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Ski Club
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2024-2025**

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**Sitzmarker
Spring 2024**

President's Message

It doesn't seem like that long ago that I sat down to write my first article as your incoming president, but suddenly I'm starting my second term! Time flies when you're having fun, and the St. Louis Ski Club is certainly that! Along with taking on this duty, I've entered "partial" retirement (and I'm still trying to figure out what that means), while also continuing to serve on the board of the Flatland Ski Association (FSA).

We just wrapped up another ski season, with the club offering three successful trips, including a new location. And, of course, your board is now in the process of reviewing bids and locations for our 2025 trips. Hopefully you were able to enjoy one or more of our trips, or at least got some vicarious enjoyment reading the trip articles in the Sitzmarker.

Just a reminder that if you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for the 2024-25 season. Visit our Web-



site at www.stlouisskiclub.com and click on the membership link. Remember, you must renew your membership by May 15th if you want to be eligible to sign up early (prior to sign up night) for any of our 2025 trips. And don't forget, we have a "Refer-A-Friend" program where, if you bring in a brand new member who signs up for a ski trip you will receive \$25. Share the information about our club ... I'm amazed that there are so many people in the St. Louis area who ski or board and aren't aware that we exist.

I also want to give a big "THANKS" to my fellow board

members, Karen Nugent, Dan McGurk, Tom Coscia, and Pat Pender. They all put in so much time and effort to help plan trips and other activities and see that the club keeps running smoothly.

And, of course, in addition to ski trips we've got activities going year-round. Fast approaching is our ever popular Q and Suds picnic (see **Page 6** for details). We also keep busy with our Thirsty Thursdays, hikes, winery tours, Munny nights, and all sorts of other events. So make sure to check your Out-and-About e-mails from Karen as well as checking back at our Website on a regular basis. And as an ongoing reminder, e-mail your ideas of things to do, places to have Thirsty Thursdays, etc., to activities@stlouisskiclub.com. And please volunteer to host an event or help out with some of the larger events.

I'm really looking forward to the coming year, and look forward to seeing you at a lot of our events and, of course, on our 2025 trips!



Banff Trip

More Photos Inside!



Twenty St. Louis Ski Club members departed on February 10th for the club's second ski adventure of 2024. The destination was Ogden, Utah, with skiing split between the Snowbasin and Powder Mountain resorts. The trip was captained by Dan Krack, who did a great job, especially with challenges regarding lift ticket issues by the travel agent.

This trip brought out several new members along with several former members rejoining after many years away from the club. New members were Chris Felling, Chris Mueller (recruited by his wife Ali Mueller (Pineda), Michael Smith (recruited by his dad John Smith whose first STL ski club trip was several years ago to Copper Mountain) and Scott Harter. Returning members joining the trip were John Garcia, JR Huble and Perry Simeroth. Welcome to both new and returning members and hoping to see all of you again on future trips. They were joined on the trek by veteran club members Kathleen Blosser, Denise Buehrer, Nancy Engel, John Garcia, Candy Girth, Cindy Girth, Ed Goedde, Ken Kinsinger, Ali Mueller, Karen Nugent, John Smith, Erni Wood, and Ann Wrightstone.

Ski club member Jo Anne Howard also joined us as a tag-along since she was visiting a friend out in Salt Lake City. John Garcia's friend Hugh Gallagher who also lives in SLC joined us for some skiing as well. John has encouraged Hugh to join the club so he can join us on future trips, which we hope he does.

The group stayed at the Marriott Courtyard in Ogden with bus service to the two resorts daily. Sunday through Wednesday offered sunny to partly sunny skies with powder/packed powder conditions. Thursday and Friday brought fresh wet snow (not powder) of up to at least 12+ inches. The one negative part of the stay was the 1-hour bus drive to the resorts in the morning and afternoon. It was advertised as only 30 minutes from Ogden, but the advertising forgot to mention the numerous stops along the way. However, the great skiing did compensate for the long drives.

Sunday night was spent eating in the hotel restaurant and watching the KC Chiefs and SF 49ers playing in the Super Bowl. Most members were cheering for the Chiefs but there were a few brave 49ers fans in the mix. Club members also celebrated Nancy Engel's birthday during the game (although we won't mention which birthday it was). While riding the bus to Powder Mountain the next day, the skiers also treated her to a chorus of "Happy Birthday".



