



SKI TRACKS

Volume 51, Issue 10

May 2011

<http://www.mainlineskiclub.com/>

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Summer Date-Savers!!

After 42 folks slogged through the rain for the outstanding Progressive Dinner this year, we’ve learned that MLSC’ers **LOVE** to party! **FYI:** We’ve planned a summer of truly wonderful party events. Mark your calendars for the following events that you positively won’t want to miss:

Sat., May 21st	"Spring Fling" Celebration at Steve Hendrix's in Malvern
Sun., June 26th	Pool Party at Ralph von dem Hagen's in Berwyn
Sat., July 9th	Potluck Garden Party at Sally Hilderbrand's in Collegeville
Sat., July 30th	Cookout & Pool Party at Jay and Ellen Minnick's in Lansdale
Sat., Aug. 6th	MLSC Annual Lobster Feast at the Weisz's in West Chester
Sat., Aug. 27th	Goodbye to Summer with a Cookout on the Deck at Eva Ray's, Villanova

Welcome to Newcomers!!

There are no monthly meetings of MLSC for May through August. The next monthly meeting will be on the second Tuesday of September...September 13th

In September look for the round table by the sign-in table next to the entrance to the meeting room. Sea Kaplan and Rosemarie Romano, New Member/Hospitality Co-chairs, will be conducting these informative and welcoming sessions. If newcomers have questions, call Sea at 610-722-9907 or Rosemarie at 610-688-6192.

MLSC members: tell your friends and co-workers all about MLSC and to come out for the summer events.

The first three write-ups are included in this newsletter. See complete write-ups for the others in your June newsletter!

Warmest Thanks!!!

The **HUGEST** of "Thank You's" go to the three Progressive Dinner hosts who ALL did a SPECTACULAR job on April 16th!! Kudos go to Rob Kuhne, Radnor, and Betsy Kimmel and Ralph von dem Hagen in Berwyn!! A whopping 42 MLSC'ers attended in the POURING RAIN!! That, of course, presented challenges with raincoats and umbrellas for 42...not to mention the "stuff" on the floors!! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your truly gargantuan AND outstanding preparation. Despite the weather, it ran very, very smoothly, and we didn't even lose anyone going from house to house!! NOW...who wants to host NEXT year???

WARMEST THANKS to April's other event leaders -- Alleen Andre for doing the Wine & Dine at Mythos on April 2nd, Jay and Ellen Minnick's for the Valley Forge Bike Ride on April 10th, and Rich Schonwald for the Happy Hour at the Paddock on April 15th. Bless you, all.

Be on the lookout in the June/July issue for destinations and dates of 2012 ski trips.

Extra Event: Camping at Ricketts Glen State Park, June 3, 4 and 5. Reservations required. Contact ASAP seakaplan11@gmail.com for directions. Birding, Waterfalls, Hiking, Swimming...

MLSC BOARD 2011 – 2012

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PAST PRESIDENT

Howard Weisz. 610-918-3780
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IS a social group! All year we have Happy Hours, Wine and Dines, Wine and Cheese, Progressive Dinners, Pot Luck Dinners, Super Bowl parties, Kentucky Derby parties, Pool parties and a Lobster Feast! All of these events occur because of the generosity of our members who open their homes and host these many events. We couldn't do it without them! Ask yourself if there isn't one activity you would be willing to lead or host.

When taking on a new leadership position, one should think about where to focus their energies. My attention is to growing our membership and providing sustainable trips. Looking at our membership we are mostly the leading edge of the baby boom generation. Behind us are 77 million baby boomers that are starting to retire at the rate of 1000 per day. Most are empty nesters who are physically active people. They are not ready for the rocking chair anytime soon! These are the people who will naturally be drawn to our club. You can help. Reach out to your friends and neighbors and encourage them to try us out. Particularly encourage skiers and former skiers. Once they attend one of our activities or trips, I am sure they will be back for more.

