



A Member of  
The National Brotherhood of Skiers  
and  
The New Jersey Ski and Snowboard Council

# NEWSLETTER

Fall - Winter / 2023-24

PO Box 1004  
Newark, NJ 07101



## The President's Corner By Deborah Evans

This year the pandemic had less of an impact, if any at all, on the ski industry in regards to people getting out to enjoy themselves. However, the long-term effects on businesses, remote jobs, price increases, and Zoom gatherings continue to prevail. There are no signs of these issues ever returning to the "good ole days."

Many of us have fond memories of the Killington, VT Econo weekend. The Swiss Farm Inn run by Roger & Joyce Stevens was sold this fall, as they have retired. Our JSSI youngsters played, befriended, and skied with their children for years. The new owners have increased prices for both lodging and meals, plus the cost of a one-day pass ranges from \$150 to \$175.

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## Loon Mountain MLK Econo Weekend Ski Getaway to New Hampshire

Join Us - Friday, January 12 to Monday, January 15, 2024

JSSI's annual MLK economy trip is Jan. 12-15, don't miss this 3-night getaway. Loon Mt. offers skiers and boarders 61 trails of snow. The ski area sits within the White Mountain National Forest. It is home to a unique attraction, 1.3 mile gondola rides up to the summit. Make plans to participate in this enjoyable JSSI event. For lodging, transportation, meals, and lift ticket information, contact Hamlet Bey, trip leader.



## JSSI Friday Socials at Big SNOW East Rutherford, NJ "Every Day is a Snow Day"

Socials were held for JSSI members from July to November 2023 at Big SNOW. A year-round indoor ski park, it offers 3 types of cost-effective ticket packages. Such low costs eliminate reasons not to ski more than once or twice a year. Located in the American Dream shopping and entertainment complex, there is a view of the slopes and a Yard House restaurant view. The 180,000 square foot slope is



suited for beginners and experienced skiers. For information contact: Derrick Washington at Newark Cycle Center Washdc@optonline.net 908.247.1657



Photo (above) Leonard B on Big SNOW slope; Photo (below) Matt & Karen F at the window watching grandchild learn to ski.

Remember  
When . . .

Visit ski event photos, a total of 68 albums are on the JSSI website: [www.JerseySki.org](http://www.JerseySki.org).





## **ARTHUR STEWART “Art” (1932-2023)**

### **Founder of Jersey Ski Club Newark NJ Died at Age 91**

A retired owner of A. Stewart Trucking in Paterson NJ, Art was a NJ National Guard member from 1948 to 1954. He belonged to Company B, 310th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, 372nd Group at Camp Edwards/Otis AFB, Cape Cod, MA. He transferred to Company A, 215th Armed Infantry Battalion, stationed at Camp Drum, NY. He joined the U.S. Power Squadron and was Captain of “Ethel’s Art” his private boat. He was the first African American to join the Boy Scouts of America, Order of the Arrow in Bergen County. He served as Scout Master of Troop #10. Married to Ruth E (Cotton) Stewart from 1952 to 1972, they had six children. He leaves a wife, Ethel (Brown Yearwood) Stewart, with whom he shared 43 years of cherished memories with a daughter, son, and stepson. Art departed life peacefully on June 3, 2023.

## **Nordic Lodge Feast & Foxwoods Casino Weekend**

### **Two-Day Trip: Buffet in Charlestown, Rhode Island & Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut**

#### **The Nordic Sage Continues After 25 Years**

In the beginning, JSSI went twice a year. The first trip of the year was scheduled for one day. Arrival time was in the afternoon, 2-3 pm when everyone had an appetite for the Nordic buffet feast, followed by fun at the casino. Causing travel back to NJ to occur wee hours of the morning. The second trip each year was usually an overnight stay. In previous years, the Nordic sage included two fund-raising bus trips.

On the October 21-22, 2023 trip, rooms were in the Foxwoods Casino Towers. For anyone who didn’t gamble, time could be spent at the pool/hot tub, Tanger Outlets, or entertainment at the Mohegan. A special thank you goes out to those who joined us: Kevin A. with his brother James, son Kevin Jr., and his mother Dolores; Leonard B., Amos and Marilyn H., Gene and Collete C., Deborah E., and Hamlet B. This year we were about 6 to 8 people short.



## **The Brotherhood Winery**

### **Summer Sunday Soiree, Washingtonville, NY**

An enjoyable afternoon made up for the huge traffic delays in getting to the winery. Thank you to all those who attended on July 7, 2023. Pictured (L-R): Ken S. and his friend Michelle; Hamlet B. and Deborah E.; Callie Mackensie; Eugene C., Paula and Major B. Not pictured: Colette C; Karen and Mike E; Nilaja and Mansa M; Carla H, and Kevin A.

