



Sitzmark

The official newsletter of the Cleveland Metro Ski Council

FALL Issue - 2023

CMSC President's Message, Fall 2023

Happy Fall everyone and I hope you had a great summer! Thanks again to Art Pokopac and crew for putting on a great CMSC golf outing, and we hope to get even better attendance and participation next year. While the snow has started to fly in the Rockies, don't put away your kayaks and pickle ball rackets quite yet; we should have an enjoyable and colorful fall, and one to take full advantage of.

Speaking of snow, there are some fantastic ski trips planned with CMSC and our member clubs. Please remember to check out our website which has most if not all of the trips listed: <https://skicleveland.com/ski-trip-events/>

While this part of the site is kept current and up-to-date, we still have a lot of work and updates to complete with the website, and are always looking for volunteers to assist. If you have any WordPress experience and a little time to spare, please let us know and we'll happily put you to work. Our racing program page is being updated shortly, so please check that page frequently for when we publish the final 2024 race schedule.

And last but not least, we want to welcome the Columbus Ski Club to CMSC! They joined over the summer and have posted trips on the website, and we're looking very forward to their involvement with CMSC and especially the race program. We will be promoting more collaborative events with all of the clubs in the near future, and definitely after this next winter season. Let's get some sharp edges and fresh wax on those skis, and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you on a trip this season!

John Griffin, President



CMSC FUTURE TRIPS FOR 2025

Zermatt, Switzerland 2025

Ten years in 2015, CMSC took 88 people to Zermatt, Switzerland. This trip was so well enjoyed that many of the skiers who were on the trip said they wanted to return in 2025. The time is quickly approaching and at this time I am in the process of reserving the hotel / hotels we will be using. Many of these people have been telling me they are going. Like the trip in 2015 this trip will be in late January. The exact dates will be published when these details are finalized. If you want to be kept in the loop and notified please email me at Curtiscmsc60@gmail.com.

Potential CMSC Ski Trip to Alyeska 2025

CMSC has been told that a growing number of people are wanting to ski. Details on this trip will be coming in the near future.

Cleveland Metro Ski Council

Meribel, France with add on to Nice Jan. 26 to Feb. 4, 2024

On January 26, 2024 CMSC will be taking 52 skiers to Meribel, France for a week of skiing the largest ski area in the world. This area is known as the “Les 3 Vallées, The Three Valleys, which actually is now an area of 4 valleys since the area has more lifts linking the area to the 4th valley. When skiing the The 3 Valleys you can easily reach and ski all of these French ski resorts: Courchevel, Méribel, Brides-Les-Bains, Les Menuires, Saint-Martin-de-Belleville, Val Thorens, and Orelle. We will have 373 miles of ski runs and 200 ski lifts so we will be busy exploring the ski area and skiing new areas everyday.

We will be staying at the Hotel Le Mottaret, a ski in ski out hotel in Merbel. After skiing a week The Three Valleys, about 40 of us will head for Nice, a city located in the south of France along the French Riviera on coast of the Mediterranean Sea. We will visit Monte Carlo and other beautiful sights along the southern coast of France.

If interested please contact Curtis Bell at curtiscmsc60@gmail.com since this trip does have a waiting list.

Breckenridge, Colorado March 24 - 30, 2024

In late March CMSC will be taking a group of skier to Breckenridge for a 6 days of skiing. This will be a great way to end the 2023-24 ski season. We will be staying at the Residence Inn by Marriott which has wonderful rooms with a full size refrigerator a stove top and microwave. They also have laundry machines on each floor if you need to wash any cloths while staying there. The Residence Inn is located right by the Breckenridge Brewery making it a great location for walking the main street to the towns many shops and restaurants. The hotel has a shuttle that will take you to the mountain to ski and pick you up even thought the ski area is only a couple minute walk. They will pick you up and all you have to do is call and they will pick you up within 3-5 minutes.

If interested please contact Curtis Bell at curtiscmsc60@gmail.com. At the time of this newsletter there are still spots open.



