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# JUMPFEST

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FEBRUARY 2, 3, & 4, 2024

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# Salisbury Winter Sports Association • [www.jumpfest.org](http://www.jumpfest.org)

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*Cover Design - James H. Clark*

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## 98th Annual Jumpfest 2024 February 2, 3, 4 • Salisbury, CT

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

#### Friday Night Lights

Target Jumping Under The Lights, 7 p.m.

Human Dogsled Race (After Jumping)

Admission \$15

Prize Money Donated by Churchill Family

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

20 Meter & 30 Meter Ski Jumping

Competition, 9:30 a.m.

Awards to follow at Satre Hill

70 Meter Salisbury Invitational

Ski Jumping Competition

Practice: 11 a.m.-noon

Competition: 1 p.m.

Target Jumping to follow

Sponsored by Low-N-Slow Barbecue

Snow Ball Fundraiser: 8-11:30 p.m.

\$20 adult admission

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

70 Meter Eastern US Jumping

Championships

Featuring Junior National Hopefuls

Practice: 11 a.m.-noon

Competition: 1 p.m.

Awards & naming of Eastern Junior

National Team Immediately following



PHOTO BY MARLENA AAKJAR

### ADMISSION

Adults \$15 Saturday and Sunday

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For More Information

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## Letter from the President

### WELCOME!

Welcome to the 98th year of ski jumping in Salisbury! The weekend will start off with Friday Night Target Jumping under the lights followed by the Human Dog Sled Race. Saturday morning starts off with our Junior Jumping Competition on the 20M and 30M hills with athletes from throughout the Northeast, followed by the Salisbury Invitational on our 65M jump. And on Saturday evening, be sure to attend the Snow Ball at the Lakeville Grove with live music and beverages. Sunday morning, we return to our large hill for the Eastern States Championships. Jumpers will be vying for a spot on the Eastern Junior National Team. The winners will travel to Anchorage, Alaska for the US Junior Championships during the last week of February. Throughout the weekend local organizations - Lakeville Hose Ladies Auxiliary, Salisbury Central's SOAR program, Sunday In The Country Food Drive, as well as Eastern Ski Jumping will be on site and fundraising.

SWSA is overseen by a large group of directors who bring different skills and abilities to our organization. Over time some have moved on to pursue other interests. Still others have decided to step back and allow "new blood" to come forward and assist in our vision of allowing youth to experience outdoor winter sports. Digby Brown has been on our board for 25 plus years. This past year he decided to step back and allow that progression to continue. I can describe Dig best as a

true northern New Englander- someone who loves the outdoors, brought up cross country skiing, alpine skiing - just truly at home on the snow. His involvement at SWSA has run the gamut- selling ads, running countless errands, snowmaking, starter on the tower, working the knoll during competitions, just stopping by to see how work was progressing. He could be found spending endless hours in his car talking on the phone to prospective clients from our parking lot. (His office as he'd call it.) His talents beyond skiing are also many. He can take notes on the smallest pieces of paper that I've ever seen and put them in a pocket and be able to retrieve them at moment's notice.

He loves to ice race old Ford Broncos; he would install screws in the tires and then drive to the event, jack the car up, switch tires, race and change tires back again to drive home all in one day. He can also talk to himself in the middle of a golf swing yet have full concentration, while hitting the ball! His talents are many and his dedication to our club has been an inspiration to all of us. Thank you Dig! Hey- hey-good work- good work. The 2024 Program is dedicated to Digby this year. Please take the time to read more about him and his life.

Jumpers from Salisbury have been very fortunate over the past years to travel throughout New England and beyond to train at different facilities and with National and International coaches. They have benefited from these experiences and shown real ski jumping progress.

The SWSA facility has also made great strides over the past 10 plus years. We have improved our 65M tower, 20M in-run, snowmaking, and grooming capabilities for the betterment of the kids and the community. We will be completing that progression this coming year with the replacement of our 30M jump. As you look up the hill you can see the current structure and be able to understand the need for its replacement. This jump was completed in the late 1940s and has had multiple renovations over the years. But it has reached its expiration date, and for the SWSA program to continue forward, it needs to be replaced along with the recontouring of the landing hill. completed the state-of-the-art progression from start to finish, teaching our jumpers how to fly. This project will require support from many organizations and individuals moving forward. We appreciate your help in achieving this goal. You can find a more detailed description and rendering within this program. We look forward to showing everyone what this organization and community can accomplish as we approach our 100th

### SWSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association is to acquaint our nearby communities, especially the children, with Nordic ski-jumping, cross-country and Alpine skiing, and to teach the skills necessary for their enjoyment and lifelong pursuit. As part of its mission, SWSA hosts and perpetuates the annual ski-jumping competition on Satre Hill to sustain ski jumping in Salisbury and the Eastern United States.

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



PHOTO BY SEAN PATRICK FOWLER

**Ken Barker**

year of ski jumping.

Within the past year we have also lost some people who have helped us over the years here at SWSA. Long time radio personality Marshall Miles left us, as well as long time volunteer Lynn Meehan and Peter Fulco, who was involved many years ago. Please take the time to read the remembrances to these folks and their contributions to the organization.

SWSA relies completely on its volunteers. Whether you assist one day a year or multiple days, at all our events or just one, we say thank you! I would personally like to thank all our past and current directors for their time and dedication toward our goals and achievements.

### THANK YOU

Lastly, we thank of all of you for coming to support this long-time local event and encourage all to please keep the local merchants and businesses in mind that support us throughout the year. Their commitment is what keeps this club and its events alive now and into the future. mean to young adults. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Ken Barker**  
President

Salisbury Winter Sports Association

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## 98 Years of Tradition Guiding the Future *By Caroline Gilbert*

Salisbury Winter Sports Association is founded on a simple principle – to introduce the community, particularly the youth, to the wonders of winter. SWSA proudly rests on a long tradition to volunteer and enjoy winter, but also continues to look forward by bringing the mission alive. Introduction to a sport and support for progress takes dedication, enthusiasm, and forward thinking. Growth happens on the shoulders of tradition while looking ahead.

The stories within this publication tell of the growth and vision for SWSA. There are highlights of lessons learned, accomplishments achieved, and shared moments of celebration of winter. SWSA volunteers, never ones to shy away from hard work, continue to learn and grow by partnering with other organizations. They learn from Nordic programs as far away as Norway and near as Lake Placid, NY. This growth creates a vision for the future. The community grows through experiences shared while building up the traditions of SWSA. Ski jumping at SWSA is unique but connects the ski jumping people and the town.

The marquee event for SWSA is Jumpfest. People arrive in Salisbury to enjoy a day at the jumps in February. There are people who enjoy the glow and warmth of the bonfire, the winter people who want more snow and cold, and the ski jumping people who love the thrill of flying. Jumpfest is an event like no other. It is put on by volunteers to watch ski jumpers launch themselves off the 70 M steel tower. The enthusiasm of competitors, volunteers and spectators is unrivaled.

While Jumpfest is a highlight for the town and the jumping community, it is only one mark of success for SWSA. The energy that comes from the hill on Jumpfest weekend is rivaled by the positive energy from the local junior jumpers. The participation numbers of Team SWSA increases each year. There is a buzz at the hill



MARLENA AAKJAR

during jumping practices and dry-land training. There are junior jumpers who are on the cusp of launching off the 70 M Hill. The coaches are former local jumpers, who were first introduced on the smallest hill, the 20 M, during the annual Holiday Jump Camp. The team travels with other clubs to train and compete, while learning life lessons and building friendships.

The recent growth of SWSA is remarkable as seen from the evolution of the first jump camp in 2008 to today. In 2008, there were few local ski jumpers on the hills. With a clear focus, vision, and dedication to making a revival happen, Satre Hill and SWSA are once again thriving all winter, not just during Jumpfest weekend. In fact, the training and support happens year-round. There is facility upkeep, fundraising and goal setting that are essential to continued growth of the organization.

The past demonstrates a commitment to a unique

“

**For 98 years SWSA has inspired children to take the first step to slide on snow, to work through their fears and pursue with courage a path forward to connect to something bigger than themselves.**

opportunity. Yet, the present supports the growth from novice to competitor. The experiences continue to grow and stretch the organization, while connecting SWSA to a larger community. An athlete and organization become stronger by learning from others and sharing ideas. The growth of SWSA depends on countless volunteers who commit to fundraising, goal setting, and oversight of the facilities. It is a combination of vision, cooperation, and work that help SWSA continue to expand.

SWSA continues to face challenges while promoting both community and sport. Continued growth of the organization is founded on a vision to improve the quality of experience for young athletes to experience a series of firsts. From start bar to take off, SWSA is building upon a long history with a focus on how to inspire and support the wonders of winter in Salisbury. For 98 years SWSA has inspired children to take the first step to slide on snow, to work through their fears and pursue with courage a path forward to connect to something bigger than themselves.

Join the winter people at Satre Hill to feel the camaraderie and energy that grows around a bonfire as spectators cheer on the local and visiting jumpers.

SWSA's tradition continues to expand while sharing the classic moments of sliding and flying on snow and ice.

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## 2024 Dedication: Digby Brown

By Willie Hallihan

When Mat and George Kiefer encouraged Digby Brown to join SWSA back in the mid-1980s, I doubt they had any idea of exactly what they were getting. Because, in addition to his experience in winter sports, Digby arrived with a back story that would have made The World's Most Interesting Man jealous.

He drag-raced his '57 Corvette in Bakersfield, CA back in the era of Big Daddy Don Garlits.

An expert skier, he competed at Yale in the "Skimeister"; the winter version of the pentathlon where athletes compete in the big four- downhill, slalom, cross-country and ski jumping.

As the head of the design/construction team for RockResorts, Digby built luxury resorts in the Caribbean and out west including the Boulders Resort where he also served as a kind of unofficial avalanche technician.

(He calls it "encouraging" avalanches.)

He was skyjacked in the early 1980s on his way to Puerto Rico and spent the night in the Havana Hilton.

These are just a few of his adventures. If you have had a conversation with Digby, then you know some of these stories, but who among us has heard them all?

Along with all of that skiing and building experience, Digby brought to SWSA a kind of down-home- New Hampshire- Yankee sensibility and quirky sense of humor that endears him to all of us. Digby could shovel and ski-pack snow with the youngest of us, weigh-in on matters of facility improvement as well as jumping issues, all while maintaining an optimism, especially in the face of annual weather adversity. He has always been an easy, friendly and encouraging team member. While packing the hill he welcomed newcomers with a smile

and a story, all while encouraging the next lap of work. His snappy "Good Work, Good Work" became his signature and oft-spoken praise for anyone's job well done.

A consummate (obsessive?) note-taker, during our monthly meetings Digby would scribble diligently - on tiny scraps of paper- a corner of an envelope here, a fragment of cardboard there, whatever he had in his pocket. I suspect there still resides in Digby's possession, a 40- year chronology of SWSA's activities in confetti-like disarray.

A very important official during a jumping competition is the Knoll Policeman. That official makes certain that the landing hill and out-run are clear and safe for the next jump. The Knoll Policeman stands at the top of the landing hill stairs ready with a flag to hold a jumper or "give the green light" to let go of the bar. Digby performed this job for decades, shouting the required "Clear on the hill" thousands of times. He also hung the SALISBURY banner beneath the take off noting that "No picture should be taken of the jump without SALISBURY being seen!" He also ensured that the American flag flew from atop the jump tower. Digby understands the importance of the details that make a safe and picturesque Jumpfest.

