

# Powder Express

The Official Publication of the Fall Line Ski Club

February 2001

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# Attention



SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



**One Time, February 20th Special**

**For All Fall  
Line  
Members**

**See Page 5 For  
All The Details**

# Jammin' with Janice

As you may have heard by now, the Day's Inn has decided to clean the carpets in their ballroom on February 20th which is our general meeting night. For some reason, they think that a bunch of people with beers in their hands is not the best thing in the world while the carpet is still wet. Don't they know that we are *Fall Liners*? Beer is too precious to spill. Since it is a meeting night, we have, FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, rented the ballroom at the Ramada. When you turn off or cross Route 73 onto Fellowship Road, instead of turning right into the Day's Inn turn left into the Ramada. For those of you who forget that the meeting place has changed, we will put a sign on the Day's Inn door. As you are standing there talking to the carpet cleaners through the locked doors, if you look down 73 northbound, you can see the Ramada sign from there.



pictures and heard some outrageous stories so far about this ski season! February looks like it will continue to be great skiing with our excursions to Italy, Mount Bachelor, Aspen and Sugarbush.

I want to thank those who have come forward to say they are considering being a board member or officer. If you are even thinking about it, it does not hurt to talk to one of the board members or do what I did, come to one of the board meetings to see what it is like.

If you do choose to run, we will need a "blurb" about you to put in the newsletter and we will take your photo to post on the web site so people can put the face with the name. If you don't like writing about yourself, I am sure we can find someone to help you with it. But don't put it off!

See you on the slopes!

*Janice*

## Member Information

Fall Line Ski Club membership begins May 1 and ends April 30. Membership applications for renewals and new membership are accepted any time in the year. The membership fee is \$20 until September 8 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 General Meeting, on the penultimate page of most newsletters, at the web site at [www.FallLine.org](http://www.FallLine.org) or through the mail by contacting:

Robyn Taddei  
9109 Verree Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19115-2801  
Phone: 215-969-4736  
E-mail: [Membership@FallLine.org](mailto:Membership@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.

## Consider CONDO LIVING

Condo for Rent  
Mt. Laurel - Ramblewood Golf Course  
2bed/2bath/den \$900/month  
Call Barb V. 856-235-6908  
[sushibarb@earthlink](mailto:sushibarb@earthlink)

## Officers and Board Members

### Officers:

President  
Janice Lynch . . . . . 856-858-6411  
President-Elect  
Joe Durkin . . . . . 856-427-6901  
President-Ex Officio  
Ted Sommers . . . . . 609-561-5623  
Treasurer  
Bob Herrman . . . . . 856-235-3904  
Treasurer-Elect  
Lou Cullen . . . . . 856-829-6494  
Secretary  
Nona Luce . . . . . 856-778-1942

### Board Members:

Betty Demers . . . . . 215-342-6198  
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# Snowbird 2000

By Lorraine Peters

There was no lack of snow on the December Utah trip this year; some might say there was too much.

Our travels started out well enough. We arrived in Denver on time to make our connecting flight to Utah. Unfortunately, our connecting flight was delayed by over 2 hours. You can guess where most Fall Liners spent that time (answer is forthcoming). Upon arriving in Utah, our bus was quickly loaded and we proceeded non-stop (unlike our flight) to the lodge. There was no need to stop at the convenience store for provisions, as we had our fill of provisions in the Denver airport bar (Did you guess right?).

Our first day on the slopes offered some mild weather -- it was a Snowbird day. Apres-ski consisted of a wine and cheese

party. It included some great camaraderie and exchange of the day's skiing events.

Friday was an Alta day. And when Fall Line skis Alta, it SNOWS! Besides the fresh powder, there was plenty of wind-- which kept most (i.e. "the smart") Fall Liners on the front side of the mountain. Few ventured over to Alfs, a usual Fall Line lunch-time hangout located on the backside of the mountain.

More ski day adventures were shared during an evening pizza party.

