



SERVING SKI CLUB MEMBERS SINCE 1939

## **Council Tracks**

2011 - A year of Infamy

September issue

Forgive me folks but I've got a lot to say!! Before I start the first issue of the 2011-2012 **Council Tracks**, I'd like to welcome everyone back – thanks for visiting our site! It was a long hot summer when it wasn't raining (whenever that was) but now it's September and another ski season is coming. I would like to start this month off on a really positive note but what has been happening in the USA this year makes that somewhat difficult.

To say that 2011 has been a devastating year is the understatement of a life time. The USA has been hit with more bad-weather news than I've ever seen. Firestorms in the West have been incessant; Texas is dried up and burning; The "Great Flood" inundated a vast area of the Mississippi and Tennessee River valley; the Army Corps of Engineers intentionally flooded central Louisiana to save New Orleans, a Tornado leveled Joplin, Missouri amidst the worst tornado season the US has ever seen. If that was not enough, hurricane Irene whacked the Northeast dealing us the blow of a lifetime and the rain still hasn't stopped.....will it ever?

**Club Lodges:** Susan Donlan, President of NJSC asked for an accounting of club lodges in Vermont. Some clubs have reported in but we don't know the status of all lodges yet. We do know that Short Hills and Onondaga ski clubs have lodges in Lower Granville, Vt. which was flooded. Their lodges were affected but the extent of damage is not known. Rochester, Vermont was flooded and is one of the towns cut off from the rest of the state. Central Jersey Ski Club has a lodge in Rochester and fortunately escaped serious damage. If your club has a lodge in Vermont please respond to Susan Donlan, President of NJSC at: ([sdonlan1@comcast.net](mailto:sdonlan1@comcast.net)) regarding the status of your lodge. It may be that we as a Council need to reach out to affected clubs and lend a hand in cleanup/rebuilding efforts if/when appropriate.

### **Hurricane Irene & VERMONT**

Our beloved ski state of Vermont was hit EXTREMELY hard hit by Irene. Rain is one thing, but torrential rain in mountains means dramatic flows in rivers which wreaked havoc throughout Vt. Many roads were severed making travel impossible. Numerous towns were flooded and cut off from the outside world becoming islands of humanity without power or access to food and potable water (although it was everywhere). Labor Day weekend just ended but the labor of bringing Vermont back is just beginning. Routes 4 and 100 were severed between Rutland, Woodstock, Ludlow and towns north of Killington. After the storm it was not possible to get to Pico, Killington, and Okemo from Rutland or Woodstock.

Killington (the town) and ski resort were ravaged by water cascading from the mountains. A section of the K1 base lodge at Killington was undermined and collapsed into a sinkhole and a stretch of the Killington access road was washed out. If you want to know more, visit the website of The Mountain Times newspaper which is acting as a clearing house for storm related information.

**Ski towns:** a number of ski towns in NY and Vermont were hit very hard. Prior to writing this newsletter I viewed dozens of pictures taken in the Catskills and Vermont and could hardly holdback the tears. I'm a tough guy having played football and Lacrosse in school but the pictures of the utter carnage left in the wake of Irene are numbing. I believe that as clubs, we have responsibility to the towns in which our ski lodges are located. Within your own club, it might be an idea to talk about what kind of aid you may be able to contribute to your host ski-town.

Many ski towns especially those in the Catskills are small and have very limited resources. In many cases, their existence is a function of how many ski days and skier/visits they get. It is conceivable that after a natural catastrophe like Irene some may not bounce back. In the aftermath of Irene the first responders (fire departments, first aid squads, etc) went to aid their neighbors and right about now their resources are depleted. If yours is one of the larger clubs and has a lodge in Vermont, your membership may be in a position to offer aid to one of the local agencies. If in doubt about who needs help, a call to the local volunteer fire department, food bank or first aid squad should provide an answer.

My own club has a lodge in Chittenden, just outside of Rutland Vermont and thankfully we were spared the fury of Irene but the neighboring towns of Mendon and Killington weren't. Roads in the area were washed out and people lost their homes and possessions to flood waters. We have a month or so before the cool weather sets in up North but these folks need help now. Please consider what your club may be able to do to help the community you call a 2<sup>nd</sup> home.

**Guidebook Contest:** Before the summer break, we announced a contest to design the cover of the 2012 Council Guidebook. The winning design will be the front cover and the submitting club won't have to pay its dues. We received a number of entries some of which were quite good. The Ex. Com viewed submissions at its August meeting but since the contest didn't expire till 9/1/11, the winner can't be announced until the general meeting, Monday 9/12.

**Fall Festival season:** The Fall Festival season will be the first chance many of the ski resorts and towns have to recover some dollars after hurricane Irene. This year make sure you attend one or more Fall Festivals in the Catskills or Vermont and SPEND! It doesn't matter what you buy but spending money will help the locals offset their losses. You might even consider going 'in-country' a few days early and seek senior citizens who might still need a hand getting things straightened out.

**Ski Sales/swaps:** Pre season sales/swaps are just around the corner. Some sales piggyback on Fall festivals at ski resorts. Hunter's sale is held during the annual Oktoberfest and you can buy/sell used or new equipment. Visit websites of ski resorts to find out when theirs will be held. Some local shops have pre-season sales also. High Country Sports in Livingston who's participated in the Jamboree the last few years has a pre-season tent sale scheduled for Oct 4<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>. I've been to this one and they have a LOT of good equipment at pre-season prices.

**The Jamboree:** The Ski & Snowboard Jamboree hosted by NJ Ski Council will be held at the Hanover Marriott on Route 10E in Whippany, Friday Nov 4th. You'll hear more in October but one thing I want to get out there is this.....PLEASE come to the September and October meetings with IDEAS. The Jamboree committee would LOVE input from the clubs regarding new/creative suggestions for the Jamboree. Don't be afraid to suggest something or to actually DO something novel at the Jamboree. This is the ONLY Jamboree for the Snow-sports in the state of New Jersey and we would like to make it bigger n better. Maybe YOU have an idea how to do that! Let us know, SOON!!!!

**911 - September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000:** each year since that fateful day in September we remember those who perished on September 11<sup>th</sup>. It's a day that's hard to forget and like Pearl Harbor will be engrained in US history forever. Let's not forget those who perished and let's not forget those who brought terror to our shore. Like the Nazi's from WW II there will always be a faction that causes trouble and 911 was a reminder to us that the world is not free of those who would cause us harm. Observe a moment of silence for those who perished but also thank a US soldier the next time you see one for what they do for us. If you're on a plane heading anywhere and see a US soldier, buy him or her a meal. It's a cheap Thank You to America's heroes and we can't thank them enough!

**Mud (Last) Tracks:** If you slacked off this summer laying on the beach with a beer, now is the time to start getting into shape for ski season. Fall is a beautiful season and there is still plenty of great weather ahead of us. Get out and hike or bike the many trails that abound in New Jersey. You live here and need a break??.....then head to the Poconos or the Catskills. Whatever you do, get the lead out and use your legs. Come January you'll be glad you did!

I'm sorry if this newsletter started off a bit gloomy but 2011 came in like a lion and hasn't quit yet. Like March, let's hope it goes out like a lamb!

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