

**St. Louis
Ski Club
Board of
Directors
2022-2023**

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St. Louis Ski Club

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**Sitzmarker
Winter 2023**

President's Message

Salutations Ski Club members! Another ski season is winding down. Soon we will “spring forward” our clocks and move on to warmer weather activities. (We really are more than a ski club. Be on the lookout for your Out and About emails announcing new and fun club activities.) I always find the transition this time of year bittersweet and will miss regularly seeing some of my ski buddies. It has been a great ski season. Things had been touch and go to pull together our three ski trips, but in the end it all worked out quite nicely. Covid-wise, on the surface it appeared that things had reverted back to business as usual. Generally, masks were no longer required, vaccination cards were not asked for or required, hotel lobbies allowed guests to gather in their public spaces, limitations for sharing liftchairs or rooming



seemed to disappear, etc. A number of people on the Whitefish trip had Covid immediately prior to the trip, one missed the trip altogether due to Covid, and some tested positive for Covid upon arriving back home. Thankfully most had mild symptoms. Apparently, it's just something that we all have to deal with ongoing, like the flu. Oddly enough, after three ski trips to Colorado last year, none

of our trips this year were Colorado destinations. Our first trip of the season to Big Sky, Montana was a big success. Our last trip there in 2015 was a disappointment, simply because of a lack of snow, but the conditions this time were vastly improved. And, as usual, all the skiers were taken in by the charms of the Huntley Lodge and its famous buffet breakfast. See the trip's summary on **Page 3**. Thank you Dan McGurk for your leadership on this trip. This trip was followed by another ski trip to Montana (Whitefish, MT) as the annual Flatland Ski Association (FSA) trip, which had a lot of fun competitions among the participating cities' ski clubs. The SLSC was well represented in the competitions this year. This

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**FSA/Whitefish Trip
More Photos Inside**

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was the first time that I can remember our club having not one but two snowshoe relay teams. Joe Bauer was not only the trip captain, but worked feverishly as FSA Race Director. Much appreciated Joe! Also a SUPER BIG shout out to SLSC member Paul Snyder for selflessly volunteering his time and effort as FSA Director this year. It's quite an undertaking! You will find the write-up of this trip on **Page 6**. Interestingly, the FSA trip this year was as close as we came to a value trip. Lift tickets were exceptionally cheap, especially for super seniors. Throw in two evenings of banquets plus a club party, and it was really a good value.

As I write this, our third and final ski trip for the season (Park City, Utah) is just a week away. Watch for the summary and photos of this trip in the next edition of the SLSC Sitzmarker.

I realize that our ski trips were somewhat condensed this ski season --we don't normally finish before March. A number of folks had conveyed the fact that they don't necessarily like spring

skiing, especially at lower elevations. Additionally, we have to consider availability, pricing, etc. We also avoided the spring break crowds. So I feel like it was a win/win!

Be sure to check out the Member Spotlight featuring Dan Krack on **Page 9**. Dan is a long-time member who returned to the club a few years ago after some time away from St. Louis.

Now, on to some club business, starting with a few reminders.

- 1) For those who were on a ski trip, the Board would very much appreciate you filling out the Post-Trip Survey. You should have received an email from your trip captain post-trip with the link to the survey. Also, for a short period of time after the trip, you will find a link to the survey for your trip on www.stlouisskiclub.com under the Links tab.
- 2) All members (whether you went on a ski trip or not) will receive a Ski Trip Destination Survey in late February. Here you will vote for your favorite ski trip destinations for next year. Please promptly complete this survey when you receive it.

- 3) Your annual club membership dues expire on April 30th. Those renewing or joining by May 15 will have the opportunity to sign up for next seasons ski trips prior to sign-up night in August.

Finally, Ski Club Board elections are coming up in April. As you may know, this is my final year as club president and I will not be a candidate on the April ballot. I have truly enjoyed my 7 years on the Board, but it's time for some new faces, talents, and energy. I will, of course, continue as a club member and do plan to help out when needed and host occasional activities.

We are actively seeking candidates for the Board. You will find a description of duties on **Page 8** in this edition of the Sitzmarker. Yes, YOU can do this and you will not be alone! When I joined the Board, I found the seasoned board members extremely helpful and patient. Please contact Pat Pender by April 1st if you would like to run for the SLSC Board of Directors. This is your opportunity to help mold the club into what you want it to be.

Hope to see you soon at a club activity!

