

MSC Midwest SPORTSTER

Published by the Midwest Sport/Ski Council www.midwestfun.org Volume 11, Number 1 Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr 2016



Glad to learn at least one of the Midwest Ski Council's clubs will be visiting Steamboat Springs, Colorado, this season. Whether or not Steamboat holds a special place in your skiing or "boarding" "heart", it definitely does for yours truly, sharing some thoughts in that regard now.

When I arrived at KSTP-TV in late 1970 to succeed Johnny Morris as their weathercaster debuting the following July 19, 1971, I also inherited the post as host of (gladly) THE SKI SCENE, which had been hosted by Johnny since its inception a few years earlier. That hosting "inheritance" lasted from October, 1971 through November, 1974, and provided some of the most enjoyable and blessed years of my broadcasting career, now entering its 72nd year. That career began for me at age 5-1/2 as a "boy singer" on KDKA radio (the world's first commercial radio station) in my birthplace/home-town, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

That aside, for THE SKI SCENE telecasts (aired three times a week for four months each year) I was blessed to interview all the world's greatest skiers and ski champions. The first was Billy Kidd, then and now Director of Skiing at Steamboat Springs. Billy and I became great, longtime friends. That friendship exists to this day. The friend-

Continued on page 3.

www.mnski.org
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MSC 2015 WINTER CARNIVAL

Winter Carnival extravaganza and Bus Survey Results

While rainstorms and talk of global warming made some of our gang nervous about attending our Giants Ridge Winter Carnival, It turned out that the skiing was fair to good, and the overall experience was great! It was a good move to go to Giants Ridge because some of the other ski areas weren't even open on our winter carnival weekend.

I want to relate how we almost had a dark stage on Friday night because the popular band that was booked had a car accident earlier and had to cancel. We were frantically trying to find a replacement band or Plan B was to wake up our bus drivers to drive us to the local town.

Thank goodness the G.R. manager contacted a replacement bandleader having a romantic dinner with his wife and talked him into dropping everything and coming out to play for us. Special thanks to Colleen from Giants Ridge for going the extra mile for us because it turned out that the local town had only head banger punk rock music so we averted a seeming disaster by not dragging half of us into town.

Saturday Turtle Race results: First Place Men's: Brent Rosenberger from Ski Hawks. First Place Women's: Kim Greene from Traverski. First Place Couples: Brent Rosenberger and Amy Wild. Just a reminder that those who win first place cannot compete (in the same event) the very next year. Congratulations to Brent for winning a race two years in a row. I would sug-

gest that he retire like Gary Johnson and Chris Mickman and let the others battle for the hundreds of dollars in prizes. Unless we have a Champions Race next year!

As you know, your bus surveys on the way back from Winter Carnival are very important to us to improve your experience and decide where to go in the future. Here are the high points of the survey: 97% had their expectations met or exceeded (even though the resort made meal and service mistakes with their brand new staff). 47% want to return to Giants Ridge, 22% want to go to Lutsen, 19% want to go to Indianhead, and 12% want to go to Indianhead if it includes another Ski Resort. A slight majority would not want to go to Winter Carnival one week later in December, but a vast majority (61 to 36) would be open to moving the Winter Carnival to January, even though it would cost at least \$100 more.

If anyone is interested in organizing Winter Carnival next year, please contact the MSC especially if you want a different resort because we believe in sharing the fun of organizing events.

In addition to "Fabulous" door prizes, we had a really fun "mingle-bingo" game that got people talking and moving around at our main event Saturday night. John Olsen did a nice job of showing us videos and pictures of our wonderful weekend. Special thanks to Deb Assmussen and Jerry Schuster.

Chris Mickman.

ALASKA

ALASKA 2016 with Sitzmark

We will venture into the Alaska wilderness, see Mt. Denali (North America's tallest mountain), sail the glacier laden waters of Prince William Sound, kayak, paddleboard or cruise through icebergs in Kenai Fjords National Park and Prince William Sound, relax on the Alaska Railroad as we travel through breath taking scenery, drop our fishing lines in hopes of catching a prize king salmon, ling cod or halibut and get close to some whales. These are just some of the activities planned for a 11 day, 10 night "once in a lifetime" adventure to Alaska.

It's off to the wilderness where we will spend 3 nights outside of Denali National Park. We'll take a bus tour deep in the park with numerous stops for sightseeing and photos. There are also hiking, ATV/JEEP and rafting opportunities in the park.

The highlight of our trip will be 4 nights in Seward, and Kenai Fjords National Park, which include July 4th and the annual Mt. Marathon race, sponsored by the City of Seward. In addition to the race, activities are planned throughout the day and include a fireworks display in the evening. Participation in this challenging race and volunteer opportunities are available.

