

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

February 2021

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We hope this February issue of Ski Trails finds you healthy and safe. We also hope the following pages will serve as a reminder that Suburban Ski Club perseveres in these challenging times and that you will find the information herein useful. Please be sure to read “Updated Notes on Skiing in 2021” found on pages 4-5.

The latter contains links to websites for skiing at Ohio ski areas along with other information about those places.

We need to thank **Cliff Lewis** for another great job in producing the annual Membership Directory. You should have already heard from Cliff about this year’s edition, but we asked Cliff for some additional comments. You will find those on pages 2-3.

On the final pages of this newsletter, you should read an article about SSC Member, **Ron “Opie” Howard**. We trust you will find it interesting and will forgive some of the artistic license taken by this editor.

As you make your plans to ski this season, you may want to invite other SSC members to join you or share your experiences at various resorts. We want to suggest you can do this via the Forum section at www.suburbanskiclub.org or the SSC Facebook Page.

Finally, 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.

Stay safe.

Joe Sullivan

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to the following members born in February. 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.

Tracy Blake (2/16), Tom Buder (2/4), Peggy Cardaman (2/17), Brad Carleton (2/21), Steve Clarke (2/7), Judy Ernest (2/14), Susan Evan (2/8), Jennie Haldi (2/16), Bill House (2/21), Melinda Kellerstrass (2/7), Bob Klass (2/13), Cliff Lewis (2/15), Joseph Mersnik (2/16), Susan Nesbit (2/23), Colleen Schadenfroh (2/4), Beth Silverman (2/16), Andy Volchko (2/24), and John Yingling (2/17)

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

February, 2021

Editor's Note:

Usually in this space we list the upcoming events for SSC. Normally, our monthly membership meetings begin in September and run through March. In this space you would see those dates along with ski trips and other club events such as 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 things.

THE 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Cliff Lewis has again produced the annual Membership Directory. This time he has created a very clever and topical cover for the printed version. For those of you who did not receive a printed version, we thought we might share Cliff's creativity. And it might be that even those who saw the printed version did not recognize the subtle things Cliff introduced.

So, check out this copy of the cover:



Have you noticed the **green** leg bands? What about the **green** face masks?

Ski Trails asked Cliff for some follow-up comments on the Directory. Here is what he wants us to know:

You should have received an email recently with information about our new 2020-2021 membership directory. (Check your spam folder if you didn't receive it.) You can download a PDF version, including the special 2020-2021 souvenir cover, from the suburbanskiclub.org web site. You will need to be logged in with your member account to access it. Once you have logged in, find "Member directory" among the selections at the top of the page. Click on that to access the online member directory. At the top of the page you will see a link to "download a printable version of the directory." You can save it as a PDF file that you can access any time with Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can also print a copy. For best results use a printer that can print both sides of the paper and choose the Booklet format from the print dialog.

We mailed printed copies of the directory to those who have requested paper copies in the past. We have about 15 copies remaining. If you would like one, contact Cliff Lewis, cliff@suburbanskiclub.org. The paper and PDF versions of the directory are published in January of each year and are not updated during the year. The online listings, on the other hand, are updated automatically and always display our latest membership data.

UPDATED NOTES ON SKIING IN 2021

We reported in the January 1st issue of Ski Trails and in the special January 16th edition that our Executive Board has cancelled any major trips for this season. We also detailed the travel restrictions imposed by New York State and Pennsylvania and told you that has ruled out our club from sponsoring our usual day trips to Peek'n Peak, Holiday Valley, Holimont, and Seven Springs.

The Executive Board initially took the position that the club could not travel by bus to ski resorts but thought we could still go to those resorts if we self-drove. However, as we learned more about the travel restrictions, the Board saw that it could not endorse going against these rules as we understood them.

And in our special issue two weeks ago we reported on an Email reply former SSC President, **Beth Silverman**, received from NYS Health Dept. that reinforced the restrictions.

So, where does that leave us re. travelling out of Ohio? As we noted earlier, people we spoke with on the phone at both Peek n Peak and Holiday Valley were very clear on their position. They would not turn away skiers with out of state plates and would leave it up to skiers to make their own decision on interpreting the rules. Since then, we have heard from some SSC members who have gone skiing at Holiday Valley and Peek n Peak. We are not surprised at that news because we know there are no border checkpoints and certainly the resorts are not turning skiers away. We have not been able to get any details on the report that some skiers from another Ohio club were fined for being at Holiday Valley.

We have also come across a New York State Traveler Health Form. It requires that travelers have that form with them when they enter the state. We are not sure if having that form in your possession will be of any help to you, if you choose to travel to NYS, but we want to make you aware of it and have attached a copy to the Email that brought you this newsletter.

Bottom Line for Skiing Outside Ohio: The restrictions imposed by NYS are clear and SSC cannot tell our members to ignore the rules and go skiing in NY – or PA for that matter. We realize some SSC members will go, and there may be no consequences either legally or medically, but the official club position taken by our Executive Board is that we must inform our members the rules do not permit it.

Skiing Locally in Ohio

We have reported on local resorts and gave some pointers about skiing at **Boston Mills/Brandywine**, **Alpine Valley** and **Snow Trails**. We think it would be helpful to our readers to repeat that information.

It is important to point out that all these resorts require advance online reservations 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 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/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.

The previous resorts are all owned by the Vail Corp and honor the Epic pass. They offered a special senior Ohio Epic Pass but that is no longer available. An adult lift ticket ordered online is \$49. A senior ticket (65+) is \$19.

