

# 70 *Newport Ski Club* th Anniversary



## **A Message from Our President**

We are gathered here to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Newport Ski Club. This milestone would not have been possible without the dedication and the many contributions of our past and present members, including Officers and Committee Chairs, over the last seven decades. Many thanks to all of you for attending tonight, and for helping to ensure that the spirit of our club continues for future generations.

In the past decade, we have experienced and overcome many challenges, including Lodge usage and monthly meetings during the pandemic, the recent flooding in Ludlow, and all of the mandated Vermont Fire Safety requirements. These difficult circumstances were all resolved thanks to the collaboration of many dedicated members.

We would like to pay fond tribute to the memory of NSC pioneers John Brady and Frank Item. They will be remembered with gratitude and appreciation, along with many other contributing NSC members, for all their contributions in years past. With their forethought and planning, our beautiful Lodge is conveniently located within walking distance to Okemo Mountain. Thanks to our founding members and others, the policies, Bylaws, and Guidebook have provided our club with a structure for success for 70 years. Throughout the club's history, members have enjoyed the camaraderie of working and skiing together, socializing, and forming new friendships. This is the spirit of the club which we are celebrating tonight.

Special thanks go out to our Social Committee and others who helped to plan this 70th anniversary celebration as well as other year-round social events. Thank you very much for being here to celebrate all of our achievements, and have a wonderful time.

Stephen Corbett  
- NSC President

## Newport Ski Club Presidents

Dick Marciano*: 1955	Ray Woodruff*: 1984, 1985
Mike Tannert*: 1956	Mike Clare: 1987
Don Baer*: 1957	Bob Wolferseder: 1989
John Brady*: 1958, 1977, 1988	Matt Guglielmetti: 1990, 1991
George Kingston*: 1959	Ray Fisher: 1992, 1993
Chuck Spero*: 1960	Paul Doughty*: 1994, 2009, 2010, 2012
Bill Cormier: 1961	Bill Luderer: 1995
Ed Keenan*: 1962	Dan Reardon: 1996, 1997
Frank Item*: 1963	Gary Russell: 1998, 1999
Paul Lamoureux*: 1964	Jerry Baum: 2000
Ed Shivell*: 1965, 1966, 1969, 1972	Sid Wax: 2001, 2002
Ed Bradbury*: 1967	Tom Orr: 2003, 2004
John Weissinger*: 1968	Bob Suglia: 2005, 2006
Walt Kosinski*: 1970, 1974	Bill Sequino: 2007, 2008
Jack Merchant: 1971	Jas McGuire: 2011
Pat Silvia*: 1973, 1978	Rod Cavanagh*: 2013
Denny Wilson*: 1975, 1986	Cheryl Suglia: 2014, 2015
Tony Mazza*: 1976	Ann Berman: 2016, 2017
Peg Vincent: 1979, 1980	Joe Fagan: 2018, 2019
Kevin Glavin*: 1981	Ross Farrugia: 2020, 2021, 2022
Dennis Macedo: 1982, 1983	Steve Corbett: 2023, 2024...

\* - Deceased

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Committee

**Chair:** John Larned

**Co-chairs:** Linda Winters, Sid Wax, Christine Wendell Farrugia

**Committee:** Deb Peterson, Joe Bullard,

Anna Dye, Susan Brown, Jane Weidman, Steve Sahady,

Emily Lyons, Emily Egginton Skeeahan

**Slideshow:** Brian Sperlongano

**Booklet and history:** Sid Wax **Cover:** Christine Wendell Farrugia

**Photographer:** Rich Nery **MC:** John Marciano

# 70 Years of NSC History in a Nutshell

It is with gratitude that I reflect over my close to 50 years with NSC. It has had its share of downsides, from x-country skiing over a rail trestle, not knowing if a train was coming; finishing a race going headfirst into a ski rack; being dragged up the Red Poma on my butt; winning the most improved skier award - twice!; multiple “adventures” on our Puff and Putts; skiing through severe health issues; getting “taxi” rides down in the Ski Patrol sled; and most recently, getting no sympathy for an injured finger. If all that is the downside of a lifetime of skiing, I consider myself fortunate.