We'll spend 3 nights in Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Many options for one day train trips with guided hiking to glaciers and wildlife sightings. Biking or hiking the local trails through Anchorage and neighboring Chugach

Continued on page 3.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

and not as the organizer.

The MSC Spring Fling Party will be held on May 21, 2016 at a great location, the Phalen Golf Course Clubhouse. The Sitzmark Ski & Social Club is subsidizing this event. The specific details are being worked on, see the preliminary ad located on the back page.

The MSC website updating is still being worked on.

Due to the El Nino weather pattern, whether the MSC will participate in the March 18-20, 2016, joint three council Indianhead/Blackjack big band weekend trip, will need to be decided as we get closer to the event date.

In February 2016, nominations will open to club members for all MSC

Board positions. The term of office is from May 1, 2016 thru April 30, 2017. Get involved and have a say in what the Council is doing, by volunteering to take an active part and helping out in running the MSC. We currently have vacancies in three positions, Directors of Marketing, Membership and Social. There isn't enough space in this issue of the Sportster to list a description of each position. For a description of the duties, see the MSC website www.midwestfun.org. Under the MSC Board Election box on the homepage, click on the "more details" and subsequent "MSC Board Duties" links. Please contact me or another Board member to answer any questions you may have.

Jerry Schuster, MSC President

ALICE'S ALLEY

In case you haven't heard, the Sportster will be published every 4 months now instead of 3. This is an additional part of the effort to cut costs, in order to keep it going. The next deadline is April 1, and we hope to have it out later that month. It will be the May/June/July/August issue.

Attended the MSC Winter Carnival at Giants Ridge for the first time to the event in many years! I was very impressed with how smoothly it rolled along; and how much fun everyone seemed to be having in spite of the less than wonderful conditions. Sunday morning was full of surprises when it started out with rain and turned into a veritable snowstorm! We went to breakfast with rain coming down and by the time we got ready to go outside, it was snowing big fluffy flakes!

Chris and Deb and their helpers did a fantastic job with making things run smoothly. And the way Friday night magically righted itself after the news that the band expected was in an accident was just AWE-SOME!!

The Lodge did its usual great job with the food. The only glitch was with a new waitress-in-training, who had not had time to prepare for such a crowd.

I'm very impressed with the new plan in place for the 'Ridge'! Looking forward to visiting when it's all done!

Take some time to check with your club president and representative and encourage them to have a group email list ready for passing out information about when the Sportster is online to all of your club members.



In addition, I plan to forward the web PDF to them just as soon as I get it from Korry. When we get the PDF made for the printer, Korry then makes a separate reduced size PDF for the web. He sends me a copy, which I can forward to your presidents and representatives, on the day I get it from Korry. If they forward it to you, you will then have a copy even before it is printed and posted on the website. I will also send out an email when Troy lets me know it is posted. So stay tuned.

Read Jerry's column above for news about the upcoming MSC elections in February. And watch for notices in your email.



We certainly can use more people on the MSC Board! Please consider volunteering to help with the MSC programs that benefit ALL of our club members! Call any of the Board with your questions about it. Get on board the Board and have a say in the planning of our events.

See the ad on the back page about the Spring Fling Party coming up. Sounds like a great venue for it has been arranged. Sounds like it will be a good KICK OFF to the Spring and Summer seasons.

If you don't have your Winter trips all arranged, see the other ones available to you on the back page. Most of them are running their ads here because they still have spots available. So jump on it!

Hope the rest of your Winter goes smoothly, with loads of great skiing!

Alice Williamson, Editor

ZeVan, Cont'd from page 1.

ship included (in January, 1977) taking him and our mutual friend, Suzy Chaffee, to Iran to ski with the Shah's wife, Empress Farah Diba Pahlavi, for an HBO ski film I produced and shot (with my little Bolex H16 hand-wind camera) made to entice U.S. skiers to ski at any of the four major ski areas The Shah had built, and commissioned by the Iranian government to make the film. It was nominated for an Emmy in 1977. (One of the others I chose to be on that trip was ski film giant, and friend, Dick Barrymore. Dick showed his films in theaters, I showed mine on television, thus there was no competition and I wanted to maximize the exposure for the areas The Shah had built. I was told after the Khomeini revolution, only men were allowed to ski at those areas.) Those of you going to Steamboat this season, and reading this, could certainly feel free to ask Billy about our Iranian adventure. Please say "Hi!" for me, too, even though he and I communicate frequently.

Regarding Steamboat, in my opinion, it certainly typifies what a Rocky Mountain ski area should be and emit: Friendliness, excellent runs and lifts and perhaps the most approachable and

best instructor ever, my friend Billy. His daily invitation to meet in the morning on one of the lower hills and learn how truly easy it is to ski have been an iconic Steamboat trademark for the over 30 years Billy has headed the ski program there. Billy has a great sense of humor and is very easy from whom to learn.

