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JUMPFEST

February 12, 13, 14, 2021



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Composing - Caitlin Hanlon, Olivia Montoya
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95th Annual Jumpfest 2021 February 12, 13, 14 • Salisbury, CT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Friday Night Lights

Target Jumping
Under The Lights, 7 p.m.
Free admission
Prize Money Donated
by Churchill Family

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

20 Meter & 30 Meter Ski Jumping
Competition, 9 a.m.

65 Meter Salisbury Invitational
Ski Jumping Competition
Practice: 11 a.m.-noon
Competition: 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

65 Meter Eastern US Jumping
Championships
Featuring Junior National Hopefuls
Practice: 11 a.m.-noon
Competition: 1 p.m.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

ADMISSION

Adults \$15 Saturday and Sunday
Children 12 And Under
Are Free To All Events

Visit www.jumpfest.org
for updates and changes

Masks are mandatory throughout the facilities as well as 6-foot social distancing.
For more details on this year's Jumpfest, turn to page 9.

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Letter from the President

WELCOME!

Welcome to the 95th year of ski jumping in Salisbury. In a year full of postponements and cancellations it was great to hear our board of directors here at SWSA say let's try and have Jumpfest! Obviously, there will be some changes for this year and some guidelines we ask you to follow to perhaps bring a little "normal" into this February weekend. Friday night will once again kick off our weekend with Target Jumping under the lights. However the Human Dog Sled competition will be postponed this year. We, as always, would like to thank the Churchill family for once again sponsoring the evening event for jumpers with a cash prize for the winner. Saturday morning will begin with our youngest jumpers competing on our 20- and 30-meter hills. This is always a great time for these athletes to show that their hard work and practices have paid off; they very much appreciate the spectators. Saturday afternoon moves over to the large hill for the Salisbury Invitational on the 70-meter hill. This year the U.S. Junior Development team is training in Lake Placid NY and plan to also jump here in Salisbury. Sunday late morning and afternoon, we return to 70-meter hill for the Salisbury Invitational. This is always a fun event and normally concludes with Target jumping for cash which jumpers do enjoy!

Please understand that in order to have an event we have changed how we need to accommodate folks in a safe manner. We will be limiting the number of spectators each day. We will not be selling alcohol on premise and we will also be using food trucks rather than our normal Cookshack. We realize that some of this is an inconvenience, however, it is obviously better than having to cancel the weekend completely. Our awards



PHOTO BY SEAN PATRICK FOWLER

Ken Barker

ceremonies will all be at the base of the hill at the conclusion of each day. Our banquet at the Lakeville Hose Company and the Snow Ball at the White Hart have both been cancelled for this year. We thank both these organizations for all they have done over the years and plan to see them again in February of 2022.

Navigating through the last 10 months, SWSA directors are looking to the future and our plans that are still in place. Our Junior Jumping program has been a tre-

mendous success largely in part to our commitment to installing steel in-run tracks on our 20-meter hill. Looking forward, we realize our 30-meter tower needs to be replaced due to age and structural issues. This hill also will be designed with an artificial in-run to minimize the labor needed to keep jumpers training more often. Over the years, largely in part to your donations and support, we have greatly improved our snowmaking capabilities. That being said we will also start work on a cross-country loop at the base of the hills that could be utilized by both our jumpers and SWSA members. Our vision is always to improve and make our facility the best it can possibly be for the athletes and our town.

IN MEMORIAM

Unfortunately, as in many years past, we lose people who have helped us get where we are today. Last March, Jim Rodrigues of New Hampshire passed away suddenly. Jim was a U.S. Ski and Snowboard TD who guided us through cross-country races in two separate Junior National events here in Salisbury. Jim's passion for cross-country ran deep, whether he was in New England or an event in Alaska, Jim was well known and respected for his knowledge and commitment to the sport. Jim always said he wanted his ashes spread at all the venues where he worked and that he loved, and Salisbury is on that list. Jim also had one other request which was a Mariachi band at his service. COVID has not let us have his service yet but we did find a Mariachi band in NH and that was not easy!

Just two months ago we lost another SWSA volunteer in Caroline Vreeland. For many years Caroline was a fixture here at our Brew Ski Fest, Jumpfest, and the Snowball. Always with a smile and a "how can I help?", she was a pleasure to have here helping at SWSA. Please take the time to read the remembrances of these two special individuals.

THANK YOU


As always we could not do any of this without the support of our local businesses who support all aspects of what we do. We are extremely grateful to them and all of you who continue to support our events throughout the year as well as our annual appeal.

Enjoy the weekend and we all hope to be back to full speed a year from now!

Ken Barker

President

Salisbury Winter Sports Association



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SWSA gratefully acknowledges our 2020 Annual Appeal donors who enable us to achieve much of our mission. We have attempted to make this list as accurate as possible. If you are listed incorrectly, or believe your name has been omitted, please accept our sincere apologies and notify SWSA at PO Box 196, Salisbury, CT 06068. We welcome further financial support, either by visiting our website at www.jumpfest.org and clicking on Donate, or sending us notice by US mail. Thank you.

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In addition to our normal menu, please join us for our weekly themed nights

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Early Bird Special - 4 or 5 rotating specials available for pickup from 3-6pm
 Each option Includes a small house salad and small dessert du jour and pricing between 15 and 20
 dollars per person

Monday

Meal Kit Monday - 2 options given each week and are available for pickup from 4-6pm. Orders must be
 in by Friday Evening.

