

# Ski Trails

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The monthly newsletter for Suburban Ski Club

February, 2016

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

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



Dear Suburban Ski Club Members,

I am writing to you from Keystone, Colorado where I just shared a long day on the slopes with 32 of your fellow members. I'm happy to report we are having an outstanding time and the skiing conditions couldn't be better.

While our ski season got off to a slow start with our first two bus trips canceled due to poor snow conditions, we finally took off at full-speed on our Holimont trip on January 17 and MLK trip on January 25. Actually, our Holimont trip got switched to Peek 'n Peak due to icy road conditions. When it became clear it would take extra hours to reach our Ellicotville destination,

we decided that the shorter distance to PnP made a lot more sense. Special thanks to **June Kelley** and **Melinda Kellerstrass** for leading our first two bus trips.

Please join us at our next **Membership Meeting** on **Thursday, February 4**. Our Nominating Committee will be unveiling a slate of candidates for next year's club officers and you will be able to make additional nominations at the meeting. In addition this is going to be one of most interesting meetings where you will have the opportunity to enjoy a **special presentation on the SS Edmund Fitzgerald** organized by **Judy Stowe**. Be sure to see the details later in this newsletter.

Special thanks to **Cliff Lewis** for his presentation on the new online reservation system at our January membership meeting and to **Jack Ganz** for providing us with techniques on carving and achieving balance while skiing. Thanks also to **John Danis** for all the wonderful work he has been doing as our new Chair of Trips & Tours even though a knee injury is keeping him off the slopes this season. Last, but not least, many thanks to **Robin Spooner** for stepping in at the last minute and serving as trip leader for Keystone. I can tell you that with only a two-week notice, this was a daunting task that she has handled wonderfully.

I'd like to welcome the following new members to Suburban Ski Club: **Tara Arrington, Jane Blake, Alisa Boles, Gail Collister, Dean Dietz, Marlise Fletter, Kyle Gangidine-Daley, Irene Lyden, George Novotney and Paul Wojnar**. We are looking forward to meeting you and hope to see you soon on one of our many ski trips this year.

Later in this newsletter there is a note on our **annual Directories** which are in the process of being distributed. Our multi-talented **Cliff Lewis** has, again, this year edited the Directory and we need to thank him for a job well done.

I want to express the sympathies of all our members to the family of **Ferdl Aster** who passed away last week. To Ferdl's widow, Ruth, to his son, Chris, and to all the Aster family, we convey our condolences on the passing of this wonderful man who was such an enthusiastic promoter of the sport we love.

As a final note, we suspected that we would start selling out our bus trips with our new online reservation system and this is proving true. If you want to ski with the club this year be sure to register early so you are not shut out.

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

### **Directories:**

Many of you have already received your annual Directory if you were at the January 14<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting. Some received them on the bus trips and others via snail mail. There are some still not yet mailed because they contained name badges for new members and we found out the post office required that they be sent via parcel post and the cost was prohibitive. The name badges are currently being removed and those Directories will be mailed shortly.

SSC members should be aware that the Directories contain much more than just a list of club members. In them you can find, for example, a list of club officers and their contact information, the Bylaws of SSC, our Trip Policy Statement and other useful information.

## ***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

What follows is another edition of our series recognizing the birthdays of SSC 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 February birthdays we have on file:

**David Bennhoff (2/12), Kurt Bernkopf (2/21), Tracy Blake (2/16), Michael Burns (2/24), Brad Carleton (2/21), Gail Collister (2/25), Judy Ernest (2/14), Susan Evan (2/8), James Hamilton (2/27), Bill House (2/21), Melinda Kellerstrass (2/7), Cliff Lewis (2/15), Mark Manthey (2/12), Joe Mersnik (2/16), Beth Silverman (2/16) and Andrew Volchko (2/24)**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all.



