



SITZMARKER

Summer 2015

**St. Louis Ski Club
Board of Directors
2015-2016**

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Highlights:

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Skier Frank Atkinson
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St. Louis Ski Club

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From our President ... Carole Stevenson

Hi All! We have been asking members to share ideas and input to improve our club, and I am happy to say that many of you have made suggestions, and we are listening to you and have taken action on quite a few of your ideas!

First, our holiday parties the past few years have not been very well attended, so we have totally changed the venue this year in hopes that it will accommodate the needs of more of our members. The event will be held on Saturday night, Dec 12th at Vito's in the Valley.

This is a lovely new restaurant that is moderately priced and has gotten wonderful reviews. They have happy hour prices on drinks and appetizers from 4 to 6. So, come for happy hour and stay for dinner and drinks afterwards if you wish. More details will follow, but

SAVE THE DATE!

Next, Bill Hayes, a long time club member, suggested that we try to involve Hidden Valley in promoting our club by offering a free membership for the first year to new members who purchase a Hidden Valley Season Pass. We are going to implement this idea this fall. Another member's suggestion is our use of Survey Monkey for our trip and social activities surveys. Club member Cathy Colluci has volunteered her professional expertise doing this. Finally, we are spotlighting the accomplishments of a club member each Sitzmarker edition, and have asked for nominations for spotlight candidates. I am pleased to announce that we have received quite a few nominations, and Dan McGurk has agreed to write the articles for us!

Thanks, and keep your suggestions coming!

It's Trip Sign-Up Time!

**Trip Sign-Up Night: Thursday August 27 – 7:00 pm
American Legion Hall – 934 E. Rue De La Banque - Creve Coeur, MO**

You must be a member of the St. Louis Ski Club to sign up for a ski trip!*

Both a signed trip application and payment of at least the full listed deposit are required to sign up for a trip.

Trip applications and payments from *members in good standing* will be processed in the order received up until 9:00 pm on Wednesday August 26.

Those who renewed their membership by May 15 will have priority status for signing up for a trip if their application and payment is received by 9:00 pm on Wednesday August 26.

A waitlist will begin if a trip exceeds the number of spots allotted or if there is space only for a specific gender.

You can send in the enclosed form with your payment (*cash or check*) or pay online with your credit card using PayPal (*but you will still need to send in your fully completed trip application before your registration will be processed*).

You can sign up on Thursday the 27th in person! And you'll want to be there to hear trip details, and all sorts of other important club news and information! The *doors open* at 7:00, but you can come early for a beverage in their bar!

See our Bylaws and Operating Code at our Website for complete sign-up detail!

**Proof of membership in an affiliated FSA club is also acceptable, however advance/priority sign-up will not apply!*

Our 2016 Trips From Tom Coscia, Trip Director



As this is my 7th year as trip director planning trips, I know it is a challenge finding the right balance between familiarity, variety, value, luxury, length, new, and the list goes on. As a club we offer quite a value to our members. Equipment rental is normally at a 25% discount. Lift tickets are between 20%-45% cheaper. We have good deals on lodging and airfare. You can't beat the camaraderie especially if you cannot find your own friends to ski with. And you don't have to research anything---you just send us a check.

Please share this information with friends, relatives, and acquaintances and encourage them to join us on a trip.

I am excited to report our trips for 2016. First you will notice that we are only offering three trips this year. Since two of our four trips last year had less than 15 sign-ups, we could not justify offering four trips again this year. If we have greater sign-ups this year, we can consider going back to offering four trips a year

Trip Overviews

Our first trip will be the Flatland Skiing Association (FSA) trip to **Telluride, Colorado** the third week in January. We are returning to the first rate Peaks Resort. Having done this trip last time we went to Telluride, I can tell you it is the nicest place I have stayed at with the club. A ski-in/ski-out facility with free access to an outstanding spa is hard to beat. And excellent skiing too! As a result this FSA trip will be for a full week. This trip is being captained by long-time club member Bob Ansel.

