

Love at First Lift

The Boston Ski and Sports Club ski dating program is more than just a ride to and from the slope



Phyl Newbeck

Phyl Newbeck lives in Jericho, Vermont with her partner Bryan and two cats. She grew up a non-skier in New York City and has been making up for lost time since moving to Vermont.

Look at all the fun you can have when you leave the driving to someone else!

The Boston Ski and Sports Club (BSSC) doesn't consider itself a singles club, but recently they decided to make a foray into the dating world. Nancy McGeoghegan, Sales and Marketing Director, said the group started their Ski Dating during the 2009-10 season. It was so successful that this year the club will hold three events at Mount Snow during the winter months.

The BSSC has been bringing folks from the greater Boston area to ski slopes for forty-three years. Over time, they added other sports to the repertoire and recently their conventional speed-dating event has been so successful that happy couples have been sending their wedding pictures to the club's office. Nancy decided to update the concept for the winter with a similar event on the slopes, as the club already had access to buses and reduced ticket prices at various mountains.

The Ski Dating event works this way. For about the price of a lift ticket, skiers and riders can enjoy a day on the slopes at Mount Snow, complete with motor coach transportation, lift tickets, discounts on rentals, two club escorts (one of each gender) and an après-ski party with complimentary cocktails. The trip is limited to those 45 and under. At the mountain, skiers are divided into groups of six to eight based on ability level and ski together for an hour and a half. The groups are then shuffled for another ninety minutes of skiing before an hour-long lunch break. After lunch, the skill levels are mixed for another ninety minutes on the slopes, followed by open skiing. From 4:00 to 5:00, the club hosts an après-ski happy hour at the Snow Barn with appetizers and drinks.

Kristen Frazee took part in the event last year and intends to come back again in 2011. She went on several dates with a guy she met and considers the event a success. Frazee said that because the skiers were grouped by

ability, they tended to stick together on the slopes and wait for each other at the lifts. "I had a ton of conversations," she said. "It's a better way to meet someone."

"I think we struck gold with this," said McGeoghegan. She noted that on these trips, the skiers tend to dress a little better and take more care of their appearance. Still, the ride to the mountain tends to be a quiet one, but by lunch folks are making friends and by the ride home are exchanging phone numbers. McGeoghegan said that other mountains have expressed interest in hosting ski dating events, but for now they're sticking to Mount Snow because they have been so helpful. "We're onto something good," she said, "and we're excited about 2011 and growing this activity and seeing where it takes us."*

For more information about the Boston Ski and Sports Club visit www.bssc.com

