

THE BEARS NECESSITIES

The Quarterly Newsletter of Bears Crossing Community

Issue #5 / December 2023



BY AMY SYRACUSE, EDITOR

It's the most wonderful time of the year — at least, it is in Bears Crossing!

With apologies to Andy Williams... "The snow guns are blazing; the slopes feel amazing. There'll be sledding, snowshoeing, snowmen. Clubhouse après with good friends; counting days 'til the weekend... to do it all over again!"

If my goofy take on a holiday classic doesn't put you in the spirit of the season, I hope the contents of this newsletter will. Within these pages, you'll find:

- Important reminders from W&B on managing the snow and elements;
- Dates for your winter calendar, including holiday and special events;
- An intro to Mike Bates, Bears Crossings' new MOOver driver;
- An invitation to a fun and festive Bears Crossing Holiday Yankee (Beer) Swap;
- Your chance to win \$100 at the wonderful Trail 87 by voting for an official Bears Crossing cocktail;
- An update on the Pickleball/Tennis Court Uplift Committee's work;
- A primer on the Ridge Trail from Brumms Way neighbor Helene Wolson; and more.

Sending you best wishes for much laughter, joy, love, peace and — of course, snow — during this "hap-happiest season of all." Enjoy every minute!

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W&B Update: MOOving into Our Busy Season

BY GEORGE FRIEND, PROPERTY MANAGER

Though temperatures are consistently near freezing or below, Bears Crossing is ready to give everyone a **WARM** welcome this winter. Holiday decorating is complete. This fall, we worked to prepare for the busy season, installing new speed limit and pet policy signage and dog waste bag stations, and making needed repairs to the roads, drainage culverts, water system, and clubhouse stairs. We're also working on adding a light to the composting area so users won't be in the dark on short winter days, and an extra ash can to the trash area to accommodate overflow.

As you know, snowflakes tend to bring more visitors to the Community. Please make sure you and your guests are up to speed on [Bears Crossing's rules and policies](#) so the season goes smoothly. In particular, remember the following:

- **Driving:** Vehicles should have snow tires and, preferably, all-wheel drive to handle Community and local roads. Kindly advise guests that two-wheel drive vehicles with summer tires will be difficult. For everyone's safety, follow Bears Crossings' 20 mph speed limit and keep a watchful eye out for pedestrians, especially at night and when there is inclement weather.
- **Parking:** After a significant snowfall, parking becomes more challenging. But if everyone follows the [Parking and Vehicles Policy](#), everyone will have the space they need. Remember... We're all responsible for ensuring roads remain clear and accessible at all times in case of emergency. Do not park on any Community roads or in areas where snow may be pushed by snow plows. *Parking is permitted in SFH driveways, designated parking spaces, or overflow parking areas only.*
- **Plowing:** After it snows, pay attention to the plows. When they're working in your area, move your car so they can clear where your car was. Our snow removal crew is only here as needed. Once they're gone after a storm, they will not be returning until the following day. If you haven't moved your car while the plows are on property, you will likely not get plowed out until the next go-around, which could be 24 hours away. Avoid leaving unattended vehicles in non-parking areas or roads in anticipation of plows cleaning up parking areas or driveways.
- **Shoveling:** Residences have snow shoveled from walks and porches by the same company that does our plowing. Please be patient, and keep a snow shovel and a bucket of sand available in case your property isn't cleared as quickly as you would like. Also, note that the crew does not shovel between cars in parking areas.
- **Roofs:** W&B monitors snow and ice accumulation on condos and has it removed, as needed. SFH owners should proactively check roofs and arrange for snow and ice removal if buildup occurs. See Page 3 of this newsletter to read about a new SFH "group buy" e-mail list for supplemental snow removal.
- **The MOOver:** Everything you and your guests need to know about the MOOver can be found [online](#). *Please do not pass the MOOver on Bears Den Road.* For the safety of your neighbors (including many children) who are boarding or exiting the shuttle, treat it like a school bus. Be patient; the mountain isn't going anywhere.

I look forward to seeing you around the Community. On behalf of your W&B Management team, I wish you happy holidays and a safe and snow-filled season.





Feeling Frosty? Our Snowman Contest is Back

Once again, Bears Crossing is calling snow sculptors of all ages to put their artistry on display in their yards and common areas around the Community. Simply build a snowman (or, maybe, snow bear?) and snap a photo before your creation melts. You can submit your entry on the Bears Crossing Facebook group or by e-mail to bearsnecessitiesnews@gmail.com.

