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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Schenectady to North Creek Snow Train Marked with Events Through March 2024**

*Schenectady-based events, North Creek events and more highlight the legacy of the historic “snow train” that brought skiing into popularity after 1932 Winter Olympics and made the Adirondacks a global ski destination.*

**Schenectady, NY, January 23, 2024** – The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first snow train to run between Schenectady and North Creek is being celebrated locally and in the Adirondacks through March 2024. This train developed after alpine skiing grew in popularity after the 1932 Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y. Events in Rotterdam, Glenville and North Creek will highlight the legacy of this snow train and the people who initiated this long-running program that brought winter adventurers from Schenectady, N.Y. to North Creek and Gore Mountain. This train is credited with establishing the Adirondacks as a winter tourism and skiing destination worldwide.

Known as the North Creek Snow Train, it first brought 378 skiers from Schenectady to North Creek on March 4, 1934. Skiing in the Adirondacks dates back to the early 1900s, but gained popularity through the 1920s and 1930s, leading to the 1932 Winter Olympics. Reliable transportation to ski the Adirondack mountainsides was unavailable, which prompted Vincent Schaefer, a founding member of the Schenectady Wintersports Club, to lobby railroad companies to establish a train schedule to the North Creek depot. The train was operated by the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Company. Roundtrip fare was \$1.50 (approximately \$35 today) and by 1936, snow trains were operating out of Albany and New York City.

The economic contributions of these snow trains helped North Creek and the surrounding “ski bowl” area stay afloat throughout the Great Depression. The trains ran until America’s entry into World War II, but the impact on winter tourism and Adirondacks skiing is lasting, including the “ride up, slide down” mentality that still brings winter enthusiasts to the area.

Multiple events and local partnerships are offered to honor the snow train anniversary. Events are held in collaborations with [Schenectady Wintersports Club](#) (which was founded in 1932), Gore Mountain/ORDA, The Tannery Pond Community Center, The Town of Rotterdam, The Town of Johnsbury, The North Creek Depot Museum, The Johnsbury Historical Society, Wolf Hollow Brewing Company, Revolution Rail Co., Cunningham’s Ski Barn and more. Barkeater Chocolates, Upper Hudson Coffee and Wolf Hollow Brewing Company are all releasing products co-branded with the snow train logo or created to honor the snow train anniversary.

Besides the history of the Snow Train, events will also focus on the important contributions of **women** in popularizing skiing in the Capital Region and Adirondacks. Women highlighted include Frederica “Freddie” Anderson (1921-2022), who rode the first snow train and later became a founder of multiple ski schools in the area and one of New York’s first certified ski instructors, rode the 2011 Snow Train and continued skiing and teaching the sport until she was nearly 100 years old; and Loir Perret Schaefer, RN (1901-1992), who headed the first aid committee of the Schenectady Wintersports Club and became an essential contributor to the foundations of today’s national ski patrol programs. A memorial award is given in her honor to recognize outstanding service to members of the Gore Mountain Ski Patrol since 2003.

### Schedule of Events:

- January 27, 2024, 6:30pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): “How Skiing Came to North Creek: Schenectady’s Role,” talk by Jim Schaefer, son of Vincent Schaefer. Talk preceded by Snow Train specialty beer from Wolf Hollow Brewing Company
- January 30, 2024, 6pm at [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#): Old ski movie night from the 1930s 1940s and 1950s, presented by Bill Schaefer
- February 6, 2024, 6pm at [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#): “How the Snow Train Got Started to North Creek” talk by Jim Schaefer
- February 10, 2024, 7pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): Old ski movie night from the 1930s 1940s and 1950s, presented by the North Creek Depot Museum
- February 13, 2024, 6pm at [Wolf Hollow Brewing Company](#): Movie night: Adirondack hickories and “Freddie at 95,” hosted by Jim and Bill Schaefer
- February 17, 2024, 7pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): “Women of Winter: Frederica ‘Freddie’ Anderson, Pioneer Ski Instructor and Lois Perret Schaefer, RN, The First Aid Committee Ski Patrol, 1933,” talk by Jim Schaefer
- February 22, 2024, 7pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): Johnsbury Historical Society presentation on the WWII 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Ski Division
- March 2-4, 2024, Gore Mountain: Celebrating the First Snow Train
- March 2, 2024, time TBD, at [North Creek Depot Museum](#): Ski Bowl snow shoe presentation
- March 3, 2024, 1pm at [Tannery Pond Center](#): Johnsbury community story recording session and launch of audio walking tour of North Creek
- Through March 2024: Historic exhibit of the Snow Train and skiing history of Rotterdam and Schenectady County at Rotterdam Town Hall

Media are welcome to cover the history of the Snow Train or attend any event programming. Representatives from Schenectady Wintersports Club (including Jim Schaefer), Tannery Pond Center, North Creek Depot Museum, Gore Mountain/ORDA and Wolf Hollow Brewing Company are available for interview. Historic photos are available upon request. Media inquiries can be directed to Deanna Fox at [deanna.n.fox@gmail.com](mailto:deanna.n.fox@gmail.com)

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*About Schenectady Wintersports Club: Schenectady Wintersports Club was founded in 1932 to promote outdoor winter activities in the New York State Capital District. Partnering with Northern New York Paddlers and Mohawk Valley Hiking Club, Schenectady Wintersports Club evolved to foster and encourage year-round outdoor activities. Members enjoy the exclusive year-round benefit of staying at a private clubhouse in Waterbury Center, Vermont, as well as members-only ski trips around the globe, events like the annual Thanksgiving breakfast at Christmas Preserve (started 94 years ago), regattas, clinics and more. Information on the club and its membership is available at [www.swcweb.org](http://www.swcweb.org).*