One of the better advances regarding getting to Steamboat, aside from taking the time to drive, is its longtime accessibility via at least one major airline. Now that MIDWEST SPORTSTER articles will only be seen online, I'll defer to you to hopefully viewing the Steamboat website for all statistical details and updates that would normally be written in my traditional columns.

Bottom line: Skiing and 'boarding at Steamboat is one of the better winter sports experiences anywhere. Congrats if you'll be among those going there this year. (I don't get paid to write this or *any* article, nor do I get "freebies"! It's just true.)

Barry ZeVan

Editor's note: You can reach Barry at bnz1@aol.com. He welcomes ideas for future columns and is available as a speaker at club functions.



Tuesday Wipeout, Karen Felton finding her skis after the Wine & Cheese party at the MSC Winter Carnival.

Photo courtesy of Colleen Belgum.

CLUB NEWS Information

Editor is Carol DeVore - 320-217-1321

You are to send your Club News to Carol at:
snowfoolin@outlook.com



Some of the MSC Winter Carnival bunch at the Wine & Cheese party on the hill. Photo courtesy of John Olson.



Men's Turtle Races at the MSC Winter Carnival.

Photo courtesy of Colleen Belgum.

Next Sportster Deadline - April 1

WHISTLER with SITZMARK

March 3-12, 2016

Sitzmark's Trip to Whistler is less than two months away. Whistler is having a great

Start to the season with over 16 feet of snow already. The holidays are over and it is time to start thinking about going out west skiing. Whistler is rated as the number one ski resort by ski magazine. What is holding you back, signup and join us for a trip that you will not forget. When you ski at Whistler, you get two mountains for the price of one.

We are staying at the Delta Whistler Suites in the main village, great location to the slopes, après ski, the myriad of restaurants to dine at and plenty of shopping opportunities. There is a shuttle that takes you to the slopes in the morning and picks up up in the afternoon, or we are close enough that you can walk back.



The suites are two bedrooms with a living area and a complete kitchen. Each unit even has its own washer dryer. There is a indoor-outdoor pool and several hot tubs to soak away the aches from your day of skiing.

The dates of the trip are March 5 - 12. We only have a few spaces left and with the Canadian exchange rate being better than when we originally priced the trip call John or Julie for the final price.

The trip price includes round airfare from Minneapolis to Vancouver. Bus transfers to Whistler. 7 nights lodging at the Delta Whistler suites. Pre trip parties and get-togethers in whistler. Lift tickets extra.

Contact Julie Bromley, jeb1958@MSN.com or John olson, johnskiier@yahoo.com. For more information.

John Olson

Alaska, Cont'd from page 1.

State Park are more options, plus an exciting nightlife.

Departing June 30, 2016 from Minneapolis/St. Paul and returning on July 10, 2016. Cost is \$2150 (\$2250 after March 1) and includes airfare,

lodging and transfers. A \$400 deposit is due to secure your reservation.

Dennis Sherwood, 952-239-9954, dennis@hometechniques.com

John Olson, 612-385-5646, johnskiier@yahoo.com

3M Ski, Snowboard & Social Club - Silvia Fousters -

sfousters@mnm.com

Elan Vital Ski & Social Club - Alice Williamson - 651-429-6606

Four Seasons Adventure Club - Joe Senden - sendjhs@aol.com

Hiawatha Bicycling Club - Bob Bowen - president@hbcmail.org

North Star Ski Touring Club - Lee Wenzel - president@north-stars.org

Red Eye Ski & Snowboard Club - Scott Kuehn -

scottkuehn5548@hotmail.com

Sitzmark Ski & Social Club - Julie Bromley -

president@sitzmarkmn.com

Ski Hawks Sports & Social Club - Brian Boehne -

brian_boehne@yahoo.com

Slope Slurpers Ski Club - Jen Gostomski - gostomskis@sbcglobal.net

Snofuls Ski Club - Tom Kolhoff - 763-428-8149

Traverski Ski, Sport & Social Club - Jodi Whitcomb -

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Tuesday Wipe-outs - Judi Peterson - 715-377-5674

