

Ski Trails

The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

December, 2015

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a relaxing long weekend!

Our big news for this edition of the newsletter is that our online reservation system is officially up and running thanks to our clever and hard-working VP of Data Management, **Cliff Lewis**. And it is far slicker than I had dreamed. Be sure to read Cliff's article later in the newsletter for more details and for answers to some questions you might have. Highlights of the new program include the ability to:

- update and renew your Club membership online
- reserve and pay for bus trips and social events
- arrange and pay for ski lessons and rentals for most trips
- login as a member and see "Who is Going Where"

I can almost guarantee this new capability will result in increased trip participation. Our friends at the Lewis/NASA Ski Club unveiled their online reservation system last year. They tell us that their bus trips sold out far sooner than ever before. So my message to you is this. If you want to go on some trips in 2016, don't procrastinate. I, for one, am reserving all of my trips now to play it safe. The days of last-minute reservations may very well be over.

Our annual **Holiday Party** on **Saturday, December 12** at Lakeside Yacht Club is drawing near and your reservation **deadline is December 5**. I promise you this event is a lot of fun and you won't want to miss it. So, if you haven't done so already, please get your reservation in by mail or online right away.

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members to Suburban Ski Club: **Marilyn Cassidy, Nick Davis, Nancy Dawson, Mark Felber, Janice Friswold, Miklos Gratzl, Barb Latham, Steve Mellinger, Dave Rock** and **Mike Summers**. We look forward to getting to know you!

Many thanks to **Mary Ellen Noss** and **Kathy Porcen Robinson** for organizing our popular annual alumni EAT at **Zappitelli's** at the Stonewater Golf Club on November 8. As a 56-year-old Club, it is a great deal of fun to discuss the good old days with our retired members. Special thanks also go to **Lilly Kron** for organizing a really nice fashion show at our November membership meeting and to **Colette Gschwind, Kim Sandler, Linda Nash, John Danis, Tracy Blake, and Cliff & Pat Lewis** for serving as our super models. Check the later pages of this newsletter for some photos from this fun event.

I also want to thank **John Danis**, our new Chair of Trips and Tours, for all the work he has been doing. John has hit the ground running. He edited and revised our outdated Trip Leaders Manual into a new Trip Leaders Guide. After circulating the guide to the 2016 Trip Leaders, he gathered them for a brunch meeting where the role and duties of a trip leader were discussed. Be sure to read John's Report from Trips and Tours later in this newsletter.

I hope to see you on December 12th.

*Beth Silverman, President of SSC
president@suburbanskiclub.org*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We close 2015 with another edition of our series recognizing the birthdays of our members. (Don't worry, we do not publish the year of your birth, just the month and day!) Our data base of birthdays is far from complete. Please remember to include your birthday on your membership form. It is not necessary to give the year of your birth if you do not wish to do so, but we need your day and month in order to recognize your birthday. Here are the December birthdays we have on file:

Jessica Bacon (12/2), Beverly Burgess (12/3), Michael Gustetic (12/23), Howard Hoehn (12/13), Steven Izen (12/3), Lilly Kron (12/20), Susannah Muskovitz (12/25), Gary O'Hara (12/13), Stephen Ripich (12/6), Thomas Swales (12/7), Jeff Weiler (12/31) and Nancy Wolf (12/17)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

December 2015 – March 2016

- **SOCIAL:** Saturday, December 12, 2015: **Annual Holiday Party** at Lakeside Yacht Club
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, January 3, 2016: **Peek'n Peak**, first trip of the 2016 season
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, January 10, 2016: **Holiday Valley**
- **MEETING:** Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:00 PM: **SSC Membership Meeting** (there is no Membership Meeting in December)
- **SKI TRIP:** Monday, January 18, 2016 (Martin Luther King Holiday): **Holimont**
- **SKI TRIP:** Saturday, January 24 - Saturday, January 30, 2016: **Keystone, Colorado**
- **SKI TRIP:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016: **Seven Springs**
- **MEETING:** Thursday, February 4, 2016, 7:00 PM: **SSC Membership Meeting**. This is the **Nominating Meeting** for Club Officers. (Please note the change from the usual second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday to accommodate the Two Day Ski Trip the following week).
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, February 7, 2016: **Holiday Valley**

