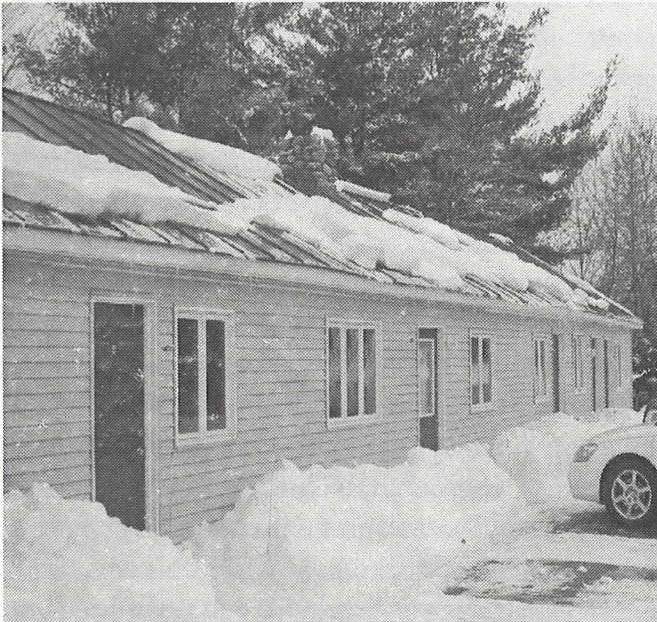


Liftline

The Official Newsletter of the Garden State Ski Club



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## A Vermont House Perspective

By HankMazzucca

Snow, snow everywhere.....! If you haven't gone to our jewel of the north, you have been missing out on some fantastic ski conditions as well as the wonderful after ski activities at the house. What more can be said, you can't even access the deck because of the depth of the snow. The parking lot is plowed and there are piles of snow on the front of the house. If you notice, there is new siding on the front of the house. We expect that if the snow ever melts, the contractor will be able to finish the sides and the rear of the house. Who would have expected so much snow so early in the season. When you arrive for your stay, don't be surprised if you see signs telling you not to throw snow or shovel in certain areas. All the contractor's supplies are under those piles. Oh, don't worry, the material is going on the house and is made to resist the weather. It was just unfortunate that it didn't make it on

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looking for liftline contributions:

- articles
- cartoons
- and other entertainment where you might have talent.

contact lauragaines@prodigy.net

or any board member

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the side of the house before the snow god left that thick "white gold" that has been so abundant this season. At this rate, we might be skiing into July!

It is clear that a lot of new people are using the house. One of our Lodge Committee members, Lionel Chalier, Mr. Snow Reporter, recently hosted a weekend for members who never stayed at the house. During the several weekends I have stayed this season, about half the people were provisional members or people who have never gone to the house. If you're

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still not convinced about the beauty and splendor of Vermont and you're still thinking about using the house, think about this. Killington had over 200" of natural snow since November. Over Martin Luther King weekend, conditions were excellent even though it was 20 degrees below zero when we got up in the morning. What more can you ask for!

If you're not into downhill skiing but X-country is what you prefer, the conditions have never been better. Ron Vitale's X-country weekend was a resounding success. Mountain Top and Mountain Meadow offered skiing conditions that couldn't be faulted. For members who prefer X-country skiing, Vermont is the place to go.

If the Vermont forecast is for cold temperatures, you need to remember to keep the gas tank full and put in some dry gas, make sure that the battery is good and that your anti-freeze is up to the task.

The Lodge Committee continues to thank everyone for supporting the house by voting for essential needs and by using this club resource. As I mentioned earlier, the siding job started but had to stop due to the snow. Even with just the front of the house sided, the road noise has been substantially reduced. We would like to remind everyone that we do get our water from a well and we use a septic system. If there are any questions about the house when you're at a meeting or in Vermont, please ask one of the Lodge Committee members; they are there to answer your questions or address your concerns.



**Snowball 2002**

by AnnHaleBrowne

This was indeed a ball. More than 80 of us danced to music by Henry Boots at the Il Palazzo in Wanaque NJ. Just a few

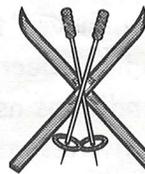


people lost it in the torrential downpour, but when the evening closed, everyone said "it was the best ball ever."

Sal outdid himself: the appetizers were a picture and the dinner selections offered anything and everything anyone could possibly want. The Viennese table was grand and the open bar ending with after dinner drinks in chocolate cups and cappuccino.

