

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

July 2017

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

I know it is only July but we need to talk about skiing in 2018. A few weeks ago, we announced our plans for our major trips. Now we can add some more details. The trip to **Snowmass** is finalized. The dates are **January 13th – 20th, 2018** but there has been one change. We are delighted to report that since our Emailed announcement, we have been able to secure a better airline deal. That has meant that we have been able to lower the price for this trip. In addition, we have made some progress on a second western trip to Canada. The destination is **Panorama** and is scheduled for **March 11 - 18, 2018**. While there are still some details to be clarified, we are confident this is going to be a wonderful trip that offers a more budget-conscious price to our members. We are grateful to past president, **Beth Silverman**, for her work on these two trips. Be sure to read Beth's report later in this newsletter for all the latest information.

And the good news doesn't end there. We also have put the final touches on our 2018 Eastern Trip. The destination is **Killington, Vermont** and the dates are **February 11th – 17th, 2018**. Please read the details about this trip in the subsequent pages of this newsletter. I won't spoil the surprise, but you are going to be very impressed at the bargain price for this all-inclusive trip. Our thanks go to **Frank Bolon** and **Joe Sullivan** for again putting together our eastern adventure.

I also want to call your attention to two upcoming events: the **July 16th Bike Ride** organized by Vice President, **Cindy Bacon** and the **August 26th Picnic and Concert at Blossom** hosted by Treasurer, **Ann McBrian**. Be sure to read about both these events in this newsletter.

Finally, on a sad note, a week ago we sent an Email about the death of past SSC president, **Ed Gray**. In the final pages of this newsletter you will find an "In Memoriam" article and we encourage you to read that tribute to one of our club's giants.

I hope to see you at our summer events and at our first membership meeting in September.

Becky Marx, President of SSC
president@suburbanskiclub.org

JULY BIRTHDAYS

This is another edition of our series recognizing the birthdays of SSC members. Don't worry, we do not publish the year of your birth, just the month and day!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 July birthdays we have on file:

Debbie Axelrod (7/12), Margie Bakale (7/27), Barbara Brennan (7/21), Jason Chao (7/18), Franci Chmielewski (7/22), Monica Dumitriu (7/27), Jerry Golinski (7/9), Leonard Haas (7/6), Carol Hartman (7/3), John Hersch (7/29), Peg Holmes (7/7), Ron Howard (7/31), Todd Izen (7/24), Renata Jenkins (7/7), Art Koch (7/14), Susan Kohout (7/14), Frank Kulow (7/13), Lorraine Lipinski (7/16), Rich Lowe (7/22), Becky Marx (7/17), Russ Marx (7/14), Barb Nagle (7/1), Linda Nash (7/27), Karen Norton (7/10), Chip Post (7/16), Sally Roseman (7/31), Elaine Roth (7/20), Elizabeth Sauer (7/12), Corinne Seifert (7/1), Nicholas Spain (7/24), Diane Szilagyi (7/10), Dennis Troyan (7/5) and Julie Wentz (7/17)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE ***July – September, 2017***

- ***MEETING:*** Tuesday, July 12, 5:30 PM: Executive Board
- ***SOCIAL:*** Sunday, July 16: Bike Ride on the Tow Path and Lunch
- ***SOCIAL:*** Saturday, August 26, 8:00 PM: Picnic and Concert at Blossom
- ***MEETING:*** Thursday, September 14, 7:00 PM: Ski Fair - First Membership Meeting of the season
- ***SOCIAL:*** Saturday, September 16, 2:30 PM: Annual Clambake in Hiram

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL



Bike the Trail, Ride the Rail, Lunch at the Lizard

On **Sunday July 16th, 2017** join Suburban Ski Club members, friends & families for a scenic bike ride on the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and Erie Canal Towpath. The path is an easy ride on a mostly flat surface, composed of asphalt or crushed limestone.

The Towpath runs parallel to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. There are multiple stations along the route where you can jump on the train with your bike for a special one-way ride back to Peninsula for only \$3 per person.

Our plan is for us to start in Peninsula in the morning, ride as far as you wish and either ride back to Peninsula or take the train back to that location. We will all meet for lunch at 1 pm at the Peninsula Winking Lizard. Everyone will then be responsible for their own lunch and beverage.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Cindy Bacon at cindykirmm@att.net or her cell: 216-409-6570. Your confirmation will be requested by July 10th so we can give the Winking Lizard a headcount.