Each option Includes a Morgans House Salad per person with house vinaigrette and pricing between 19
 and 25 dollars per person

Thursday

Burger Night - A burger menu presented with a variety of choices from 5-8pm
 13 dollars includes fries, lettuce, tomato, onion, and a pickle

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Dedication: 2020 Year of thanks to the Community

In normal years, the Jumpfest Program is dedicated to the memory of an individual who has given generously of their time and passion to SWSA.

2020 is no normal year and the Board of Directors has decided to dedicate the 2021 program to those who have made this season even possible: the Community.

We are grateful for the sacrifices and hardships endured by our first responders and area medical staff. That goes without saying.

But we also want to recognize those behind the scenes. The other essential workers such as teachers, day care staff, and school bus drivers, who care for the needs of local children and provide child care. Then there is every clerk at LaBonne's and the Pharmacy who provides necessities and patiently checks temperatures, answers questions, and stocks the shelves. There are also the restaurant workers who make the occasional takeout or dine-in meal a welcome alternative. Each layer of essential work has been highlighted during 2020. The daily effort to care and provide for the town takes creativity and dedication; we are appreciative.

For SWSA, it is humbling to acknowledge the generosity of our donors, particularly in a time when there

are so many needs for the community to fill. Sunday in the Country who work the cookshack on Friday night of Jumpfest; they help SWSA and feed local families in need. The Lakeville Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary who works the cookshack over Saturday and Sunday of Jumpfest. We also recognize our volunteers, who spend untold hours supporting this wonderful sport of ski jumping, and raising money so area children can afford to participate in school ski programs. The generosity of volunteering and supporting is indeed deep in the fabric of SWSA and the town.

Our advertisers and corporate sponsors also deserve a major tip of the ski helmet, along with our partners such as the Lakeville Hose Co., Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, and SOAR. Without all of them, Jumpfest simply would not happen. There are meals for late-night volunteers donated by LaBonne's; tents borrowed from the firefighters; maintenance of machinery help from Mohawk Ski Area; plowing from the Town Crew—the list is endless.

Thank you to all who take the time to work endless hours in support of our community and SWSA.

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The Jumps Will Go On!

Salisbury Winter Sports Association always faces challenges head on. This year is no exception. Typically SWSA is forced to battle the weather. This year Covid-19 is the latest challenge.

The Jumps will go on. Jumpfest 2021 will look different, but they are happening. Below are some points to keep in mind.

- Jumpfest will be back again for the 95th year, February 12 - 14 , 2021 at Satre Hill in Salisbury with a roster of exciting talented ski jumpers around New England.

Attendance each day will be limited to the first 400 tickets sold. This total reflects 25% of the facility's capacity as required by State of Connecticut regulations. However additional people will be admitted as spectators leave.

Masks are mandatory throughout the facilities as well as 6 foot social distancing.


- Free admission for Friday Night Lights!
- No human dogsled

- Food trucks Friday, Saturday and Sunday: Low 'n Slow Catering, Authentic Poutine
- Saturday Salisbury Invitational 11:00 am to noon and competition begins at 1:00 pm.
- Sunday U.S. Eastern Championships 11:00 am to noon and competition begins at 1:00 pm.

Admittance for Saturday and Sunday events is \$15 per person for adults, and children 12 and under are admitted for free.

Alcoholic beverages will not be sold at Jumpfest this year.


Proceeds from Jumpfest help fund SWSA's junior ski programs and improve its facilities. Please visit jumpfest.org regularly for updates and changes.



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From The Salisbury Board of Selectmen

On behalf of the Town of Salisbury, welcome to the 95th 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 1920's. The program provides winter recreational activities for people of all ages, and over the years the Satre Hill has attracted many National and Olympic championship jumpers, including several from Salisbury. SWSA volunteers contribute their time and resources to help many of these young jumpers achieve their "personal best" and we are proud of their dedication and hard work.

The SWSA program is run entirely by volunteers, who donate long hours to ensure a high quality, competitive and safe event.

SWSA believes that there should always be a chance for any child to get outside and enjoy the winter, and over the years it has sponsored a ski swap, cross-country and downhill skiing, and increased jumping opportunities for younger jumpers on two smaller hills that are situated to the left of the championship jump. SWSA is an important part of a larger recreational program in Salisbury that includes swimming, skating, tennis, baseball, soccer, paddle tennis 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 near future. In addition to winter activities, throughout the year, SWSA offers its facilities at Satre Hill for fund-raising events benefiting local charities.