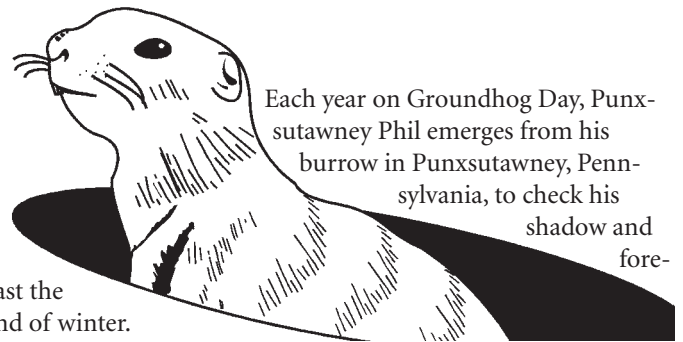
The plan for Saturday was to ski Snowbird, but many returned to Alta. A storm was forecasted for Sunday and it seemed more amenable to save your Snowbird ticket and ski closer to your lodging when conditions are bad. Those skiers were right-- on Sunday the storm hit. It brought more of the same weather Fall Liners have come to expect at Alta -- snow and wind. And plenty of it! Some opted not to ski -- "What's wrong? Too much snow?" Poor visibility may have also been a factor.

Monday looked like a perfect ski day (fresh powder and sunshine), but unfortunately for Fall Line, it was our travel day home. A new Fall Line activity was introduced during our 2 hour connecting flight overlay -- a friendly game of poker complete with penny wagers was enjoyed by some.

Thanks to the trip coordinator Kathie Read for all her help, and for providing custom made souvenir luggage tags adorned with the Snowbird logo. And thanks to all on the trip -- it couldn't have been a great trip without you.



# Phil's Off-Season Digs



Each year on Groundhog Day, Punxsutawney Phil emerges from his burrow in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to check his shadow and fore-

cast the end of winter.

But how does this famous rodent spend the rest of the year? According to the Punxsutawney Chamber of Commerce, Phil's off-season home is the Groundhog Zoo, a man-made burrow located near the children's section of the local library, where visitors can view Phil from inside or outside the building. Phil spends his time playing, eating, and sleeping, along with his siblings, who also live in the burrow. Although groundhogs normally hibernate during the winter months, Phil stays active because his home is kept warm. That way, he is ready for his big performance on Groundhog Day, when he's transported to his heated stump at Gobbler's Knob in time for the ceremony on February 2.

## Summer Trips

Are you interested in getting more involved in the Fall Line Ski Club? How about joining the Summer Trip Committee and helping us make the Summer of 2001 the best summer yet! Our next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2001 at 7:30 pm. For more information on attending this meeting or to learn more about the Summer Trip Committee, please contact: Patty Shearer - 856-667-8981 (home); Betty Demers - 215-625-3500 (work) or Jim Morris - 856-795-2446 (home).

## 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 8:00 until 10:30 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. Members are welcome to attend. Meeting locations rotate amongst board members' houses, so ask any board member for the next meeting location.

**Winter Trip Committee Meetings** are conducted by Dennis Halterman, board member and Winter Trip Chairman, and occur monthly. Please call Dennis (856-429-9780) if you are interested in attending or participating.



February 20th General Meeting At

Ramada Inn

Fellowship Road

Mt. Laurel, New Jersey

8 PM to 10:30 PM



A NIGHT

To Remember

SPECIAL

The Regular General Meeting  
Will be in The Ballroom At  
the Ramada Inn Across the  
Street From the Day's Inn for  
February 20<sup>th</sup> Only

# Ski More, Save More Stowe Adventure

By Beverly Neal



The Winter Trip December to review on the agenda for this major trips planned for the season. Folks, I have to tell you, it's a GREAT line-up so far. However, the meeting a guest spoke up and following question, "Well, how many go on more than one trip anyway?"

Committee met in both the ski trips season and also the 2001-2002 ski you, it's a during asked the people can

The answer is that almost a quarter of the club is going on **two or more** trips! According to the Membership Department of Brad and Robyn Zacharia, 10% of Fall Liners are going on 3-7 trips per season. Additionally, another 11% are going on two trips.