President, **Beth Silverman** (on the left) has just introduced **Jack Ganz** at our Jan, 14<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting. She explained that Jack said his presentation would involve a demonstration of carving.” So, **Cliff Lewis** has just put an apron on Jack and **Joe Sullivan** stands ready with a chef’s hat. That’s **Ron Howard** in the right foreground who appears very concerned because he has spotted the electric knife that Beth is about to produce.



“Chef” Jack tells the members about the importance of balance in skiing and, of course, shows us the importance of “carving.”

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

### *February – March 2016*

- **SKI TRIP:** Wednesday, February 3, 2016: **Seven Springs**
- **MEETING:** Thursday, February 4, 2016, 7:00 PM: **SSC Membership Meeting.** (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). This is the **Nominating Meeting** for Club Officers and will also feature a **very special presentation** on “The Edmund Fitzgerald: What Really Happened?” See details below.
- **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**
- **EAT:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 6:00 PM: **Forage Public House;** 14600 Detroit Avenue; by Lakewood
- **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**
- **EAT:** Tuesday, March 23, 2016, 6:00 PM: **Bodega,** 1854 Coventry Rd.; Cleveland Hts.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS IN MORE DETAIL**

#### **Thursday, February 4, 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.

This is the **Nominating Meeting for Club Officers.** The Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of candidates. You can submit your name or suggest someone else to the committee. You may also make a nomination from the floor at this meeting.

## Special Presentation:



The photo above is of the Edmund Fitzgerald and it is there to call your attention to a **very special presentation at our meeting**. Our guest speaker will be **Carrie Snowden**, the Archeological Director of the National Museum of the Great Lakes, which is part of the **Great Lakes Historical Society**. She will present some fascinating information about the freighter **SS Edmund Fitzgerald**, which sank 40 years ago during a ferocious November storm on Lake Superior, losing all 29 men aboard. Her talk, which includes slides of some rarely seen photos, will focus on the conflicting theories about the cause of this tragedy which remain active to this day. Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about this intriguing historical event.

### **Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 6:00 PM: EAT at Forage Public House, Lakewood**

The original idea for our February EAT was running into problems and **Nancy Lukens** stepped in and moved the EAT she planned for May to this month. Nancy is taking us to **Forage Public House**; 14600 Detroit Ave.; Lakewood, OH 44107. The phone number is (216) 226-2000.

Nancy and her husband, Tom, have eaten there several times and were very happy with the food and libations. She said this is a "hip gastropub serving craft beer, cocktails and a seasonal menu of sustainable New American fare." Please check out the menu which can be found on line at: <http://www.foragepublichouse.com>

We will be assembling in the bar for cocktails at 6:00 PM and sitting down for dinner at 7:00 PM. There is free street parking after 6:00 PM and a garage and lot north of the building are also free after 6:00 PM.

Contact Nancy via Email [[Nblukens@gmail.com](mailto:Nblukens@gmail.com)] by Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, to make your reservation.

**Thursday, March 3, 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.

This is the **Election Meeting for Club Officers**. If you cannot be at the meeting, you will have the opportunity to cast your absentee ballot before the meeting.

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 6:00 PM: EAT at Bodega, Cleveland Heights**

**Frank and Sue Evan** are inviting you to join them for dinner at one of their favorite restaurants, **Bodega Restaurant and Lounge**, on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. It's a great location since it is somewhat central to east and west side members. Bodega is located on the lower level at 1846 Coventry Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. The phone number is [216-932-1000](tel:216-932-1000). You can also check out their website: [www.bodegacovenry.com](http://www.bodegacovenry.com). Clicking on "contact" on the website home page will bring up a very helpful map of the Coventry location. If on street parking is difficult, there is a municipal parking lot north on Coventry on the east side just beyond Jimmy Johns and Paninis.

Frank and Sue say the menu is HUGE and they love the food. You can enjoy an extensive selection of appetizers and dinners with sea food (sushi and cooked), plus many meats from lamb to pan seared duck, braised ribs, grilled Amish chicken, chicken fettuccini alfredo, salmon, lobster tails, 16 oz rib eye, filet au poivre, lamb couscous, Moroccan slow cooked vegetables, berber stew with prawns, mussels, scallops, clams and lobster tails in saffron, fennel and tomato .....and then some amazing sweet endings such as tiramisu, cheese cake, baklava and on and on!!

