



A Brief History of

# Monmouth Ski Club

1947 to 2014

# Forward

From year to year, a few boxes of old documents have been passed down to each new MSC President as they took office. Those documents date back to the early days of the club starting in the 1960s when JFK was president. Chris Beadle passed those documents over to my care at the end of the 2012 season. It is from those dusty old binders that most of information has been mined for this brief history. There are a few details that are not clear, such as the actual date that the club was formed. Fortunately, there are other details that we know with confidence such as the original date of incorporation in New Jersey and the date and purchase price of the lodge.



The early members set out on a quest in 1963 to find a “home away from home” so that the MSC ski enthusiasts with their wooden skis and lace-up leather boots could enjoy the beauty of the sport that binds us. They investigated multiple properties around the Rutland area before landing at 3818 Rt7 in Pittsford. In 1964 they purchased the property for \$7,500.00. The house met the criteria as specified by the Corresponding Secretary , “close to slopes, liquor, and churches”.

It is important to record the story of the club and lodge and relate some of the memories to save them for future generations. There are a great many tales that could be told and many that probably shouldn't see the light of day. In all, there have been far too many laughs shared around the tables and as many wonderful times spent on the slopes to be adequately represented in one book. My hope is to capture the spirit of Monmouth Ski Club so that it can be passed down for future generations.

Matthew Reilly

Cover Photo taken in 1964 for the Real Estate listing

Above photo taken in 2012 Ann Marie Reilly

## Early History of the Club

The exact time and year that Monmouth Ski Club was officially organized dates back to at least 1952 as is related in several old documents. The origins of the club probably date back to 1947 which is the date that is printed on the club banner and is penciled in to the lodge Purchase Plan. This is evidenced by a hand written notation that can probably be attributed to club member Milton F. Woodruff in 1967. There is not much documentation from the early years, however several things are known such as the incorporation date in the state of New Jersey in 1959. We also have memberships that date back to 1959 and ample documentation regarding the purchase of the house in 1964.

The club purchase plan has a two page background section which gives a good picture of the club as it existed back then and the state of skiing in general. It references a lack of ski jumpers and cross country skiers, but

### Early Presidents

1957-58 Joe Osgood  
1958-59 William Wood  
1959-60 Lloyd Dathe  
1961-63 Jim Cummings  
1963-64 Dick Martel-  
Author of the Club Purchase Plan  
1964-65 Pete Barth

doesn't mention snowboards which didn't really exist until the late 1980s. It also mentions the new highway systems that now provide access to the Green Mountains of Vermont in six hours driving time.

An excerpt from the Purchase Plan is shown here.

e lodge was purchased, and has to membership use.

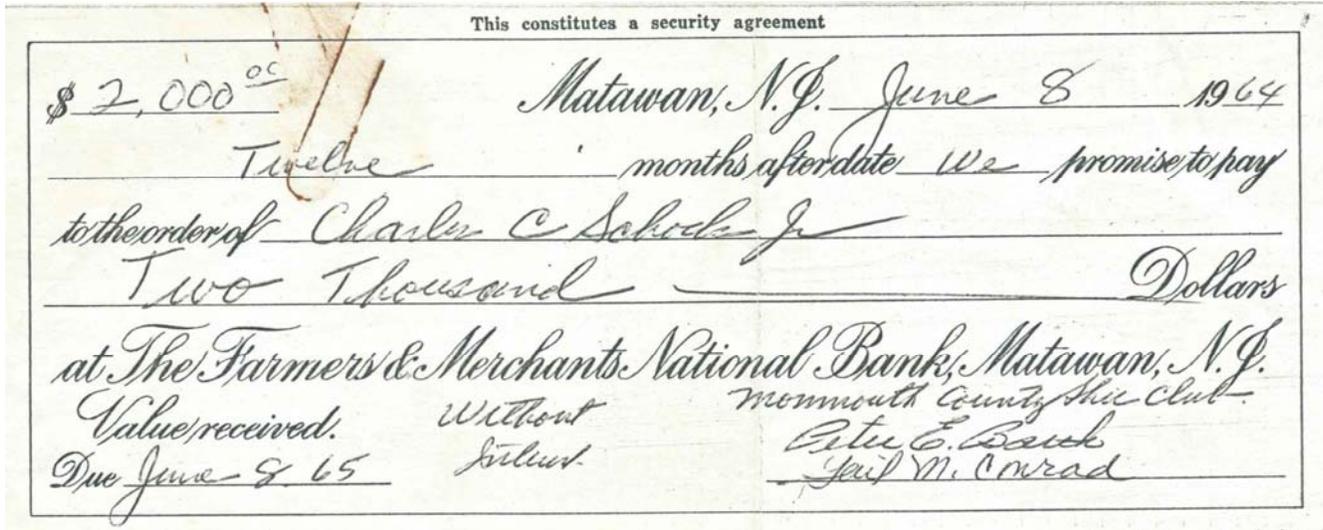
*North Jersey State  
Founded as part YMCA program  
in 1947. weekly meetings &  
two trips for 6 yrs.*

