

# Ski Trails

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The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

April 2024

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Website: <http://www.suburbanskiclub.org>

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT***



Dear SSC Members,  
Sadly, another ski season has melted away for Suburban Ski Club. Everything we could control went well this season but, unfortunately, Mother Nature missed the mark with her snow production.... especially locally. In fact, it was one of her lowest snow yields on record for this area. **Holly Kaskey**, our Day Trip Coordinator, had her hands full dealing with the poor conditions as well as mechanical issues with one of the buses. Local day trips were greatly affected, and some were even cancelled due to poor ski conditions. The good news is that Holly will be continuing in her role as Day Trip Coordinator, and she

is optimistic for a much better 2025 season!

Mother Nature also attempted to undermine our first major trip to Big Sky in January. Despite barely adequate snow coverage on a great mountain, the trip went off without a hitch and was a super success. Much of the success was attributable to Trip Leader, **Ann McBrian** and her great organizational skills and mellow demeanor!

Heading East, looking for better snow conditions, we next set the Club's sights on Sunday River. Despite some last-minute leadership adjustments when longtime member, officer and Trip Leader **Joe Sullivan** experienced a season ending upper extremity ski injury (NOTE: his recovery is going well), the trip came together and ran smoothly. A big "THANKS" to **Beth Silverman** and **Tracy Blake** who stepped up at the last minute to assume the roles of Co-Trip Leaders. Others on the trip,

including **Cliff Lewis, Ann McBrian** and **John Hersch**, also helped to ensure the trip was a success.

Our final major trip of the season to Whitefish was near perfection, thanks to both first time major Trip Leader, **June Kelley** and our old friend Mother Nature. We experienced good snow, good lodging, good skiing, great friendship and even some week-ending slope-side sun and warmth. [Check out the photo of the Whitefish group on the final page of this newsletter.](#)

A big ‘THANK YOU’ to our Major Trip Coordinator, **Judi Fordyce**, for putting together two more well-orchestrated major ski packages.

With the end of another season, two long-term and very capable and dedicated members of your Executive Board are stepping down...Vice President **Beth Silverman** and Treasurer **Ann McBrian**. Both have served in key roles in the Club for many years and have been responsible for providing valued leadership to the Club with their skills and passion. Thank you both for all you have given to Suburban Ski Club.

As two leave the Board, others join. Elections were held at the General Meeting on March 21st and the presented slate of officers and members of the Executive Board was elected. Your Executive Board for 2024-25:

- President: **Gordon Blackburn**
- Vice President: **Dan Castele**
- Secretary: **Tracy Blake**
- Treasurer: **Fran Wesley**
- Webmaster/Membership Data Base: **Cliff Lewis**
- Publications and Communications: **Joe Sullivan**
- Major Trips Coordinator: **Judi Fordyce**
- Day Trips Coordinator: **Holly Kaskey**
- Marketing Manager: **Mike Tuason**
- Social Director: **Patty Costigan**
- Membership Meeting Coordinator: **Pat Lewis**
- CMSC Liaison: **John Hersch**

We should make a special note to welcome the three new members of the EB: Dan Castele, Fran Wesley and Mike Tuason.

Although the 2024 season has ended, the Executive Board has already started planning for 2025 and will be hard at work over the hot/humid summer to put together yet another great season of Suburban Club skiing and fun. **Judi Fordyce has an article on page 7** in which she reports on where we are on major trips for 2025. Her article announces a decision we have made on the first destination for January. I won't steal Judi's announcement here but will let you read it for yourself.

Those of you who were in attendance for our final membership meeting of the season on March 21<sup>st</sup> will be able to tell you that we had a wonderful **presentation on the eclipse by SSC member, Ron Howard**. Ron has years of experience following eclipses around the world and he shared some of his knowledge with us. Ron has also written an article for this newsletter, and I believe you will find it very informative and interesting. **See page 5**.

The club is planning an eclipse party at the lake-front home of a SSC member. Reservations are required and will cap at thirty-six guests. You will find details later in this newsletter and you can make your reservation using the following link: [www.suburbanskiclub.org/eclipse-day](http://www.suburbanskiclub.org/eclipse-day)

We want to welcome **two new members** to Suburban Ski Club: **Steven Friedman** and **Spencer Parker**. We look forward to seeing you on the slopes and at our social events.

*Gordon Blackburn*  
*president@suburbanskiclub.org*



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

**Happy Birthday** to the following members born in APRIL. Our database of birthdays is far from complete. Please remember to enter your birthday when you renew your membership so we can include you in our birthday wishes.

