

**St. Louis  
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Directors  
2023-2024**

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# Sitzmarker

## Winter 2024

## President's Message

Hello fellow skiers, boarders, and other club members!

We're right in the middle of ski season, with one club trip completed and two more still coming up. See the summary of our FSA/Steamboat trip on **Page 2**. I'm writing this from Milan, Italy, as I just finished a week of skiing in Zermatt, Switzerland with an extension to Milan through one of the associations we belong to, the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council

But even if you're not taking one of our ski trips, keep an eye out for the "Out and About" emails and watch the website for other upcoming activities. As the weather improves there will be even more events happening.



Also, elections will be coming up shortly. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 8th. If you'd be interested in serving on the SLSC board, please let Pat Pender know. Information about the different board positions and the meeting are on **Page 4**. Talk with one of the current board mem-

bers if you want to know more about what is involved in being a board member. And if you have an activity you think the club would enjoy, contact our vice president, Karen, and also consider helping to host or organize!

Last, but not least, our club has been a member of the Flatland Ski Association (FSA) for many years. The past few years I've been our club's representative and Joe Bauer has been the race director. As of June, we NEED people to fill BOTH of these positions. Please contact me for more information. It's not a big time commitment, but it is important, especially as you help to decide future FSA locations and other matters.

Thanks!



## FSA/Steamboat Trip

## More Photos Inside

# FSA/Steamboat



On Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, the first ski trip of the 2024 season departed from Lambert International Airport. The destination was Steamboat, Colorado, for the annual Flatland Ski Association (FSA) events. This was a relatively small group of 14 skiers, but the smaller size allowed us to mingle and get to know each other a little better. Those along for the fun were Ron Acker, Randy Croffoot, Dan Edwards, Alan Fiddleman, Scott Harter, Bill Harris, Dave Hawley, JoAnne Howard, Joe Kavanaugh, Annie Merriott, Mark Michelsen, Dan Rath, Mary Robert, and Miranda Robert

The group was captained by Scott Harter, who was not only leading his first trip for us, but participating in his first trip for the club! Scott had graciously volunteered to step in on short notice when the previous trip captain had to leave the trip. He was able to use some of his experience in organizing other group trips to lead this one effectively and by all accounts received a gold star for his efforts.

We were housed in two buildings in the Storm Meadow Condos. Transportation to and from the slopes (and everywhere else) was a little tricky as the "ski-in/ski-out" access the condo advertised did not quite live up to its billing. The shuttle system was something of a work in progress but it did function

It has only been two years since the club last made a trip to Steamboat but much had changed since then. We were able to access the new Wild Blue Gondola which could take skiers to the top of Sunshine Peak in twelve and a half minutes. Several new runs had also been added and many of us took advantage of these. A new black run called Edge of the World more than lived up to its name. The weather stayed in the 30s for most of the trip and, outside of some foggy periods, the ski conditions were highly favorable.

The skiing provided plenty of activity for the week but there were diversions along the way. Annie, JoAnne and Alan all took a day off to explore the town. This included some shopping, some laundry, and plenty of walking. At one point, Alan took a rest by sitting down and cozying up to one of our Founding Fathers, old Ben Franklin himself (*see photo below*).



As is usual on FSA trips, the club participated in races and other activities on the slopes. Scott, Dan, Mark, and Annie made up a team for the snowshoe relay and Scott and Mark competed in other races. They received no medals at the end but had a lot of fun along the way.



The FSA went all out in regaling us at two different receptions. The welcome reception was held on Monday in the Champagne Powder Room at the top of the Steamboat Gondola. The awards banquet was held on Thursday in the Steamboat Grand Korbel Ballroom. The food consisted of prime rib, BBQ chicken, pork ribs, and salmon with several tasty side dishes. JoAnne received a medal for the novice races. Another highlight of the evening was meeting Billy Kidd, a Steamboat legend who has been the Director of Skiing at the resort since the 1970s and still makes it down the slopes in his 80s.

Beyond the FSA banquets, we all found the food options to be excellent. Scott organized a fun club party at Brick, a well-regarded local pizza parlor. No one was disappointed with the offerings there and we all enjoyed the chance to share food and company together.

We returned to St. Louis on Saturday and the first trip of 2024 was officially in the books. We were grateful for the chance to enjoy some great skiing and great comradery together. Some people are signed up for the Ogden and Banff trips and will have more opportunities to get together with St. Louis skiers. Others can look forward to 2025 and the next FSA trip (to Telluride) and other destinations yet unknown.



# Steamboat 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 are willing to continue serving for another year but we would also welcome 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.

Regardless of whether you can 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. Also, 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](mailto: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 8th 2024  
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 8th at 6 pm.