In addition to growing our membership, we need to strengthen our ski trip program. The club was founded 51 years ago on the idea of providing affordable, fun group trips to popular ski destinations. And we have followed that tradition to this day. But like other ski clubs around us, during this difficult economy the last few years we have struggled to fill our trips. The trips went and were wildly successful thanks to our experienced and dedicated trip leaders. But we had unfilled seats that made the leader's jobs that much more difficult. To have sustainable trips in the future we need to attract the maximum number of skiers possible. This year we conducted a survey of our skiing membership. Forty nine of you responded which gives us a solid representative sampling. The results of the survey will be used to plan trips to the most popular destinations and at prices you find attractive. This is the beginning of an annual destination survey that will be used to pick our ski destinations for the coming year.

In summary, it is an honor to assume the presidency from Howard Weisz who has ably led us the last three years. Our future is bright. We have an active energetic membership that looks forward to the lure of a cold, clear, sunny day looking down a slope of groomed corduroy and rounding it off with a plastic glass of their favorite in a bubbling hot tub. Life is good. Spread the word. Tell your friends. We have a great story to share. See you on the slopes!

Fletcher Swanson

Message from the Prez



As I sit down to write this first of my President's messages, it has forced me to think back over the last few years and what I have learned about our club. Sally and I joined, as so many of our members do, as empty nesters looking for others to ski with in the future. What we found fulfilled that need and included a lot more. We found that MLSC is a year-round activity club providing an event almost every week of the year except holidays. It is comprised of warm, welcoming, friendly people who share many of the same interests and some who have special interests.

As a physically active group, we sponsor a ski racing team, year round tennis program, bike rides and trail hikes. There is a cultural side that visits museums and attends concerts. Then there is the social side and this

Valley Forge Park (Betzwood Bridge) to Mill Grove Loop Bike Ride

Sunday, May 1st

2:00 pm



Last year MLSC bikers enjoyed this beautiful ride so bring your mountain or hybrid bike to the Betzwood Bridge parking lot in Valley Forge Park. Meet up with other MLSC'ers for a delightful spring bike ride via the Perkiomen Bike Trail to Pawlings Road where we will take a "spur" to Mill Grove Sanctuary (home of John James Audubon).

After a snack break on the lawn overlooking the Perkiomen Creek, we will continue on the spur to Lower Perkiomen Park where we will rejoin the Perkiomen Trail and head back to Betzwood. The bluebells are GORGEOUS along this trail and should be at their peak on this date!

Bring water and a helmet (required on all MLSC bike rides!!) as well as a mid-afternoon snack and we'll all share in a snack "potluck" at Mill Grove!!

Contact leaders Jay and Ellen Minnicks at jayellenminnicks@verizon.net or call at 215-855-6405 to let us know you'll be coming. Rain cancels. Total mileage is approximately 10 miles with longer options possible for those who want to go farther.

Kentucky Derby Party

Saturday, May 7th

See timing below



At Howard & Kathleen Weisz's, West Chester

4 00 pm to 5:45 pm Cocktails, Appetizers, Betting

6:04 pm (Race starts - No more betting)

6:15 pm-6:45 pm - Award prizes/Take pictures

7:15 pm Buffet Dinner

We're all too busy to go to Louisville, so let's just get all decked out and come out to West Chester for Kentucky Derby #137...Big Screen/HDTV-style! This Churchill Downs extravaganza has been a celebrated event ever since its inception in 1875. It's all about tradition, it's all about style, it's all about partying, and it's also the greatest two minutes in sports. Held annually on the first Saturday in May, it's the first jewel in the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Horseracing. It's the biggest party in the South but we've been bringing it out West (to West Chester that is, for six years now!) Who knows,

maybe we'll have another local favorite again! No matter what, we'll all be winners with a terrific cocktail party followed by a wonderful Buffet Dinner.

We'll serve mint juleps and sodas/wine/beer, plus a few appetizers. Cost is \$10 p/p for members, \$20 p/p for non-members. Everyone attending must also bring one dish per person (appetizer, side, entree or dessert) and let us know in advance what it is.

Before the race, we'll mill around like millionaires in our own "Millionaire's Row", sipping our mint juleps, welcoming in Spring, checking out everyone's Derby Hat, and singing "My Old Kentucky Home." We'll award prizes for "Best Hat", "Fastest Horse" (betting is random) and some other fun Derby trivia. This party is always a big hit and goes on and on, so we have decided to stay in for dinner instead of going out. Please contact Kathleen Weisz at 610-918-3780 or kqweisz@aol.com by Friday, April 29 to sign up for the Kentucky Derby Cocktail/Dinner Party, and to tell her what dish you will bring.