We are now into February 2001. Your New Year's resolution is almost forgotten until you can't get your zipper up! You had every intention of setting goals for the New Year and, for most Fall Liners, this includes skiing more. So, how can you do that?

Your belief is that you don't have the funds to go on more trips. Not true. Let's say your goal is to go on another weekend trip. Weekend trips are generally around \$300. You would only need to save *six dollars per week* to accomplish this goal. It really translates into two less beers per week or packing lunch once a week. I'm sure you can look at your spending habits and find an additional \$6. Maybe you want to add one of the long trips out west, fall or spring. The goal would be to save \$15 weekly.

You get the picture. Review the winter trip schedule. Choose your goal: weekend trip, trip out west or European destination. Write it down where you can read it daily. Calculate what you need to save on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The key here is to modify your behavior taking the necessary steps to accomplish the goal you set. I suggest you start small; behavior modification can be painful!

By Colleen Family

The Fall Line bus left the Lockheed Martin parking lot around 6:15 (give or take 5 minutes) with all bags packed below and beer on board. It was off to the Stoweflake Mountain Resort in safe hands with Jerry Walgate behind the wheel and Kathy Toenjes providing the music and movie entertainment. Thanks to Bruce Cunningham's directions, we made good time. The Stoweflake was prepared for our arrival with keys and lift tickets. We did have a few small room problems. One was handled swiftly thanks to Bryan and Bob being *true men* and laughing about the room accommodations; however, Deb and I were *frozen* out of our room. As an alternative, we were sent to a great room with a fireplace and wet bar! The next day, we were put back in the original room that was now all warm and cozy.

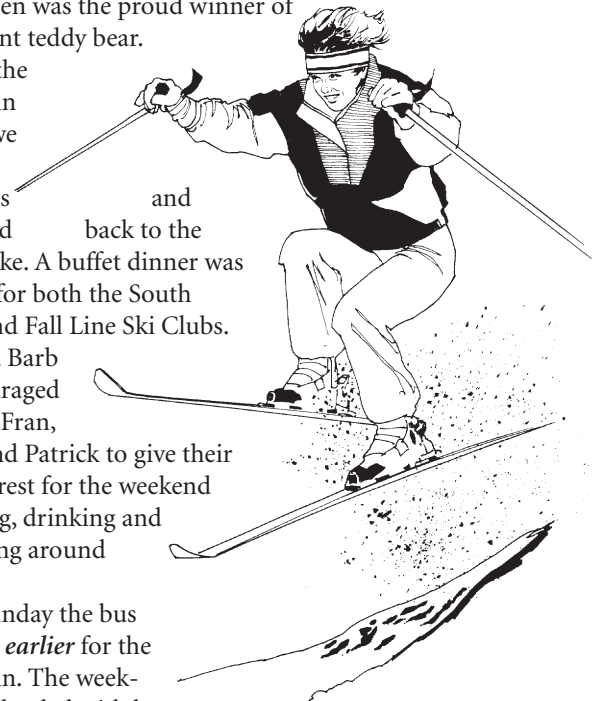
The Stoweflake provided a breakfast buffet. Most of the group headed off for an early departure, but still not early enough for everyone. After all it's first come, first serve for the demo skis. Some Fall Line skiers enjoyed their skis so much they used them all day.

Due to Eric's unfortunate accident at the end of the day, a few Fall Liners kept him company by the fireplace for a drink or two. Eileen was the proud winner of a Vermont teddy bear.

After the mountain closed, we loaded the bus and headed back to the Stoweflake. A buffet dinner was waiting for both the South Jersey and Fall Line Ski Clubs. Tim and Barb V. encouraged Melissa, Fran, Kevin and Patrick to give their skates a rest for the weekend for skiing, drinking and socializing around the fire.

On Sunday the bus left even *earlier* for the mountain. The weekend was loaded with lots of snow and great Vermont ski weather. Most Fall Liners came back earlier on the shuttle to shower and pack up for the ride home. We enjoyed a few movies and a fast stop to eat. Before you knew it, we were back in Moorestown.