To request a paper ballot, contact Pat Pender at [financial@stlouisskiclub.com](mailto:financial@stlouisskiclub.com)

**Club memberships expire on April 30th 2024. 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 2025, you are eligible for a \$25 referral check. There is a place on the membership application where they can indicate your name.**



# Member Spotlight:

## Paul Snyder



*Paul at the FSA races in Telluride in 2022*

Even before Paul Snyder became club president in 2023, he was a familiar face to most St. Louis skiers. He is well-known for his work as a ski trip captain, for his leadership roles in the Flatland Ski Association (FSA), and most recently his work spearheading the FSA Grand Canyon trip in 2021. As with many members, Paul took a roundabout path on his way to joining the St. Louis Ski Club.

Paul's family moved around a lot in his youth, due to his father's role as a Lutheran pastor, but he considers Gallup, New Mexico to be his home and he graduated from high school there in 1976. After obtaining his degree in speech and communications at Concordia College near Chicago, he moved to the St. Louis areas, partly because his father was doing graduate work there at the time. He heard about a job at the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in downtown St. Louis and decided to take that on a "temporary" basis. He recently retired from it after 40 years!

Paul took up skiing as a young adult and often enjoyed trips with his cousins or other friends. Eventually, though, he found himself looking for other skiing companions and heard about the St. Louis Ski Club. He took his first club trip to Jackson Hole, which happened to be over Mardi Gras. This allowed for some good parties along with good skiing.

Paul has since become a familiar face on ski expeditions with the club, often serving as a trip captain. One of the more memorable trips he led was to Taos, New Mexico in 2014. This

trip seemed almost doomed at one point when a major snowstorm disrupted flights on Southwest. This almost led to the club being stranded in Kansas City for two days before departure. Instead, they managed to arrange to travel by Amtrak, something most of the travelers were not prepared for. Despite this, the situation worked out, the Snakedance Condos in Taos were fabulous, and the condo owners hosted the best club party in Paul's recollection.

Paul has been involved with the Flatland Ski Association (FSA) in recent years, serving as our club representative at its meetings and helping to organize the annual FSA ski trip. He has been our club captain on trips to Telluride and Steamboat among other locations, and has helped organize the FSA races and activities. In both the FSA and the St. Louis Club, he has made friendships that extend well beyond the ski trips.

Paul's work and ski club activities take up a large portion of his time, but he also has other interests to keep him busy. Beyond being employed by his church, he is actively involved with its worship and music activities. He has played the piano since high school and has also worked with the organ and accordion. He is a lover of classical music and the symphony but enjoys most other genres of music as well.



*Paul cheering on his beloved Cardinals*



*In Sydney, Australia in 2000*

Paul also has a life-long love for the St. Louis Cardinals. He has been a season ticket holder since the current Busch Stadium opened in 2006, but he has been a fan since he was a grade-schooler in southeastern Kansas in the 1960s, idolizing Bob Gibson and Lou Brock. He has been with the team through its periods of triumph and its dry years, but has stayed loyal in his dedication.

Another passion Paul has carried from his youth is travel. He fondly remembers family road trips to see America, often involving camping. He has embraced this interest, throughout his adult life and has been to all 50 states and at least 19 countries. This has included European ski trips to Garmish-Partenkirchen in Germany and Kitzbuhel in Austria.

The other major passion Paul has is his family. He is not married and has no children, but he has many nieces and nephews (and grand nieces and nephews) that he spares no effort in spoiling. He has also many cousins and relatives in the St. Louis area that he enjoys sharing experiences with. Naturally this includes ski trips, Cardinals games, and other travel.

Paul's election as president has raised his visibility in our club, but it is obvious he has been an active member for years. He has cherished the friendships he has made and the social activities he is able to participate in. The club in turn values his work as president and his organizational skills in leading ski trips and other activities, and we admire his willingness to take on exciting life experiences. We look forward to him sharing more experiences with us in the years to come.

# Mark Your Calendars Now!

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

See [stlouisskiclub.com](http://stlouisskiclub.com) for the latest updates!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wednesday February 21st 6 PM	Banff Ski Trip Icebreaker	Llywelyn's Pub 17 W Moody Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119
Thursday March 21st 6 PM	Top Golf at Mldtown (See Out and About for Details)	3201 Chouteau Ave St. Louis, MO 63103
Monday April 8th 6 PM	Annual Meeting and Elections (See Details Page 4)	Llywelyn's Pub 17 W Moody Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119
Friday June 7th 5 PM	Q and Suds (Details in Spring Sitzmarker)	Tilles Park (Skow Shelter) 9551 Litzinger Road St. Louis, MO 63124



*Hike at Pere Marquette State Park — October 14th*