Happy Hour at The Paddock - Strafford

Friday, May 13th

6 to 7 pm



We continue to have our Happy Hour at the Paddock. Most people arrive around 6:00 and HH ends at 7:00. There is a bar menu for \$5, which might be ample and some discounted drinks. So come out, bring a friend, and join in the libations and camaraderie. (Note we have been able to have the background music lowered.) See you there. Host: Rich Schonwald, 610-356-2936

Directions: The Paddock is on the NW corner of Lancaster Ave. and Old Eagle School Road in Strafford.

Hike/Stroll Chanticleer Gardens

Sunday, May 15th

2:00 pm



Join us for an easy hike in the beautiful gardens of Chanticleer. For reservations, call Jim Sayne 610-222-0413, cell 610-564-3590 OR email him at jimsayne@yahoo.com. (Please be sure you get a response to ensure your email has been received!) Meet at **2:00 PM** at the entrance. Bring water, a

snack and money for admission. Since parking is limited, carpooling is recommended.

Chanticleer is a 30-acre pleasure garden located outside Philadelphia featuring tropicals, perennials, containers, a vegetable garden, woodlands, and wildflowers from April to October. Entry cost is \$10.

For directions and additional information please use this link:

<http://www.chanticleergarden.org/index.html>

Chanticleer is located at 786 Church Road, Wayne. (Church Rd intersects with Conestoga Rd). Hope to see you there!! In case of heavy rain the hike will be canceled.

"Spring Fling" Potluck Celebration



Saturday, May 21st

6:00 pm

Malvern

Join host Steve Hendrix on his screened-in porch and patio for a "Spring Fling" potluck dinner on May 21st -- a MLSC celebration before Memorial Day weekend and the unofficial start of summer! In case of inclement weather, the event will be held inside. You will need to bring either an appetizer, main dish, salad, or dessert. Also be sure to bring all utensils needed for your dish and label them, plus your dish with your name. Cost for dinner including wine, beer, and sodas is \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members (exact cash would be appreciated).

For reservations, contact Sally Hilderbrand at 610-489-4718 OR email her at shilderbrand@comcast.net (Please be sure you get a reply to ensure your email has been received!) Tell what you will be bringing and be specific if you can so we can avoid duplications. **Deadline for reservations is Thursday evening, May 19th**; reserve early since this event will have a maximum number of participants.

DIRECTIONS: From Rt. 202, take the Rt. 252 South Paoli exit. Go SOUTH on Rt. 252 to Rt. 30 intersection in Paoli (just past the Septa/Amtrak tunnel) and proceed straight through two lights. Turn first RIGHT onto Waynesboro Rd (Waynesboro CC is then on your left) for 0.7 miles to stop sign (Paoli Presbyterian Church is on your right). Turn LEFT onto S. Valley Rd for 0.7 miles to stop sign. Turn RIGHT onto Whitehorse Rd for

0.2 miles to stop sign and turn LEFT to stay on Whitehorse Rd for 0.6 miles and make the SECOND Right onto Rabbit Run Rd. Go 0.6 mi. to the top. Steve lives at **#11 Rabbit Run**, a white, two-story Colonial on the RIGHT. Please park along the street but on only ONE side! Call Steve at 610-647-2267 if you have any difficulty.

Wine N' Dine at Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant



Saturday, June 4th

6:30 pm

Phoenixville

Join MLSC at the Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant, Phoenixville where you will find fresh handcrafted beers (monthly + seasonal releases), creative yet informal New American cuisine and friendly, attentive service in a casual, upscale atmosphere.