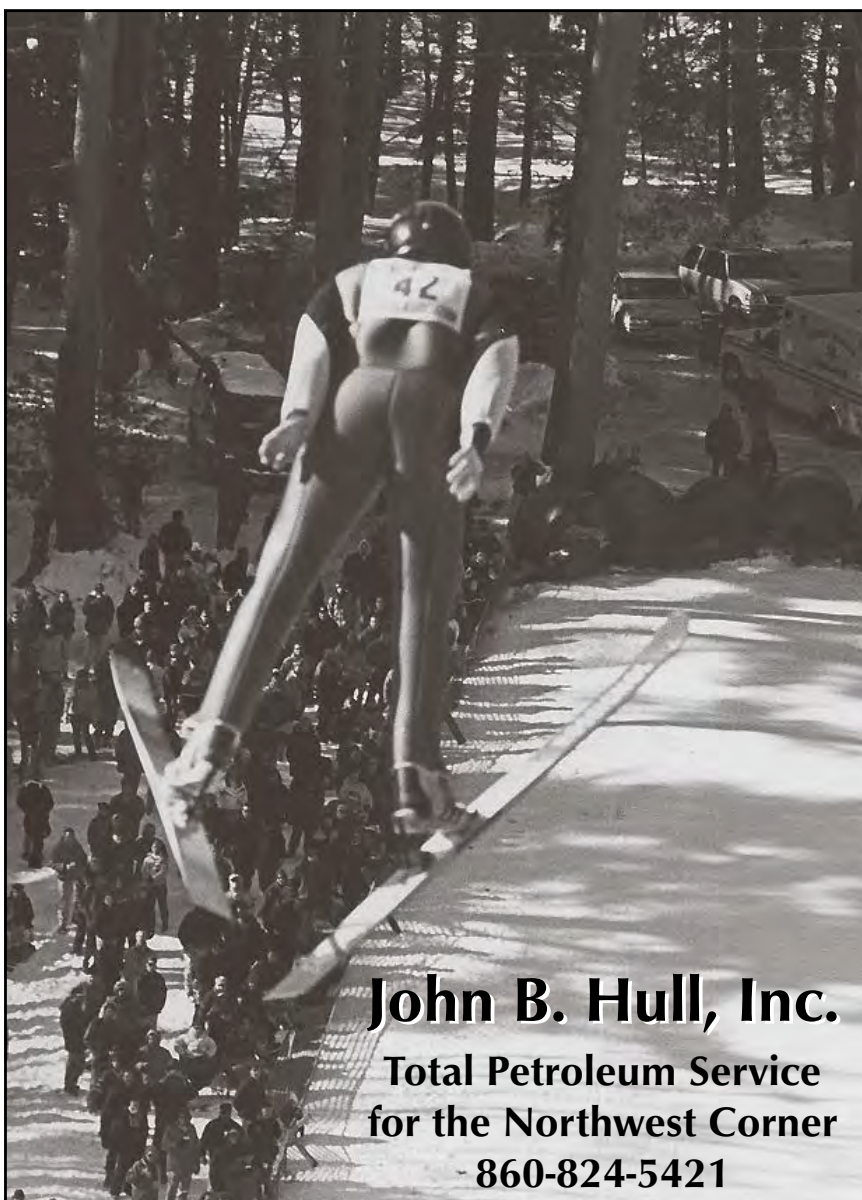
We hope that you enjoy your visit to Salisbury, and

SWSA volunteers contribute their time and resources to help many of these young jumpers achieve their "personal best" and we are proud of their dedication and hard work.

we appreciate your support of the important SWSA ski jumps. Please visit us on-line at www.salisburyct.com, us, and we hope to see you on a return trip during the spring, summer and fall.

Thank you.

The Salisbury Board of Selectmen
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Matt Risch lets it fly. PHOTO BY LISA SHEBLE

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MARVIN 

Remembrances

CAROLINE VREELAND

An essential piece of Jumpfest, beyond the actual ski jumping, is the people who volunteer and make the event happen. Caroline Vreeland was one of these essential workers who will be missed. She brought a presence of positivity, friendliness, and competence to her post.

Caroline Vreeland's nine-year tenure as a volunteer at Jumpfest can best be viewed as a montage of smiley-face pictures, in various poses- smiling as she handed out a beer, laughing as she shared a joke, beaming at the crowd before her. Yes, her "job" was pouring beers during Jumpfest, but her calling was handing out smiles and getting them in return.

With a friendly word and smile, she helped volunteers to acclimate and understand the process. She answered questions from spectators and took the time to learn what needed to be done. Throughout the chaos of Jumpfest, Caroline was trusted to make things happen. She was a partner who would speak up while providing laughter and friendship. All of her efforts contributed to the success of Jumpfest weekend. In the hours of cold over the three-day event Caroline brought energy and an infectious laugh that helped the hours fly by.

In her near- decade of volunteering for SWSA, Caroline committed to Jumpfest's three consecutive days of labor each year.



PHOTO BY CAROLINE GILBERT

It takes sacrifice to give up that much time from your life schedule, but she did it with extreme competence, devotion and, of course, humor.

This winter, Caroline left us too early in her life, and her passing has left a massive hole in our hearts.

She will be remembered for her personality, laughter, friendship and the camaraderie that she shared with strangers and friends.

JIM RODRIGUES

I first met Jim Rodrigues at the USSA Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships in Lake Placid in 2005. To say that we hit it off would be an understatement. He was the Assistant TD; I was Chief of Competition for the races. We had a great week of races and during that time, Jim and I became good friends. One of the things I find about the sports of Nordic Skiing and Ski Jumping is that you make life-long friends. It is true!

Jim was a newly appointed FIS Cross Country TD for the U.S. and wanted to help out with the FIS Continental Cups in Nordic Combined that we ran in Lake Placid. I got it set up so he could help the Cross-Country folks with the races. It was always hard work, but Jim thrived on that.

He started hanging out with the jumpers. After a few events, he told me that he liked being around the jumpers better than the cross-country guys. Sometime later, Ken Barker called me to see about a design for a cross-country ski track at Mohawk for the 2011 Junior Olympics. Jim readily agreed to help out and did so twice for SWSA.

Jim passed this spring while getting ready to go to Lake Placid for a week to work ski races. Skiing was Jim's life; he liked helping the athletes. He enjoyed seeing that the trails were safe for the skiers and coaches. Jim embraced the camaraderie that came out of his efforts to design the trails and races.

This year he received the Al Mer-



rill Award from USSA for his life-long contribution to Nordic skiing. He also received the Chummy Broomhall Award from NENSA for being an unsung hero through the winter of 2020; both awards were well deserved.

