

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

December 2016

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

The winter holidays are upon us! And what better way to kick off our 58th year, than to attend our annual **Holiday Party** at Lakeside Yacht Club on **Saturday, December 10**. You will be in for a treat this year at the newly renovated space that features a full bar in a separate cocktail area and an expanded dining room. Spirits, great food, live music, dancing, a chance to win some valuable prizes and the opportunity to see new and old friends make this a special evening. Keep in mind that the final **deadline for reservations is December 3rd**. You will find details about this event later in the newsletter.

Our annual Holiday Party is the inaugural event signaling that the ski season is about to begin. Join me in making plans and reservations for your own personal ski schedule in 2017. Be aware that we have made **two changes in our 2017 calendar**. We moved our Sunday, January 29 trip to Holiday Valley to Sunday, February 12th, after we realized that those returning from Steamboat on the 28th would be precluded. The second change is that we, reluctantly, decided to cancel the Eastern Trip to Maine. Later in this newsletter you can read the details and our rationale for the cancellation.

Joe Sullivan reports that he has 46 members signed up for our trip to **Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Jan 21-28**. This may be best-attended western trip in our Club's history. The second western trip to **Banff, March 5 – 12**, is also going very well. In the later pages, you can read a report on Banff from **Melinda Kellerstrass** along with one from Joe on Steamboat. Many thanks to our Trips & Tours Committee, our tour operator, Sports America, and to our Trips Leaders for all their hard work.

Also in this newsletter, you will find a second report from our tireless Melinda Kellerstrass on our extensive program of bus trips. Again, you should study the schedule of our ten bus trips and make your plans. You can go online at www.suburbanskiclub.org and download trip flyers but, even simpler, you can make your reservation online using your credit card and save the time and expense of mailing in your reservation.

Speaking of reservations, Melinda wants to call your attention to a very special **two-day trip to Holiday Valley on Monday (MLK Day) and Tuesday, January 16 & 17**. At a bargain price of \$199, you get transportation to and from Holiday Valley, two days of skiing, ski-in/ski-out hotel

accommodations (two people per room) and a hot breakfast. However, because this trip involves a lodging commitment, Melinda must drop any unreserved hotel rooms in just ten days. So, if you want to go, you must get in your reservation right away.

We had an interesting twist to our November membership meeting. Our guest speaker, **Martin Danial**, a personal trainer from Lifetime Fitness, led us through a series of exercises we can do at home to help prepare for skiing and to improve our over-all fitness. Martin has promised to provide step-by-step instructions for his program and I will share that with anyone interested. I'll bring copies to the Holiday Party but please contact me if you can't be at the festivities but would like a copy of Martin's exercise program.

Thanks to **Mary Ellen Noss** and **Kathy Porcen Robinson** for planning our **EAT on Sunday, Nov 13**. It was held in the Rustic Grill at Stonewater Golf Club in Highland Hts. This special EAT has become an annual tradition to bring SSC alumni together with current members and it has been very successful. The alumni, of course, welcomed the opportunity to reconnect with each other and exchange old stories. And current members are always enthused to hear about SSC's past and to appreciate the history of those who came before us. Ad multos annos.

Another thank you goes to Melinda Kellerstrass and our 2017 bus trip leaders for taking the time to meet at my house on Friday, November 18, to talk about ways to ensure that we will have well-organized, enjoyable bus trips. There is a lot involved with running a successful trip and Melinda did an excellent job putting together training materials and leading the discussion. In attendance were **Jack Ganz, Ed and Mary Ellen Noss, Pat and Cliff Lewis, Colette Gschwind, Joe Sullivan, June Kelley** and my dog, **Jack** [see page 4].

Finally, I want to welcome some new members to SSC: **William (Bill) Anstine, Jan Cech, Brian Craig, Ralph Dixon (father), Shirin Dixon, Ralph Dixon (son), Bill Hersch, Jane Hughes, Lloyd Hughes, Maggie Layman, Barb Nagle, Patrick Soria, Paula Stadalsky, Carol Stanley, Julie Wentz, and Ronald Zackowski**. We are happy you have joined us and look forward to seeing you at our social events and on the slopes.