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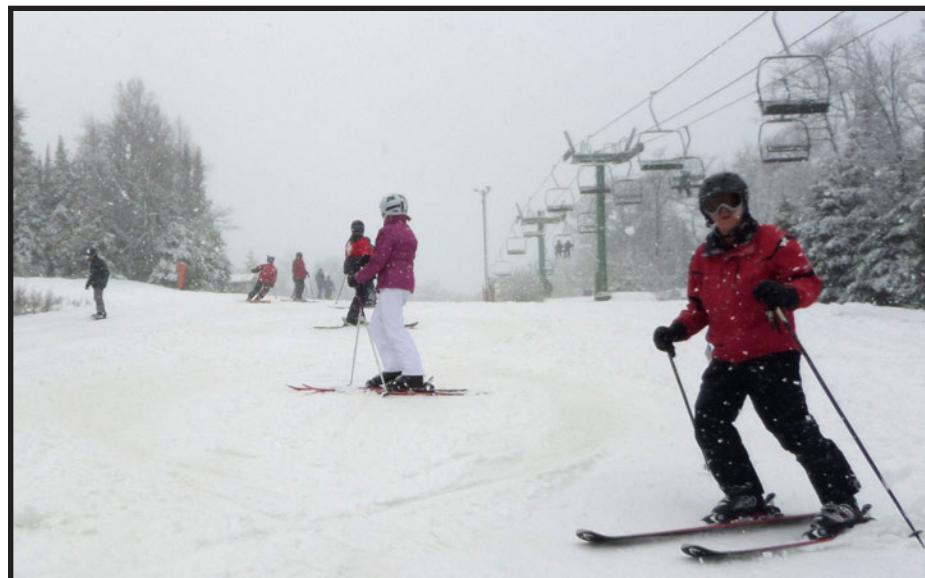
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Part of the human slalom at the MSC Winter Carnival.

Photo courtesy of John Olson.

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TUESDAY WIPE-OUTS

Yikes! I can't believe it's mid-December and we have NO SNOW! I'm going to be crabby if I can't get out to ski! And I want some snow in the yard so it feels like Christmas, and winter, and...well, you know.

OK, I'll try to settle down now and write nicely.... Though our planned first outing (December 1st) was canceled, I did have fun skiing with the Tuesday Wipe-Outs on December 8th at Afton when we had our new member day. About 30 women came to ski and enjoy the luncheon. We picked up several great new members, and had fun skiing, too.

There were five Tuesday Wipe-Outs at the MSC Winter Carnival December 11-13. Though there were only two runs open (and the warm weather made the snow mushy), we enjoyed the skiing, food, dancing, hot-tubbing, and fellowship with skiers from all the other clubs. Chris Mickman and his helpers did a great job of planning the trip, and Giants Ridge had the runs groomed as well as



the weather this year allowed.

Our next gathering will be at Afton on January 5 for skiing and a New Year's Party lunch. January 12th, we'll ski and enjoy a salad lunch. January 19th is our South of the Border lunch and skiing, too, of course! This pattern will continue each Tuesday through early March (providing we have SNOW!) Please check the MSC website for particulars. I'll try to keep it up to date! We have two ski trips scheduled for this winter: First, VAIL will be our destination on February 6th returning on the 13th. Second, to Giants Ridge February 22-25, another "Gathering of the Goddesses".

A cross-country ski outing is planned for late February at Hyland Lake Park. After that, hopefully the snow will stick around for another 2 months so we can have lots more Tuesday skiing before spring arrives. We'll see. For right now, WE NEED SNOW!!!!

Colleen Belgium



Sally H. and Mike D. at the MSC Winter Carnival Wine & Cheese party on the hill. Photo courtesy of John Olson.

CLUB NEWS Information

Editor is Carol DeVore - 320-217-1321

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snowfoolin@outlook.com

SITZMARK SKI & SOCIAL CLUB

Welcome to the New Year! Sitzmark has a great 2016 planned. Sunday afternoon tennis potlucks are held at Lakeville Lifetime. The dates are January 24th and February 28th. Contact peter.leuthold@hotmail.com, to sign up. We have Wednesday night tennis at Public Indoor Tennis in Spring Lake Park, 6:30-8pm every Wednesday until mid-March. Please contact Chris Mickman at (763-434-4678) chris.mickman@mick-man.com to reserve your spot.

Sunday evenings we play indoor Pickleball at the Eden Prairie Community Center, 5:15 -7:45pm through March. To sign up, email peter.leuthold@hotmail.com.

For Monthly Night Outs, in January we are going to the Bryant Lake Bowl and in February, we are headed to the Surly Brewing Co.

Sitzmark has three Meet and Ski events at Welch coming up, partnering



with 3M Ski Club. The first one is Saturday, January 16th. Come to Madd Jaxx at Welch Village. It is the east chalet. Get discount lift tickets there from 9 -11am. Hamburgers will be grilled near the bonfire ring at noon. Please come down and join us.

In March, we have our western ski trip to **Whistler, BC**. Email Julie Bromley, jeb1958@msn.com to see if there is still room to join us.

The other major trip will be this summer, to **Alaska**, leaving June 30th for Denali, Seward and Anchorage. The Early Bird price ends March 1st. After that, the price increases by 100 dollars.

Contact John Olson, johnski-ier@yahoo.com, for more information. Check out our website for more information: www.sitzmark.org.

