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2023-2024**

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**Special Trip
Signup Issue!**



Sitzmarker

Summer 2023

President's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of our St. Louis Ski Club news-letter, the Sitzmarker!

It's hard to believe in the middle of summer heat, storms, and activities, but it's time to start thinking about skiing in 2024. The board has been working hard to put together three great trips, so hopefully you'll find one that you're interested in. Check them all out as you continue through the newsletter.

Make sure when you sign up for a trip that (a) you've paid your club membership dues, (b) that you fully complete your trip application, and (c) that you've made your payment! We can't put you on a trip until the Record Center has everything it needs! You can find more information on trip policies, payment options, and the like at our website.

We always get question on why we need information so early. It's pretty simple: resorts, airlines, and travel agents need the information earlier and earlier each year to



hold spots. And the club wants to make sure it has enough spots for those who want to go, but we can't hold too many, or for too long, as there can be steep penalties for canceling after a certain time. We're trying to balance making it as easy on you, the skiers, as possible while also being fiscally responsible. This is especially true as lodging and airfare costs have skyrocketed in the past 12 months.

Also, when planning any expensive trip, we really encourage you to consider purchasing trip insurance. We don't offer it

through the club, but there are many vendors available through some of the associations the club is affiliated with. While we hope you don't have to make a last-minute cancellation, it's always best to be covered if it happens.

In addition to our upcoming ski trips, we hope you've been paying attention to, or participating in, the many other fun activities being offered by the club. Our vice president, Karen, is always working to look for activities that you might enjoy, so check out the list, plus watch for the *Out and About* to be e-mailed to you! We really appreciate all of the work Karen and her volunteer helpers put in! If you have an idea or want to help, please contact her at activities@stlouisskiclub.com!

And, finally, even if you sign up in advance, come to the Trip Sign-Up Night on Sunday, August 27th, at Llywellyn's in Webster Groves. Social hour begins at 5 pm, with a brief presentation then sign-ups at 6 pm!



Q and Suds—June 2nd
More Photos Inside

Our 2024 Trips



Tom Coscia
Trip Director

*“Sign up early
to avoid
disappointment”*

I am excited to report our trips for 2024. This year we feature three 6-day ski trips

Our first trip will be the Flatland Skiing Association (FSA) trip to **Steamboat, Colorado**, January 20 – 27. We are staying at the Storm Meadows Condos. The last time the club was in **Steamboat** was 2022. This trip is captained by veteran ski club member Candy Gith.

Our second trip will be to **Ogden, Utah**, February 10 - 17. We will be staying at the Courtyard Marriot Hotel. The trip gives you the option to ski at both Snowbasin and Powder Mountain – 2 first time ski areas for the club! This trip is being captained by returning ski captain Dan Krack.

Our third trip of the season is to **Banff, Canada**, March 2-9. We will be staying at the Banff Ptarmigan Hotel. With a strong American dollar, Canada is good deal for Americans. The last time the club was in **Banff** was 2018. This trip is being captained by returning trip captain Dan McGurk.

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. This includes expenses for the club administrative fee and trip captain trip credits. In addition to the cost of the trip, the following is the single person supplement price by trip. The full single person supplement is due with your deposit.

Single Supplements Are:

Steamboat:	\$1,170
Ogden:	\$ 950
Banff:	\$ 940

Procedure Reminders

If you plan on racing on the FSA trip, be prepared to wear a helmet. Also, if you need return lift tickets due to medical issues, a doctor's note is required. The resorts used to be more lenient for lift tickets refunds, but no longer. If you are not sure how many days to ski, go with your minimum number. The good news is you can usually add additional days at the resort for the same discounted rate.

Final Notes

You can now pay for trips with no additional fees with Venmo. You can also submit your trip application without having to print and sign the application. No more searching for stamps and envelopes. You can do it all on-line.

Check out this issue for more detailed info on our trips. I thank the board 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.

What is the FSA, and What Can You Do?

The St. Louis Ski Club has membership in several ski councils (groups of affiliated clubs), with our longest affiliation being with the Flatland Ski Association (FSA).