**George Bakale (4/10), Margie Bashaw (4/7), Tatiana Carneeva (4/2), Dick Castele (4/24), Brian Craig (4/14), Cesare Frabotta (4/10), Andrew Gross (4/24), Don Haldi (4/3), Linda Hon (4/17), Will Ivancic (4/11), Mark**

**Leskovec (4/27), Micki Lipscomb (4/4), Kathy Novak (4/3), Patricia Snyder (4/13), Anne Spadaro (4/25), Michelle Webster (4/6), Kathryn Westlake (4/26) and Annette Yamada (4/28)**

## ***CALENDAR AT A GLANCE***

- **MEETING:** Tuesday, April 23: Executive Board Meeting
- **EVENT:** Monday, April 8: SSC Eclipse Party on the Lake

## ***COMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL***

### **Monday, April 8, 11:00 AM+: Suburban Ski Club Eclipse Party on the Lake**

This is a very special location and a wonderful spot to view the eclipse. In addition, **Ron Howard**, SSC's eclipse expert, will be on hand to help us understand what is going on.

For most of us, this will likely be our only chance to see a total solar eclipse in our lifetimes. So, get your eclipse glasses soon, pray for clear skies, and make your reservation now for our viewing party. The party begins at 11:00 AM. Total eclipse is approximately 3:13 to 3:17 p.m.

We are not publishing the name and address of the SSC member who is hosting this event but you can find that information by following this link to the SSC website and signing in as a member of our club: [www.suburbanskiclub.org/eclipse-day](http://www.suburbanskiclub.org/eclipse-day). You will be able to download a flyer that will give all the details you will need.

As you read in our President's Message, we are capping the number of attendees at thirty-six. The club will be supplying hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. We are asking that you bring a side dish to share. Alcoholic beverages are BYOB. When you make your reservation, you will be asked to pay \$10 to cover the costs of the food and drink.

## ***SOME NOTES FROM RON HOWARD***



I have attempted to observe fifteen Total Solar Eclipses and two Annular Solar Eclipses since 1979. These expeditions have taken me to many exotic locations all over the world - from Bratsk, Siberia to Lusaka, Zambia and many places in between. I have had pretty good success - twelve completely successful Total Solar Eclipses and one completely successful Annular Solar Eclipse. The successful Annular Eclipse was at Mayfield Hts, Ohio on May 10, 1994. I

will be with you at our club's eclipse party on the lake on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and hope to add to my list of successful Total Eclipse viewings.

Some things to look for: The Moon will start covering the Solar Disk at 1:59 pm EDT and totality (when the moon completely covers the Sun) will begin at 3:13 pm EDT. Totality will end at 3:17 pm EDT and the moon will completely uncover the Solar Disk at 4:29 pm EDT.

You should be aware that during the Partial Phases of the eclipse (1:59-3:13 and 3:17-4:29 pm) Solar Filters are required for People and all optical equipment including cell phones, cameras binoculars, and telescopes. But you should also know that during Totality (3:13-3:17 pm) no eye protection is required for people or optics.

During the Eclipse the sky will become darker, similar to dusk. You may want to look for: Solar Corona, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Comet Pons-Brooks

Remember we are in for a very special experience. Partial Solar Eclipses and Eclipses of the moon occur frequently, and they are not very exciting, but this event is a once in a lifetime experience for us here in Cleveland. The last Total Solar Eclipse in Cleveland was in 1806 and the next one will be in 2099.

I expect this to be the most wonderful natural sight most of will ever see in the sky and I look forward to sharing it with you on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Ron Howard*





Ron, our eclipse expert in a less formal photo. His T shirt reads “The sky is the limit – or is it?”

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Last month we published some information and suggestions from **Cliff Lewis**. Although it may be a little late for some of Cliff’s information, we think you might still find some of it useful. Read below]

*Whether you come to the party or have other plans, it is essential that you have eclipse glasses for safe viewing of the sun during the eclipse. The American Astronomical Society (AAS) has a web page listing suppliers of glasses that meet the safety requirements of the ISO 12312-2 international standard. See <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters> for the list.*

*Eclipse glasses are going to be in high demand, so it is important to get yours as soon as possible. One of the listed sites is <https://www.eclipseovercleveland.com>, which sells glasses and also lists some local stores that sell them. It is a good idea to call ahead and make sure the stores still have them. Some organizations like libraries, museums, and the Cleveland Metroparks offer them too.*

*Important: The AAS page recommends NOT buying your glasses from large online sites like Amazon, eBay, or Temu unless you can make sure that (1) the seller is identified on the site and (2) the seller is listed on the AAS page. Unfortunately, a large number of counterfeit glasses tend to pop up on those sites before eclipses.*

*Cliff*



Hello Fellow Snow Enthusiasts!

This is an update on where we are on our plans for the 2025 ski season.

First, the Executive Board has approved a trip for **January 25 - February 1, 2025, to Schweitzer Ski Resort in Idaho.** We will stay in hotel room lodging at the slope. They are NOT condos, but the rooms have a mini-fridge and a microwave. We have well priced airfare into Spokane WA. And a two-hour shuttle ride to the resort. Schweitzer is very near the

town of Sandpoint ID, which is a lovely, fun, historic town - full of restaurants, bars and shops. There is a shuttle bus that runs to/from town and the resort several times a day. This is an IKON resort. Look for more details and the complete trip price in the next month or two. We expect to have the tour operator's webpage (Sports America) operational to register online, sometime in May.