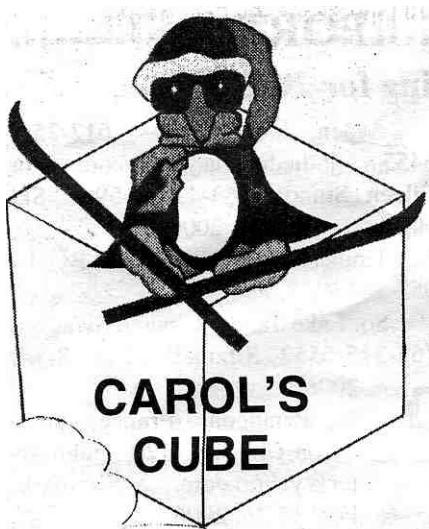
John Olson

No. 9
Ranked ninth resort overall
by SKI Magazine readers.

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WHITEFISH MOUNTAIN RESORT
WHITEFISH, MONTANA
Partially Located on National Forest Lands. Photo © GlacierWorld.com



Whitefish Mountain Resort Not Just for Skiing Anymore!

In the previous *Sportster*, I wrote about the skiing at Whitefish (aka Big Mountain), but the fun doesn't end when the snow melts off the Big Mountain. The warm weather months are filled with just as much outdoor fun as in winter. There's so much to do there in summer, you won't know where to begin. Summer visitors can enjoy mountain biking, zip line tours, "walk in the treetops", and more.

Mountain biking was introduced on Big Mountain in 1996, when Summit Trail, the first top-to-bottom mountain bike trail was built. In 2008, Runaway Train, the first downhill-only bike trail opened. And they just keep adding trails. Today, there are 21 bike trails totaling over 30 miles, encompassing skill levels from intermediate and beginner cross-country trails to expert downhill. Thirteen trails are lift-served.

Kashmir Trail, one of five new trails, is recognized as one of four "Model Flow Trails" (the latest trend in mountain biking design). This two-and-a-half-mile experts-only trail is said to be like riding a dirt roller coaster. Kashmir and Freebird, both top-to-bottom trails, feature large berms and jumps and are designed to complement the natural terrain of the mountain.

Monthly summer biking clinics are offered, to introduce beginner and intermediate riders to mountain biking. One clinic is geared toward women riders. A seven-week Thursday night race league, is fun for all ages and skill levels. Other biking competitions include a stop in the Montana Enduro series and the late season Double Dip Downhill.

Take a **Walk in the Treetops** on a 700-foot elevated boardwalk through the treetop canopy. This guided 2 1/2 hour adventure goes as high as 70 feet,

giving an awesome view of the land and forest. Guides give talks on the local ecosystem and point out flora and fauna of the area.

Also overhead in the trees for ages 7 and up, the **Aerial Adventure Park** is an obstacle course on suspended bridges and walkways. Courses of elevations 10 to 50 feet above the ground, and four levels of difficulty involve such elements as climbing on nets and ladders, swinging on trapezes, zip lines and barrels. Prices last year were Adults \$46 and \$34 up to age 12.

Zip lines come in a plethora of lengths and elevations, from Easy Come, Easy Go at 100 feet long and 20 feet high to The Floater, 1300 feet long and 100 feet off the ground. A five zip tour lasts about 2 1/2 hours and the seven zip takes 2 hours.

Whitefish Resort lays claim to Montana's only **Alpine Slide**, which was installed in 2009. You can take one ride for \$8, four for \$25 or if you have a group, spend \$125 and get 25 rides. Kids under 48 inches ride free with an adult.

For about \$10 a day, the younger set (age 4 and up) can test their psychomotor and balancing skills on **Spider Monkey Mountain**, finding their way up through a tower with four webbed levels and exiting via a giant slide.

For decades, people have been riding the lifts to enjoy the scenery and hunt for huckleberries. It's a 15-minute ride to the summit, elevation 6,817 feet, where you can drink in the view, visit the Summit Nature Center in the Summit house, have lunch and either ride back down or hike the Danny O' Memorial Trail to the base.

The resort offers various "Stay and Play" lodging and activity packages, such as an "Eat, Bike, Sleep, Repeat", which includes double occupancy lodging, full day bike pass, hot breakfast and hot tub access for around \$65 (previous year's prices). 2016 prices for all offerings will be posted later this spring. Members of U.S. and Canadian military are eligible for a 50% discount on some amenities.

Whitefish Mountain Resort is 8 miles from the town of Whitefish, 35 miles from Glacier National Park and sixty-six miles from our neighbor, Canada. If you're an outdoor enthusiast and are planning your next vacation, take a look at the website, www.ski-whitefish.com for all kinds of information to help you decide if maybe a summer trip to Whitefish Mountain Resort would be the way to go.