Happy Holidays!

Beth Silverman, President of SSC
president@suburbanskiclub.org

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Another edition of our series recognizing the birthdays of SSC members follows. Don't worry, we do not publish the year of your birth, just the month and day! Our data base of birthdays is far from complete. Please remember to include your birthday on your membership form. It is not necessary to give the year of your birth, but we need your day and month so we can publish your birthday. Here are the December birthdays we have on file:

Beverly Burgess (12/3), Michael Gustetic (12/23), Steven Izen (12/3), Lilly Kron (12/20), Susannah Muskovitz (12/25), Carol Vandenberg (12/25), Jeff Weiler (12/31), and Nancy Wolf (12/17)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

December, 2016 - February, 2017

- **SOCIAL:** Saturday, December 10: **Annual Holiday Party** at the Lakeside Yacht Club
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, January 8, 2017: **Peek'n Peak**, first trip of the 2017 season
- **SKI TRIP:** Monday (MLK Holiday) – Tuesday, January 16 - 17: **Two Day Trip to Holiday Valley**
- **MEETING:** Thursday, January 19, 7:00 PM: **Membership Meeting**
- **SKI TRIP:** Saturday, January 21 – Saturday, January 28: **Steamboat Springs, CO**
- **SKI TRIP:** Tuesday, January 24: **Holimont**
- **SKI TRIP:** Friday, February 3: **Kissing Bridge**
- **SKI TRIP:** Thursday, February 9: **Holiday Valley**
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, February 12: **Holiday Valley**
- **SKI TRIP:** Wednesday, February 15: **Seven Springs**
- **MEETING:** Thursday, February 16, 7:00 PM: **Membership Meeting – Nomination of Club Officers**
- **SKI TRIP:** February 20 (Presidents Day): **Holimont**
- **SKI TRIP:** Thursday, February 23 – Friday, February 24: **Two Day Trip to Holiday Valley & Bristol**

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL

Saturday, December 10: Annual Holiday Party at the Lakeside Yacht Club

A couple of weeks ago, we sent an Email to the membership with the official invitation to our annual Holiday Party. It contained details on how to make your reservations. Since then there has been a very good response and we anticipate our best party ever. We will be returning to the newly renovated and expanded Lakeside Yacht Club. We are sure you are going to be impressed with the new space. The address of the club is **4851 North Marginal Road, Cleveland 44114**.

As usual, SSC will be subsidizing some expenses and that makes the cost a very reasonable \$35. We will have a live band, dancing and some holiday music from our own SSC concert band. In addition, there will be a sing-along and we will be drawing for some valuable prizes.

The deadline for making your reservation is only a few days away, **Saturday, December 3rd**. The most convenient and instantaneous way to make your reservation is to do it online at: www.suburbanskiclub.org. If you prefer to snail mail your check, you will find a reservation form at the bottom of the flyer attached to this newsletter. You can also find the flyer online. **However**, if you chose to do it that way, **you must take an additional step and contact me** with your entre choice and assure me your “check is in the mail.” If you fail to do that, your reservation may not be recognized and when you present yourself at the yacht club, we may hand you a tuna fish sandwich and instruct you to eat it outside with the sea gulls. My phone number is (216) 932-3636 and my Email is joe@suburbanskiclub.org. That information is also on the flyer.

One final and important point: The original announcement had 6:00 PM for the start of our cocktail hour and that time still appears in the flyer. However, in planning the schedule, we realized that we might be cutting into the cocktail hour in order to fit in some activities. We want to be seated at tables in the dining room at 6:45 PM and it seemed to us that would seriously curtail the time for socializing over cocktails. Our solution was to revise the schedule a bit and invite you to **arrive at 5:30 PM**. Of course, you can still make your entrance at 6:00 PM and not miss dinner – but if you want to have more time with your SSC friends, please come at the earlier time.

BRIDGE ANYONE?