The FSA began March 21, 1965, in Crested Butte, Colorado. The first year it involved a “challenge” race between clubs from Kansas City, Omaha, Amarillo, and Wichita for club bragging rights! Since then it has grown, and there have been as many as 12 clubs in the FSA. In more recent years, there has been a core group of 9 Midwestern clubs (from the flatlands, of course), including Columbia and St. Louis, MO, Wichita and Topeka, KS, Kansas City, representing both states, Lincoln and Omaha, NE, and Oklahoma City and Tulsa, OK.

Each club has a volunteer representative who sits on the FSA board and a volunteer Race Director. The FSA board works to secure bids for each year's FSA event, including discounted lodging, discounted lift tickets, large all-club gatherings, and the like. So it's an important job, but a great way to be involved! The Race Directors meet to review and update racing activities from year to year, and also “work” the races each year on site.

Generally, FSA Representatives and Race Directors are appointed every two years by their respective clubs. (People can serve longer if they wish, as both of our current people have been doing.) This is where YOU come into the picture! Our club is currently looking for people interested in becoming either our club's Representative or Race Director. If you're interested, you can contact club president Paul Snyder for more details. Normally it involves two meetings (of which one is in-person and one is virtual) during the year, plus meeting at the FSA event. It's a great way to make new friends from all the other clubs, too, and have your say in where they'll ski next!

St. Louis Ski Club 2024 Ski Trips

Ski Resort & Trip Captain	Dates	Lodging	What's Included	Price Info	Ice Breaker
<u>Steamboat, CO</u> www.steamboat.com <u>Candy Girth</u> twinskiers@msn.com (314) 580-5995	1/20/24 thru 1/27/24 28 Skiers 6 ski days	<i>"Discover the New Steamboat"</i> <u>Storm Meadows</u> 2 Bed / 2 Bath Condos Ski-In/Ski-Out Flatland Race Info www.flatlandski.org	Lodging / Airfare Transfers to/from Yampa FSA Welcome Reception FSA Banquet, Parties & Races (Racing is optional) Club Party	Trip Price \$1,950 Deposit \$1,000 Balance \$950 Due* 11/18/23	1/10/24
<u>Ogden, UT</u> www.snowbasin.com www.powdermountain.com <u>Dan Krack</u> dkrack@hotmail.com	2/10/24 thru 2/17/24 24 skiers 6 ski days	<i>"Welcome to a Winter Paradise"</i> <u>Courtyard Marriott (Hotel)</u> 2 people per hotel room Hot Breakfast Buffet	Lodging / Airfare Transfers to/from Salt Lake City Club Party	Trip Price \$1,450 Deposit \$750 Balance \$700 Due* 12/16/23	1/31//24
<u>Banff, Canada</u> www.SkiBig3.com <u>Dan McGurk</u> danieljmcgurk@gmail.com 660-216-3623	3/2/24 thru 3/9/24 28 skiers 6 ski days	<i>"Ski Big 3"</i> <u>Banff Ptarmigan (Hotel)</u> 2 people per hotel room Hot & Cold Breakfast Buffet	Lodging / Airfare Transfers to/from Calgary Club Party	Trip Price \$1,940 Deposit \$1,000 Balance \$940 Due* 12/23/23	2/21/24

Icebreakers: All icebreakers will be held Llywelyn's Pub, 17 W. Moody Ave., Webster Groves at 6:00 pm

Trip prices may change due to fuel surcharges. Gratuities for ground transportation/baggage handlers included.

Additional fees for airline baggage may apply.

Single room supplement is available upon request. Must sign-up by August.

Lift Tickets are not included in the listed price. They are available at a discount by the club..

Check, cash, Venmo, or using your credit card through PayPal are accepted for payment.

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

Steamboat, Colorado (FSA Trip)

"Discover the New Steamboat"

January 20 - 27, 2024 28 Skiers
 Price: \$1,950 (Lift tickets not included)
 Trip Captain: Candy Girth
twinskiers@msn.com or 636-458-1897



Join your St. Louis and FSA ski friends as we return to Steamboat Ski Resort for the 2023-24 ski season. In the last two years many changes have taken place on and off the mountain for a more enjoyable skiing experience.