Lately, Digby has stepped away from SWSA activities, and this past year directors elevated him to "honorary" status joining a special group of SWSA greats. His energy and passion for SWSA combine with a humor and knowledge that are part of the history of SWSA.

This year the directors of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association dedicate the 2024 Jumpfest program to Digby Brown for his 40 years of service, his humor and his friendship.

"Good work Digby, good work!"



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN DOSTER



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## Remembrances



### VICTOR PETER FULCO

Victor Peter Fulco passed away in 2023 at 84 years of age. He was a life-long resident of the Northwest Corner, and he gave some of those years to SWSA.

During the 1970s, Peter served as a SWSA director. Much of his energy and expertise was directed towards Bittersweet where, thanks to his skills as an electrician and plumber, he helped to build the rope tow. In addition, Peter had a talent for fixing things which was used to support the running of Bittersweet. He encouraged his daughters to try new things, including skiing and ski jumping. Like so many SWSA families, Peter taught his young daughters Gail and Gwen to ski at Bittersweet. Two-year-old Gwen's first skiing experience was riding on her father's shoulders.

All of us at SWSA thank Peter for his time with us and for contributing to our story



### LYNN MEEHAN

Lynn Meehan of Salisbury, CT passed away in 2023. She and her husband Joe moved to Salisbury in the 1970s. She was active in many local organizations including SWSA and The Salisbury Land Trust.

Each year she spent a weekend in February ensconced in the Cook Shack during Jumpfest. As part of the Cookshack team, she was someone who was always cheerful. Her smile lit up the room – even on the coldest of weekends. Rose Lamson recalls, “Lynn always seemed to know where to be and what to do, whether it was bringing more rolls to the cooks, serving the public, or cleaning up.” Lynn shared an easygoing manner that supported those surrounding her.

Lynn was a positive spirit who shared her personal enthusiasm and shared an energy that uplifted others. Each remembrance of Lynn recalls her warmth, kindness and willingness to help.

SWSA thanks Lynn for her willingness to work and pitch in over many Jumpfest weekends.



### MARSHALL MILES

He made it all look so easy - his morning radio show, the local access TV station, his interviews and podcasts, his live, on-the-scene reporting of local events, long-time producer of NASCAR Dave's Sunday Morning show, as well as internet news and weather coverage of the tri-state area.

And when equipment broke down, as it regularly did, he was the tech guy who fixed it. He did it all. He was a one-man multimedia enterprise.

Keeping the Northwest Corner informed was his life-long passion; his work was truly a labor of love, and he never, in his years at Robin Hood Radio, took a paycheck.

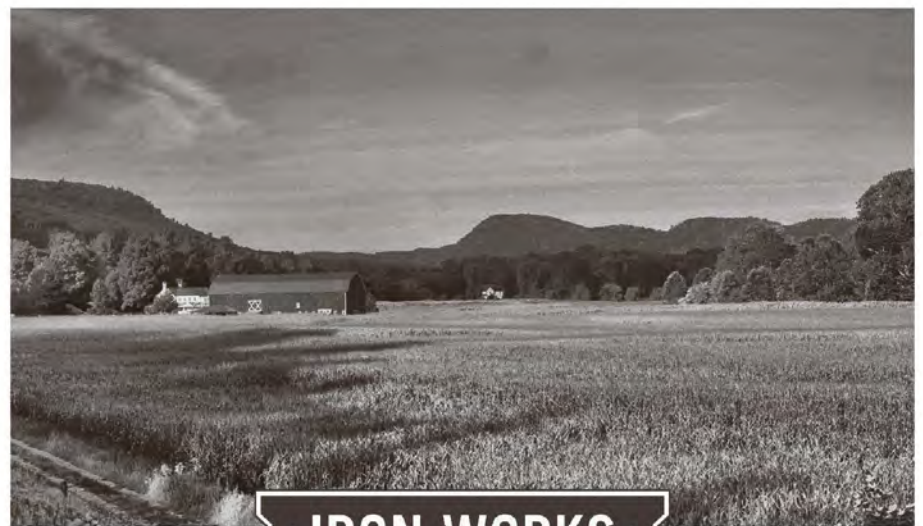
One of Marshall Miles' greatest contributions to our corner of the world was his regard for local charities. He devoted endless airtime and column inches to help local causes like SWSA tell their stories and promote their fundraisers. And for small charities with meager marketing budgets, that kind of exposure was huge.

I like to believe that SWSA held a special place in Marshall's heart- it certainly seemed that way. He gave us hundreds of hours of airtime to promote Jumpfest and our other fundraisers. Robin Hood Radio was even a major sponsor of SWSA's golf tournament. It was “non-profits helping each other” as he would put it, but, in that balance, we received far more than we gave.

We at SWSA will always be grateful to Marshall Miles for that partnership and his friendship

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## Importance of SWSA's Connection to the Larger Ski Jumping Community *By Ariel Picton Kobayashi*

Many people are aware of the importance of Jumpfest weekend on the Eastern ski jumping circuit: each year, jumpers from all over the Northeast, and often the country, come to jump at Satre Hill here in Salisbury, and the final competition of the weekend helps decide which jumpers from the East will travel to Junior Nationals. What fewer people know is just how important SWSA, and particularly, SWSA's President Ken Barker is to the Eastern, National, and world ski jumping events and community.

In addition to being the long-standing Chairman of Eastern Ski Jumping and Nordic Combined, last winter, Ken was named Chief of Hill at the Ski Jumping World Cup events held in Lake Placid. This is a very important and technical role

at a highly visible international event.

The Chief of Hill is the single person in charge of making sure all aspects of the ski jump hill itself are in absolute top-notch, world-class condition for the world's best jumpers. This involves organizing and overseeing ongoing hill prep—from making sure enough snow is made, to grooming the hill using snow cats, to organizing ski packers to pack and level the snow on the landing hill, to making sure there are people stationed on the in-run to blow any extra snow out of the tracks, and the list goes on. It is one of the most important roles at a World Cup event that keeps jumpers safe and the competition fair.

Last winter, in addition to Ken, SWSA volunteers Scott Fitch, Ella Rydingsword, Amos Gilbert, Gunnar Carlson, Jamie Nichols, Matt Bannerman, Carley Bannerman, Serena Taylor, and Billy Sheil, along with others from surrounding towns traveled to the World Cup to volunteer both on and off the hill. It was an incredible team effort led by Ken, in which SWSA played a big role.

SWSA is known for the hometown work ethic to put on Jumpfest despite weather delays and complications. The community of eastern ski jumping works together to support jumpers and events, including world class competitions.

The SWSA contingent shared their volunteer spirit and enthusiasm to help carry out the World Cup in Lake Placid. The World Cup returns to Lake Placid this February 9-11, where you will find Ken Barker and the SWSA team ready to work and learn alongside other eastern ski jumping enthusiasts.

We are lucky to have Ken Barker as the President of SWSA and so many dedicated volunteers. When you look up at the three jumps here in Salisbury, know that they have been groomed and packed by people who have prepared jumps for the world stage!




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*World Cup 2023 in Lake Placid*





## Skade Award: Ski Jumping in the Northeast

By Ariel Picton Kobayashi

Last winter I was honored to receive an award for my recent book, *Ski Jumping in the Northeast: Small Towns and Big Dreams*, a book I wrote with the intention of tracing the sport's roots as well as highlighting and identifying the close-knit community aspect and spirit of ski jumping that makes it such a special sport here in the Northeast.

The Skade Award was given to me by the International Skiing History Association

(ISHA). Founded in 1991, ISHA's mission is to "preserve and advance the knowledge of ski history and to increase public awareness of the sport's heritage." The Skade Award was presented to me in Big Sky, Montana, during ISHA's Skiing History Week for an "outstanding work on regional ski history."

It was an honor to attend the awards ceremony and I encourage anyone interested to join ISHA, and to pick up a copy of my book at your local bookstore!

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## From The Salisbury Board of Selectmen

On behalf of the Town of Salisbury, welcome to the 98th annual Jumpfest. Sponsored by the Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA), this unique event finds its roots in several of our town's ancestors who introduced us to Nordic winter sports competition in the 1920s. The program provides winter recreational activities for people of all ages, and over the years Satre Hill has attracted many National and Olympic championship jumpers, including several from Salisbury.

The SWSA program is run entirely by volunteers who donate long hours to ensure a high quality, competitive, safe, and fun event that teaches confidence as well as skiing skills. We are proud of their dedication and hard work

SWSA believes that there should always be a chance for any child to get outside and en-

joy the winter, and over the years it has sponsored a ski swap, cross-country and downhill skiing, and increased jumping opportunities for younger jumpers. SWSA is an important part of a larger recreational program in Salisbury that includes swimming, skating, tennis, baseball, soccer, paddle tennis, pickleball, and sailing. The town continues its restoration of the downhill area known as Bittersweet with a goal of providing children's downhill skiing in the future. In addition to winter activities, throughout the year, SWSA offers its facilities at Satre Hill for fund-raising events benefiting local charities.

We hope that you enjoy your visit to Salisbury and we appreciate your support of the important SWSA ski jumps. Please visit us online at [www.salisburyct.us](http://www.salisburyct.us), and we hope to see you on a return trip during the spring, summer, and fall!



PHOTO BY NANCY DEPECOL



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# JUMPING LINGO



## "Have one!"

Term of encouragement shared between jumpers. Traditionally jumpers standing on the stairs call out "have one!" to the athlete on the bar and they return it as they begin their inrun.



## Send it!

Similar usage to "have one" but with more enthusiasm, not usually echoed. See also: "Have a sandy one!"

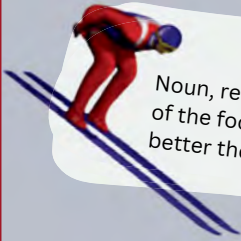
## Tele landing

Noun, abbreviation of "telemark" landing. A style of landing a jump with one foot forward and both knees bent. Adds stability and style points



# HOLLYWOOD

Verb, refers to jumper landing with feet together and sliding into a tele landing, hoping to garner style points, it rarely works.



## Shin angle

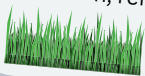
Noun, refers to the angle created between the jumpers shin and top of the foot when in the inrun position. The narrower the angle, the better the position. Often abbreviated into one word "shinangle."

## Rolling down the windows

Verb, refers to a jumper trying to gain balance by circling their arms in the air. Generally considered poor style and not comprehensible to anyone born after 1990.



Noun, refers to the artificial grass placed on some hills that allows for jumping in the spring, summer, and autumn.



## Plastic



## 2023 SWSA Awards Photos by Caroline Gilbert

### SATURDAY

**Louise Sherwood Memorial Cup**  
Awarded for the best single jump by a woman during the Salisbury Invitational

**Sherwood Brothers Cup**  
Given to the best overall on the 70 M in the Salisbury Invitational. Given by the Sherwood Family

### Ladies Cup

Given the jumper with the highest points in a division other than the winner. Given in memory of Charlotte Satre Torrissen in honor of the women who graciously support SWSA.

**Earle Murphy and Don West Award**  
Given to the winner of the Masters class in the Eastern Championship.

### SUNDAY

**Salisbury Cup**  
Given to the best overall jumper. Cup is retired after three wins by the same individual

### Sig Evensen Trophy

Given to the best overall junior.



## Scoring Ski Jumping

A jumper's scores are based on a combination of style and distance. Ski jumping is about how far you can fly — not height or acrobatics.

### STYLE

Style is based on two components: flight in air and landing. While an athlete is in the air the judges look for a stable body, fully stretched legs and how well the athlete capitalizes on wind conditions.