- **SKI TRIP:** Thursday, February 11 & Friday, February 12, 2016: Two Day Trip to **Holiday Valley & Bristol Mountain**
- **SKI TRIP:** Monday, February 15, 2016 (Presidents Day): **Holimont**
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, February 21 - Saturday, February 27, 2016: **Eastern Trip to Maine**
- **SKI TRIP:** Thursday, February 25, 2016: **Holiday Valley**
- **MEETING:** Thursday, March 3, 2016, 7:00 PM: **SSC Membership Meeting**. This is the **Election Meeting** for Club Officers. (Please note the change from the usual second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday to accommodate the ski trip to Whistler the following week).
- **SKI TRIP:** Friday, March 4, 2016: **Holimont - Skier Appreciation Day**
- **SKI TRIP:** Sunday, March 6 – Sunday, March 13, 2016: **Whistler/Blackcomb, Canada**

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL

Saturday, December 12, 2015, 6:00 - 11:00PM: Holiday Party at the Lakeside Yacht Club

Our kickoff to the holiday season promises to be a grand event. It will feature great food and drink, a spectacular location on the Lake, a band that will get you out of your chair and the opportunity to win some wonderful prizes. In addition, there will certainly be a surprise or two that you won't want to miss.

As we have done in the past, the club will subsidize the cost and your price is only \$35. But you must act immediately if you want to participate in the festivities. The deadline is **December 5th**.

The simple and instantaneous way to make your reservation is to go to our club's website and use your credit card to make your payment. Alternatively, you can mail in the form on the flyer attached to this newsletter. You can also find the form on the website. If you are snail mailing your check and reservation form, you will need to do one additional thing because of the impending Dec. 5th deadline – i.e, send an Email or contact Joe Sullivan by phone to let him know your entrée choice and to tell him your check is in the mail. The Email address is on the form. His phone number is (216) 932-3636.

Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:00 PM: Membership Meeting

The meeting begins at 7pm in the party room of Alfredo's 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 meeting at 5:15pm for cocktails, food and socializing. If dinner is more than you want, order an appetizer, a salad or even pizza. You will find us at the back of Alfredo's.

A WORD FROM OUR EAT COORDINATOR

We have had a great year in 2015 with some very successful **Eat Around Town** dinners. There has been a lot of variety to fit everyone's tastes and we have attempted to move around the geography of Greater Cleveland. Looking ahead to 2016 we will continue to offer an interesting mix of places to share a dinner throughout the greater Cleveland area.

We have had a very encouraging response to last month's request for suggested restaurants and have prepared a very interesting line-up for 2016. Stay tuned for details in next month's newsletter.

*Mary Ellen Noss, EAT Coordinator
maryellen@suburbanskiclub.org*

BIG CHANGES TO OUR WEB SITE

As most of you know by now, we have introduced the ability to make reservations and payments on-line through the suburbanskiclub.org web site. On November 18th, we sent an Email to all the members of SSC explaining what was in store. Then, on November 20th, we sent another Email that explained how to set up your User Account. You may want to go back to those Emails to refresh your memory about the details. The November 20th Email is especially important because it provides a link to your user account in addition to instructions about how to set up your account.

We initially planned to make one trip available at a time, but it's going so well that we have changed our plans: **Now you can make reservations on-line for any of our one-day bus trips, the two-day trip to Holiday Valley/Bristol, and even the Dec. 12th Holiday Party.**

The online reservation pages include **new options to add on lessons and rentals at group prices.** The Holiday Valley and Peek'n Peak trips offer economical learn-to-ski packages that are great values if you have family or friends who might want to try skiing.

With such big changes, people naturally have had questions and some difficulties. Here are some of the frequently asked questions, with answers:

1. **Why do I need a user account?** Your user account makes reservations easier by storing your information on the site. You don't have to write out your name, address, phone number, email, and emergency contact info every time you sign up. The user account also gives you access to some exclusive features of the site, including the popular "Who's Going Where?" page. In addition, it allows you to contribute to the forum pages (where you can already find a terrific recipe for a ski-condo meal that is tasty and wholesome).

The user account is also an important component of our record-keeping system. The new system keeps our records in a secure, centralized, off-site location that is backed up daily. Club officers and event leaders have controlled access to the data without having to email or share files with each other.

2. **What if I don't have a PayPal account? I don't see any other payment option.** This has caused some confusion on the checkout page. All of our payments, including credit cards, are processed by PayPal. When you submit your order, you will be taken to PayPal's secure site where you can enter your credit card data. For added security, your credit card info goes directly to the PayPal site, without passing through our site at all.

