

Ski Trails

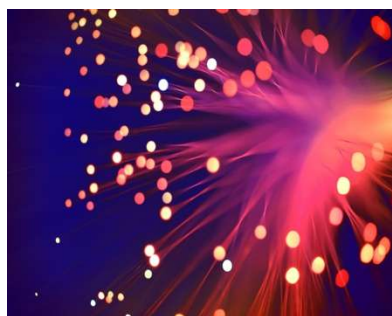
The quarterly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

July 2026

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello SSC Members,



The 4th of July is upon us. Seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the bicentennial and now here we are at 250. I hope everyone is enjoying the summer temperatures, getting outside for some fun activities and has big plans for shenanigans this 4th of July. Happy Birthday America!

As usual, we have some fun activities of our own planned for the Suburban Ski Club this summer such as a night out for a Guardians game, our summer bike ride series, a golf outing, our ever popular Eat-Around-Town evenings, and a night at the theatre to enjoy “Death Becomes Her”. Look for updates on these events and more in this newsletter.

As you know, **Mary Kay Binder** is our new Communications Chair. This issue is her first! Good luck Mary Kay! I can’t wait to read how she does without the watchful eye of Big Joe. Trivia Teaser: What does the number 84 represent in Joe’s email address (jjosephsullivan84@gmail.com)?

Registration is now open for Breckenridge in January and Heavenly in March. We have been talking to the Chagrin Valley Ski Club and we are going to share a bus trip to Stowe, Vermont in February. Read more about our major trip ski plans later in this newsletter.

As you have heard me say many times before, we are much more than just a ski club. Many thanks to all of you in the Club. With the diverse interests in our 180+ strong membership, you all continue to make the Suburban Ski Club the place to be! Enjoy the 4th, stay safe and stay cool.

Humbly yours,

Dan

El President

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

NOTE: Membership meetings are off for the summer but will resume Thursday, September 17. In the meantime, we will have plenty of opportunities to meet and socialize throughout the warm weeks ahead.

- **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS:**
Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 PM via Zoom
August - No meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 PM via Zoom
- **EATs:**
Olesia's Taverne of Richfield, 3960 Broadview Road, Richfield
Wednesday, July 22, Happy Hour - 5:30 PM
Dinner - 6:00 PM
Sept. EATs - TBA
- **BIKE RIDE**
Cleveland Metro Parks, Rocky River Reservation
Saturday, July 25, 4:30 PM
- **ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC**
Fran Wesley's Home, 5029 E. Lake Road, Sheffield Lake
Saturday, August 8, 3:00 PM – Sunset
- **GUARDIANS GAME**
Wednesday, August 19, 6:40 PM
- **NIGHT AT THE THEATER**
“Death Becomes Her” State Theater -Playhouse Square
Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 PM
- **GOLF OUTING**
Sleepy Hollow Golf Course
Thursday, September 24, 10:00 AM
- **GENERAL MEETING**
Holiday Inn, Mayfield
Thursday, September 17, 7:00 PM

COMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL

Eat-Around-Town

The June EATs at Blue Canyon was a huge success. What a great night for good food and conversation. Our tremendous turn out gave the restaurant a run for their money. But the Suburban Ski Club would not be denied, and they accommodated our flash crowd of over 30 members for dinner in their “kitchen” dining room. Kudos again to our Social Chair **Jackie Caputo** for her patience and perseverance in working with the Blue Canyon staff to manage the unexpected crowd. Thank you, Jackie, and thank you to all who attended to make the evening special.

Upcoming EATS location: Olesia Tavern of Richfield, 3960 Broadview Road, Richfield, Wednesday, July 22, Happy Hour 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:00 PM. Please let our Social Chair Jackie Caputo (jcaputo1376@yahoo.com) know at least 5 days in advance if you plan to attend so she can provide the appropriate reservation head count.