Bob dropped MM on the dance floor which caused people to worry. Lorraine was spectacular as our check in lady. Jim P's committee work was indispensable. Ceil and Ann couldn't find Hank Boots until morning - that was not good on their nerves. The driving directions offered a challenge to all who were willing to brave the heavy rain. Next time we will put the start time on the flyers, so we won't have to call everyone at the last minute. Thanks all for an excellent time...

Next year, come one and all for another good time - Bigger and better we hope.



**January 4, 2003 GSSC**

**Instruction Day** by RayOwens

I hope everyone who attended Instruction Day on Jan. 4, 2003 had as good a time. I know all the instructors enjoyed themselves. I, for one, after seeing all that snow, did not really expect to see anyone up in the Catamount ski lodge, but when I got there the first person I saw was Matt Keenan. I was amazed that he had driven up in all the snow that had fallen the day before, but then I was even more amazed when shortly after that several more Garden State-ers started showing up. All of us must remember that storm, right?

Well we had a total of 44 people show on January 4, 2003, a truly amazing feat considering the weather conditions. Saturday morning





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*This article was omitted from our fall issue, here's a little memory of a season with no snow on the ground.*



### How Do You Bike On A Shoestring?

by Pete Bellin and Ron Vitale

Simple: You take a great group of eager GSSC bikers, pile them into one of the most unique hostelrys on the N.J. Shore, throw in a big dollop of sumptuous food, plus ample wine and beer, then send them all out two days in a row to pedal their bikes along the brisk and breezy shoreline, then inland through gorgeous rolling farmland, tree-shaded parks and tranquil neighborhoods. And to keep the whole menagerie on the move, you need one energetic and dedicated ringmaster named Margaret O'Brien.

Margaret's Biking On A Shoestring Weekend—an annual event that grows larger every year, was held Sept. 27-29. Its minuscule cost ("on a shoestring") is due largely to the off-season rates specially granted to us by The White House in Belmar, an old *grande-dame* of the shore, with a wrap-around porch facing the ocean and quaint and cozy rooms holding 45 beds booked solid by the GSSC. We brought our own sheets and towels. If you timed it right there were hot showers. Otherwise brrrrr.

But for those with a typical GSSC sense of adventure, it was a fine place to call home for the weekend. The large, well-equipped country kitchen was the bustling focus of our morning breakfasts. And the spacious front rooms, decked in antiques and Victoriana, were a nice setting for a Saturday afternoon *apres-bike* happy hour—a gourmet affair that featured Swedish meatballs, chicken, quiche, vegetable platters, fruit, wine and beer.

Most people arrived on a rainy Friday night, in time to grab dinner locally and hit The Columns for dancing. Others stayed in B&Bs and joined us for the rides and happy hour.

Despite a rainy forecast, the whole weekend's weather was sunny with temperatures in the 70s and cool ocean breezes—just perfect for bicycling. Some simply rode around the neighborhoods of Spring Lake and Ocean Grove. Others went roller-blading or walked along the boardwalk.

### Why Bike on a Shoestring?

For many to whom the Shore means little more than beaches and bars, biking offers an entirely new perspective—in fact, more than one. There is scenery, there is history, there are communities and natural areas that, especially during the season, are usually overlooked in the mad rush to get from one party to another.

In past Shoestrings we have ridden from Belmar to Allaire State Park—a world apart, only 9 miles inland. This year, Ron Vitale planned rides starting from Allaire and continuing westward and inland: a 30-mile tour to Turkey Swamp Park, and a shorter, 20-mile ride led by Pete Geisler to the Manasquan River Recreation Area. An intrepid group comprising Pete Bellin, Mike Scugoza, Kas Kasprowicz, Jackie Hynds, Laura Van Riper and Russ Bebb actually began their ride from the White House, meeting the others at Allaire.

From there, almost 40 bikers of all ability levels started out together. After watching the main body take two traffic light changes to cross Rt. 547, Mike, Pete, Laura, and Russ left the main group to ride at a faster pace. They rode to Battleground State Park, site of the Battle of Monmouth, the longest engagement of the Revolution (we won!) and back to the White House, a trip of 44 miles.

Meanwhile, the main group split up further down the road, some riders following Pete G. for the short tour, and the rest visiting the quaint town of Farmingdale to pick up sandwiches before continuing on to Turkey Swamp Park. Both groups enjoyed pleasant, lightly trafficked, virtually flat roads and scenery that included manicured horse farms and the

Manasquan Reservoir—all under a cloudless sky.