Put the date on your calendar and feel free to contact Cindy for more information.

Here are some links to the Towpath and Chagrin Valley Scenic Railroad websites:

www.cvsr.com

www.ohioanderiecanalway.com

Sunday, August 26: Picnic & Concert at Blossom Music Center

Suburban Ski Club
at
BLOSSOM
MUSIC FESTIVAL
Summer Home of
The Cleveland Orchestra

Saturday, August 26, 2017



Again, this year, **Ann McBrian** is our host for a performance by the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom with a pre-concert picnic. For this special evening, the Cleveland Orchestra is conducted by Cristian Macelaru with Augustin Hadelich on violin and the Women of the Blossom Festival Chorus. The program features DVORAK's Violin Concerto and HOLST's The Planets.

The performance begins at 8:00 PM but we will be gathering any time after 5:30 PM in the area called the Lawn Terrace (located at the top of the lawn area and centered above the pavilion) for our pre-concert picnic. **Please see the BLOSSOM MAP** attached to the Email that brought this newsletter. Also attached is a **page of GENERAL INFORMATION** that should be helpful.

The meal will be buffet style provided by Old Carolina BBQ. It will consist of pulled pork, pulled chicken, green beans, baked beans, wings and cookies. If you wish to order a dinner salad and/or a side salad from Panera you may do that as well. Attached to the Email that brought you this newsletter is an **ORDER FORM for lawn tickets and your meal**. The form is in two formats. If you can open the spreadsheet version, you may fill that out and Email it to Ann. If you are unable to open a spreadsheet, you can print out the PDF version and snail mail it to Ann. Payment should be in the form of a check payable to Suburban Ski Club and mailed to Ann.

Please feel free to bring your own picnic, if you wish. Beverages are not provided and you should bring your beverage of choice. Adult beverages are allowed at Blossom.

Parking is free in the grass lots with tram service provided to get you to the main gate. You may purchase a Parking Lot A pass for \$20 in advance by contacting the Severance Hall Ticket Office at 216-231-1111. There are a limited number available, so do not wait to contact them if you want this close in, reserved parking.

A single lawn ticket price for the evening is \$24. But Ann is hoping to buy books of lawn tickets at a savings of \$8 per ticket. Provided we are able to purchase the books, refunds on the tickets will be given to you on the night of the concert. Should you not want to sit on the lawn, these lawn tickets are also valid for general admission seating in the pavilion.

You may contact Ann at: mcbriana@gmail.com or 330-618-8450. Ann's mailing address is Ann McBrian; 2059 Maple Road; Stow, OH 44133. In addition to making your reservations, Ann is available to answer any questions you might have. Please make your reservations asap but no later than **Tuesday, August 22nd**.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual **EAT with SSC alumni** has been scheduled for **Sunday, November 12, 2017**. The place is the very interesting Alley Cat, a Zack Bruell restaurant on the East Bank of the Flats. They have a Happy Hour from 3 – 6 PM and we will be meeting at 4:00 PM for cocktails with dinner to follow. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join us for dinner on the Lake.

THE MAJOR TRIPS FOR THE 2018 SKI SEASON

Western Trips:

On June 21st, we sent an Email to our SSC Membership announcing the three major trips for 2018. I want to tell you a little more about the two western destinations: **Snowmass in January** and **Panorama in March**. There have been some changes.

The **Snowmass** trip is scheduled for **January 13 – 20, 2018**. That has not changed but what has changed is the price – and do I have some exciting news for you about that. Our tour operator has been able to switch our airplane flight to Southwest and that has resulted in some substantial savings. And, we are able to pass along those savings to you. The old price was \$1575 but the new price is now **\$1499!!!** Yes, that's correct. And, as they say on those TV ads, "Wait there's more..." Because we are travelling on Southwest, **luggage is free**.

If there is a downside to this, it is that seats are limited. After we sell out our block of seats, we cannot get any more. We believe that once this trip is publicized outside of SSC, there will be a rush to get in our deal. So, be forewarned. Don't delay signing up and sending in your payment. **Attached to the Email that brought this newsletter is a revised Trip Flyer and Trip Agreement Form.** All the information you will need is contained in those two pages. Please contact me if you have any questions. Also find the forms is at: www.suburbanskiclub.org

There have been **some changes for the second western trip as well**. In the June newsletter, we told you we were looking at Canadian resorts because of the very favorable exchange rate. Initially we thought the destination might be Sun Peaks in British Columbia but in our June 21st Email, we

told you that our tour operator gave us a proposal for **Panorama**. At first, we were a little skeptical because we knew very little about this resort but after more information was provided, we saw this as an excellent possibility. Panorama is located on the famed “Powder Highway” in British Columbia and the lodging would be slopeside. We also think we can offer this trip at less than \$1300. The sticking point is the airfare. We do not have a handle on that at this time, but if our tour operator can find us a reasonable price on airfare, we think we can bring this trip in around that \$1300 price.