Perry, John G. and Scott were skiing Powder Mountain and ventured off on a run called "Woody's Place". To their amazement the simple black run became a double black with trees being a few feet apart at first but then they found themselves standing on a cliff. They did find the courage to ski down the run and, to their amazement, it ended at a road. To their further surprise, there was a bus stop across the road

and after a while a bus stopped and picked them up, taking them back to one of the lodge areas. Their adventure did cause some apprehension for Perry and Scott but John G., being a former ski patroller (at Mammoth Ski Resort), got them through the run with a few helpful tips.



To Dan's surprise a blue run at Snowbasin was named "Dan's Run". He was heard telling other skiers to stay off since they were skiing his personal run. Wonder if Dan really thought the run was named for him! LOL!

Leaving their skis, Nancy, Kathleen and Denise took the tram to the top of Allen Peak to enjoy the view. Allen's Peak is considered the highest inbound ski area, with all the runs from the top of the tram being black or double black. Armed with that knowledge, the three decided they were not going to ski down that late in the day or possibly ever.

On the last day of skiing, Nancy and Denise unfortunately got stuck on the Becker Lift at Snowbasin for over 25 minutes. Luckily, they were protected from the wind and snow, unlike those stuck higher up on the lift.

Also on the last day, John Garcia and Ann Wrightstone were skiing on a green trail at Powder Mountain. The visibility

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was terrible with a lot of fresh, heavy snow falling overnight leaving a layer of several inches of snow on the groomed trail. However, John decided to leave the trail and ski the powder beside the trail. Unfortunately, he couldn't see that the snow along the side of the trail was over a foot high and beyond that the snow was over three feet deep. As soon as John's skis hit the untracked, heavy snow, they dived deep, and John launched over his ski tips. After flying through the air, he landed some 10 feet away with one ski on and the other ski nowhere to be seen. Ann and John then spent the next 15 minutes looking for the buried ski. Just as John finally found the missing ski buried some two feet deep, a ski patroller stopped to see if they needed any help. They said they had just found the ski and thanked him for checking on them. The moral of this ski story: "If you can't see, don't go. If you think you must go, don't go. If you think you can't fall, don't go." This moral is, by far, good advice for any ski adventure.



Other tidbits of the week:

- Scott joined Jo Anne to ski Deer Valley later in the week, which they both thoroughly enjoyed. It has been said that Snowbasin lodges supposedly rival the Deer Valley lodges.
- Joanne, Karen and Anne enjoyed a day driving around central Utah to the Olympic Park, the Crater and the Young Living Lavendar Farm where they saw beautiful Percheron horses.
- Dan and Karen discovered a shop "Le Crepe and Ordinary Desserts" in downtown Ogden, which was anything but ordinary. The shop offered unusual and good food along with a décor of flowers, feathers and neon. Dan and Karen agreed that it was a great photo opportunity, especially for Valentines Day. Are there any photos out there of the two of them at "Le Crepe"?

- Thursday night, the club party was held at the Sonora Grill, which offered delicious Mexican food. Good job Dan (and should I say Karen too) for organizing this. Those not going back to the hotel after the party went to an arcade across the street to slay dinosaurs and pirates. However, Ken was the champ at air hockey.
- Non-skier Erni Wood spent most of her time visiting with her son and family who live in Ogden. What an enjoyable time for Erni!

All trips must come to a close, and the week ended after great skiing, camaradery and a few bumps and bruises. Heading back to St. Louis via Las Vegas, the group parted ways in the Sin City with John S. and Michael who had joined us from Milwaukee. Hope to see John and Michael on a trip next year.

Looking forward to what ski trip destinations will be offered in 2025. Thank you and kudos to Dan Krack for being a gracious and great trip captain.



Ogden Photos



Banff



The third and final club trip of 2024 set out from the St. Louis airport in the very early morning hours of Saturday, March 2nd. Under the leadership of trip captain Dan McGurk, the destination this time was Banff Canada, in the heart of the beautiful Canadian Rockies.

