

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 25, 2003



# The Mercantile Times

From Eastern America's Highest General Store

Elevation 5049.42'

Welcome to our second edition of our periodic newsletter which we hope will be of interest to all. There are a lot of things going on with ski season and the holidays upon us. Lots of interesting new things are happening at Fred's and on Beech Mountain.

As a new season approaches, we hope you will visit with us often. We will be happy to help you with your holiday shopping needs or in making plans for your next ski trip to Beech.

Always remember at Fred's, "If we don't have it...You don't need it."

Happy holidays from all of us at Fred's!

## Winter Predictions

We know everyone always asks, "what kind of winter are we going to have?" Well, the woolly worm has spoken, as well as our favorite weather man Ray Russell, (averyweather.com).

This years woolly worm race winner was entered by Michael Holland, a Beech Mountain first grader at Valle Crucis School, whose worm "Lance" toppled the competition. Way to go Michael!

We like Ray's prediction a little better than Lances'. Ray is predicting the following: "A winter much like last year, expect temperatures to average two degrees below normal, and expect more than average snow, over 100" on the mountain tops", (last year Beech had 106"), that is 15-20% above average snow fall.

We hope you are right Ray.

If you really want to know about the weather's past, present, and forecast, you can access Ray's Weather site from ours. Just look for the weather icon on our front page at [www.fredsgeneral.com](http://www.fredsgeneral.com).

Here's how Ray Russell and Lance compare the 13 weeks of winter, starting December 22nd and continuing thru March 21st.

| Week           | Ray's Forecast | Lance's Forecast |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. 12/22-12/28 | Cold and Snowy | Light Snow       |
| 2. 12/29-1/4   | Cold           | Light Snow       |
| 3. 1/5-1/11    | Mild           | Light Snow       |
| 4. 1/12-1/18   | Cold and Snowy | Light Snow       |
| 5. 1/19-1/25   | Cold and Snowy | Cold, No Snow    |
| 6. 1/26-2/1    | Cold and Snowy | Cold, No Snow    |
| 7. 2/2-2/8     | Cold           | Cold, No Snow    |
| 8. 2/9-2/15    | Cold and Snowy | Cold, No Snow    |
| 9. 2/16-2/22   | Mild           | Cold, No Snow    |
| 10. 2/23-2/29  | Cold           | Light Snow       |
| 11. 3/1-3/7    | Cold and Snowy | Light Snow       |
| 12. 3/8-3/14   | Mild           | Light Snow       |
| 13. 3/15-3/21  | Mild           | Light Snow       |

## Weather Info From Beech Mountain

| Month       | Average High | Average Low | Rain  | Highest Temp | Lowest Temp |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------|--------------|-------------|
| October     | 54°          | 39°         | 1.18" | 66°          | 27°         |
| Nov thru 25 | 55°          | 39°         | 5.08" | 68°          | 15°         |

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PERIODIC E-NEWSLETTER FROM FRED'S GENERAL MERCANTILE  
BEECH MTN., NORTH CAROLINA

## Ski Shop Open For Business

John, Peter, Meredith and the crew are up and running in the ski shop. Many new items await you! From the latest rental skis and boards to accessories and ski wear, we have it. We can take care of all your needs, whether you are young or old. We have clothing from: Columbia, Lowe Alpine, Convert, Trespass and Horny Toad. Headwear by Mental and Turtle Fur, and accessories from Seirus and Hot Chillys. Come check us out.

Don't forget to drop off your skis for our experts to tune up for the season. We are open daily and look forward to seeing you soon. You can make rental reservations on line, an easy way to save time and get you to the slopes with minimal hassle. THINK SNOW!!!

## Just The Cold Facts



? Ski Beech will again offer their specials: Ladies Monday, Two for Tuesday, Retro Wednesday and Thousand Dollar Thursday, check out their new website at [www.skibeech.com](http://www.skibeech.com)

? Don't miss Santa in Fred's Gazebo on Saturday, December 20 from 4pm to 5pm.

? December 23 and 30 there's the Hayride, Bonfire and Hot Chocolate at 7 pm. Contact the Beech Mountain Chamber of Commerce for more info.

? For online weather info and a Beech Mountain daily forecast, connect to our website at [www.fredsgeneral.com](http://www.fredsgeneral.com) and click on the weather icon. Ray's weather is available 24 hours a day from Fred's.

? Fresh live and cut Christmas trees are available at Fred's.

## Town Lights Up For The Holidays

Christmas/Holiday lighting will be officially turned on for Thanksgiving weekend. On November 26th, join your friends and neighbors for a lighting of the Town Christmas Tree and the decorating of the Charlie Brown Tree at the Chamber Office.

Cookies and Cocoa at the Chamber office 6 pm until 7 pm.

Thanks to everyone who helped light up our Mountain during the past few weeks. Jennifer, George, Darron, B.J., Pete, Peter, Calder, John, Rory, Gwyn, the CHAMPS Kids from Beech Mountain Elementary School and all the many others.



## Visit Fred's Soon!

## Sledding Hill Ready

As soon as weather permits the Town sledding hill will open. Daily snow making and grooming is planned, with a new walking area in place. For details and hours of operation contact the Visitors Center at 828-387-9282. Please always observe the hill rules. We wish you a safe and fun time on Eastern America's Highest Sled Run.

## Town News

- ? Bids on the new Recreation Building go out in December.
- ? The Falls Hiking Trail is almost ready.
- ? Construction on new fire department sub station going well. Check it out on Saint Andrews.
- ? Additional sewer system connections allotted for Grassy Gap have all been issued. More will be asked for in early 04.
- ? November 19th flood damage on the Mountain was minimal. Beech had over 4 inches with 9 inches in Boone and Newland.
- ? Improvements have been made at the Town's sledding hill.
- ? Town road maps have been reprinted and are available.
- ? Town elections were held on Tuesday, November 3rd, with



Christmas Wreaths From Beech Mountain! Made from fresh, fragrant, Fraser fir grown on the slopes of Beech. Great gifts

for family, friends and business clients.

Visit our Website for more information on how we ship direct, just in time for the holidays.

Email us your ideas...  
[fred@fredsgeneral.com](mailto:fred@fredsgeneral.com)