Carol DeVore

Next Sportster Deadline - April 1

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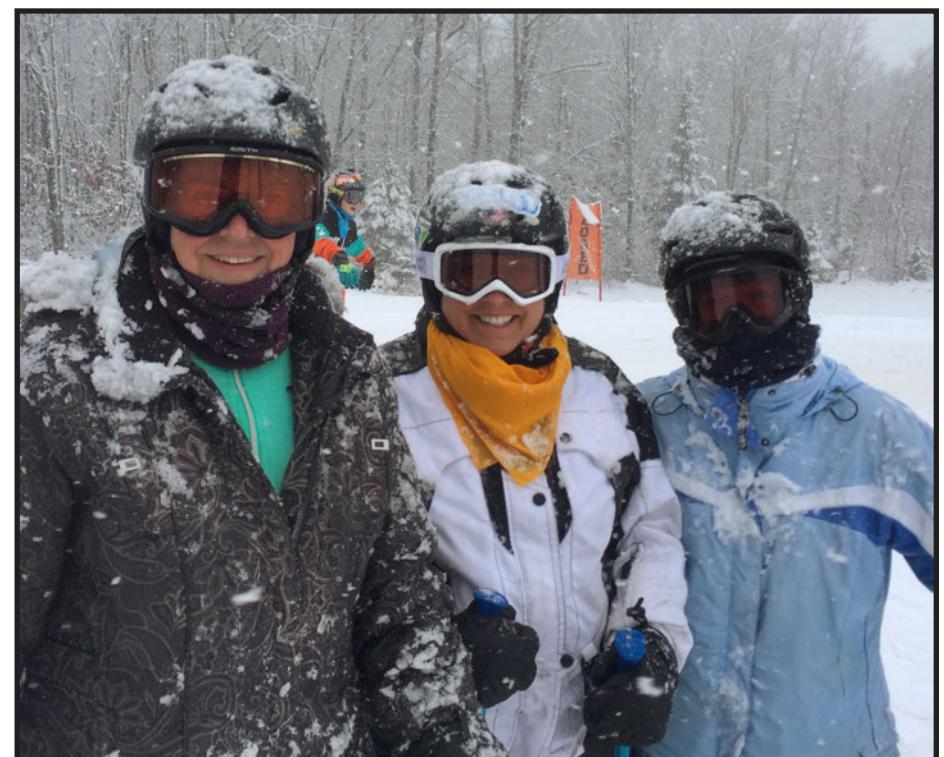


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MSC Winter Carnival human slalom in progress.

Photo courtesy of John Olson.



Tuesday Wipeouts Colleen B., Carol G., Karen F., enjoying the fresh snow at the MSC Winter Carnival. Photo courtesy of Colleen Belgum.

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We expect to have a summer planning get-together sometime in April, exact date TBD. All Élan Vital members are invited to come and bring ideas for summer fun. To see what the club is doing, or for membership information, go to the MSC website www.midwestfun.org and select Élan Vital under the "Join a Club option". Have fun in the snow this winter!

Next Sportster Deadline - April 1



Some Tuesday Wipeouts enjoying the sun and snow at Afton Alps.
Photo courtesy of Colleen Belgum.

www.mnski.org
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Part of the 3M gang at the MSC Winter Carnival.

Photo courtesy of John Olson.

ELAN VITAL

The Original Smoke-free Ski/Board & Social Club

Élan Vital kicked off the winter season in October with a well-attended party featuring a slide show and talk by Sue M about the recent biking in Croatia trip that she led in September.

A Sunday-Wednesday trip to **Giants Ridge** is being planned by Florence G. This January 24-27 trip is open to members of all MSC clubs. Lodging will be in three-bedroom villas. Nightly cost per villa is \$324. Ski downhill, cross-country or snowshoe. Contact Florence by phone: 651-233-3181 or e-mail: IOA6016@umn.edu. The slopes and trails should be well-snowed in late January!

Sue's next offering is a **Leap Year** trip to **Crested Butte** in Colorado, February 27 to March 4. Spend the leap

day (February 29) skiing Monarch! \$1199 gets you round trip air, ground transportation, 2-bedroom/2-bath condos walking distance to lift, 3 of 5 day lift ticket, and parties. The FUN is free! Contact Julie at 952-334-4995, email: julieb-1962@comcast.net.

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Carol DeVore

**Cross-country skiing
is our passion, but we
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NORTH STAR

**SKI TOURING
CLUB**

3M SKI, SNOWBOARD & SOCIAL CLUB

The 3M Ski Club had an exciting summer and fall. The Trip Sign-Up Night was a success. Due to the members' involvement in a survey and the experts on our ski club Board, we could again choose wonderful - and as we saw - very popular locations. Our exciting trips are planned!

The Revelstoke, British Columbia trip is already full and we've started a waiting list. We are very close to filling the Whitefish trip, also. Several people signed up for Winter Carnival at Giants Ridge, so our members are ready for winter. A big thanks to the Board and the trip leaders for all their hard work.