We will meet in the bar for cocktails at 6:00 PM with dinner to follow at 7:00 PM

Please call Frank & Sue at [440-503-7089](tel:440-503-7089) to make your reservation or to ask any questions. We would like to have your reservation by **Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>** so that the manager can be prepared for our group. You can also Email: [frank.evan@yahoo.com](mailto:frank.evan@yahoo.com)

***A WORD FROM OUR EAT COORDINATOR***

On Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, seven stalwart SSC'ers braved the elements to consume the absolutely delicious sushi at Lure Bistro in Willoughby. About twice that number had signed on but the weather seemed to deter many. Those who did not attend missed out! Thank you **Shirley Angelo** and **Linda Nash** for hosting.

Scheduling a February EAT has been difficult due to several problems but we were able to get **Nancy Lukens** to push up the EAT she was planning for May. The details are above. It should be a great evening on the West side. Hope to see you there.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Frank and Sue Evan** are leading us to the Coventry area of Cleveland Heights to sample the fare at Bodega. In April, on a date to be decided, **Jack and Sandy Ganz** will be setting up a wine tasting complete with food at Shaker Wines & Spirits on Larchmere Blvd. in Shaker Heights.

We are always on the lookout for new ideas and new places. Please share them with me.

*Mary Ellen Noss, EAT Coordinator*  
[maryellen@suburbanskiclub.org](mailto:maryellen@suburbanskiclub.org)

## ***REPORT FROM TRIPS & TOURS***



We were finally able to do some skiing in January. Some 50 skiers made it to Peek'n Peak on the 18<sup>th</sup>, since the roads proved too hazardous to attain the intended Holimont destination. Keystone and Breckinridge provided a great week of skiing for 29 members and guests. The trip to Holiday Valley on the 26<sup>th</sup> was also entertaining for another 29 of our skiers. The Holiday Valley trip demonstrated that we can successfully run bus trips even when we have a one week trip scheduled the same week, thanks to a robust and enthusiastic membership. Also, worth mentioning is that the bus company provided wi-fi for the Holiday Valley trip. We will see to it that

this is available for all future bus trips.

**Melinda Kellerstrass** did a wonderful job in leading her first trip on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Please read her report in the following pages and check out the photos. Melinda said that the cooperation of the travelers and the assistance offered by several old hands made it a breeze and that she would be willing to lead trips again in the future. That is a great way to make a meaningful contribution to the success of the club and I encourage anyone who has been thinking about participating more actively to talk to Melinda about her experience and to contact me or anyone of our board members to get on the list to lead future trips. Thanks, Melinda.

Thanks also to **June Kelly** who led the trip on the 18<sup>th</sup> and to **Joe Sullivan** for hosting a wine and cheese apres ski spread. **Robin Spooner** deserves special thanks for stepping in late in the game to lead the Keystone trip, as does **Jack Ganz** who made all of the preliminary arrangements for that trip.

We are keeping an eye on skiing conditions for the February 3 trip to Seven Springs and are hopeful that the substantial snow base resulting from recent storms will provide good skiing despite the forecast for warmer weather. There is room for more skiers on our remaining bus trips but once colder weather resumes, these openings will go quickly. So, please don't hesitate to visit our website and sign up now.

It doesn't look like I will be skiing soon due to a problematic knee, so I can't say "See you on the slopes." But I do wish all of you "Happy Skiing! Have fun!"