*Member* Club members include complete families, married couples, and single persons and comprise professional people, tradesmen and business men and women. A few juniors and students are always included. These are participation minded people who love a vigorous outdoor winter sport.

In those days the club maintained an active membership roster of approximately 150 people most of whom didn't know how to ski. In 1963 the need for qualified instruction was so great that the Instruction Committee recommended that some members gain instructors certifications and pledged to "contribute \$2.00 per season towards ski school instruction for each beginner or novice member who has not passed the basic ski test". The recommendation to institute the basic ski test was made by that committee and is still required today for full membership.

The meeting minutes from March 12, 1964 contain a report from the Lodge committee stating that a house had been found in the Village of Pittsford for the purchase price of \$8,000.00. At the next meeting on March 19th, Dick Martel reported that the price had been negotiated down to \$7,500.00

The note that secured the lodge



### Purchasing the Lodge

The club became serious about purchasing a suitable lodge in 1962, and looked at multiple properties in central Vermont in search of the perfect property. The club leadership developed a check list for the purchase where they outlined the criteria for a suitable place. The location had to meet some specific requirements, "distance to Killington, road condition, nearness to town for shopping, services, liquor, churches, etc.". After looking at about 30 places the leadership settled on a two-family house in Pittsford that met all of the re-



**Rutland Town**

quirements and was within budget. At the March 19th meeting in 1964, Dick Martel reported that the purchase price had been reduced. MSC paid \$100.00 for an option to buy for 60 days. This is when the fund raising really began. A month earlier at the 2/2/64 meeting the members voted 44 to 0 to buy the property giving

Mr. Martel the authority to proceed.



**Rutland City**

Now that the option was paid, the fund raising began in earnest. Each member



**Danby—Four Corners, Chittenden**

was asked to contribute \$50.00 toward the purchase which would earn them a status as a stake holder. There was a legal question as to exactly what type of stakeholder this would entail. Originally the club wanted its members to hold stock, however that conflicted with Ver-

mont laws governing publicly held entities. The club then decided that the contributing members should be

bond holders which earned them discounts for the time that the club held the bonds. Each member was issued a "certificate" which were sold between November of 1964 and May of 1976. Eventually all of the original bonds were redeemed by the members with the last redemption being made in 1979. The records show that Judie and Peter Stout were issued bonds in December of 1971. A gentleman named Foxy Hunt was issued bonds in November of 1964 which were redeemed in February of 1979. Even Bob Kislin from the Sporting Goods franchise was a bond holding member. Randy Ziegler was issued bonds in December of 1969.

The security agreement note was signed and the club entered into an agreement for a loan of \$2,000 with club member Mr. Charles C. Schack Jr. for the down payment . The first mortgage was for

Original mortgage \$6,000.00 at 6% with monthly payments of \$66.62 executed on 9/1/1964. The mortgage was refinanced to \$8,500.00 at 7% for \$98.70 per month for ten years executed on 9/27/1967

\$6,000.00 which covered the \$7,500.00 purchase price. Additional funding was still needed as the building was not usable in its original condition.

The house had to be converted from a two-family home to a unified club house and many improvements were required. There was no central heating system in the original structure. Each apartment within the building had kerosene heater. There were two kitchens and neither was suitable for large production use. The upstairs kitchen was located where room 8 is now and the

#### Monmouth Ski Club Meeting Minutes March 12, 1964

Lodge Committee: Have found LODGE!! The members of the Lodge Committee neither partied or skied. Rather they spent their hard earned money and valuable time lodge hunting, and, furthermore they came up with one. The price is \$8,000 and it is located in the village of Pittsford, the right hand side of route 7, nine miles north of Rutland. The section is a first rate residential section with first class stores. Two other ski clubs are located in the area as are two golf courses. The house is forty years old with four levels including full attic and basement. The 2nd floor is presently an eight room apartment with large kitchen and bath, two inside stairways for fire safety, rooms very clean, sunny and bright. The floors were just refinished. The first floor is where the landlord is presently living. It has approximately the same number of rooms as the second with two baths, kitchen and a front and rear porch (which may be screened in). City water and sewerage. the property is c. 79' by 95'. At present there are two kerosene space heaters. The taxes are \$269 a year, operating expenses about \$150. We would be able to operate the lodge next winter by spending \$11,000. This would entail raising \$5,000 from club members and getting \$6,000 mortgage from bank. Weekends will cost about \$12 to \$14.