Hello Racers!

I hope that you've all had a wonderful summer and are gearing up for another ski season. At last, I have the 2024 schedule to share with you. Thank you all for your patience.

January 6 - 7 | Holiday Valley 1

January 13 - 14 | Swain 1

January 28 | Snow Trails

February 3 - 4 | Holiday Valley 2

February 17 - 18 | Bristol

February 23 - 24 | Swain 2

There may be a chance that we race at Peak n Peek this year. I've spoken with their team and are trying to work out details. If it does happen, it will most likely be a one day race during Super Bowl weekend. More details to follow.

We had a new ski club join Metro over the summer. Welcome Columbus Ski Club! If any Columbus Ski Club members are interested in racing with us this year, please contact me for more information.

See you on the slopes!

The Commish





Cuyahoga Valley Ski and Social Club

It has been a big job, but we have fully adopted our new identity, complete with a new name, a new logo, and a whole new attitude. We still love our skiing, but we now have lots of members who join us for our crowded calendar of non-skiing events!

The summer was full of brewery visits, a trip to the Foundry in Medina, bike rides, hikes, and our big summer spectacular, the Annual Picnic! The Fall brings more hiking, a Fall flower walk, Euchre, capped off with our annual chili/soup cook-off in November.

But skiing is still very important to us. There will be 'local' trips in early 2024: Holimont/Holiday Valley in January and Blue Knob in February. In between those two trips we're off to Keystone in early February. Then in early March, it's Banff!!

We also have a new, updated website that contains everything CVSSC! Check us out at CVSSC.org. If you go to Member Info, you can see our cool merchandise, including shirts, bags, hoodies, and engraved glassware. Contact Sharon at marketinggsc16@gmail.com!

Sharon Kaffen - Officer in Charge of Marketing
Cuyahoga Valley Ski and Social Club
marketinggsc16@gmail.com

CONTINENTAL SKI CLUB

It is that time of year in Northeast Ohio when Autumn has arrived with the awesome colors, so hope you are enjoying all the beauty! As we are all aware, winter will be here in the near future and that means skiing! Continental Ski Club (CSC) ski activities include weekend trips and participation in the CMSC 2023 Race Program and the Kids' Race Program, so definitely look for us on the slopes or in the lodge. For information about the CSC Race Team, please contact Michael Neibecker at (440) 537-7127 or cmscmike@roadrunner.com.

Continental Ski Club has had some fun activities so far this year. We've had a Pancake Breakfasts in the Park, and our Annual Spring Picnic was held in June. The monthly JULIET (Join Us Ladies In Eating Together) lunches have been enjoyed by the ladies, and the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) have also been held. Our monthly Birthday Day Nite Out dinners have been a great reason to have dinner together, and we recently held our Annual Steak/Clambake in October, which was another reason to have an enjoyable dinner together in the park.

In addition to a ski club, we are also a social club and enjoy having fun whatever we do! We will have our Annual Christmas Party/Hall of Fame Induction on Saturday, December 9th at the Pine Ridge Country Club in the Grille Room in Wickliffe. Other events may occur depending on the reason or the season!

We meet on the eastside, but have members from all around town and also out-of-state. Our membership includes singles, couples, and families. Try to attend one of our meetings to find out more!

Our current meeting place is at El Rodeo (7601 Mentor Ave., Unit B, Mentor 44060) beginning at 7:30 pm. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. For further information about CONTINENTAL SKI CLUB, please contact our President Scott Amos at (440) 223-0872.

A Little History on Adaptive Skiing and Three Trackers of Ohio

The first program in the United States to offer formal ski instruction to people with disabilities was in NE Ohio during the winter of 1961/62. From those very early beginnings came the formation of Three Trackers of Ohio. Norbert "Bert" Fischer, a former Hungarian Olympic team skier, met with Paul Leimkuhler and Stan Zakas, WW2 veterans who each lost a leg (one left, the other right) and began a trend that has spread across the world. Bert was well known in the skiing community of NE Ohio, as he started the first ski school in the state (the old Mt Chalet), was the first certified ski instructor in Ohio and was inducted into the Skiers Hall of Fame in the year 2000. Paul designed the very first adaptive devices for skiing called outriggers. Outriggers are like traditional ski poles but have short ski tips at the end to help with balance and movement around the flats. The 2 outriggers and the single alpine ski leave 3 tracks in the snow, hence the name Three Trackers of Ohio.