Bike Rides

We have completed three of the first four planned rides for the summer. Each has been well attended and enjoyed by several ski club members. See photos of each ride at the end of this newsletter. Thank you to **Maggie Layman**, **Laura Subel** and **Barb Quinn** for planning and hosting these rides. If you have a favorite destination for a bike ride you would like to share with the club, please let us know and we will help to get the word out. The last currently scheduled ride is Saturday July 25, Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation at 4:30 PM. Meet at Emerald Necklace Marina in Lakewood. 8-15 miles (depending on where you turn around) along a paved all-purpose trail with a few small hills. Post ride celebration location TBD. Contact Maggie Layman to let her know you will be joining us. (maggiemags@mac.com).

Summer Picnic

Fran Wesley has again offered to host our annual Club picnic at her home in Sheffield Lake on Saturday, August 8 at 3:00 PM. Please mark this date on your calendars for another wonderful evening with burgers and dogs by the lake! Cost for this annual event is \$10 and registration is required through the EVENTS page on the SSC website. Thank you, Fran, again for your hospitality!

Guardians Game

There are still a few seats available for the Guardians game Wednesday, August 19, 6:40 PM vs. the San Francisco Giants. Seating is in the Discount Drug Mart Club area with all-you-can-eat food and soft drink beverages available in a climate-controlled dining area.

Tickets are in Section 334 Rows Q, R and S, seats 1-10 in each row. Ticket pricing is set at \$93. Ticket sales/registration are available through the SSC Website. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Deadline to purchase will be July 16th. Any unsold tickets will be returned to the Guardians at that time. Pending high demand, we will start a waiting list. Additional tickets would be sold based on availability only and may not be seated with the rest of the club.

Evening at Playhouse Square

Calling all theatre fans. We are planning a night at the theatre on Wednesday evening, September 16 to enjoy “Death Becomes Her”. There is a 10-person minimum for group rates (starting at about \$80) in the “Lower Level Orchestra A” seating area (exact pricing to be determined). We are still looking for 3-4 more members to make this night a reality. If you are interested, please contact **Jackie Caputo** (jcaputo1376@yahoo.com) at your earliest convenience. This is a wonderful show and well worth the price of admission!

Golf Outing

Thursday September 24 at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course, 9445 Brecksville Road, Brecksville at 10:00 AM. Four tee-times are reserved. We still have room for a few more golfers. We will of course convene at the 19th hole for lunch, beverages, and lies about our toughest shots. Those interested please contact **Barb Quinn** (316bquinn@gmail.com).

2027 Major Ski Trip Destinations

Breckenridge, CO: Registration is open through Sports America for 7-nights lodging at the Beaver Run Resort from January 30-February 6. The base package is priced at \$1,900 and includes lodging, airfare and ground transportation. Accommodations are on the mountain with ski-in/ski-out 2-bedroom/2-bath condos with four guests per condo. See the flier attached to the mail that brought you this newsletter for more details and a link to the Sports America website for registration.

Eastern Bus Trip – Stowe, VT: We are pleased to announce that our Eastern Bus Trip will be February 21 – 26 at Stowe, Vermont. We are planning to share this trip with the Chagrin Valley Ski Club. Base package pricing and details are still in the fermentation stages, but plans include four nights lodging in the town of Stowe and three days skiing at Stowe Mountain with an added ski day at Okemo Mountain at the end of the week. As soon as final itinerary and trip pricing are available, we will pass that info on to you. Registration will be through the SSC website.

South Lake Tahoe, CA – Heavenly: Registration is now open through Sports America for 7-nights lodging at the ski-in/ski-out Margaritaville Lake Tahoe resort

from March 6-13. The base package is priced at \$2,150 and includes lodging, airfare and ground transportation. There is a daily breakfast option available for additional cost. Accommodations are hotel style QQ rooms with two guests per room. See the flier attached to the email that brought you this newsletter for more details and a link to the Sports America website for registration.