Please remember to keep snowmen approximately 20 feet from the road and avoid areas where snow plows and snow shovellers work. Winners will be selected by Community vote for “Best Traditional Snowman” and “Most Creative Snowman.” The Bears Crossing Property Manager will also select one entry as the “Manager’s Choice.” Each winner will receive two Bears Crossing winter hats, handmade by local craftswoman Tallu Meade. See details below.

The deadline to submit Snowman Contest entries is Sunday, March 17, 2024. Find additional details on www.bearscrossing.com and **THINK SNOW!** -- AS



The Must-Have Firepit Accessory

A few years ago, a talented artisan named Tallu Meade knitted Bears Crossing winter hats for several owners. This season, we’re bringing these masterpieces back for anyone who missed out on this must-have fire pit accessory. Made from your choice of 100% pure wool or wool blend yarn, Tallu’s hats are handmade, high-quality, and toasty warm. (Just ask Property Manager George Friend, a proud BX hat owner!)

We’ll award a pair of hats to Snowman Contest winners in March. If you’d rather lock yours down now, you can buy kids or adult size hats directly from Tallu at a special Bears Crossing rate: \$33 for a kids hat with pompom (ages 7-12) and \$37 for an adult hat with pompom. Tallu is also offering free local pick-up or delivery to Bears Crossing. Postage charges apply for shipping; payment is by cash or check.

E-mail ullathats@hotmail.com to place your order. You can see a portfolio of Tallu’s custom knitting work at awesomewinterhats.com.

Planning Ahead

Dec. 28 - Bears Crossing Yankee (Beer) Swap, 8 p.m. at the Clubhouse

Dec. 29 - Grommet Jam #1 at Carinthia

Dec. 31 - New Year’s Eve Torchlight Parade and Fireworks at Mount Snow

Jan. 13 - MLK Weekend Torchlight Parade at Mount Snow

Jan. 15 - Grommet Jam #2 at Carinthia

Feb. 3 - Bears Crossing Board Meeting, 3 p.m. at the Clubhouse; Winter Owners’ Party, 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse

Feb. 19 - Grommet Jam Finals at Carinthia

Feb. 24 - Bears Crossing Community Ski Race at Mount Snow (More details to follow by e-mail.)

Mar. 2 - Carinthia Classic freestyle competition at Junkyard

Mar. 3 - Jack Jump World Championships at Mount Snow

Mar. 23 - ReggaeFest and Sink or Skim Competition at Mount Snow

Mar. 24 - Duct Tape Derby at Mount Snow

Check the Bears Crossing Facebook Group for announcements about Community outings (e.g., hikes, pub tours, brewery visits, etc.). Board meeting details can be found [here](#). For upcoming Deerfield Valley events, visit the [Chamber of Commerce Calendar](#).



Poop Patrol

New dog waste bag dispensers and pet policy signage have been installed throughout Bears Crossing. Bag dispensers can now be found at the path between Black Bear Lane and the clubhouse, and on the Bear Paw Left woodshed. Additional dispensers are located on Cub Ridge Lane, Brumms Way, and at the trash area on Polar Bear North. Please take only as many bags as you need. Note that pet waste *must* be picked up and properly disposed of, as specified in Bears Crossing's [Pet Policy](#). *Violations are subject to HOA fines, which escalate with each infraction.*



Winter, Spring SFH Group Buy Opportunities

The SFH Association is currently researching potential “group buy” home maintenance opportunities for winter and spring. Priorities for winter are post-storm roof raking and supplemental snow shoveling (i.e., clearing decks and other areas not maintained by the Community’s snow shoveling crew) and driveway maintenance/sure-pack gravel application in the spring. If you’d like to be notified about opportunities in the coming months, please [e-mail Amy Syracuse](#) with your name, Bears Crossing address, cell number, e-mail address, and service(s) you are potentially interested in. Amy will maintain lists and notify homeowners when opportunities are available.

On the Board: Save the Dates, Santa, and Guest Resources

BY DAVE STREETER, BOARD PRESIDENT

Hello, Bears Crossing neighbors. The moment we’ve been waiting for has finally arrived. It’s time to kick off the ski and snowboard season. *Bring on the snow!*

When you’re not out on the slopes, please mark your calendars for a few important dates in the coming months. First, we’ll have our Annual Owner’s Party on Saturday, Feb. 3rd. It’s a great chance to catch up with old friends and neighbors, and to meet new ones. Hope you can drop by and say “hello.”