What's New:

- Installation of the new 10 passenger Wild Blue Gondola providing service to the top of Sunshine Peak (green/blue runs)
- The new Greenhorn Ranch ski area at Wild Blue Gondola mid-station, with new terrain (green runs) for beginners
- Installation of Mahogany Ridge chairlift adding 655 acres of advanced/expert terrain in the Pioneer Ridge/Fish Creek Falls area
- Enhanced snowmaking expansion for the Sunshine Peak and Greenhorn Ranch areas
- Steamboat Square (base area) has been revamped/expanded including the new "Range Food & Drink Hall"

Trip Includes:

- Round trip airfare from STL to Yampa airport **via Southwest Airlines** with transfers to/from the airport.
- 7-nights lodging at the **Storm Meadows Condos** – <https://stormmeadows.com> with Ski-In/Ski-Out access
- 2 bedroom/2 bath condos for four people with pool/hot tubs
- Complimentary shuttle service to resort and downtown
- Up to 6-ski days with discounted lift tickets through the FSA, **or use your IKON ski pass which includes Steamboat**
- St. Louis Ski Club party
- FSA Welcome Party and Awards Banquet (both offering full meals and free Boulevard Beer)
- Opportunities to race for anyone from novice to advanced (**Racing is optional**)
- Other non-skiing activities include: Après ski, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, night skiing, hot air ballooning, Strawberry Park hot springs, shopping or stroll historic downtown Steamboat
- **Sign-up and discover Steamboat!**

Ogden, Utah

"Welcome to a Winter Paradise"

February 10 - 17 24 Skiers
 Price: \$ 1,450 (Lift tickets not included)
 Trip Captain: Dan Krack
Dkrack@hotmail.com or 314-225-9805



The Saint Louis Ski club is making its first ever trip to Ogden, Utah! Do not miss this opportunity to visit two world class resorts (Powder Mountain and Snow Basin) with a combined total of over 11,000 acres of terrain and almost 3,000 vertical feet

- Snow Basin averages over 300 inches of annual snowfall and Powder Valley averages an amazing 500 inches of annual snowfall
- A total of 261 ski runs between the resorts with ample blue runs (40% for Powder Mountain and 33% for Snow Basin) and green runs (25% for Powder Mountain and 9% for Snow Basin)
- The Powder Mountain resort also boasts 4000 acres of backcountry skiing to include numerous advanced level chutes with several bowls to explore and other adventures

We will be staying at the Marriott Courtyard in Ogden which is located within walking distance of Historic 25th Street entertainment district. This apres ski destination features over a dozen locally owned restaurants, art studios, dancing, live music, live theatre, yoga studios and spas. Union Station is also nearby and features several museums to include a Western Heritage Museum, a Cowboy museum and the Browning Firearms Museum.

- Round trip airfare into Salt Lake City **on Southwest Air**; 30 minute shuttle ride to the hotel.
- 6 days of skiing, boarding, and other fun activities
- Discounted lift tickets available through the club (**Snow Basin is an Ikon resort**)
- Fitness Center
- Indoor pool
- Onsite restaurant and free hot breakfast daily
- Free wifi
- Club Party
- Numerous Opportunities for shopping, dining and nightlife on Historic 25th street.

Banff, Alberta, Canada

"Ski Big 3"

March 2 - 9, 2024 28 Skiers

Price \$1,940 (Lift tickets not included)

Trip Captain: Dan McGurk

danieljmcgurk@gmail.com or 660-216-3623



For the first time since 2018, the club is returning to the site sometimes known as "Canada's protected playground". Banff is the model of a ski town with scenic views, charming restaurants and shops, and an active apres ski scene. And three world class resorts are easily accessible through a convenient shuttle service.