Our second trip will be 6 ski days in **Aspen, Colorado** the 3rd week in February. Our lodging is the club favorite, The Gant. As in the past we fly right into Aspen. In addition to a club party, there is a welcome reception. With four mountains to choose from and the excellent accommodations, this trip is one of our most popular. There is no place quite like Aspen. This trip is being captained by SaronAnn Smith.

Our third trip of the season is 6 ski days in **Red Mountain, Canada** the second week in March. This will be a first time destination for the club, led by experienced trip captain, Candy Girth! In the last few years, Red Mountain has expanded the mountain and accommodation options which now make it an attractive week-long destination. We will be staying at the Slalom Creek condos which are ski-in/ski-out. In addition to the club party, this trip also features a hot breakfast welcome reception. We fly to Spokane, Washington, and drive straight north to Red Mountain. If it works out, we hope to be able to fly Southwest Airlines when they announce their air prices for March 2016 later in August. Note: You will need a valid passport for this trip. And, as with any international trip, the cost can change if there is fluctuation in the value of the Canadian Dollar.

Single Person Supplement

For a limited time through August, we are continuing the single person supplement for our members who would rather not share a room. Note: Besides members paying the additional cost of the room, we must add the cost of other shared trip expenses since each single supplement reduces the number of participants by one. For instance expenses for bus transportation and trip captain trip credits. In addition to the cost of the trip, the following is the single person supplement price by trip.

Telluride: \$800

Aspen: \$850

Red Mountain: \$710

Final Notes

We are offering PayPal again this year. No more searching for stamps and envelopes. You can do it all on-line.

I thank the trip committee for putting together a great group of trips based on your trip surveys. As always, I strongly suggest you sign up early (and often) so you will not be left out.

St. Louis Ski Club 2016 Ski Trips

Ski Resort & Trip Captain	Dates	Lodging	What's Included	Price Info	Ice-Breaker
Telluride, CO (FSA) www.telurideskiresort.com Bob Ansel bobskis2much5890@att.net 314-378-6241	1/17/16 thru 1/24/16 30 <i>skiers</i> 6 ski days	"Unmatched in North America" <u>The Peaks (Hotel)</u> Two people per room Ski-In/Ski-Out Includes membership to the Spa at the Peak Flatland Race Info: http://flatlandskiassociation.wordpress.com/	Lodging/Airfare Transfers to/from Montrose Airport FSA welcome reception, Club Party Banquet, Parties & Races (Racing is optional)	Trip Price \$1,590 Deposit \$800 Balance \$790 Due* 12/7/15	Wed. 1/6/16
Aspen, CO www.aspensnowmass.com SharonAnn Smith SharonAnn.Smith@principalia.edu 203-451-1324	2/13/16 thru 2/20/16 32 <i>skiers</i> 6 ski days	"The Power of Four" <u>The Gant (Condos)</u> 2BR/2B for four people Welcome Reception	Lodging/Airfare Transfers to/from Aspen Airport Club Party	Trip Price \$1,470 Deposit \$870 Balance \$600 Due* 11/30/15	Wed. 2/3/16
Red Mountain, Canada www.redresort.com Candy Girth twinskiers@msn.com 636-458-1897	3/6/16 thru 3/13/16 40 <i>skiers</i> 6 ski days	"The Last Great, Unspoiled Resort" <u>Slalom Creek (Condo)</u> 2BR/2B for four people Ski-In/Ski-Out Hot Breakfast Welcome Reception	Lodging/Airfare Transfers to/from Spokane Airport Club Party Day trip to Whitewater Ski Area	Trip Price \$1,440 Deposit \$740 Balance \$700 Due* 12/7/15	Wed. 2/24/16

Icebreakers will be held at Ruby Tuesdays, 10797 Sunset Hills Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63127 (314-909-1025) at 6:00 PM.

Trip prices may change due to fuel surcharges. Additional fees for baggage may apply.

Single room supplement is available upon request.

Lift Tickets are not included unless specifically stated.

Check, cash and PayPal or credit cards accepted for payment.