Our next Board of Directors meeting will take place earlier that day, at 3 p.m. in the clubhouse. As always, owners are welcome to attend and may speak during the public comments portion of the meeting. A reminder and agenda will be e-mailed by W&B Management in advance. If you’re unable to join us, a draft of the minutes will be available after the meeting by logging into the [W&B’s owners’ portal](#).

On Saturday, Feb. 24th, we’re excited to have our Community Ski Race at Charlie’s Chase. A coveted Bears Crossing t-shirt will be awarded to the skiers and snowboarders who post the fastest times. This year, we’ll be sharing the course with a few other communities, but you’ll still be able to race the competitor of your choosing. You’ll receive detailed information by e-mail as the date gets closer.

If you’ll be renting your property this season or hosting friends and family, please don’t forget to check the [“Guests” section](#) of the Bears Crossing website. We’ve posted some helpful and informative new resources for visitors. All owners should also review [“closing up” best practices](#) to keep properties secure and safe, especially when the temperatures plummet.

Finally, I heard from a trusted source that we’ll be having a special guest in Bears Crossing on Dec. 26th and 27th. Some say he resembles Santa, but you’ll have to be on the MOOver to catch a glimpse of him.

Happy holidays to all. If you have questions, you can reach me via the [Bears Crossing website](#). In the meantime, grab your gear, gather your friends and family, and get ready for an incredible season of skiing, snowboarding, and making memories that will last a lifetime. See you on the mountain!

[BearsCrossing.com Guest Resources](#)

- Visitors Guide
- Parking and Vehicles Policy
- Pet Policy
- Directions
- Community / Parking Maps
- Trash, Recycling and Composting Guide
- What to Compost Flyer
- MOOver Information
- Ski Home Trail Guide
- And more!



Meet Mike, Our New Bears Crossing MOOver Driver

The close of last ski season marked the end of an era in Bears Crossing. After more than a decade and a half as our MOOver driver, Greg Record hung up his keys in pursuit of new adventures in retirement.

This season, we're thrilled to welcome Mike Bates to the driver's seat. Like so many Bears Crossing owners, Mike spent years enjoying recreational time in southern Vermont when his schedule allowed it.

Then his adult children left home and his wife's work moved to full-time remote. With greater flexibility on the table, Mike and his wife decided it was time to leave the hustle and bustle of Connecticut for Readsboro, Vermont's green pastures.

After working in the structural steel industry for several decades, Mike was ready for a job with a little less heavy lifting. He had his commercial driver's license and earned the passenger vehicles endorsement, joining the MOOver team late last winter.

A former snowboarder and hockey player, Mike feels at home on both the snow and ice — qualities that are sure to come in handy behind the wheel of the Deerfield Valley's favorite mode of transport. Be sure to introduce yourself on your next MOOver ride, and welcome Mike to the Bears Crossing Community. -- AS



Mike joined the MOOver team in Feb. 2023



The MOOver will operate weekends and select holidays through Sunday, March 31, 2024. Find the schedule, stops, and other important shuttle information at www.bearscrossing.com.

Winter Trash Reminders

During ski and snowboard season, an influx of house guests and short-term renters can result in more garbage and recycling than usual. Please help us ensure Bears Crossing's waste disposal area operates smoothly by following these guidelines:

- *No plastic trash bags are allowed in the recycling receptacle.* If you or your guests bring recycling to the dumpster in a plastic bag, please empty it into the recycling bin and then dispose of the bag in the trash dumpster. Recyclables should also be rinsed free of food residue before being deposited in the recycling bin.
- *Take an extra minute to collapse cardboard boxes and neatly compile recycling.* The holidays mean presents... and lots and lots of packaging. To ensure we have enough room in the recycling bin to accommodate all homeowners, please make efficient use of space. When the receptacle is full, recyclables must be deposited in the trash dumpster — a practice we prefer to avoid.
- *Never leave garbage or recycling outside the designated receptacles.* The bears may be asleep in the winter, but plenty of other wildlife inhabit the surrounding area. Avoid endangering our woodland neighbors (and keep our Community pristine) by making sure all waste is put in the appropriate bins. Whenever possible, don't forget to use our Community's composter for food scraps.

