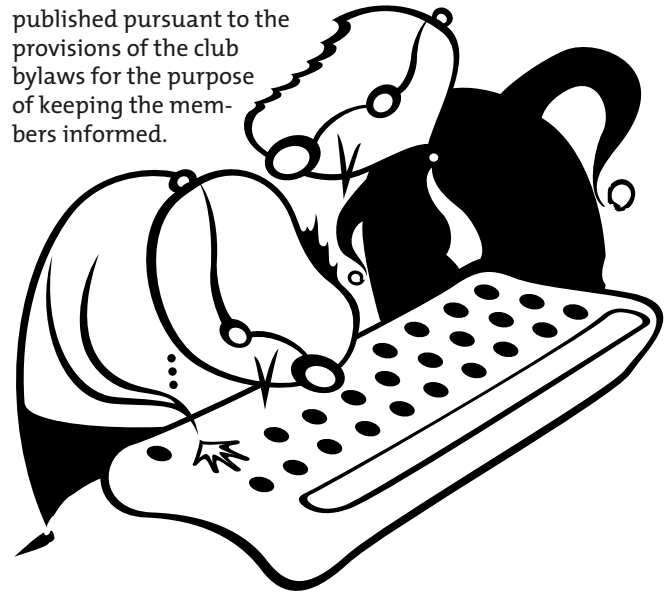
Look for Sofia at the January meetings to sign up or get additional details.



# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 4/30/1999

The financial statements for the fiscal year ending 4/30/99 have been completed and the accounting books closed. The tax return (Form 990) has been prepared and filed.

The data below are from the financial reports and tax return. This information is published pursuant to the provisions of the club bylaws for the purpose of keeping the members informed.



TOTAL PROGRAM REVENUE FROM TRIPS & ACTIVITIES	\$441,449
MEMBERSHIP REVENUE	11,045
INTEREST EARNED	636
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>453,130</b>
LESS PROGRAMS & MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	(451,432)
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	1,698
ADD FUND BALANCE AS OF 05/01/1998	48,617
<b>FUND BALANCE AS OF 4/30/1999</b>	<b>50,315</b>
CASH IN BANK AS OF 04/30/1999	26,725
SAVING ACCOUNT AS OF 04/30/1999	11,838
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>38,563</b>
ADD PREPAID EXPENSES	11,750
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AS OF 04/30/1999</b>	<b>50,313</b>

Fall Line Ski Club  
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Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

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Visit Fall Line's Web Site at [www.FallLine.org](http://www.FallLine.org)



January 2000  
**Powder Express**

## JANUARY'S DATES:

**Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup>:**

Meeting-Sunday River trip opens

**Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>:**

Meeting

**Every Friday:**

Happy Hour at Copperfield's!