Chuck Lent volunteers to buy back lot and will sell it back to club for original price he paid within five year period. Also will contribute \$1,000 to Lodge.

It has been decided by the Lodge Committee after being advised by people experienced in financing that a \$50 assessment on each club member will be necessary to raise money on mortgage for Lodge. Membership will be informed by flyers before next meeting of this assessment and will attend meeting ready to discuss and vote on this measure.

Motion that we appropriate \$200 to obtain an option for property. 2/3 quorum must be present and vote for this motion in order for it to pass. 2/3 quorum present. Motion passes. This option will be to obtain time to consider purchase of property without property being sold out from under us. We will ask for as much time as we can get.

## Officers 1967

President—Joe Sirianni

Vice President—Eileen Dill

Treasurer—George Hessel

Recording Secretary—Linda Van Vleck

Corresponding Secretary—Judy Howd

present day linen cabinets served as cupboards.

There were two front doors on the first floor, one leading directly to the front stairs and the main door leading to the foyer which is still being used today.

There were also two 2-story porches, one on the front and one on the back of the houses. Evidence of their existence can be found by the two doors leading out the porch roofs on the second floor, one in dorm 5, and one at the back of the hallway. Looking closely at the picture on the

cover reveals a porch roof above the second floor porch in the back of the house. The exterior doors on the second floor have since been secured shut due to insurance requirements.

## Renovations

Much of the early history of MSC is summarized in a document prepared in 1968 called the MSC Capital Improvement Project. Having purchased the lodge four years earlier, the members had taken on some improvements such as installing the radiant heat the floor of the basement, remodeling the kitchen and upgrading the electrical and heating systems.

There was still a great deal more to be done which included rearranging the floor layout, paneling the walls, finishing the basement and installing ceiling tiles.

Alterations had not yet been made to the interior of the building largely because the membership was new to the lodge ownership business and were concerned about protecting the banks investment. There was active talk of disbanding the club and selling the building if participation in renovations during the off-season and skiing in winter wasn't sufficient to maintain the property.

A list of improvements that had been made between 1964 and 1967 is shown here and represents some substantial infrastructure improvements such as those mentioned above. It is clear from the document that the two-story porches had been taken down by 1968. Up until the master plan was developed in 1967, all of the work had been done on a piece-meal basis. In 1964 alone there were 14 work weekends between September 19th and December 26th for a total of 120 days of labor.

### Improvements made between 1964 and 1967

- a. A complete new baseboard, hot water heating system, including boiler, tankless heater, water softener, and copper piping throughout the building was installed.
- b. A new bathroom consisting of lavatory, water closet, and enclosed shower was installed on the second floor.
- c. A new electrical service and complete new circuitry were installed after removal of the existing wiring.
- d. Half the basement received a new concrete floor, which incorporates a thermostatically controlled hot water radiant heating system of copper tubing.
- e. The existing kitchen, which was inadequate for the clubs needs was removed, and a new kitchen constructed in the rear of the building. This alteration included a new heavy duty range, and complete new cabinets.
- f. Numerous minor improvements have been made including reinforcement of the existing structure by the repair of damaged joist and the introduction of a steel girder in the basement.

The Birch Cabinets and Formica top were purchase at Gelco Furniture in Ocean Township for \$218.50. The sink was another \$50.00.

The new plan called for refinancing the mortgage in order to foot the bill for the entire scope of the project and pay back the loan from Mr. Schack.

An undated floor plan shows the original layout of the walls and rooms and details the new layout as it exists today. The basement plan called for benches that lined the walls and the bar layout. The purpose of the basement design was to accommodate dancing at night. Joan Eisenbach recalls that the benches were uncomfortable and built so high that the feet of shorter people didn't touch the ground when sitting on them.