*** Note: Trips may close prior to the balance due date.**

Telluride, Colorado

“Unmatched in North America” - 52nd Annual FSA Races

January 17 Saturday – 24 Saturday, 2016

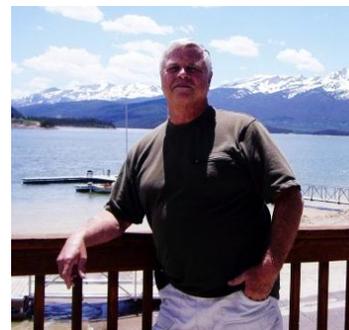
Price \$1,590

30 skiers

Trip Captain: *Bob Ansel*

(314) 378-6241

bobskis2much5890@att.net



- Our Telluride trip has six days available to ski, snowboard, race with the FSA, and other snow activities.
- The cost for this trip includes round trip airfare, bus to/from the Peaks Resort: www.thepeaksresort.com
 - Hotel accommodations – Ski-In/Ski-Out, Two per room, Three on-site dining locations, a fitness center, Colorado’s largest spa, and an indoor/outdoor heated pool
- Club party
- FSA (Flatland Ski Association) Race Weekend: Welcome Party Thursday evening, Awards Banquet Saturday evening, plus other on and off mountain activities
- Opportunities for all levels of skiers or snowboarders to compete in races. (*Racing is encouraged but not required.*)
 - “Team” snowshoe fun race
 - Joe Bauer is our club’s FSA Race Director
- Telluride Ski area information is available at www.tellurideskiresort.com with a Web camera view of the town of Telluride
- The old town of Telluride is just a gondola ride away from the Peaks and offers dining, shopping and museums
- Check out the last Telluride club trip in the SLSC Website Spring 2014 Newsletter

Aspen, Colorado

“The Power of Four”

February 13 - 20, 2016

Price \$1,470

32 skiers

Trip Captain: *SharonAnn (S.A.) Smith*

(203) 451-1324

SharonAnn.Smith@principia.edu



Join us for the power of skiing 329 trails on 4 different mountains. Skiers and guests will be staying at The Gant, an upscale, rustic-chic condo resort at the base of Aspen Mountain, 0.7 miles from the Silver Queen Gondola. The club is offering superb two bedroom/two bath condos at the Gant with fireplace, kitchen and a balcony patio. Each condo comes with high-end linens and bath products for your creature comfort! Other amenities include two pools and three hot tubs, plus free in-town and ski shuttle services.

- Four Great mountains to choose from: Aspen Mountain, Snowmass, Aspen Highlands and Buttermilk
- Six super days of skiing or boarding at America’s best ski destination
- Discounted group lift tickets
- Roundtrip airfare from St. Louis to Aspen/Pitkin County Airport/transfers to and from the resort
- Welcome and Club Parties

Après ski is a must when in Aspen! There are over 100 restaurants offering up everything from burgers to sushi, with expertly paired wines & hand crafted cocktails to warm you up on a cold winter’s evening. Even if you don’t ski, there is plenty to be enjoyed in Aspen’s winter wonderland: Ice skating, cross country skiing, dog sledding, snowmobiling, fly fishing, shopping, and lots more that I will let you know about!

Red Mountain Resort - Rossland, BC, Canada

“The Last Great, Unspoiled Resort”

March 6 - 13, 2016

Price \$1,440

40 Skiers

Trip Captain: *Candy Girth*

636-458-1897

twinskiers@msn.com



**** PASSPORT REQUIRED ****

Join us on our first ever St. Louis Ski Club trip to Red Mountain Ski Resort located in the Monahsee Mountains on the famous Powder Highway in British Columbia. Red is located 10 miles north of the US/Canada border and 90 miles north of Spokane, Washington, offering 7 lifts accessing 110 runs from wide open groomers to steep powder. With a vertical of 2919 feet and base elevation of 3887 feet, RED is Canada's original ski resort celebrating 112 years of skiing. (www.redresort.com)

