



# Ski Venture Annual Letter 2008/2009

"Local skiing on natural snow"



Dear SkiVenture Family and Friends,

SkiVenture is back for another year of skiing and riding. This season will be the club's 72<sup>nd</sup> year of continuous operation making it one of the oldest ski clubs. **We are also the most affordable. Despite the dip in the nation's economy and the roller coaster of fuel prices, SkiVenture remain a bargain at only \$60 for a family membership.**

This is the club's annual newsletter. It gives you background on the club, schedule of events, application form, and an update on club news.

Our motto is "Local Skiing on Natural Snow" and SkiVenture Club members are excited about the club and are working hard to make it accessible for local skiing on natural snow.

For more information check out the club Website:  
<http://www.skiventure.org>

## 2008/09 Schedule of Events Work Parties

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9:00am-3:00pm  
 Sunday, Nov. 9, 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Annual Meeting & Work-Party Dinner  
 Saturday, Nov. 1, 4:00pm – 6:00pm  
Hill Master Training #1  
 Saturday, Dec. 13, 9:00 am  
New Year's Eve  
 Ski & Celebration  
Hill Master Training #2  
 Saturday, Jan. 10, 9:00 am  
Date Night  
 Saturday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm  
Club Day - Potluck  
 Saturday, March 7, 2008, 11:00-5:00  
Tuckerman's Ravine Ski Trip  
 April – stay tuned!

## Club facts

Open to everyone who enjoys local skiing or riding on natural snow in a friendly club environment. It is great for families with kids!

Conveniently located in West Glensville at the north end of Johnson Rd

Founded in 1937, purchased property in 1949

Cozy A-frame cabin with wood stove and deck

Over 100 vertical feet on 4 trails– beginner to expert

Two rope tows (main and beginner lift)

Member owned and operated during winter months.

Open 7x24, day and night to all who are trained and qualified as Hill Masters

### Note from the President – Frank Winters

Last season at SkiVenture was great! We had 3 months of consistently good skiing in spite of no big dumper or real powder days. It seemed like this conversation happened every week. “Hey Ed it’s Frank. Do you think there is enough snow to groom tonight?” “I don’t know. I only brushed an inch off my car this morning. Let’s go up and see.” *30 minutes later on the hill ...* “Wow, this place is amazing. It’s 8 miles from home and there is 7 inches of new snow today!” The weekend crowd (all 10 of them) is going to think we put in snow making”.

The take home lesson - when in doubt check it out. SkiVenture has a way of continuing to impress us.

Now to the business of this year. We have an energetic group of SkiVenture enthusiasts. For this we are very grateful. However, we need more help. We need members to continue to join even if they are not sure if they used it as much as they would have liked last year, or even if they are not sure if they have time to ski this year. **We need past, current, and future members to consider if they think SkiVenture is cool enough to keep around.** If the answer is yes, please send in your membership. Then when it comes to making the place work, we need more help. Not all of the work is running a chain saw or cutting brush. We could use help with marketing, grubbing for sponsors, phone calls, data entry, taking pictures and building a photo library. There is something for everyone. Volunteers make all the difference. The club is doing well. In order to sustain SkiVenture into the future (which I see as something we owe to the dedicated members who left SkiVenture to us), we need to remember that lots of hands make for light work. Please call if you would like to get involved.

The Farmer’s Almanac is calling for a winter which is colder and wetter than normal. That makes me happy! See you on the hill! Frank

#### Hill Masters

Hill Masters are individuals who have received training to operate the two rope tow lifts and agree to enforce the club procedures. Only an approved Hill Master may start the tows and a Hill Master must be present during hill operation. There are no paid lift operators or staff at SkiVenture so Hill Masters are essential to club operation. Two people must be present at all times during lift operation. Hill Master lock combinations are changed every year and given out during Hill Master training. Hill Master responsibilities are designed to comply with state regulations. Hill Masters must have prior first aid training.

#### Hill Master Training

Reminder – Hill Masters need to have training refreshed annually. Combination locks will be changed Training dates are Dec.13 and Jan.10 at 9:00 am. Once you are a Hill Master, SkiVenture is available to you 24 hours per day.

#### Hill Master Training Agenda

- Review procedures
- Pay annual membership
- Sign certification form
- “Bring your calendar” and sign up to be a weekend Hill Master: Saturday or Sunday: 11:00am-3:00pm

## Grooming News

The 2007 -2008 season was the first year grooming with the SkiVenture groomer. The 2002 Skandic was purchased three years ago as a "box of parts" requiring both work and the purchase of a couple critical components to make it operational. We were able to locate the final part late last fall. With a couple of late nights in the barn, a bruised knuckle and a shot of starting fluid the groomer became functional.

Grooming typically takes place at the end of the week in the evening when there are no skiers in preparation for the weekend. Grooming without skiers provides both time for the snow to become firm for the following day as well as provides a much safer grooming situation.