Recent Social Events



Hidden Valley Ski Day—February 12th



Holiday Party—December 1st

Big Sky



Big Sky Ski Resort, which bills itself as “the biggest skiing in America,” is anchored by picturesque Lone Mountain. From its top, one can see all the way to Jackson. The resort rests on a northeast facing valley of the Madison mountain range, opposite Mount Wilson. Just over a nearby ridge, *A River Runs Through It* was filmed, and some of the oldest fossils ever found were unearthed here.

The St. Louis Ski Club had the opportunity to experience this resort during our first trip of 2023. We were returning to Big Sky for the first time since 2015, when the snow conditions were less than optimal. Happily, this trip helped us to easily put that experience in the rear-view mirror with 5 fine days of skiing. Under the guidance of trip captain Dan McGurk, most of the group departed early from St. Louis on Sunday, January 8th. This included Kathleen Blosser, Steven Coxwell, Nancy Engel, Drew and Rose Garland, Joe Kellet, Ken Kinsinger, Dan Krack, Larry and Andy Micenheimer, Karen Nugent, Kathryn Pasdiora, Pat Pender, Lori Rottler, Sharon Surgeon, and Ernie Wood. For our connecting flight from Las Vegas to Bozeman, Montana we were joined at the airport by Haskins Hobson, on a land package from New Mexico, and Katherine Langer, a brand new member from Arizona. Later that afternoon, Joan Scholz arrived on a land package from Wisconsin.

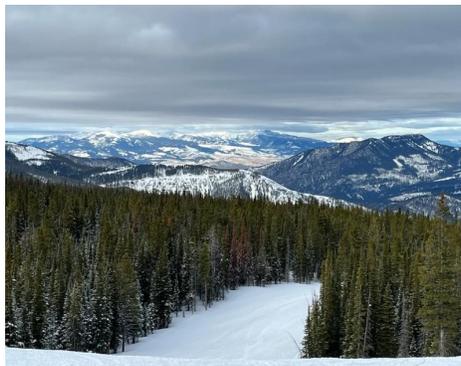
The twisting drive along Gallatin River from Bozeman to Big Sky gives a glimpse of this wild and rugged territory lying only 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park. The wind-



ing canyon forms a deep v shape, lessening sunlight and increasing iciness on the road. Despite freezing water, wader-clad fishermen stand hip-high casting lines. Elk, bighorn sheep, and the occasional bear may be spotted on the way.

Flying into Bozeman feels luxe, as the airport has a Montana lodge meets art gallery feel. Stylish and cozy, it has firepits and beamed ceilings. A *Planet Bronze Art Gallery* exhibit wall sits by the coffee shop. Bronze sculptures of local animals and figures await travelers in arrivals, such as a descending flock of Canadian Geese by artist Jim Dolan and a Grizzly Bear by Dennis Harrington, its enormous rump plunked down by the carousel.

After surviving the drive and arriving in Big Sky, the club was greeted by another enormous (and also, fortunately, bronze) Grizzly Bear by artist Sherry Sander in the lobby at the slope side Huntley Lodge. Situated in Mountain Village beneath Lone Mountain, the Huntley is joined by other hotels, including the 4-star Summit, and an array of lively restaurants and shops.



The Huntley has warm gathering areas with western, mountain, and ski themed décor in the lobby, coffee shop, and a central atrium with a stone fireplace and tables to play games or gather. There is a heated pool, hot tub, spa and gift shops.

Each morning, a few early risers from the club got to the Huntley Dining Room early to commandeer a few tables for breakfast. This gave everyone the chance not only to enjoy a great meal but to converse with other skiers and make plans for the day. The Huntley breakfast is renowned, with lots of choices at the buffet, not to mention a station for made-to-order omelets. This station is overwhelmed with a



flurry of patrons each morning, but the wait is worth it. Huge plate glass windows direct one's gaze to morning sun hitting Lone Mountain, and the lodge walls are hung incongruously with African animal heads. The ski and snowboard staff, complete with rescue dogs, can be seen striking out from their post to the lifts as Big Sky opens.

Big Sky's variety was delightful- with 4,350 feet of vertical terrain and 24 main lifts, there is truly something for everyone. The resort was founded by Chet Huntley, who returned to his Montana roots after co-anchoring NBC's nightly Huntley-Brinkley Report for 15 years, with his wife, Tippy, who herself was a weathercaster and lounge singer in Washington D.C.

