

**St. Louis
Ski Club
Board of
Directors
2020-2021**

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**Sitzmarker
Winter 2021**

President's Message

Hello members! I hope you and your family have fared well through the Covid pandemic thus far, as we anxiously await life returning to normal.

This ski season certainly has presented some challenges – unlike anything I have ever seen. First, our trip signups last summer were sparse. We were forced to cancel our Vail, CO trip set for February due to the small number of signups. Additionally, we had quite a number of folks who were signed up for our other two trips drop off, for fear of contracting Covid. Rules regarding lodging, dining and bars were quite fluid, changing from week to week. Most ski resorts were limiting the number of lift tickets for a given day and requiring passholders to make reservations. Distancing and face masks were required. Gathering of groups were greatly restricted. Some ski resorts were not allowing slopeside indoor dining.

Nonetheless, our club had a nice group who braved the adversities and had a great time on the Flatland Ski Association (FSA) trip to Telluride, CO. **(See Page 5 for a summary of this trip).** In case you were not able to be on this trip, you'll be glad to know that the FSA trip for 2022 is also being planned for Telluride.

Be sure to check out our Member Spotlight in this issue **(Page 4)** featuring Haskins Hobson,



who I had the pleasure of meeting on our Winter Park trip a couple of years ago. Although he does not live in the St Louis area, he knows and appreciates the value of being a member of the St Louis Ski Club.

I would like to remind everyone of our upcoming annual board member election. Due to Covid-19, we will not be holding a membership meeting but will be voting electronically. **See Page 3 for details.**

Would you like to help your club? Consider the following:

1) Have you thought about running for the Board? Annual elections are coming up and we are always looking for new board members who can bring a fresh perspective and ideas to the table. **See a list of board member position descriptions on Page 3 of this issue.** If interested, please contact Pat Pender at financial@stlouisskiclub.com or by calling (314) 703-0803 by March 31st.

2) Have you considered hosting a club event? Or maybe you have a good idea for an activity you would like to see on our club calendar? Hopefully we can ramp up with events as the year progresses. Contact Vice President Karen Nugent with your ideas at activities@stlouisskiclub.org or by calling (314) 873-5150.

3) Want to help your club stay viable? Spread the word: our Refer-A-Friend program is still available! Refer a first-time-ever member and receive \$25 if they go on a trip in 2022.

4) Renew your annual club membership dues which expire on April 30. By renewing by May 15, you save \$5. A link to our Membership Application can be found on our website home page (<https://www.stlouisskiclub.com>).

5) Assist the board with deciding where to go in 2022. Be thinking about where you would like to go skiing. Watch for the Trip Destination Survey email in your inbox in March. Be sure to complete and submit it by the deadline. Although we obviously cannot offer trips to all the lovely places everyone would like to go, the survey helps the board narrow down where to go. Bids are then requested, and of course price drives a lot of the decision as to which trips are offered. Everyone loves a great trip at a great price!

Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

**Annual Board Elections Approaching
See Page 3 for Information**

A Tribute to Wayne Baker



Wayne at the airport in his skiing prime

Longtime fellow club member Wayne Baker passed away on January 6, 2021. Wayne will be missed and fondly remembered by many who came and went throughout his life. For those who knew him well, he was a very generous and kind person with a wicked sense of humor, plus a great storyteller. He loved his

airplanes and skiing adventures along with his mushroom hunting, from which nothing ever stopped him from going.

Before the invention of the cell phone, on many ski trips Wayne would always make a group of fellow club members ski down the run with him video-taping us as he was skiing backwards. Everything had to be just right, or he would make us ski the run over again. He was an excellent skier in his day. Many will remember the famous après ski events where he would entertain us with his antics on and off the slopes. The one constant item Wayne always had on hand was his camera. His photo albums would tell the story of each trip he had taken. The albums were the best in which he would caption each picture with a saying, some good and some we would rather forget along with the photo.

His first trip captain duty was in 1987 to Telluride and his last in 2004 to Alaska. If you were lucky to be on one of his trips he ran, they were always very entertaining and fun. One thing about Wayne, he never met a stranger he didn't like. It was amazing when Wayne would return to a ski resort, those strangers still remembered him and were always happy to see him.

Many of you may also remember Wayne's "Wake Party", which he planned himself at his airplane hangar so he could partake of the celebration. He even had a casket to make the event real. Many good parties were had at his hangar.

In the early 1970's, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch noted his passing from an airplane crash. One can only say that Wayne surely outlived his obituary.

What wonderful memories of Wayne we have that can be cherished by all and be told again and again for many years to come. Here's to you Wayne, may you rest in peace and ski those heavenly mountains!

**Fellow Club Member and friend,
Cindy Girth**



Wayne (center) with Carole Stevenson and his long-time friend Norman Pratt.

In Memoriam: Carl Scheske



Long-time ski club member Carl Scheske passed away on December 25th. Carl was active on many trips in the 1970s and was very involved with the Flatland Ski Association (FSA). His ski trips had become far less frequent in recent years, but he continued to attend the Q and Suds picnic every year and was also seen at many happy hours and other social events.