I would like to thank Kathy, John and Barb for their help in making this trip run so smoothly.



# Fall Line People

By Harry Gould

Must be something funny in the water. Or is it the air?

Hmmm ... maybe love is in the air. Ah, love! That's gotta be it!

This month, Fall Line People is proud to report three -- **THREE!!!** -- wedding engagement announcements. Only a cynic would suggest mass dementia as a possible explanation for this stampede to the altar. We'd prefer to simply chalk it up to Cupid's uncanny marksman-ship.

Herewith, then, a brief look at Cupid's latest targets:

## Toenjes-Walgate

It all began in October 1999. Kathy Toenjes, who runs bus tours for a living with Starr Tours and serves on Fall Line's board, was in Las Vegas leading a group tour and, she says, getting herself stressed out. At the airport, she was met by a bus driver for a local transit company. His name was Jerry Walgate. A nice guy from Las Vegas. Who would have thought?

"He could see I was really frazzled," Kathy recalled. "He did a nice job of getting me calmed down."

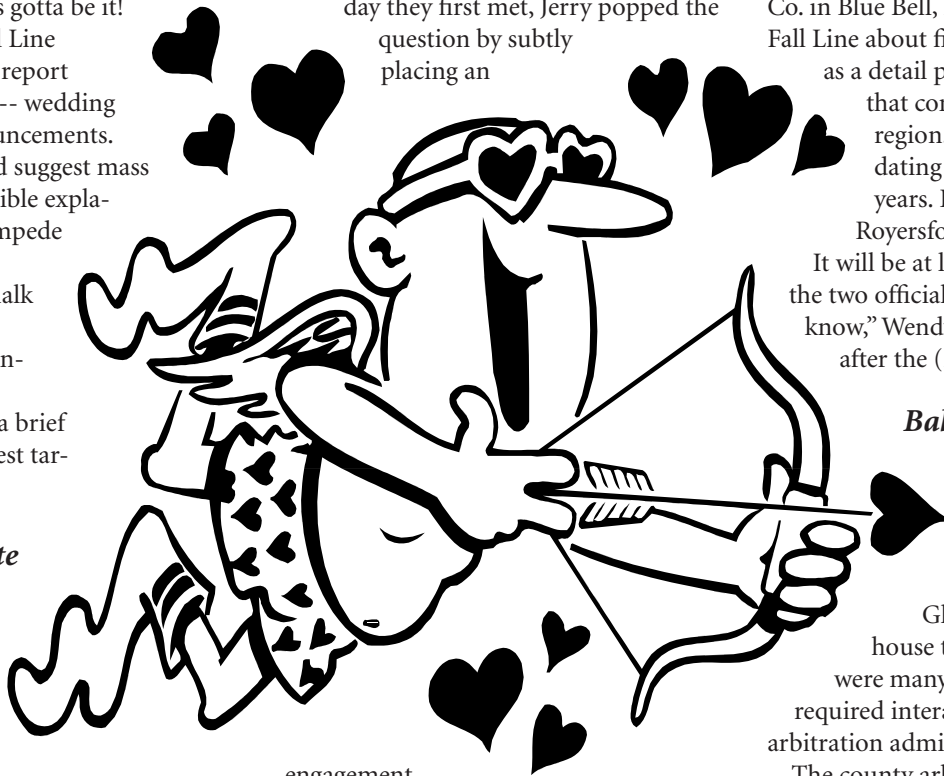
At the end of the week, they had lunch. Decided they had a lot in common. Promised to stay in touch via phone and the Internet.

Not long after that, Jerry booked a round-trip ticket to Philly. "He was supposed to go back on a Tuesday and he never went back. He decided he wanted to stay here," Kathy recalled.

Jerry started working as a Starr Tours bus driver (what a coincidence!) and quickly joined Fall Line. "He loves to ski,

so he became real involved with the ski club right away," Kathy said.