In January of 1966, the first adaptive ski clinic was hosted at Brandywine ski area to teach adaptive skiing methods for people with amputations. 10 years later, Boston Mills was the site of the 1st Midwest Handicapped Cup races. A few years after that, (sorry, the actual date is not certain) the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported that some 300 people with varying abilities from 10 states participated in the Coca-Cola Foundation Learn to Ski Clinic at Boston Mills!

Adaptive skiing equipment was originally pretty basic, but over the past few decades has improved significantly. Technological developments allow more and more people with sensory motor impairments to ski. Because of these improvements, adaptive skiing and snowboarding enables new possibilities for children and adults with a wide range of abilities, including those who use a wheelchair for mobility. Many ski resorts across the country offer adaptive skiing options, thanks in part to early promoters like Bert Fischer and to the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some programs in larger resorts are staffed by paid instructors, while other resorts rely on volunteer programs like Three Trackers of Ohio. More about adaptive equipment will be discussed in future Sitzmark articles.

Even though the program started in the early 60's. It was not until 1979 that 3 Trackers was officially incorporated. 3 Trackers (3TO) was and is still an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) program. The focus of 3TO has evolved from being a racing ski club for people with amputations to teaching adaptive skiing to participants of all ages and abilities in an inclusive, accessible setting. We adhere to the 3 basic principles of all ski instruction programs: safety, fun and learning. Some 3TO instructors hold adaptive certification from the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA), some have decades of experience, and some are new to adaptive recreation. During ski season, there are 3 sessions each week at Brandywine on Sunday morning, afternoon, and Tuesday evenings. Adaptive equipment and personalized instruction are included with the discounted cost of a lift ticket. In the past couple of years, adaptive summer recreation activities including water skiing, biking, and kayaking are also available.

New volunteer instructors are always welcome and appreciated. We especially value people with strong skiing ability, even if they have no prior adaptive experience. We will have a pre-season training at 9AM till noon on December 17 at Brandywine for anyone interested in volunteering. If the area is open, you can bring your gear and we'll go out on the slopes in the afternoon till about 3.

No matter the level of involvement, volunteering with 3TO is fun and rewarding. For more information, please check out our website, www.3trackers.org, or search for us on Facebook or Instagram (3trackersofohio).

There is also a great YouTube video worth watching from PSIA-AASI called Become an Adaptive Ski or Snowboard Instructor.

<https://youtu.be/q02yIMRCjw4?si=J-lyoMFAel3ypWW7>

Hope to see you on the slopes!

Hi Rise Ski & Sport Club



Hi Rise Ski & Sport Club is a year-round ski and social club based on the east side of Cleveland in Lake County. From the fourth Wednesday in May until the second Wednesday in September we hold our meetings at The Local Tavern. in Willoughby Hills on Chardon Road. It's a social gathering with current updates on events and activities our club is participating in. During the cooler weather we continue to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of every month (mid-September to mid-May) at the Legion Hall on Vine Street in Willowick at Willowick Ave. We have the hall to ourselves, the meetings start around 7:30PM with various events including, Italian Night, pot luck dinner, beer tasting, wine tasting, breakfast for dinner, trivia, chili cook off, souper bowl night, slave auction and many more. It's a great evening to socialize that usually includes food as well as beer, wine and water. We have been meeting here for over 12 years.

There are numerous events and gatherings set up to keep us busy before ski season and we will be continually adding more so check our website for updates. Wednesday October 4th, we have Dinner of the Month (First Wednesday of every month) at a Winery, Grand River Cellars. Venues for November and December will be announced soon.

