

# Ski Trails

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The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

December 2020

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

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



Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving (or as nice of one as is possible during these times). With the ski season now upon us, you will find in these pages the latest updates and information from **Beth Silverman**, **Joe Sullivan** and **Melinda Kellerstrass** regarding the Telluride Trip, a possible Eastern trip, and 2021 day trips. There are still lots of moving parts and uncertainties, but we remain dedicated to ski as much as possible during this \*asterisk of a season. Unfortunately, with the pandemic still raging, social events remain on hold and membership and Executive Board meetings will continue to be conducted via Zoom.

I am planning on having our next **membership meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom** to, at least, discuss and address any questions regarding, skiing plans this season. The invite for this December 11<sup>th</sup> membership meeting is below. I will also send it out again closer to the meeting date.

Lastly, **Debbie Axelrod** and I have decided at last minute to take a few days between Christmas and New Years and head to Colorado — one of Debbie's daughter's lives there. We hope to ski four days at Breckenridge, Keystone, Vail and/or Beaver Creek. Upon our return, we will update the club as to what it was like skiing out west this year.

Stay warm and safe, and I hope to see you on Zoom on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Ron Friedberg*  
[president@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:president@suburbanskiclub.org)  
216-832-7717.

## Zoom Membership Meeting

**Time: Dec 11, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://meyersroman.zoom.us/j/82864216411?pwd=TFQ5NkxRa3Z1MmdaUmJ5b2cxSjAwQT09>

For those of you who have not used Zoom and need assistance, please feel free to call (216-832-7717) or email me ([president@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:president@suburbanskiclub.org)). For those who are unable to access Zoom, there is a call-in option for attending the meeting.

Meeting ID: 828 6421 6411

Passcode: 507242

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,82864216411#,,,,,0#,,507242# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82864216411#,,,,,0#,,507242# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 828 6421 6411

Passcode: 507242

Find your local number: <https://meyersroman.zoom.us/u/k7jdr4E8G>

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



**Happy Birthday** to the following members born in December. 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.

**Patricia Burkhardt (12/28), Matthew T. Klass (12/19), Lilly Kron (12/20), Matthew Moriarty**

**(12/24), Dana Pampa (12/24), Pete Ronis (12/2), Julia Rutkowski (12/23), Bernard Stark (12/25), Carol Vandenberg (12/25), Jeff Weiler (12/31) and Nancy Wolf (12/17)**

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

***December, 2020***

### **Editor's Note:**

Usually in this space we list the upcoming events for SSC. Normally, our monthly membership meetings begin in September and you would see those dates along with other dates for the annual Clam Bake, the Holiday Party and various Eat Around Town dinners. However, as you know, things are very different this year due to the pandemic and we are not able to schedule any of those social events.

## ***REPORT ON TELLURIDE***



I am pleased to let you know that our plans for our 2021 trip to Telluride are almost finalized. Here are the highlights:

- We depart for Telluride on **Saturday, March 20** and return on **Saturday, March 27**
  - We have the capacity to add 10 more members to the trip. Please let me know if you are interested.
  - Due to the difficulty of booking group airline tickets, we will offer a group land package that includes lodging, ground transportation and lift tickets. Members will need to arrange their own airfare. The good news is that Southwest now travels to Montrose via Denver airport at reasonable prices.
- The land package price will be about \$1,330. A 6<sup>th</sup> day of skiing adds \$85 and if you want a bedroom to yourself, add \$770.
  - A draft flyer has been sent to our Executive Board for review and will be available soon.

For those who signed up for the cancelled 2020 trip and have decided not to go on the 2021 trip, we expect to receive a refund check from our tour operator and will send you your refund as soon as possible. Our lodging, lift tickets and ground transportation will be refunded in cash. Airline tickets will be refunded as a combination of cash and a United Airlines voucher good through March 2022.

I hope everyone is staying healthy and happy!

*Beth Silverman*

[beth@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:beth@suburbanskiclub.org)

## ***REPORT ON AN EASTERN TRIP IN 2021***



At Park City in 2019, I was pleased to induct the first bear as a member of SSC. With me in this photo is **Cindy Busch** who can be seen giving the bear an official SSC green leg band.

So, that was a pleasant memory of times past. What about the future and, specifically, what about an eastern trip in 2021? Here is what I can tell you at the moment.

In previous reports to the Executive Board and to the members at our zoom meetings, I spoke positively about how we might be able to do an eastern trip the last week in February despite the restrictions due to the pandemic. I noted that the EB had decided against putting our skiers on a bus for any

trips. Despite that, we thought it would be possible for an eastern group to drive themselves to the resort. We have always promoted this trip as all-inclusive but we thought that we could still have all the perks of a bargain group rate for lodging, lift tickets and meals while eliminating only the bus. In fact, a self-drive may very well be less expensive than paying for a bus. In addition, having their own vehicle would give our skiers much more flexibility in what they chose to do.

However, as we learned more, several factors have come to light that now make us less optimistic about running this trip. It has been extremely difficult to get any information from the southern Vermont resorts on our list of preferred destinations. Currently, I have only one proposal from Killington and have not been able to get through to anyone at Mt. Snow or Okemo, our other southern VT possibilities. I will keep trying but I am told by Joe Ferrara, a tour operator who specializes in New England groups, that almost all of the staff has been laid off by the Vail corporation and he cannot get through to his usual contacts. He thinks that they just don't know what they will do about groups in 2021.