He had been employed by McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis and had worked on

the Gemini and space shuttle programs. In addition to skiing, he had interests in scuba diving and traveling and was involved with the St. Louis Symphony and the St. Louis Science Museum.

Carl is remembered by club members who knew him as a friendly and outgoing person and an enthusiastic skier. His presence will be missed at social events. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

Help Our Club Flourish!

St. Louis Ski Club Board of Directors

Elections to our Board of Directors are coming up in April. Once again, we ask all our members to consider stepping up and contributing their time and talent to help lead our club. The current board members have been happy to serve the club in their roles and are willing to continue doing so. Yet none will be offended if someone with new ideas and new energy puts their name in contention for these positions. We have detailed the

duties of each board member below and you may see that you have more of the skills necessary for a role than you realized.

There is compensation for this work. Board members receive 800 trip credits for serving a full year. Beyond this, though, you have the chance to shape the club for the future and help ensure it can continue.

At the very least, even if you cannot contribute to our leadership, please pay your membership fee in a timely manner, even if you do not plan on any trips in the coming ski season. Club member-

ship fees may seem like small amounts but taken together they form a significant part of our operating funds. And, as noted in our president's message, please encourage others to join our club and participate in trips. Beyond the immediate benefits of the Refer-A-Friend program, this is another important element of helping our club grow and prosper.

If you have any interest in running for a board position, contact Pat Pender at financial@stlouisskiclub.com to have your name placed on the ballot.

Board Position Descriptions

President:

- Presides over all meetings of the board of directors and the general membership. The board meets monthly

Vice-President:

- In the absence of or at the request of the President, presides at all meetings and performs the duties of the President.
- Supervises the publicity and promotion of the St. Louis Ski Club through printed club material and the news media.
- Prepares and arranges the general membership schedule and meeting places

Communications Director

- Drafts and edits the St. Louis Ski Club newsletter, Sitzmarker.
- Arranges for timely delivery of the Sitzmarker to the membership 4 times a year.
- Monitors and updates the St. Louis Ski Club website
- Records minutes for board meetings

Trip Director:

- Produces the trip schedule, secures trip contracts and executes the scheduled ski trips for the St. Louis Ski Club.
- Creates and updates the trip grid and payment schedules posted in the Sitzmarker.
- Recruits and supervises the trip captains.
- Maintains and updates the trip captain manual.

Annual Meeting and Elections

Due to COVID-19 concerns, there will be no annual membership meeting for 2021.

For board elections, electronic ballots will be emailed to members in early April with instructions for voting. They will need to be completed and returned by Wednesday, April 21st at 6 pm.

Those who have preferred paper ballots in the past will receive them again this year. If you want to request a paper ballot, contact Pat Pender at

financial@stlouisskiclub.com

Club memberships expire on April 30th 2021. Current members save \$5 by renewing by May 15th. Membership applications are available on our website at <https://www.stlouisskiclub.com/>

Refer A Friend: Remember that if you refer a brand new member to the club and they go on a ski trip in 2022, you are eligible for a \$25 referral check. There is a place on the membership application where they can indicate your name.

Member Spotlight: Haskins Hobson



FUTURE ST. LOUIS SKIERS: Haskins (right) with Tom Coscia on a scouting trip to the Grand Canyon

Although Haskins Hobson has been a member of the St. Louis Ski Club since 1998, many club members who frequent our happy hours and social events may struggle to place him. This is because his work as a professional engineer has often had him based at other locations including Jefferson City, Quincy, Massachusetts, and currently in Carlsbad, New Mexico. He is a very familiar face to avid St. Louis skiers, though, having joined the club on many of our trips over the years.

Growing up in St. Louis, Haskins graduated from Clayton High School and then headed east to study at Dartmouth College. He first learned to ski in the hills of New Hampshire and then came back to Missouri in 1996, and began work as an environmental engineer for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Air Pollution Control Program in 1997. He was asked by his friend and Boy Scout Troop leader Tom Coscia about joining the St. Louis Ski Club, and they went on their first club trip to Park City, Deer Valley, and Alta in 1997. He has since participated in other trips to Banff, Sun Valley, Winter Park, Telluride, and Steamboat Springs.

Haskins has enjoyed all of his trips with the club, but a few moments stand out for him. During a trip to Jackson Hole in 2017 he was able to spend a day skiing at nearby Grand Targhee and remembers how the deep powder and strong sun made for his favorite day of skiing on that trip.

On that same trip, he also enjoyed an excursion from Jackson Hole to the Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park. Another indelible memory is skiing a double-black diamond in waist-deep powder at Winter Park in 2019. He has made new friends on every outing and tries to stay in touch with them between trips.