Iron Hill offers a variety of food ranging from appetizers and shared plates (\$6.95 - \$15.95), starter and Big salads, Hearth-Baked Pizzas, Angus Burgers and a variety of sandwiches (\$8.95 - \$11.95). They feature Brewhouse Favorites such as Seafood Pot Pie, Grilled Kielbasa as well as Healthy Selections such as Ahi Tuna, Char-broiled Angus Top Sirloin, Caribbean Spiced Chicken Breast (\$13.50 - \$16.95). Dinner Entrees (\$16.95 - \$23.50) feature dishes such as Pan Seared Sea Scallops, Beef Tenderloin Medallions, and Horseradish Crusted Atlantic Salmon. Gluten-free dishes are also served. Besides the beer selections, wine, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages are available.

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant has been voted Best Brew Pub by Philadelphia Magazine; Best Bar & Grill/Microbrewery by readers of Chester County Daily; Local + Best Brewery/Restaurant by the readers of Main Line Today.

Iron Hill Brewery is at 103 E. Bridge Street, Phoenixville. Parking is available on the street and in the parking lot across the street. Meet at the bar @ 6:30 pm, dinner @ 7:00 pm. We're going for a table of 10. **Please RSVP by June 2nd to Judy Alters, 610-933-7241 or email jaa840@aol.com.** Hope you'll join us!

State Street Blues Stroll

Saturday, June 11th

7:00pm to 1:00am

Media

This is the place to be if you enjoy live blues entertainment. It is one night, 24 acts, and 20 venues in Media, rain or shine. Advance tickets are offered online at a discount rate.

<http://statestreetblues.com>. The Catherine Russell performance at Media Theater is a must, so consider adding the additional \$5.00 charge when you purchase your tickets. The entire evening is open to strolling to the venues of your choice to hear some amazing music.

Check out the website for additional info.

Please call Alleen Andre at 610-209-3614 or contact via email at alleenandre@yahoo.com if you are interested in going.

Plan to meet June 11th, 6:45PM at the Media Theater, 104 E. State Street, Media, PA for the beginning of a terrific evening!



Hike Around Jenkins Arboretum

Sunday, June 12th

Devon

Join us for an easy hike in the beautiful Jenkins Arboretum. As a botanical garden, the Arboretum maintains a collection of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and ferns in a tranquil, naturalistic landscape. In addition, the Arboretum features a diverse collection of rhododendrons and azaleas from around the world and is very centrally located in Devon. **For reservations, call Jim Sayne 610-222-0413, cell 610-564-3590 OR email him at jimsayne@yahoo.com.** (Please be sure you get a response to ensure your email has been received!) Meet at **2:00 PM** in the parking lot.

Directions: From King of Prussia: South on 202 and take Devon Exit. Make a left at the light onto Valley Forge Road (go under 202). Go straight thru light at 252, cross Swedesford Rd. and proceed about 1/2 mile, over the bridge & bear right (still Valley Forge Rd.). Make the first right after the bridge onto Berwyn Baptist. Sign on left.



From Lancaster Avenue/Rt. 30 heading west:

Pass Devon BMW & Waterloo Gardens. Make a right at the next light onto Waterloo Road (becomes Devon State), and go under RR bridge. At the T-intersection make a left, then quick right (still on Devon State). Go straight across Conestoga Road at the light. Proceed down the Big Hill - go slowly, it gets curvy! After the curves near the bottom of the hill, make a left onto Berwyn Baptist.

From Exton: Take 202 North to Valley Forge Rd S exit. Turn right at PA-252 S/Valley Forge Rd. Continue onto Devon State Rd/Waterloo Spur Rd. Turn right at Berwyn Baptist Rd. Park in the parking lot at 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd.

In case of heavy rain the hike will be canceled.

Happy Hour at The Paddock - Strafford

Friday, June 17th

6 to 7 pm



We continue to have our Happy Hour at the Paddock. Most people arrive around 6:00 and HH ends at 7:00. There is a bar menu for \$5, which might be ample and some discounted drinks. So come out, bring a friend, and join in the libations and camaraderie. (Note we have been able to have the background music lowered.) See you there. Host: Rich Schonwald, 610-356-2936]

Directions: The Paddock is on the NW corner of Lancaster Ave. and Old Eagle School Road in Strafford.