Experiencing the joy of skiing and the companionship at the Lodge as a member of NSC, on weekends as well as midweek, has been a great run, and I hope it keeps on going. When you read through the club’s history, and all the “discussions”, you see we’re all in it for the same thing, and it is worth it. For the sake of skiing – in spite of cold, rain, ice, and falls, and working together to make it happen - what would we rather do?

- A longtime NSC skier

## And now, the club’s story...

*A few names are mentioned below, but our club’s history depends on the work of **many hundreds** of our members.*

**1955** –A group of engineers from the Naval Underwater Ordinance Station in Newport, who happen to be skiing enthusiasts, get together after work, and a ski club is born.

Dick Marciano is the first president, elected at the very first meeting. Movies after each meeting are a must. And lots of parties and outings!

The first club activity is water skiing at King Park in Newport. Being composed of engineers, the club will “investigate” various ski areas and lodges over several years.

**1956** – Newport Yacht Club offers free space for our meetings, since the bar tab will surely compensate them for the hall rental.

Okemo Mountain opens, with two surface Poma lifts and three trails, one of which is the existing road up the mountain. One of the lifts is the Red Poma, the longest Pomalift in the country. Each ride on the Red Poma costs 60 cents. Yes, that was a lot!

**1961** – The NSC telephone tree is established. The membership list is broken up in teams, and each “captain” only has to call a few people to get the word out to all. We’ve gone high tech!

**1964** – Newport Ski Club is officially incorporated.

**1965** – NSC purchases a vacant lot near the base of Okemo for \$1,200. Member Chris Dutra designs a ski house (a.k.a. the Lodge), and ten members co-sign a construction Mortgage.

Okemo takes a giant leap forward and installs its first chairlift, the Sachem Double.

**1966** – A disagreement with the contractor is settled over 2 cases of beer, before the lawyers show up. The result is our two downstairs bathrooms, apparently thrown in at no cost.

The Lodge is completed. Cost: \$24,910 for the building plus \$6.50 a foot for the well digger. The new well produces only 1½ gallons/minute. John Brady’s comments:

“Do we want to dig a well or build a lodge?”, and  
“If it’s yellow, let it mellow!”

Frank Item and his team build our much-discussed-since picnic tables: --Should we have booths? --Tables and folding chairs?

**1967** – The club drafts rules for the Lodge, “An Invitation to Ski”.

**1968** – After much debate over chimney colors, each member can “buy” a chimney brick for \$1 to paint however they choose. Chaos ensues... until it is painted white years later.

Hank Chubbock donates a beautiful coffee table he made, with a wrought-iron base and wooden slats.

Sheila Item is providing reports of NSC Good and Welfare.

**1970** – Snow falls off the Lodge roof and damages 5 cars. This is not the last time that will happen.

**1971** – The club orders new mattresses. Ed Bradbury builds new bunks in his basement and brings them to the Lodge in Bud Scott’s truck. Every room is to have a fire-escape ladder.

**1972** – Treasurer’s report includes records of our deposit-bottles-and-cans account. We skiers are a thrifty bunch, and recyclers!

**1975** – New living-room couches: Ed Bradbury builds the steel frames at work, and members put the rest together at the Lodge. After the usual endless discussion about colors for the cushions, the club decides on HoJo’s orange and blue.

**1976** – Club discusses hiring a cook for Saturday nights.

**1978** – Mortgage is paid off and burned...a ceremonial copy. The original is on the wall at the Lodge.

**1979** – Club has an all-female Executive Board - Peg Vincent president. Club bonds are floated to members to pay for the needed roof replacement. This explains why Peg is always suggesting bonds as the way to pay for our capital expenses.

**1980** – Our lift ticket purchase procedure is complicated. Apparently we get tickets at “bus” rates in groups 20 on weekends, but the club also buys bulk tickets for when we do not have a group of 20. A Mountain Liaison is designated to interface with Okemo and other ski areas to deal with the procedure.

**1982** – After a few years debating the issue, the club votes to buy a dishwasher and get rid of plastic plates. In the end, even John Brady votes in favor of the \$3,000 cost.

Reminder at the April meeting: Bring pencils to vote for club officers next month. Yes, real elections.

