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TRAILSWEEPINGS

The Newsletter of the Trailsweepers Snow and Sport Club Inc.

April 2026

Volume 75, Issue XII

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of TSSC, I want to express our deep sorrow for the passing of Rudy Firmbach Jr. Born in 1947, Rudy was a lifelong resident of Ulster County. He was a member of TSSC for 55 out of his 78 years on this earth. During this time he held numerous positions and generously volunteered his time and talents. We could always count on Rudy being present at our meetings and voicing his opinions on the subject matters at hand. He was an institutional figure in TSSC and our members will forever remember Rudy.

Our condolences warmly go out to his family which includes his son, siblings, step-children and grandchildren. Rudy will forever be remembered by his family, friends, and the entire TSSC organization.

Visitors will be received at the Gilpatric-VanVliet Funeral Home on 339 Broadway, Ulster Park on Saturday, April 4th from 10 - 11:30 am.

Robbie

CLUB MEETINGS

Normally held on the second and fourth Tuesday each month with an abbreviated schedule in the summer. Note: Changes will be communicated via President's e-mail.

On **Tuesday April 14** there will be a Board meeting starting at **6:30 pm** followed

On **Tuesday April 28 at 7 pm** there will be a Club business meeting including the first session of the **annual planning discussion** for Summer/Fall activities and new idea generation.

Meeting Venue: Sky View Mexican Restaurant

237 Forest Hill Drive
Kingston, NY 12401

Hudson Valley Ski Club Link

Our "sister" club sponsors many activities that may be of interest to Trailsweepers who are not already dual members so here is a link to the HVSC website for easy reference -

<http://www.hudsonvalleyskiclub.org>

FUTURE EVENTS CALENDAR

- Friday **April 3**, 5:30 pm. Happy Hour at Hurley Mountain Inn
- Tuesday April 14, 6:30 - Board/Regular Club meetings including annual elections and Program on reflections and experiences from a former DEC ranger.
- Friday April 17, Hike at John Burroughs Sanctuary, West Park NY (joint with Mid-Hudson ADK)
- Friday April 17, 5:30 pm. Happy Hour at Masa Midtown
- Tuesday April 28, 7:00 - Club meeting including summer planning calendar development
- Saturday **May 2** - Spring Banquet at Little Italy, Kingston
- Saturday **June 13** - Almost Summer Bash - George Freer Park, Port Ewen

Since events sometimes change, efforts will be made to maintain the calendar on the Club website current. To access it go the website, open the Events page and you can then view events in either the default listing format or in an optional calendar view which is available by clicking on the "square" on the right side of the page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

60s band - \$ 64/person for members. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to coordinator Diana Ziegenfelder by April 28. You can fill out the form and mail it back to her with a check (information and address in the flyer) **or** send her an email (dzinnia14@gmail.com) with your intentions and send the payment via Zelle. Here is a link to the event information [flyer](#).

Almost Summer Bash

Saturday June 13 - date confirmed. Thanks to Kathie Quick for being first in line when the Town of Esopus opened summer reservations for their parks. Get ready for the annual picnic sponsored by the Board at Freer Park along the Hudson in Port Ewen to kick off the Summer season. The food, beverages and camaraderie are normally preceded by road cycling and kayaking opportunities in the morning along with a cornhole tournament during the picnic.

INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS

April 14

On **Tuesday April 14 Leslie Suprenant** will present a program entitled “**Wilderness Work, Wilderness Play**”. She will share photos, stories, and journal readings from her work as an assistant forest ranger in an Adirondack Wilderness Area in the 1980s, guiding, and other outdoor adventures from the '80s to the present.

Leslie is a PSIA Alpine Level 2 ski instructor, a NYS licensed guide, and a retired NYS Department of Environmental Conservation biologist. She instructs and coaches all skier levels at Hunter Mountain and taught outdoor skills for NY’s Becoming and Outdoors Woman program for 30 years. She leads and co-leads "Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman" canoe and backpacking workshops. Leslie is a retired fisheries biologist and invasive species ecologist, having enjoyed a 35-year career with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. She serves on the Town of Saugerties Conservation Advisory Commission and instructs environmental courses and leads walks and hikes for Lifespring Saugerties, a lifelong learning institute for retirement age people.

May 12

On **Tuesday May 12**, Anna Zvilius will discuss how **Reika Treatment** bridges the physical and spiritual.

If you would like to volunteer to organize and/or deliver a program or have a specific idea or request related to a topic please contact **Rob Fletcher**, Program Chair.