Last October, exactly one year to the day they first met, Jerry popped the question by subtly placing an



engagement ring on the collar of Ruffy, Kathy's 17-year-old Yorkshire terrier. **Boing!!! Score one for Cupid!**

A fall wedding is planned, but no date has been set. "We hope to have a Las Vegas wedding," Kathy said. But, hey, what about that plan to drive a rented bus through one of those drive-thru wedding chapels? Not gonna happen, Kathy insists.

## Crabtree-Carter

Wendy Crabtree was celebrating her birthday on January 6 when longtime beau Jeff Carter chose to make his big move.

"Go find your birthday present," Jeff said to Wendy, ever so casually.

Just a birthday present, she thinks.

**Boing!!! Cupid scores again!**

"It was actually kind of nonchalant," Wendy recalled. "Mr. Romantic he some-

times is not, but it works for me!"

Jeff, a longtime Fall Liner, works as a brew master at the Valley Forge Brewing Co. in Blue Bell, PA. Wendy, who joined Fall Line about five years ago, works as a detail planner for a company that conducts seminars in the region. The couple has been dating steadily for about five years. Both recently moved to Royersford, PA.

It will be at least another year before the two officially tie the knot. "All I know," Wendy said, "is it's going to be after the (2001-2002) ski season!"

## Baker-Forward

Doug Baker was making his normal lawyerly rounds in the Gloucester County Courthouse three years ago. There were many occasions when his work required interaction with the county arbitration administrator.

The county arbitration administrator turned out to be one special lady.

**Boing!!! Hat trick for Cupid!**

"One thing led to another," Doug said in explaining how he fell in love with Kristine Forward of Mantua, NJ (who joined Fall Line about two years ago).

Doug, an ex-Fall Line president who lives in Sewell, NJ, popped the question on Dec. 18, describing the date as "three years from our first date."

The couple has not yet set a wedding date.



## From Russia, with Love.

Check this space next month for a full report on the bouncy and adorable Russian toddler adopted last year by Judy Weinstein and Bill Pantaleo.

# Steep Thrills - Fall Line Returns to Tuckerman Ravine

By Mike Stavola

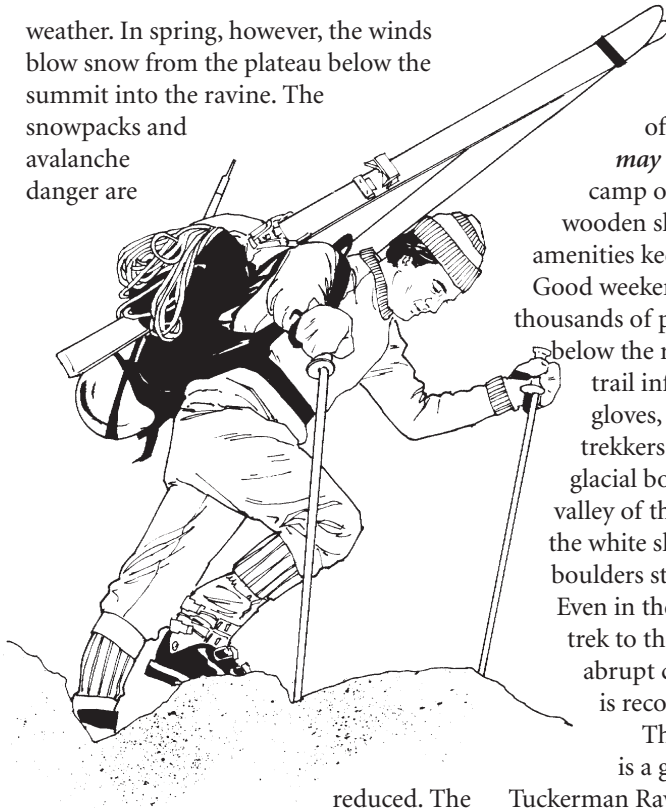
*For a few years it was an annual event. I recall stories from Juan Carro and Bob Homan of beautiful vistas and spectacular crashes. It's an event that I've always wanted to see – and maybe ski. It's been close to 10 years since Fall Line's been there so I decided to revive this annual ritual within the club once again.*

The Tuckerman Ravine trip is scheduled for Friday through Sunday (3/30 thru 4/1) - conditions permitting. Juan Carro and I will be your trip leaders. Current plans are to drive up on a Friday and drive back home Sunday. We plan on carpooling. The only required costs are for lodging at Joe Dodge Lodge (Pinkham Notch). Lodging cost will be \$75/pp (includes 2 breakfasts and 1 dinner). Sunday will be a day of skiing or hiking at Wildcat resort area.

