

WLB Ski Club Newsletter

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West Long Branch Ski Club
Established 1978

Luggage Surcharge Must be Stopped!

As many of you already know, United Airlines has announced that they will institute a \$25 fee (each way) for luggage in excess of one piece as of May 5. That means that anyone traveling with any sports equipment (skis, golf clubs etc) or even baby equipment will have to pay an additional \$50 round trip per piece.

If United Airlines is successful in implementing this new policy, **other airlines will soon follow.**

The National Ski Council Federation's response to United is that *"The best defense is to encourage the other major carriers to not follow United's lead. If we can keep the remaining carriers from changing their policies, United may be forced to rescind the new charges in order to remain competitive."*

Please voice your protest on our new "neutral" web site at:
<http://dneba.com/BaggageProtest/>

This web site will not collect email addresses or claim affiliation to any ski club, travel business etc. so you can pass it on to other ski clubs, travel agents etc.

According to the Wall Street Journal on March 11. ***"The stiff penalties can add hundreds of dollars, especially if travelers show up at the airport with bags heavier than 50 pounds or larger than the size limit airlines use -- 62 linear inches.***

"And the fees are charged cumulatively -- an extra bag that is overweight and oversized gets hit with three fees. So a 2nd checked bag that is overweight and oversized will cost \$450 round-trip at United after May 5!"

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Ski trip to France Awesome!

By Joan Halle

Majestic Alps and fresh snow greeted the 77 WLB Ski Club travelers arriving at Club Med in Val d'Isere, France on Feb. 3.

Club Med provided plenty of fun and proved full of friendly international flavor. Regional foods such as "stinky" raclette, pates and fresh breads added to a wide selection of delicious choices at every meal. The "open bar" kept the party going. And no one will forget the antics of Willy Boy, the incomparable entertainer.

Ski classes with certified French instructors gave confidence and finesse to beginner and expert alike. After a day on the slopes, Club Med evening entertainment put a grin on everyone's face.

And all of this was included in Club Med's all-inclusive price!

Participants remained enthusiastic about the area's vast skiing terrain, marvelous lift and transit system and abundant sunny skies.

Val d'Isere prepares for the World Cup next year, and lucky WLB Ski Clubbers can say, "We were there!"

Trip Chairmen Great Success!

By Harriet Warner

This past year we experimented with having a Trip Chairman for several of the trips. This is the first step in my stepping down in the day to day management of the Ski Club. It's time for me to pass on the responsibilities.

In my mind it was a very successful first year and we'll continue it in the future. I just have to learn to "let go."

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Next Ski Club Meeting Mar 25

Join us at 8pm on Tuesday, March 25 at the West Long Branch Community Center, Locust Avenue at Parker Rd for the last meeting of the season.

We will discuss next season's ski trips. **So far, we have decided on a Dec. 11 to 18 trip to Vail.**

Since the Ptarmigan Inn in Steamboat will be open another year we have to decide whether to go back. There seems to be a lot of interest!

Many people would like to go on another slope side ski trip to Club Med in Europe. We can't decide until next season's prices are announced in April. If it's affordable, we'll do it in February again.

Other possibilities are **Lake Tahoe** and **Big Mountain.**

We'd also like to discuss the possibility of doing a **two week trip to Utah**, spending one week in **Park City** and the 2nd week in **Snowbird.** **There would be the option of doing either week or both weeks.**

This way you could have **two weeks of skiing using only one airfare!**

We'd have a charter bus between the two resorts. It's a lot less expensive than two airline tickets.

We're always interested in your ideas. Please feel free to let me know any of your suggestions.

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The future re-organization of the club will also be discussed.

