St. Louis Ski Club Board of Directors 2021-2022

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ST. LOUIS Ski CLUB

Sitzmarker
Winter 2022

President's Message

Hello skiers and snowboarders! I hope you're having a wonderful white winter! The season seems to go by in a mere blink. Our skiers attending the annual Flatland Ski Association (FSA) trip are now back home from Telluride, CO. Those going on our February trip to Copper Mountain, CO are packing up. And our Steamboat Springs, CO folks are anxiously awaiting their turn.

What a terrific trip to Telluride! We had 26 St. Louis Skiers participate in the annual FSA events. See ***Page 2*** for a summary of the trip and ***Page 3*** for photos of our skiers in action!

As you know, COVID is still impacting everything we do, everywhere we go, everything we buy. Never in a million years (yes, I'm that old) did I think we would still be contending with its effects two years in. The "normal" we once knew will never return. That aside, we all still have a lot to be thankful for. Count your blessings!

Be sure to check out our Member Spotlight featuring longtime member John Heiman on ***Page 5*** of this edition of the Sitzmarker. I have known John a number of years now. I always enjoy his positive attitude, sense of humor, childlike smile and enthusiasm. John, it's such a pleasure to have you as part of our club –and not just because of all the points you earn for our club at the annual FSA competitions.

Speaking of ***our club***, I've got a few reminders for everyone -- conveniently all starting with the letter R-- for ways in which you can help ***our club***:

RUN for Office
Consider running for the St Louis Ski Club Board in April. We always welcome some fresh ideas, eagerness and skill sets. See ***Page 4*** for a summary of responsibilities for each board position. Yes, YOU can do this!

RAISE Your Hand
Consider volunteering to host a club event, or just offering suggestions for new/different activities and venues. All help is gladly accepted and very appreciated. Really, all you have to do is let us know. Vice-President Karen Nugent will handle getting the word out for you.

RENEW Your Membership
Membership dues supply our club with working capital for things such as club activities and deposits down on ski trips (hotel, airline, etc). We are a small club and don't have the benefit what might come from having many hundreds of members. Club memberships expire every year on April 30th.

REFER-A-FRIEND
Help us grow our club --while putting a few dollars in your pocket! New members help ensure the continuity of our club. The Refer-A-Friend program is still available. If you bring a never-before-member into the club that signs up for one of our ski trips, you will be rewarded with $25. Everybody wins --much unlike carnival games!

RESPOND to Club Surveys
Help us help you. Once a trip is completed, you will receive a Trip Survey. We really want to know what you liked and didn't like about that particular trip, so that we can improve our future club trips. Additionally, in late winter all members receive a Destination Survey. We want to know your personal top ski trip destinations for the following year. This helps with planning our trips. Once destinations are narrowed down, the trip director will solicit bids from the vendors. Once we receive bids the trip destination selection process is also somewhat driven by price. We know everyone likes a bargain!

As a final note, please consider joining us at Hidden Valley on Sunday, February 13. Come out and support our local ski area. Personally, I really want it to survive/thrive. That is where many of us were first introduced to the sport of skiing/snowboarding. Count me as one of those. Hidden Valley holds a special place in my heart. I have met many good friends and have spent countless winter hours at Hidden Valley. See you then and there!

FSA Telluride

On January 22, members of the SLSC headed out for the club's first trip of the season, beautiful Telluride, CO. We were joined by about 260 members of the other FSA clubs for part of the week, too! We started with 25, but one had to drop out right before the trip, and another left after the first day when he realized his knee wouldn't allow him to ski due to an injury sustained on a prior trip this winter. The trip was run by veteran captain Paul Snyder, and we were pleased to have several new members on the trip. On the trip were Joe Bauer (our FSA Race Director), Ron Acker, Frank Atkinson, Denise Buehrer, Faye Doerhoff, Bev Doolin, Alan Fiddleman, Drew Garland, Rose Garland, Candy Girth, Cindy Girth, Bill Harris (new), David Hawley, Rick Hyer (new), Jennifer Marshall (new), Mike Mickes (returning after many years), Pat Pender, Rebecca Pender, Mary Robert, Lori Rottler (new), Sasha Sobolev (new), and Mary Sullivan.