Heads Up: Mount Snow's New Drop Zone

With the start of this season, Mount Snow has debuted a new "airport-style" drop and go zone to streamline arrivals at the Main Base area. Traffic now flows *one-way only* from the Ski and Ride School Discovery Center to the exit into parking lots. Cars exit the Drop Zone on a lane that abuts the MOOver shuttle stops. As everyone adjusts to this new traffic pattern, *please use extra caution when leaving the Bears Crossing MOOver stop, and when rushing to catch the shuttle at the end of the day.* Remind children to watch out for Drop Zone exit traffic, especially during peak drop-off and pick-up times.

You can find a detailed map of the new system on Mount Snow's website. -- AS



Share Holiday Cheer (and a Selection of Beer) at our Bears Crossing ‘Yankee Beer Swap’

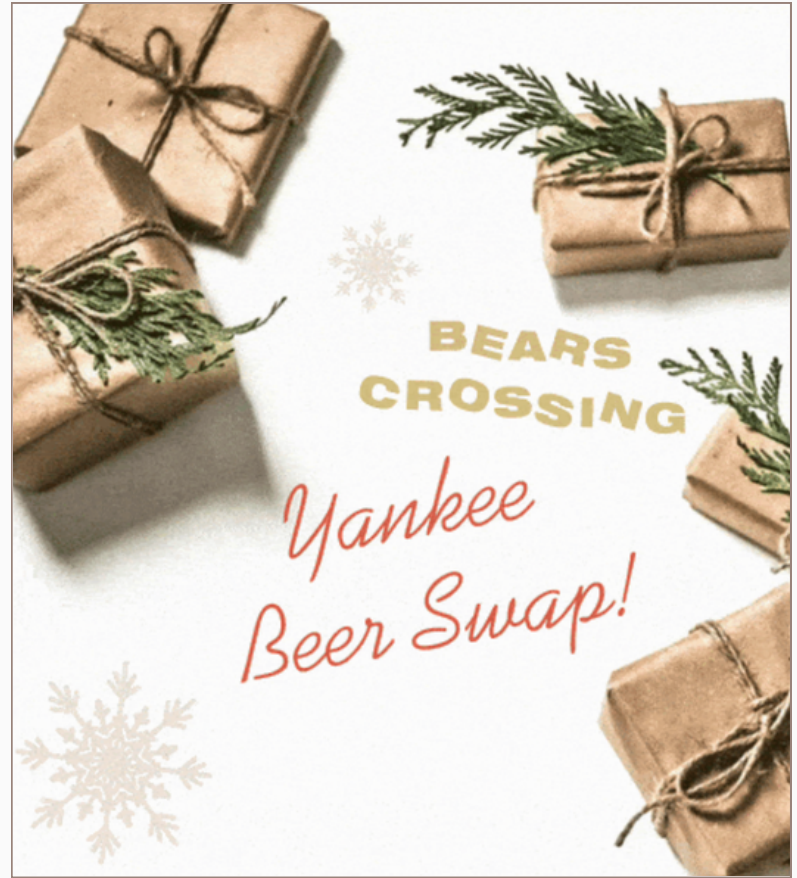
Join your Bears Crossing neighbors for an evening of fun, friends, and craft beer at a special holiday-themed Beer Swap. The gathering will take place at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 28th, at the Bears Crossing Clubhouse.

The swap will work like a traditional holiday “Yankee Swap” (a.k.a., White Elephant) gift exchange, with participants bringing a chilled beer selection concealed with wrapping paper, a gift bag, or a plain paper bag/box.

We’ll draw numbers and take turns choosing a “gift,” with the option to steal one that’s already been claimed. The lucky final number gets his or her pick of the bunch. Of course, Bears Crossing’s resident “Beer Master,” Scott Abrams, will be on hand to answer questions about beer styles and tastes to help everyone choose wisely.

Would you like to attend but have friends or family visiting for the holiday week? Owners are welcome to bring guests with them. However, please note that we aren’t able to host children at this event. *Anyone joining us in the Clubhouse must be 21 or older.*

See our [online invitation](#) for additional details, and to RSVP by Dec. 26th. E-mail [Scott Abrams](#) or [Amy Syracuse](#) with questions. -- AS



Committee to Present Pickleball Proposal

Following this year’s Annual Owners’ Meeting, a new committee was formed to research options for expanding Bears Crossing’s recreational offerings. The Pickleball/Tennis Court Uplift Committee, chaired by single family homeowner Will Galway, also includes owners Sherri Ehrlich, Doug Mantz, Cathy Nitschke, and Steve O’Leary.

