

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club SPECIAL EDITION: January 16, 2021

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Since this is such an unusual ski season and since some information from our Jan 1st edition of Ski Trails needs to be updated and clarified, we are publishing this special edition of our newsletter instead of waiting for the Feb. 1st issue. We have received several comments, suggestions and questions from SSC members and we thought it important to deal with them.

We have used the article from **Cliff Lewis** that appeared in Ski Trails two weeks ago as a base source and added some updates along with input from SSC members. As you will read, SSC is standing by its position that skiing out of Ohio is not advisable. In fact, as we were about to go to press, former President, **Beth Silverman**, received an Email reply from an inquiry she made to the NYS Dept of Health. This reply is very clear on the restrictions.

We are also republishing “links that may be helpful” and added one more – a link to Snowtrails. Read further for more information on that ski area.

You will also find an article from **Jason Chao** on his early season western trip. And, sadly, the final article is an “In Memoriam” tribute to SSC Member, **Steve Ripich**, who passed away on January 8th.

Finally, 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. You can do this via the Forum section at www.suburbanskiclub.org or the SSC Facebook Page.

Stay safe.

Joe Sullivan

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UPDATED NOTES ON SKIING IN 2021

We reported in the January 1st issue of Ski Trails that our club 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 pretty much rules out our usual day trips to Peek'n Peak, Holiday Valley, Holimont, and Seven Springs.

In his article in the newsletter two weeks ago, **Cliff Lewis** told us that 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. Cliff also noted that a Plain Dealer article that we reproduced in December's newsletter reported that there was an exception for traveling to New York for one day only but that we have been unable to confirm the validity of that.

The Executive Board took the position that the club could not endorse going against these rules as we understood them. **Beth Silverman** reached out to **Susan Glaser**, the author of the article in the Plain Dealer, and asked her to clarify this seeming one day exemption. Susan's reply to Beth came too late to be included in the January newsletter. She wrote to Beth that she checked the NYS hotline again and was informed, in direct contradiction to what she was told earlier, that the new NYS rules did not permit Ohioans to come in for a day of skiing. Ms. Glaser also said that she wouldn't advise taking a bus to a New York ski resort but that individuals should be able to go without being stopped. But she noted that she wasn't encouraging people to break the rules.

So where does that leave us re. travelling out of Ohio? As we noted last month, the 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 those skiers to make their own decision on interpreting the rules. Since then we have heard from one SSC couple who stayed overnight at both Peek n Peak and Holiday Valley and said they had no problems. They said they planned to go back more during the season. And a few other SSC members reported similar experiences. 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.

Just as we were about to go to press with this special issue, we received some more information from Beth Silverman. Today, Beth got an Email from the NYS Dept of Health and she forwarded it to Ski Trails. Beth wrote: "Below is the written response

I received today from the NY Health Dept to my question about whether or not a day trip to NY is allowable. As we concluded, the answer is no. Their posted testing/quarantine requirements apply.”

Here is the text of the Email from NYS:

Thank you for your inquiry. In an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, all non-essential travel to New York should be postponed. Travelers to New York must remain in quarantine until they receive negative test results from two COVID-19 diagnostic tests: one taken no more than three days prior to their arrival and one on or after their fourth day in New York. If your length of stay in New York will not allow you time to receive the second negative result, you must remain in quarantine for your entire stay.

Please visit our website at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory> for additional information.

For the most updated information, please visit the NYS DOH website at: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home> or call the hotline at: 1-888-364-3065.

Thank you,

NYS Department of Health

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

Last month we also reported on local resorts and gave some pointers about skiing at Boston Mills/Brandywine and Alpine Valley. After that, we heard from several SSC members who reminded us that we should have included **Snow Trails** as another good alternative for local skiing. So, you will see below some information about skiing at Snow Trails

It is important to point out that all these resorts require advance online 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/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. Last issue Cliff wrote that he wouldn't be surprised if the system prompts you to create an account during checkout much like Alpine Valley but that he hadn't checked that out.

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.

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>

Snow Trails: www.snowtrails.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>

EARLY SEASON OUT WEST



Jason Chao (blue jacket) with his western group

I want to share my experiences of skiing early in the season during the COVID-19 pandemic. I usually never ski in December, but I had the time and opportunity to ski out West December, 9-18, 2020.

I flew to Salt Lake City, met up with three ski friends and we rented a large SUV. We tested for COVID-19 prior to the trip and were all negative. We drove to Wyoming for two days at Jackson Hole and a day at Grand Targhee. The time-share condos at Jackson Hole were supposed to be slope-side, ski-in and out. But the nearby lift was not open yet due to lack of snow, so we took a shuttle to get to the lifts. Next, we drove back to Utah for time-share condos at Snowbird. But we mostly skied at Alta, available via a free shuttle.

Conditions were early season, not a lot of snow. So steeper runs and lifts serving them were generally not open. Had to watch out for rocks. For those familiar with Snowbird, Mineral Basin and Baby Thunder lift were closed. At Alta, the Supreme lift was not running yet. We got lucky on our last day at Alta. Getting off the Collins

lift, we saw an opening of the gate to the Ballroom area at Alta and caught first tracks in 15 inches of fresh new powder.



I took a lesson with a level three instructor and gained some valuable tips on improving my skiing. Highly recommend taking a lesson if you haven't done so for a while. Since I am in the market for new skis (current Solomon's are delaminating), I also demo-ed several different skis.