To reserve at **Snow Trails**, go to www.snowtrails.com. You will find a similar protocol for making and paying for your advance reservation as you saw for Alpine Valley and Boston Mills/Brandywine. Some things you may want to know about Snow Trails: It is located in Mansfield, Ohio about one hour and 15 minutes south of Cleveland on Interstate 71, just a mile or so off Exit #169. They have night skiing and an all-day, weekday lift ticket is \$41 and \$52 on weekends. There are some season passes available and the best deal may be for 70+ seniors. An anytime Senior Pass is \$199 and a weekday Senior Pass is \$90. So, if you are an old dude and plan to ski at Snow Trails more than twice on weekdays or four times on weekends, a senior pass is a good bet. Check their website for more information about hours of operation and special holiday pricing.

Finally, we want to encourage you to keep in touch with your SSC skiing friends via the club's Facebook page and the "Forum" section on our website; www.suburbanskiclub.org. You can pass along your skiing experiences, invite others to join you on a particular day or share anything else about skiing in these very unusual times.

THE CHRONICLES OF OPIE

Suburban Ski Club Member, **Ron Howard**, has been a busy skier in 2021 and in the following pages he shares his adventures with his friends in SSC.



Ron began 2021 by sending a New Year's greeting to his SSC friends. Here Ron and a friend offer a toast and good wishes to all the skiers in our club.

Some of you may know that, in many ways, Ron is a Retro-man. He is famous for preserving and using rear-entry boots after they had long gone out of style. You may remember one club meeting where Ron got up to show his last pair of rear-entry boots which has just fallen apart. Ron was disconsolate because, despite all his efforts to find another pair at ski fair resales, there were none available.

However, Ron was not to be denied and just this year he discovered that Nordica has put out a new line of his revered ski boots. Ron purchased a pair and is now a very happy skier. He began 2021 with a flurry of ski days in his new boots.



In the photo above we see Ron’s new rear-entry boots along with one of his skis and three lift tickets which will be explained below.

What follows are Ron’s reflections on his recent skiing adventures. We introduce his comments and celebrate his new boots with a musical interlude that is most fitting because, like Ron, it is retro-tune with adapted lyrics.

The Ballad of Howard-in

If you are old enough to remember, you may want to sing the following edited lyrics to the tune “The Ballad of Paladin”. With apologies to Richard Boone, think “Have Boots, Will Travel.”

*“Howard-in, Howard-in, where did you roam
 Howard-in, Howard-in, far, far from home
 Have **boots** will travel, reads the card of a man
 A skier without armor in a savage land*

*His fast skis for hire, heeds the call of the snow
A skier of fortune, is a man called Howard-in
Howard-in, Howard-in, where did you roam
Howard-in, Howard-in, far, far from home”*

OK, Ron, the floor is yours:

This season I have skied eleven days. [Editors Note: That was as of Jan. 25th and Ron has added more days on the slopes since then.] Eight days were split among Alpine Valley, Brandywine and Boston Mills. I believe Alpine Valley has the most to offer but, in my opinion, it has only **Green** trails. My second choice would be Brandywine, where I learned to ski many moons ago. The runs there are much steeper than Alpine Valley. I believe Boston Mills has the least to offer but it is the only one open on weekday mornings, except for Monday, when Brandywine is open.

I got in my car on Jan 21st for what I call my Big COVID19 Ski Adventure. I traveled to Wheeling, WV and stayed two nights at the Wilson Lodge at Oglebay Park. I skied two days there at their ski hill. The ski area was not very large with only one chair lift, but I was able to do a couple of small jumps made by the kids.

I had a wonderful, large room at the lodge with a working fireplace and a large bathtub that I used as a hot tub since the jacuzzi at the indoor pool was closed due to you know what. However, the pool and sauna were open. I ate all my meals at the Wilson Lodge. The food was very good. The modified buffet was open but I ordered off the menu and still had way too much to eat.

On an off day I went to the Good Zoo at Oglebay Park. I also went to the GIGANTIC Ohio Valley Mall in nearby St. Clairsville Ohio.

I then spent the night in Morgantown, West Virginia on the way to Seven Springs Mountain Resort. I skied all day at Seven Springs from 9:45 AM until dark at 6:00 PM. Seven Springs was wonderful with lots of snow and with most of the runs open. I spent most of my time on the black diamonds but skied all the runs and did a couple of small rails.

I also discovered an alternative entrance to Seven Springs that was much more skier-friendly than the one we use with our bus on club trips. It is called the North Gate and I was able to park, buy my ticket and get right on a lift. It was practically ski-in and ski-out and much easier than what we usually do on group trips.

The drive home was 180 miles, most of it on the PA and Ohio turnpikes. I made it home in three hours.

I wish my Big Adventure could have been in the Rockies or the Coastal Mountains (Whistler or Alyeska) like last year, but the pandemic got in the way.

For the future, who knows - maybe Mad River (where you can use the Epic Ohio Pass). It is located in Zanesfield, OH, NW of Columbus and is a little less than a three hour drive from Cleveland. Check it out at: www.skimadriver.com . Or perhaps Snow Trails in Mansfield, OH, is a possibility. The resort is about a 1 1/4 hour drive from Cleveland. See www.snowtrails.com .

Wherever we ski this season, let's be thankful we are able to salvage some of this year by skiing locally as we look forward to bigger horizons in 2022.

*Ron,
aka "Opie" or "Howard-in"*