November 4th brings another golf outing with a twist, you can only use one golf club, our bi-annual one club golf outing at the soon to be world class Green Ridge Golf course in Wickliffe. Golfing is hard enough so you want to test your skills with this challenge in any weather but the beer wench cures all that is distracting us for this event. We meet afterwards for lunch, prizes and lies about all of those putts we just missed at The Firehouse in Willoughby Hills. "Give it a swing!" This helps support our race team that begins racing in the New Year.

December 2nd we'll be supporting our own Cleveland Monster's downtown playing the fastest game on ice, hockey. Always a fun night with good seats at a reasonable price.

That should get us into some cold weather and skiing, we have a trip to Crested Butte, Colorado at the end of January that is currently sold out. We are also going to Telluride in Mid-March; this trip is currently sold out. (Thank you) Details are on our website, it's a great time to get extra days on your Epic Pass.

We are also looking at day trips to ski in New York.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

For more information on these and other Hi Rise events go to: www.hiriseskiclub.com or contact me: bob-maclauchlan@yahoo.com

Pictures below from the Hi Rise Banquet held in May 2023



Stark County Ski Club

After an amazing summer, the Stark County Ski Club is gearing up for our winter ski season. Members are still incredibly busy volunteering with AVI / Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium. We will be working a few HOF Village events, McKinley High School football games, and the OHSAA playoff games. Working these events will give our members the opportunity to earn Trip Discount Vouchers to put toward our upcoming ski trips. For a list of events, go to <https://starkcountyskiclub.org/> .

We had our glow paddle fundraiser on Saturday, September 30th. We had between 40 and 50 boats/paddlers. The weather was perfect, and the food was excellent. We raised \$1,533 from donations and raffles plus an additional \$3,500 from tip money earned working AVI events. We expect that number to grow.

Our trip committee has done an amazing job planning our ski trips for the upcoming ski season. The trips are as follows:

Holimont & Holiday Valley – Ellicottville, NY – Cost \$360.00

Multi-Day Trip – Wednesday, January 10 – 12th

Kissing Bridge – Glenwood, NY – Cost \$153.00

Single Day – Saturday January 20th

Sunday River – Newry, ME – Cost \$1348.00

Multi-Day Trip – January 28th – February 2nd

Blue Knob – Claysburg, PA – Cost \$129.00

Single Day – February 16th

Snowbasin / Powder Mountain - Odgen,UT – Cost Varies (2 Travel Options)

Multi-Day Trip – February 27th – March 6th

For more information go to SCSC website.

ERIE SHORE SKI CLUB



A fun ski club which meets on the west side of Cleveland at the Aviator Pub and Event Center on Brookpark Rd. by the airport (the old 100th Bomb Squad). Our meetings, which consist of good conversation, good food and drink, are on the 2nd Thursday of each month; Sept. is our picnic meeting and then we meet from Dec. to Mar., at 4:00 pm at the Aviator Pub in the bar area, although we are looking at other venues, so call Bob first (see below).

Our Mighty Little Race Team won the team Bristol Combined Trophy in Division II this year. We have a great group of racers, so come join our fun team. The club also meets most Weds., during the winter, at Snow Trails Ski area near Mansfield, Ohio. During the week the ski area opens at 10:00 am.

During the spring and summer and fall months we meet monthly for Happy Hour at different locations. Contact us and come to a meeting or a happy hour. For more info, call or text Bob Griffin 440-376-3518.

We wish all our metro members good health and happiness. Erie Shore Club members at the Georgetown Restaurant, Lakewood, for Happy Hour.



Malabar Farm and Louis Bromfield

In 1976, Malabar Farm near Mansfield, became one of Ohio's most interesting State Parks. The state's website touts it as one of America's most famous farms, the 900 acre country estate of Pulitzer Prize winning author, farmer and conservationist, Louis Bromfield (1896 - 1956).

