

# 75 Years!

# Ski Venture

VOLUME 75 ISSUE1

OCTOBER 2011

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**Important Dates:**

- October 15th—Work Party, Club Meeting/Dinner, Officer Elections (At SkiVenture)
- November 12th—Work Party
- December 10th—Hill Master Training—9am (approx 2 hours)
- January 8th —Hill Master Training—9am (approx 2 hours)

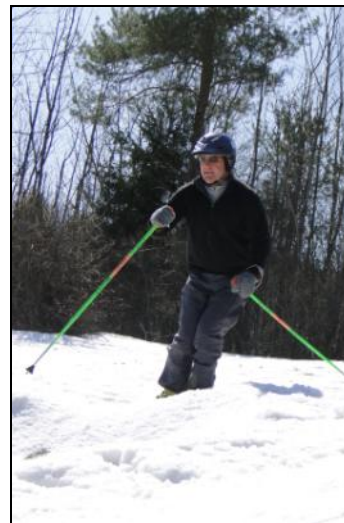
## Note from the President

Most of you who know me well know that I put a pretty high priority on skiing. Few things in my life trump that passion. I found myself with a mix of emotion when the snow melted in April. Of course I was sad to see the snow go. I was happy that Ed was excited about the beginning of chain saw and tractor season, and I was filled with anxious anticipation of the April adventures in the White Mountains. I was proud that we had made the absolute most out of the bountiful snow the good Lord provided.

This summer I have an experience that trumped all those emotions. When Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee gave many places in the Northeast a one-two punch, the Tys family home was se-

verely damaged. As many of you know, the Tys Family has served SkiVenture in a big way from the very first season that they knew about it. When we let club members know what had happened, the out pouring of generosity was wonderful. Several of us spent time cleaning, demolishing and rebuilding the home. I found myself intensely proud of our club. The friendships and sense of community that was evident in the recovery from this disaster may even trump skiing for me. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. You guys are great!

-Frank Winters



## 2010 – 2011 Ski Season

The 2010 / 2011 Ski Season was one of the best on record for our club. We started the season a bit late in mid January but ended the season with a T-shirt and shorts day in April.

For the record ~ Ski Venture

was the last ski area to close for the season in Schenectady County.

Not only did the snow continue to pile up as the season got underway, so did our membership. During several weekends there were actually

lift lines – something we have not seen at SV since probably the 70's.

Along with abundant snow, we also enjoyed the benefits of increased publicity. At least 3 blogs and articles helped share the secret.



## Hill Maintenance During the Summer

With the club reaching the membership limit of 60 families a couple of facility limitations became obvious.

This summer / fall there was great progress made on several key projects focused on improving both the ski terrain as well as upgrading our existing infrastructure.

As always the project appetite is very large with about 5 sizable projects that require completion before the season begins.

### *Parking Area Expansion - Phase one*

With membership at our club limit, there were several times during last season where members were parking on the road. With some early summer chainsaw activity, the area north of the current parking lot was cleared. A call to the Schenectady County Highway Department produced enough free fill to expand our parking lot by about 20 feet. With the excellent plowing by Rob, judicious parking by club members, we should be able to park ~ 7 additional vehicles bringing the total to about 23 vehicles.

The ultimate plan is to more than double the parking lot without impacting the skiable area. Since this will require a significant amount of fill, the final parking lot expansion will not be complete for several years.

Please park to be accommodating to other club members and to maximize the number of vehicles.

### *Power Line Trail Expansion*

The new **Power Line Trail** was a big hit last season. It offered a challenging grade and a tight merge onto the Dawson Highway. This fall during a work party we will be expanding the trail to the top of the hill and opening a cross trail for access. Although this trail will require some "cross country" skiing this year to access, next season with the relocated upper lift building access will be easier.

### *Lean To Out Post*

The Lean To is nearing completion. This summer the side walls were built and the rafter support logs were put in place. In the fall we will finish up the rafters and install the roof. Next summer we will finish up the landscaping.

