**History of the Catawba Valley Ski Club**

**“The Christy Cats”**

1969

Announcements posted in the library, supermarkets, and various other places were the first signs of like for our club.

The Catawba Valley Ski Club held its first organizational meeting on Dec. 3, 1969. The seventeen people present signed the charter and paid annual dues of $5.00 for adults and $3.00 for students. At this time only two general meetings were held (one in December and one in March). Manfred Kneer became the first elected President.

1970-1971

In January 1970, the Board of Directors decided to increase club activities and to publish a monthly newsletter to be called “The Fall Line”. Also at this January meeting, the club patch was selected and “Christy Cats” was adopted as the club nickname.

Later that year, it was decided that to promote better communications between members, the meetings should be held monthly from October through March and officers would be elected at the March general meeting.

The Catawba Valley Ski Club joined Crescent Ski Council in March, 1970. This opened new opportunities for our members. Many members traveled on Crescent sponsored trips to Switzerland, Austria, Colorado and Utah.

After a lot of discussion in 1970, it was proposed that we reorganize our club into six divisions – skiing, water-skiing, horseback-riding, riding, hiking, sailing and camping. After weighing all the options, we decided to remain primarily a ski club. However, various other activities are offered to our members from time to time to supplement the fun times we have skiing together.

In November, 1970, our club began issuing membership cards. USSA was organized in November 1970. Our club decided to participate a 100% membership in this organization.

Manfred Kneer represented our club at the Southland Ski Race at Gatlinburg, Tennessee in Jan. 1971 and placed third in the Presidents Race. Our own ski races were held the following month at Appalachian Ski Mountain. Seven classes for entry were set up. Those participating had lots of fun. Those races were the first and only races our club actually sponsored.

1971-1972

For the year 1971-1972, Bob Clodfelter was elected President. General Meetings were held each month mainly to approve new members. Many members went to Italy to ski that year.

1972-1973

For the year 1972-1972, Manfred Kneer was again elected president. Several members went to Europe to ski. Those who went included Dennis Dagenhardt, Bob and Vicky Clodfelter, Ann Wood and Ann Odon. This was the year of NO SNOW and also gas shortage. Skiing was pursued very little because of this.

1973-1974

In 1973-1974, Manfred Kneer was reelected president. Many members took the trip to Innsbruck, Austria for some fantastic skiing. Our brochure was drawn up by Wally Murphy and approved at a Board Meeting which was to be printed for the upcoming year. On October 26, Jean Claude Killy visited the Hickory Airport for a news conference with reporters. Several club members went to see him.

1974-1975

In the year 1974 -1975, Pete Chamberlin was elected President. During this season our club was selected to represent a ''Courtesy Patrol' at Beech Mountain to promote safety and good manners on the slopes. Dennis Dagenhardt served as chairman. A Buttercup Ball was held at the Hickory Moose Lodge on April 3, 1975. A delicious meal was served and dancing enjoyed by all who attended. Many members went to various ski areas which included Copper Mountain, Breckenridge and Vail.

1975-1976

The Ski Year 1975-1976, Pete Chamberlin was reelected to serve as President. Our club again represented Beech Mountain as ''Courtesy Patrol'' which in December was changed to NASTAR.

We assisted Beech Mountain in holding scheduled races each week. Mike Harris served as chairman. Many of our members raced in the NASTAR Races and won several gold, silver and bronze medals. NASTAR is an important part of our club.

1975-1976

Under the leadership of Pete Chamberlin in 1976-1977, our club prospered. A family summer picnic and Keg Party was held at Shuford Park on June 19, 1976, under the directions of our social director Sandy Guthrie.

In the fall of 1976, Jim Kelly organized our First Annual Ski Show at the Catawba Mall which was a tremendous success. Representatives from our area slopes attended along with USSA.

Our Kickoff Party was held at Ramada Inn on November 13. The Tennis & Ski Shop provided us with a fantastic fashion show. Later, everyone danced to the disco with Gene Crawley.

Our club also sponsored a Ski Swap Sale November 27. Members were able to take advantage of many bargains and sell clothing and equipment. This is to be an annual event.

Many fine wine and cheese parties were held after regular meetings. A first annual Schlitz Party was held in the Red Baron Room at Beech Mountain for our club and RMl with their assistance and fine cooperation.

Our club reached a goal of over 100 members this year.

1977-1978

Mike Harris was elected President in April 1977. Under his leadership, our membership grew from 100 to 255 members.

Our first Annual Tennis Tournament was held. A summer picnic and keg party in August was a success as always. The club held its first Western Casino Party. Our first handbook was printed and distributed at the October meeting. The Annual Ski Show was held at the Catawba Mall with reps and displays from everywhere.

Our Kickoff Party was held November 12. A pair of Skis was given away as the door prize. A fashion show was also presented by local ski shop. A Christmas Party was held at Beech Mountain in the Red Baron Room. A winter Wonderland Party was held at Beech Mountain Campground in January.

The Southern Star Classic Race was held at Beech Mountain, but our club failed to provide the necessary numbers of racers for a team. Our race team did place both in the Crescent races in February and Bob Lindeman had the 4th fastest overall time. The club held its first Annual Spring Awards Banquet at the Sheraton which made the year end with a truly successful event.

To add even more delight, our Scrapbook won first place at the spring Crescent Meeting. The honor went to Beth Lindeman. Lynn Deal fought courageously and placed first in the Tennis Tournament to win her own personal trophy. Even Bob Clodfelter won 2nd place in the Beer Dive.

This was truly a year not to be forgotten!

1978-1979

Mike Harris was reelected President in April 1978. This year our membership grew from 255 members to 323 – the most ever.

Our annual events included a Tennis Tournament in June, a July Outing at Beech Mountain, and August Lake Party, a Casino Party in October, and the annual Kickoff Party in November. Our 3rd Annual Mall Show was held at Valley Hills Mall. Our second edition of the CVSC Handbook was printed. Our Swap Sale was again a big success.

The first bus trips (Wednesday nights) to the mountains were organized in conjunction with Dixie Ski Haus and WXRC.

The CVSC Scrapbook won first place for the second year in the Crescent Ski Council contest at Myrtle Beach.

The first Club T-shirts were designed and available with a new Christy Cat: on them.

And to top it off, this year the race team competed in the Southern Star Classic and WON 3rd place with a purse of $3 000. They also placed third in the junior mens division in the USSA Club Races. At Sugar Mountain in the Crescent Ski Council Races, all of our teams came in fourth place.

The year ended successfully with a Spring Awards Banquet in April.