Committee members met several times this fall via Zoom to brainstorm ideas and gather information. They examined two options: clearing out some trees near the clubhouse and building a new pickleball court; and replacing the Bears Crossing Har-Tru tennis court with a multi-sport asphalt court that could accommodate tennis, pickleball and, possibly, basketball.

The group is in the process of putting together a proposal, including quotes from vendors. Galway expects the committee to complete its research and submit a proposal to the Bears Crossing Board of Directors by the end of this month.

At that time, the Board will be asked to vote on whether the proposal should be brought to the wider Community for consideration. Since funding the project would require a yet-to-be-determined HOA assessment, it would need to be approved by Community vote in accordance with Bears Crossing’s bylaws. Additional updates will be shared with the community via e-mail from W&B.

If you have questions or feedback about the committee’s work, please contact Will Galway at willgalway@gmail.com. -- AS

Help Select Our Signature Bears Crossing Cocktail and You Could Win \$100 at Trail 87



To kick off the 2023-2024 (après?) ski season, we reached out to Bears Crossing owner Justin Geller and the Trail 87 team to help us select an official Bears Crossing cocktail. [Click here](#) to cast your vote for one of the following via our online ballot.

- *Bears Crossing Bramble* - A refreshing gin bramble topped off with a dash of raspberry liqueur.
- *Sam MOOver* - A little something to jump start your day (or night)... espresso with maple cream liqueur, coffee liqueur, and a dash of milk.
- *Hibernation Libation* - A classic “old-fashioned” with a Vermont maple twist.
- *Ski Home Spritz* - An invigorating prosecco, aperol, and soda water sipper with just a hint of maple.

Vote by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2023, and you'll be entered into a raffle for a \$100 gift certificate courtesy of Trail 87. One raffle entry per person; must be 21 or older. The winner will be contacted by e-mail, and the recipe for the winning cocktail will be shared in our next *Bears Necessities* newsletter.

In the meantime, be sure to support our friends at Trail 87 when this gem of a local bar/restaurant/café/coffee shop reopens for the season on Dec. 21st. A reliable source tells us that Trail 87 has big plans to expand dining options in the coming months, including rolling out freshly-baked New York-style bagels in the café and unveiling new family-style takeout meals. -- AS

Get Backcountry: A Primer on the Ridge Trail Between Mount Snow and the Hermitage

BY HELENE WOLSON

Winter is coming — and so are hordes of visitors to Mount Snow. On the days when you want to escape crowded slopes for an icy oasis of beauty and tranquility, consider checking out the Ridge Trail, which runs between Mount Snow and the Hermitage.

Stepping into this winter wonderland is like being transported to another world; it looks like Narnia! The best access point from Mount Snow is near the top of Sunbrook's Big Dipper. You can get there from the new Sunbrook lift or by skiing over from the Main Face summit area. Start down Big Dipper and you'll see a rope on the right that marks the ski boundary. This is the Ridge Trail entry point. You can also skin up from Bears Crossing towards the Sunbrook area and then continue up Big Dipper to reach the entrance.

To navigate the Ridge Trail, you'll need skins/touring skis or snow shoes. The snow can get very deep! It takes about 1.5 to 2 hours *ONE WAY*, depending on level of effort. If skinning up from Bears Crossing, plan for extra time to reach the trail entry point. It's not a race; The joy is in breathing in the crisp mountain air and stunning scenery.

As with all backcountry activities, prepare thoroughly and proceed at your own risk. The trail isn't marked (or, if it is, the markings are covered by snow). Typically, others will have been there first so there is a visible path. If you stick to this path, it would be difficult to get lost. That being said, I've never been “first” after a storm. It could be challenging to navigate if no one has blazed the trail.

Also, there's no cell service. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks, proper clothing, backpacks for removing skinning gear, etc. Go early in the day. The sun sets early in winter and night skinning is not recommended! *Of course, don't go alone for safety reasons.* The best time to tackle this trail is after a ton of snow or well into the winter when there's plenty of snow coverage. The Ridge Trail isn't for beginners, young children, or adults not completely comfortable in their equipment.

Ultimately, the Ridge Trail intersects with the northernmost ski trail at the Hermitage. It's possible to ski down if you have transportation back to Bears Crossing. Or you can rest where the trails meet, have lunch, and hydrate for the return trek to Mount Snow.

Though it requires a bit of time and energy, skinning or snowshoeing the Ridge Trail is an amazing experience. On a sunny winter day, the adventure is well worth it.