Think of Jim at some point this weekend and of how much friendship he enjoyed with the SWSA club members. I know how much he cherished going to Salisbury and working with the Mohawk crew and SWSA volunteers to create fun and safe events.

RIP Jim!

-Mouse

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STARTER
Carey Fiertz

KNOLL POLICEMAN
Digby Brown

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Celebrating National Ski Jumping Day

Photos by Karen Bertapelle



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SWSA 2020: A Remarkable Year *By Willie Hallihan*

What will be our take-away from the year just past? We have seen it all, haven't we?

Most of us have lost something - our freedom to move about as we'd like, our peace of mind, our dignity, our livelihoods, or for some, even our lives.

Schools and businesses have been shuttered, and we have been denied the company of our families and our friends. Fundraising events for our beloved charities were canceled. Some of us have had to swallow our pride and ask for food. Fear and distrust hang in the air like the virus itself.

But we humans are a good and resourceful lot, rising to the many challenges. At the pandemic's beginning, when masks were in short supply, folks started sewing them and giving them away. As the demands on food banks increased, so too did food drives. Even restaurants with plenty of problems of their own, have gone above and beyond to provide dinners for those who need them.

And this Christmas time when Santa could not host young visitors, he hopped on a fire truck and visited their homes.

As charities could not hold gatherings for their fundraisers they have relied more heavily than ever on their annual appeals, and donors have responded.

So it has been with SWSA this year. We lost the Brew Ski Fest, a major fundraiser, but our Golf Tournament was successful and we shared our good fortune with the Jane Lloyd Fund. Our annual Ski Swap was a great success as eager shoppers stood for hours in the drizzle, and our very loyal and generous supporters have responded to our annual appeal.

Yes, we have seen it all during 2020.


So what will be our take-away from the year just past?

Will there be continued fear and loathing from this too-long crisis? Or will we recognize a light at the tunnel's end along with its accompanying hope?

Here at SWSA, as we jump into 2021, we're going with hope.



Good Luck Jumpers



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USA Nordic *By Karin Bauer, USA Nordic Sport Development Manager*

Growing up as a ski jumper you get used to the funny faces people make when you tell them that you ski jumped. Even as a kid, I'm sure my parents experienced that same thing. "Your kids do what? Isn't that dangerous?" My parents must have been immune to me and my brother engaging in adventurous activities because it didn't really seem to faze them. Surprisingly, ski jumping and Nordic combined rank as some of the safest sports, especially in comparison to more mainstream sports. In fact, at the Olympic level ski jumping sits right beside curling in regards to low occurrence of injury. Least to say, the technology that has been developed for building jumps and creating equipment allows for the safe execution of flying off a ski jump.

We grew up downhill skiing and many skiers who are introduced to ski jumping come with some downhill or cross-country ski background, but that doesn't always have to be the case. Skiers start small, often taking several landing hill rides to get the feel for skis under their feet; telling them to "hug-the-tree" to keep their balance forward. Then, as they slide down the hill, a loud shrill often fills the air when they make it to the bottom in perfect balance.

That's the thing about ski jumping, everyone starts small. Most peoples' exposure to the sport is every four years, on the TV, during the Olympics. They jump big hills at the Olympics! However, every one of those skiers started out on a little bump at their local club, in full winter garb, and maybe some hot chocolate (or a walking taco) waiting at the end. Slowly, as the weeks of the season pass, and years go on, a coach will guide skiers to the appropriate hill sizes and they gradually make their way up. I can still remember the first time I jumped the 90-meter hill. I was nervous, but I was ready. My coach had the confidence that my abilities matched the skill required to take that leap.

Working for USA Nordic brings this full-circle for me. I am now in a position where I get to help influence future generations, provide resources to clubs, and ensure that the sport continues to grow. Ski jumping brings back many good memories for me, even a few jumping on the old hill in Salisbury before it was rebuilt!

So, as you watch skiers fly off of the beautifully built jump at Satre Hill, just remember that they all started small and have worked hard to fly with such grace.



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More Than Jumpfest: Where does the ticket money go?

Running the annual Jumpfest Weekend and maintaining the jumps are major undertakings that consume thousands of volunteer hours but also a significant portion of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association budget. Less well known, however are several other programs that SWSA sponsors.

If you bought advertising in the Jumpfest Program, purchased a ticket to the event, donated to the Annual Fund, attended Brew Ski, sponsored or played in the golf tournament, or purchased equipment at the Ski Swap, here are some of the places your money is going.

SUPPORT OF JUNIOR JUMPERS

- Introduces families and children to ski jumping at the annual two-day Holiday Ski Jump Camp, while

providing lunch, equipment and coaching.

- Provides equipment and coaching, and sends jumpers to training camps both in the winter and summer.
- Helps finance travel and participation in competitions across the country: New Hampshire, Lake Placid, Chicago, and Park City, Alaska.

SUPPORT OF LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ALPINE SKIING

SWSA funds have recently been provided to Salisbury Central School, Falls Village, North Canaan, and Webutuck Schools. These funds help to cover the cost of lift tickets, lessons, equipment rental and transportation to the mountain.

YEAR-ROUND MAINTENANCE OF THE FACILITIES

- Winter snowmaking and grooming of small hills for junior jumpers
- Jumpfest facilities and Large Hill grooming.
- Maintenance of the Selleck Hill cross-country trails
- Rebuilding and upkeep of the Cook Shack, stairs and jumps.