As a member of Erie Shore Ski Club, I am in Mansfield on Wednesdays during ski season and I wondered about the farm. I had been to Malabar Inn Restaurant and still remember the delicious lamb and mashed potatoes. Last summer I spent a good part of a day on the farm, fascinated by the story of Bromfield's life. I would recommend a visit and the guided tour of the lovingly preserved "Big House". The stories in the house itself could fill a book. Visitors can also ride around the farm in a tractor pulled covered wagon (no hay), passing some of the still producing 900 acres which are owned by the state but farmed out to private entities. One of the conditions given the state during the transfer of the property was that the farm continue to operate as a producing farm.

I developed a deep sense of respect for Bromfield. In his day he was the country's most famous author, one of the earliest farmer conservationists, and most definitely a visionary. His life was fascinating, from his childhood near Mansfield, to his studies at Cornell and Columbia, to his years in France before and during WWII, and finally to his return to Ohio where his family had been one of the earliest white settlers and farmers (from the Society of Architectural Historians).



THE BIG HOUSE



THE BARN



WAGON RIDE AROUND THE FARM



Shortly after it was completed, the Big House hosted the wedding of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in 1945. Bromfield's books and subsequent movie contracts brought him into the company of Hollywood's elites. Many celebrities looking for quiet respite came to Malabar Farm. It was the era of Hollywood's Golden Age (mid-20's to 1960's) when movie producers were putting out an enormous number of films each year.

Bromfield wrote 33 books during his lifetime. All were bestsellers and seven of them were turned into Hollywood movies. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1927 for his novel "Early Autumn" (from Mansfield News Journal, 2020).

The Malabar Inn Restaurant is open for business and features an extensive and sophisticated menu of cocktails, salads, soups, lighter fare and entrees. The restaurant is in the remodeled 1820's house and includes a large patio. See Facebook for details

WARREN SKI CLUB

Our tag line is “year-round fun club”. And yes, we have had a great year with lots of fun activities in addition to our ski trips to Lake Tahoe and Davos, Switzerland: Biking, hiking, kayaking, boat party at Lake Milton, concerts, pub of the month socials, dancing, potluck dinners, just to name a few events. Ask our members about our fantastic trip to Hocking Hills staying at the new state park lodge and, of course, our 10-day trip to Italy, Sicily, and Malta in September.

It would not be a Warren Ski Club trip without taking the opportunity to spell out our great state (here at Heavenly, South Lake Tahoe, March 2023)



Vickie, Joe, and Gigi taking a break from their hike during Warren Ski Club’s trip to Hocking Hills State Park



Our members prepare to cruise Lake Milton on one of the five boats available during “Boat Day.”



We have an upcoming 3-day bus trip on October 13 to the Finger Lakes New York with hiking, wineries, and other fun things but this trip is full, but we have a waiting list only. If this event sounds like fun to you, we have a trip planned to Shawnee State Park in May.

But now it is ski season, and the Warren Ski Club has an **EPIC** ski year planned with Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Park City and Seven Springs.

Breckenridge, CO. Dec. 6-11, 2023. INEXPENSIVE TRIP!!!!!!!!!!!!!! PRICE DROP –\$1149 for 4 days skiing. AIRLINE CHANGED TO SOUTHWEST. 2 BAGS ARE FREE. Yes, an early trip but what a great way to get started. This ski area has opened in the 2nd week of November for the past 5 years so the early date should not be a problem. Studio hotel rooms at Marriott Residence Inn with kitchen. King or 2 Queens. 2 blocks from the slopes. 5-minute walk to town. Private Hotel Shuttle. Hot breakfast. Added fun- ULLR Fest celebrating the Norse God of Snow with a parade, bonfire, and the longest shot ski in the world. Contact Trip Leader, Dennis Mintus at 330-540- 6367derelictt@aol.com for more information.