An athlete's landing is judged on a smooth transition from flight to landing position. The landing position is called a telemark. A proper telemark landing should have a straightened upper body, bent knees, split legs, feet apart with hands out when first gliding on the snow. Five judges score the athletes, with the lowest and highest scores thrown out.

Judges start with a perfect score of 20 and deduct points for flaws in landing or flight.

### DISTANCE

An athlete's jump is measured in distance and converted to points. An athlete receives 60 points if they reach the K point. The K point refers to the section of the landing hill where it starts to flatten out and is usually marked by a red line. This indicates the hill size, for instance the K point here on the large steel jump is 70. A jump to the K point is worth 60 points; each meter over or under that distance increases or decreases the score.

### COMPETITION

Traditional competitions follow a two-round format. Usually the second round is run in the order of lowest first-round score to highest, meaning the leading jumpers jump last in the final round.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**In-run:** The portion of the jump during which the athlete travels down the takeoff.

**K-Point:** The distance from the takeoff that is equivalent to the height of the hill.

**Telemark position:** Landing position with one ski in front of the other in a lunge position. The skier's body then transitions into a straightened upper body, bent knees, slit legs, feet apart and hands out.

**V-style:** Today's jumping style. The tips of the skis are in a V-shape during flight to achieve optimal aerodynamic efficiency.

**Good luck  
to all the  
jumpers!**

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## How to Join Team SWSA

If you are interested in trying out ski jumping and Team SWSA email [info@jumpfest.org](mailto:info@jumpfest.org)  
Practices are held on Mondays and Thursdays 5:30 - 7:30pm, and Saturdays 12:00 - 2:00pm.

First time jumpers can join a practice for \$25 which will include membership to Team SWSA.

Membership includes everything you need to participate for the season:

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- Registration to compete in Jumpfest

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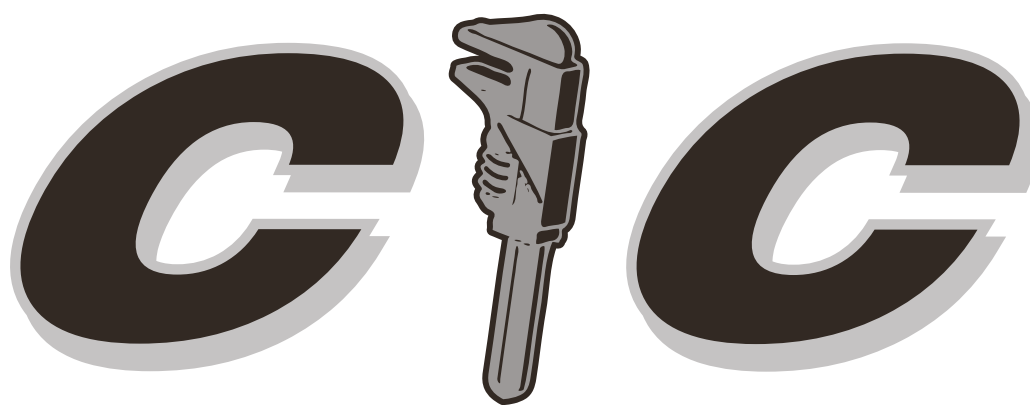
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## Introduction to Team SWSA 2023

Meet the jumpers, families, and volunteers who have taken their experiences at the ski jumps and turned them into new friendships and growth opportunities. These stories of travels and family highlight the impact of building skills and community.

From start-bar to take-off, SWSA ski jumpers are challenged, engaged, and encouraged to improve and learn, all while having fun. Through active involvement of volunteers, athletes, families, and a coordination with other clubs, junior jumping at SWSA is thriving. In 2023, trips to Lake Placid, Alaska, and Norway provided opportunities for athletes to learn and improve.

Part of the joy of ski jumping is the thrill of speed and flight. In addition, Team SWSA is elevated by the people who surround the program. SWSA is part of a network of ski jumping clubs in New England, United States, and the world, who share knowledge, coaching, and enthusiasm. By surrounding ourselves with others with a passion, the club and Team SWSA continue to improve, grow and compete.



Jump Camp, page 25

PHOTO BY CAROLINE GILBERT



Norway, page 21

PHOTO BY BILLY SHEIL



Jump Camp, page 25

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Alaska, page 22

PHOTO BY KAREN BERTAPELLE



Norway, page 21

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## Finding Community at SWSA *By Billy Sheil, SWSA Director and parent of multiple Junior Jumpers*

It was December of 2020; the world was knee-deep in COVID-19 and my family had barely socialized with anyone outside of our immediate family since February of that year. With four great kids and an amazing wife, that may not sound too dire, but it was becoming clear that even all the hectic activity and fun that comes with a troop of six was lacking an important element—community connection.

At the time we were living in NYC, with no plans of ever leaving and no game plan to even think about doing so, when one of those lofty pie-in-the sky ideas came to me. . .

“A ski house. . . that’s what we need!”

After briefly talking it out, my wife and I agreed; finding a place to rent close to some skiing would allow us to get out of the city and provide an outdoor activity that would have us feeling normal-ish in a world that had quickly become not-so-normal. With that idea in mind, an adventurous sense of spirit, and a chance meeting with a realtor (who would later become a very close friend), we found ourselves renting in the heart of beautiful and idyllic Lakeville, CT.

While NYC was still unquestionably our home (and still present in some of our accents), we were blown away by our time in the country from day one: the mountains, the lakes, the fresh air, the open space, and—oh, how could I forget—The Lakeville Journal, an incredible source of news that covers the happenings of our small slice of the state so well.

I was quick to become a dedicated reader of The Journal, where we first learned of SWSA and about the annual Holiday Ski Jump Camp. My children were already very comfortable on downhill skis, so it wasn’t hard to get them out there on that New Year’s Eve Day in 2020. They were willing to give ski jumping a try.

To put things into the parlance of the sport, this was the **start bar!**



Wait, let’s back up slightly. First, we had to get there! We threw the kids and their skis in the Suburban and put 80 Indian Cave Road, Salisbury, into our GPS. We were ready to wind our way over the backroads and find the Ski Jumps.

“What? It’s only six minutes away?” I remarked incredulously. Where could this town of roughly 3,500 people be hiding a ski jump? As we drove up the pot-hole-filled dirt road, looking like the Griswold family, and made the final turn around a copse of tall trees, my question was answered. Our heads shot up, our mouths dropped open, and eyes snapped wide open.


We must have looked like the scientists from Jurassic Park when they first encountered dinosaurs. “Kids, would you look at this?!”


So, in a sense, this was our **takeoff**.



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The kids enthusiastically took to ski jumping. They loved the coaches and the other kids at the camp. My wife and I quickly realized there was fun and excitement in store for us, too: the bonfires SWSA members graciously lit to keep us warm, Labonne’s sandwiches in the snow, Tom Petty and Chris Stapleton cranking from the Byrd house speakers. To say we felt welcomed and warm (on some cold, cold days and nights) would be an understatement.


So, we as a family were not just introduced to ski jumping and Satre Hill that day, we were introduced to new friends and a new community. And it was because of these new connections that we would shift our dreams of a “ski house” to a ski home.

Who knows what our future with ski jumping will be? Will my kids be traveling to the French Alps in 2030 or Salt Lake City in 2034 to jump in the Winter Olympics? Or will they just be kids with a natural ebb and flow of varying interests and pursuits. Time will tell. Either way, we’ll be carrying kick-ass memories and regaling the people whose paths we cross in life with amazing stories from our years at “the jumps.”

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## Learning to Fly *By Islay Sheil*

Have you ever wanted to fly? Me too and I never thought I would until I learned about ski jumping. Ski jumping is a sport that offers a unique experience that feels like flying. It teaches valuable life lessons such as trust, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Ski jumping is all about conquering new challenges and experiencing the thrill of a new first. The ski jumping community is close-knit and supportive, spanning across different parts of the world. Ski jumpers form lasting friendships with their competitors and coaches. It is a sport that fosters personal growth, confidence, and resilience.

Experiencing new things for the first time is always exciting. As a ski jumper, the thrill of tackling new challenges is what keeps me coming back every year. From skiing straight down the landing hill for the first time to my initial jump at camp when I was just eleven years old, to the nerve-wracking experience of doing larger and more complex jumps, each new experience has its unique excitement. I'll never forget the first time I did the Nansen jump in New Hampshire, which was twice the size of any jump I had attempted before. With my coach Seth and fellow jumpers cheering me on, I took a deep breath and went for it. It was an exhilarating rush of adrenaline, and I knew then that I was hooked. These days, I'm always on the lookout for my next challenge, and I can't wait to tackle the 70M hill in Salisbury. Whether I'm practicing or competing, each new challenge brings me one step closer to being a stronger and better jumper.

Ski jumping is not just a sport, but it is also a community of supportive individuals who span different parts of the world from here in Salisbury, Connecticut to places like Oslo, Norway. The close-knit ski jumping community is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it. Coaches from different clubs all around the world not only coach their own club, but also anyone who needs support. For instance, the legendary ski jump coach Larry Stone from Lake Placid, New York, coaches young



PHOTOS BY BILLY SHEIL

ski jumpers every weekend that we train at the Lake Placid facilities. Another example is this summer I was one of the very fortunate people who traveled together to train in Norway. A group of eastern ski jumpers from Salisbury and Lake Placid joined together to travel to multiple different hills such as Vicersond, Holmenkollen, NOR and many more. The athletes were coached by the Lake Placid coaches, Larry Stone and Colin Delaney, but also learned from the Norwegian coaches. Because of this tight-knit community, we got a chance to train with jumpers from the national team and got coached there. This was an incredible experience, and I would not trade it for anything. The ski jumping community also makes lasting friendships, athletes form friendships with their competitors and coaches. Ski jumpers from New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and other places come together to participate



When you are standing at the top of a new jump, unable to see where you'll land, all you can do is trust in your training and your abilities. The coaches and athletes around you help you believe in yourself and know when it's time to let go.

— *Islay Sheil, Jumper*

in ski jumping meets every weekend, and in doing so, this causes us to become friends and competitors. All the ski jumpers know each other's goals and cheer one another on to learn and accomplish more.

In ski jumping, I've found that you learn valuable life lessons that stay with you forever. One of the biggest lessons I've learned is the importance of trusting yourself. When you're standing at the top of a new jump, unable to see where you'll land, all you can do is trust in your training and your abilities. The coaches and athletes around you help you believe in yourself and know when it's time to let go. Once you do, all your worries go away, and you're left with an incredible sense of relief, adrenaline, and confidence. It feels like you can do anything. I've also learned to always persevere and get back up, no matter what. Even after a bad fall and a broken wrist, I didn't give up. It took a lot of strength, courage, and time, but I eventually got back on the jump and continue to jump it to this day.

In conclusion, ski jumping is more than just a sport. It offers an incredible experience that feels just like flying and teaches valuable life lessons such as trust, perseverance, and sportsmanship. I face new challenges every day, and the thrill of tackling these challenges keeps me coming back for more. The ski jumping community is incredibly supportive and fosters lasting friendships among athletes and coaches from all around the world. Ski jumping has taught me to trust in myself, to never give up, and to be resilient in the face of obstacles. I'm grateful for the experiences I've had in ski jumping, and I'm excited to see what new challenges and lessons await me in the future.

# STATELINE

# WINE & SPIRITS

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## Team SWSA Members Travel to Norway

By Serena Hollmeyer Taylor

Last August, five Salisbury athletes traveled to Oslo, Norway to train at the storied hills of Holmenkollbakken. There they met up with fellow jumpers from Lake Placid, NY and Park City, UT, as well as New York Ski Education Foundation (NYSEF) coaches Larry Stone and Colin Delaney.