Each time the hill is groomed there is approximately 25 miles logged in about a two hour period. Last season the groomer was out 7 times keeping the ruts in check and the surface nice.

In 2009 we plan to build a groomer building adjacent to the lower trail on the new acquired property. This building will function both as a home for the groomer and a building to store firewood. Nick Kudlacik is in the process of proposing this construction project to the Boy Scouts as his Eagle Project. If accepted construction is expected to start in late spring / early summer of 2009.

## Membership Dues

The club is actively seeking new members. Annual dues continue to be very low (no increase for years)

\$60.00–Family membership.

\$100.00 – Sustaining family membership

***Sustaining member benefits:*** Includes a SkiVenture T-shirt and ski deals:

***Maple Ridge:*** \$10 lift tickets on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and ***Friday*** evenings all season.

***Willard:*** Has offered \$20 lift tickets anytime (from a maximum of \$38!), or two-for-one on any non-holiday weekday.

***Mad River Glen (Vermont)*** Pay \$179 for a Mad Card, you get 3 lift tickets, and every member of your family 12 and under gets a free season pass.

In addition, we are working on more deals: a repeat of last year's free Empire Card at Gore and Whiteface and a \$25 lift and lesson package at Belleayre Mountain. The sustaining membership cards say "season pass" on them and work at any place that gives a discount to visiting pass holders. **We will finalize benefits so check the webpage for updates.**



View from the top!!

## Organization Structure

Nominations for 2009 officers and committees are encouraged (Call Frank at 384-2541).

## Volunteer's Make the Difference

The club is run by volunteers and together we maintain the facilities. Thank you to **all** who participated in the work parties last year. Dedicated members have donated time and equipment to improve the club – from clearing the hill, improving drainage and maintaining the A-frame. Without this support there would not be a club. There is no way we could afford to pay for the important work.

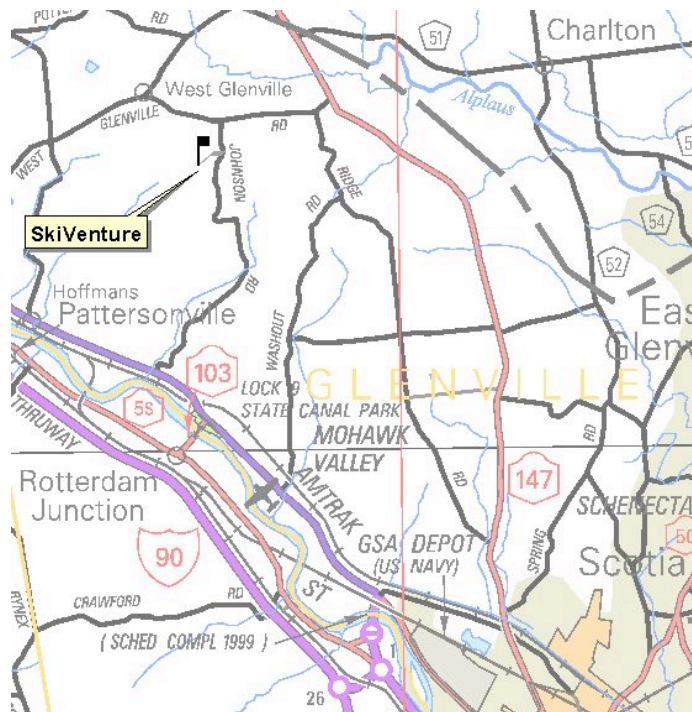
Pass information to friends and colleagues: The newsletter and application form is available for download on-line at <http://www.skiventure.org>



Directions to SkiVenture at the north end or Johnson Road

- From Rte 5 east of Scotia, head north on Johnson Rd and go up and over the hill. SkiVenture is on the left near the bottom of the hill before you get to West Glenville Rd.

- From everywhere else: From Route 147 take West Glenville Rd (left). Take the second left onto Johnson Road. SkiVenture is 0.4 miles up on the right.



### Kid's Commentary

"Ski Venture ROCKS!" Abby Tys (age 10)

"Ski Venture is the BEST place to ski" Nate Tys (Age 6)

"SkiVenture has great hot chocolate" and "My favorite season is winter because I can go to SkiVenture with daddy" Megan Hunt (age 8)

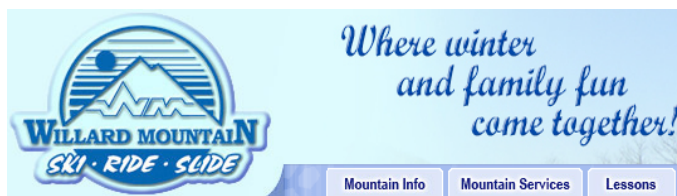
"SkiVenture is the opposite of Disney World. There are no lines. It's cheap, and you make you own fun!" Luke Winters (age 12)

"Come join. You will have a lot of fun." Chris Kudlacik (age 13)



A special thanks to corporate sponsors of the club

Maple Ridge and Willard Mountain for offering their special weeknight rates to SkiVenture Sustaining members.