Annual Snowfall 353 inches Vertical 12,998 - 9,600 = 3,398

Skiable Acres 2,908 Trails 187

Lifts: 34, 9 high speed

Beginner 14%, Intermediate 31% Advanced 19%, Expert 36%

Beaver Creek, CO. Jan. 6-13, 2024. All the amenities you wanted. 4 star accommodations at The Charter. 2-bedroom condos with full kitchen and laundry. Ski in/ski out or take the private shuttle less than 5 minutes to the slopes. 3 Hot Tubs, Outdoor heated pool, Onsite Restaurant, Bar, Spa, and Ski shop with rentals. Pat Kearney (330-550-8400) is the trip leader. We are working on a Roving Dinner Party. The package includes nonstop airfare from Cleveland - \$1875. Register: <http://warrenBC.sat.tours>

Annual Snowfall 325 inches Vertical 11,440 – 7,700 = 3,340

Skiable Acres 2,082 Trails 167

Beginner 19% Intermediate 42%Advanced 39%

Lifts: 24, 2 gondolas, a Chandola, high speed quad chairs

And finally - Park City, UT. March 9-16, 2024. The largest ski area in the US. This is now a Land Only Package \$1459. Staying at the Yarrow Hotel by DoubleTree in a great location to the slopes, town, grocery store, and restaurants. Hotel rooms with daily hot breakfast and an onsite restaurant/bar. Ed Hahn (330-519-0133) is the trip leader with a few spots remaining. We recommend Southwest flights CLE to SLC5799/2089 arriving at 5:35 pm and SLC to CLE 981/2320 departing at 9:00 am but you can use other carriers if you have points or awards. Register: <http://warrenPC.sat.tours>

Annual Snowfall 335 inches Vertical 10,026 – 6,800 = 3,226

Skiable Acres 7,300 Trails 341

Beginner 2.8% (although a small % of total area, there are plenty of beginner runs)

Intermediate 41% Advanced 28%, Expert 23%

Lifts 41: 4 gondolas, 6 high speed 6-pack

ONE DAY AND SHORT TRIPS: We are exploring shared trips with other clubs.

Jan. 20 (Saturday) – Learn to Ski Day with Youngstown Ski Club at Peek n Peak (caravan).

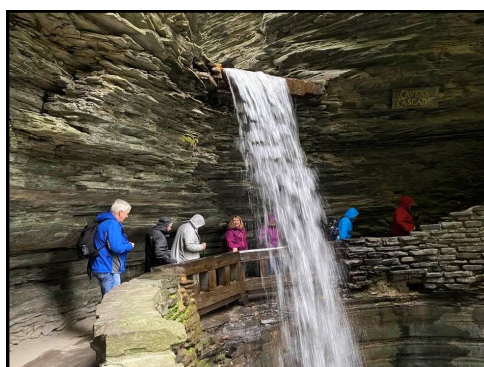
Feb. 2 (Friday) – Seven Springs Bus Trip (on Epic pass) Ed Hahn 330-519-0133.

Feb. 27-29 (midweek) - Holiday Valley which includes 3 full days of skiing and 2 nights lodging at the Inn of Holiday Valley. Ski in/ski out with continental breakfast, heated indoor pool, outdoor pool and hot tub, all lift view rooms. (caravan)

May 3-5 – Shawnee State Park

Membership in our club is only \$25. Our monthly meetings are at 7 pm at Giorgio's Restaurant on SR 422 in Warren on the first Tuesday of each month. Meet up at 6 pm for dinner before the meeting. For more up to date information visit our website - www.warrenskiclub.org or contact our trip director, Pat Kearney 330-550-8400

WSC members enjoyed an amazing wine tour this past weekend to the Finger Lakes of NY. A well balanced trip of wine tasting, hiking, good food and friends!!





Another Summer came to the end, and we are ready for the ski season 2023/24 here at Chagrin Valley Ski Club.

The trips we have planned for the 2023 / 2024 ski season:

Andorra, with extension to Barcelona February 1 - 11, 2024 trip leaders Judi & Larry Fordyce

Mount Snow, VT February 25 – 29, 2024 trip leaders Dave Rock, Shirley Angelo

Whistler / Blackcomb, BC March 9 -16, 2024 trip leaders Karen Moyer, Maria Lechman



All 3 trips are sold out and we have started the waiting lists.