Let's play Bridge - and we did. On Monday, Nov. 14th a few SSC members travelled under a very full moon to the home of **George and Margie Bakale** in Cleveland Heights for an evening of bridge. We had eight players at two tables. In addition to my wife Sandy, George, Margie and me, we had **Cori Seifert, Barbara Brennan, Mary Ellen Noss and Joe Sullivan**. Of course, George and Margie, being excellent hosts, put out pizza, spanakopita, crackers, cheese, wine and much more. We weren't sure if we were playing bridge or were there for dinner. In addition to the excellent food and drink, it was a fun night of friendly, social bridge. Some were very good bridge players while others were a little rusty. But we all had a good time and improved our bridge by playing with helpful and understanding friends.

We have scheduled another bridge night at our home in Shaker Heights on **Friday, Dec. 16th** at **7:00 PM**. If you would like to join the game, please call/email to see if there is room. We can only accommodate three tables - perhaps four. So, let us know you want to play and we will do our best to accommodate everyone.

Jack and Sandy: 216-536-7299 or jackjbg@gmail.com

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Pictured above is Jack & Jack. That is Jack Ganz holding President, Beth Silverman's little Yorkie, Jack. The photo was taken at the Trip Leaders meeting at Beth's home and, honestly, it has nothing to do with bridge. But it is too cute to pass up. Little Jack has a rather large tongue and Big Jack was trying to bond with Little Jack. If you play bridge at Big Jack's house he promised not to lick your cards – but he may require a doggie biscuit]

REPORTS ON THE 2017 SKI SEASON

Update on Our Three Major Trips:

The Western Trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Jan 21 – 28, 2017:

This trip has been a huge success even before we leave town to spend a week in “Ski Town USA.” Reservations exceeded our original lodging block but we were able to secure additional spaces. Our number is now 46 and the trip is closed. But we are beginning a waiting list. If you want to be on that, please contact me.

The Eastern Trip to Maine, Feb 5 – 11, 2017:

The news on our Eastern Trip (ET) to Maine is not as good. We had only 14 reservations and even though we thought there was a good chance for adding a few more, the trip needed to have a group that numbered about 30 skiers in order that the club not incur a huge loss. The cost of transportation was the major factor. For western trips, we buy individual airline seats but the ET involves a fixed cost for the bus. We priced the trip for 30 or more skiers and with anything less than that, there would be a loss. (Since our first ET to Jay Peak in 2009, we have always been able to reach that number.) In addition, there is a free trip, a “comp,” for the 21st skier and we reduce the cost for everyone by passing along that savings. There was little hope we would get to 21 skiers. Therefore, with those factors in mind, our President, Beth Silverman, in consultation with the Officers of SSC, reluctantly came to the decision that the trip needed to be cancelled.

On the positive side, we have been able to run an ET every year since 2009. We are not discouraged and will not abandon the idea of an Eastern Trip next year. We saw that the proximity of the Steamboat trip with only one week between it and the Eastern Trip, was a factor along with the \$1225 cost of Steamboat vs. \$999 for the trip to Maine. Added to that was the disappointing weather on last year’s trip to the same destination which may have influenced some skiers. In addition, there was the problem with the CMSC website that we described last month. Usually the ET attracts some skiers who are not SSC members. This year there were none – probably because information about our trip was absent from the CMSC website. And there were other factors and we saw that this was just a very unusual year and it created a scenario that did not allow this trip to get off the ground.

However, we are very much aware that in addition to the very disappointed 14 skiers who had signed up for this year’s ET, there are certainly others who are still very interested in the idea of an all-inclusive ET at a price substantially below the cost of a western trip. So, rest assured, we plan to go back east in 2018. Our Eastern Trip enthusiast, **Frank Bolon**, is already looking at some interesting venues for us.