[www.willardmountain.com/](http://www.willardmountain.com/)



[www.mapleskiridge.com](http://www.mapleskiridge.com)





SkiVenture Membership Application

2008-2009 Annual Rates:

- \_\_\_ \$60.00—Family membership
- \_\_\_ \$100.00 – Sustaining family membership\* (includes a SkiVenture T-shirt and Maple Ridge and Willard Mountain deal)

**If you choose to pay "Sustaining Membership" for your annual family membership, you will be eligible for a Maple Ridge Ski Area \$10 4-hour lift ticket on Tuesday thru Friday nights and \$20 lift tickets any time Willard Mountain**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City / Town / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member's/Dependants:  
Name and Age:

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\* By signing this application, applicant acknowledges that SkiVenture, Inc. is not in any manner liable for direct or consequential injury or damages suffered by applicant, applicant's family, or guest as a result of using the corporation's facilities.

Make your check out to SkiVenture, Inc. and send an application to:  
SkiVenture, Inc.

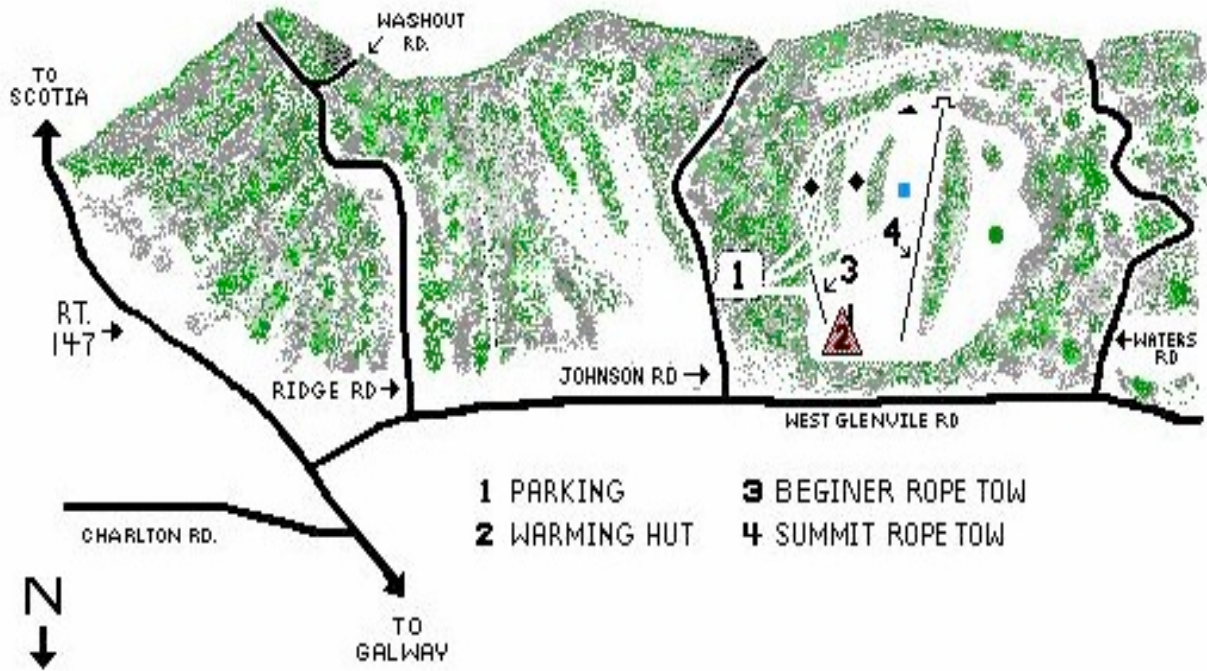
C/O Rachel Winters, 113 Hetcheltown Rd., Glenville, NY 12302, (518) 384-2041

**Ski Venture Liability and Guests**

Ski Venture continues to offer affordable family skiing by not carrying liability insurance for its members or its guests. Everyone at Ski Venture must ski at their own risk. You may invite guests, however, be careful about inviting minors without their parents. We cannot guarantee complete safety when skiing, accidents are always a possibility. The parents of injured minors are going to be much more understanding if they were present and knew that an accident couldn't be avoided. To assure continued operation of Ski Venture, your complete cooperation and understanding is required concerning all operating procedures

-----For Office use-----  
Date Rcd \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

# JOIN SKI VENTURE



- 1 PARKING
- 2 WARMING HUT
- 3 BEGINNER ROPE TOW
- 4 SUMMIT ROPE TOW

Join Ski Venture- Annual Meeting and Work Party on November 1