The training hills of Holmenkollbakken sit high above Oslo and look slightly different from the hills of the Northeast—with plastic mats allowing jumping to take place on the 10M, 20M, 40M, 60M, and 90M jumps in every season.

The SWSA athletes trained with Norwegian athletes and were coached by the Norwegian coaching staff along with Stone and Delaney. This international collaboration reflects in practice the 2022 partnership established between USA Nordic Sport (USANS) and Norges Hopplandslaget, the national organization for jumping in their respective countries. The partnership works to support athletes and the sport through training, coaching, and promoting of jumping throughout the world. For the SWSA athletes this meant the opportunity to spend time with coaches and jumpers for whom this sport is deeply imbued in their culture. Unlike the United States, where a child who ski jumps is an aberration, the 120M jump that sits iconically over the capital has a spectator capacity of 70,000 and jumpers are as well-known as NFL quarterbacks in the United States.

This trip provided so much to the athletes from Salisbury: intensive coaching due to the large number of coaches on hand, deepened friendships, and opportunities to meet and befriend athletes from all over Scandinavia and Europe. Also present in the background were the commonalities of the sport: volunteers marking distances jumped, athletes cheering each other on, and providing support even during the fiercest mo-



ments of competition; some SWSA parents were even press-ganged into staffing the Norwegian version of the Cook Shack, trying their hands at hjertevafler and pølse (waffles and hot dogs.)

The time spent on the hills at Holmenkollbakken and Vikersund, the ski flying hill, where the world record was set, allowed the US jumpers and coaches to experience what a full complement of hill sizes can provide to young flyers. For an athlete to improve requires goal setting, training and inspiration. The opportunity to be surrounded by motivated, knowledgeable, and inspired coaches and teammates elevates a young athlete. The trip allowed them to always have their eyes on the next largest hill as a goal to work towards—even as their coaches try to keep their focus on the hill under foot! Additionally, facilities that can be used year-round provide a strong base of training for jumpers. As the saying goes “summer is for training, winter is for competition.”

SWSA is grateful to be a part of the ski jumping community in the Northeast and proud of the athletes who represented us in Norway this summer. We can't wait to watch them bring their new Nordic knowledge to the skies this winter!



PHOTOS BY BILLY SHEIL

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## Team SWSA Goes to Alaska, Again!

*By Allen Bertapelle*

One of the advantages of participating in ski jumping is the opportunity to travel with other teams and coaches. During June the Nordic and Jumping team in Anchorage, Alaska hosts a camp and competition. Summer jumping provides a consistent surface to improve the techniques necessary for the winter season.

This summer, SWSA returned to Anchorage Alaska to train with Team AK at the Summer Solstice Camp held at the Karl Eid Jumping Complex. SWSA Jumpers Victoria Bertapelle and Edward Bertapelle were joined by other Eastern Division Ski Jumpers; Celia Osborn, Caroline Chor, and Catherine Chor for the duration of the camp. As an additional bonus, Coach Larry Stone also joined the Eastern jumpers as a coach at this camp.

Jumpers each gained valuable experience training on different size hills. Receiving feedback from different coaches, spending time getting to know each other better as an Eastern Division team, and meeting other jumpers from around the country. There were jumpers from all five regions: Alaska, Central, Eastern, Intermountain Division, and Rocky Mountain. The expertise and comradery elevated the experience of learning in a spectacular venue.

Highlights from the camp included a midnight jump, jumping from one day into the next, a conditioning hike to the Portage Glacier, seeing Mount Denali from the top of the jump, and a camping overnight on the outrun prior to the last day of camp - or was it camping 'over day' in the land of the midnight sun(?).

These Team SWSA members return to the snow this winter with new experiences, improved skills and excitement. Have one!



PHOTO BY KAREN BERTAPELLE



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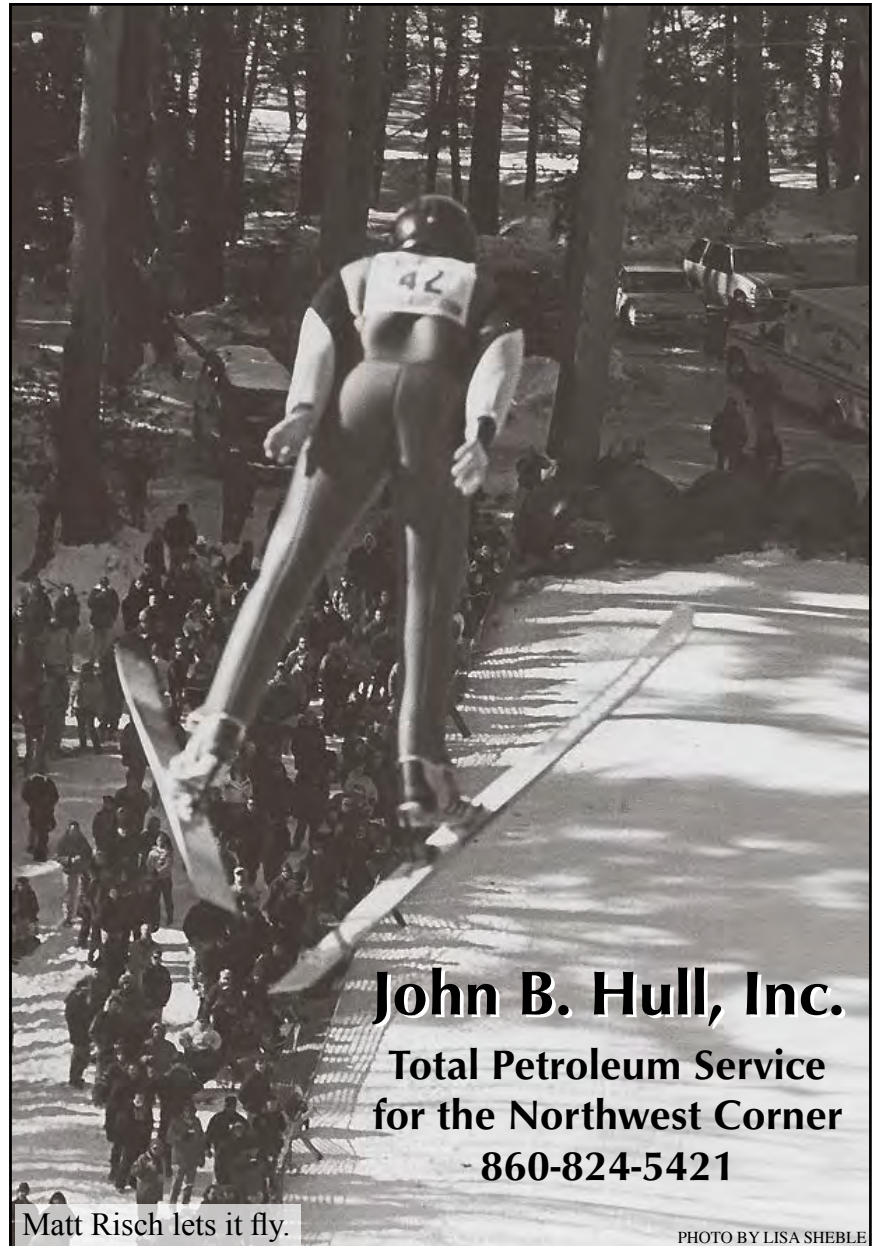
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PHOTO BY CHERYL TOURVILLE

## Ladies of Eastern Ski Jumping

By Cheryl Tourville

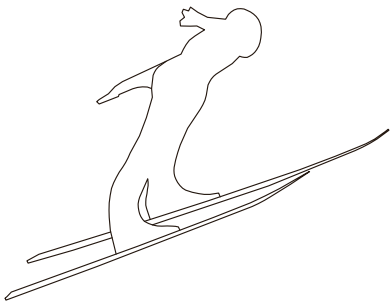
The Ladies of Eastern Ski Jumping is a group that was created to empower female athletes from the Eastern Division. The attrition of girls from jumping was significantly higher than the boys. The girls felt ski jumping was a male-dominated sport; they didn't have enough support. I was inspired and with the support of another mother, my husband, and a jumping coach, created the Ladies of Eastern Ski Jumping as a social group to give the girls the support they wanted and needed. I wanted an opportunity for the girls to receive encouragement to try new things, "to put the sunglasses on for the people around them".

Just like Fly Girls from the Central Division of Jumping, we assist in recruiting and retaining female athletes for the Eastern Division Clubs. The ladies still register and train with their local teams but have additional resources and support.

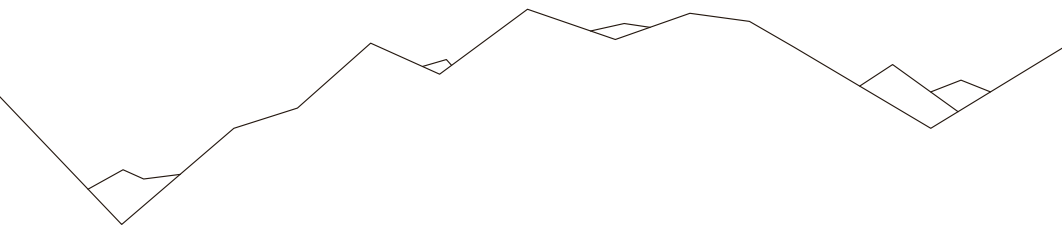
Since our founding, we have grown in many ways. We have the support of all the Eastern Division Clubs, the coaches, parents and the support of our male athletes. This group has not only grown in numbers but also in offerings! We successfully hosted two GIRLS ONLY sessions in 2023 (Andover Outing Club and NYSEF). We received national support, where fellow female ski jumpers donated their suits for our girls.

The group provides unique opportunities for the athletes to combine both social and athletic activities—providing confidence boosts and empowerment. Today the girls look out for each other and have created a bond that empowers them and our group. With the connections and opportunities, they fly like you wouldn't believe! With our two GIRLS ONLY clinics in 2023 we saw significant growth and development in the athletes. The leadership of special guest coaches and the comraderie of the girls combine to create a unique support group that motivates the athletes. The Ladies of Eastern Ski Jumping welcomes all, encouraging athletes from their first time sitting on the bar to sending them off the 90M in Lake Placid. We can't wait to watch these ladies fly this winter!

So how does this really work? Girls join their local club and are immediately introduced to Eastern Ladies by fellow members, coaches and others. The girls have their own banner, a place to gather, with snacks, and handwarmers provided. When a female athlete loses her confidence, we assign another female athlete and one of our coaches to work with them. We create access to various training opportunities at each club, and we empower young girls to work hard which leads to progress, success, and belonging. Today the girls look out for each other and have created a bond that empowers them and our group. The bonding helps encourage each girl to push through barriers and evolve with their training. Success builds success by surrounding the athletes with supportive and competitive like-minded young women. Watch Ladies of Eastern Ski Jumping fly this winter!



# SWSA 2024



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## 16th Annual Holiday Jump Camp January 6 and 7, 2024 *Photos by Caroline Gilbert*

The 16th annual Holiday Jump Camp was held January 6 and 7 and was a huge success. Saturday morning close to 40 children, ages 6 and up, were registered and ready to fly! The first day with perfect temperatures and lots of enthusiasm made for a positive day of firsts. Sunday brought a snowy winter day, but in the ski jumping world that just means putting on another layer. A series of firsts of skiing the landing hill, moving to the top of the hill start-bar, staying low in the in-run and pushing at take-off were all accomplished. Experienced Team SWSA members were there to support and cheer on the newcomers, while practicing their technique.