SWSA's success is dependent on the generosity of its donors and the work of countless volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming involved and keeping up with SWSA news then follow us on Facebook and email us at info@jumpfest.org.

2020 Human Dogsled Race *Photos by Caroline Gilbert*



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Meet the Jumpers of Jumpfest 2021



TATE FRANTZ

HOMETOWN Lake Placid, NY
SKI JUMPING CLUB NYSEF
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED TO JUMP? 9
WHEN DID YOU FIRST JUMP AT SALISBURY? 5 years ago on the 30
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT SWSA AND JUMPFEST? Feeling the energy of the crowd at the bottom of the hill and then winning cash in the target jump



CAMERON SUMMERTON

HOMETOWN Sunapee, NH
SKI JUMPING CLUB LOC
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED TO JUMP? 11
WHEN DID YOU FIRST JUMP AT SALISBURY? When I was 15
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT SWSA AND JUMPFEST? Target Jumping and the massive crowds.



KAREN FRIBERG *Past Jumper*

HOMETOWN _____
SKI JUMPING CLUB USA Nordic
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED TO JUMP? _____
WHEN DID YOU FIRST JUMP AT SALISBURY? 2010
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT SWSA AND JUMPFEST? It was SO much fun! The old jump reminded me very much of some of the old jumps we jumped in the mid-west, and the atmosphere was also very similar!



EVAN NICHOLS

HOMETOWN Lyme, NH
SKI JUMPING CLUB NYSEF; USA Jr. World Team
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED TO JUMP? 7
WHEN DID YOU FIRST JUMP AT SALISBURY? 9 years ago
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT SWSA AND JUMPFEST? Standing at the top of the jump one night of the target jump and waiting for the lights to start working and just messing around up at the top of the jump



ANGELO GOODWIN

HOMETOWN Lebanon, NH
SKI JUMPING CLUB Lebanon Outing Club
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU STARTED TO JUMP? 10
WHEN DID YOU FIRST JUMP AT SALISBURY? 2020
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY ABOUT SWSA AND JUMPFEST? Fire, crowds, the dump truck!!

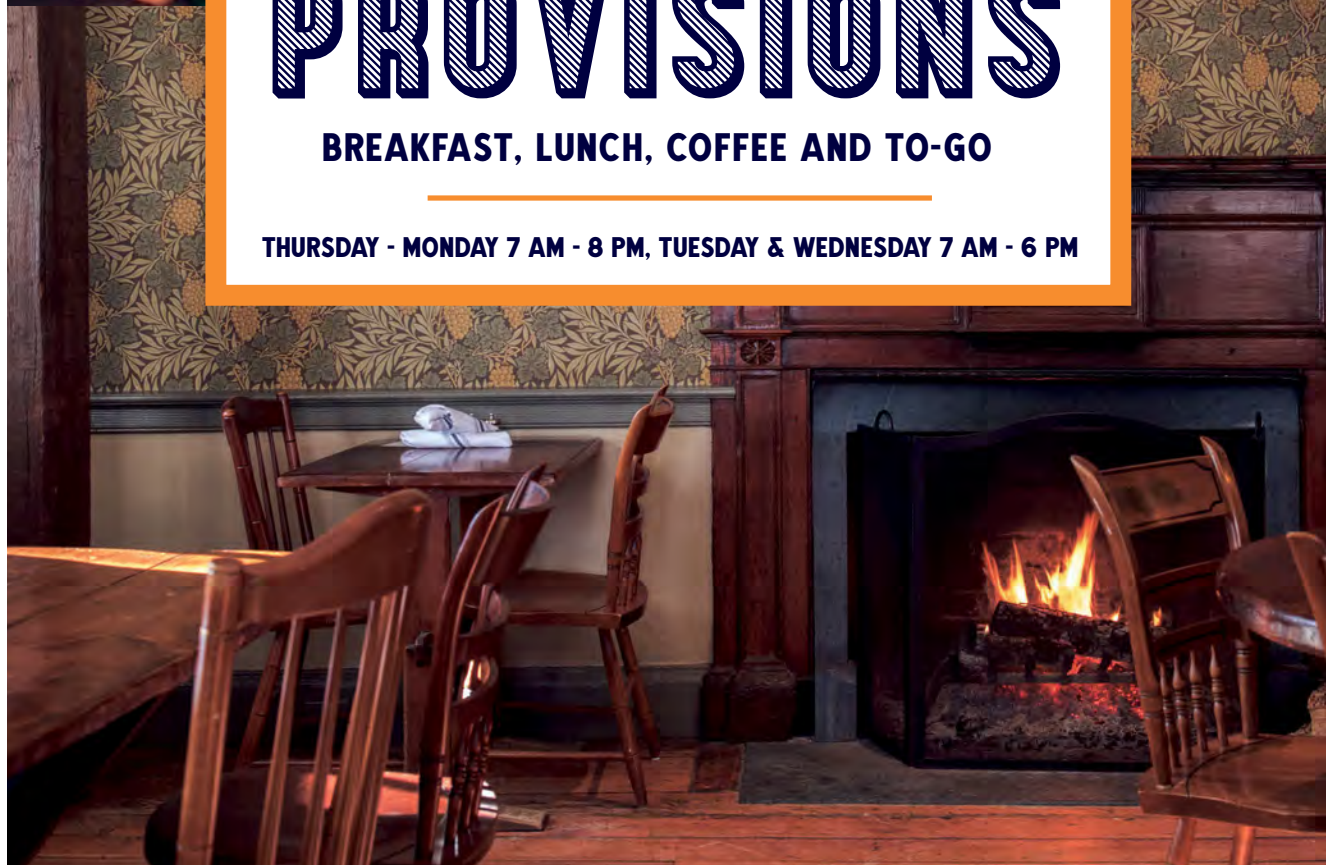


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Jumpfest 2020 Photos by Lans Christensen, Nancy DePecol, Greg Gardner, Rosina Rand, Caroline Gilbert



Jumpfest 2020 *Photos by Lans Christensen, Nancy DePecol, Greg Gardner, Rosina Rand, Caroline Gilbert*



Winners of the 2020 Friday Night Target Jump Prize money donated by the Churchill family.



