

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

June 2023

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear SSC Members,

Coming out from Memorial Day weekend and easing into summer we may have more vivid images of red and yellow trails of ketchup and mustard on our hot dog or brat than memories of green/blue/black tails on the ski hills, BUT you should know that your Executive Board has been hard at work setting plans for the 2024 ski season. We have a fantastic major ski trip agenda planned for Suburban Ski Club members.

We will be starting 2024 off with a January trip to **Big Sky, Montana!** A trip we are confident will fill up quickly. If you are considering this one, avoid disappointment and sign-up as soon as registration opens later this month.

Our second major trip will be the Eastern bus trip in February to **Sunday River, Maine.** This is a familiar destination for the Club but with a new hotel and some novel extras added on for 2024. [FYI: **Big Sky and Sunday River are IKON resorts.**]

The Club's third major trip will be to **Whitefish, Montana in March.** This is an independent resort. Neither EPIC nor IKON passes are honored at Whitefish. Lift tickets for Whitefish must be purchased as part of the trip package.

A BIG '**thank you**' to **Judi Fordyce** and **Joe Sullivan** for all their time and efforts to research and compile the options for these trips.

Flyers with the details for each major trip will be released shortly after the publishing of this newsletter and will be posted on the Suburban website. And in just a few more days, an Email will be sent to the SSC membership with all the details

including information on how to make your reservation. As members of SSC, you will be the first to know about these trips and will have the first chance to sign up before the trips are announced to the skiing public.

In this newsletter Judi has an article on the two western trips and Joe tells you about the Eastern Trip. Be sure to read them both.

In addition to our major trips, we will be continuing our local, joint bus trips with Lewis Ski Club for the next season. This arrangement allows both clubs to reach a critical volume on each trip and avoids unnecessary cancelations. (However, rest assured that if the demand from Suburban Ski Club members reaches levels that can routinely fill a bus, we will resume exclusively Suburban Ski Club trips.) The schedule for day trips will be released closer to ski season.

With the recent pattern of irregular and rapidly changing snow conditions we are also planning a limited number of novel, 'impromptu', small bus trips locally. These trips will employ a smaller bus that seats approximately 20 and can be reserved for mid-week trips with only a few days notice. For those who seek the best local conditions, have flexible schedules and hate making the drive to and from New York on their own, these trips will be very attractive. More details on the small bus trips will be forthcoming.

Although there is no snow forecast for this summer, it is a great time to meet-up with fellow Suburban Ski Club members for social events inside as well as outside. Consider going to an EAT (Eat Around Town), a hike, a bike ride or maybe a camp out or even just a group bonfire/marshmallow roast. If you have an idea and would like to host an event, or even if you have a suggestion for a summer social event, please reach out to our Social Director, **Patty Costigan**. In this newsletter you can read about EATs she scheduled for this month and next. Her contact information is with those articles.

Also, in this newsletter you will find an invitation from **Melinda Kellerstrass** and **Robin Spooner** to join them camping at Punderson State Park on **June 13 – 16**. See the details on pages 4 and 5 along with some photos from past camping events.

I want to welcome new SSC members **Kathy Novak** and **Tracy Williams**. We hope to see you on the slopes in 2024 and perhaps earlier at our social events and fall membership meetings.

As I write this note to you, the sky is clear, the sun is shining brightly, and the temps are in the mid 70's -perfect for a wee hike. So, I'm going to sign off and head outside.

Gordon Blackburn

president@suburbanskiclub.org



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following members born in June. 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.

Tom Bartlo (6/16), Susan Billow (6/19), Michele Boim (6/22), Sherry Clifton (6/3), Cindy Ederer (6/17), Gregory M. Glova (6/5), Miklos Gratzl (6/18), Colette Gschwind (6/17), June Kelley (6/29), Kelli McIvor (6/22), George Novotney (6/25), Gunnar Poplawski (6/5), Kathryn Porcen-Robinson (6/5), Eva Spice (6/9), Joe Sullivan (6/21)