There are no lines for ski lifts in Tuckerman Ravine. You lift your skis and haul them up the steep slopes if you want to charge back down. It's skiing the old-fashioned way, and plenty of people find it alluring enough to make the two-hour hike into the Presidential Range of New Hampshire's White Mountains. Hikers, mountain climbers, sledgers, and cross-country skiers come here too, away from the chairlifts, power lines, and lodges of the commercial ski areas. "It's known as the most serene skiing in the East," said Rob Burbank, spokesman for the Appalachian Mountain Club, which operates a lodge at Pinkham Notch (*where we have reservations for 8*) at the foot of the trail to Tuckerman Ravine.

It's impossibly steep. You have to get there under your own power. You have to carry your skis on your back. It's a kind of rite of spring for some people. The 10-week ski season at the ravine starts when commercial ski areas shut down. The ravine is just south of Mount Washington that, at 6,288 feet, is the highest peak in New England. In 1934, a wind gust of 231 mph was recorded on the summit. Three major storm tracks pass through the range. That's one of the reasons for such unpredictable and brutal

weather. In spring, however, the winds blow snow from the plateau below the summit into the ravine. The snowpacks and avalanche danger are



reduced. The best conditions are in April and May (*we plan to go the weekend of April 1<sup>st</sup> - conditions permitting - with an alternate date of April 22<sup>nd</sup>*). Before then, the avalanche danger is greater. However, spring skiing often starts a couple of weeks sooner and continues past Memorial Day.

Be aware that accidents still happen. The ravine averages one fatality per season. Hikers and skiers have fallen to their deaths in crevasses or been killed by falling ice. When the weather obliges, people bring picnic lunches and spend afternoons skiing or sledding down the 800-foot walls of the ravine. The upper slopes offer some of the most macho skiing in the Northeast and are recommended for experts and intermediates. The lower slopes are better for intermediates (*this is where I intend to ski*). Only experts should try the run from the top of the headwall into the bowl of the ravine. Climbing the headwall is risky; snowslides are likely. Bad weather brings out the intrepid. Climbers practice mountaineering skills on the slopes even in snow and

fog. Some equipped with crampons and ice axes head for the summit of Mount Washington (*we may hike to the top*). Some camp out at Hermit Lake, where wooden shelters with no heat or amenities keep out the wind and snow. Good weekend weather can bring out thousands of people. The station, just below the ravine, offers weather and trail information, trail snacks, gloves, and other sundries for trekkers. On a clear spring day, the glacial bowl looks like a desolate valley of the moon. The blue sky caps the white slopes, and black granite boulders stand out against the snow. Even in the best weather, those who trek to the ravine should prepare for abrupt changes. Dressing in layers is recommended.

The lodge at Pinkham Notch is a good base for exploring Tuckerman Ravine. It offers simple but comfortable accommodations. Most rooms have four bunks (*that's what we've reserved*), but there are rooms with two bunks and with double beds. A lounge at the end of the corridor in the bunkhouse has comfortable sofas, magazines and books, and an always-stoked fireplace. In the main lodge and in another lounge in the bunkhouse are occasional lectures and presentations or a vintage silent film by Dartmouth students about skiing on Mount Washington. The lodge offers two hot meals a day. A buffet-style breakfast is served starting at 6:30 a.m. and dinner is served family style at 6 p.m. If you ask the night before, the staff will prepare a trail lunch that includes a sandwich, fruit, cookies, and a drink.

*So come talk to Juan (856) 667-4614 or myself (609) 654-1925 [Work (856) 667-4614] if you're interested. We'll be opening the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in February. We'll have lots of articles and LIVE web sites available for you to review along with directions and maps of the area.*