- Seven (7) nights lodging at the slope side Ski-In/Ski-Out Shalom Creek Condos (2 bedroom/2 bath 4 per unit):
 - Fully equipped gourmet kitchens, in suite washer/dryer, private patio/balcony hot tub, Wi-Fi, ski lockers, fitness center and game room (www.redreservations.com)
- Round trip air from STL to Spokane
- Bus transportation to/from Spokane and Rossland with grocery stop prior to arrival at resort
- Day trip (included in price) to Whitewater Ski Resort near Nelson, BC (lift ticket extra). Whitewater is known as a smaller and “old school” resort with “alpine” scenery comparable to skiing Alta, Utah. Dinner/shopping in Nelson after skiing Whitewater (www.skiwhitewater.com)
- 5 - 6 days of skiing (lift tickets not included in price) at RED, plus snowboarding, cross-country skiing or Cat-skiing RED's Mt. Kirkup
- Welcome “Hot Breakfast” Reception, plus Club Party mid-week
- Complimentary guided mountain tour, free bus shuttle between the resort and Rossland (located 5 minutes or 1.8 miles from the resort), plus Rossland offers a variety of food and drink establishments, including a winery and brewery
- Optional “Learn to Curl” night at Rossland's Curling Center... **advance sign-up required** and approximately \$20 for lesson
- Other Activities: Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sightseeing in historical Rossland and surrounding area or just relaxing and kicking back
- For Passport information/requirements for crossing the US/Canada border, please reference on of the following websites:
<http://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g153339-s602/Canada:Crossing.The.Border.html>
<http://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/cross-us-borders>

“Do not delay in signing up, this trip will fill fast”



Welcome Pat Pender!

The St. Louis Ski Club Board is happy to announce that we have issued a contract to **Pat Pender** to take over the duties of the Records Center. As was reported in our last issue, Sue Scott had decided to “retire” from those duties after many years serving the club.

Pat has been a very active member of the club since 2008. She generally takes one or two trips with the club each year since she joined. She's also served as a trip captain on three occasions: Twice to Crested Butte, and once as a co-captain to Park City with Larry Essmann.

Being a trip captain, and going on so many trips, has certainly provided her with the opportunity to get to know many members of the club! By profession Pat is an accountant, which the board felt was a great asset for this position. And her experience serving as a trip captain multiple times also will serve her well in this new role! She's looking forward to working with the Board of Directors, and also this year's trip captains to do all she can to make sure our trips are a success!

A Night at the Races!

On Friday July 17th we finally got to share an evening of fun at the “Party at the Park” at the Fairmount Park Race Track in Collinsville. 25 club members and friends enjoyed the all-you-could-eat buffet, discounted beverages, and the chance to win (or lose) a few dollars at the betting windows. *(A few people are just luckier than others!)* Thanks to John Shansey and Ken Harris for once again hosting this annual event for the club!



Spotlight on Skiers: Frank Atkinson Helps Out Close to Home



Skiing is an activity we all associate with pleasure and recreation. Certainly there is much hard work that goes into it but after a while it is easy to take our abilities for granted. For many, though, the act can be a struggle and the satisfaction and rewards of mastering the process can go far beyond the exhilaration we feel after a challenging run.

Frank Atkinson, a 20-year member of the ski club, has witnessed this firsthand. For the past three years Frank has been a volunteer with the Disabled Athlete Sports Association at Hidden Valley. This includes working with the visually and hearing impaired and helping some skiers with developmental disabilities. He got involved with this program after observing a friend who had been doing it for years. A few times working with this friend made Frank see the pleasure the work brought both to those being helped and those helping them. This led him to sign up as a volunteer himself and he has taken great satisfaction in the endeavors ever since.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the program is the lasting friendships he has established and the chance to see the athletes he helps go on to greater things. This has included seeing one of the athletes take first place in the Special Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Frank encourages any interested St. Louis skiers to become involved in this program by contacting ashleysnowski@dasasports.org. As we head out to the slopes in Canada, Colorado, and other ski destinations this winter, let's remember people like Frank who are able to combine the fun of skiing with the joy of helping others. If we can all make some efforts to help out a little in this way, we may all find the skiing experience to be a little more enjoyable.