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- ***CAMPING:*** Tuesday, June 13 – Friday, June 16: Punderson State Park
- ***EAT:*** Monday, June 19, 5:15 PM: Square 22 Restaurant and Bar, Strongsville
- ***EAT:*** Monday, July 24, 5:15 PM Blue Canyon Kitchen and Tavern, Twinsburg
- ***MEETING:*** Thursday, September 12, 7:00 PM: First Membership Meeting of the Season: Holiday Inn, Mayfield Village (subsequent meetings will be on the second Thursday of the month throughout the season)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL

Tuesday, June 13 – Friday, June 16: Camping at Punderson State Park

It's Summer! – Time for the Annual SSC Camping Trip at Punderson State Park

The weather is turning warmer, and it is time to get out and play. The past two years several of us met at Punderson State Park for some camping, hiking, biking and paddling fun. We decided to do it again and would like you to join us.

Where: Punderson State Park. You can tent camp, trailer/RV camp, stay in a cabin or even at the lodge. Make your reservation by booking online or by phone. <https://www.reserveohio.com/OhioCampWeb/> or Call (866) 644-6727. Don't forget to use your Golden Buckeye card for 50% off (this is a weekday deal for those 60 and older!).

When: We are checking in on **Tues. June 13** and **Checking out Fri. June 16**. Feel free to join us for all or some of the time. You can even come out just for the day or an evening campfire.

This will be an impromptu event and plans will be made during the evening campfires. We will be halfway up the hill around **sites 193 & 195**. You can access the map from the website and, hopefully, you can find a site close to us. We plan on doing some hiking or biking on the many wonderful trails in the park and close by. If the weather is good, we will also be paddling. LaDue Reservoir is close and Punderson lake is also fun. Both places offer rentals. Yes! Of course, we will have some evening campfires and libations, bring some wood to share, your favorite drinks and camp chair. Feel free to book your favorite type of abode, campsite, cabin or lodge. Hope to see you there. Let one of us know if you plan to join, we will make sure you are aware of our plans.

Contact: **Robin Spooner** or **Melinda Kellerstrass** for questions or to let us know if you will be joining our camp.

Robin Spooner. spoonerchico@aol.com

Melinda Kellerstrass. Melinda@suburbanskiclub.org



Pic from Summer of 2021

Pics from Summer of 2022



Monday, June 19, 5:15 PM: EAT at Square 22 Restaurant and Bar, Strongsville

Square 22 is at 13485 Pearl Rd, Strongsville, Ohio 44136. It is located in the Westwood Commons. Phone: (440) 268-8822 Check out their menu: www.thesquare22.com

We will assemble at the bar at 5:15 PM for socializing and attitude adjustment. Dinner will be about 6:30 PM. Happy Hour is from 3:00 – 6:00 PM and features \$5 house wines, \$2 off domestic beer and \$6 select cocktails.

Cleveland Magazine touted their outside patio and, weather permitting, we will eat outside.

Here is how they describe themselves on their website:

Square 22 Restaurant and Bar brings a combination of excellent flavors and an extraordinary dining experience to the heart of Strongsville, Ohio. Our menu features prime steaks, fresh seafood, pasta, burgers, salads, and tasty appetizers. Square 22 has a trendy bar that is complete with local craft beer, handcrafted cocktails, and a wine list full of award-winning selections.

Please contact **Patty Costigan** by Friday, June 16th to make your reservation: pcostig@gmail.com or (330) 836-0381

Monday, July 24, 5:15 PM: EAT at Blue Canyon Kitchen and Tavern, Twinsburg

Blue Canyon is located at 8960 Wilcox Dr, Twinsburg, OH 44087. Phone: (330) 486-2583. Check out the menu at: www.bluecanyonrestaurant.com

We will assemble at the bar at 5:15 PM for socializing and attitude adjustment. Dinner will be about 6:30 PM. Happy Hour is from 4:00 – 5:30 PM. Weather permitting, we will dine on their patio.

Here is how they describe their unique restaurant on their website:

Sitting across a sandstone bluff that overlooks gorgeous views of wooded rolling landscapes of Northeast Ohio, Blue Canyon Restaurant offers an unparalleled rustic, cozy atmosphere. The restaurants design was inspired by the grand lodges located throughout the national parks of the United States.