The Muellers, new owners of Okemo, start investing in dramatic improvements to the mountain. Their first investment is a triple chair... no more Red Poma!

**1983** – Club beer at the Lodge is discontinued. It is now BYO.

Replacing the Lodge floor is brought up at a meeting and discussed ad nauseum.

**1984** – The Lodge is tied into the Ludlow sewer system.

After years of walking back to the Lodge for hot soup at lunchtime, and of having to take time out of skiing for lunch duty, discussions begin over an alternate plan.

**1986** – Dennis Macedo chairs a committee to study lunches. Now lunch duty will be required only if you eat at the Lodge.

**1988** –A “final” decision is made on lunch. Lunch materials will be laid out for members to make sandwiches to bring to the mountain. Elliott Perchuck claims credit for this idea.

Membership is full at 180 active members, with 42 applicants on file. Limit is raised to 200, but that limit is never reached.

The Newport Yacht Club will no longer serve us drinks as non-members. After a heated debate, we vote to move our meetings to the Green Valley Country Club, even though we have met at the Yacht Club since our inception, and Green Valley is outside of Newport. We are the NEWPORT Ski Club after all!

The Green Valley clubhouse burns down the very next week, so we have to stay at the Yacht Club another year. In spite of some members’ flagrant objections to the move, no one from our club was responsible for the fire (NOT GUILTY!). We will move to Green Valley a year later and stay for a number of years.

**1990** – Fire escapes are added at the Lodge - a coincidence?

**1991** – 23 members go on Lynn LeBlanc’s ski trip to Aspen, one of several Club ski trips she will lead. Highlight: Sue Wilson, paralyzed from a fall at work, takes up adaptive skiing, which allows her to continue to enjoy our favorite sport.

**1993** –After a failed experiment with a smoke eater, complaints that the fireplace is smoky anyway, and a few years of inability to decide whether we want a “smoking area” or a “no-smoking area”, the membership votes to ban smoking at the Lodge, on an “experimental” basis. Some members quit in protest.

**1994** – The quality of wine at our Saturday dinners is questioned. After long discussions of ending Club wine or not, we agree to buy cheap wine by the bottle instead of the jug.

Okemo opens the South Face area.

**1995** – Our member-built picture windows are professionally replaced, over John Brady's objections, after years of shaking in the wind and being covered in plastic wrap to keep out the cold.

**1997** – After years of members' painting one side each year, Sid's team repaints the whole Lodge in a single work weekend, with the help of Bud King's paint sprayer. Members object to the Barn Red stain color. Vinnie Martinelli climbs up on the roof and hangs over the edge to paint the beams underneath.

**1998** – Pressurized water storage tanks are installed in the basement, to give enough water for showers and to allow flushing toilets at every use. No more mellow yellow.

After some concerns about break-ins because everyone knew where the key was hidden, a key card entry system is installed.

**1999** – Club joins CT Ski Council (CSC) to get discounted bulk ski tickets for members and to enjoy CSC appreciation days.

**2001** – After much discussion, our soda machine is removed.

New Anderson windows are installed throughout the Lodge,

**2002** – Our new neighbor challenges our access via their driveway, and we will have to redesign our parking lot. We learn about adverse possession vs. permission, the hard way.

**2003** – Dan Reardon designs a breakfast coffee bar, and the milk machine is eliminated. Steve DePaola and his committee install pine paneling in the living/dining area in one work weekend.

CATL committee discusses policies for when children may be left alone at the Lodge. 18 becomes the magic age.

Major bylaw revision by Sid and his committee... Mostly a cleanup of wording, but there are now term limits for officers. Retaining Members do not receive membership cards and therefore cannot participate in "CSC Days" (discounts at other mountains). The idea is to discourage members' going retaining to avoid their obligations, though RMs can still buy bulk tickets.



Okemo extends to the northeast and opens Jackson Gore.

**2005** – New Lodge parking lot is completed. Clotheslines around the perimeter keep cars from driving over the edge.

**2007** – Kitchen is renovated by Steve DePaola's committee and comes in under budget. New cabinets, floor, and sinks.

A new stainless-steel island top is installed as well, since the old wooden island was forever getting inundated by bathroom leaks above. EWW! The bathroom leaks will get fixed shortly afterwards via high-tech pressurized flushers, so no more ceiling drips.