3. **What if I don't want to use a credit card?** A free PayPal account is a great option if you want to pay right away instead of running up a credit card balance. Open an account and follow the directions to link it to your checking account AND your credit card. You can then have payments deducted directly from your checking account. **Why link to the credit card?** PayPal views the credit card as a guarantee against insufficient funds in your bank account. With the credit card as back-up, PayPal forwards payments to us immediately. Without the credit card link, you can see a delay of several days while PayPal verifies that funds are available. Remember that we hold reservations in the order that payments are received.
4. **I didn't activate my account right away, and now the link says it has expired. Or I lost the email with the link.** As we noted above, the emails were sent to members on November 20. Many people have found that the link says it has expired, but they can still click the Log In button and set their passwords. If that doesn't work, try clicking the option to request a new password, and enter your email address. Follow the instructions in the email that you receive. If that still doesn't work, contact me and I can help.
5. **What if I do not want to be listed in Who's Going Where?** This is a popular feature, but some people do have valid privacy concerns. If you prefer not to be in the lists, you have an option on your member profile to "Exclude me from Who is Going Where page." After logging in, click "My account" on the upper right side of the page, then click the Edit tab. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and check the box to opt out. If you have trouble, contact me for help.
6. **I hate computers, and this all sounds like too much trouble.** We still happily accept reservations mailed to us with checks. Remember that the address has changed: All reservations should be mailed to Ann McBrian, 2059 Maple Road, Stow, OH 44224. Remember also that we hold reservations in the order payments are received, so mail early.

*If all else fails, contact me via Email for assistance:
Cliff Lewis, webmaster@suburbanskiclub.org*

REPORT FROM TRIPS & TOURS

The busy holiday season is here and *El Nino* has given us a relatively mild November, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be thinking about the coming ski season. Why? Reservations are already coming in for the bus trips and the new on-line trip reservation system at our website plus the multiple day reservation forms will make advanced reservations more popular than ever. So, while there is still plenty of room on our bus trips, my advice would be to make your plans now and reserve your trips early to avoid missing out. Please go to our website to find all the information you will need on all our trips and to reserve and pay for your spot on line. This link will get you there: <https://www.suburbanskiclub.org/trips>

Week Long Trips

The three week-long trips to Colorado, Maine, and Canada are all currently fully booked and all three ski areas are already open. Please contact the trip leaders if you want to be on a waiting list for any of these trips.

Committee Activities

Trip Leaders met on November 22 and went over the recently updated [Trip Leaders Guide](#). We are now prepared more than ever to provide an enjoyable experience for all who join us on our trips. In that regard, if you are interested in becoming more active in our ski program and want to know what is involved in leading a trip, you are welcome to review the guide and related materials. Please contact me if you wish to receive a copy.

In addition to discussing the guide and Trip Leader duties at our meeting, we heard an excellent presentation on the new on-line trip reservation system from **Cliff Lewis**. Cliff will be making a similar presentation at a future membership meeting, so watch for details in the Newsletter.

The Trips and Tours Committee will be meeting soon to start planning for the 2017 ski season. We will be focusing on our week-long trips initially, but will also consider the bus trip program as well. Here is another opportunity for you to become more active in our ski program. If you wish to participate in our committee activities, please contact me. We may not be able to accommodate everyone immediately, but we will certainly keep you in mind for future activities.

Next Month

In next month's report, I will include some ski safety tips based on a list I compiled some time ago. I would like to expand the list to include some favorite tips you may have. So please send me one or two ideas that you wish to share with us.

That's it for this month. I hope to see you on the slopes in 2016.

John Danis, Chair of Trips and Tours
john@suburbanskiclub.org or (440) 796-0311

Continue Reading the Following Pages for a Photo Essay on the Fabulous Fashion Show of Ski Clothing Presented at our November Membership Meeting.



Lilly Kron brought her annual Fashion Show of Ski Clothing to the November Membership Meeting. The clothes and accessories were supplied by Geiger's.



Cindy and Marc Bacon showed off the new green vests with the club logo. The vests will be available for purchase.



Kim Sandler is looking very feline in this striking ensemble. Can you really ski in this outfit?

Under that hood is the very vivacious and excellent skier, Pat Lewis



Cliff Lewis always wears a helmet except when he models ski fashions:



Tracy Blake is wearing the latest in black and green



The ensemble of models takes their final bow. From left to right they are Colette Gschwind, Pat Lewis, Linda Nash, John Danis, Tracy Blake, Kim Sandler and Cliff Lewis. That's our proud President and Producer of the show, Beth Silverman, on the right.