HAPPY HOURS FOR APRIL

Friday April 3, 5:30 pm at Hurley Mountain Inn

106 Old Route 209
Hurley, NY 12433

Friday April 17, 5:30 pm at Masa Midtown

666 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

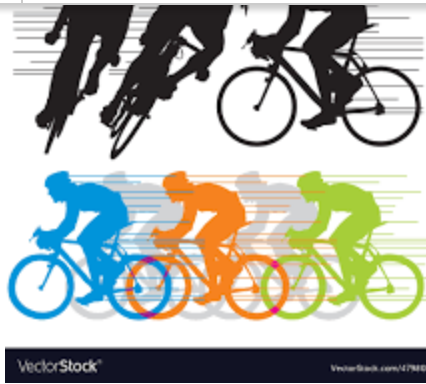
Ski Season is winding down for most of us but Trailsweepers stay active year round. See below for information on hiking, cycling and kayaking opportunities.



Trailsweeper Catherine Forbes will be co-leading a hike on behalf of the Mid-Hudson ADK chapter on **Friday April 17** to the **John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary** in West Park, NY and is inviting us to participate.

The main 3.8 mile loop with 330 feet of elevation gain brings hikers to a waterfall on Black Creek and John Burroughs's cabin, Slabsides. The hike will take about 1.5 - 2 hours and include rocky paths, short scrambles, stone steps, and a ladder. The trail can be slick when wet. Poles are recommended. Bring warm layers, water, and food. Plan as if the cabin will be closed and restroom facilities unavailable. For questions, or if you plan to attend, contact Catherine at catherine_forbes@outlook.com for meeting time and location. **Thanks, Catherine.**

If you would like to propose (or better yet, lead) a hike, please speak with hiking chair, Steve Wingard. We are fortunate to have so many local opportunities for challenging hikes in the Catskills and Shawangunks as well as more relaxing walks on rail trails and other recreational areas.



"I want to ride my bicycle, I want to ride my bike"

Rail Trail Rides

Rick F. coordinates and leads Monday evening group trail rides starting at 6 pm unless otherwise communicated - typically on sections of the Wallkill Valley, Ashokan or Hudson Valley rail trails in Ulster and Dutchess County. Rick has provided the following information to ensure everyone has a positive experience:

- All rides are out and back (you can shorten any ride)
- All rides average 15 miles @ 10-14 mph
- All bikes need to be in good working order
- All riders must wear helmets
- All riders need minimum of spare tube (even if you can't change a flat) and water
- Rides typically end in a tailgate party
- Rain and foul weather usually cancel ride so get on email list to stay abreast for notice of cancelation, change of location, or start times, etc. - Rick Fick rjee@msn.com, 914-443-4060

The first ride of the season will be on **Monday May 4 starting at Tony Williams Park in Highland**. Here is a link to the [full schedule](#) so far.

Road Cycling

The Mid-Hudson Bicycle Club sponsors Thursday evening rides at 6 pm.

The rides are typically 25 - 35 miles in length following a variety of routes with "A" & "B" groups divided according to route length and/or average speed. Everyone is welcome.

Note: *These rides are coordinated by Club members but are **not** sponsored by TSSC.*



KAYAKING

TSSC Kayaking is back again for 2026 thanks to Yvone and Skip with some help from other planners with the first outing of the season planned for **Wednesday April 22, 2 pm starting at Saugerties beach park.**

This year, following some of the paddles, there will be an optional hike to an adjacent area of interest. There may also be some moonlight paddles with assistance from **Carol Field**. These will require some additional equipment and preparations described in the complete schedule document below.

Keep in mind a few things to make your experience safe and fun. Bring food, water, personal flotation device, sunscreen, hat, comfortable clothes, and anything else you deem important like paddle, dry bag, camera, and a working kayak or canoe!

Arrive at the launch a half hour before we shove off. The times listed in the schedule, are the times we would like to start paddling. If it is raining heavily the day of the scheduled trip, then the event is cancelled.

For the complete schedule for the season, please see the [attached](#). There will

QUESTIONS:

Yvonne or Skip home phone 845-481-2898

cell - Yvonne 845-417-7144 yab1946@gmail.com

cell - Skip 845-706-9714 skipsinthewoods@gmail.com



SKI SEASON IS WINDING DOWN

NJSSC President's Race at Hunter - March 21, 2026

Congratulations to all participants at the race at Hunter and **a big Thank You to Kari Hoyt for coordinating TSSC participation**. Out of 7 Clubs participating, Trailsweepers took home the trophy despite not having the largest number of racers.

Here's Kari's summary of the day

"Good morning Team! 🙌🎉 CONGRATULATIONS!! 🎉🙌

To those of us who took home medals: WOOT WOOT!!