Travel went smoothly, then after a "quick" grocery stop we got to our lodging, Bear Creek Lodge, which was a new location for us. We opted for condos this year, and weren't disappointed. They were spacious and well-appointed. And, while not ski-in/ski-out, their on-demand shuttle made getting to and from the slopes, the market, and other places a breeze. There was also a funicular that could take skiers to one of the runs, but it was only in operation part of the week. The condo staff was very accommodating, and we were even welcomed with a wine and cheese party our first night.

And, as usual, our week of skiing at Telluride was fantastic. 4 days of clear, blue skies and 2 days that were more overcast and snowy … but many of us still skied! Part of the trip included the annual FSA races, which didn't take place last year due to the pandemic, hence the return to Telluride this year. Many of our club members took part in one of the various races.

Novice Race: Candy Girth, Cindy Girth, David Hawley, Pat Pender, & Rebecca Pender.

Women's Challenge Race: Denise Buehrer & Mary Robert.

Men's Challenge Race: Ron Acker, Frank Atkinson, Bill Harris, & Sasha Sobolev.

Men's Alternate Race: Joe Bauer, Mike Mickes, and Paul Snyder.

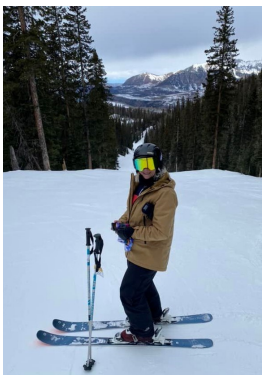
Sasha won a FSA Silver Medal in his division, and St. Louis came in 6th overall among the FSA clubs.

Everyone had a good time, and besides the skiing and racing there was a welcome party and also a banquet at the Telluride Conference Center hosted by the FSA, with complimentary beer from our sponsor, Boulevard. We had a chance to get together with the Boeing Ski Club, which was in Telluride with a large group, one afternoon for apres ski. Some people also took time off from skiing to go into the town of Telluride (via gondola or by skis) to enjoy some of the great food or shopping. And the club had a pizza party at Crazy Elk Pizza our last night with a variety of pizza, salad, and soft drinks. (Which gave us plenty of leftover cold pizza to snack on the next day for lunch while waiting for our return shuttle.)

While there were a few falls, bumps, and bruises, there were no serious injuries. David Hawley was surprised one day when he stopped for lunch and came back out to find his skis missing … some other David's skis … very similar … were left behind. So David had to be taken down the mountain by the Ski Patrol! Fortunately the rental company worked it all out and got him some other skis to use!

All in all a GREAT trip!

Telluride Photos



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 membership 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 by April 1st 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 perform 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

When:

Monday, April 25th
Social Hour and Voting at 6 PM
Election Results and
Meeting at 7 PM

Where:

Llywelyn's Pub
17 W. Moody Ave.
Webster Groves , MO 63119

Electronic ballots will be emailed to members in early April with instructions for voting. They will need to be completed and returned by April 25th at 6 pm.

To request a paper ballot, contact Pat Pender at financial@stlouisskiclub.com by April 1st

Club memberships expire on April 30th 2022. 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 2023, you are a eligible for a $25 referral check. There is a place on the membership application where they can indicate your name.

Member Spotlight: John Heiman

John skiing for SLSC at FSA/ Steamboat in 2017

John Heiman is a St. Louis native and has one of the longest tenures with the St. Louis Ski Club. Like many club members, though, his path to the club has been a roundabout one. After earning a degree in electrical engineering on the west coast, he embarked on an odyssey of corporate transfers, a graduate school business degree, military duty, and more corporate work in Houston before arriving back home to St. Louis to help manage a small business selling electrical products.

John joined the club in 1968, shortly after his move back to St Louis. After having been active with the Space City Ski Club in Houston, he was looking for a group with similar interests and found it with the St. Louis club, which at that time had over 1000 members and ran 8 to 10 ski trips a year. He enjoyed the social aspects and mingling at the monthly meetings. For several years he conducted one-hour weekly ski related exercise sessions at local high school gyms for the SLSC, with up to 100 people sometimes attending.

