

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

January 2021

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

After I ran this photo with my report on the eastern trip in last month's newsletter, Ski Trails received an avalanche of letters to the editor. Several proposals of marriage were offered to **Cindy Busch** and one writer begged Cindy to put a leg band on him. **Matty, the Bear**, wrote to complain that we did not credit him properly because we omitted his name. He also said that he detected some systemic ursine racism and is consulting a lawyer. Stetson got into the act demanding a credit for the black hat worn by that guy in the green SSC vest.

But this newsletter has never backed down from a challenge and, defiantly, we are running the photo again and this time on page one!

Now you may be thinking that all of this is frivolity – and it may be. However, I can assure you this is not a frivolous issue of Ski Trails. On the contrary, it is a very important publication and the following pages contain a lot of essential information on what is in store for SSC skiers in 2021.

You need to read **Beth Silverman's** report on the Telluride trip and **Joe Sullivan's** news about the Eastern Trip. As you will learn, our usual schedule of three major trips (two western and one eastern) has taken a big hit due to Covid-19. We were working to downsize to only two major trips when even that became impossible. Beth and Joe explain why the Executive Board decided to cancel both trips.

In these pages you will also find an article by **Melinda Kellerstrass** with information on skiing locally in 2021. Traditionally, our club has run 8 or 9 bus trips to resorts in NY and PA. However, a couple of months ago, the Executive Board decided it would not be safe for SSC members to ride buses to ski resorts and we began to dramatically reduce our schedule and promote meet-ups and self-drive ski trips. We knew there would be restrictions due to the pandemic and that overnights at the resorts would be next to impossible. On the other hand, we were encouraged by some information that came to us via an article in the Plain Dealer that we published in last month's newsletter. In that article Susan Glaser laid out all the travel restrictions imposed by the New York State but then told us "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."

However, in the last 48 hours, we have discovered some information that has thrown a monkey wrench into our plans for skiing out of Ohio. A small group of us (**Beth Silverman, Melinda Kellerstrass, Cliff Lewis and myself**) have spent time scouring websites and making phone calls to the states of New York and Pennsylvania and ski resorts in those states. We could share many details of what we learned but the bottom line is that we could find no confirmation that the Susan Glaser statement about allowing one day travel to ski in New York is valid and we also discovered that we could not travel to Seven Springs in PA because of their restrictions. We concluded that we must tell SSC members that we advise against skiing out of the state of Ohio. We have shared this conclusion with the Executive Board and the board has endorsed our conclusion. Should more information be forthcoming that would change our position, we will pass that along to SSC members.

What is left for us is to utilize our northeast Ohio ski areas: Boston Mills, Brandywine and Alpine Valley. Please review the final pages of this newsletter and read Melinda's article as well as the other information on skiing locally. We hope it is helpful as you make your plans for this season.

While you can be justifiably disappointed on the limitations imposed on our ski program in 2021, please have faith that our club will come back bigger and stronger once this pandemic is behind us.

Joe Sullivan, Editor
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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to the following members born in January. 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.

Carol Adams (1/10), Cindy Bacon (1/25), Jim Baker (1/15), Renee Bolon (1/11), Jane Carson (1/3), Dan Castele (1/11), Joe Edmiston (1/11), Manny Fox (1/29), Ron Friedberg (1/20), Sandy Golinski (1/29), Michael Guggenheim (1/8), Jan Jones (1/8), Jim Kless (1/4), Terrie Leske (1/21), Joyce Lowe (1/9), Ann McBrian (1/4), Jill Oatey (1/29), Amy Ryan (1/28) and Allie Zabrosky (1/8)

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

January, 2021

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 meetings and social events. In addition, you would normally see here a list of ski trip dates. However, no major trips have been scheduled and we will only be doing day trips to local ski areas.

REPORT ON TELLURIDE



We tried mightily to reschedule our canceled March 2020 Telluride trip. We worked with Ski White Diamond, our tour operator, and finally came up with a March 2021 date. We also worked with last year's group to either get them refunds or sign them up for the new 2021 trip.

After all these efforts, the Executive Board decided we needed to cancel after learning that only household members can share lodging in Telluride. This new COVID restriction wouldn't work for our group. However, the good news is we were able to refund 100% of the trip cost to our members in the form of cash and airline vouchers.