For the Women:

GOLD - Kaitie Viglielmo Class B

GOLD - Diana Lori Nott Class C

For the Men:

GOLD - Jeff Viglielmo Class A

SILVER - Yuri Kobziar Class A

GOLD - Steve Wingard Class B

And to the entirety of the team. We took home the trophy (AGAIN) thanks to everyone who came out to put in their turns for our team effort!

All-in-all, it was a great and fun day, if I may say!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all who made it possible.....**ESPECIALLY** Karen Sanderson who has been tirelessly putting on this event for-EVER without whose efforts none of our fun or camaraderie would have happened yesterday or any other of the other years. Did I say thank you!? Thank you!! 🙌🙌🙌

Attached is a PDF of the [results](#) scanned as Karen handed them to Jeff who handed them to me yesterday. I'm already getting excited for next year!

Hopefully I'll be 100% & off the IR list when it comes around!

Have a great mud season and summer!

Hope to see you all before (most, I'm sure I will), but if I don't: Ski ya next year!!

=)Kari 🤪"

See photo of the TSSC team at the end of the skiing section.

Zell am See Trip Re-cap

On behalf of all Trailsweepers let's express our gratitude to John Hoefinger for planning and leading TSSC's first trip in a number of years to Zell am See, Austria.

Here's John's summary of the trip.

"Two days ago (March 14) 21 participants just returned from a beautiful "ski trip" in Zell am See, Austria. Everyone had a nice time sightseeing; there were only three serious skiers, and the rest were serious tourists. We all took advantage of the great bus and rail systems going to various surrounding towns and villages such as Kitzbuhel, Kaprun, and Mittersill. The big highlight was visiting Salzburg which was a two hour train ride from Zell. Among the things to do was to visit the fortress high on a hill; Mozart's birthplace, and the various narrow streets with many unique shops. It is also the city where "The Sound of Music" was filmed.

Many folks ate the local cuisine and by the end of the week they were schnitzeled out! The weather cooperated with temps in the 50's and our hotel,

Overall, this trip was a huge success with many people wanting to stay another week since there is much to see and do. This destination is a year-round haven for many tourists. I know I will be going back!"

John Hoefinger

2026/2027 SKI TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

Information for TSSC and affiliated organization-sponsored trips will be displayed here as it becomes available for the 2026/2027 season. For new members, if you want to try group ski trips without the hassle or expense of air travel, you will find several trip opportunities for VT, Maine and Mt. Tremblant Canada sponsored by ***New Jersey Ski & Snowboard Council*** and ***Hudson Valley Ski Club***.

You can check the trip sections of the respective websites at [The New Jersey Ski & Snowboard Council](#) and <http://www.hudsonvalleyskiclub.org>

Below are some photos (John H.) from the Zell trip



Here's a photo of the TSSC team for the 2026 President's Race at Hunter.



CLUB BUSINESS

Annual Elections

Club officers and 3 Board members will be selected by a vote of the membership at the first meeting in April. **The slate of nominees to date** consists of:

Rob Fletcher, President

Jeff Huth, Executive VP

Dale Ziegenfelder, Admin. VP

Treasurer, TBD

Secretary, Marty Nystrom

Board Members/Directors (term to expire 4/28), Mike Griffin, Katie Viglielmo, Steve Wingard

Nominations will also be taken from the floor on election night. **If you would like to step forward as a candidate for Treasurer or any other role**, please speak to a member of the nominating committee comprised of those Directors whose term runs until next year - Skip A. and Kathie Q.

Board Meeting Minutes - Zoom/Conference Call, March 2, 2026

A zoom and conference call meeting of the Trailsweepers Snow and Sports Club Board of Directors continued prior discussion on the Zell am See ski trip on March 2, 2026. Present: Kathie Quick, Steve Wingard, Katie Viglielmo, Skip Alford, Dale Ziegenfelder. The board approved the following motion with Steve abstaining:

Motion to approve the income statement submitted by John Hoefinger for the Zell trip and set the surcharge included in the published trip price at 1%.

Submitted by Dale Ziegenfelder

The meeting was called to order by President Rob Fletcher at 7:15. There were 12 members in attendance.

ELECTIONS- Directors Skip Alford and Kathie Quick will run the elections. Skip noted the members who have accepted nominations so far are:

President- Rob Fletcher

Executive VP- Jeff Huth

Administrative VP- Dale Ziegenfelder

Secretary - Marty Nystrom

Treasurer is open.

Dale Z. noted that there was not a quorum so no votes were to be taken. A vote will occur at the next meeting. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the open slot, please come forward. We need a quorum for the vote so please attend. Light refreshments will be served.