Please contact **Patty Costigan** by Friday, July 21st to make your reservation: pcostig@gmail.com or (330) 836-0381



Happy Diners from our May 22nd EAT at Wild Mango at Legacy Village in Lyndhurst.

Standing clockwise are **Linda Nash, Ron Howard, Patty Costigan** and **Chris Ujcich**. Seated clockwise are **Donna Stefano, Jason Chao, Betsy Wolf, Casey & Holly Kaskey** and **Cindy Ederer**.

Our Social Director, Patty Costigan, is always looking for ideas for EATs and other social activities. You will find her contact information above.

WESTERN WEEKLONG SKI TRIPS FOR 2024

[Editor's Note: Our Major Trips Coordinator, **Judi Fordyce**, has been working tirelessly on putting together two wonderful and exciting western trips. Judi has been reporting to and consulting with the Executive Board and in recent days, the two-trip package is in its final stages. What follows is Judi's report on the trips.

We should also mention that in just a few days all SSC members will be receiving an Email with details of the three major trips plus information on how to reserve a spot.]



Hello SSC Members,
I am pleased to tell you about the two exciting plans we have for two western trips in 2024 - **Big Sky in January** and **Whitefish in March**.

We are almost ready to open **online registration** for both trips. We will be sending out an email to SSC members within a few days with more details and a link for reserving online. We will be using the same Sports America online sign up as we did last year.

We urge you to make your reservation early and not to delay. Current members have the benefit of having until June 15th to register for our major trips before they are announced to the public. It is particularly important to sign up for the Big Sky trip promptly as we need to “give back” all but 1 or 2 rooms that are not filled by June 30.

The following pages contain the details for each trip:



Big Sky, Montana

Saturday, Jan 20 – Saturday Jan 27, 2024

Experience the legendary Big Sky with its multitude of trails, from easy to very challenging! Awesome views abound everywhere. The resort is constantly working on upgrading their ski lifts and tram. We will stay at the Huntley lodge, which has newly renovated rooms and a wonderful hot breakfast buffet (included in the price). The lodge is just steps from the slopes. And it has indoor hot tubs, and a solace spa! The altitude at the summit is 11,166 ft, and at the base it is 7,510 ft.

The exact price of this trip is still being determined but for now moment we can tell you that the package may cost **\$2,235 without lift tickets**. You buy your own lift ticket.

A single supplement is available for an additional \$1,305. You can subtract \$733 if you plan to get to Big Sky on your own.

NOTE: Lift ticket purchase is a bit complicated for this IKON resort. If you already have an IKON pass for next season that is great, you can use that. If you don't, you will have two options:

1. Purchase an IKON Session Day Pass for the number of days you want to ski. We will send out more detailed information on this when we send out the link for online reservations. For 5 days it would cost \$649 (prices go up Sept 1).

2. Purchase a group lift ticket to Big Sky. The cost of the group ticket will not be available until later in the summer, and last year it was a bit MORE expensive than buying the Session Day passes. However, the advantage of the group ticket over the Session Day Pass, is that if you have to cancel (or change your mind as to how many days you want) you have up until about 30 days before the trip to change. With the Session Day pass, once you buy it, it is yours and cannot be returned or changed. You could ski at another IKON resort with it, but there are no refunds.

This lift ticket situation is very complicated, so if you have any questions about it, please contact me: judi@suburbanskiclub.org

Ann McBrian will be the Trip Leader for Big Sky



Whitefish, Montana

Saturday, March 9 – Saturday, March 16, 2024

Whitefish is a quaint mountain resort town, with the ski resort minutes away. We will be staying at the Kandahar Lodge that is slope side and European in flavor. It has a wonderful restaurant, and there is a free shuttle bus from the resort into town that runs several times a day, and there are many good restaurants in town. These are hotel rooms, so cooking is very limited, but there is a mini-fridge, microwave, and coffee maker in each room. And, on a first come, first served basis, you can upgrade to a studio room for \$42 per person, which has a full kitchen. Note that the studios have one queen bed and one sofa bed. Hotel rooms have 2 queen beds.