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

## ***OUR TRIP LEADER REPORTS ON THE TRIP TO HOLIDAY VALLEY***

The threat of some liquid snow (aka rain – skiers do not use that R word) did not deter 29 club members from venturing out to Holiday Valley on Tuesday, Jan 26th. Our perseverance payed off and we were treated to a wonderful day of skiing. We only encountered a few stray drizzles and all the slopes that are usually available on weekdays were open and very skiable. There was no such thing as a lift line. SSC member, **Tim Daley**, said he posted a photo of the almost empty slopes on Facebook with the comment that he had reserved all of Holiday Valley for himself and a few friends. [See Tim's photo on the following pages.](#)

First time skier, **Gail Collister**, was very proud to say that at an age where she can collect Medicare, she was very excited to be learning to ski. [See the photo on the following page.](#) **Doug Charnley** told us "I was able to get in 38 runs and it was a very good day." Just after lunch, someone found former club president, **Chris Wolf**, collapsed in a chair claiming that the two Bernkopfs skied him into exhaustion. Unfortunately, no photo was taken of our weary past president. Chris got little sympathy when it was pointed out to him that one of the Bernkopfs, Erich, is 89 years old.

The exuberance of youth showed up in the almost 16 year old **Mallory Kelley**, granddaughter of **June Kelley**. This was Grandma Kelley's Xmas gift to Mallory and she took full advantage, reminding all of us that we needed to keep on pace going down the hill and not stand around talking. Mallory and Grandma June even took a turn on THE WALL. [See the photo of Mallory on the following page.](#)

Tim Daley's son, **Kyle**, was another young face on the slopes. His girlfriend, **Tara Arrington**, took a photo of Kyle when his attempt to show off for Tara on Bear Cub resulted in an unplanned encounter with his backside and the snow. [See the following photo.](#)

Everyone enjoyed cookies on the trip home, despite **Joe Sullivan's** best efforts to eat them all at lunch. [Editor's Note: the chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies were supplied by Trip Leader, Melinda Kellerstrass. Everyone thought she made wonderful cookies but the group also agreed she did a great job in her first time as a trip leader.]

This was the first time the club has offered a day trip when a large contingent of SSC members were away on a western trip to Keystone. We were very pleased with the turnout for this day at Holiday Valley. It is more evidence of how much our club has grown and how the word is out that if you want to ski, we are the club that provides more opportunities than any other club in the region.

*Melinda Kellerstrass*  
*Trip Leader*



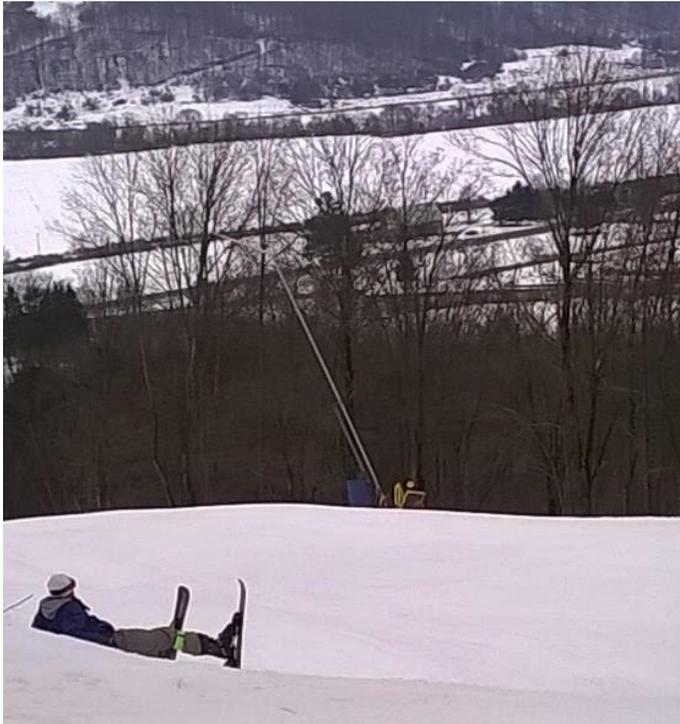
In this photo that's **Jack Ganz** on the left with **Gail Collister** on the right. Gail is a new member of SSC and was a first-time skier on our Holiday Valley trip. She took a lesson in the AM and after lunch, Jack offered her a few tips. Gail came away from her first time on the slopes very excited about skiing. We are delighted to have such a very enthusiastic new member in our club.