Bike "Ride & Dine" Valley Forge to Phoenixville

Saturday, June 18th

4:00 pm



We will meet at the Valley Forge Park Betzwood parking lot area, the start of many of our bike rides, and after a brief loop around the O'Neill property by the river, it's on to a lovely bike ride on the PAVED Schuylkill Trail to Phoenixville's Fitzwater Station restaurant on the Canal. After drinks on the deck, we'll have a casual al fresco supper before returning. While relaxing and recovering from our ride, we can watch the kayakers and canoe folks navigate the canal.

On the way back, we'll divert up the Perkiomen Trail to Lower Perkiomen Park for a "treat" provided by Sally by the Perkiomen Creek across from the Audubon sanctuary. Many folks have enjoyed this bike ride in the past -- and for good reason, it's delightful so join us!

Bring a bike in good working condition, plus a helmet and water (especially if it is a warm day...) and MONEY, of course, for supper. Contact Sally Hilderbrand at 610-489-4718 or email her at shilderbrand@comcast.net to let us know that you are coming. (Be sure you get a reply to ensure your email has been received.) Total mileage is about 14 miles and it's MOSTLY flat! ☺

Pool Party & Grill at Ralph's

Sunday, June 26th

4:00 pm

Berwyn



Celebrate summer with a totally terrific outdoor party at the home of Ralph and Elizabeth von dem Hagen in Berwyn. Forty-two lucky MLSC'ers enjoyed Ralph's home for dessert at the Progressive Dinner, but it was DARK and most people didn't get a chance to see the lovely pool and outdoor area behind their home. For dinner, we will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs plus feasting on a potluck of additional dishes brought by participants.

Everyone is requested to bring either an appetizer, salad or dessert. A keg of beer, wine, and sodas will be provided. Cost for the event is \$10 for members, \$20 for guests (exact change is appreciated). Please be sure to bring utensils for your dish and LABEL everything!

To reserve, call Sally Hilderbrand at 610-489-4718 OR email her at shilderbrand@comcast.net. (Please be sure you get a reply so you know your email has been received.) **Deadline for reservations is Thursday evening, June 23rd.** Please be as specific as possible when telling us what you will be bringing so we can avoid duplications! Cancelled in the event of inclement weather/rain.

P.S. Don't forget to bring your suit and towel!!

Directions to Ralph's, 138 Orchard Way, Berwyn 19312:

From Rt. 30/Lancaster Pike, take the bridge in Berwyn onto Old Lancaster Pike/Bridge Rd at the traffic light. Go around the curve and make the first right at the stop sign onto Howellville Road. In just 0.2 miles, there is a traffic light at Conestoga Rd., with T.E. Middle School on your left. Orchard Way is

dead ahead, just slightly to the right. It is ONE WAY. Ralph's house is the THIRD house on the left, a gray saltbox. There is room for only a few cars in the driveway and there is limited parking on Orchard Way. It is recommended to park at the Middle School (turn left at the light onto Conestoga, then a left into the parking lot. Go down the concrete steps at the intersection and cross the streets for the short walk to Orchard Way and Ralph's house.) If a driver drops people off at Ralph's driveway on Orchard Way, follow Orchard Way to dead end on Bair, turn right, then turn right again on Conestoga to get back to the intersection -- continue through intersection a short distance and turn left into school parking lot.

From Rt. 202: Take the Rt. 252 South exit and turn left at the FIRST light onto Cassatt Road. Follow Cassatt to the Conestoga Road intersection above and make a sharp left to Orchard Way OR turn right onto Conestoga, then go left to park in the Middle School parking lot.

If you get lost, call the von dem Hagens at 610-644-6808.

Fourth of July Weekend



No MLSC Activities

Potluck Garden Party at Sally's

Saturday, July 9th

6:30 pm

Collegeville



Come on out and enjoy the peak of Sally's gardens in Collegeville AND delight in the company of MLSCers for a totally fabulous potluck dinner!! Sally has THREE fish ponds -- two around her patio and one in her pride 'n joy woodland garden that also has a bench swing, "frog Buddha" that surveys the pond, and a gazebo with seating for six. There is also a fern grotto reading garden, a children's garden, and a whimsical garden featuring the "Rotten Rabbit" seat and a true "flower bed" (let your imagination go on what this is!). And there are even more recent additions -- a fairy garden as part of the children's area, a labyrinth where you can walk the path to inner peace, and this year's creation, a desert-like rock garden.

