

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

July 2020

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

FROM THE EDITOR

Last month I pointed out how bare bones the newsletter was. Again, for this month, not much has changed. There are still several missing pieces because we are unable to announce anything definitive about club events. There are no summertime outdoor activities planned, no dates for our usual September Clambake and December Holiday Party, no membership meetings scheduled (they usually begin in September with our annual Ski Fair) and, most importantly, no 2021 ski program for you to put on your calendars. As you will read in the following message from our President, **Ron Friedberg**, the Executive Board is continuing to discuss possibilities but there is nothing concrete to announce.

In the meantime, this editor had an idea last month. I was not exactly deluged with responses but I am going to persist and ask again if members would like to contribute something to be published in this newsletter. You might like to share a story of two from a past ski trip or club event – or you may have a photo (or photos) that you could submit. So, give it some thought and contact me to discuss what you might do. Who knows, you could be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize!

Joe Sullivan

joe@suburbanskiclub.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of their summers as much as possible, and, most importantly, is continuing to stay healthy and safe.

As you may recall, in my June newsletter message, I engaged in a stream of consciousness series of questions about the upcoming ski season and other club events and meetings. Unfortunately, because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, there are still no clear answers to these questions. While many anticipated that the pandemic would take a bit of a hiatus during the summer months, this has thus far not occurred; indeed, in many parts of the country, it is spreading at record rates. Plus, we haven't even hit the supposed "second wave" anticipated to arrive this fall and continue into the winter and potentially affecting the 2021 ski season.

Given this continuing uncertainty, we remain reluctant to book a second western trip at this time. Furthermore, this uncertainty extends to our eastern and day trips as well, as further discussed in Joe Sullivan's article later in this newsletter. The current thinking is to be as conservative as possible in our trip commitments as of now. That way, if the pandemic disrupts or prevents some or all of the 2021 ski season (please, no!), we can avoid dealing with another round of cancellation and refund hassles with airlines, resorts, bus services, lodging, etc., and all of their differing and frequently-changing policies. (I'm sure Beth Silverman is having flashbacks from this year's Telluride trip cancellation experience as she reads this.) Alternatively, if and when the pandemic subsides, due to a vaccine or otherwise (please, yes!), we can try to put together another western trip at that point in time.

Speaking of Telluride, those who were committed to and paid for this year's trip are confirmed and paid for the rescheduled January 9 – 16, 2021 trip, assuming it goes forward as planned. If there are persons who were not signed up for 2020 but are interested in going on the 2021 Telluride trip, we do have the opportunity to accommodate additional people. Anyone interested should contact Beth Silverman at beth@suburbanskiclub.org

That's all for now. I'm looking forward to the day when my only reference to corona in my monthly messages or otherwise refers to this kind of Corona after a great day on the slopes:



I hope that day is just around the corner!

Ron Friedberg
president@suburbanskiclub.org
216-832-7717.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to the following members born in July. 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.

Debbie Axelrod (7/12), Margie Bakale (7/27), Barbara Brennan (7/21), Jason Chao (7/18), Franci Chmielewski (7/22), Rick Cunningham (7/30), Monica Dumitriu (7/27), Jerry Golinski (7/9), Len Haas (7/6), John Hersch (7/29), Peg Holmes (7/7), Ron

Howard (7/31), Eric Kless (7/8), Sue Kohout (7/14), Hanna Kreierhoff (7/13), Denise Lincoln (7/16), Lorraine Lipinski (7/16), Rich Lowe (7/22), Becky Marx (7/17), Russ Marx (7/14), Barb Nagle (7/1), Linda Nash (7/27), Elaine Roth (7/20), Cori Seifert (7/1), Diane Szilagyi (7/10), Dennis Troyan (7/5), Allison Uher (7/6) and Paul Vogdes (7/31)

Some Thoughts On Riding The Bus

Almost all Suburban Ski Club's ski trip involve a bus ride. Now, with the pandemic, riding a bus is posing a problem – i.e., how can we ride in bus with some assurance that we are not exposing ourselves to the corona virus? What follows are some random thoughts and other questions about riding a ski bus.

For many years I have been involved in arrangements for our annual eastern ski trip to destinations in New England. Our transportation has meant an all-day bus ride. We usually travel in February but what will it be like in February 2021? Absent a vaccine or some other dramatic reversal, would it be wiser (and safer) not to have an eastern trip in 2021? That would be disappointing because the eastern trip has represented a unique, all-inclusive, bargain trip that is very popular with members of SSC. It is far less expensive than a western trip and allows those on a limited budget an affordable chance to enjoy a week of skiing. In addition, because it is priced so modestly, it gives others who may have gone on a western trip an opportunity to add a second major trip without breaking the bank. But the reality is that we may have to reconsider whether we can safely do this trip.

So, the eastern trip is problematic but the bus-riding issue for SSC is not limited just to that trip. A western trip always involves some kind of bus transportation from the airport to the ski resort. That ride might be less than an hour (e.g., Park City) or could extend to several hours of travelling in close proximity to skiing friends. And what about our single day trips to Holiday Valley and other ski areas?

The issue, of course, is how do you practice social distancing on a bus? And there are other questions, as well: Is the wearing of masks enough? How can I enjoy a cup of coffee or a glass of wine while wearing a mask? Can we ask our skiers to provide evidence of a recent Corona Virus test? Shall we take temperatures of all those boarding the bus? Will our regular bus company (Precious Cargo) even be in the business of running bus trips to ski areas?

And the final, painful question - Will we have to stay out of buses in 2021 and only be able to conduct SSC trips to local resorts via self-driving? Please, gods and goddesses of skiing, don't let it come to this.

Joe Sullivan

joe@suburbanskiclub.org