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Sitzmarker
Spring 2020

President's Message

One thing is for certain: we are living in very uncertain times. First and foremost, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

As with most everything in our lives at the present time, COVID-19 has made it very difficult to predict what the near future holds or to make plans. It's been disappointing that so many things have had to be cancelled or postponed indefinitely. But in an effort to try to keep everyone safe, I also feel it has been for the best. (Sorry, not up for discussion.) Unfortunately, our final ski trip for the season to Park City was affected by COVID-19, as restaurants and ski resorts shut down. But that did not seem to dampen the spirits of our skiers. They were real troopers and made the best of the situation.



Our Vice-President for the prior year, Lou Boyer, had decided not to run for re-election this year. She will, however, remain active in the club. I would like to thank Lou for her service. I am grateful for all that she did for our club, for her dedication, and for all her ideas for new activities and new venues.

Our in-person board election in April was cancelled, of course. The good news is that for the first time last year, club members could cast their ballots electronically. And because electronic voting was available again this year, our election ran quite smoothly despite not being able to vote in person. Kudos to our Trip Director Tom Coscia for setting up our electronic elections. I don't know what we would have done without him!

New to the board this year is Karen Nugent. Karen is also fairly new to the club and we are giving you all a chance to get to know her by featuring her in our member spotlight on Page 6. As Vice President, Karen will be in charge of organizing our activities and events (as circumstances permit). So if you have any ideas for activities you would like to see on our club calendar or would like to host an event, please contact her. Welcome Karen! I look forward to working with you.

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**Park City Trip
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Park City



The club set out for our ski trip to Park City, UT on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 with a mid-morning flight from St. Louis, MO to Salt Lake City, UT and then an eventful shuttle ride to the Park City resort. The club was led by our captain Lou Boyer, and members included Ed Goedde, Carole Stevenson, Jeanne and John Reinfurt, Rebecca and Pat Pender, Alex Andreev, Joseph Kellet, Karen Nugent, Bill Harr, Erna Wood, Susan Dietrich, and Betsy Bryan.

Our air travels went smoothly, but while trying to work through some detours due to an accident our shuttle ended up down an unpaved road. We navigated through the obstacles such as boulders, a wandering dog, and more road closures, and eventually made it to the Peaks Hotel. We were promptly greeted by our wonderful host, Shawn, who gave us the ins and outs of the bus system around the resort and answered all our questions about things to do around Park City.

Shawn and the entire Peaks Hotel staff were absolutely wonderful and most accommodating. As most of us know, convenient amenities are an absolute must for a group ski trip. There was a ski valet and rental shop located in our hotel so skiers could come and go from the slopes as they pleased. The hotel

had a beautiful indoor/outdoor pool and hot tub that had magnificent views of the Park City Mountain. The lobby had plenty of congregating areas and was stocked with board games so visitors could mingle outside of their rooms comfortably. The Versante restaurant located in the hotel provided a delicious breakfast buffet each morning and was open for dinner service. It was also a great spot to stop for a drink (but only one, unless you intended to order food in accordance with Utah law). The Peaks Hotel not only offered shuttle service to the Park City Mountain Resort, but also to Deer Valley, which several club members took advantage of during our trip.

After the Peaks Hotel staff delivered our luggage to our rooms (talk about service!), many club members took advantage of the on-site ski rental shop and got all the necessities to hit the slopes first thing on Thursday. By the time we were all unpacked and had our ski gear it was time for The Peaks Hotel Welcome Pizza Party! We had a spacious meeting room that looked out on Park City Mountain and were served delicious pizza from Versante. Shawn even stopped by to say hello, recommended some great restaurants on the historic Main Street, and answered any other questions we had.

On Thursday morning, members stopped by the breakfast buffet to fuel up for the day before heading to the slopes. The weather was sunny and in the mid-50s, so we knew that there was a beautiful day of skiing ahead of us! Park City Mountain has a great variety of runs and difficulty levels, so while some found their ski legs on the greens and blues, others jumped right on to the black diamonds. With the warmer weather, the slopes got a little slushy towards mid-afternoon, but nonetheless it was a great first day out. The group then met for dinner at the No Name Saloon on

the historic Main Street, which is most famous for its bison burgers. Most would agree that bison is an acquired taste, but it is always good to try something you might normally avoid. We also learned of another Utah drinking law while waiting to be seated: alcohol cannot be served to customers unless they are in a seat! We got creative and took turns sitting at the bar until a table was available. Once we got a table and ordered, we had a great time socializing and sharing stories of our first day.

Some had another successful and injury-free day of skiing on Friday, while others took the day off to explore Park City. There was a funicular at Deer Valley that went up to the upscale St. Regis bar that entertained some members for the day. The group met for dinner at The Spur on Historic Main Street and again spent some quality time over a great meal. Main Street was beautiful at night, with all the lights draping across the buildings. It also offered great window shopping for the city's high-end art galleries.

Saturday was another great day for skiing and exploring. A few members went on a thrilling snowmobiling tour up through the mountains. With rain in the afternoon, the club hosted a happy hour in the hotel lobby before we set out for our club dinner at Sergio's.