In addition to the woods, the long cottage garden along the white fence should be in full bloom, and the hydrangeas are definitely spectacular. Needless to say, Sally spends many hours working in her gardens so please come out and enjoy the fruit of her labors!!!

For the Potluck, you need to tell us exactly what you will bring -- appetizer, main dish, salad, or dessert. Be sure to LABEL your dishes and utensils and have your contribution ready-to-eat. Wine, beer, iced tea and sodas will be provided. Cost for members is \$10, non-members \$20. Please bring the EXACT CASH if possible.

Deadline for reservations is Thursday, July 7th to Sally Hilderbrand at 610-489-4718 OR email her at shilderbrand@comcast.net. (Please be sure you get a reply to ensure your email has been received!!) Reserve as early as you can for planning

purposes. This is an outdoor event and is weather dependent. **RAIN DATE is Sunday, July 10th.**

Follow-up Note:

Last month we noted that based on his winning NASTAR results at Breckenridge, Kerwin Nailor was invited to the NASTAR finals at Winter Park, CO. the weekend of March 25-26, 2011. Looking at the list of 10 or so competitors in the male 70-74 Silver category, he said he had a chance to be famous.



Kerwin Nailor received a Bronze metal at Winter Park – third in the country in his age bracket.

From This...



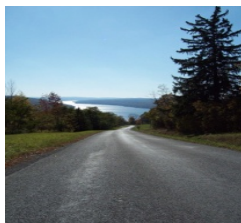
To This...



And Here's Us



**Join PSC and Friends for a bus ride to
New York State's Finger Lakes Wineries
August 26 – 28, 2011**



We leave Friday by bus for the Finger Lake Wine Region returning Sunday.

All Inclusive Tour:

**Two nights at the Ramada on the Lake
Breakfasts**

**Two Lunches BOTH at Wineries
One Buffet Dinner at the Ramada
AND A**

**FOUR COURSE DINNER at historic Belhurst Castle
Tastings at 14 Wineries and one Brewery
All this for \$550**

Only 30 spots - \$50 per person deposit holds your place (not refundable).

**Make check payable to PSC and send deposit to
Linda LaChapelle, One Braxton Road, Rosemont, PA 19010
610-662-1843 lindala2sail@verizon.net**

Linda LaChapelle
1 Braxton Road
Rosemont, PA 19010

Main Line Ski Club

Spring-Summer 2011 Calendar of Activities

Take a look, then MARK your CALENDARS **NOW** so you don't forget!!

Sun., May 1 st	VF Park to Mill Grove Loop Bike Ride—Betzwood
Sat., May 7 th	Kentucky Derby Party—West Chester
Fri., May 13 th	Happy Hour at The Paddock—Strafford
Sun., May 15 th	Hike/Stroll Chanticleer Gardens—Wayne
Sat., May 21 st	“Spring Fling” Potluck Celebration—Malvern
Sat.-Mon., May 28 – 30 th	Memorial Day Weekend—No activities planned
Fri-Sun, June 3-5	Camping at Ricketts Glen State Park—Red Rock PA
Sat., June 4 th	Wine n’ Dine at Iron Hill Brewery—Phoenixville
Sat., June 11 th	State Street Blues Stroll—Media
Sun., June 12 th	Hike Around Jenkins Arboretum—Devon
Fri., June 17 th	Happy Hour at The Paddock—Strafford
Sat., June 18 th	Bike Ride & Dine VF to Phoenixville--Betzwood
Sun., June 26 th	Pool Party & Grill at Ralph’s—Berwyn
Fourth of July Weekend	No MLSC Activities
Sat., July 9 th	Potluck Garden Party at Sally’s—Collegeville
Sat., July 30 th	Cookout & Pool Party—Lansdale
Sat., Aug. 6 th	MLSC Annual Lobster Feast—West Chester
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 26 – 28 th	PSC New York Wineries Bus Trip—New York
Sat., Aug. 27 th	Goodbye to Summer with a Cookout—Villanova