All three of these major trip destinations for the 2027 ski season are at Vail Resorts on the EPIC Pass. One pass will allow you to ski at all of these locations and more (including Boston Mills/Brandywine locally). Daily/weekly lift ticket rates are NOT YET available from these resorts (by their design) and historically end up MORE EXPENSIVE than buying an EPIC Pass ahead of time. EPIC Passes are on sale now and are cheaper the earlier you purchase them. If you are interested in any or all of these trips, it is highly advised to purchase your EPIC Pass sooner than later.

There are many pass options available depending on where and how often you plan to ski (i.e. just a few days at one EPIC resort only or multiple days at multiple EPIC resorts). You will receive a credit of 6.5% of the cost of the pass applied to ONE of our two trips with Sports America IF you purchase your EPIC Pass through Sports America. So, the best value is to buy your pass early through Sports America to reap the greatest savings.

Pass options can be viewed and purchased through SA at the following link: www.sportsamerica.com/epic-suburban

2028 Major Ski Trip Destinations

For the winter of 2028 we will return to IKON Pass resorts. We have a “soft hold” on lodging at the Snakedance Condominiums at Taos ski resort in New Mexico for March 2028. At this early juncture, this means we have a “first right of refusal” on the property for the first/second week of March.

We also are working with Sports America to visit Italy in 2028 on the IKON Pass to ski the renown Dolomites! No additional information is available for this trip, but the timing will likely be late January or early February.

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

As Dan has said, “**Just because the snow is gone doesn’t mean the fun is over!**” Bike Season is on a roll. Below are highlights from three rides that took place in June. Thanks to **Maggie Layman, Laura Subel, and Barb Quinn** for organizing!

Headwaters Trail from Mantua to Garretttsville



First evening bike ride!
(front): **Monica and Dan Castele** (back): **Paul Wagner, Maggie Layman, Jason Chao, and Carol Wagner.**

After riding 15 miles, **Monica** says she was hungry, but even more thirsty, by the time they reached the Auburn Inn for dinner!



Sunset over the
Auburn Inn



Maple Highlands Trail – Geauga County

Ready to roll under **Maggie Layman's** leadership are (from left): **Maggie, Jason Chao, John Hersch, Kurt Hyde, Laura Subel, Dan Castele, Monica Castele,** and **Dick Castele**



Taking a break for photo ops are (left): **Holly Kaskey and Cindy Ederer**

(below):

Mary Kay Binder and Dick Castele



Cleveland Lakefront/Scranton Flats



All smiles before the ride begins (left to right): **John Hersch, Barb Quinn, Lainie Breiner, Dick Castele, and Renee Kolecki**

(below): Still smiling while stopping for a selfie--just before those clouds opened up and the 50 MPH winds blew in. (from left): **John Hersch, Mary Kay Binder, Renee Kolecki, Barb Quinn, Lainie Breiner, and Dick Castele.**



(Not pictured): **Fran Wesley and Mike Gallagher** joined the group for lunch at Merwin's Wharf in the Flats.

EATs – Blue Canyon Kitchen & Tavern



A great turnout on a beautiful summer evening for cocktails and dinner at Blue Canyon Kitchen & Tavern in Twinsburg. Thank you to our waiter for standing in as photographer! (all from the left).

Front Row: **Monica Castele, Mary Kay Binder, Patty Costigan, Ron Howard**

Second Row: **Jackie Caputo, Jackie Otte, Lynn Miller, Mary Ellen Noss, Annie Bill, Carol Vandenberg, John Hersch, Fran Wesley, Mike Gallagher**

Third Row: **Steve Goldberg, Bill Littell, Sue Siefert, Dan Castele, June Kelley, Wayne Miller, Mike Tuason, Lori Katona, Casey Kaskey, Holly Kaskey, Susan Hersch, Cindy Ederer, and Michele Boim**

(Not Pictured): **Joe Sullivan and Gordon Blackburn**

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

As the new Ski Trails editor, I realize I have some big boots to fill. I thought one of the first tasks should be to pay tribute to my predecessor, **Joe Sullivan**, who held this position, and several others, in the club for many years.