The Holiday camp is an annual tradition that allows current jumpers to get back on the snow and introduces eager skiers to try out the sport of ski jumping. This year the camp followed an introduction day at Salisbury Central School. Current and former jumpers along with Lake Placid and former US coach Larry Stone, introduced grades 2-5 to the sport during gym class.

Coaching at camp came from Seth Gardner, Caleb Gilbert, and Ella Rydingsword, who are all former jumpers and participants at past Jump Camps. Caleb has attended in some capacity all 16 Jump Camps!

The camp is made possible by snowmaking that starts in November and the many volunteers who work to snow the in-run and hill. They were supported by a team of SWSA parents and Directors: Alan Bertapelle, Scott Fitch, Holly Reid, Rosina Rand, Spencer Taylor and Billy Sheil.

Team SWSA is looking forward to continuing the season with weekday and weekend practices. Check [Jumpfest.org](http://Jumpfest.org) for updates or email [info@jumpfest.org](mailto:info@jumpfest.org) to receive more information.

Come learn to fly with Team SWSA!





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## Continuing the Legacy for Tomorrow: The Time Is Now



**I**magine being at the top of a ski jump and having no sight access to your landing. At this courageous moment, Salisbury Winter Sports Association's young athletes need to trust their hours of training, their equipment, and their coaches. Much of the formula for a current SWSA jumper's success relies on the generosity of access to facilities from a small handful of programs in the Northeast.

While the Annual Holiday Jump Camp at Satre Hill plants the seed and imagination for future successes, the ultimate progression to soar off Salisbury's own impressive tower on Jumpfest weekend in February is missing a critical step: an intermediary jump between the 20M and the 70M. Right now, it feels like putting a person on the moon to make this step to the tallest tower. But, like the Apollo astronauts, our

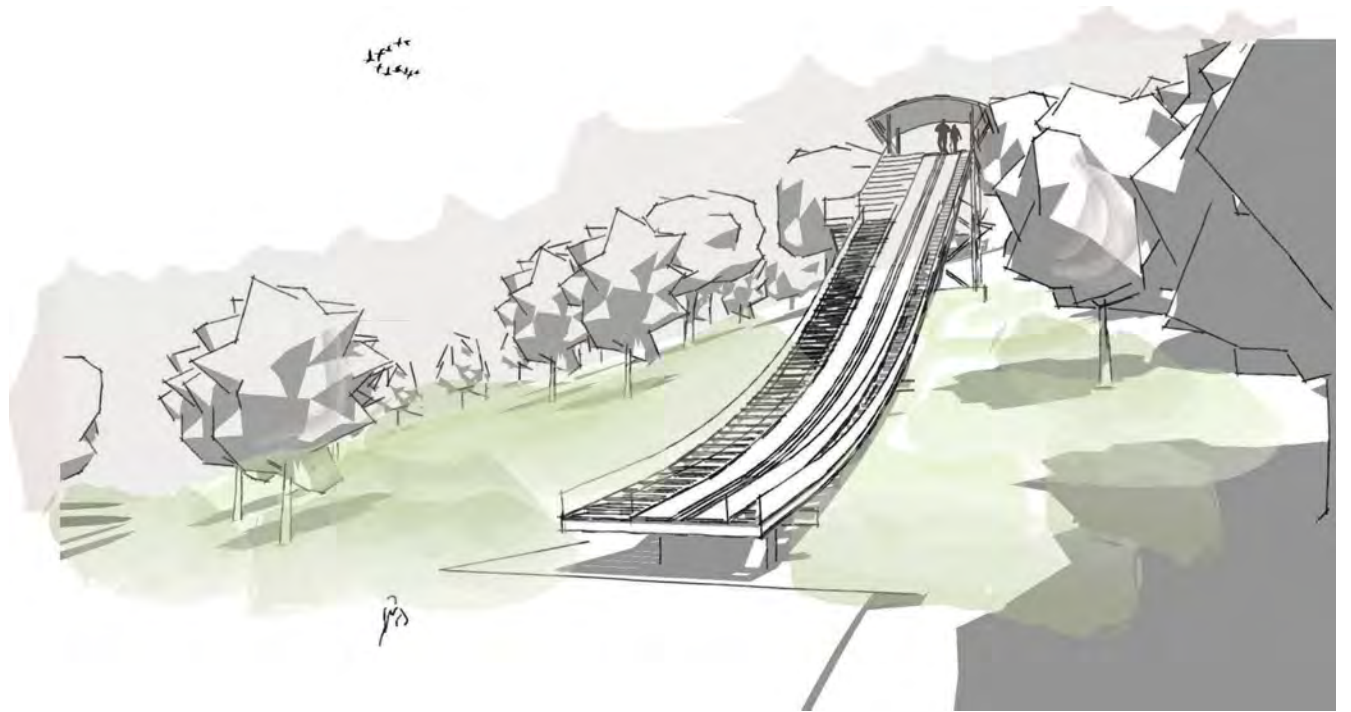
ambitious, aspiring program simply needs to modernize the steppingstones and training opportunities to make this a reality. SWSA's current intermediate jump is nearly 75 years old and needs replacing, now. The future mission as an active, vibrant winter sports club relies on this, among other important upgrades.

Over the past 10 years, SWSA has systematically worked to rebuild, renew and revive ski jumping and the facilities at Satre Hill. The 16th Annual Holiday Jump Camp was held this winter with an attendance of over 30 junior jumpers. The new jumpers of 2024 were led by some coaches who were members of the first camp held in 2008. Facility upgrades to the smallest hill include a regrading of the landing hill, metal in-run tracks, a new trestle, upgraded snowmaking pipes and snow guns and the purchase of a state-of-the-art PistonBully snow groomer. A Nordic ski loop has been cut and is ready for cross-country skiing. In addition, the land has been cleared to better the sightlines for spectators, but also in preparation of replacing the 30M jump. These foundational steps are necessary to launch the next generation from the 70M steel tower at Satre Hill. SWSA has laid the groundwork with people and scaffolding and are ready for the next step.

“A new intermediate jump, one that bridges the gap between our beginner and advanced hills, that young jumpers will be able to trust and find courage in as they build their confidence and skills, is an absolutely crucial step to ensure the continuation and success of ski jumping in Salisbury for decades to come.

**Ariel Picton Kobayashi**  
*former local jumper  
and SWSA coach*

Remember when you were driven by a dream that was fueled by profound opportunity and the vision of an attainable hero. The past and future Junior Olympians, many of whom go onto the World stage that compete in Salisbury every year are examples of the unique design and purposeful approach of the national ski jumping community. Salisbury Winter Sports Association has all the



**Future design of a state-of-the-art intermediate jump at Satre Hill to be completed by Jumpfest 2025.**



**Aerial view of the proposed intermediate jumping hill and tower, to replace the current 75-year-old structure.**



**Profile of the existing 30 Meter tower erected nearly 75 years ago!**

ingredients: partners in the local community, an amazing group of volunteers, consistent and committed leadership, and a generational legacy that exists in only a few select places in America. The core goals, beyond the remarkable events, are to build character and prepare our kids for life through winter sports and community relationships. Very few places in the United States can make this claim.

The last time SWSA undertook a fundraising effort like this, more than a decade ago, they achieved great success, raising \$700,000 from over 500 donors, earning a celebratory feature in the New York Times. Thus, the legacy that started in 1926 endures, just as thousands of spectators and courageous jumpers from around the United States make the pilgrimage to the Northwest Corner each winter to test their skill in our second-to-none setting.

There is a bumper sticker from the last fundraising campaign that remains on a few cars in town, “Salisbury IS Jumping.” Anyone who has been around SWSA for even a day would NEVER disagree. Team SWSA does not ever show “how the

sausage is made,” but only turns out national caliber events. The extensive snowmaking piles often start in late November. With an army of volunteers, the set up for the three hills sometimes stretches well into the night to prepare for Jumpfest and Junior Nationals. One only needs to spend an afternoon with this inspiring group to witness even a fraction of the deep community values they reflect.

The town of Salisbury and SWSA have a remarkable, well-earned ski jumping legacy, and there are talented, enthusiastic jumpers in the pipeline waiting for their turn. Truly, this tradition has endured, and SWSA is well positioned for this next step. The capital support to come will assure that future generations will be afforded the same opportunities, and SWSA can double-down on all its uniqueness. These jump and hill renovations are long overdue and essential for the program. The vision to come that supports SWSA’s mission will be our gift to the passion for winter sports and the dreams of our youth in the area forevermore. SWSA IS Jumping, and it is part of the fabric and tradition of our amazing town and area.

## **SWSA’S MISSION**

The mission of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association is to acquaint our nearby communities, especially the children, with Nordic ski-jumping, cross-country and Alpine skiing, and to teach the skills necessary for their enjoyment and lifelong pursuit. As part of its mission, SWSA hosts and perpetuates the annual ski-jumping competition on Satre Hill to sustain ski jumping in Salisbury and the Eastern United States.

[www.jumpfest.org](http://www.jumpfest.org)

## **CAPITAL GOALS**

*estimated*

**New 30M Tower**

**\$225,000**

**Regrade of 20M and 30M  
Landing Hills in Prep for Plastic**

**\$40,000**

**Subsurface Preparation for Plastic**

**\$35,000**

**Structural/Civil and  
Electrical Engineering Drawings**

**\$30,000**

**Electrical and Lighting Upgrades**

**\$30,000**

**Total Capital Goal of \$425,000**

## **COUNTDOWN**

***T-Minus 12 Months to Launch***

**CAMPAIGN BEGINS MARCH 2024**

**Dismantle Current Jump**

**Spring 2024**

**Excavation Work**

**April-June 2024**

**Steel Installation**

**September-October 2024**

**Landing Hill Excavation and Reprofile Hill**

**August-October 2024**

**Open for Take-Off**

**Jumpfest 2025**

**Installation of Underlayment Covered  
by Plastic for Spring/Summer Jumping**

**Summer 2025**

## *Salisbury IS Jumping*

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association welcomes and relies on financial contributions to support ongoing improvements to Satre Hill and additional needs. Naming opportunities are available for parts of the new intermediate jump and the jump itself, as well as remaining building and program projects.

