

# NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN NORDIC SKI PATROL



Volume 31

Issue 2

January 31, 2010

## CHRISTMAS IN FEBRUARY

**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
6pm, Northfield Mountain**

As noted in Tom's Chocolate Pot Chat, our holiday party has been rescheduled for our patrol meeting on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. So technically, we're having a Valentine's Day Party instead of a Christmas Party. Be sure to bring your sweetie! All patrollers, candidates, family members and guests are welcome to join us for a potluck supper and ski patrol version of a Yankee present swap. Gifts (around \$10) can be silly or serious. You never know what you'll end up with until the final swap. ❄️



Wait a minute, is that? Could that be? .....SNOW???  
For Refresher? *Photo by Sharon Long.* ❄️

## PATROL BANQUET

**Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Johnson's Farm**

**Social Hour 5pm – Dinner 6pm**

Last year's new banquet location proved to be such a success that we have decided to stick with a good thing. Johnson's Farm provides generous portions of home style cooking, plus a great deck overlooking fields for an after dinner chat. Patrollers, candidates, friends, family and significant others are all invited. Johnson's Farm is located at 210 Wheeler Avenue in Orange, MA. Wheeler Ave is off of Rt. 2A, just east of the center of Orange, and the farm stand is about 1.8 miles north of 2A. You can check them out at:

[www.massfarmstands.com/johnsonsfarm.htm](http://www.massfarmstands.com/johnsonsfarm.htm)

The patrol has reduced the cost of the banquet to \$10/meal for both patrollers and guests. Plan for a quiet evening socializing with friends and family as well as a brief speech or two. Service awards will be presented next fall.

Our banquet menu includes the following:

Appetizers:

*Cheese & crackers*

*Veggie/ fruit platter with dip*

Choice of entrée:

*Yankee Pot Roast (house specialty)*

*Maple Chicken*

*(pounded, broiled chicken breast topped with chopped apples, walnuts and maple sauce)*

*Baked Haddock*

Choice of dessert:

*cheesecake with strawberries*

*apple crisp with ice cream*

The entrée selections include salad, two vegetables, and coffee. If you're coming with friends or family, plan to order both desserts so you can share and get a taste of each (assuming you've left room for dessert).

**All checks and reservations should be mailed to Tom Deam by Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.** If you have questions, contact Tom at 978-544-5420, or at [tcdeam@verizon.net](mailto:tcdeam@verizon.net). ❄️

### BANQUET RESERVATIONS

Name _____	# Guests _____	Cost _____
<u>Number/Selection</u>		
____ Pot Roast	at \$10/meal= _____	
____ Chicken	at \$10/meal= _____	
____ Haddock	at \$10/meal= _____	
<u>Dessert:</u> ____ Cheesecake    ____ Apple Crisp		

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Northfield Mountain Nordic Ski Patrol (NMNSP)  
Mail to: Tom Deam, 83 Sandrah Drive, Orange, MA 01364

## CHOCOLATE POT CHAT

by Tom Deam

Since our Refresher in December the scenery has changed. An 8 x 12-foot portable “shed” now covers Santa’s sleigh, AKA the rescue sled. Bob Duris was instrumental in its purchase and setup.

Right after the first snow flew—timing is everything—Bob and I put the frame together and a week later the cover went on. We happened to pick two cold, gray days, but it rebuilt some sagging “intestinal fortitude.” The next step is to put the doors on, maybe.

December 12<sup>th</sup> the Mountain opened and skiing has been at times fast, and at time sketchy, but there remains the need for patrollers whatever the conditions.

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, the Patrol meeting, will also be the rescheduled Christmas or Holiday Party. Bad weather back in December kept turnout low, so bring a potluck and Yankee Swap gift (less than \$10). It should be enjoyable!

Bob Presutti and Jonathan Shefftz will be Northfield’s patrollers at the Thunderbolt Ski Race, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Bob has a lot of knowledge about the race and its history.

Finally, our Patrol is a bit smaller in numbers this year and needs your participation. Your skills are needed! ❄️



Ready for action in our new sled shed. Santa, eat your heart out! (Yet to be installed: Roll-up doors!)

Photo by Bob Duris. ❄️

## SKIING SLOW, SKIING EASY

by Joannie Duris

Racers and skiers half my age may want to ski fast and ski hard to get to the summit in record times. Me? I’ll get my cardio exercise on the elliptical at home.

I’m a big fan of skiing slow and skiing easy. Earlier this month I was able to take a leisurely loop around some of the lower trails at Northfield Mountain. This was before rain and fifty degree weather reminded us that we *do* live in New England. We still had beautiful packed powder and a nice solid base.

After stepping into my skis and adjusting my pack and radio, I skimmed across the bowl and headed up toward Hemlock Hill. The wind had definitely done its thing the night before: at least a bazillion pinecones littered the trail. I herringboned a few steps, bent to pick up pinecones within reach, tossed them into the woods, repeated the process. Over and over. Twenty minutes and twenty feet later, I figured it would take me the rest of the day to get up to the power lines. A bit too slow, even for me. Besides, it was still windy, and the trees were probably laughing behind me, dropping more pinecones than I had picked up.

Continuing on my way, I paused to enjoy the sunshine when I broke out of the trees, then headed left, up Hemlock. Another pause, this time to check for animal tracks in the open area below the power lines. Hmm. Not as much activity as I’d seen on other days. I only spotted one area where a white-footed mouse had done a little hop, skip, and jump.

The stretch of Hemlock above the intersection with Rose Ledge must be squirrel heaven. Clumps of trees on both sides were connected by an extensive network of squirrel tracks. I was surprised I didn’t hear any of them scolding me for invading their territory. I closed my eyes to see what I *could* hear: wind in the trees, a small trickle of water in the stream, and our favorite black-capped friend calling *chick-a-dee-dee-dee*.

Heading down Rock Oak Ramble, I crossed paths with deer tracks and another million squirrel tracks. I wondered, “Does Northfield do a squirrel census?”

The highlight of my slow and easy loop was the clearing just before Rock Oak reaches the road: straight as an arrow, the beautiful tightrope walk of a fox.

Winter may not be the season to stop and smell the roses, but it’s certainly the season to stop and sense the world around you. I wonder what I’ll discover next. ❄️

The next issue of the Rattlebone will be published in May.

Please get all articles, information, dates, etc.  
to Joannie Duris by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

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[WWW.NMNSP.ORG](http://WWW.NMNSP.ORG)

**Don’t forget to check our website for the latest patrol news and dates of upcoming courses and events. If you don’t remember the user name and password for entering the ‘patrol room’, contact Bill Schweikert at: [webmaster@nmnsp.org](mailto:webmaster@nmnsp.org)**