There has also been a change in dates for this trip. We are now looking at **March 11 – 18, 2018**. We do not yet have a flyer or agreement form for this trip and will not have one until we can fix a price. But, if the destination and the possible cost interests you, please put the dates on your calendar. We will get back to you with more details and a price as soon as we are able.

Beth Silverman
Co-Chair, Trips and Tours

The Eastern Trip:

In the June newsletter and in an Emailed announcement later in June, we told you about the destination and dates for our 2018 Eastern Trip. We wrote that we will be going to **Killington, Vermont** on **February 11 – 17, 2018**. We also told you that, as usual, it will be an all-inclusive trip at a bargain price and that the package includes 6 nights lodging; lift tickets for 5 days; 6 dinners and 5 hot breakfast buffets; luxury motor coach transportation and more. However, what we could not tell you then was the price – but now we can do that and we are very happy to announce that the cost is an unbelievable **\$949!!!** Compare that to the prior two years where the price was \$999. Those were very good prices but this one is incredible for all that it includes. And did we also tell you that the bus ride to our southern Vermont destination is going to be the shortest of any previous eastern trips?

However, this shorter bus ride is to an area that is not short on great skiing. Killington and sister resort, Pico Mountain, comprise one of the largest ski areas in the east, composed of 6 peaks, an elevation of 4241 feet and a 3000 foot, vertical drop. They offer skiing and snowboarding on 200 slopes and trails, great cruising terrain along with tree and mogul skiing and other challenging runs. Snowmaking covers 72% of the terrain and consistently provides great conditions. There are 28 lifts, including 2 gondolas and 9 high speed express quads accessing 1977 acres of skiable terrain.

But even though one could spend all their time at Killington and Pico and still leave trails not seen, we also will be traveling to nearby **Okemo** for a day. Okemo spans five distinct alpine areas with 121 trails and glades with 667 acres of skiable terrain. It features a remarkable 98% snowmaking coverage with 32% Novice, 36 % Intermediate and 31% Advanced/Expert trails. Included in the 20 lifts is a high-speed bubble chair with heated seats and four high-speed quads.

And did we tell you that Killington and Okemo are noted for their snowmaking and grooming? As we noted earlier, Killington is able to make snow on 72% of its skiable terrain and Okemo covers almost 100% - and it is all done with the most up-to-date snowmaking equipment in the world.

Attached to the Email that brought you this newsletter is a Flyer and an Agreement Form.

In them you will find more information about this trip along with details on how to make your reservation. You will also be able to find these documents on our website: www.suburbanskiclub.org . Please come join us on our eastern adventure. *Frank & Joe*

In Memoriam: ED GRAY

Edgar Dale Gray, Suburban Ski Club member and former president of SSC (1988-1990), passed away on June 18, 2017 after a long illness. He was eighty-eight years of age. Ed joined SSC in the early days of the club in the mid-1960's. He was very active throughout the years, skiing, biking, hiking and participating in social events with the club. Ed regularly connected with old SSC friends and was seen at many events in recent years. His obituary appeared in the Wednesday, June 21, 2017 edition of the Plain Dealer. It was suggested that a donation to your favorite charity could be made in memory of Ed.

Ed is survived by his loving, long-time companion, **Pat Hanousek**; 6005 Liberty Road; Solon, OH 44139. On **Saturday, July 29th, from 3:00 – 5:00 PM**, there will be a Celebration of Life Service at the Bentleyville Village Hall; 6253 Chagrin River Road; Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

Ed's passing elicited many comments and expressions of sympathy from his old SSC friends. We begin with a photo courtesy of Ed's dear friends, **George and Margie Bakale**. It was taken at his 80th birthday celebration. Those who knew Ed would agree this picture captures the fun side of Ed Gray. Following the photo are some comments from a few of Ed's many friends:



*My relationship with Ed can best be conveyed by his being my best man in our wedding. Ed had already hung up his downhill skis when I knew him and had also given up flying, but he remained an avid x-country skier and backpacker years afterward. Ed repeated the story many times of xc-skiing under a full moon at a SSC party and the twofold enjoyment of the peppermint schnapps we were drinking—when it went down and when it came back up! While backpacking with Ed, we learned the importance of going hummock-to-hummock and the pleasure of freeze-dried ice cream after a day of wondering [and wandering] “where are the blazes?” You have prepared us these last few years to miss you as you gradually faded away with your decreasing mobility, but we can no longer look forward to chortling with another e-mail from gooneybird. Bye Edgar, and THANKS! **George Bakale***

To Ed, My Friend,

*Ed was my friend from the moment I met him on my first western trip with SSC in the mid 70's. Soon after this he retired his downhill skis, but this did not affect his love for skiing, the Club, and its members. His attention turned to cross-country skiing, hiking, backpacking, biking and social activities. Ed organized and led groups of SSCers in these activities. Ed was one of the original members of SSC and was President from 1988 to 1990. He often teased me about my intensity during club meetings claiming he knew of no one who payed attention like me. He liked my “red tee shirt” and a year ago gave me a framed photo from a backpacking trip long ago wearing this tee shirt. I prominently placed the photo on my living room table where it has lived since I received it! You will always be in my heart, Ed. **Margie Bakale***

*Ed Gray and I had been emailing jokes, etc. regularly. I'll miss Ed's keen intelligence and humor. Not long ago, Ed emailed this photo of us taken on one of our SSC ski trips--probably in 1969 or '70. It's likely that Joe Tomms was the photographer because Joe was SSC's Master of the Minolta camera at SSC events. Those were the days..... **Dick Schulist***



I joined Suburban in 1989, when Ed was President. He lived down the street from me on Cannon Dr (when I lived in Solon) and he was quite the club mentor for me. He had more "party" in him than I could keep up with! **Rich Lowe**

This one hits especially hard. He really was a great guy, kind & so much fun. I remember many parties at their Cannon Road house, and can still hear his big, booming laugh. Sad for his Patty. **Carla Newberry**

Ed was a kind and gentle man. **Eugene Pallat**

He lived a good life, and will be missed. I have many fond memories. **Roe Green**

Ed was a long time SSC member, Past President and strong supporter, but most importantly an approachable and sincere friend. Thanks for being you, Ed, and we know you will enjoy those peaceful slopes in the sky. **Kathy and George Goudreau**

I have many fond memories of Ed throughout my years in Suburban. Back in the eighties, SSC used to have its annual Christmas party at Acacia Country Club (which no longer exists), and Ed would dress up as Santa Claus. We (the ladies) would take turns sitting on his lap and having our pictures taken with "Santa". It was great entertainment for all, as everyone would gather around and laugh at the various poses taken for the camera. Also, Ed used to host great Halloween parties, where everyone came in costume. **Judy Edinger**

Ed Gray was to SSC what every organization needs. Ed was an active member who contributed humor, leadership, and was willing to share wise information to the membership. Ed, you have a warm place in our hearts and will always be fondly remembered as a friend. **Don and Nancy Nikolai**

I always enjoyed Ed. He had a great smile and was a very nice person. **Neal Rains**

Ed was a great guy! I remember fondly many good times in his company. He is enjoying a better time now with David, John, and our other dear ones who have left us. **Anne Jordan**

I fondly remember being a new member in need of a ride to Put-In-Bay for a SSC weekend and this guy, Ed Gray came to my rescue. That was Ed Gray... friendly and always willing to help out. Bob does not email but he too wanted me to pass on how sad we are at our loss but happy to have had Ed as a friend. I agree with Anne Jordan. The scotch is flowing in heaven tonight. He will be missed. **Ann Robinson**

*Rosie & I were so very sorry to hear about Ed. He was such a good friend. When Ed was President of SSC, I was Treasurer. Ed held several meetings at his house. My best memory of that time was the large picture window that opened up on a backyard that was filled with beautiful birds. We have made a donation to the Audubon Society in Ed's name. Also, Ed had some great Halloween parties at his house and we'll always remember the times at Markko Winery. **Ed & Rosie Dooner***

*Ed was a very concerned and supportive person who included everyone. He was much loved by all! **Ed & Mary Ellen Noss***

And, finally, **Ed Noss** remembered and passed along a quote with a piece of advice from Ed:
"Look for the women with bowed legs. They make great skiers!"