

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

March 2021

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings Suburban Ski Club Members,

I trust you are staying healthy and safe in these difficult times. Some of our senior members are reporting they have received their vaccinations and we are hopeful that you will be following them soon. While you can be justifiably disappointed on the limitations imposed on our club's programs, please have faith that our club will come back bigger and stronger once this pandemic is behind us.

We are looking forward to better days ahead and to that end our Executive Board has been meeting to plan for the future. The EB met via Zoom on February 23rd and will meet again on March 10th. We are having ongoing discussions about what will be possible – e.g., membership meetings, our annual Fall clambake, a December Holiday Party, monthly Eat Around Town dinners etc. And, of course, we have been looking into plans for skiing in 2022. Three major trips (two western and one to New England) and the resumption of our bus trips are on the agenda. The EB also discussed having a Zoom meeting of the membership to solicit your opinions on destinations. Look for that to happen later this month.

The EB also discussed what to do about the **election of club officers**. The Election Meeting would usually be this month of March but since that cannot happen, the EB decided to recommend what one member called a “mulligan.” For those of you not familiar with that golfing term, it means a do-over. The EB passed a resolution that the club members vote via absentee ballot to maintain the current group of officers for the upcoming year. You will find details about how this will work on pages 2-3 of this newsletter.

Also, in the following pages you will find a reappearance of “The Chronicles of Opie” (see pages 3-4) and please be sure to read a very touching article by SSC Member, **Jan Jones** (see pages 5-7).

Finally, on a sad note, we report the death of veteran SSC Member, **Bruce Eckstein**, on page 8. Rest in Peace our dear friend, Bruce.

Joe Sullivan, joe@suburbanskiclub.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to the following members born in March. 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.

Sam Bell (3/26), Elisa Budoff (3/9), Monica Castele (3/3), Kyle Chambers (3/17), Dawn Colfer (3/21), Kevin Duden (3/2), Pam Fenn (3/7), Ron Frederick (3/17), Bill Hersch (3/23), Jane Hughes (3/23), Gary Orosz (3/23), Eugene Pallat (3/28), Andrea Peters (3/30), Barbara Quinn (3/16), Joan Rieke (3/17), Kimberly Sandler (3/6) and Mary Ellen Strong (3/19)

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

March, 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.

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS

Because we are not able to hold membership meetings, the election of club officers for the upcoming year cannot be conducted as usual. The established procedure per the Bylaws is to form a nominating committee that solicits nominations from the membership. The committee presents those nominees at the February meeting and other nominees can be presented from the floor. The March membership meeting is the election meeting. Members are also allowed to vote absentee via Email.

Aware that we needed to act differently this year, at the Executive Board Zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd, the EB passed the following resolution:

In light of the difficult circumstances due to the pandemic, the Executive Board resolves that the usual rules for conducting elections of club officers be rescinded for this year and that all the current officers be reelected via absentee ballots Emailed to the membership.

Accordingly, in a few days, you will be receiving an Emailed absentee ballot. Please watch for this important Email and return your ballot promptly.

THE CHRONICLES OF OPIE – PART TWO



You will remember SSC Member, **Ron Howard**, who was featured last month for being the champion peripatetic skier of Suburban Ski Club. Ron, as “Howard-in (Have Boots Will Travel)” he has continued to travel his rear-entry boots to even more ski areas. At the left is a photo of Ron’s iconic, retro boots.

To date, Ron has skied 24 days in this unusual ski season without the benefit of any major, multi-day trips. Undoubtedly, Ron has put in more ski days than any other member of SSC.

What follows is Ron’s account of his trip to Mad River in southwestern Ohio and his evaluation of the resort.



My adventure began early on Feb. 9, 2021 when I pointed my Prius south west and drove to Mad River Mountain Ski Area near Bellefontaine, Ohio. The drive was very easy as the entire route was on super highways. The distance from my house to the parking lot at Mad River was 182 miles and it took me 3 1/2 hours including a few stops.