**Tim Daley** took this photo looking down on the Mardi Gras lift. Note the time on the clock tower. It reads 12:50 pm and, as you can see, we had the place to ourselves. It seemed that everyone on the slopes was wearing a green leg band.



**Mallory Kelley** at "The Wall." Grandma **June Kelley** took this photo and reported that Mallory made it down the infamous Wall.



Tim Daley's son, **Kyle**, appears to be waiting for the crowd to thin out. On the other hand, the rumor was that Kyle ended up on his butt while attempting to impress his girlfriend, **Tara Arrington**.

### ***ANOTHER TRIP LEADER REPORTS ON OUR TRIP TO "HOLIMONT"***

Suburban Ski Club had a slow start to our ski season due to poor conditions and we had to cancel our first two trips of the season. So, we were pleasantly surprised when the weather turned cold for our day trip to Holimont on Jan 18<sup>th</sup> and allowed us to finally begin our ski season. However, on the morning of the trip, it was not just cold but blustery and snowy with a forecast that those conditions would continue that way all day.

We met our driver, "Donna" from Precious Cargo Bus line, at the first pick-up at Lakewood on the west side. It all went well as we began our trip and roads on the west side were good. At our second stop the weather had changed dramatically but we picked up the skiers who were waiting for us at the Holiday Inn and, despite some misgivings, bravely headed out.

Once on the highway, we realized road conditions were deteriorating, and at one point we seriously considered turning around and going home. However, the weather began to improve just a bit and after consulting with Donna and some of the officers of the club, we decided to forgo trying to make it to Holimont and to stop at Peek n' Peak. Donna, our driver, turned out to be the heroine of the day and, with her great skill, managed to get us safely to our new destination.

We actually managed to have a good day of skiing at our improvised destination of Peek 'n Peak. Read the comments below from some of our group and you will see that we really had a time that was enjoyed by all.

At the end of the day, we all assembled in a room set aside for us by the resort. Joe Sullivan and his assistants put out a spread of wine, beer, grapes, apples, pretzels, nuts, crackers and, you might think, cheese since this was advertised as a wine and cheese apres ski soiree. However, the cheese somehow remained in Joe's Cleveland Heights refrigerator and did not make the trip. The group was very understanding and did not beat up too much on our very embarrassed caterer.

The drive home was slow and sometimes treacherous, but Donna came through again and got us home, much later than planned, but safe and sound.

I want to thank all the leaders of Suburban Ski Club for their support in setting up and making this day trip a success. And I especially want to thank our very courageous group of 50 skiers who were very understanding and very willing to adapt to the circumstances. I am very proud to be a member of such a group. Thanks to you all.

*June Kelley, Trip Leader*

Read on for some comments from some of our skiers:

“It was a great day of deep powder” – **Dale Unroe**

“Our trip was made successful by the quick thinking of our leaders who proposed ‘Plan B’ and by our AMAZING bus driver, Donna, who was not only fearless and competent but funny too...The wine and cheese reception at the end of the day was a really nice finishing touch.” – **Shirley Angelo**

“...looking back I remember sitting in the back of the bus after less than an hour thinking about screaming out loud ‘turn this bus around NOW.’ ...Donna did a great job getting us there and back. The Trip Leader and the club officers made a good decision to stop at PnP. Thank you for a great day.” - **Larry Grewe**

“I have never seen so much new snow at Peek ‘n Peak. While it was not champagne powder, it was not the typical Midwest heavy- moisture - content snow either. Though quite cold, it was fun knocking down the accumulated snow....Our bus driver, Donna, was a true professional. While the road conditions were marginal at best, she knew we wanted to ski yet kept our safety in mind.” – **Doug Charnley**

“Despite the cold weather, the January 18<sup>th</sup> trip was wonderful. The skiing in six to eight inches of new snow was a delight and the 3:30 PM gathering was a treat. It was fun to share ‘war stories’ of the day with other members over a variety of really great refreshments. Special thanks to our leaders.” – **Richard Salisbury**