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As a group, we can say we particularly enjoyed the 3 “fancy fanny” swift lifts... they carried 6 passengers on heated, designer styled seats with an automatically raising bar footrest and bubble. They had been purchased, but never installed, for the Sochi Olympics, and are housed in plate glass modern buildings to keep them clean and warm for first runs and cold buns.

To the resorts far left, Big Sky’s most sun facing slopes are on Spirit and Andesite Mountains. These overlook ritzy Montage Resort and Yellowstone Club, with its near deserted 2,200 skiable acres. Andesite’s Southern Comfort lift has easier cruisers and gentler mogul tree runs on the sunny side, and Thunderwolf and Ramcharger lifts with steep blues and a few blacks toward the Mountain Village.

Above Mountain Village, Swift Current, Challenger, and Iron Horse lifts all ascend Lone Mountain, serving a mélange of mostly blues and blacks. Powder Seeker lift continues higher and drops riders into chutes and Stillwater Bowl. For the bravest, there is Lone Peak gondola, where an extra \$40 lifts riders to hurl themselves off the 11,166 ft summit.

To the resort’s far right, Stillwater and Horseshoe Bowls are served by Six Shooter and Lone Tree lifts, originating from Madison Base. These serve mostly blacks and is large terrain with many of the longest runs. The back side of Lone Mountain

can also be reached from left or right, with pristine views toward the Tetons and Yellowstone Club. This dramatic side feels like skiing on the edge of wilderness, but one wouldn’t want to be stuck on the back overnight!

On Monday, our first day of skiing, many people chose to take advantage of some mountain tours organized specifically for our club. After that our group developed definite patterns, a glimpse of which follows: Joe, Drew, and Rose hunted steep mogul tree runs and advanced terrain. Lori and Kathleen looped the milder mogul tree run Lizette until they got their fix (sometimes 5 times). Haskins gallantly led groups of ladies through drills to improve their form, and was often a mountain ski guide in his bright red jacket for Nancy, Sharon, Pat, Erni, Karen, Dan K. and Dan M. Kat Thatcher floated between groups, disappearing occasionally in search of steep groomers. Joan was always easy to spot with her orange backpack. Kathy Pasdiora, who doesn’t ski, enjoyed leisurely breakfasts and spa days.



Most lunches we grabbed large tables in Vista Hall cafeteria, where they had fantastic variety beyond chili and burgers to pizza, ramen, sushi and poke. In the evenings, we enjoyed things like live music at Montana Jacks, and gourmet meals at Westward Social and The Summit. Monday evening was the club party with a variety of pizza and salad catered by the Huntley staff. The central atrium provided many club members the chance to participate in rousing games of Family Feud, Uno and Left, Right, Cen-



ter. A group also took Ramcharger lift to Everett’s on the mountain for fine dining, and walked through the Enchanted Forest of lights afterward.

A couple excursions proved highlights to those that enjoyed them. Pat, Kathy & Erni booked an all-day snow coach tour with Yellowstone Vacation Tours Departing at 6:30 am, their knowledgeable guide Dan started in Hayden Valley with Dragon’s Mouth Spring and Mud Volcano and along the way they saw many herds of bison, swans, and numerous species of waterfowl. Next, they watched otters playing along the riverbank from a viewpoint of the Yellowstone River. Luckily the skies cleared, so they were able to see viewing spots called Artist and Inspiration Point, with spectacular views of the Lower and Upper Falls of Yellowstone River. Lastly, they headed back to West Yellowstone, but made stops along the way at Steamboat and Monument Geysers and Gibbon Falls.

Kat and a local friend spent a day at Bridger Bowl. Only 16 miles from Bozeman, this smaller “local’s mountain” is like a mini-Big Sky in that it’s also all-terrain, but it has the advantage of no lift lines. It is renowned as a popular place to ditch school on powder days. Most of the mountain can be covered in one day, although two would be ideal. Much of the film *A River Runs Through It* was filmed in Livingston, which has a charming, walkable downtown.

As usual, the end came all too soon and Saturday morning found us loading the vans for the trip back to Bozeman. As we wound our way back by the river and to the art gallery airport, many mentioned wanting to return after 2025 when Big Sky opens their mid-mountain lodge. A good time was had by all, although we sent Rose home on crutches awaiting an MRI, and both Larry and Dan M. with limps. Healthy healing to those! And here’s to a highly successful opening trip for the SLSC in 2023!