Risk of COVID was present, but low. Just about everyone wore a mask in the airport. For the flights on Southwest, I got lucky and did not have to sit next to someone, except for one shorter flight. Driving through Utah, Idaho and Wyoming we stopped for gas and in one store the attendant did not wear a mask despite new state laws there. We only stayed long enough to pay for the gas. At the resorts, everyone wears a mask while skiing and there is some degree of social distancing in lift lines. Although my mask would sometimes slip down while skiing, at the lift I would be gently reminded to cover my nose. Some resorts had day lockers for holding shoes,

but people are encouraged to come booted up. Seating at restaurants is drastically reduced. Outdoor seating is often available, sometimes with a fire or heater nearby. At the resorts, indoor dining can be available, with a QR code at each table. You scan the code with your phone and get the menu. Order online and they text you

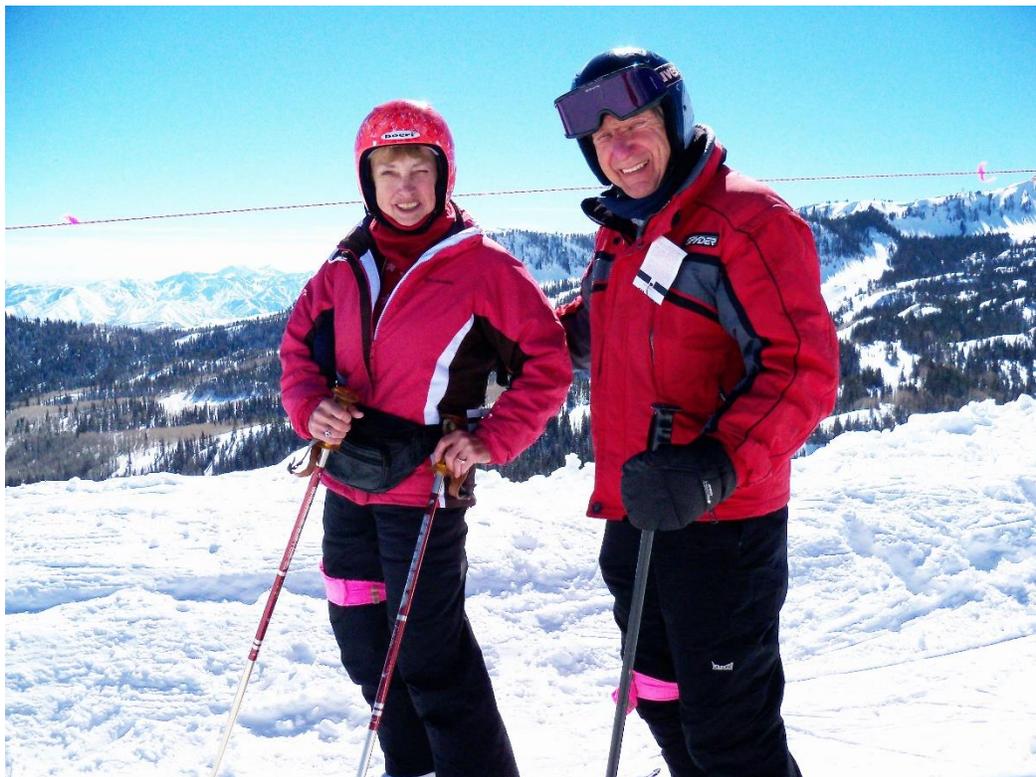
when the food is ready for pickup. Alta and Grand Targhee have also added food trucks. For dinner, we mostly cooked for ourselves in the condos, with occasional take-out.

If you have questions about traveling for a ski trip in the COVID era, please contact me. I plan to do another trip to Colorado in February. And perhaps in March if any one is interested in Telluride, despite the club cancellation. And I will be skiing locally at Boston Mills / Brandywine and Alpine Valley since they have now opened. If you want a ski partner, let me know and I will try to join you now that I have more free time mid-week.

Jason Chao
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IN MEMORIAM: STEVE RIPICH

With sadness, we report the death of former SSC member, **Steve Ripich**. Steve passed away on January 8, 2021 at his son's home in Petaluma, CA. Steve dealt with several serious health issues in recent years including dementia. We extend our sympathies to Steve's son and family and also to his dear friend and beloved partner of twenty years, SSC Member, **Elaine Roth**. Steve and Elaine's history with SSC goes back many years and there are scores of alumni members who will remember them both with fondness and affection.



Elaine &
Steve on
the slopes

Steve was an avid sailor and a long-time member of Edgewater Yacht Club. Some years back Steve arranged and hosted a fabulous dinner and evening at the club for his SSC friends that many of us still recall.



Steve with good friend and former President of SSC, **Jim Bowers**

Steve was a gentle and kind man who made others feel better about themselves because of the genuine interest he took in them. Several years ago, as a brand-new skier on his first major trip to Vail, this editor remembers an afternoon when Steve, along with Elaine, **Dennis Cowles** and **Gerry Kral**, escorted him down the back bowls of Vail. It was one of the most memorable moments of his life and Steve was right there at his side encouraging him all the way. And as he rode on the chair lift out of the bowls with Steve beside him, he remembers how Steve's kind and generous comments encouraged him to continue to become a better skier. I am sure there are other SSC members with similar memories of this warm and genuinely friendly man.

Requiescat in Pace (Rest in Peace) our dear friend, Steve.

Due to the Corona virus, there are no memorials or services planned at this time. Condolences can be mailed to Elaine at 6 Basin St.; Palmetto, Florida 34221 or Emailed to Elaroth@yahoo.com.