ODE TO JOE



Joe Sullivan is always ready to take on a challenge. Whether starting a second career rehabbing houses, learning to ski while also applying for social security and Medicare, or taking on a truck driving job well into retirement, Joe doesn't shy away from learning something new.

As he was passing the newsletter baton to me over early-morning coffee at Starbucks, I learned it was his 85th birthday. He planned to celebrate by joining an elderly friend for brunch and planting annuals in his garden in Cleveland Heights. Many longtime club members may already know Joe's history. But I enjoyed learning bits and pieces about his life that morning, which he interwove with tips on how he organized, edited, and distributed Ski Trails over the past 15 years.

While his accent may give it away, Joe was born and raised in Lynn, Massachusetts, just north of Boston. He never skied as a child, yet he excelled in both ice hockey and football. After high school, he was offered sports scholarships from both Boston College and Holy Cross, but he turned them down to enter the priesthood. He spent the next eight years as a Maryknoll seminarian, affectionately referring to that time as his "incarceration."

"I was just about to walk down the aisle and decided: 'No, I don't want to do this,'" he says, explaining that he felt in his heart being a priest was not right for him.

Already in New York City, Joe got a job teaching religious studies at Manhattan College in the Bronx. He met and married his wife, **Sheila Kelly**, and lived in a brownstone in Brooklyn. While in New York, he earned a real estate Brokers license and managed luxury condominiums close to the Brooklyn Bridge. In 1990, Sheila's job brought them to Cleveland. Through "on-the-job training", he began rehabbing houses, developing new skills one structure at a time. He defines that work as a "small operation," adding, "without a lot of experience, I learned a lot."

Skiing did not become a part of Joe's life until after Sheila passed away in 2004. His neighbor, **Barbara Brennan**, invited him to a Suburban Ski Club holiday party, and he was happy to discover "they weren't all a bunch of kids."

So, Joe then put his natural athleticism to work to learn how to ski. He took a lesson at Alpine Valley and signed up for bus trips. He credits his mentors -- **Jack Ganz, Lilly Kron, and June Kelley** among others -- for pushing him forward. With Lilly's encouragement, he skied his first black diamond at Holiday Valley.

It was on his first trip to Telluride that he truly felt confident on the slopes. "That's my favorite of all trips," he remembers. "A lot of things just came together, and I felt like I could finally ski."

A 20-year club veteran, Joe served a term as vice president, four years as president, and several stints as a major trip coordinator. He initiated and ran the annual Eastern Trip more than a dozen times and edited the newsletter for 15 years. Looking back, he says it's "the people" he has enjoyed the most. He has developed many long-term friendships, as many of you likely know firsthand.

A shoulder injury sidelined Joe last ski season, but he isn't ready to hang up his boots just yet. While he says he's beginning to feel his age, his willingness to take on a challenge may override his apprehensions. I won't be surprised to see him on a bus trip next winter—and who knows — maybe he will guide me down my first black diamond at Holiday Valley.



Sidenote: I learned a bit about Joe's willingness to take on a challenge a few years back on a club trip to Park City. After a long travel day -- delays that ended with a flight cancellation -- Joe convinced the "powers that be" at Southwest Airlines (Missy in photo) to find a plane, a pilot, and the necessary flight attendants to fly our group non-stop back to Cleveland. First and only "Southwest Express" SLC-CLE! Who else could do that?

Mary Kay Binder

Club Officers and Members of the Executive Board:

President – **Dan Castele**

Vice President – **John Hersch**

Treasurer – **Donna Mintz**

Secretary – **Tracy Blake**

Social Committee Chair – **Jackie Caputo**

Communications Chair – **Mary Kay Binder**

Web Administrator – **Barb Quinn**

Membership Meetings Chair – **Patrick McPhillips**

Marketing – **Julia Rutkowski**

Day Trip Coordinator – **Holly Kaskey**

CMSC Liaison – **Gordon Blackburn**