Big Sky Photos



FSA/Whitefish



On January 27th, our second ski trip of 2023 commenced, with 27 members of the St Louis ski club leaving St Louis on a warm and sunny day for a week long trip to beautiful Whitefish MT near Kalispell. Under the leadership of trip captain Joe Bauer, this group consisted of Frank Atkinson, Doug Bender, Denise Buehrer, Alma and Jim Delmonte, Bev Doolin, Ed Goedde, Bill Harr, Bill Harris, John Heiman, Judee Island, Joe Kavanaugh, Raju Makhi, Mark Michelsen, Dan Rath, Mary Robert, Lori Rottler, Janet Rottler, Gary Rottler, Bob and Chris Schneider, Joan Scholz, Paul Snyder, Patsye Stanley, and Mary Sullivan.

This was the annual Flatland Ski Association (FSA) race event but there is much more to do in the area than ski and race. Members of the group also took numerous side trips which proved to be a welcome break from the slopes.

Travel to and from Whitefish was an experience. On the way to Whitefish, United airlines could only fit half the luggage on the plane from Denver. Much of the luggage arrived late in the evening on a special freight only flight and was delivered to various hotels over the next 48 hours. We were a sad lot Saturday morning, since most folks did not have a change of clothes or personal items. Returning to St Louis was also an experience. The airline did not have a full flight crew in Kalispell and our connecting flight had left Denver before we even left Montana. Everyone got to spend an extra night in a Denver hotel compliments of the airline, but the luggage was still checked so again we were a sad lot Saturday morning.

We stayed on the mountain in the European style Kandahar Lodge. The open lobby, continental breakfast, fantastic staff and service were enjoyed by all. True, there was no elevator, and yes we had to walk across a parking lot to the ski run, but the hotel and mountain village did provide a shuttle service to bring you right to the door or the base lodge and you could ski right up to the back of the hotel at the end of the day. Ground floor ski storage and heated boot rooms were available to all. Skiing at Whitefish was great but colder than normal, especially on our first few days, and lift reliability was an issue. Our first day was sunny but wind chills were below zero. Once out of the wind, though, there were some great runs.

Days two and three were race days and it was overcast and cold again. The race directors and volunteers really had to deal with the temperatures and the lift issues. Whitefish has had issues with several lifts this year. Chair 2, which served the race area, was down most of the week, and Chair 4 broke down on Wednesday with 150 skiers needing to be rescued. Fortunately, none of our group was on the lift at the time, although our hotel bartender was stranded for several hours.



We had 9 men and 4 women participate in the challenge races this year. We earned one medal - an FSA Silver to Mary Sullivan! We also had 6 members participate in the Novice race this year, with one DQ. Overall the FSA had 234 racers this year and St Louis placed 6th of the 8 teams. We came in two points behind the 5th place team— If we had one more qualifying novice we would have beaten them! Lori was robbed! Of special note this year is that we managed to field two teams in the snowshoe relay: we may have finished last, but we had a blast.



While she wasn't able to join us this year, Candy Girth was honored at the FSA awards banquet with a special recognition: The Judy Cup (named for former St Louis ski club member Judy Nania). The cup is awarded annually to a person who has provided service and commitment to the FSA. Congratulations to Candy!

Other news:

- Lori Rottler, Janet Rottler, Gary Rottler and Mark Michelsen spent Wednesday at Fernie Ski Resort in Canada with a couple of bus loads of other FSA folks.
- Joe Kavanaugh skied all six days plus two night skiing sessions: He skied in his first challenge race and came back the day of the novice race to practice skiing the gates. See you next year Joe!
- Judee Island spent the week photographing and hiking in the area. Can't wait to see the photos.
- Judee, Patsye and Bill snowshoed in Glacier National Park on Wednesday.
- Mary, Bev, Dan and Doug also snowshoed in Glacier Park on Wednesday but managed to miss Patsey and Judee.
- Lori, Janet, Gary, and Mark spent Wednesday ice fishing and caught some nice ones. Rumor has it that some fish came back to St Louis in the luggage!
- There were nightly games in the Hotel lobby. The group was quite boisterous and at one point the lights were turned out on them since they were keeping the other guests awake. You know who you are!

All in all it was a great trip and it appeared everyone had a great time, despite some of the snafus. Already looking forward to next year's FSA trip.

Whitefish 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. As noted elsewhere in this issue, Bev Doolin is stepping down as president after four years of dedicated service and we welcome nominations for her position. The other board members are willing to continue serving for another year but we would also wel-

come the chance to see new faces on the board. 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 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, the 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 10th 2023

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 late March with instructions for voting. They will need to be completed and returned by April 10th at 6 pm.