- 6-full days of winter sports fun in Canadian Rockies with almost 8,000 acres of skiing for beginners or experts!
- Round trip air from St. Louis to Calgary with shuttle service to the hotel
- Lodging at the Ptarmigan Inn (two per room) with indoor hot tubs, steam room/ sauna
- Includes complimentary hot breakfast buffet, ski lockers, Wi-Fi, and shuttles to ski areas and local attractions!
- Skiing at 3 world-class ski resorts, each offering its own unique experience:
 - Banff/Lake Louise** – Over 4200 acres spread four mountains to create one of the largest ski resorts in North America; 164 runs serviced by 11 lifts
 - Sunshine Village** – Three sprawling mountains covering 3300 acres of skiable terrain; 137 runs serviced by 12 lifts, including a heated bubble quad
 - Mt. Norquay** - A smaller, more intimate resort only minutes from the town of Banff, famous for being the training ground for Olympic and World Cup athletes; 60 trails on 190 acres served by six lifts
- Discounted lift tickets available for purchase through the club—**All three resorts are on the IKON pass if you wish to purchase tickets on your own**
- Club party
- About 1 hour drive to the city of Calgary

Trip Sign-Up Night

When: Sunday, August 27, 2023
Doors open at 6 pm; Sign-up begins at 7 pm

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

Information on signing up early for our trips is detailed below but we would love to see you in person at our sign-up night. This event allows you to hear trip details directly from the trip captains and learn about other club news.

Three fabulous trips will be available: FSA sponsored Steamboat (Colorado), Ogden (Utah), and Banff (Canadian Rockies). Space on the trips is limited so take this opportunity to sign up early!

Sign-Up Procedures

- 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 Saturday, August 26th.
- A waitlist will begin if a trip exceeds the number of spots allotted or if there is space only for a specific gender.
- Access the [Sign-Up](#) page on our website to access trip applications and payment options
- Use the online application to pay directly through Venmo or use PayPal to make a payment (although you must still send in a separate trip application).
- If you prefer using the mail, download a PDF of the trip application to send in with a check for your deposit
- RSVP to [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) or to activities@stlouisskiclub.com
- Look for more details in the **Out and About** email

Q and Suds—June 2



Member Spotlight:

Kathleen Blosser

Like many of her fellow skiers, Kathleen Blosser joined the St. Louis Ski Club to take advantage of group trips and visit some destinations she might not otherwise experience on her own. She was hopeful to make some new friends and expand her social horizons with people who shared this common interest.

Since her first club trip to Vail in 2017, Kathleen has managed to do well in reaching both those goals. She has since been on trips to Lake Tahoe, Steamboat, and Copper Mountain, and particularly enjoyed the trip to Big Sky in January of this year. She has always appreciated the opportunity to ski together as a group and to sample the local restaurants during group dinners with other skiers.



Kathleen (right) with Karen Nugent at Lake Tahoe in March 2019

Long before joining the ski club, Kathleen had some experience with skiing and travel. She was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but had the opportunity to travel widely from an early age. Her father was in charge of international business for Butler Manufacturing Company and her family lived at times in Illinois, Minnesota, and Massachusetts as well as Canada, Belgium, and France.

Her mother is French-Canadian so she has fond memories of her time in Canada. She graduated from high school in Burlington, Ontario and majored in French literature at Queen's University in Ontario. In between, she spent her "Grade 13" year at Neuchatel Junior College in Switzerland, where she quickly developed her love of skiing. She was able to visit many of the Swiss resorts (including Zermatt) and several in France as well.

Later, Kathleen earned an MBA in finance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and began a career in the financial securities industry, working in the trust departments of United Missouri Bank and Boatmen's Bank. In 1988, she moved to St. Louis with two sons in the family and had another son and daughter here. She has stayed in St. Louis ever since and now considers it home.

After taking time out to raise her four children, she has returned to work in the financial sector and plans on staying busy there until her eventual retirement. She has worked at TD Ameritrade and Universal Financial Group currently works at Wells Fargo Advisors.