Joe Sullivan

joe@suburbanskiclub.org or (216) 932-3636

The Second Western Trip to Banff/Lake Louise, March 5 – 12, 2017:

While the trip to Steamboat has been closed, there are still a few places left and a brief window to get in on this second western trip to the Canadian Rockies. But you need to act quickly. The **deadline for booking our airline seats is December 4th**. The trip has a great price at only \$1425. For that price, you will enjoy staying at two different resorts and there are no worries about moving day – the resort will take care of that for you - you ski, they move. How sweet is that! Check out all the details in the flyer online at www.suburbanskiclub.org and then make your reservation. A reminder for those already booked, the next payment is due Jan 1, 2017.

Melinda Kellerstrass
melinda@suburbanskiclub.org

Update on Our Ten Bus Trips:



Santa and I Want YOU

to join us! The snow is starting to fly and “winter is a coming”. We have 8 one-day bus trips in store for you and 2 two-day bus trips. These two wonderful overnight trips will give you a little mini vacation with some fantastic ski buddies and friends (see the descriptions below). If you want to ensure that you will have a spot on these two trips, now is the time to act. This is especially true for the trip to Holiday Valley in January. We have a looming deadline for committing to hotel rooms and **we will close out reservations on December 10**. Do not wait any longer. Sign up and join us.

Here are the details on both Two-Day Trips:

Jan 16 - 17, 2017, MLK Day Special (Mon - Tues): Two days of skiing; the opportunity to night ski; bus transportation; one night at the Holiday Valley Inn with ski in ski out; access to the pools and hot tubs; and breakfast in the morning. All for a mere \$199 - such a deal! And the best part is you get to do it with some really fun people and great friends! AND... for those who work, we scheduled it over MLK day so, if that Monday is a holiday for you, Tuesday would be the only vacation day you would need to take. For those going on the Steamboat trip, this is a great warm up to get you ready and in shape. What a great mid-winter get-away. Ellicottville is such a fun and cute town to explore and the skiing is great. Make sure to go online and register today.

Feb 23-24, 2017, Two-Day at Holiday Valley & Bristol: - Back by popular demand, **Jack Ganz** will be leading this fun trip. It offers a variety of skiing terrain. If you have not tried this trip in the past – now is your chance. The trip includes bus transportation, two days of skiing at two different resorts, lodging at The Inn on the Lake, dinner & breakfast at the hotel – all for only \$259. You will love it - just ask anyone who has gone on the trip in the past. It must be fun because they keep coming back!

In addition to the foregoing two-day trips, we offer eight one day trips to several destinations. When you check out this schedule, please note there has been a change to one of the bus trips. The cancellation of the Eastern Trip has allowed us to adjust a Sunday bus trip. **The Sunday Jan 29 trip to Holiday Valley has been moved to Sunday, Feb 12.** As we reevaluated the schedule, we saw that our 45 skiers returning from Steamboat on January 28 would not be able to make that January 29 trip. The revised schedule is attached to this newsletter. You can also find the new schedule online.

Get out your calendars, check your schedules and then go online and book your trips: www.suburbanskiclub.org. The snow is coming and we are ready for a great time. We just need you! While you are online studying the full schedule, it will be easy to see that SSC lives up to its motto *“We Ski Every Week...and then some!”*

I am looking forward to seeing you on the slopes and to another ski-filled winter with SSC. Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season!

Melinda Kellerstrass
melinda@suburbanskiclub.org

AND THE WINNER IS....



SSC Member **Steve Richards** is on a roll. Those of you who were at our club's Ski Fair in September may remember that Steve won a \$50 gift certificate he could apply to any SSC trip. He used it to pay for an extra day of skiing at Steamboat Springs in January. Since the extra day cost only \$44, Steve wisely put aside his change to pay for an après ski beer.

But Steve didn't stop there. On October 13th, at the Village Ski Shop in North Olmstead, Steve attended their "Welcome Winter" party and won another prize. This was a pair of Elan Rip Stick 96 skis. The photo shows Steve celebrating his win with some of his friends including Elan rep, Ray Skelton on the left and his significant other and SSC member, **Cindy Busch**, next to him. Has anyone noticed in the photo that Steve has on the same shirt he was wearing when he won his prize at the SSC Ski Fair? Does anyone know if he washes his lucky shirt? Will he bring it to Steamboat Springs?