Skiers on this trip included Frank Atkinson, Doug Bender, Karen Brown, Jim and Alma Delmonte, Faye Doerhoff, James Duzan, Nancy Engel, Scott Harter, Donald Jones, Susan Leonard, Mary Jane Loeffler, Jennifer Marshall, Raju Mukhi, Dan Rath, Mary Robert, Miranda Robert, Bob and Chris Schnieders, Joan Scholz, John Shansey, Mike Stein, Mary Sullivan, and Erni Wood.

The club flew to Calgary, via Chicago, and everyone made it through customs with no issues. Our two land travelers (Joan Scholz from Wisconsin and Mike Stein from Florida) managed to make it to Calgary about the same time we did, with Joan even managing to catch the same flight from Chicago. The only snag occurred when John Shansey missed the flight from St. Louis and had to be rerouted through Denver, arriving later that evening. Unfortunately, Scott Harter's luggage was rerouted with him.

We then took a 2-hour bus ride from the Calgary airport to Banff and our lodging at the Banff Ptarmigan Inn. Our stay there was a very pleasant one with a buffet breakfast every day to start our skiing off and nice hot tubs to finish the day with, often while sipping a cold

Canadian beer. The downtown shops were open till 9:00 PM so the club could help out the Canadian economy. The GNP went up during our week in Canada. In the very cold weather, the Canadians still do not jaywalk and wait for walking signals even when no cars can be seen. So, some of us from the states may have jaywalked, but no one got arrested!

There was no ski-in/ski-out access on this trip and reaching the slopes did require some very long bus rides (and some waiting in the morning chill for some early buses). This was a small price to pay, though, for what we were able to experience. The mountains of Banff have been described as some of the most beautiful on earth and we were not disappointed. The scenery we viewed on the buses was often breathtaking, and it only improved as we reached the lifts. The moniker, "Ski Big 3" is used to describe the three mountain ranges of Sunshine Village, Lake Louise, and Mt. Norquay. Of these, Mt. Norquay is the smallest and got the least attention from our club, while the others were well-visited.



Most of our group began their ski week on Sunday with a trip to Sunshine Village. This consists of three sprawling mountains, Goat's Eye, Lookout, and Mount Standish. The runs on Goat's Eye were especially popular as they were the most accessible from the Gondola, although many people ventured off into other areas. The wide blue runs on the Wa-wa and Standish Express Quads were especially popular. Some brave souls even tried the black runs from the top of Mt. Standish.



On Monday, most skiers turned their attention to the mountains at Lake Louise, which turned out to be an equally pleasant experience (although a longer bus ride). Lake Louise is named after the Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria and the wife of the Marquess of Lorne, who was the Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883. One lucky daughter! Lake Louise is huge and can be seen from the Gondola. The runs here were spread over four mountains, with a variety of greens, blues and blacks to challenge skiers at all levels. The runs off of the Ptarmigan and Larch Express lifts on the front side were especially scenic. One downside came for people who were sucked into taking the "Ski Out" trail as an easy way back to the base but found it to be more of a cross country slog than an alpine trail!

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Banff

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We spent the rest of the week alternating between the two areas and both had their own charms. The weather held up nicely, especially later in the week and the snow was plentiful. In fact, many of the locals told us we had picked exactly the right time to come, since the best snow of the season had come in just before our arrival!

With a variety of restaurants, bars, and other establishments within easy walking distance of our hotel, most people had no trouble filling their evenings. Monday night was our club party at the hotel, with a variety of pizza, soda, and snacks provided, all topped off with tasty chocolate chip cookies. On Tuesday, John Shansey arranged for a taco night at one of the local bars. On Wednesday evening, most of the club gathered at the Old Spaghetti

Factory for a dinner that trip captain Dan McGurk had organized. And on Thursday, Jim Delmonte helped to organize a ski apres event at the Elk & Oarsman Bar and Grill.

Most people in the group took at least some time off from skiing and had some memorable experiences off the slopes to recount. John Shansey took the opportunity to go up the Sulphur Mountain Gondola and obtain a photograph of the town of Banff. Erni Wood and Jennifer Marshall made the same visit later. Other people took various opportunities to hike, view the Canadian Rockies as non-skiers, and explore the town on their days off.