As much as Kathleen enjoys the ski trips and social activities with the club, she has many other interests that keep her occupied. She is an avid tennis player, biker, and hiker, and is working on improving her skills in pickleball. She has

golfed in the past and hopes to take that up again when she retires in a few years. She also has 3 grandchildren, two of whom live in the St. Louis area, who occupy much of her weekend time. Although her grandchildren are a little young to appreciate skiing, she hopes to enjoy the sport with them eventually and may be taking her oldest granddaughter with her to Hidden Valley in the coming season.

Kathleen also enjoys other social events with the club throughout the year and the chance to get to know other members outside of skiing. In the past few years, she has been on hikes with the club to Powder Valley, Simpson Park, and Fort Belle Fontaine, among others. She has also attended happy hours and Thirsty Thursday events at various St. Louis watering holes. She attended the bike ride to Defiance Ridge Winery last year and hopes to be able to bike with the club more this year.

Having first skied with us in 2017, Kathleen is relatively new face on our trips but she has already had some memorable experiences. We look forward to seeing much more of her on future excursions as we try out new destinations and activities.



Kathleen (center) with Haskins Hobson and Lori Rottler at Big Sky in January

Upcoming Events

The Muny—Sunday, July 30, 7 PM

Little Shop of Horrors is playing at The Muny and we are continuing our tradition of gathering together to take advantage of the free seating. The show starts at 8:15, but try to be there by 7 pm. RSVP would be helpful, especially on Meetup, to make sure we have enough seats. Bring your own food and drink in soft sided coolers and in plastic bottles or buy it there. **Look for the blue balloon near the free seats in the back.**

Chihuly Nights—Sunday, August 20, 7 PM

View the work of world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly in a stunning exhibition uniting art and nature, accompanied by live music, cocktails, and pop-up offerings

Golf Scramble—Tuesday, September 12

You've had a whole summer to practice your skills so come share those with your fellow skiers on a beautiful Tuesday morning at Florissant Golf Club. You don't have to have good skills to join in a scramble so just come out and have some fun.

Total cost for the event is \$40, which includes tee time, 18 holes of golf, prizes and admin fees. **Food and drinks not included.** Its a great deal for a day of golf with friends. Please fill out the online form on our [Sign-Up](#) page to register as we have limited Tee times.

Hermann Weekend Getaway—Friday to Sunday, September 22 to 24

Drive and wine. Bike and whine. Choose your form of transportation to get to Hermann, MO for a relaxing and fun weekend. Hermann is a beautiful place to be in the fall with many things to do.

- Two nights at the [Bittersweet Inn](#) , a large comfortable house in town with a picturesque view, accommodating 12 to 14 people
- Close to various wineries, distilleries, restaurants and shopping.
- Cost includes room, welcome wine and cheese on Friday evening, and Saturday morning breakfast.
- For some extra adventure and challenge, some of us will bike there from Augusta on Friday, which is about 37 miles, and back on Sunday (weather permitting, of course)

Total cost is \$230. If you are interested in experiencing a fun and relaxing weekend with us in Herman, go to the [Sign-Up](#) link on our website to complete an application and make payment

Recent Social Events



Defiance Ridge Winery Bike Ride—May 4



Pickleball—June 25



Horse Hooky Tuesday—July 11

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>
Sunday July 30th 7 PM	Night at the Muny (See Details Page 5)	The Muny (in Forest Park) 1 Theatre Dr, St. Louis, MO 63112
Sunday August 20th 7 PM	Chihuly Nights (See Details Page 8)	Missouri Botanical Garden 4344 Shaw Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63110
Sunday August 27th 5 PM	Trip Sign-Up Night (See Details Page 5)	Llywelyn's Pub 17 Moody Ave Webster Groves, MO 63119
Tuesday September 12	Golf Scramble (See Details Page 5)	Florissant Golf Club 50 Country Club Ln Florissant, MO 63033
Friday Sept 22 to Sunday Sept 24	Hermann Weekend Getaway (See Details Page 5)	The Bittersweet Inn Hermann, MO 65041

Refer a Friend and Earn \$25

We are continuing our successful program from years' past.

If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a brand new member to the club and they sign up for a 2024 trip, the club will send you a \$25 referral check. The check will be sent to you in April 2024. On the application form there will be a place that the new member can indicate your name.