Also included in the plan was the drawings for the bar and the treatment of the basement walls which is still in existence today. Sometime in the 1970s the benches were ripped out by a crew on work weekend and replaced with the furniture that is in the lounge today.

As evidenced by the gold fleck Formica in the kitchen and the "real wood" paneling throughout the rest of the house, the club was eventually remodeled in a 1960s style that we can politely call "Mid-Twentieth Century" decor.

### Renovations being considered in 1967-68

- a. Completion of the recreation room in the basement including insulation, acoustical tile and paneling.
- b. Panel each of the rooms, first and second floor.
- c. Ceiling blocks for the rooms, both floors.
- d. New flooring, both floors.
- e. Showers and modernization of bathroom on first floor.
- f. Installation of two new bathrooms on second floor.
- g. Other work as indicated on drawings.

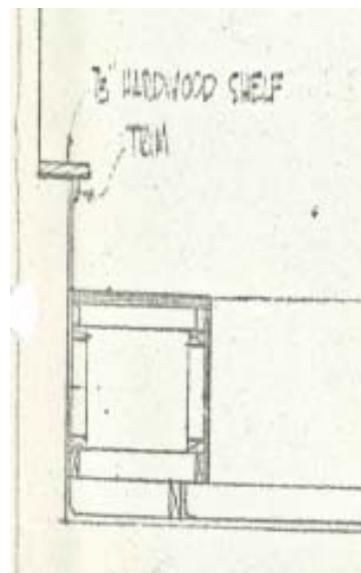
Lodge Rates 1964-65 Season  
Member \$5, Guest \$6.50  
Dinner \$2.00, Breakfast \$1.00

Lodge Rates 1969-70 Season  
Member \$8.50, Guest \$10  
Dinner \$3.00, Breakfast \$1.00

Lodge Rates 1998-99 Season  
Members \$18, Guest \$23  
Dinner \$8.00, Breakfast \$3.00

Lodge Rates 2013-14 Season  
Members \$25, Guest \$30  
Dinner \$15, Breakfast \$5.00

Cross Section of the basement wall showing the benches that were installed in the 1968 Renovation Plan.



## Purchasing the Back Lot

In 1985 the club was able to purchase the property in the back of the lodge to serve as a parking area. In a letter from Leonard E. Hess in July of that year to Ms. Ruth Wimett, the club proposed purchasing the property for \$1,000.00 including closing costs. In November of the same year, Treasurer, George D. Pearsall, Jr. wrote a letter to John Canney, III, the MSC attorney that the club was enclosing a check for \$1,652.66 to cover the \$1,000.00 purchase price and the legal fees for MSC and the seller, Ruth Wimett, as well as the title transfer fees for the town of Pittsford.

The original proposed layout of the parking area indicated 22 parking spaces and preserved the garden space to be retained by the Wimett's. The final survey of the property was smaller than what was originally anticipated due to actual survey specifications. That survey can be found in the Members section of the MSC website.

## Friends and Family

MSC has been blessed with the many friends and family over the years. There are two Vermonters who are valued members of that family that deserve special mention, Mark Salantino and Jim Conway. The smell of baked apples or pastry wrapped brie after a day of skiing is only a small part of Mark's participation in the club. He has also encouraged community minded activities such as the charities events that the club members are happy to participate in.

Jim Conway was originally caring for the club's property when he penned the letter which is included here.

11/23-89  
Monmouth Ski Club  
P.O. Box 324  
Little Silver, NJ 07739

Dear Members

I am writing in regard to the Pittsford Club. I take care of the lawn in the summer and have done several jobs for the club for several years.

I think the time has come for the members, to hire some-one, to oversee the club, when no-one is there, daily, weekly.

A month ago I found the front door open, I reported it to Kamado's and he told me to shut front door. I reported to Sally that the back door was broken into Sat AM. A car was parked in back lot. State Police arrived Fri they until heaven I contacted me.

the last couple of weeks; the red light in window has been off + on. Windows are left open, and lights are sometimes on all day (floor lights) and several lights inside.

The neighbors report things to me, but I have nothing to do with the club except mow lawn and I don't even know how to get into the club.

Why I notice all these things is that I care take for Mrs Wimett House -

If the club is interested in hiring some-one to oversee the club, I may be interested, so please give me a call. Thank you.

Jim Conway  
802-483-6255

## Special Friends

Unfortunately some of the friends of the club are not here today however we have some special stories to share in their memory. My participation in the club started in 2002, the year Dolly retired. That said, I didn't know her personally, however her participation as the club cook has had a lasting impact. Randy Ziegler was a member in 1969 when Dolly signed up and has shared this remembrance which he penned in January or 2014.