The Killington proposal brought in a new factor that I had not considered - i.e., the restrictions on meals. In place of our usual breakfast buffet, the proposal has only a limited continental breakfast and that comes in a paper bag! The lodge will not be doing other meals and we would have to rely on local restaurants. At Killington there are plenty of the latter but the big question is what they can offer in the midst of pandemic restrictions. One of the favorite things about these all-inclusive eastern trips in the past has been the buffet meals. But it looks as if the meals this time would be a problem rather than a big plus.

We will keep working and seeking more information but, at this time, I must say with great regret, that unless we are surprised by some more positive news, an eastern trip for 2021 may very well be impossible.

Joe Sullivan  
[joe@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:joe@suburbanskiclub.org)

## ***REPORT ON LOCAL TRIPS IN 2021***



Given the current conditions, not much has changed with our plans for local trips. At this time, we do not have any specific dates on the calendar. We will keep an eye out and as regulations and restrictions become clearer, we will be looking to schedule some meetups. As you may recall, our Executive Board has ruled out using buses for 2021 local trips. We will be looking to see if we can put together some trips that are self-drive but with a group rate for lift tickets. Make sure to check the SSC website and our Facebook pages a few times a week starting in January to see what is being planned.

We are still in need of a local trip chair to coordinate these meet-ups. If interested, please contact me (see below). I have resources for you to make your job easier!

If you plan on going to a local ski resort and would like company, I encourage you to post it on our website and Facebook pages. Plan on attending the SSC December Zoom membership meeting for a short demonstration on how to do this.

Currently, most ski resorts are planning to limit the number of patrons. You must wear a face covering. Lifts can be shared with group members, but you will not be forced to ride with strangers. Inside the lodge, you will not be allowed to hang out or leave your items. The lodge is for eating and bathroom breaks but you must leave immediately as, again, patrons will be limited. At this time, even though the state of NY has restrictions on travelers, you may ski for the day but overnight trips require quarantine. Last month there was an article in the [Plain Dealer](#) on skiing at NY resorts. If you have not seen it, the text follows this report. The article will give you a better understanding of the current guidelines as they now stand. But please stay informed because the restrictions are subject to change.

Have a super holiday season, be safe and please wear your mask.

Melinda Kellerstrass  
[melinda@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:melinda@suburbanskiclub.org)

[From the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), November 7, 2020]

## **New York ski season may be going downhill fast**

Susan Glaser [sglaser@cleveland.com](mailto:sglaser@cleveland.com)

New York, which has maintained some of the country's strictest entry requirements in an attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19, has eased its rules — although they're still likely to keep most visitors away.

The new requirements took affect this week, replacing a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival that essentially prohibited leisure travelers from visiting the state.

Instead of the 14-day quarantine, travelers to New York can now: take a COVID test within three days of arrival, quarantine in New York for three days, then take a second test on day four. If both tests are negative, the visitor is free to roam about the state (although nonessential travel is still discouraged).

The rules are already generating concern among the Greater Cleveland ski community, as several western New York resorts draw big crowds from Ohio.

Jane Eshbaugh, director of marketing at Holiday Valley resort in Ellicottville, N.Y., estimates that approximately 30% of the resort's skiers are from Ohio. New York's travel rules, she said, "are not ideal for our weekend visitors, obviously."

New York implemented its first travel advisory in June, in conjunction with New Jersey and Connecticut, essentially prohibiting visitors from states with high coronavirus infection rates. Since then, Ohio has bounced on and off the list, as COVID cases have increased and decreased in the state. Ohio, experiencing a sustained spike in cases for several weeks now, has been on the New York list since mid-October.

Exempted from the rules are residents of neighboring states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont. Among those who will be affected by the new rules: Thousands of Greater Cleveland skiers who routinely travel to western New York ski resorts, including Peek'n Peak in Clymer and Holiday Valley and HoliMont in Ellicottville. Many Northeast Ohioans own property in western New York, about two hours from Cleveland.

One local skier, who owns a condo in Ellicottville, said she has followed New York's rules all summer and fall, but she won't abide by them this winter. "We'll be as respectful as possible, but we're going," said the woman, from Hudson, a season

passholder at Holiday Valley. "We'll stay outside, we'll be wearing masks and goggles. But we will be going."

Eshbaugh said the Ski Areas of New York, an association that represents more than 50 resorts in the state, is working to get the rules altered before the beginning of ski season.

**New York rules do allow out-of-state travelers to visit for 24 hours or less without quarantining or taking a COVID test, so skiers could come in just for the day.**

The rules also apply to New Yorkers who leave the state for more than 24 hours.

In any case, enforcement of the requirements — both the old rules and the new — has been inconsistent at best, largely left up to individual travelers. Some New York hotels, however, have denied reservations to travelers from states on the advisory list. Violators face a fine of up to \$2,000 for a first offense.

Travelers who fly into New York may have a more difficult time evading the rules, with enforcement officers sometimes greeting arriving flights.

All travelers to the state are required to fill out a Traveler Health Form, which includes contact information, and details about the trip, including destination and duration of stay.

## ***HOW ABOUT SOME GOOD NEWS?***

Much of the foregoing has not been good news. So, we thought we might end this newsletter on a positive note by sharing some good news from Sunday River.

Those of you who have been on one of our several trips to Sunday River in Maine got to know Taylor Danielson, the group representative for the resort and someone who has become a great friend of SSC.

Taylor recently forward some photos of his growing family and we want to share them with you on the final page of this newsletter.



Here is the proud father with the latest addition to the family.  
Meet Noelle ASPEN Danielson.



And here we have Gia VAIL Danielson with her little sister