**2008** – After a lengthy discussion (unanswered phone calls vs. personal contact), the club votes to accept email reservations.

**2009** – Big debate over Retaining Members' rights:

Okemo now requires a club ID to redeem CSC tickets. An RM complains that with no card he and 10 his non-member buddies can't use the CSC tickets we sold him. We "cheated" him!

Paul Doughty maintains that members go retaining just to avoid responsibilities, and proposes a bylaw amendment to further limit their rights. RMs should be Social Members: No cards or club tickets, and no lodge reservations. The amendment is tabled while a committee led by Elaine Colarusso studies the situation. John Brady says "Leave them alone, they have been good long-term members. And give them back their cards."

In the end, after much heated discussion, the status quo prevails. Retaining Members do not get cards, but can make reservations.

**2012** – Mattresses at the Lodge are replaced, after only 40 years.

**2014** – The club votes to stop serving Club wine with Saturday dinner, so the squabble over wine quality is behind us.

**2015** – As the club ages, more members ski midweek. Weekend skiers complain that the midweek skiers rearrange the furniture every week, and have even cut one of the couches in half for flexibility. A committee to set midweek policies is disbanded without ever meeting.

There are discussions over whether putting 5% of the budget into reserves is enough to prepare for unforeseen expenses.

Okemo opens a high speed 6-pack bubble chair.

**2016** – New couch cushions replace the orange and blue naugahyde ones. No more “HoJo’s” look.

George Daglieri takes over maintenance. The well gets fracked, and now we will have plenty of water at the Lodge. On the other hand, the bartender at Fenner Hall is no longer available, so there is no alcohol at meetings.

**2017** – Lodge exterior is professionally repainted, after 15 years, and the woodshed is replaced, with a concrete pad.

Okemo now uses an RFID pass you carry in your pocket.

**2018** – Lots of discussions of how to buy CSC tickets. How many should the Club buy? Are we losing money? etc. But this will soon change, as Vail has bought Okemo.

NSC Family Memberships are no more, we are all Individual Members. Will this discourage families from joining?

**2019** – Cubbies are installed in the Lodge near the manager’s desk to store personal food, etc.

**2020** – The big news in 2020, and at least through 2021, is COVID. Zoom meetings and an ad hoc COVID Committee. The ski season is curtailed. The Lodge and the mountain close down early, as we deal with the state COVID regulations.

Steve and Anna have to sleep in a tent while they replace the back porch. Skiers are a hardy bunch.

**2021**– Attendance at the Lodge is restricted to 4 groups in “pods” for COVID safety... the thought arises of a need for more family rooms. Vaccination requirements, etc. become a major bone of contention. Some members quit in protest.

**2022** – In-person meetings return, with a hybrid Zoom option. A garbage disposal is installed. Yes, we do have a sewer.

Steve Corbett and his team are at work... with lots of members' help: Major room renovation projects in upstairs bedrooms: dropped ceilings, new floors and walls, and sound-proofing. You no longer hear your neighbor's snoring through the wall. George is in charge of the ceiling gang ... did we say LOTS of help?

Vail's Epic Pass program is in full swing. No more CSC tickets, and the club will soon drop CSC membership. The new passes cost less than half what Okemo season passes cost 10 years ago!

Retaining Members are now reclassified as Social Members. The 2009 controversy is over. Paul Doughty would be happy!

**2023** – With COVID behind us, new challenges and opportunities await.

The summer brings a devastating flood to Ludlow. The Lodge comes out ok, and the town shows its resilience.

A fire prevention system is installed, at the insistence of the Fire Marshal, requiring a \$200/year assessment per active member over 3 years. George Daglieri takes control and gets the job done, and the Lodge will be safer at the end.

Our new automated reservation system has rolled out, and we are slowly getting used to the new procedures.

Bylaw amendment: 50 years as an Active Member qualifies as a Life Member. Congrats Peg Vincent! You deserve it.