Jump Camp 2021 *Photos by Caroline Gilbert*



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Junior Jumping At SWSA

By Ariel Picton Kobayashi

The 2020 season ended just days before the national lockdown. My last memories of a pre-COVID world are saturated with snowy days and nights coaching young SWSA ski jumpers on our jumps at home as well as at competitions throughout New England.

During the 2020 season, several new and enthusiastic young skiers caught the jumping bug and joined our team. We traveled to multiple competitions in New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Many of our jumpers moved up to larger hills this past winter!

It is always a thrill to introduce newcomers to this sport and the community that surrounds ski jumping. At each venue, our ski jumpers are welcomed by other coaches and families; that is part of what makes ski jumping so special.

This past season we made some changes to the smallest jump at Satre Hill—we added “steel tracks” for the in-run of the jump. This eliminates the need for snow and all the upkeep that comes along with keeping a snowed ski track maintained through winter melts. These pressed steel pieces were shipped from Finland last summer and installed in early January. In addition to the steel tracks, we built a new trestle for the in-run of the jump and two starting platforms so that beginner jumpers can start from halfway down the in-run to get less speed.

These improvements made a huge impact on our 2020 season. They allowed for more consistent conditions and the ability to practice on warmer days after big thaws. The upgrades are part of the facility upgrades made to maintain a practice and jumping facility amidst changing weather conditions. In addition to the improvements to the hill, SWSA bought several pairs of new ski jumping skis and bindings for our growing team.

This season will be different in many ways, but here at SWSA we are focused and determined to keep kids ski jumping, learning, growing, and having fun. This season started out with a very successful New Year’s “Learn to Ski Jump” camp. Coach Larry Stone from Lake Placid came down to coach with the help of SWSA jumper Seth Gardner, and newcomers to the sport experienced the thrill of hitting a ski jump for the first time.

We look forward to seeing you all at Jumpfest this year, and if this sport sounds fun for a young skier in your life, please reach out to us by emailing SWSA president Kenny Barker at kennethsbarker@gmail.com!



PHOTO BY CAROLINE GILBERT



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE GILBERT

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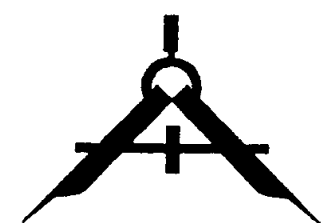
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How Do They Do It? *By Willie Hallihan*

Like many events, the planning for Salisbury Winter Sports Association's Jumpfest begins months before Jumpfest weekend. But uniquely, preparation of the jump itself commences not on a particular date, but at a specific temperature: 28 degrees. That magic number is the highest temperature at which SWSA's snow gun can begin turning water into snow. And for the handful of SWSA directors who man the snow gun each year, that temperature means everything.

Because Salisbury's John Satre Memorial Hill is the southernmost ski jump in the East, SWSA cannot rely on Mother Nature to bestow adequate snowfall upon the jump's landing hill, and as winter approaches, the cold nights necessary for snowmaking can be elusive. So the resolute snowmakers take advantage of every dip in temperature, often as early as mid-November, to make a mound of snow at the bottom of the landing hill. Most years the crew makes snow on several consecutive nights only to watch it melt off during a warm spell or wash away with a rainstorm.

This give and take between machine and nature may play out several times before cold temperatures come to stay and uninterrupted snowmaking continues. But even then, New England weather can be quirky, and occasionally over the past years, the jump preparation crew has had to scramble to protect its hard-earned snow with plastic sheets and insulation against a last-minute rainstorm.

"You can never make enough snow," said SWSA director Don Breslauer. "even when we have an adequate cover on the ground, we'll make a pile of it to bulldoze around later if we need it".

Regardless of when the snowmaking actually begins directors each year aim for the same goal according to SWSA President Ken Barker, "We try to have the 20-meter hill open by Christmas for Junior Jump Camp during vacation week."

But as labor- and time-intensive as snowmaking is, the process is a cakewalk compared to the pre-snowmaking "old days". The late George Kiefer, long-time SWSA director, and historian wrote, "For three weeks before the jump date we drove around a ten-mile radius of Salisbury checking snow fences and parking lots, wherever there might be an accumulation of snow". Snow was loaded onto a convoy of volunteers' pickup trucks, driven to the jump site and transferred onto the landing hill and tower in-run by a painstaking process using manpower and a farm machine called a corn blower.

DAY FIVE BEFORE COMPETITION

The timeline that outlines the duties required to put on the ski jump championships does not read like a ruler with jobs evenly spaced inch by inch from start to finish. Rather, think of the process as a football game with snowmaking beginning at kickoff and running until the two-minute warning of the fourth quarter. Then the true frenzy of activity ensues.