Our club not only skis and snowboards together, but enjoys spending time together at fun club events - this fall we had several! In October, we started with Happy Hour at Surly Brewing Company, followed by Trip Sign-Up at Cowboy Jack's in Woodbury. Attendance was great and most people stayed to socialize. Many lucky winners went home with door prizes including gift cards and membership cards for the Tavern, t-shirts, hats, insulated water bottles and other items. On October 24th, a group of 20 people met at the Rock Bottom Brewery for some food before we all went to the Warren Miller "Chasing Shadows" movie event at the State Theatre.

To start November, we went for a German Thirsty Thursday at the Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter in Stillwater. We also had a wonderful Wine Tasting Party which 43 people attended. This

event is always very popular and we learned about wines from region of Bordeaux, France. The food and wine were outstanding and people had a great time. More Thirsty Thursdays were at the Green Mill and the Tavern Grill, both in Woodbury. We also had a Holiday Wacky Gift Exchange on December 5th - always a good time!

We will start the Year 2016 with a Polar Ice Dive on New Year's Day. Ross participates again. He is already a Shark and a few others return to jump into the cold water. There are really some brave people in our club. On January 21st, we will have a Thirsty

Thursday at Afton Alps. People can hit the slopes for some runs or just come out to socialize.

On January 23rd, we practice our sweeping skills as we go **curling**. Before, in-between and after our ski trips, there will be more Thirsty Thursdays and other events.

Then we are already in the month of February! We finally go to Revelstoke, Canada on February 18th, followed by Whitefish, Montana on March 10th. Thanks to our trip leaders, Char and Lorrie, who handle the Revelstoke trip, and Felix and Ross, who manage the trip to Whitefish. Thanks also to Gary who is the MSC Winter Carnival organizer for the 3M Ski Club group.

Every event and trip is posted on our website www.hootline.com. So, now "let it snow". Have a Wonderful Winter! *Cheers,*

Silvia Fousters

FOUR SEASONS ADVENTURE CLUB

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow, but only on the ski slopes!

This winter season includes a ski trip to Giants Ridge, January 22-24 with rooms at The Lodge, plus transportation and Saturday night dinner for a reasonable price. Luckily there are openings. Please contact Bonnie, vonneinver@outlook.com, for more information.

Granite Peak is scheduled for February 8-10 with lodging at the Quality Inn, lift tickets and a complementary shuttle included. To learn more, contact Barb Epp, eppbarb@yahoo.com.

Al Anderson (612-825-6110) is planning a ski trip to the UP for March 4-6 with skiing at Blackjack, Indianhead and Whitecap, or cross-



country.

In the Twins Cities, there are many activities scheduled, with more to come. Ongoing, there are Al's Eat Outs and Bill Barnhart's Taproom Tours.

A reminder - our winter meetings are being held at Billy's on Grand, Grand Avenue and Victoria Street in St. Paul, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. The meetings begin at 8 pm, but come earlier to socialize and grab a bite to eat.

For more information on any of our activities, please email Jean.Braun@jgbrawny01@aol.com. This is not the winter to cocoon. Come out and join us!

Jean Braun

SKI HAWKS

There is no such thing as too much snow. - Doug Coombs. So true for winter sports, but there's always some fun to be had. The Ski Hawks celebrated Halloween in costume while touring Northeast. There were lots of laughs and some trick-or-treating between stops. November night at Nye's was a fabulous turnout with 35+ members enjoying the nostalgia of yesteryear.



Back to the 2015-16 ski/ snowboard season! Winter Carnival at Giants Ridge was a great weekend. We celebrated the beginning of the winter season and we even had fresh snow!

Did you know? The Skiers Subway In 1963 Park City Mountain, then known as Treasure Mountain, used subway cars through old mining tun-

nels to cart skiers 2.5 miles through the mountain to the slopes. The ride was pitch black, cold and wet and lasted an hour. After the ride, skiers used a minning elevator that lifted them 1,750 feet to the base of the Thaynes Canyon ski lift. There is still time to sign up for the

March 26-April 1, 2016 Park City/ Canyons Utah trip! Act now and ski Utah for the trip price of \$1,350.

If you can't wait until March to ski or board the mountains, the Jackson Hole trip January 30-February 6, 2016 may still have a few open spots. Check out the Ski Hawks on [Meet-up.com](http://www.meet-up.com/MN-Ski-Hawks) - <http://www.meet-up.com/MN-Ski-Hawks>, or on the web at <http://www.mnskihawks.org>.

Marcia Woodward

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ULLR SKI, BIKE & SOCIAL CLUB

Winter has come, and outdoor sports are thriving in the ULLR Ski, Bike and Social Club. We had great fall activities during the wonderful warm weather, but now we have bundled up and our cheeks are rosy from the wintry weather. But lest you think we are all "hardy" individuals, we have planned fun social events including theater, happy hours at various restaurants, and museum visits. The singles contingent has their own Friday game nights and dining out events.



two wintry sports.