**2024** – Steve's construction team is at it again, Showers are installed in the 6-bunk rooms, which can now qualify as extra family rooms in a pinch, and not a single bunk is lost.

Frank Item's picnic/dining tables are modified with solid tops, after 58 years of controversy, which will of course continue.

The Fire Marshal has one more "safety" requirement for us: a commercial fire-retardant stove vent system... a drafty kitchen, more expense, and a potentially smoky fireplace.

John Brady passes away at 96. Keep the ticket moving, John. RIP. We will miss you.

**2025** – Ross Farrugia donates two new coffee tables he built for the living area. The existing one built by Hank Chubbuck has been repurposed as end tables.

The greatest controversy this year deals with weekend meals. After much discussion, mid-week skiers allow the weekenders to make their own rules. The Club approves John Cressman’s proposal of grab-and-go breakfasts and bring-your-own lunches. The end of an era!

What will the next 70 years bring?

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## Membership Milestones

### 60+ Years

**Reverend Bill Cormier (LM)**  
**Hank Chubbuck (LM)**  
**Jean Scott (LM)**  
Frank Furtado (SM)

### 50+ Years

**Sheila Item (LM)**  
**Christine Chubbuck (LM)**  
**Peg Vincent (LM)**  
Mary Ellen Atkins (SM)  
Mike Fenton (SM)  
Ian Scott (SM)

### 40+ Years

**Bill Luderer**  
Dennis Macedo (SM)  
**Sid Wax**  
**Elliott Perchuck**

**Life Member (LM)**  
**Individual Member**  
Social Member (SM)

### 25+ Years

**Steve and Elaine DePaola (LM)**  
**Stew and Audrey Davis (LM)**  
**Jerry Baum**  
Barbara Baum (SM)  
**Share Williams**  
Jim Williams (SM)  
Dan Reardon (SM)  
**Jan McRobert**  
**Kathleen Watts**  
**Gary and Jan Russell**  
**Jean Turcotte**  
**Michaeleen Terrana**  
**Anne Berman**  
**Cheryl and Bob Suglia**  
Barrett Perchuk (SM)  
**Everett Rego**  
Sharon Charpentier (SM)  
**Barbara O'Reilly**  
Marty Proulx (SM)  
Seth Moyer (SM)  
**Larry Rollins**

## In Memoriam

These are some of the members we have lost over the last 70 years. They left us far too soon.

The names in **bold** have passed on within the past 10 years.

Apologies if your loved ones have been left off this list. We miss them all.

Ann Alton  
Travis Atkins  
Bob Bade  
Don Baer

**John and Peg  
Brady**

Jim and Rita Carter  
Leo and Jean Carter  
Ed and **Nancy**

**Bradbury  
Rod Cavanaugh  
Ed Coderre**

George Barkley  
DeTolly  
Paul Doughty  
**Joann Dubuc**  
Bob Dumouchel  
Chris Dutra  
**Val Flynn**  
Barbara Furtado  
Fred Gauch  
Roger Gilman  
Kevin Glavin  
Ray and Joyce  
Hagglund

Brendan and  
**Marcella Hayden**  
Ned Holteen  
Ron House  
Stan Kalkus  
**Frank Item**

**Andrew Jaworski**  
**John Lutz**  
Muriel Kane  
Ed Keenan  
George Kingston  
Walt Kosinski  
Joe and Shirley  
Kuzneski  
Paul Lamoureux  
Lynn and Paul  
LeBlanc  
Sally Mackay  
**Bill and Trudy**  
**Mackin**  
Dick Marciano  
Tony Mazza  
Bev Menezes  
Bill Murphy

Ronda Perchuk  
Paul Paon  
Annette Peterson  
Mary Proulx  
Charles Quinn  
Dana Saccomanno  
**Deb Sanford**  
Bud Scott  
Ed Shivell  
**Pat Silvia**  
Allen Smith  
**Chuck Spiro**  
**Colin Spiro**  
Ed Steinbrick  
Stephen Slavtcheff  
Mike Tannert  
John and **Claudette**  
**Weissinger**  
Richard Wilkinson  
Cheryl Williamson  
**Denny and Sue**  
**Wilson**  
Ray Woodhouse  
Ray Woodruff