***For further information regarding capital contributions please contact Peter Gilbert at [peter.gilbert@jumpfest.org](mailto:peter.gilbert@jumpfest.org)***

**Jumpfest 2023** Photos by Marlena Aakjar, Caroline Gilbert and Cheryl Tourville



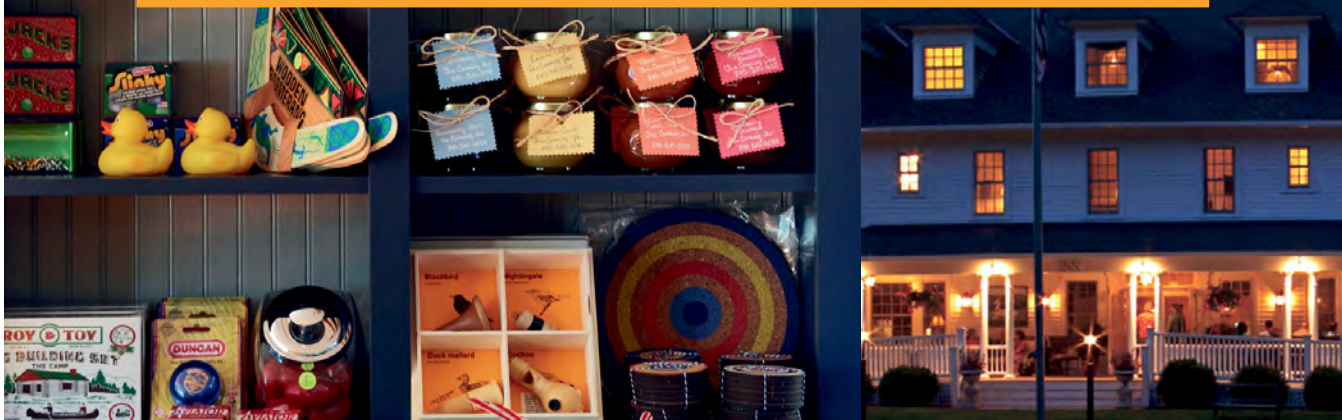
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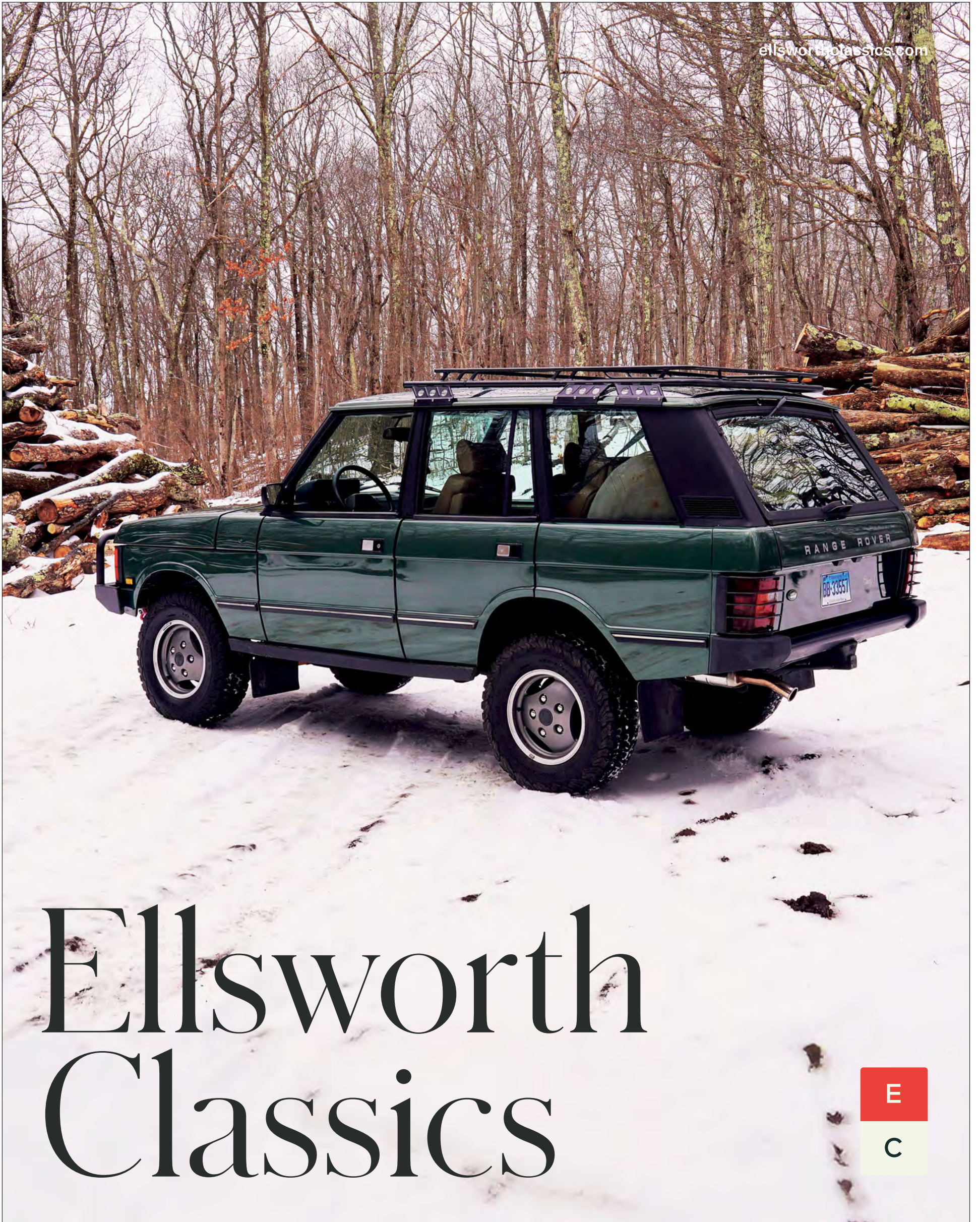


A close-up photograph of a cup of hot tea on a silver tray. The tray also holds a cookie and a tea bag. A metal lid is visible in the background. The scene is set on a dark, textured surface.

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## The History of SWSA *By Willie Hallihan*

John Satre Memorial Hill in Salisbury is the home of Salisbury Winters Sports Association (SWSA). It was born from the guidance of Norwegian immigrants, nurtured by the passion of Salisbury's townspeople, sustained by the dedication of SWSA and reborn through the good will and generous hearts of those donations that made possible the building of the new tower in 2011. Today, the facility continues to grow and evolve to support the wonders of winter.

Ever since a winter afternoon in 1925 when a Norwegian immigrant skied off the edge of a barn roof to show the locals the wonder of his sport, ski jumping has held an honored place in Salisbury's history and

in its heart. In its long tenure, ski jumping has helped shape many young lives and has brought both national and international recognition to some of Salisbury's best athletes. The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) and its Satre Hill are well respected throughout the ski jumping world. Its annual competition is a required jump for Junior National hopefuls; its directors who manage the myriad technical issues of putting on a jump have been called "the equal of any jump maintenance crew in the nation" by Lake Placid officials, and the size of our hill provides a necessary transition for learning jumpers to move from small practice hills to the large hills of Lake Placid.



PHOTOS BY MARLENA AAKJAR



PHOTO BY CAROLINE GILBERT

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- Bob Anderson

## View from the Top 2024 *By Carey Fiertz*

If you stare at a bonfire from several hundred yards away, and try hard, it will warm you. Trust me. I speak from many years' experiences at the top of the jumps.

If you stare at the Cook Shack long enough, you can definitely taste a burger. Ah, those onions... (okay- if the wind is right, the aroma helps.) While I have yet to master staring at the beer & wine tent, well, maybe this will be the year.

And, if you stare at the crowds and jumpers down below, you can start to appreciate the vast undertaking that SWSA represents.

Consider that folks have stood on the tower (and its predecessors) for almost 100 years, supporting a sport that is not exactly mainstream, and never has been in this country. Yet somehow, the magic of Satre Hill endures. It attracts volunteers who give untold hours in all kinds of weather, jumpers who risk life and limb to compete, coaches who generously share their wisdom, and spectators who cheer wholeheartedly - no matter what.

When I first joined SWSA almost 20 years ago, I was told we did an extraordinary job hosting competitions, and that people loved to travel from Lake Placid and New Hampshire and wherever jumpers live and train. It is a highlight of the eastern ski jumping season. Of course, hardly anyone on the board of directors had ever seen a jump competition anywhere else, so we just did the same thing every year and somehow, it worked.

Today, the enterprise has become more complex. Happily, we have a growing number of young jumpers wearing SWSA uniforms, and they and their parents are committed to success. Our President, Ken Barker, is a certified jump official who runs the Eastern Division's Jumping and Nordic Combined Program, and is Chief of Hill for the World Cup in Lake Placid, NY; he has



PHOTO BY JONATHAN DOSTER

mastered requisite skills ranging from raking snow to operating the PistenBully snow groomer to comforting a 5 year-old first-timer.

As SWSA grows, so do the challenges, ranging from the need for mandatory SafeSport training to fundraising to climate change. We are actively improving the facilities at Satre Hill and are actively working to replace

the 30M jump. We also aim to offer jump training year-round.

SWSA could not operate without community support. We are eternally grateful to our volunteers, parents, jumpers, donors, advertisers, sponsors, and ticket buyers. Thank you, and if you want to learn how to feel a bonfire from the top of the tower, let me know!





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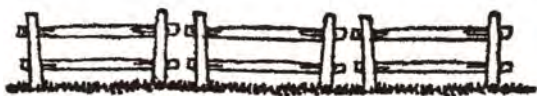
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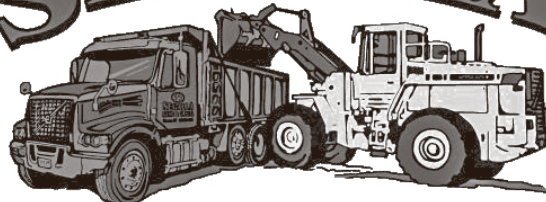
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## Supporting SWSA *By Willie Hallihan*

SWSA holds several fundraising events every year in addition to the marquee event of Jumpfest. Each event, in its own way, contributes to SWSA's ongoing mission of helping children to participate in the skiing disciplines and to consistently upgrade our facilities.

SWSA is fueled by the manpower and generosity of volunteers to support the mission. There is an impressive ethic of involvement and support that surrounds the organization. Each year SWSA faces challenges to upgrade and maintain facilities, all while promoting and increasing the participation numbers. In addition to running a ski jumping facility and coaching ski jumpers, SWSA supports local ski clubs through area schools and town recreation departments. Each year SWSA looks to improve and continue to provide support for the community.

Annually, SWSA hosts several fundraising opportunities to build support and finances for the club:

September -2024 will see the 17th Annual SWSA Golf Tournament and Pig Roast. Held every year in September at Undermountain Golf Course in Copake, NY. It is a great event to have in the off-season while awaiting winter. The event is an opportunity to have a Saturday morning of fun with like-minded people while supporting SWSA. A pig roast helps differentiate the outing from other tournaments and helps support the Sunday in the Country Food Drive. Over 20 local businesses and individuals help underwrite the event.

October- A month after the Golf Tournament and Pig Roast, Chris Batista, owner of the Stateline Wine and Spirits in Canaan organizes the BrewSki Fest at Satre Hill. The proceeds of this event are donated to SWSA. This is a major fundraiser and includes 40

or more breweries and live music by the Steve Dunn Band. Again, local businesses underwrite the event.

December- Many winter sports enthusiasts mark the first Saturday in December- the day of SWSA's second longest-running event, the Ski Swap 'n Sale. Both used and new equipment are on sale at the Lakeville Firehouse the first weekend of December. This event is a favorite among many SWSA Directors because it gives people a chance to sell their used equipment, outfit themselves, and especially their children for very reasonable prices. The line forms early as families arrive to find the best gear at the best prices. The proceeds from this event support local school ski programs.

January- During the month of January over 100 area businesses support SWSA by purchasing an ad in the Jumpfest Program. Many of these businesses have supported SWSA through an ad for multiple decades. While SWSA can provide print distribution to thousands on Jumpfest weekend and through the Lakeville Journal distribution, their steady advertising is a reliable source of income for the club.

February- Jumpfest- the three-day event, Jumpfest can be SWSA's most important fundraiser. Since 2011, along with our new 70M tower, the event took on a new name-Jumpfest. The title reflects the region-wide celebration of the sport. Now, along with Saturday's Salisbury Invitational, Sunday's Eastern US Ski Jumping Championships, there is also a Friday night competition with Target Jumping, and the Human Dog Sled Race. Of course, the Saturday night Snowball, held at the Town Grove, is a big hit. Competitors for all three days of Jumpfest include the most tal-

ented jumpers from the eastern division. It is an event with bonfires, food trucks, cookshack burgers, and future Olympians. In the 98-year history of Jumpfest, the event has never been cancelled due to lack of snow. Wind, cold, and too much snow has caused more havoc than lack of snow. The determination of workers at SWSA combined with new snow guns and a PistonBully snow groomer allow the event to happen regardless of the warming climate.