In the meantime, I already have my eye on a possible trip to Telluride in 2022. After all the planning, it would be a shame not to go! If we get back to our recent practice of two western trips, I will be lobbying our Executive Board to decide on Telluride as one of our destinations. I hope you will agree with me and voice your support when we are making plans for the 2022 season.

I also have to admit that there is a part of me that is relieved that we were forced to cancel. Had the trip gone forward with all the pandemic restrictions, we have missed out on so much of what makes Telluride a truly special destination.

Keep safe and Happy New Year!

Beth Silverman

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REPORT ON AN EASTERN TRIP IN 2021



Let me get right to the point in this report on the Eastern Trip. On my recommendation, the Executive Board has recently voted to cancel the trip for 2021.

It was a very painful decision because this all-inclusive and bargain-priced trip has had a large contingent of SSC members who are big fans of going east for a week.

Initially, we had positive thoughts about how we might be able to do an eastern trip despite the restrictions due to the pandemic. The EB had decided against putting our skiers on a bus for any SSC trips but, despite that, we thought it would be possible for an eastern group to drive themselves to a resort, especially if we opted for a shorter destination in southern Vermont. 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.

However, as we learned more, several factors came to light that made us less optimistic about running this trip. It was extremely difficult to get any concrete information from the Vail Corp resorts of Mt Snow and Okemo, the southern Vermont resorts on our list of preferred destinations.

Working with Joe Ferrara, a tour operator, we received one proposal from Killington. We would be staying at the same Killington Mountain Lodge where we were in 2018. The price was good but as we studied the details it became clear that it would not be anything like our all-inclusive trips of the past. There would be no breakfast and dinner buffets at the lodge. The KML would only provide a bag with a continental breakfast to be taken to our rooms and we would be on our own to find other meals outside the lodge. We would not be able to gather for our usual apres ski cocktail hour. In the past, we booked one three-bedroom suite so it would be a place where we could gather for cocktails and perhaps a pizza party. We would not be able to do that as well.

Then, the final deal-breaker came in a phone conversation I had last Monday with Joe Ferrara. He told me that Vermont just announced that condo lodging would be restricted to those who were part of a household. That was what Beth discovered about the Telluride lodging and that factor led us to cancel the Telluride trip.

So, there you have it. The EB had no choice but to cancel the Eastern Trip for 2021 breaking an annual tradition that began in 2009. But we will not let this setback discourage us. We will be back again promoting an eastern trip for 2022 and we hope you will consider joining us.

Happy New Year. Keep wearing your mask, keep social distancing and be safe.

Joe Sullivan

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REPORT ON LOCAL TRIPS IN 2021



Given the current conditions, we do not have any local trips planned. We will keep an eye out and should circumstances change, we will try and schedule a meet-up or two. Be advised that NY has restrictions on travelers. Since Ohio is a noncontiguous state you would be under the quarantine restrictions, even for a day trip. Resorts are limiting the number of patrons they accept and at this time there are no group sales or group pricing. Pennsylvania requires a negative Covid test 72 hours prior to arriving. Until restrictions change, SSC members may want to check out our local resorts. We have included below information from Cliff Lewis about skiing at Boston Mills/Brandywine and Alpine Valley, along with their respective websites for your

reference. SSC will try and keep you updated as best we can. We encourage you to be informed and check the resort's website before going as the restrictions change daily.

Many members have been taking advantage of the snow and going out on their own. I personally have been enjoying cross country skiing in our wonderful Metroparks. Enjoy your time, we will ski together again.

Be safe, distance and please wear your mask.

Melinda
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LINKS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL

Boston Mills/Brandywine: <https://www.bmbw.com/explore-the-resort/about-the-resort/winter-experience.aspx>

Alpine Valley: <https://www.alpinevalleyohio.com>

Peek n Peak: <https://www.pknpk.com/actionplan/>

Holiday Valley: <https://www.holidayvalley.com/explore/covid-19/>

NY travel advisory: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

Seven Springs: <https://www.7springs.com/winter-operations-plan/>

Pennsylvania travel advisory:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

Ohio travel advisory: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory/COVID-19-Travel-Advisory>

INFORMATION ON SKIING AT BOSTON MILLS, BRANDYWINE & ALPINE VALLEY

As Melinda pointed out, because the resorts are controlling the number of skiers they will allow, you must make an advance registration. You can find links to Boston Mills/Brandywine and to Alpine Valley in the list of links above following Melinda's article.