Mad River is one of the four ski areas in Ohio owned by the Vail Corporation. The others being Alpine Valley, Boston Mills and Brandywine. I found Mad River to easily be the biggest and best spot to ski in Ohio. Check this out: Alpine Valley has 72 skiable acres. Boston Mills and Brandywine combined have 88 skiable acres. But Mad River features 144 skiable

acres. It also has a 300 ft. vertical drop, much higher than the 200 ft. vertical at the other three. So, in my opinion, Mad River is absolutely the best place to ski in Ohio.

I skied two days: Tuesday, Feb 9th and Wednesday, Feb 10th. Tuesday was a powder day as it had snowed about 2-3 inches the night before. The snow conditions were also very good on Wednesday.

So, the good news is that while Mad River Mountain is by far the best place to ski in Ohio the bad news is that it isn't worth making the long drive there as Peek n Peak is much closer and Holiday Valley and Seven Springs are about the same distance as Mad River. Mad River is no match for Holiday Valley or Seven Springs but is somewhat comparable to PnP. For me, this was a COVID19 restricted Ski Adventure because the rules for New York and Pennsylvania do not allow Ohio residents unless they conform to the quarantine and testing restrictions.

*Ron Howard
aka "Opie" and "Howard-in"*

Editor's Note: The following article and photos are from SSC Member, **Jan Jones**. Jan and her late husband, Shelly, were avid skiers but Shelly lost his battle with cardiac disease after two heart transplants and Jan was not sure she would ever ski again. However, a couple of years ago Jan discovered Suburban Ski Club and ventured out on the slopes again.

In the following pages Jan recounts an experience she had on our club's trip to Park City, Utah and tells us how that experience gave her an idea to combine her artistic talent with her love of skiing - but it was not just her love of skiing. It was the love for her skiing partner, Shelly, that inspired her.

“Angel Above a Trail of Love”



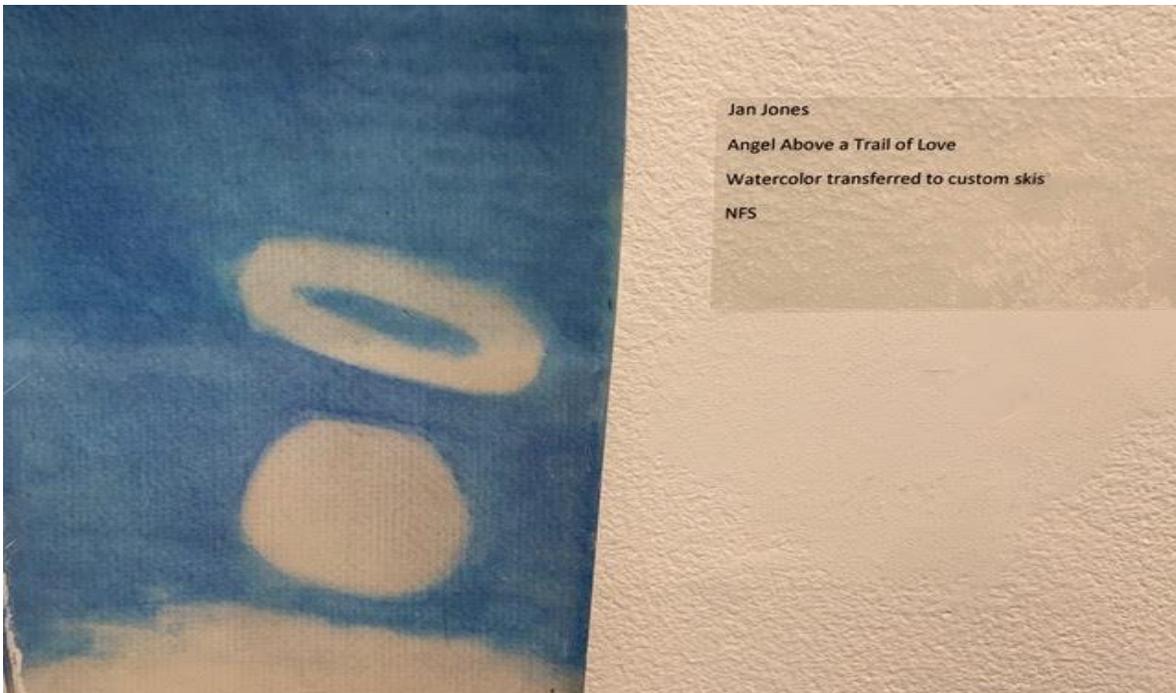
I love winter...the quiet, the bright white landscape against rich grey skies, the glistening snow and...skiing. I didn't learn to ski until I was a Mom and had to keep up with my kids. Years later, my late husband Shelly and I shared ski trips and spirited adventures. When he passed away, I didn't know if I'd ever ski joyfully again. Enter the Suburban Ski Club Angels...and Shelly was among them.