Our own downhill ski team skis weekly for seven weeks at Wild Mountain and Buck Hill and participates in the Ski Challenge.

Did you know we have our own ULLR Foundation, where we raise money to donate equipment to non-profit organizations that encourage athletic programs for those who cannot afford it or who are physically or mentally challenged?

Check out our webpage www.ullr.org for more information on the club, or come to our meetings held at the Marion Knights of Columbus Hall at 1114 W American Blvd. in Bloomington. Our next meeting is January 21st; Cathy Schutt from Walker Methodist will talk about their therapeutic programs. Hope to see you there.

Sandra Shearer

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Eau Claire, Wis. www.redeyeskiclub.org

Next Sportster Deadline - April 1



Karen Voigt, Miss 2015 MSC Winter Carnival!

Photo courtesy of John Olson.

MSC Spring Fling Party!

Open to all MSC members
Saturday, May 21, 2016

Phalen Golf Course Banquet Room
1615 Phalen Drive
St. Paul, MN 55106



11:00 am Golf events
5:00 pm Socializing and Cash Bar
5:30 pm Driving Range or Putting Green Mixer
6:45 pm Dinner

You don't need to know how to play golf in order to participate in the mixer. Golf clubs will be available at the club house.

Admission by Reservation Only. You must be pre-registered to attend. Subsidized by the Sitzmark Ski & Social Club.

Details and pricing to be determined in early 2016. Further information will be available from your club and on the MSC website www.midwestfun.org



**Ski Summit County
ULLR Ski Club
2/28 - 3/5 2016
Cost: \$1,143
Land Only: \$843**

Ski up to five days at Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper, Arapaho Basin

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- ✓ Rountrip Airfare to Denver
- ✓ Roundtrip Coach Bus Between Denver and Breckenridge
- ✓ Six Nights Lodging in Breckenridge at the DoubleTree Hilton (2 per room, luggage handling, and breakfast)
- ✓ Pre-Trip Party and Welcome Party
- ✓ Private Bus to Copper and Keystone (one day each)
- ✓ Group Dinner at the Quandary Grille in Breckenridge

Go to www.ullr.org for more details.



Trip open to all MSC Members



WHISTLER BLACKCOMB

March 5 -12, 2016

\$1,524



TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round-trip, airfare via Alaska Air to Vancouver
- 7 nights lodging at the Delta Whistler Suites , 2bd, 2bath
Shuttle to and from the slopes
- Ground Transportation to/from airport
- Pre trip party and party at Whistler
- All this for only **\$1,524**
- Price based on 30 participants, subject to possible fuel surcharges
- This trip is open to all MSC members



PARK CITY / CANYONS, UTAH

Minnesota Ski Hawks

March 26 – April 1st, 2016 \$1,500

TRIP INCLUDES:

- Early-bird price \$1,500 - sign up by October 10, 2015
- Round-trip, non-stop airfare to Salt Lake City, Utah
- Round trip ground transportation to/from airport and Park City
- 6 nights lodging at Park Station Condos, on Main Street, 1 block from Town Lift, in downtown Park City
- 4 days Park City/Canyons lift ticket (Senior discount and other packages available)
- EPIC pass holders, subtract \$245 from package price
- 32 airline seats reserved
- Land-only, subtract \$440
- Go to mnskihawks.org for more details and sign-up sheet

This trip is open to all MSC members



Denali National Park (3 nights & 2 full days)
Kantishna Wilderness Experience Scenic River Trips Jet Boat Safari
Mt. Denali Bus Tours Hiking/Rafting/ATV/JEEP
Seward & Kenai Fjords National Park (4 nights & 3 full days)
July 4 Mt. Marathon Race Kayaking
Paddleboarding King Salmon/Halibut Fishing
Whale Watching Glacier/Marine Wildlife Cruise
Anchorage (3 nights & 2 full days)
Alaska Railroad/Prince William Sound Glacier Cruise
One Day Train/Hiking/Kayaking/Cruise Excursions Chugach State Park
Air Tours Scenic Hiking/Biking Trails Vibrant Night Life

Trip price: \$2150.00 (\$2250 after March 1) , limited to 36

\$400 deposit required to hold your reservation

includes non-stop RT airfare MSP/Anchorage, lodging, transfers, pre/post parties

Trip Chairs:

Dennis Sherwood 952-239-9954, dennis@hometechniques.com
John Olson, 612-385-5646, johnskiier@yahoo.com

Open to all
MSC
members



*Some Sitzmakers at the MSC Winter Carnival.
Photo courtesy of John Olson.*

Next Sportster Deadline - April 1