We are still looking for options for a 2025 March trip, as well as considering a possible Eastern trip. We are also waiting on some resorts to publish their 2025 season rates, and for the airlines to offer flights for the March trip. You may want to know we are definitely leaning toward IKON resorts. We hope to have more information in the next few weeks.

Also, just for your information, there are two 2025 CMSC (Cleveland Metro Ski Council) Trips that you might be interested in:

Jan 25- Feb 5: Zermatt - Europe

Feb 22-Mar 2 or 5: Alyeska, Alaska, with add-on to see Northern Lights.

Finally, I think it may be worthwhile to republish the information on IKON and EPIC Passes that we sent to you in an Email about a week ago. Look for that below.

Thanks much, stay tuned, and feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

*Judi Fordyce*

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Hello, again,

Here is the information on IKON and EPIC passes we promised above:

I WOULD RECOMMEND HOLDING OFF ON PURCHASING AN IKON PASS, UNTIL WE FINALIZE THE TRIPS. I believe we have until May to purchase under the “best prices” for group purchases. However, for renewal passes, which have a slightly better rate, the deadline is likely sometime in April. If/when I hear more about impending deadlines, I will let you know.

You can purchase your passes directly from IKON or EPIC or you can do it through our Tour Operator, SPORTS AMERICA. Please see the links below for purchasing your passes via Sports America.

But whether you use Sports America or the IKON or EPIC websites, **PLEASE READ ALL THE DETAILS ON THE WEBSITES WHEN RENEWING OR PURCHASING NEW PASSES.** I HAVE TRIED TO SUMMARIZE BELOW BUT CANNOT GUARANTEE ALL THE INFORMATION.

NOTE: once you buy any of these passes you CANNOT cancel them and get your money back. I believe there are insurance plans for both, but that is ONLY in case of injury/medical etc. and cannot be refunded if you change your mind later and cannot be transferred to someone who might be taking your place.

### **IKON:**

NOTE: for 2025 trips we are focusing on resorts that are on the Base IKON PASS. There is, however, one resort that we are considering as a backup that would require the BASE PLUS pass, so please stay tuned for more information.

NOTE: if you are a nurse OR Military, IKON offers a substantial discount BUT not through Sports America, so FOR those 2 groups, you will need to buy through IKON website directly.

FULL = \$1,159 (Limit at most resorts is 7 days) - includes all IKON resorts

FULL Renewal is \$1,149.

Base PLUS = \$1,079 (Limit at most resorts 5 days) - includes all IKON resorts, Blackout dates on holidays

Base PLUS renewal = \$1069

BASE = \$829. (Limit on most resorts is 5 days) - does NOT include Aspen Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Deer Valley, Alta,

Sun Valley, Snowbasin, Taos. Base pass also has blackout dates for Holidays.

BASE renewal is \$819.

**IMPORTANT:** The Password for the webpage is snow. Any of the following variations will work: **SNOW, Snow or snow**



**EPIC:**

If you want to ski the local ski hills in Ohio that are EPIC (such as BMBW, Alpine Valley and Seven Springs) you can buy that from Sports America as well.

Full = \$982.

Local = \$731.

**Passes for Northeast Ski hills** include BMBW, Alpine Valley, Seven Springs, Okemo, Mount Snow, Stowe and more.

**Ohio local ski Passes** are NOT on Sports America link, but you can purchase them directly through EPIC. You can also purchase a heavily discounted Senior (65+) Local Pass for \$110

LINKS to Purchase: Our tour operator (for 2 and maybe 3 ski trips) is Sports America. And like last year, they can sell us these passes at the same rate as IKON does directly. However, as with last year, they offer a one-time discount on club ski trips that we book through them IF you also buy your pass from them. SO that is \$30 off on a trip if you buy the BASE pass, and \$50 off if you buy a FULL pass. (I believe the BASE Plus pass counts as a FULL pass).

IKON: <http://www.sportsamerica.com/ikon-suburban>

EPIC: <http://www.sportsamerica.com/epic-suburban>

Thanks much, stay tuned, and let me know if you have any questions.

*Judi Fordyce*

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## Whitefish, Montana

Saturday, March 9 – Saturday, March 16, 2024



From the left, Front Row: **Joe Toner, Beth Martin, Patrick McPhillips, Fran Wesley, Angela Matousek, David Matousek, Cliff Lewis, Ron Howard, Yuri Deglin**

Middle Row: **Gordon Blackburn, Bob Poulson, Miklos Gratzl, Carl Fenc, Neringa Nyznyk, Pat Lewis, Barb Quinn, Mike Varley, Dick Castele**

Back Row: **Kim Sanders, June Kelley, Colette Gschwind, Jason Chao, Kim Varley, Ann McBrian**

Missing from the photo: **Tom and Nancy Lukens, Lainie Breiner and Tracy Williams**