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President's Message (cont'd from Page 1)

Please renew your annual club membership as soon as possible. Members who renew by May 15 have priority on trip spots up to the sign-up night. A membership application is required annually for everyone in the club, including those over age 70. Access our Membership Application for 2020-2021 on our homepage (www.stlouisskiclub.com)

It will be interesting to see how COVID-19 might affect the coming ski season. Many disappointed IKON and EPIC season ski pass holders were less than happy that they did not get to finish the ski season this year. (You can count me as one of those, but I do understand.) Resorts closed just as spring break was about to kick off. From what I'm hearing and reading, there are a lot of folks who have changed their mind regarding

buying a season pass for the coming year. IKON and EPIC are trying to hold on to season-long customers with concerns about COVID-19, announcing measures to help retain customers (e.g. credits toward next seasons pass, refunds for unused portion of pass, automatically including insurance that covers resort closure, ability to roll 2020-2021 unused pass to following year, extending deadline to purchase discounted season pass). Aside from season passes, I'm wondering if we might see lift ticket deals the coming year unlike we have seen in the past –assuming resorts are able to open.

I'd also like to remind our age 65+ members what a great deal the Hidden Valley season pass is this year --\$109. Virtually less than the cost of a single day lift ticket in Colorado! –except, of course, for

the fabulous deals available with our club ski trips.

The trip committee has been diligently working on our trips for the 2020-2021 ski season. We will be offering the Flatland Ski Association (FSA) trip to Telluride CO in January. I know a lot of you are excited about this one! Our other two trips are still TBD. Of course, the committee is weighing in on the trip survey that many of you took the time to complete, in addition to looking at what might be a good value. As usual, you can look forward to complete details of our 2021 trips in the July issue of the Sitzmarker.

Stay safe and I'm looking forward to seeing you when life as we knew it resumes!

Park City Trip (cont'd from Page 2)

We received news on Saturday evening that the resort would be closing on Sunday due to COVID-19, but we were not going to let this ruin our spirits! We returned our ski gear that evening and special thanks to Pat Pender for gathering everyone's ski passes and working with Ski.com on refunds.

With the resort and several businesses closed on Sunday, club members got creative with finding activities to fill the day. A few went snowshoeing, while others relaxed or went to the hot tub. The hotel began to clear out and disinfect as a precautionary measure. Shawn did our club a great favor and offered us

a suite to hang out in for the night where we played card games and ordered food from Versante to be delivered to our rooms.

With the growing awareness of the seriousness of COVID-19, the group booked several minivans for the return home, just in case air travel was suspended. Fortunately, our flight was still on-schedule for our return home to St. Louis on Monday. We loaded on to the shuttle at 8 am to head to the airport. A member who won the pot of quarters from the previous night's card game was pulled aside by security at the airport based on the amount of change in their luggage, which gave a good laugh. We all made it back to St. Louis safe and sound.

Despite all the worry and unforeseen changes towards the end of our trip, everyone kept a positive attitude and a smiling face. Many tried new experiences, and all have made unforgettable memories. We all look forward to our next trip in 2021. Stay well and healthy, St. Louis Ski Club!



Park City Photos



Blasts from the Past

Take a look at some past ski trips from our photo archives



Member Spotlight: Karen Nugent



Karen (2nd from right) on her first trip with the club in Tahoe in 2019

In a story typical of many of our members, our new vice-president Karen Nugent took a roundabout route to joining the St. Louis Ski Club. She graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in health sciences but her first skiing experience came when she moved to Pennsylvania to work as a respiratory therapist and took advantage of the mountains on the east coast.

Karen's skiing in the U.S. was limited for a long time. Her first trip was to Stowe in Vermont and it proved to be a disaster. The -5 degree temperature and her frequent falling turned her into a popsicle in no time. She had some better luck with some of the mountains in Pennsylvania but eventually her career and three children made skiing a low priority.

It was when her husband's career took them to Calgary in Alberta, Canada, she had another opportunity with

the far more challenging Canadian Rockies. Karen did not have a work visa for Canada so she used her "retirement" to volunteer for school and church activities and found a group of other mothers to do downhill and cross country skiing with. She had a far better understanding of speed, height, and fear at this point and she also learned to follow her children through bumps and jumps as their own confidence grew. She eventually learned to enjoy the safety of blue cruisers while her children explored back bowls and glades. The family frequently visited Lake Louise and had a condo at the ski resort in Kimberley, British Columbia. Her favorite skiing location in Canada was Nakiska outside of Calgary, the site of the 1988 Winter Olympics downhill skiing events.

Eventually Karen did become a Canadian citizen and began working in the oil and gas industry. After being laid off during the Great Recession, she came back to St. Louis to resume work as a respiratory therapist. Sadly, that work has been in great demand lately. Before the COVID-19 exploded though, Karen did manage to join the club on the Park City trip. This was her second trip with the group, after having traveled to Tahoe last year at the invitation of her cousins, John and Erni Wood. She greatly enjoyed both trips and definitely plans for more skiing with the club in the future. St. Louis may not have the mountains that Canada does but that will not stop her from

seeking out other opportunities through her new found friendships in the club.

Karen's natural comradery on our ski trips led to a suggestion from several members that she consider serving as our vice-president. She graciously agreed to run for this position and was elected in April. She will no doubt be a positive force in organizing our social activities, once the current crisis clears and allows them to resume.

Like many St. Louis skiers, Karen has shown a willingness to make our club work for the benefit of all. We look forward to seeing more of her both on and off the slopes.



Karen (on the left) with fellow Tahoe skier Kathleen Blosser



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Mark Your Calendars Now!

Please use our Meetup page <http://www.meetup.com/St-Louis-Ski-Club/>
or you may RSVP to activities@stlouisskiclub.com
See stlouisskiclub.com for the latest updates!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
Friday June 5, 2010 5 PM	Q and Suds <i>(Subject to Cancellation)</i>	Watch website and Out and About emails for details.
<i>No other activities currently planned. View our website at http://stlouisskiclub.com for updates</i>		