By this time, an adequate snow mountain has grown at the base of the landing hill, and it's time to move it around. In the "old days" two dozen volunteers shoveled the snow around the landing hill and an equal number of workers on skis would sidestep their way up and down the landing hill's 300-foot long surface, packing the snow into place. Simple enough, but hazardous. More than once over the years, a packer lost his footing on the steep hill and slid down, wiping out all of those below him and ending in a tangle of bodies and skis at the bottom.

Today, 90% of that human effort is replaced by one of SWSA's more recent acquisitions- a PistonBully snow mover and groomer. This beast literally pulls itself up the steep incline to push, pack and groom the snow.

Since jumpers will be hitting the landing hill at about 50 miles per hour, some human touches are required to alternately rake and pack the hill surface as smooth as possible to avoid the dips and bumps that could throw a jumper off balance on landing.

SNOWING THE IN-RUN

The in-run is the tower ramp that jumpers descend before launching into space, and its preparation is perhaps the most arduous task for volunteers. For this operation, snow from below is hauled to the top of the landing hill (bottom of the tower) where a complicated dance between men and machinery begins.

Think of the in-run as a steep playground slide, 300 feet long, two feet wide with 10 inch high sideboards. The job is to fill the entire length of the in-run tracks and pack the snow tight enough to achieve, in effect, a ribbon of solid ice. The challenge is to raise several tons of snow from the bottom of the tower over 60 feet in the air to reach the top of the tower where the in-run begins.

To accomplish this, after laying plastic sheeting the length of the inrun, several volunteers position themselves at the bottom end of the inrun (or take off, where the jumpers will leap into space). Another crew at the bottom of the tower shovels snow into an auger which delivers the goods to a corn blower (yes, the same corn blower described above), which blows the snow 60 feet up to the top of the in-run. The snow slides down the plastic sheeting to the workers waiting below who pack it into place. They then work their way up the in-run, packing as they go until they have reached the top. To smooth the surface, workers screed the snow the same way masons would level a sidewalk with freshly poured concrete. The process, which is accomplished in the cold hours of the night, takes 15 people anywhere from four to six hours. Ice jams in the corn blower pipe can cause the biggest delays.

SETTING THE TRACK

If icing the in-run is the most labor-intensive job, then cutting the track is the most technically critical. Using an electric-powered cutting tool, directors rout out two parallel grooves in the inrun ice from the top of the tower to the take-off point. These grooves, called tracks, are cut the exact width and depth of the jumpers' skis, so that as a jumper races down the in-run, his or her skis will slide

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within the tracks, dictating a very precise direction of travel. Before the tracks are cut, that direction is determined using a transit. The transit locates the line for the tracks that aims the jumpers onto the exact middle of the landing hill. If the tracks varied by even an inch from the transit's line, jumpers would be directed to the outer edges of the landing hill instead of the middle. Their safety relies completely upon the tracks.

DECORATING THE HILL

Next, the directors "decorate the hill", which has nothing to do with beautifying it. Starting at the top of the landing hill, workers stick six-inch-long evergreen branches into the snow at 10-meter intervals down the hill to the 50-meter mark. From 50 meters down to 72 meters (the hill record), the branches are spaced every 5 meters. These branches and their spacing provide reference points for the markers who measure each jumper's landing distance.

But also, and more importantly, the branches give the jumpers depth perception as they are flying through the air. Absent the branches, according to SWSA director Reggie Lamson, "All a jumper would see as he was looking down would be a white fog". The greens are also distributed along the inrun, between the tracks.

Finally, volunteers encircle the end of the outrun with hay bales and flexible fencing to protect both the jumpers and spectators from possible collisions. This completes the hill preparation.

Thanks to years of experience, SWSA directors know their jobs well. Some were themselves jumpers and they understand that the safety of the jumpers depends upon every detail of the hill preparation being correct.

Dan Warner is a former event and venue manager for the jumping, bobsled, and cross country complex at Lake Placid. He has served as Technical Delegate for SWSA's competition and has been a long-time observer and associate of SWSA directors. He wrote, "From snowmak-

ing to track setting to preparation of the landing hill and outrun, Salisbury's volunteers are the equal of any jump maintenance crew in the nation".

It will require over 60 volunteers to operate the jump competition including markers, judges, statisticians, announcers, ambulance personnel, registration people as well as hill officials, and many others. Their titles and duties can be found elsewhere in this program. But

another army of volunteers will be working both concurrently with the hill preparers and on jump weekend to help ensure a successful event. Some of the duties include ticket sellers, cook shack personnel, volunteers to sell program advertising as well as program writers and editors. Dedicated volunteers and friends execute these and a host of other chores critical to the jump weekend's success. It is truly a community event.



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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 12-14, 2021. Friday night features Target Jumping, rewarding accuracy and skill. Saturday hosts Nordic Kids jumping on the smaller hills starting at 9:00 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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View from the Top

By Carey Fiertz, Secretary, Salisbury Winter Sports Association

I did a double take, but the live TV picture was clear: an American racing in Austria! And in the lead! Better yet, and even more unbelievable, the racer was a very familiar face to Salisbury ski jump fans.

I had stumbled upon a World Cup Nordic Combined race (jumping followed by cross-country skiing, with start times in the race determined by jumping results), and Tara Geraghty-Moats was ahead! The cameras continued to follow her as she sped around the course. I held my breath, crossed my fingers, and watched.

I have watched ski races, primarily Alpine, for decades, but never really felt a personal connection to a competitor. Yes, several of the U.S. men who won Nordic Combined medals

at the Vancouver Olympics were familiar as they had jumped in Salisbury. Tara was the first one I actually knew. She had competed in Salisbury for a number of years, and I had spent a lot of time with her up on the tower while she awaited her turn.