Finally, although not an event per se, SWSA's Annual Appeal is our most important fundraiser. SWSA is truly a locally supported organization, and the appeal is where that support is best showcased. Donations from folks in our surrounding towns range from a few dollars to quite a few dollars, and every dollar matters. The money raised supports scholarships to grade schoolers in afterschool ski programs; buys equipment for our junior jumpers and helps them travel to events in places near and far from Lake Placid, NY to Norway; replace our aging jump towers; transition to snowless jumping; defray the astronomical electrical costs of making snow and on and on.

SWSA is grateful for the active participation of donors and volunteers who help support the organization. Yearly maintenance, repairs, upgrades and the financial support for local youth are only possible through the combination of donations and fundraising opportunities that happen throughout the year.

We at SWSA cherish the support of all of you who either donate to our appeal, volunteer time, or buy a ticket to one of our events. We do not take your support for granted and we will always use the resources entrusted in us as wisely as possible.



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## Jumpfest: Just the Facts Ma'am

**WHO:**

The most accomplished athletes from the Northeast Corner of our jumping community ranging from youth to master categories.

**WHAT:**

Ski jumping scored for distance and style on the 20, 30 and 65 meter hills. Competitors hurtle down the in-run at speeds of up to 50 mph and then soar through the air 200 feet and more and come to a stop within hand-shaking distance of the spectators. Come meet the next generation of Olympians!

**WHEN:**

Jumpfest takes place February 2-4, 2024. Friday night features Target Jumping, rewarding accuracy and skill. Saturday hosts Nordic Kids jumping on the smaller hills starting at 9:30 am; followed by the Salisbury Invitational on the world-class ski-jump at 1:00 pm. Sunday is the final qualifying event for the Eastern Junior National team and the U.S. Eastern Championships. Competition begins at 1 pm.

**WHERE:**

Satre Hill is located in Salisbury, Connecticut, a picturesque New England village in the northwest corner of the state. Salisbury is only 1 hour from Hartford, 2 hours from New York City and less than 3 hours from Boston. The jumps are 5 minutes from the center of town. Parking is free.

**WHY:**

Affordable family fun! Admission is \$15 per adult each day of competition. Multi-day passes are available. Children 12 and under enter free. Ski jumping is an ideal spectator sport for young and old. It is thrilling to watch, easy to understand. The athletes are friendly and approachable. Ring a cowbell to cheer on

the competitors, snack at the Cook Shack, warm up by the bonfire, and be part of the action!

**HOW:**

Come by car, train, bus, snowmobile, ATV, or snowshoe! After watching the jumpers, the entire town can be accessed on foot

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to all the SWSA  
jumpers and  
skiers in this year's  
competitions!*

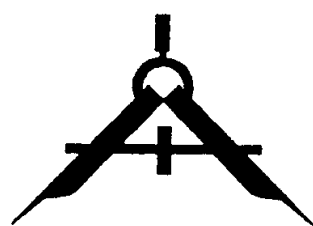
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# Salisbury Winter Sports Association Annual Appeal 2024

Winter in Salisbury is literally no picnic; it's cold and dark, icy and sloppy, and beautiful.

Fortunately, our Norwegian forefathers knew how to take advantage of the season. They found a perfectly good barn roof and jumped off it - on skis - on purpose. Then they found Satre Hill, and the sport took off.

Almost a hundred years later, SWSA is thriving. While we no longer jump off roofs, we continue to thwart winter, and indeed take advantage of it. Our jumpers compete throughout New England, and train in venues ranging from Alaska to Norway. Several will

jump our 70M hill this year. Our facilities continue to improve, with a new 30M hill about to become reality. We have a dedicated Board of Directors and enthusiastic volunteers.

This year, we expect to provide funding so all area children can afford to participate in their town or school ski programs:

Of course, none of this would be possible without the tremendous support of our donors, advertisers, parents, spectators, participants and you. **THANK YOU!**



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE GILBERT



Fall 2023

Dear Friend of Salisbury Winter Sports,

It was 5 degrees below zero, overcast and windy, early on a mid-winter Saturday morning. And yet, 30 junior jumpers, many from Salisbury but others from as far as Lake Placid and New Hampshire, were at Satre Hill eager to compete. And they did, with many personal bests and lots of smiles.

It is that kind of passion that drives our volunteers, our parents, and our supporters. As SWSA approaches our 100th anniversary, we continue to dedicate ourselves to our junior jumpers.

This summer, working with clubs across the country, we were able to help send a group to Norway to train, while others went to Lake Placid and Alaska. Our juniors are growing within the sport, and we expect to have several SWSA jumpers competing on our big hill at Jumpfest in 2024.

We continue to upgrade our facilities, and plan to offer year-round training and competitions in Salisbury in the near future.

However, we need your help. Please help us by making as generous a contribution as you can. Your donation supports our jumping programs, as well as the scholarships we give to local elementary students so they can learn the joys of winter in both the Alpine and Nordic traditions.

Thank you! We are so grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Kenneth S. Barker President

## Annual Appeal

SWSA relies on financial support from annual donations, ticket sales, fundraising events, merchandise and food sales, and advertising revenue.

We are grateful to the community for its unwavering support.

### EVERY DONATION MATTERS

- \$75 School Ski program scholarship
- \$100 Individual entry fees for New England ski jump season
- \$250 Jumpsuit
- \$500 Set of jump skis
- \$500 Bindings, shovels, rakes, snow fencing
- \$1,000 Partial support for junior Jumper travel for summer training
- \$2,500 Material for maintaining the 70M tower
- \$3,000 Sponsorship for SWSA jumpers to compete in Junior Nationals
- \$4,000-6,500 Scholarships for area students to receive ski instruction at Catamount and Mohawk
- \$5,000 Annual maintenance for PistenBully snow groomer
- \$7,500 Electricity for snowmaking
- \$10,000 Insurance
- \$10,000 Seasonal coach



### THE SALISBURY WINTER SPORTS ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rosina Rand, Jon Higgins, Carey Fiertz, Joe Geraghty, Lisa Duntz

To make a donation, please visit [jumpfest.org](http://jumpfest.org)

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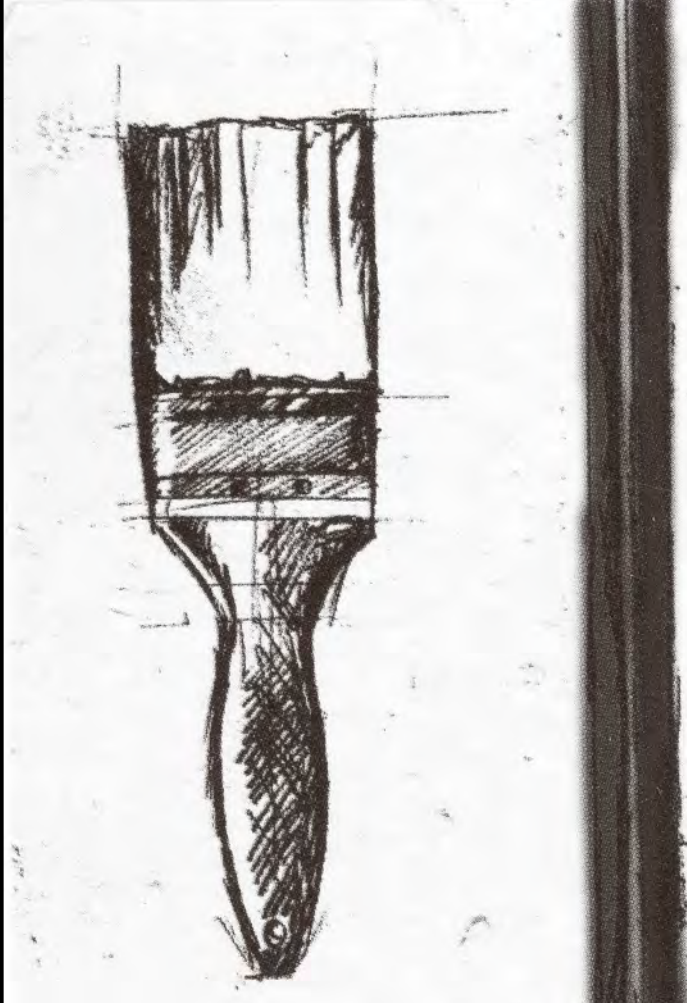
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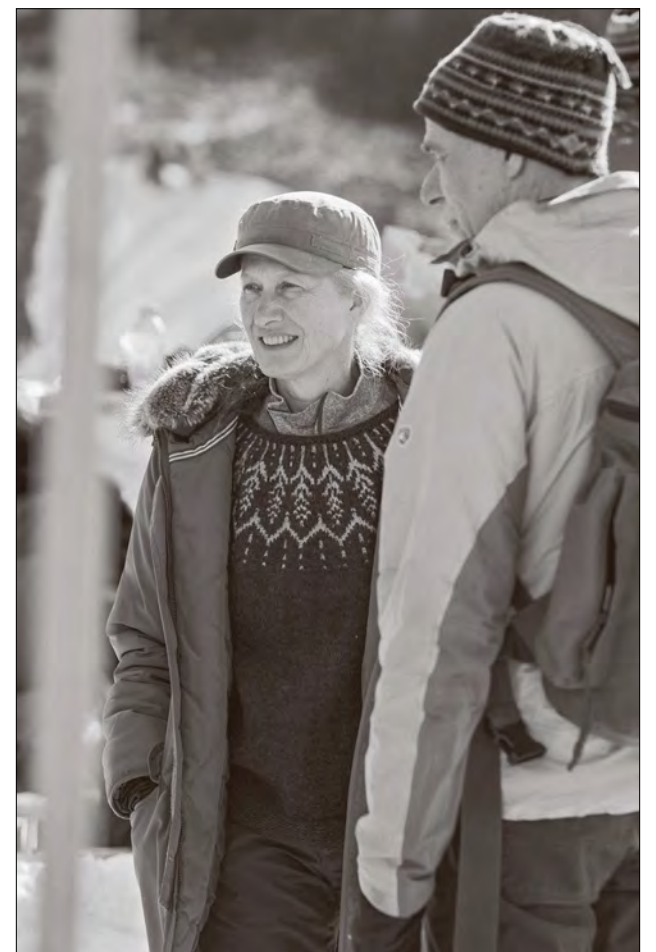