First day on the Park City, Utah snow. Clear blue skies. Bunny hill warm up with Elisa Budoff. I stopped to wait for Elisa and looked up into the sky. Oh! One enormous cloud mass in the shape of an Angel! It even had big wings and a halo! Really?! When Elisa joined me, I said, “Look up...”. With wide eyes she replied, “It's an Angel!”. He followed me all the way down the hill and I knew it was exactly where I was meant to be.



Not long after that, I realized it was time for new ski equipment. My son suggested that, as long as I was investing, why not order customs with my own art. He hooked me up with Kristin at Community Skis and off I went on another adventure. I work in water colors but they had never transferred water color art to the boards. Everyone was willing to give it a try. I worked on design and color and, most of all, sentiment throughout the spring and summer. My open studio class at The Valley Art Center was a perfect place to experiment. Ultimately, I went with what I saw in Utah that first day back on the slopes...my Angel. Coming down the board is a ski run with 3 hearts. Shelly was a transplant miracle...twice in 24

hours. He had 3 hearts filled with gratitude. The watercolor gouache painting transferred beautifully, and Kristin was just as excited as I!





I couldn't enter my skis in the Student/Faculty Show last year because we were in Mammoth, California. But, because I knew I wasn't going anywhere this year, I was comfortable putting them in the Gallery for this year's show in late January through March. Except...it snowed! Alpine Valley was calling me! Honest to goodness, I took my skis off the wall, enjoyed an afternoon on the snow, wiped them down, and brought them back to the Gallery...twice!!

So, there you have it...the story of "Angel Above A Trail of Love". How lucky I am to have hearts under my boots and an Angel flying down the hill with me...always.

Jan Jones

BRUCE ECKSTEIN, RIP

Veteran SSC Member **Bruce Eckstein** passed away on February 14, 2021. For those of us who knew him, Bruce was a gentle and welcoming person. His skiing was classic old-style with boots and skis close together. Bruce's style was smooth and graceful and was aptly fitted to his personality.

Bruce's wife, **Inge Koepper**, is also a member of Suburban Ski Club and we all offer our condolences to her. Her mailing address is 172 Northridge Drive; Willoughby, OH 44094.

Bruce's obituary from the News Herald follows:



Bruce W. Eckstein, 82, of Willoughby, formerly of Painesville, passed away, Sunday, February 14, 2021 at home. He was born April 18, 1938 to the late Rufus and Margaret Eckstein. Bruce was an avid skier and a member of the Jaguar Club of Ohio. During Bruce's business career in steel manufacturing sales, Bruce traveled to India, Korea, Japan, Germany and many other countries. During his retirement, Bruce traveled with his wife Engeline to skiing and tourist destinations throughout the world. Bruce was a fly fisherman in local and far away waters. Bruce was a lifelong active member of the Zeta Psi fraternity at his alma mater Case Western Reserve University where he studied Mechanical Engineering.

Survivors include his wife, Engeline "Inge" Koepper; step-son, Mark Koepper; step-grandson, Aaron Koepper and many other loving family members. Preceding Bruce in death are his parents, Rufus and Margaret Eckstein and step-father, Wayne White.

Private family services were held. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in memory of Bruce to The American Parkinson Disease Association, 116 John Street, New York, New York 10038. Arrangements entrusted to the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060. Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.