On the following pages you will find an article by **Cliff Lewis**. He tells us all we need to know about making reservations to ski locally:

With travel restrictions in place, it looks as if we have limited options for skiing this year. A few members have reported that they were able to ski at western resorts while feeling safe, but a lot of locations have strict rules regarding travel and lodging. That includes New York and Pennsylvania, which pretty much rules out day trips to Peek'n Peak, Holiday Valley, Holimont, and Seven Springs. Unless you own a slope-side condo where you can hole up for several days before skiing (Ooh! Ooh! Take me with you, please!), you probably will not be able to travel to those resorts.

New York requires you to quarantine for 14 days upon arriving. Alternately, you can get a COVID-19 test with a negative result within 3 days before arriving. Then you only have to quarantine for three days, after which you have to get another test. If it is also negative then you can go skiing. A *Plain Dealer* article that we reproduced in last month's newsletter reported that there was an exception for traveling to New York for one day only, but we have been unable to confirm that. The rules may have changed since the article was published, or the author's source may have misinterpreted the rules. New Yorkers are allowed to travel out of state for up to 24 hours, but that doesn't mean non-residents can enter the state for a limited time.

So, that means our members might want to take another look at the local resorts: Alpine Valley, Boston Mills, and Brandywine. They don't offer the scenery and long runs of out-of-state resorts, but I would contend that a sunny day at these resorts is at least as enjoyable as a grey day at a larger resort.

These resorts, like most others, require reservations in order to prevent crowding and promote social distancing. They also require all skiers to wear face masks, maintain safe distances from others, and ride lifts only with friends or family members.

To reserve at Alpine Valley, go to www.alpinevalleyohio.com. Place your cursor over "Tickets & Passes" at the top of the page. Click on "Make a Reservation" in the menu that drops down. Alpine Valley requires you to create an account with the Epic Pass system in order to reserve your days. Once you do that, you will have options to choose your ski days and purchase lift tickets. You will have to pay with a credit card when you reserve.

To reserve at Boston Mills or Brandywine, go to www.bmbw.com. You will see an option to select a date and search availability. If the date is available, you can add it to your cart and proceed to checkout. I have not followed through on the checkout process, but it appears that an Epic Pass account is not required. I wouldn't be surprised, though, if the system prompts you to create an account during checkout. An adult lift ticket is \$49. A senior ticket (65+) is \$19.

If you bought an Epic Pass, or the cheaper Ohio Pass, earlier in the Fall, reserving is slightly different. Log in at www.epicpass.com. Place your cursor over your name in the upper right corner and choose "My Epic Account" from the menu that drops down. Click on the tab labeled Season Passes. On that page, click the Reservations button. Scroll down to Select a Resort and choose the resort you want to reserve. Click "Check Availability." You will see a calendar with available dates. Choose a date and a window will pop up with a check box by your name. (If you have several pass holders in one account, all of those people will be listed and you can check the ones you want to include for that date.) Click on "Assign Pass Holders."

If you bought your pass early enough, you might have received several Buddy Tickets and/or Ski With a Friend passes. These are listed under the Benefit Tickets on the same page. You can purchase Buddy Tickets for \$32 for Boston Mills/Brandywine or Alpine Valley. The price for Ski With a Friend tickets is a percentage of the lift ticket price that varies by day. It is typically higher than the Buddy Ticket price. With either option, you must buy the ticket with your account and then go with your friend to pick up the ticket at the window.

You'll also want to take a look at their cancellation policies. They frown upon people holding reservations for days when they are uncertain about skiing. The policies state that " If you abuse the system by *repeatedly missing or cancelling* week-of reservations (or Priority Reservation Days that you booked within 2 weeks of the reservation date), you may lose your reservation privileges for a period of time." You have to cancel before 12:00am on the day you plan to ski. (I believe a "week-of reservation" means a reservation made for a day in the coming week.)

Even with all the limitations, let's hope we can still have an enjoyable ski season in 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Cliff Lewis
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