MEMBERSHIP- The Board has not yet reviewed the Mission Statement/Value Proposition that the Committee submitted. It will be issued by Jeff Huth once feedback has been received from the Board. This is to be included in our outreach effort on publications, etc.

Welcome back Donna Matthews following recovery from an accident. She will join the membership committee, and we look forward to her insights.

The new member mentor program is to be initiated and the "SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS" started in the last Newsletter. Gearing up for this.

GENERAL DISCUSSION- There was discussion about the importance of Sign-in sheets and Liability Waiver Documentation at Club-sponsored activities and events.

SKI RACING- Skiing is almost over but Rob mentioned good conditions at Belleayre recently. The NJSSC Presidents race was held on Saturday March 21st. **WE WON!!!!** Yes again- This makes it about 7 wins out of the last 11 events held that we won, beating 7 other clubs!!!! Thanks to Kari Hoyt for coordinating TSSC participation. e

"And the Winners are"-

Womens: Katie Viglielmo - Gold Class B; Diana Nott- Gold Class C. Mens: Jeff Viglielmo- Gold Class A; Yuri Kobziar - Silver Class A; Steve Wingard- Gold Class B; Bill Lindsay- Silver Class B.

TSSC won with 205 points and the next runner up got 192 points.

Thanks team for making us look so good!! **BRAVO!**

HIKING- Catherine Forbes will run a 3 mile, non 3500, hike (Burroughs Sanctuary) on April 17th with MHADK. Contact her for info.

PROGRAMS- Rob noted that next meeting will feature a presentation by Leslie Serprenant on her years as a DEC ranger. "Wilderness Work, Wilderness Play" is the title.

Rob asked anyone with programming ideas to bring them to the annual planning sessions so we can begin to button up the summer schedule with discussion on 4/28 and completion

Kayak John (Hoefinger) reported that 21 people attended this week in the Alps. There were 3 serious skiers, 5 not so serious the rest just enjoyed the sites. Train, busses, rent cars and bicycles. Snow OK per Dale Z with Spring conditions. High up was fine. Lots of fun. 10 went to the top on the 1st day to the glacier. Then trams. Top was unreal. All snow topped mountains at 10,000 feet. Great hotel with great breakfast. Couple of dinners. Schnitzeled out. One group took a trip to Salzburg. TSSC even got about \$530 back so this trip didn't cost us much.

Lesson- You do not have to ski to have a great time at these very cost-effective travel events. Anyone want to run one next year? TSSC can sanction the event. Step up.

SPRING BANQUET- May 2- Diana Z reported that 20 people had already signed up- ahead of other years. Only \$64 a head with music, etc. Contact Diana.

HAPPY HOUR-The 3/20 get together at Los Jalapenos had 12 attendees.

NEXT MEETING- Board Meeting at 6:30, General very short voting meeting from 7- 7:20 focused on the Election then the Program will start at 7:30 sharp.

50/50- Skip ran the 50/50 event to end the meeting and won \$17. The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted, Marty

Trailsweepers Club Roster 2025/2026

(area codes 845 unless otherwise noted)

Club Officers

President - Rob Fletcher 338-1537, President@trailsweepers.org

Executive VP - Jeff Huth 203-482-1954, ExecVP@trailsweepers.org

Administrative VP - Dale Ziegenfelder 657-6312, AdminVP@trailsweepers.org

Secretary - Martin (Marty) Nystrom, 679-8613 Secretary@trailsweepers.org

Treasurer - Karen Spinozzi 338-0626

Club Board Members (term expir.), Board@trailsweepers.org

Skip Alford (4/'27) 481-2898

Mike Griffin (4/'26) 914-388-7558

Katie Viglielmo (4/'26) 594-4359

Steve Wingard (4/'26) 532-7459

Committee Chairs

Membership - Jim Wise 914-474-1588, Membership@trailsweepers.org

Programs - Rob Fletcher 338-1537

NJSSC Liaison - Steve Ahladas 337-9317

Ski Racing - Jim Tomasetti 594-9044/Dale Ziegenfelder 657-6312

Discount Lift Tickets - Steve Ahladas 337-9317

Kayaking - Yvonne Baker 417-7144, Skip Alford 481-2898

Hiking - Steve Wingard 532-7459

Media

Facebook- Jean Pavone 518-527-4670, Carol Tomasetti 594-9045

Newsletter/Website - Jeff Huth 203-482-1954, webmaster@trailsweepers.org

Social Events

After the Holidays - Lisa Olivett 542-3945

Fall Kick-off - TBD

Happy Hours - Ellen Berlin

Spring Banquet - Diana Ziegenfelder 657-6312

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