

# The Silver Griffin e-News



For Skiers 60+ with a Sunny Attitude

February 1, 2026

## February Social - Friday February 6, 2026



Happy Valentine's Month Social! Come in from the cold of the week and enjoy the warm camaraderie of fellow Silver Griffins. We will gather upstairs in the Stratton View Room from 2:30 on. As previously, some food will be provided and we cover one drink voucher/person. Extra finger foods are always welcome. Griffins Pay \$5.00. Guests \$10. New name badges requested in December and January will be available.... but check for yours in the Ticket Office first.

Lost after the January Social.. Green tin approximately 9"x12" with a rainbow trout painted on the top. Please return at this month's social.

## Febrary This and That

**Feb 12:** We honor **Abraham Lincoln** whose famous quote during the Gettysburg Address defined democracy as "government of the people, by the people, **for** the people," emphasizing its foundation in popular sovereignty and the preservation of liberty as a system that must endure against threats, even from within, to prove that free government can survive.

**Feb 14: Feb Fest at Bromley:** Torchlight Parade - 6:00; Fireworks - 6:30; Live music by KALE. Valentine's Day



**Feb 22:** We honor **George Washington** who warned his countrymen, "Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism."

**Feb 27: Mom's Day Off:** Show a photo of your children and pay \$30 for your lift ticket. All proceeds benefit Southwestern Vermont Cancer Center.

**March 6:** Our last Meet and Eat Social - 2:30

## Meet Heino Nowak

When we meet other Silver Griffins, we meet them at this point in their lives. We rarely know who they were in their '1<sup>st</sup> lives'! Thus, I have thought it might be of interest to share some of Heino, (so renamed after a group of 11-year-old girls fell into giggles when he told them his 'nickname' was Heini – for Heinrich) Nowak's back story. One of 8 children growing up in Austria & Germany, he pursued skiing as a given and trained in the hotel/restaurant business. While working as a bar tender in Casino Bad

Wiessee, GER, he met Ray Dietrich who ran the ski school at Craigmeur (NJ) Ski Area. It was 1965.



"Come to Craigmeur and teach skiing!" Heino did and cleverly identified himself as a ski mechanic, creating a new job category that qualified him to get a Green card. While working at Great Gorge (NJ) ski area, Heino became so dismayed at the quality, safety and appropriateness of the equipment that came in to be worked on, he decided to start his own ski shop. Heino's Ski Parlour opened in 1976 in Pequannock, NJ. Some of his first boot stock was bought from Karl Pfeiffer, Ski School Director at Bromley when Karl retired as a sales rep for an Austrian manufacturer.

To support the business year-round, Heino added sail board merchandise. Subsequently, he, himself, became a wind surfing pioneer – teaching and plying the sport. He sold his shop in 1989. But the name and mantra of service and quality carried on. The shop known as Heino's finally closed April 30, 2025.

Overriding his love for skiing and windsurfing was a love for tennis - not so much playing, but officiating. He worked for over 30 years as an umpire and evaluator for such events as the US Open and junior Olympics and, most rewarding, as coordinator and referee for the West Point Tennis program.

In 1980. Heino and his wife, Darlene, built a second home in Manchester, VT. For Bromley's 75th birthday in 2019, Heino displayed many items from his Ski Museum which is housed at his home. He welcomes Silver Griffins to visit, by appointment, to reminisce about the rapid development of ski equipment over the last 100 plus years. Email us at [silvergriffs60@gmail.com](mailto:silvergriffs60@gmail.com) if interested.

## A Ski Trip?

Did you know that there are 'affordable' skiing options within a hour or two drive from Manchester?

**Pico Mountain** in Menden, VT offers **lift tickets for \$54** on Mondays, Thursdays and selected Fridays all season for VT and NH residents. Must be purchased online. **Killington** also offers reduced rates for VT/NH residents.

Day tickets at **Gore Mountain** in NY are \$59+ for 65+ seniors. Last year a couple of us made on spontaneous decision based on the weather report to go, staying overnight in the Lake George/Warrensburg area the night before, and driving home after skiing. It was a great day at a neighboring ski area.



Would anyone be interested in participating/organizing a day skiing elsewhere?

The Silver Griffins admin team includes Carl and Sue Bryant, Nancy Hadley, Judy Gault and Ruth Stewart. We all are committed to keeping the spirit and camaraderie of the Silver Griffins moving forward.

Ruth Stewart, e-news editor

**Hurray for all ON the hill, not OVER the hill!!**