### *Lodge Makeover - Phase 1*

The addition of the Vermont Castings wood stove coupled with the relocation to back of the building provided more open area. The wood stove was much more efficient at heating the A-frame and with some coaxing we were able to see temperatures of 80 + during the ski season.

This summer we reworked the seating along the wall

to provide seat backs that fold out for backpack storage. With this storage approach, more space inside the A frame will be utilized and allow club members more seating without back pack clutter on the benches. Additionally the upper decking directly in front of the A frame door was rebuilt using reclaimed decking material. The upper deck incorporates a grate in front of the door to reduce the amount of snow that is tracked into the A frame.

The A frame kitchen area has also received an upgrade from a couple of our members. We now have a GE microwave and tiled counter top and painted cabinets. This upgrade along with the new paneling certainly helps to refresh the aesthetics of the A frame



### *Main Lift Building - Total Upgrade*

One of our key 2012 areas of focus is the main lift building. The overall vision for the new building is as follows:

- First, we would like to disconnect the building from the lift poles.
- Second, we will be constructing the new building on concrete piers.
- Third, the main pole will be replaced with a galvanized steel tower such that it will not be required to be replaced for several generations

Fourth, we will be relocating the building ~ 25 feet farther "up" the hill. This relocation will allow skiers and boarders to more easily traverse across the top of the hill towards the

Glades, Black Diamond Area and the Upper Power Line Trail. With a higher unloading area we will be able to open a small glade area on the top of the Blue

Trail.

Lastly this modification will allow skiers to move away from the unloading area more easily. These modifications along with the lean-to outpost will open up the unloading area.

In 2011 we began the material procurement process and discussions with the State Engineer responsible for surface lifts. With an eye on craigslist we were able to find a 32 foot pole for the main pole and several large structural C channels that will form the base of the lift building. Since this modification requires review with the State Lift Inspector, we do not expect to start construction this year.

We do expect this project to be our main focus during the summer and fall of 2012. This project will require some help from our members and their machinery.

## Tow Operation and Upgrades

Overall the main lift performed without an issue for the full season. We were able to stretch one more year out of the old rope with the new rope tucked away in a dry, rodent free area. This fall we will be changing out the main lift rope in preparation for the season.

The little lift had a couple of issues during the season that required a few late nights to correct. Mid February an anomaly with the safety circuit revealed a wiring issue internal to the drive motor. It appears that field critters decided that the wire insulation

was in the way of their nest building and removed it on several wires during the fall. Three hours of a late Saturday night, surgery with the soldering iron and heat shrink tape and the motor was back in

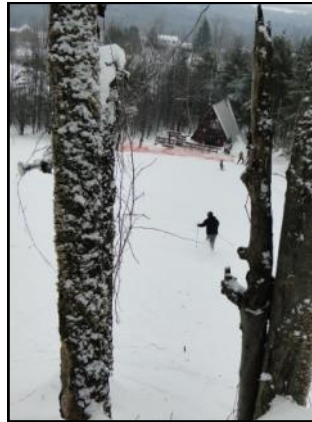


service. Although we were able to recover from this issue with no down time to our skiers we did learn an important lesson on protecting our equipment from these country critters. Our president signed an emergency financial package that allowed us to procure a “tasty deterrent” to rodent house building internal to our equipment.

During the summer the little lift was updated to correct the issue we were encountering with the rope occasionally being dislodged from the

drive wheel in wet snow conditions. This alignment correction and

an additional 8 feet of rope adjustment should produce a trouble free season.



(non groomable objects) were encountered.

Due to the focus on the hill infrastructure, only the standard maintenance on the groomer will be performed this year.

## Groomer / Machinery Report

In 2011, we increased the amount of grooming on the hill. In years past we would only groom once per week on a Thursday evening. This past season the more typical approach would be twice a week-end providing predictable

conditions for each weekend day. It is expected that this approach will continue in the 2011 / 2012 season.