To request a paper ballot, contact Pat Pender at financial@stlouisskiclub.com

Club memberships expire on April 30th 2023. 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 2024, 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:

Dan Krack



Dan Krack and Karen Nugent at Big Sky in January

Dan Krack has been a familiar face at club gatherings and on ski trips in recent years and many may think of him as a new member taking advantage of the club's opportunities for socialization. In fact, though, he has been a club member for nearly 20 years, with a few breaks that took him out of the area for work responsibilities.

Dan grew up in O'Fallon, Illinois, and graduated from West Point in 1985 with a BS in military history. After four years duty as a soldier at Fort Stewart near Savannah, Georgia, he took an early out from the military and started working as a water treatment engineer. Along the way, he also picked up an MBA from Maryville University. He lived in Kirkwood and Ladue while working for some major firms in the water treatment industry and then decided to start his own company in the area. After 20 years he decided the headaches and the thinning margins in the business were not worth it anymore and sold the company. After stints in consulting and work as an "evil investment banker" Dan decided to go back into the water treatment arena, this time on the west coast. He worked with several geothermal plants in California, lived on a golf course near Palm Springs, and later had the chance to run an acquisition in the San Francisco Bay Area. This also

placed him a few hours from Lake Tahoe, giving him the chance to ski at Heavenly, North Star, and other major resorts. He was living a fairly charmed life in the Golden State when family matters called him back to the St. Louis area.

This move did allow him to rejoin the St. Louis Ski Club, which he had belonged to prior to leaving for the west coast. He had become interested in skiing years earlier, after his son's boy scout troop went on a trip to Chestnut Mountain. With no friends or adult family members interested in the sport, he sought out the ski club then as a way to socialize and improve in the sport. One of his favorite trips was to Salt Lake City in 2008, when he also served as trip captain. This trip allowed skiers to experience four different resorts (Alta, Brighton, Snowbird and Solitude), making for a variety of skiing experiences. More recently, he enjoyed the Steamboat trip in 2022 and has just returned from Big Sky on the club's first trip of 2023. This was Dan's first ski trip to Montana and he found the resort and its variety of trails made for a memorable outing. And of course he was enamored with the famous buffet breakfast at the Huntley Lodge.



Hiking Fort Belle Fontaine in October

Dan also enjoys the club's social gatherings, especially the Thirsty Thursday happy hours held at various watering holes. These give club members a chance to catch up with each other and share some laughs between ski trips. In 2022 he joined club members for "Horse Hooky Tuesday" at the Fair-



Dan crossing Maine off his "To Do" list of marathons in October of 2022

mount Park Race Track and played in the golf scramble at the Florissant Golf Club in September.

Keeping in shape is another of Dan's passions. He enjoys the hikes the club takes at area parks in the warm-weather months, both for exercise and the comradery. Beyond that, he hikes and bikes the Katy Trail regularly and works out at his neighborhood gym. He has run 51 marathons in 44 states (attempting to cover them all eventually). In the spring of 2022, he hiked the Appalachian Trail for several weeks, covering all of Georgia and most of North Carolina.

When not spending time with the club or on his fitness routines, Dan enjoys taking pride in his children's accomplishments. His son is Department of Defense civilian engineer at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. His daughter has been studying to be a computer anti-hacker professional. Most of their work goes beyond Dan's self-proclaimed status as a non-techie, although enjoys playing strategy games on his computer!

Dan is planning on continuing his adventures with the St. Louis Ski Club by participating in the Park City trip this month. He will no doubt also be seen at even more social events as the weather turns warmer and our activities increase. As a long-time member (despite a brief hiatus) he is one of many familiar faces we enjoy seeing at club events and hope to do so long into the future.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Please use our Meetup page at <http://www.meetup.com/St-Louis-Ski-Club/>
or RSVP to activities@stlouisskiclub.com

See stlouisskiclub.com for the latest updates!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday April 10th 6 PM	Annual Meeting and Elections <i>(See Details Page 8)</i>	Llywelyn's Pub 17 W Moody Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119
Friday June 2nd 5 PM	Q and Suds <i>(Details in Spring Sitzmarker)</i> Note New Picnic Shelter	Tilles Park (<i>Stowe Shelter</i>) 9551 Litzinger Road St. Louis, MO 63124



Wild Lights at the Zoo—December 27th