

The Wilmington Historical Society presents



**Wednesday,
August 15
7pm**

**Atmospheric
Sciences
Research
Center**

**110 Marble Mountain Lane
off Whiteface Memorial Hwy
Wilmington**

A slide presentation will include an overview of Whiteface Mountain ski area history from the 1940's to the 1980 Olympics. What began as a small ski center in 1948 with its original site at Marble Mountain adjacent to the Whiteface Mountain Veteran's Memorial Highway, Whiteface Ski Center became a much larger ski facility by 1958 after moving to the current site on NYS Route 86. Early development planners include legends like Otto Schneibs, Hannes Schneider and Herman Smith-Johannsen. Those who influenced the transition include Governor Averill Harriman and first supervisor of both ski centers, Arthur Draper. Early ski rope tows, ski lodges, and ski shops gave way to more modern facilities. Mountain transportation, specialized vehicles and the innovation of snow-making changed over time as technology was able to transform to meet the demands of the sport. Local skiers, national celebrities and others with influence grew the fledgling ski industry of the late 1940's into a bona fide economic driver by the latter part of the 1900's. In 1980, the culmination of all the previous efforts and the vision of so many individuals resulted in a successful Winter Olympics alpine venue. The Whiteface Mountain Ski Center in Wilmington emerged as a world-class host and remains a valuable asset of New York State and the nation, still hosting national and international events.

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