

# Ski Trails

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The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

March 2024

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

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



Dear SSC Members,

It's great to live in Cleveland and to ski....but we need more snow....and that latter fact is true for most of the country! According to the "On the Snow" website: Utah is sitting at 74% of average snowpack, with Colorado at 51%, Montana at 36% and Cleveland at 45% of average snowfall. To have a below average snowfall when your annual levels are between 150-250 inches is one thing but when Cleveland only receives an average of 44 inches annual snowfall by this point of the season that tallies out to only 19.8 inches of snow this winter...and none of that is still on the ground today! To date, this has been one of our lowest snowfalls on record.

Despite the low snowfall levels, we have had some very positive events. Our first major trip to **Big Sky, MT** was a huge success. The trip was a sell-out, the mountain fantastic and the socialization amazing. Big thumbs up to Trip Leader **Ann McBrian** for making sure everything ran smoothly! The only thing we wanted more of was snow.

Our second major trip to **Sunday River, Maine** was marred by an unfortunate skiing injury to Trip Leader/Organizer and Ski Trails Editor, **Joe Sullivan**, at Peek n Peak the week before the trip departed. (Our wishes go out to Joe for a full recovery and return to the slopes next season). In true Suburban Ski Club fashion several members stepped up to ensure the trip was a success with **Beth Silverman** and **Tracy Blake** assuming the roles of Co-trip Leaders (Note that it took two to fill in for Joe). Thanks to Beth and Tracy for their services!

Last month we published a group photo of the Big Sky contingent, and check later in this newsletter(see page 6) for a photo of the Sunday River group. We have plans

to memorialize the Big Sky and Sunday River trips in a future special issue of Ski Trails.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel three of our day trips to Holiday Valley this season. One because of mechanical issues with the bus and two because of poor ski conditions and low sign-up.

We are looking to close out our current season with another successful, sold-out major trip heading to Whitefish MT, March 9 -16. Trip Leader **June Kelley** has already held her pre-trip meeting with participants. Everyone has their travel packet/itinerary and should be about to start packing.

The Board has already started to investigate options for our major trips for 2025 and we plan to continue our current day trip arrangements....with much better snow conditions expected for next season.

This March is an important month for Suburban Ski Club. It is the month that we hold **elections for the Executive Board** for the 2024-25 season. A slate of candidates was presented to and accepted by the current Board. Then that slate was presented to the membership at our February meeting and the floor was opened for additional nominations. There were no more nominations. That list of candidates and the position they are running for is published later in this newsletter under the details for our meeting on **Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**. Voting will occur at this meeting but if you cannot attend, you will have the opportunity to vote via an absentee ballot. Later this month you will receive an Email with details and instructions on how to cast your absentee ballot. **This is your Club. Please take the time to vote.**

A few days ago, you should have received an **email from Cliff Lewis** describing our plans for a Suburban Ski Club **Eclipse party on Monday April 8th**. We are republishing Cliff's text in this newsletter (see page 5) because not only did he give you some details about our party, but he also passed along some very useful information about the special glasses required to view the eclipse.

Attached to the email that brought you this newsletter is the **flyer for the eclipse event**. This will give you all the information you will need to attend the party.

We want to welcome **four new members** to Suburban Ski Club: **Stephen Boyd, Spencer Parker, Bob Pike** and **Karen Thomas**. We look forward to seeing you on the slopes and at our social events.

*Gordon Blackburn*  
*president@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.

**Larry Anderson (3/16), Jim Bashaw (3/20), Jackie Caputo (3/13), Monica Castele (3/3), Scott Emick (3/25), Pam Fenn (3/7), KC Flynn (3/28), Bill Hersch (3/23), Barbara Quinn (3/16), Kimberly Sandler (3/6), Douglas Terry (3/10) and Joseph Zema (3/11)**

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

- **SKIING:** Saturday, March 9 - Saturday, March 16, 2024: Whitefish, Montana
- **MEETING:** Monday, March 18: Executive Board Meeting
- **MEETING:** Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:00 PM: Membership Meeting at Holiday Inn, Mayfield Heights – Election of Club Officers & Board Members
- **EVENT:** Monday, April 8: SSC Eclipse Party on the Lake

## ***COMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL***

**Thursday, March 21, 7:00 PM: Membership Meeting at the Holiday Inn** This is the annual **Election Meeting** for Club Officers and Board Members. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM in the party room at the Holiday Inn; 780 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village 44143, (440) 461-9200. Beta Drive is only one intersection east of the exit for Wilson Mills Road on I-271. Turn NORTH off Wilson Mills Road at the traffic light on to Beta Drive. You will see a sign for the Holiday Inn as you make the turn.

As usual we will be assembling at 5:15 PM for cocktails, food and socializing. The hostess can direct you to our tables.

**ELECTIONS:** As you read in the President's Message, the Nominating Committee proposed a slate at the February meeting. The floor was open for additional nominations but there were none. Here is the ballot that the membership will vote on at the meeting:

## **BALLOT for Election of Club Officers and Members of the Executive Board March 21, 2024**

Please cast your vote by placing an X in the place beside the name of the nominee or by placing an X at the bottom of the ballot to vote for the entire slate of nominees.

**For President:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gordon Blackburn**

**For Vice President:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dan Castele**

**For Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fran Wesley**

**For Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tracy Blake**

**For Social Director:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Patty Costigan**

**For Membership Meeting Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Pat Lewis**

**For Webmaster/Membership Data Base:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cliff Lewis**

**For Publications and Communications:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Joe Sullivan**

**For Day Trips Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Holly Kaskey**

**For Major Trips Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judi Fordyce**

**For CMSC Liaison:** \_\_\_\_\_ **John Hersch**

**Marketing Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mike Tuason**

\_\_\_\_\_ I vote for the entire slate of nominees.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to vote for any of the above but please count my vote for the quorum.