The Saturday afternoon happy hour was a lively affair with tons of food, socializing, music and dancing. People signed up for dinner at one of the four area restaurants Margaret had reserved: Jimmy's, Moonstruck, Piancone's and Klein's. Jimmy's (Italian) took the prize as most expensive—\$40/person. After dinner, while others enjoyed themselves at the Columns, Pete B. dutifully spent the evening drawing up a cue sheet for a 50-mile ride to Holmdel Park.

By 9 am Sunday morning, Pete, Russ, Kas, Laura and Zoltan were on their way to Holmdel through beautiful back roads, woods, ranch and farmland. Russ and Laura crossed the 1000 mile mark for the season.

Later Sunday morning, Pete Gisler and Ron V. led a ride to Point Pleasant, meandering along the waterfronts of Brielle and Manasquan. The destination was Joey Tomatoes on the boardwalk, for a pleasant afternoon of pizza and socializing. The return trip featured a jaunt through toney Spring Lake.

The friendly owners of The White House allowed us to linger until 5 pm. Many sat on the porch enjoying the sunset, shooting the breeze, and trying hard not to leave. For some, an early evening dinner at Klein's Fish Market was a delicious ending to an awesome weekend.

Watch for another "Biking on a Shoestring" next year—but sign up early, as its popularity is growing. And remember: a weekend like this doesn't just happen. We all owe a heap of gratitude to Margaret, who took on the responsibility and skillfully managed the endless details it takes to make trips like this a success. All of us participating appreciate her efforts.



### Tired of Those 50-50's?

By PatBraun

For many years, GSSC has had two primary fundraising activities: The Annual Auction of member's good and services, and the sale of 50-50 tickets during most of our meetings.

A few months ago, Junior delegate Lily Merom had an idea for a fundraiser where everybody participating would get something. She envisioned a kiosk of items for sale in the meeting room. The Board of Directors discussed the issue and felt they'd like to merge a fundraising effort with an activity that promoted increasing club membership.

To that end, a decision was made to sell some practical promotional items. The junior and senior delegates then polled the Board as well as a random contingent of members as to the type of items which would be both promotional - getting out club's name out there - and utilitarian. They discovered that the price of having our club's logo/imprint drawn up was a set cost. Therefore, the per item cost becomes less the more items ordered. Because the club would initially be laying out the money, the Board agreed ordering three different items would be an exciting but SAFE start.

The items went on sale in the meeting room the week before Christmas - just in time for intra-club gift giving! Perhaps you've seen Lily or Pat selling them. The items are 7" ice scrapers (which we fondly refer to as the 18" scraper), 14-oz. stainless steel insulated travel mugs and license plate frames. The first two sport the club's logo, the latter has our web site address. **This license is fantastic for finding other GSSCers when you're at a mountain or up in Vermont.** Prices are very reasonable and there is a discount price if you buy a package of all three items which include: 1 ice scraper, 2 license plate covers and one coffee mug. Come by the sale table during a meeting and see these nifty offerings. ♦♦♦♦



**THE PREZ SEZ.....**  
*By Dennis Young*

Well, the ski season is in full swing! As always, the kick off of the ski season, The Snow Ball, was a great success thanks to Ann Hale Browne and Ceil Reilly. This has to be the best start of the ski season in the East in many years. Not only is there plenty of snow on the slopes, we have more than our share at home as well! In a way that's good. Snow at home is the fodder that gets us in the mood for skiing. (Some of us are always in the mood for skiing!). Reservations for the Vermont Lodge are filling up and ski trips will be starting next month. We had our first race on January 5<sup>th</sup> at Killington. The previous day Mother Nature dumped another 15 inches of powder. The Instruction Day at Catamount was a great success. There were 48 people who braved the drive up. This past Saturday (Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>) the first bus trip rolled out of the Ramsey Park & Ride with 40 Garden State-ers to Jiminy Peak. It was good seeing everyone having a good time and new friends being made. There are still five bus trips left. These ski programs have been organized for you. Take advantage. Don't be left out!

On another note, I've mentioned several times at meetings that the Board is working on a by-law change to simplify the membership process. The first part was to form the Membership Committee. Sue Amdur Coburn has agreed to be the Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Sue will be looking for members to work with her on this committee. If anyone is interested in working on this committee, please contact Sue. I am looking to have the new by-law change in front of the

For the most up-to-date information, please check out the GSSC website at [www.gardenstateskiclub.com](http://www.gardenstateskiclub.com).

For any last minute trip cancellations, call the GSSC hotline at 973-478-8722.

See you at a GSSC function soon. Dennis



... The world is your ski slope!