We Belong to the CMSC ... So What Does That Mean?

Tom Coscia, Trip Director

The last two years members of our board have attended the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council (CMSC) Trip Seminar, which is an annual event designed for club officers. Over 50 exhibitors and 50 ski clubs - mostly from Illinois and Wisconsin – gather every year in May. This year I attended along with Joe Bauer and Paul Snyder. I've been asked to explain what goes on, so here it is.

The day is broken up into two parts:

Early in the morning the seminar offers various educational sessions designed for club officers. Some of the topics include club website design, insights on the airlines as it pertains to club travel, and ways to increase club membership and selling trips. Talking to other club officers, it apparent everyone struggles with membership and in filling trips as younger generations of skiers are not as willing to join groups or do not want to commit to trips up to 8 months out. Advances in the Internet have definitely made it easier for skiers to find good deals at the last minute. Plus younger people do not necessarily like to commit to 7 day trips. They prefer shorter trips whereas our club as a whole prefers week-long trips.

Compared to many clubs in attendance, the St Louis Ski Club is considered large. Many clubs may only have 50 members and not as many trip options. Since most are much further north, they will offer more long-weekend bus trips to the smaller Michigan and Wisconsin ski resorts. Our survey and sign-ups reflect a preference to fly to major resorts. The 2nd part of the day is an opportunity to talk to the various exhibitors and vendors. This includes representatives from ski resorts, lodging representatives, trip planners and bus companies. Many of the ski areas represented are small resorts out of Wisconsin and Michigan that clubs would go for a long weekend. The bus companies represented cater to that market.

As a club we are more interested in talking to representatives from places we are attending or considering. We can find out first-hand what new features resorts have to offer in the upcoming year. We can also explore finding new smaller resorts that are close to the more established resorts so that we could offer more ski options on the same trip. We have some ideas we will explore for 2017.

One difference this year compared to last year is the greater representation of Canadian and European resorts along with trip planners who specialize in foreign trips. With the dollar gaining strength in the last year, it makes these trips more attractive. There has also been some pent-up demand for foreign trips as they have been so pricey for the last 10 years. This is one of the reasons our club is going to Red Mountain in Canada in 2016.

Other than the hassle of making the 4+ hour trip to Chicago and back, your club officers find the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council Trip Seminar experience beneficial thanks to the educational sessions, exploring trip ideas with resorts, networking with other clubs and understanding how other clubs operate. We are also able to personally meet our trip vendors. It is great putting a face to a voice.

Finally, another great feature of our CMSC membership is the opportunity to advertise our club and our trips on *their* Website, and the opportunity for our club member to take advantage of any CMSC activities and trips that they might be interested in. You can visit their site at: <http://www.skicmsc.com/default.cfm>.

Partnering to Provide Great Skiing & Boarding Opportunities for the St. Louis Area!





P.O. Box 712
St. Charles, MO 63302-0712

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Details can always be found at our Website or in the Out 'n About!

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Saturday August 8 11:00 am	"Happy Hour" Lunch <i>Food, fun, and the coldest beer in town!</i>	Fast Eddie's Bon Air Alton, IL
Thursday August 27 7:00 pm	Club Meeting & Trip Sign-Up Night <i>Come and hear all about our 2016 trips!</i>	American Legion Hall Creve Coeur, MO
Friday August 21 4:00 pm	Happy Hour and Cosmic Bowling <i>Enjoy our monthly happy hour in a new way!</i>	West County Lanes Ballwin, MO
Thursday September 24 7:00 pm	Club Meeting & 2 nd Sign-Up Night <i>Find out more about trips & other activities!</i>	American Legion Hall Creve Coeur, MO
Saturday December 12 4:00 pm	Holiday Happy Hour and Dinner <i>New – Come for Happy Hour, stay for dinner!</i>	Vito's in the Valley Chesterfield, MO