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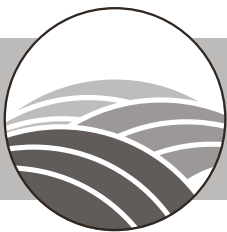
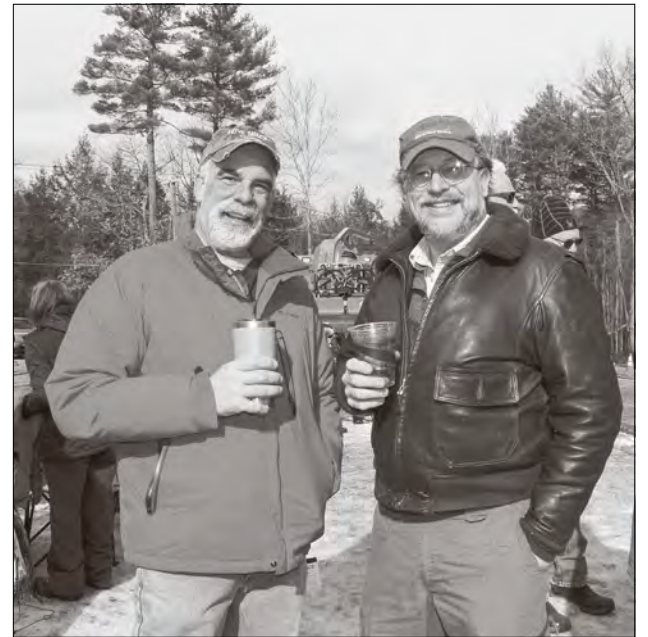
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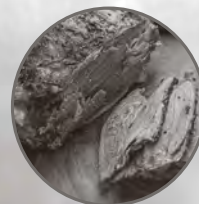
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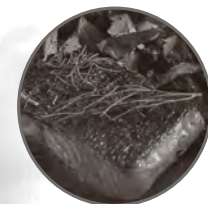
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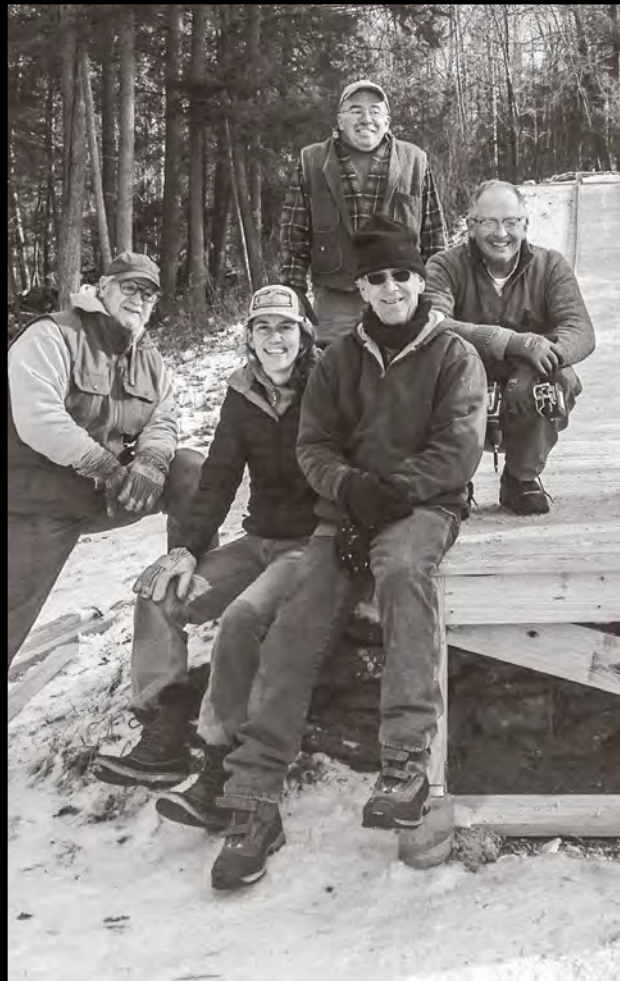
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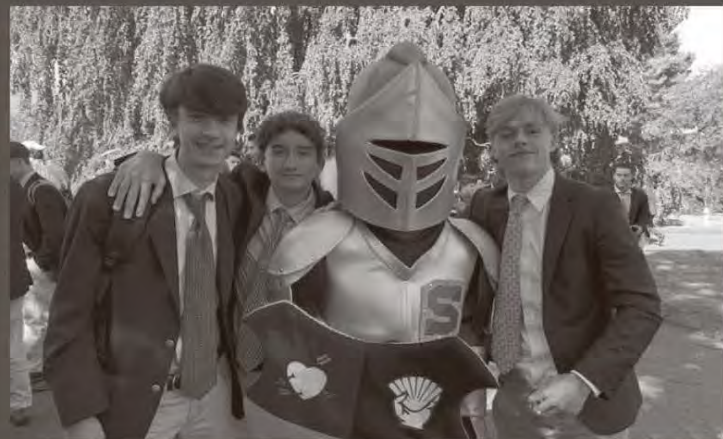
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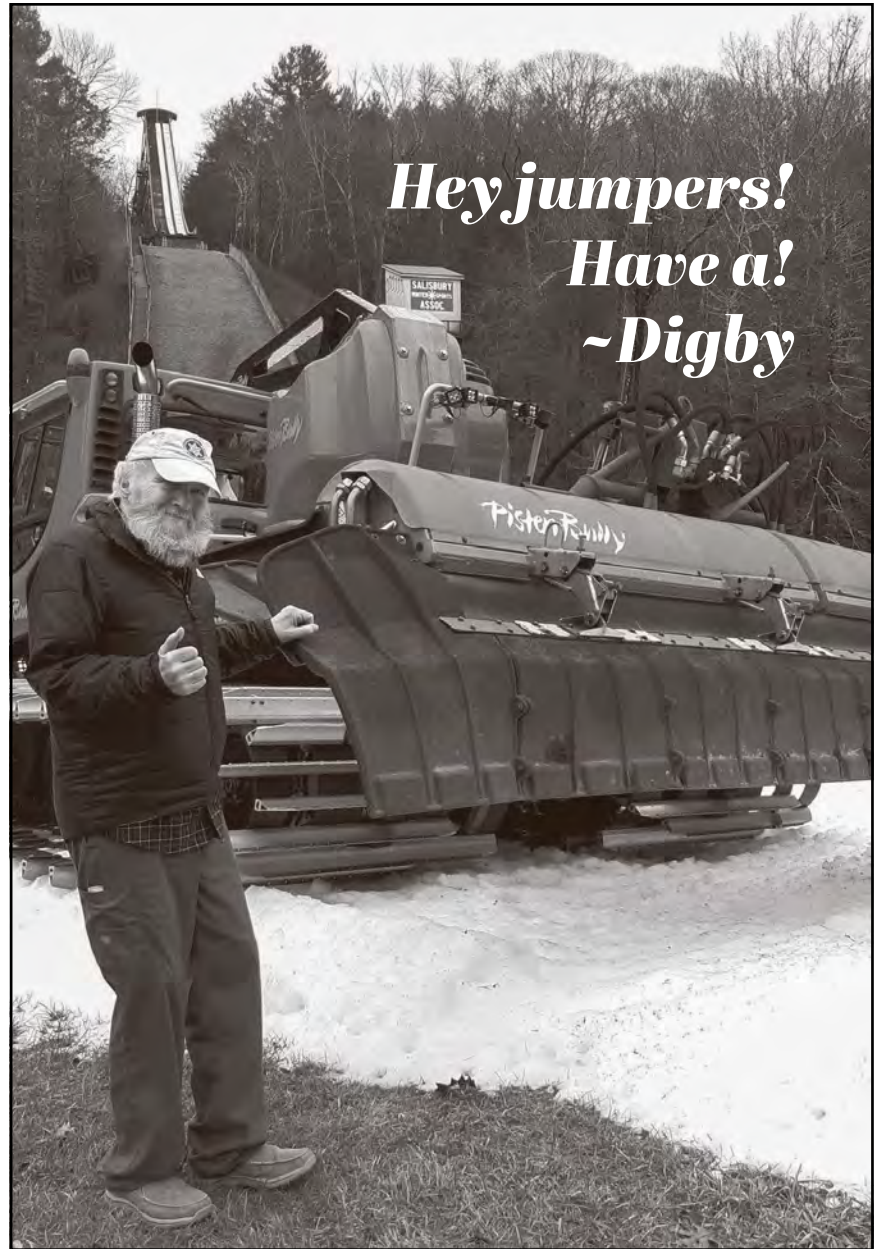
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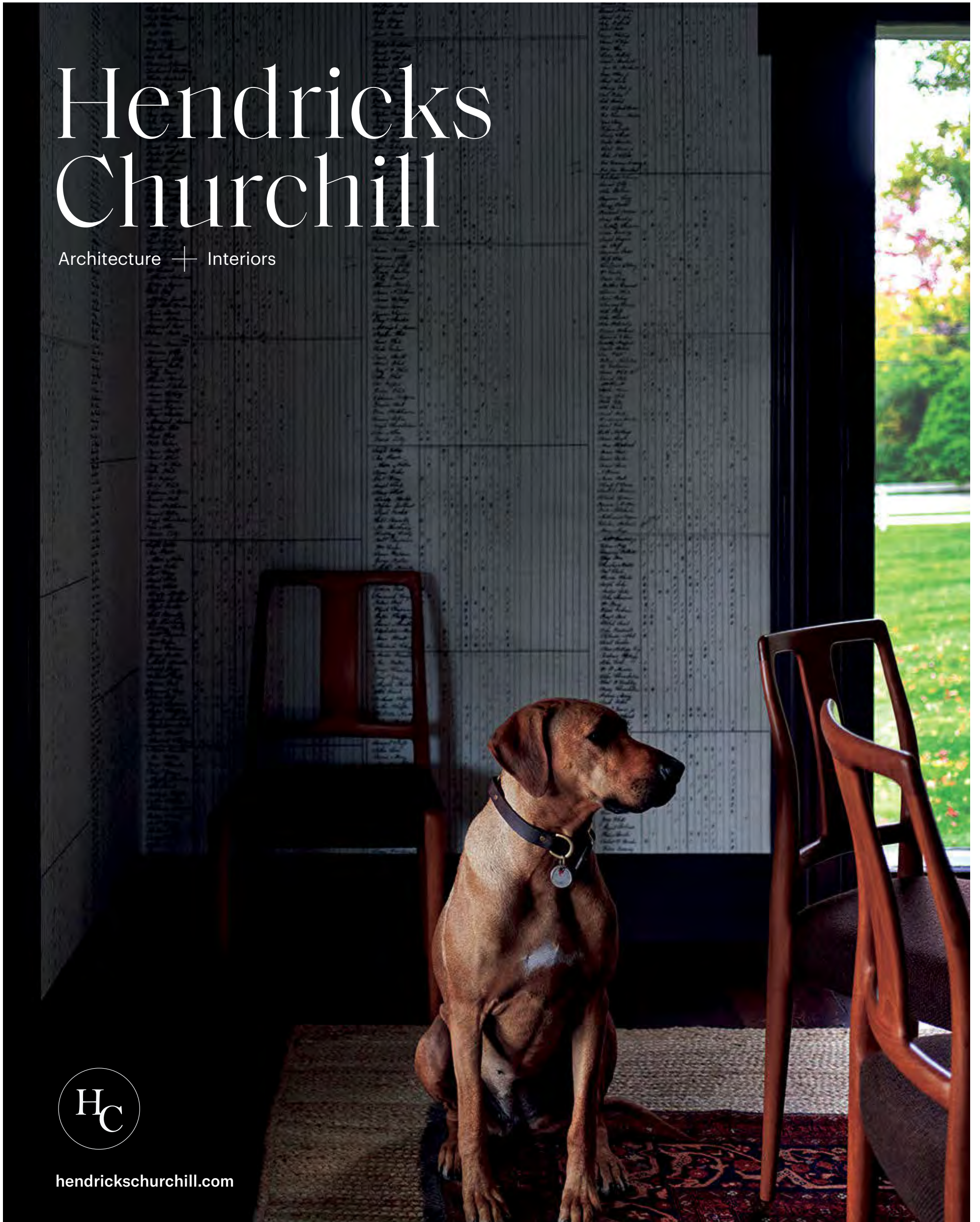
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