I tried to think why she was such a distinctive athlete. It wasn't that she was a great jumper—I don't think she ever won—but she had a quirky way about her up on the tower that was memorable. For some reason, Tara's boots always filled with snow on her climb up the tower. Snow clogged the hole where the safety strap connected, and every time she needed to clean it.

There is not a lot of room at the top of the tower, especially the old wooden one that preceded our current state-of-the-art masterpiece. The platform could hold a couple of jumpers, and one very nervous starter (me) trying to avoid being knocked off the platform. But Tara needed a stick or a nail or a screwdriver—anything to get the snow out so she could click in.

No other jumper had this problem. Every trip up, there we were, scrambling to clear her boots while my radio kept squawking "Send the next one! What's going on up there?" Tara must have heard them, but never once complained. Instead, she calmly found some way to get ready, and off she would go.

And now she is a professional athlete representing the United States in global competition, and she is winning races. Maybe those years competing in Salisbury, finding sticks and nails on the tower, focusing on being ready, contributed just a little to her success.



PHOTO BY ROSINA RAND



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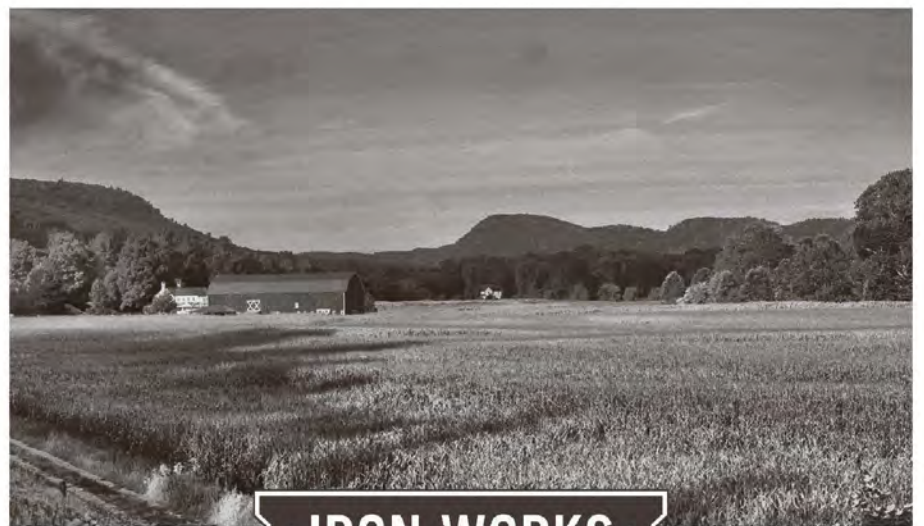
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STYLE

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 65. 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.



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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.

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What I Learned When My Child Became a Ski Jumper

By Caroline Gilbert

- Ski jumpers go for distance, not height. Their jumps roughly parallel the contour of the hill.
- After a year of jumping my child showed marked changes in self-confidence that manifested itself in his everyday life.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

- Ski jumping is about repetition and hard work. Every fall leads to another attempt.
- The community of jumpers, small and close-knit, supports all its members, no matter the competency or age.
- Cheers of encouragement reward equally both soaring perfection and brave attempts.
- If your equipment needs adjustment, breaks, or is faulty, team members and even competitors go out of their way to help find a new set of skis for you to be able to participate.
- When my child sits next to Olympians and international competitors, he forms new goals and aspirations that have golden insights.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN



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PHOTOS BY GREG GARDNER

An Easy Sport?

By Willie Hallihan

Ski Jumping is not an easy sport.

Unlike learning to throw a baseball or kick a soccer ball, ski jumping requires the mastery of a series of unusual body postures not used in everyday life. It also takes split-second timing while subduing one's primal fear of falling. Each jump requires precision of timing and control while heading straight downhill. Consider the mechanics of a successful jump.

On the tower, the athlete assumes a tuck position, chin to knees, pushes off and hurtles down the in-run (tower ramp) at speeds approaching 50 miles per hour. She then springs upward at the instant her feet reach the takeoff point. If the jump is too late, she will achieve too little lift for a successful jump; too soon, and her tips will turn dangerously downward. With a proper takeoff, the jumper extends her body outward and then--and this is when the jump truly becomes a leap of faith--she moves her hips upward so that the upper part of the body is parallel to her skis and spreads her ski tips to form a wide "V". These adjustments, made with as little upper body movement as possible, provide a fluid glide into the lift. If all is correct, the jumper catches a cushion of air which extends her hang time and improves her distance.

When the headlong plummet over the landing hill leaves her a meter or so above the surface, she brings her ski tips together, lowers her hips, and assumes a genuflecting position as her skis touch the landing hill.

Of course, beginners don't learn all of this at once. Students using Salisbury's facilities begin a training regimen jumping off of the 20-meter hill, which gradually leads to jumping off the 30-meter hill, and eventually, when they are ready, they take on the 70-meter big hill and truly fly.



PHOTOS BY GREG GARDNER



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2020 SWSA Awards Photos by Caroline Gilbert



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A photograph of a house's interior, viewed through a dark doorway. The scene is dimly lit, showing a staircase with white balusters and a dark wooden handrail. A large, colorful, patterned rug is on the floor. A large, round, woven basket sits on the rug. To the right, a wooden table holds a small vase and a framed picture of a deer. The text 'HENDRICKS CHURCHILL' is overlaid in large, white, serif capital letters.

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