Overall the Skandic ran flawlessly and due to the great snow pack very few NGOs



## 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 GLENVILLE 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 THE WINTER MONTHS.**



## Helping Out at Ski Venture

If you can run a saw, cut brush, dig a trench, oil a mechanism, wire a light, drive a nail, build a webpage, clean a window, sweep a floor, or hewn a tree into a beam you can help improve our ski hill. Anything you can do is helpful. If you would like to take on a repair, have a piece of equipment, or would just like to be part of the enhancement process ~ please contact Frank, Rob or Ed.

This year we started a "Wednesday night at the hill", allowing members the flexibility to help out without impact-

ing their schedule. This approach was so successful that at the conclusion of every Wednesday work party the

progress was celebrated with a frosty beverage.

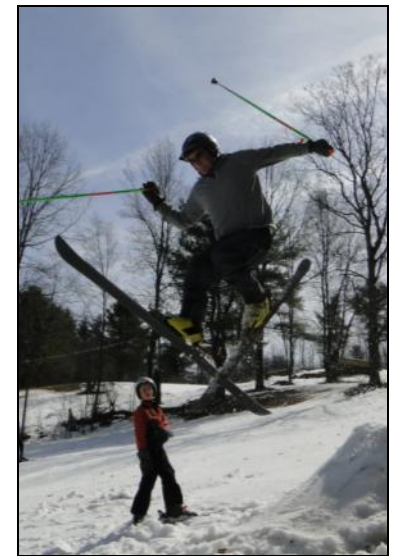


## Directions

From Rte 5 east of Scotia, head north on Johnson Rd. and go up and over the hill.

Ski Venture 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.  
Take the second left onto Johnson Road. Ski Venture is 0.4 miles up on the right.



## Financial Report

Overall, the club is on firm financial footing as we begin the 2011 / 2012 season. We are maintaining a modest, positive checking account balance and are able to cover expenses associated with improvements that allow our club members ease of operation, maintenance and long

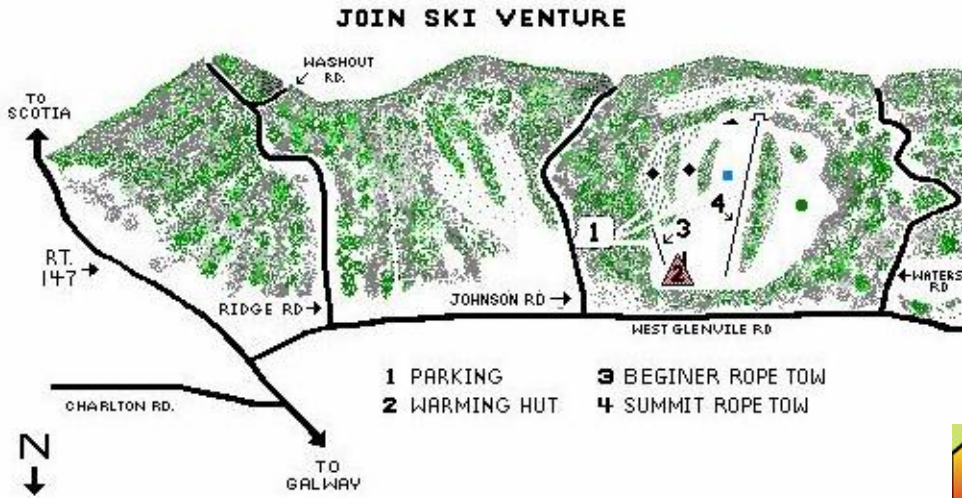
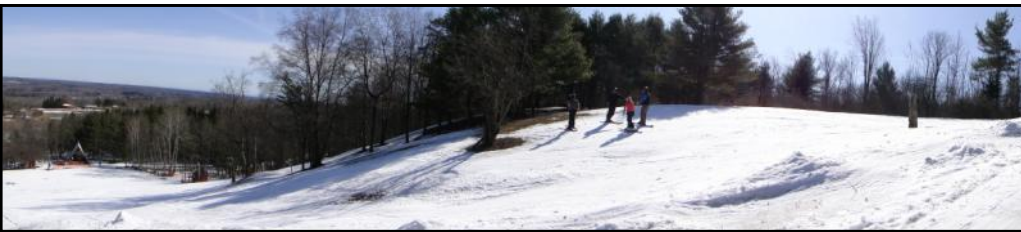
term sustainability. Our positive financial position and low cost of membership is largely due to volunteers who donate their time, machinery, and skills to maintain and improve our facility. A more thorough review of our financial situation will be presented at our club meeting in October.