As will all good ski trips, the ending was bittersweet but we rose early and made it on the bus for our 7:30 am departure time on Saturday (except for Mike Stein who had to rise even earlier



catch his flight back to Florida). Most people even managed to grab one final breakfast in the hotel restaurant before we left. The bus ride back went smoothly, and we had plenty of time to check in at the airport before our 12:41 pm flight.

It was good that our club could end the 2024 season with a winning trip. We are especially glad that we had a few new club members on our trip (Susan and Karen) who managed to fit in from the start. Susan even referred to us as a “friendly, fun-loving, sincere, goofy, ski-loving group of people.” Hope to see more of them in the future.

Here’s to a great 2024 ski season for SLSC and hopes for an even better 2025!

Q and Suds—June 7

Join us at the Q and Suds picnic at **Tilles Park (St. Louis County) on June 7th**. We will once again be serving BBQ and hot dogs along with beer and soda. We are providing the side dishes and desserts as well. You need only bring yourself and your appetite! **No charge for current paid members or senior members; \$10 for all others.** Guests are welcome.

No worries if you are not a paid member — we will have membership applications available at the Q.

Social hour begins at 5:00 pm, with dinner being served at 6:00 pm. Look for the large blue and white St Louis Ski Club banner in Tilles Park at the **Skow Shelter Pavilion** -rain or shine.

Please RSVP to our Meetup page at <http://www.meetup.com/St-Louis-Ski-Club/> so we can get some idea of how many people to expect. You may also contact Karen Nugent at 314-873-5150 or email her at activities@stlouisskiclub.com

Where:

Tilles Park (Skow Shelter)
9551 Litzinger Road
St. Louis, MO 63124

When:

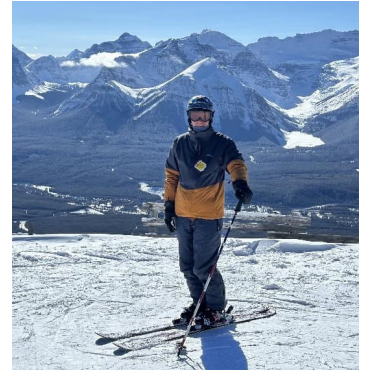
Friday, June 7th
Gather at 5 pm

Cost:

Free for current paid members
and senior members

\$10 for all others

Banff Photos



Club News

Annual Meeting and Elections

Thanks to all who attended the Annual Meeting on April 8th and participated in elections for the St. Louis Ski Club Board of Directors. The following were all elected unanimously to the board.

President

Paul Snyder

Vice-President

Karen Nugent

Trip Director

Tom Coscia

Communications Director

Dan McGurk

We ask all our club members to consider running for the board in the future. New ideas and new blood are important to any organization. We know our club has many talented and committed people who could help take our club in new directions.

Descriptions of the various offices are available in the [St. Louis Ski Club by-laws](http://stlouisskiclub.com/about/) accessible from our home page at <http://stlouisskiclub.com/about/>.

Please review these to determine which positions might be ones in which you could make a valuable difference for the St. Louis Ski Club in the future.

Membership Renewals

Club memberships expired 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/>

We now allow you to renew to join the club or renew memberships completely online.

Use the form at <https://forms.gle/z8QfovUfTF5wXUtR7> and then use the link to Venmo or PayPal to submit payment.

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 2025 trip, the club will send you a \$25 referral check. The check will be sent to you in April 2025. On the application form there will be a place that the new member can indicate your name.

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>
Friday May 17th 6:15 PM	Music on Main Concert <i>Dr. Zhivegas</i>	16860 Main Street Wildwood, MO 63040-1242
Saturday May 18th 10 AM	Hike Mina Sauk Falls Trail	Meet at Taum Sauk Mountain Parking Area
Thursday May 23rd 5 PM	Thirsty Thursday Happy Hour	Helen Fitzgerald's Irish Grill and Pub 3650 S Lindbergh Blvd St. Louis, MO 63127
Friday June 7th 5 PM	<i>Q and Suds</i> (See Details on Page 6)	Tilles Park (<i>Skow Shelter</i>) 9551 Litzinger Road St. Louis, MO 63124
Thursday June 27th 6:30 PM	Gateway Grizzlies Baseball Game	Grizzlies Ballpark 2301 Grizzlie Bear Blvd Sauget, IL 62206



Happy Hour at Lester's—April 25