John's longevity provides him with numerous memories of the club in its heyday. He served as a captain on several trips and has long been involved with events for the Flatlanders Ski Association (FSA). He once served as the SLSC Race Chairman for the FSA on a trip to Vail, where over 1000 skiers participated in a "one run and done" open race. Just before the race, he realized that all of the bib numbers had been assigned to the wrong St. Louis skiers and had to convince the club members to race "posing" as someone else.

John also remembers many of the club trips to Winter Park and the stays at Beaver Lodge. In those days, the lodge included breakfast and dinner in the trip price, something we can scarcely imagine now. Winter Park remains one of his favorite destinations. He also has fond memories of the retro 40/50s hotel the club stayed at in Aspen (long since replaced by a high-rise). His "brushes with greatness" over the years include riding ski lifts with Margaux Hemingway at Sun Valley and Ed Ames at Deer Valley.

John has also engaged in athletic and sporting interests outside of skiing. He once played tennis regularly and practiced karate but retired from both when he realized related injuries might impact his skiing. He is now an avid follower of major cycling events in Europe, soccer in the United Kingdom and college football. He also enjoys watching film noir movies from the 1940s and reading novels, especially those related to World War II. John and his wife Joyce also collect art and wine which they enjoy viewing and drinking daily as "psychic income".

John and his family have also taken memorable trips outside of the ski club, including a family trip to St. Moritz where they encountered the undisciplined chairlift lines typical of European resorts and experienced such dining delicacies as a raw egg embedded in their soup. While visiting a ski racing camp at Whistler, their lodging came complete with bears who were dumpster diving next door, requiring extra caution when traveling to and from meals.

John and Joyce now focus much of their attention on travel, especially concentrating on visits to their children, who are spread across the country. Their daughter Sarah is a blogger, photographer, writer and editor who writes online about a variety of topics, including orchids. She lives in Washington D.C. and is married to the co-founder of a group of urban wineries. Another daughter, Laura, lives in Austin where she is an accomplished martial artist and co-owner of a Brazilian Ju-Jitsu academy and competes in martial arts tournaments throughout the United States. Their son David is a film school graduate who works as a writer and producer in Los Angeles. Although the pandemic has curtailed their travel schedule recently, these diverse locations have made for some interesting visits over the years.

John remains an active member of the club and enjoys the opportunity to socialize with members at happy hours, trip ice breakers, and other gatherings. He typically goes on at least one club trip a year, usually the FSA trip or any trips to Winter Park. Given the way lodging prices have skyrocketed at resorts in recent years, he enjoys the opportunity to share condos with other skiers.

John and his wife Joyce at Aspen (date unknown)

John is now one of our few club members who can claim to have knowledge of club lore and history that goes back more than five decades. His recollections are a testament to the stamina and camaraderie the club and its skiers have shown that have allowed us to survive over the years. We hope we can continue to maintain a strong presence as a skiing and social group and help John and others build new memories for years to come.

Recent Events

Holiday Party
December 2nd

Powder Valley Hike
November 20th

ThirstyThursday
November 11th

ST. LOUIS SKI CLUB

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

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

Date	Activity	Location
Wednesday February 9, 2022 6 PM	**Copper Ski Trip Icebreaker**	**Llywelyn's Pub 17 W. Moody Ave. Webster Groves , MO 63119**
Sunday February 13, 2022 8:30 AM	**Hidden Valley Ski Day *(See Details Below)***	**Hidden Valley Ski Resort 17409 Hidden Valley Dr Wildwood, MO 63025**
Wednesday February 23, 2022 6 PM	**Steamboat Trip Icebreaker**	**Llywelyn's Pub 17 W. Moody Ave. Webster Groves , MO 63119**
Monday April 25, 2022 6 PM	**Annual Meeting and Elections *(See Details Page 4)***	**Llywelyn's Pub 17 W. Moody Ave. Webster Groves , MO 63119**

Hidden Valley Ski Day: Meet on the patio behind the main the lodge at 8:30 am. Look for the blue balloon. Purchase lift tickets in advance or at the window. Masks are required and proof of vaccination is necessary to obtain seating inside. Go to https://www.meetup.com/St-Louis-Ski-Club/ for more details.