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Hoboken Ski Club

Adventures on and off the slopes

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High mountains, plush snow, and cold beer!

That's the typical weekend for a member of the Hoboken Ski Club, which sponsors over a dozen ski trips during ski season.

This year the HSC has week-long trips planned to Italy and Austria plus weekend trips to Vermont. Whether you are a boarder, a "two planker" or a recreational drinker, the club has something for you.

Member of the club

HSC is now in its 17th year and still going strong with well over 500 members this year. It is considered to be one of Hoboken's premiere social clubs, which boasts a highly organized board.

The group was founded by Bob McDonald, who determined the rules and regulations, including amendments on membership and elected officials. The HSC website (www.hobokenskiclub.com) has the complete list of rules. HSC has non-profit status and holds yearly elections for officers.

This year's elected president is Adam Weissman, who replaced former president Rob Redanz.

One of Weissman's duties is to run the weekly meetings, which are held every Tuesday at Willie McBride's in Hoboken.

According to Weissman, he tries to keep the meetings interesting and upbeat. At a recent meeting Weissman welcomed Jack Frost saying, "it's the first time he's shown his face all winter."

This is Weissman's fourth year in the club and first term as president.

Weissman said that he had no intention of being president, but several members asked him to run.

"I've never been in a leadership role," said Weissman. "The group has really opened me up."

Oh captain, my captain

In addition to the members of the cabinet (president, vice, treasurer, etc.), individual trip coordinators are an important part of the team.

According to Weissman, it is not unusual for a trip coordinator to eventually move up in the ranks. Weissman was a former voucher administrator and then trip coordinator before becoming pres. He is also hosting the upcoming weekend trip to Killington, VT with co-coordinator Chris Lydon.

Lydon is a former non-ski events coordinator, who helped organize many of the dry land functions.

"You name it we've done it," said Lydon. "Hiking, biking, etc. We're pretty much open to anything."

The Vermont trip this weekend is a fully booked trip with 44 members going.

According to Weissman, the trip should be a really fun time.

"Killington is considered to be a party destination," said Weissman. "It's like New York City in Vermont."



Part of the pre-party, pre-ski trip for Weissman includes conversations on the bus.

"On my first trip I knew three people at the start of the trip," said Weissman. "I promote people getting to know each other on the bus."

Trails, moguls, and trees

After the Killington trip, there are still 7 ski trips left to enjoy. According to Weissman, one of his favorite spots to ski is at Jay Peak, VT. He said it's great because there are trails for all skill levels.

"I love it," said Weissman. "It's one of my favorite mountains. There are trails and then there are trees."

One of his favorite tree trails is called "Paradise" and has trees, moguls and bumps. He said that there is a danger of running into trees and requires a high degree of skill.

It's also something that a snow boarder can't experience on "Paradise" because snow boarders aren't allowed.

"I'm the first president in the last three years to be a skier," said Weissman. "The last two are boarders. They try to convince me to board, but I'm a dedicated two planker."

According to Weissman, the ratio of skiers to boarders is 60/40. "From a young person's perspective I think skiing is coming back," he said. "Now it is just as cool to board or ski."

Off slope fun

The HSC prides itself on having weekly meetings that draw approximately 70 members, plus weekly happy hour events like their "Thirsty Thursday" program. Thursdays are social gatherings planned at different bars in Hoboken or Manhattan. The next Thursday is scheduled at Oddfellows in Hoboken on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.

Another event planned is the "Bar Brawl" on Thursday, Feb. 1 at Willie McBride's from 7 p.m. to midnight. The "Brawl" is a two person team competition of bar room games including: 501 darts, foosball, 8 ball pool, and 9 holes of "Golden Tee." The teams will fight it out to the end and the winning team gets their name on the event trophy.

In addition, there are plenty of other activities (social or active) to keep members active in warmer weather. Just some of the off season activities include: wine tastings, casino trips, baseball games, biking, hiking, white water rafting, and more.

Membership is available for the entire year or at the discount rate for summer activities only. For more information about the trips or events, visit: www.hobokenskiclub.com.

Interested members can apply for HSC membership through their site or in person on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m. at Willie McBride's. McBride's is located at 616 Grand St. in Hoboken.