Dolly Dimick

### "Thou Shalt Not Whine"

I was president of the Monmouth Ski Club the year Dolly was hired. After that year, I went back to school and on to a position in NYC. I was not that active in the Club afterwards. Although I continued to ski, it was less frequently. In 1984, I stopped skiing altogether until last season. This is the story of meeting Dolly for the first time.

In October 1969, Dolly Dimick came into the lives of hundreds of Monmouth Ski Club members over the next 32 years. It was a dreary, cold, rainy Saturday, (as opposed to a dark and stormy night). She was deer hunting and stopped into see Jim Pouso, then Lodge Chairman, about the advertised cook position. She wore heavy hunting coat and pants, topped with a broad brim hat and wearing a .32 caliber pistol on her side. Her sex was not immediately apparent. I personally did not speak with her. Jim was favorably impressed and hired her. He is completely to blame for bringing a delightful character into our lives.

And Dolly was a character as we all know and with many facets. She ruled the kitchen with an iron hand. She pretty much determined all meals. The beauty of Dolly is that she had no pretenses and clearly spoke her mind. In addition, we got to know the love of her life, cigar-smoking Albert. As Dolly related to me, Albert died in her arms. In later years, I visited Dolly in the hospital as her final days were approaching. She informed me that Albert's ashes were to be put in her casket so that they would be buried together.

Dolly grew up during the Depression and saw many a day when her parents went without dinner so that she and her siblings had something to eat, if only potatoes.

Dolly loved Vermont, its winters and the many birds that visited her feeder. She enjoyed flea markets. She was observant of most things and was fairly aware of most activities on the local, state, national and world levels. She had a great sense for the history of the Rutland area. On occasion, when I came up during the summer to hike and bike, I would take Dolly out to lunch then she would fascinate me with her knowledge of the area and gave me a sense of her life before skiing.

I have no specific funny story except for the day she showed me how effective her new sciatica medication was by kicking her leg up chest high.

She enjoyed a relatively humble life filled with much laughter. As gruff as she might have seemed at times she had a warm and caring heart. At the same time, she was nobody's fool.

In 2002 Ann Marie and I joined the club with the determination that we and our two sons could find a more cost effective way to enjoy skiing in Vermont. We were very warmly welcomed into the club by the bookings chair, Ms. Rita Hawkins. Rita and her husband Bob had been members for decades by then. Rita scheduled the bookings and room assignments in a ledger book that had to be three feet wide and two feet tall. She carefully and considerately made sure that we were comfortably accommodated.

The picture that is included here is of Rita and Joan Eisenbach at a Last Run Dinner around 2004.



Upon her passing, Steve Hecht delivered this wonderful eulogy.

RITA HAWKINS  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
September 14, 2008

Dearest Rita: "They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Carl. W. Buechner

I know exactly when I met Rita...because it was the weekend I fell in love with my wife, Barbara. It was Columbus Day Weekend -1989, and we were at the MSC Lodge in Pittsford, VT. I joined the club, and it wasn't long before I fell in love with Rita too...in the way that's familiar I'm sure to everyone here. Bob was there, and he was interesting and friendly and charming as he always is...but Rita was the magnet who drew you in and nurtured you with her enthusiasm, acceptance, un-self-conscious joy, and that wonderful, wonderful, wonderful throw-your-head-back-and let-it-rip-laugh!

That laugh is how you found Rita when you couldn't see her on a crowded lift line, in a restaurant, or at the Lodge. I imagine there are scores of memories here today about Rita and her glorious laugh. She always seemed to enjoy her time with you, and made each person feel important to her. Rita had these rare gifts in abundance, and shared them willingly and repeatedly with us. I only saw her angry once. I remember being surprised that she was as "expressive" then as she was when she was enjoying herself and those around her.

The debt owed Rita and Bob by the ski club is massive and can never be repaid. Their commitment and participation and inspiration over the long haul were, for them, natural and un-selfishly given. They were joyous together and joyful when each of them was doing their own thing. We celebrate Rita and Bob together...Thank you Bob, and Diane, and Patty, and Joanne for sharing Rita with us. And thank you Rita for your example of enduring optimism, energy, and selflessness, and for allowing us to enjoy you, and the very special gift of letting us know you enjoyed us too.