From 2009 – 2017, Haskins worked for an engineering company in Quincy, Massachusetts, where he took up what would become another of his passions, golf. In 2018, he moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico to take a position as Senior Environmental Engi-

neer for the potash fertilizer company Mosaic. This gave him the opportunity to play golf year-round and he recommends the sport as a great way to spend time with family and friends. He also enjoys travel and has taken up photography as a way to document his journeys. He has made it to 49 of the United States and only has Delaware to cross off his list. He is also an active volunteer with his church.

Haskins is one of many ski club members who connects with us from outside the St. Louis area and thus is not able to socialize with us often. We are grateful though to be able to see him regularly on ski trips. Those who have skied with him have appreciated his abilities on the slopes and have learned from his tips and guidance. We hope his future holds many more memorable excursions with the St. Louis Ski Club.



Haskins on the recent FSA/Telluride trip

FSA Telluride



Drew and Rose Garland with John Eckert

Well, with the “new normal” not being normal, and watching state restrictions as late as even December, who knew *if* we’d be able to have a trip this year? But things worked out, and *WHAT* a trip it was! While the numbers were down this year, that didn’t dampen the trip at all.

On Saturday, January 30th, 10 people set off from St. Louis, while another was making her way from Milwaukee and our final skier was driving up from Phoenix. Our group of 12 included trip captain Paul Snyder, plus Joe Bauer, Denise Buehrer, Tom Coscia, John Eckert, Dan Edwards, Nancy Engel, Drew Garland, Rose Garland, Haskins Hobson, Joe Kellett, and Joan Scholz. Flights all went well, and most even arrived early, allowing time for lunch on the way and grocery shopping in Montrose. And, as one participant pointed out, we really had “upscale” shuttles and plenty of room to spread out and socially distance.

Telluride had received quite a bit of new snow the day before we arrived, so Sunday was a *great* day of skiing ... sunny and warm with great snow conditions. Actually, we found conditions to be good throughout most of the week, with only one afternoon when the snow was getting a little “sticky” in places, or icy in others, due to the temperature. Several of the group skied all six days, or at least *part* of those days, while others took a day off for other activities. For example, Drew and Rose went hiking at Bridal Veil Falls and even saw some wild animal tracks in the

snow. Others spent time in the quaint town of Telluride shopping, dining, or like Tom, visiting the museum. Some chose to take the free mountain tour (*on skis, of course*) and found the guides to be excellent and full of great facts and information.

Due to county Covid restrictions, large group activities were out. This meant no club party, and all of the large Flatland Ski Association (FSA) activities had to be cancelled, including the races. And, of course, many restrictions were in place at Telluride to keep people healthy, including mask requirements, lift line spacing, and limits on people on lifts or gondolas. But with the small crowds, there really were no long waits and it was *great* to have big chunks of the mountain wide open with almost nobody on some of the runs! We are so thankful, though, that even with this, and a much smaller total FSA attendance than originally planned, the people at Telluride still honored all of the discounts on lodging, lift tickets, and other accommodations as originally agreed upon! But, because so many FSA members didn’t attend, it looks like the FSA will be going back in 2022 for a re-do with, we hope, none of the current restrictions!

This year we once again stayed at The Peaks Hotel. For those who’ve been there you know it’s very upscale, and the nicest thing is the on-site ski rental and daily ski valet services. Plus true ski-in/ski-out. Yes, we got spoiled by that. The downside this year was limited seating in the restaurant (*and, like all places, NO buffet breakfast*), limits in the hot tubs, and no free cider or hot chocolate waiting at the ski valet area when you got off the mountain. (*How we suffered ...*) Tom did take some time off one morning to check out other potential lodging, as several people had expressed interest in looking at condos so they’d have a kitchen and could do more

eating in as opposed to the cost and hassle of always dining out. But, for those who enjoyed dining out, even with the restrictions, there were lots of opportunities, especially down in the town of Telluride (*accessible by the free gondola across the mountain*). There were also a number of places to get food in the mountain village for those who didn’t want to take the cold gondola ride, especially at night.

So, to finalize ... it was a GREAT trip and everyone had a good time. We had great weather for most of the trip and, after all, even a “bad” day of skiing is better than the best day at work, right? We also had no injuries (*probably a few bruises and lots of stiff, sore muscles, but nothing serious*). We were all just so happy that we were able to make this trip, and can’t wait for next year!



Joe Kellett against one of Telluride’s many scenic backdrops

Telluride Photos





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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> |
|--|--|---|
| Sunday February 21, 2021 9 AM | Hidden Valley Ski Day (See Details Below) | Hidden Valley Ski Resort 17409 Hidden Valley Dr Wildwood, MO 63025 |
| Saturday March 27, 2021 9:30 AM | Winter Hike (See Details Below) | Forest Park Visitor Center 5595 Grand Dr St Louis, MO 63112 |

Hidden Valley Ski Day: Meet at 9 am. Lift tickets must be purchased in advance. Go to <https://www.meetup.com/St-Louis-Ski-Club/> for more details.

Winter Hike: Meet at 9:30 am. Bring a lunch and a lawn chair if you wish to join the group in a picnic after the hike.