Along with the winery tour and the wine tasting, Callie Mackensie, the musician/artist performed smooth, soulful, and popular funky sounds on her guitar.

## Memories of Life and Legacy



**Janie Hankerson (1937-2023)** was raised in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and began her Law Enforcement Career at Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center. In 1970 she became a Middlesex County Sheriff Officer and worked diligently until her retirement in 1991. Her accomplishments and participation in state and national professional organizations included the NJ Council of National Black Police, Black Law Enforcement, Black State Troopers Coalition, National Sheriff's Association, and Men & Women for Justice. She loved to travel and served as membership chair for the National Brotherhood of Skiers for the Eastern Region. A life member of Jersey Ski, she enjoyed skiing. She was preceded in death by her husband, leaving siblings, a goddaughter, her late husband's children and grandchildren, other relatives, and friends who cherished her. Condolences can be sent to: Elizabeth Haygood, 143 Logtown Road, Amherst, MA 01002.



**Robert Alan Koontz "Bobby" (1940-2023)**, a Newark native, departed life on April 26, 2023. His passion for basketball led him to become an official with the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials. He also served as an umpire for softball and baseball throughout New Jersey. In 1960, Bobby began his career at the U.S. Postal Service where he worked for nearly 52 years before retiring in 2012. He loved being outdoors, white water rafting, horseback riding, playing racquetball and tennis, as well as participating in local Bid Whist tournaments and chess matches. His love for travel was reinforced in 1976 when he joined JSSI. He acknowledged the ski club for giving him thrilling, exciting, and rewarding travel experiences. Skiing made an everlasting impression on him. He leaves a wife, children, grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. Condolences can be sent to his wife: Annie West-Koontz & Family, 31 Clarion Lane, Newark, NJ 07103.



**Melvin K. Ford (1934-2023)**, a founding member of Jersey Ski passed away at Overlook Medical Center on August 3, 2023, at the age of 88. A lifelong resident of Summit, NJ, Melvin was born in NYC. He lived each day to the fullest and loved the outdoors. A skilled tennis player with a true passion for horses, he was an avid rider and trainer. He loved to ski and travel with Jersey Ski. Melvin would often tell the story about how he rode his horse home to John Street in Summit from Watchung Stables as a young man. A natural teacher, he was welcoming to all who met him. It was not often that he met a stranger. Melvin is survived by two children, grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. To have a memorial tree planted in his honor, contact the online Sympathy Store at this website: [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com).

## Sunshine and Rain

### *A mother's influence lasts long after she lets go*



Long-time JSSI member, Bill Holliday lost his mother, Ida May Holliday on July 8, 2023. Services were at Sloam Baptist Church in Norristown, PA. Condolences may be sent to Bill and his Family at 3343 Stanford St, The Villages FL 32163 (732.208.1514)

## SAVE THE DATES ~ MARK YOUR CALENDAR



### **JSSI Learn-to-Ski Trip**

Sunday, February 18, 2024

A Youth Day Program

Mountain Creek Ski, Vernon NJ

Be a sponsor for youth to gain skills and confidence in learning how to ski.



### **NBS Summit "It's a Vibe"**

National Brotherhood of Snowsports

Feb 24 – March 2, 2024 ~ Big Sky, Montana

You Don't Want to Miss It!



### **JSSI 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip**

Sept 28 - Oct 6, 2024

Say "Hello" to Cuba

Visit: Havana, Cienfuegos, Varadero Resort

Join us, pack for an Incredible Celebration

### **The President's Corner**

*continued*

In the past, NJSSC was our saving grace for a considerable discount. Also, Club members could take advantage of Killington, and the other mountains. To keep "econo" in economy, the Board has moved this event to Loon Mt., New Hampshire. We are not strangers to the Loon resort. It has accommodated several ER Winterfests. Also, our Safety/Racing rep, Kevin Armstrong married his wife Carla Harris there 10 years ago.

International plans for the Club's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip to Cuba from Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 have been finalized. Carol James, the travel agent who orchestrated our wonderful 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dubai trip, has been battling airlines. She's offering a great deal, a one-of-a-kind experience in Cuba.

Explore sights, sounds, and flavors for 9 days/8 nights, visit 3 locations, going from Havana to Cienfuegos to Varadero. Ride in old American classic cars, tour a tobacco plantation, and take an antique boat ride through tropical caves. Also, spend time being a sous chef assisting a young entrepreneur who prepares a typical Cuban meal for you to eat. This is just a preview of what we'll do in Havana.

In Cienfuegos, we'll visit a sugar and ceramic factory and a sugar plantation. Plans include a stop to meet with children and teenagers attending a show made of songs and dances at a school. The final location is the world-renowned 5-star beach resort of Varadero for 3 days.

An all-inclusive trip, airfare RT to and from Miami, FL to Cuba, and your Visa are included. We hope to see you at this dream destination!