The Lodge offers a complimentary continental breakfast daily, as well as apres ski popcorn, cookies, and hot beverages. And there is a wonderful outdoor hot tub as well as a cozy gathering room in the lobby.



The ski resort of Whitefish was voted #1 in value by the readers of SKI magazine. You can ski or ride nearly 3,000 acres of uncrowded terrain, and this coming season, enjoy the lightning-fast ride on the Snow Ghost Express, the new six-seater chairlift. There is a wide variety of terrain for all skill levels. The summit is at 6,817 ft, and the base (where the lodge is) is at 4,464ft - perfect for sleeping. Ambassador tours are available daily for those who are comfortable on blue runs.

The Package Price for this trip is **\$2,100.**

Senior (65+) lift tickets are at a discount of \$59 and Super Seniors (70+) enjoy a deep discount of \$249. See details on these discounts at the online registration. A single supplement is available for an additional \$555. If you are traveling to Whitefish on your own, you may subtract \$1061. Note: we will be looking for less expensive air over the next few months, should that become available.

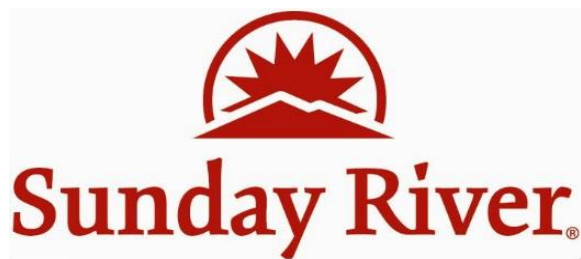
Your trip leader will be **June Kelley**

Again, look for a special Email we will be sending to the SSC membership in a few days with further details on both these trips along with a link to make your online reservation via Sports America.

I hope you will join us and enjoy these two fabulous Western Ski trips in 2024!

Judi Fordyce

judi@suburbanskiclub.org



Sunday River and Sugarloaf, Maine

Sunday, February 11 – Saturday, February 17, 2024

We are very pleased to announce that the Eastern Trip for 2024 will be going back to what most consider their favorite New England destination – Sunday River. Added to that will be a day at Sugarloaf which has been a big hit on our previous trips.

The Eastern Trip (ET) has been on our calendar since our first trip to Jay Peak in 2009. It is known for a week of skiing that is all-inclusive. Five hot breakfasts and six buffet dinners are part of the package. We have always described the ET as a bargain trip and, despite the substantial rise in cost, we can still say that when we compare the price to our two other major trips. This ET for 2024 will cost **\$1650** and stands far below the pricing for the western trips – one at \$2100 and the other at around \$2800.

The Ikon pass can be used at Sunday River and Sugarloaf and that results in a \$300 deduction from the \$1650 cost. We have also discovered that a Super Senior (80+) will pay only \$50 for the lift ticket package and the price for the trip will be just \$1400.

In the past our lodging has been the Jordan Hotel but this year we will be at the Grand Summit. The Grand Summit is very similar in design to the Jordan and also offers ski-in/ski-out. Those who have been on previous trips to Sunday River will tell you how wonderful it is to pick up your skis from the storage room, walk a few steps through the adjacent doors and ski down to a lift.

Let's talk about transportation – i.e., how we travel to Sunday River. Many of you know this is one of my pet peeves and I can't understand how some skiers will not consider a long bus ride but seem willing to endure a more arduous journey to a western destination. Yes, it will take us twelve hours to get to Newry, Maine. But after we arrive, we will check into our rooms, go down to the bar for some socialization and then enjoy a wonderful buffet dinner right there in the hotel.

Contrast that with the horror stories I have heard about TSA screening, flight delays, tiny seats, lost luggage, loading a shuttle bus with luggage and ski gear, riding that bus for hours to get to the resort and then after arriving at the resort having to find some place to have dinner. Did I mention that there is plenty of room on our bus, that we offer breakfast goodies, snacks, drinks and a wonderful box lunch from Whole Foods?

I could go on but let me just say that there are many ET fans who know that our bus journey compares favorably to the travails experienced on many airplane/shuttle bus travelers on a western trip.

Please join us in 2024 and discover the wonderful experiences the ET has waiting for you.

Joe Sullivan

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