Please note that we will be conducting this meeting like we have done for many years now – i.e., for those who cannot attend, we are providing an opportunity to cast **absentee ballots**. This is an important factor because with the increase in membership, we need to make sure we have a quorum, and your absentee ballot allows us to do that. In a few days, you will be receiving an Email with details and instructions on how to vote absentee.

**Monday, April 18: Suburban Ski Club Eclipse Party on the Lake**

The following is the text of an Email sent to the SSC membership by **Cliff Lewis**. It contains information about the party and some important details for the special glasses needed. Please also see the **flyer for the eclipse party** attached to the Email that brought you this newsletter.

*We are preparing a flyer for an eclipse viewing party for SSC members at Fran Wesley's lakefront home in Sheffield Lake on Monday, April 8. You probably know that there will be a total eclipse on that date, centered right here over the Cleveland area. For many of us, this will likely be our only opportunity to see a total eclipse in our lifetimes. Details will be available soon.*

*Whether you come to the party or have other plans, it is essential that you have eclipse glasses for safe viewing of the sun during the eclipse. The American Astronomical Society (AAS) has a web page listing suppliers of glasses that meet the safety requirements of the ISO 12312-2 international standard. See <https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/viewers-filters> for the list.*

*Eclipse glasses are going to be in high demand, so it is important to get yours as soon as possible. One of the listed sites is <https://www.eclipseovercleveland.com>, which sells glasses and also lists some local stores that sell them. It is a good idea to call ahead and make sure the stores still have them. Some organizations like libraries, museums, and the Cleveland Metroparks offer them too.*

*Important: The AAS page recommend NOT buying your glasses from large online sites like Amazon, eBay, or Temu unless you can make sure that (1) the seller is identified on the site and (2) the seller is listed on the AAS page. Unfortunately, a large number of counterfeit glasses tend to pop up on those sites before eclipses.*

*(FYI, I bought mine from <https://bookishbunnyglasses.com/collections/all>. Kind of an odd site offering other products that are totally unrelated to eclipse glasses. But it was listed on the AAS page. I opted for a pack of 3 plastic-frame glasses for \$18.99. It looks like the price has gone up to \$20.99)*

*Cliff*



# Sunday River and Sugarloaf, Maine

Sunday, February 11 – Saturday, February 17, 2024



(From the left)

Front Row: **Linda Nash, Patrick McPhillips, Fran Wesley and Ron Howard**

Second row: **Margie Bashaw, Sally Young, Bruce Hofius, Barb Gibson, Yuri Deglin, Pat Lewis and Cliff Lewis**

Third row: **Jim Bashaw, June Kelley, Tracy Blake (trying to hide!), Beth Silverman, Greg Glova and Andy Volchko**

Back Row: **Brian Craig, Jessica Craig, Miklos Gratzl, Frank Bolon and Renee Bolon**



## Whitefish, Montana

**Saturday, March 9 – Saturday, March 16, 2024**

Dear Fellow Skiers,

We fly to Whitefish in Montana in the afternoon of Saturday, March 9th. We arrive in the evening so will have a welcome get together the next day, Sunday at 5PM in the beautiful lobby of the Hotel. This will be followed by a barbecue buffet.

It was great to have such a good turnout for our pre-trip meeting at Simon's restaurant in Brecksville on Tuesday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Everyone could ask questions and I was able to give out information about the trip: agenda, luggage tags, etc.

We have finalized plans for a mid-week tour of Glacier National Park and have twelve people signed up so far.

We're all looking forward to a great trip to Whitefish where snow conditions are reported to be very good.

*June Kelley, Trip Leader*  
[june@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:june@suburbanskiclub.org)

## **2024 BUS TRIPS**

Dear SSC Members,

Although we have one exciting major trip to Whitefish coming up this month our bus trip program ended with a whimper. You may have heard that our last bus trip with the Lewis Ski Club did not come off because of a snafu with the bus company. Then the last two trips on our smaller bus needed to be canceled because of a combination of poor skiing conditions and low registration.

What is left? You may still be able to find some snow at Boston Mills or Alpine Valley, but I want to tell you about another opportunity at Holiday Valley (HV). We have been able to negotiate a special discounted price for members of Suburban Ski Club. Our current club rates at HV are:

Weekend/Holiday: **\$67/50** adult/jr.

Weekday: **\$47/37** adult/jr.

Two days: **\$120** weekend, **\$82** weekday

These are ALL-DAY lift tickets

But beginning **Monday March 11th**, Holiday Valley will start giving our club an even bigger discount deal of **\$40 for an all-day ticket**. That's for both weekends and weekdays.

**To Buy Your Tickets:** When you get to HV, go into the **Group Sales Building** (it's the building to the right of the Main Lodge). DO NOT go to one of the lift ticket windows, or to one of the other lodges. You have to go to **Group Sales**. Ask for **Scott**, (but anyone behind the counter will be able to help you). It is important to tell them you are with Suburban Ski club and want our discount. Make sure you thank them!

Since the bus trip program is ending, this may be my last article for a while. But I want you to know we are already beginning our plans for 2025. The Executive Board has already begun discussing destinations for major trips and they will soon also talk about the bus trip program. So, I am inviting you to contact me to express your ideas, suggestions and criticisms about day trips.

*Holly Kaskey, Bus Trip Coordinator*

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

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