# The Tuckerman Connection

Why the Tuckerman Connection? Why indeed!! There are two good reasons for us to include this column in our newsletter. First is the connection to our history and second is to make the point that no one really outgrows SkiVenture. So on to the history. The skiers of the Schenectady area left their tracks all over the history of NewEngland's skiing. In the late thirties, the members of SkiVenture were part of the contingent Schenectady enthusiasts pioneering ski routes throughout NewEngland. When the snow melted in Schenectady, SkiVenturers made the trek to the east side of Mt. Washington to ski the cirque named for the Botanist, Tuckerman. Although not a skier, Tuckerman left his name where thousands would leave tracks. Tuckerman is the world's most popular ski area with no lifts. On Tucks you earn your turns the old fashioned way. We include tales of springtime adventures to show you that the spirit and ambition of our founders lives on.

To prepare for a trip to Tuckerman, some reps are required. Those can be in the gym on the treadmill or if you crave more fun in your workouts, the reps can be on the SkiVenture rope tow.



*"Terrain for all abilities."*



## A Special Thanks to These Businesses





SKIVENTURE, INC.

SkiVenture Inc.  
C/O Frank Winters  
113 Hetcheltown Road  
Glenville, NY 12302

Phone: 518-384-2041  
E-mail: FWinters@dhses.ny.gov

“Local Skiing on  
Natural Snow”



## Work Parties—Frequently asked questions

Q: Can I help at a work party?

A: Certainly. Everything from cleaning the windows on the A frame, digging a trench, to cutting brush on the hill needs attention. Although major projects happen over the summer months, the work parties are primarily focused on getting the hill ready for the state inspection and skiing.

Q: What time do they start? Do I have to stay all day?

A: Work parties start at 8:00 AM and typically run till 4:00 PM. Come when you can, leave when you need to. Any time helping is greatly appreciated. Between 4:00 and 5:00 we clean up, put tools away, get coolers out, and get ready for our annual meeting.

Q: What tools should I bring? Is a work party a sufficient reason to buy new tools?

A: Typically chain saws, brush cutters, gloves, and work boots are the most popular tools. If you have a handy toolbox, that is also a benefit. Many of our club members have used SkiVenture as the stimulus to secure approval to purchase a new tool.

Q: If the weather looks questionable – how do I know if the work party is cancelled?

A: Check the twitter feed on the website or call Frank, Ed or Rob. We typically work through a light rain. No such thing as bad weather – just bad clothing.

## A Note from the Secretary

Hello everyone. As most of you know, my family has experienced a significant event with the recent flooding in Rotterdam Junction we had extensive damage to our home and tremendous stress brought into our lives. In spite of all that bad stuff, we were blessed by the help of family and friends that at times is so overwhelming it's hard to even talk about it. Our Ski Venture family has been there every step of the way, from the guys working so hard day after day covered in mud at our house, to the financial support, to all the kind words. I can't tell you how much we appreciate it. Frank, Ed and I have often had conversations about how to make SkiVenture more of a true club cul-



ture and not just a place to ski. I think we are there! Ski Venture is a family and we are proud to be a part of it. Thank you all so much. We can't wait to see everyone again on the hill when all the

beautiful snow starts flying again.

Rob, Jen, Abby and Nate

# SkiVenture Inc.

Membership and Renewal Application  
113 Hetcheltown Road - Glenville NY 12302  
(518) 384-2041

I, the undersigned, hereby agree, in joining this club, to forever release and discharge the organization promoting this club and its events, and its officers and members, SkiVenture Inc., and all other participants in club events, from any and all loss, injury, expense, damage, cause of action, or any claim whatsoever, which I may suffer or sustain, or which may arise out of or in connection with CATRA, the club, its property, the events and my participation therein, I understand the Skiventure Rules and Bylaws and fully understand the requirements of club participation contained therein. I, my spouse, and all my family members including guests I invite declare that we are competent to join this club and participate in club events and do so with full knowledge of the dangerous nature of skiing / boarding and its inherent risk of physical injury.

## 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 SkiVenture 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.

SkiVenture is not a commercial ski area. Although the lifts and safety devices are inspected yearly by a NY State inspector, all of the responsibility of skiing, terrain, and any other conditions associated with the club are solely the responsibility of the club member.

2011-2012 Annual Rates:

\$60.00-Family membership

\$100.00 - Sustaining family membership (includes reduce price tickets at Maple Ridge and Willard Mountain) **Members must show a Ski Venture Membership card**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / Town / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member's/Dependents:

Name Age:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

----- For Office use -----

Date Rcd \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SIGN REVERSE SIDE / PAGE 2 OF FORM**

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY  
ASSUMPTION OF RISK INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

**IN CONSIDERATION** of being permitted to enter upon, be present at, and use the ( **SkiVenture INC.**), property (hereinafter referred to as the "Premises"), from the date hereof and for any and all dates thereafter, for any and all purposes and activities including, without limitation, the operation, engagement, racing (competitive or otherwise), or maintenance of any motorized mode of transportation, including without limitation, snowmobile and motorcycles, any and all other activity incidental thereto, including without limitation the passive, casual, or active observance of any of the aforementioned purposes and activities (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Activities"). The undersigned, on behalf of the undersigned, the undersigned's personal representative, heirs, next of kin, and any and all other persons using the premises for the Activities as a guest of the undersigned (hereinafter collectively referred to as the ("Undersigned")).

1. Acknowledges, agrees, and represents that immediately upon entering the Premises the Undersigned shall continuously thereafter, inspect every area of the Premises which the Undersigned enters, and the Undersigned further agrees and warrants that, if at any time, the Undersigned is in or about any part of the Premises and feels anything to be unsafe, the Undersigned will immediately advise a representative, employee, or agent of the owner of the Premises of such and if necessary will leave the Premises and/or refuse to participate in the Activities.

2. Hereby **releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the** owner of the Premises, any individual engaging in the activities, rescue personnel, and the Premises inspectors, surveyors, underwriters, consultant and others who give recommendation, direction, or Instructions or engage in risk evaluation or loss control activities regarding the Premises, and each of them, the directors, officers, agents and employees (hereinafter referred to as "Released"), from all liability to the Undersigned for any and all loss or damage, and any claim or demands therefore on account of injury to the person or property or resulting in death of the Undersigned arising out of or related to the use of the Premises for the Activities, **whether caused by the negligence of the Releases or otherwise.**

3. Hereby agrees to indemnify and **save and hold harmless the Releases** and each of them from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they may incur arising out of or related to the use of the Premises for the Activities **whether caused by the negligence of the Releases or otherwise.**

4. Hereby **assumes full responsibility** for any risk of bodily injury, death, or property damage arising out of or related to the use of the Premises for the Activities **whether caused by the negligence of Releases or otherwise.**

5. Hereby acknowledge that the Activities are very dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury and/or death and/or property damage. The Undersigned, also expressly acknowledges that injuries received may be compounded or increased by negligent rescue operations or procedures of the Releases.

6. Hereby agree that this Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement Extends to **all acts of negligence by Releases, including negligent rescue operations** and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the Laws of the State of New York, that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

I have read this Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it, and have signed it freely and voluntarily without any inducement, assurance or guarantee being made to me, intend my signature to be a complete, continuing and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.

Print Full Name

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Signature:

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Date:

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