The schedule for our ever popular day bus trips to Holiday Valley organized and led by Dave Rock has already been posted on our website and we are looking forward to see you come and ski with us.

January 7 and 21, 2024

February 4 and 18, 2024

The members of Chagrin Valley Ski Club have been enjoying time together off the ski slopes, biking, hiking, visiting a concert at Blossom, having a picnic together, and are planning to continue to do so into the fall.

Bike the Trail: October 8

Winery Hike : October 14

Fall Hike: October 21

Camping trip weekend Friday Oct 27 - Mon Oct 30

Warren Miller movie in Akron, November 12

For more detail about the ski trips, biking and hiking and how to join our club, please, visit the club's website at chagrinskiclub.org



Recurring NSCF Annual Meeting Theme is Demonstrating Value

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the National Ski Council Federation (NSCF) took place in Bend, OR on September 7-10, 2023 at the Riverhouse Convention Center. Delegates from 16 of the 30 councils attended the meeting. Greg Schmid, a former President of Cleveland Metro Ski Council (CMSC) attended as CMSC's delegate.

The first day's activities included a tour of the Elevation Hotel in Bend and an informal happy hour at Deschutes Brewing Company in downtown Bend.

The formal meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. on Friday, September 8 by NSCF President Cheryl Mann. The Keynote Speech was given by Shawnee Hinman, Recreation Special Uses Program Director of Region 6 of the U.S. Forest Service. The U.S. Forest Service, which was founded in 1905, is responsible for 193 million acres of land in the United States. This includes administering use permits for 127 ski areas (about 25% of all U.S. ski resorts). The Forest Service was responsible for many firsts in the U.S. ski industry, including the construction of the first chair lift at Sun Valley, Idaho in 1936, and the construction of the Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood in Oregon in 1938 with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. The Forest Service is also on the cutting edge of avalanche safety measures.

Several sessions concerned the multitude of changes occurring in the ski industry. These changes include Global Warming, staffing, consolidation, rising costs, and the aging of the ski population.

Staffing issues include retention, housing, training, and increased costs. Many employees are no longer able to live in their resort's community due to high housing prices. Several resorts are building dedicated housing for employees to attract seasonal employees. Vail Resorts raised its "minimum" wage to \$20 per hour at its resorts in the 2022-23 ski season. Despite this, turnover in the industry is extremely high.

The consolidation of the industry is being led by Vail and Alterra (Aspen). Alterra recently acquired Schweitzer Mountain in Idaho, while Vail continues to add international properties. The competing IKON and EPIC passes provide value for the frequent skier; however, one-day lift passes at Vail, Beaver Creek and Park City are increasing to \$299 per day for 2023-24.

Many ski companies have eliminated their group sales office, including Vail and Mount Bachelor in Oregon. This provides some challenges to Ski Councils and Clubs, who must rely upon their travel agencies to resolve problems while on the mountain. This has also provided challenges to the travel agents, with delayed bids. Agents are asking clubs to request bids 24 months in advance of ski trips and 12 months in advance on non-ski trips. This is somewhat problematic due to the fact that the airlines do not price flights that far in advance.

In addition, lodging options are shrinking, due to the growth of services such as VRBO and Airbnb. This has caused the travel agencies to request flexibility in club ski trips, including, e.g. less than 7 day trips, or trips which begin and end on a weekday. This helps lodging properties to only commit the property for one weekend. Weekday flights can also be more economical.

Agents request that the trip leader review the contract carefully and that the trip leader provides the agent with a realistic number of travelers. Special notice should be paid to dates at which the leader can drop rooms or airline seats. If you are running an international trip, pay attention to exchange rates. Make sure that any contracted food and beverage services include taxes and gratuities. Agents also request that bids be responded to on a timely basis. And don't forget to offer trip insurance options to those travelling.

Many of the sessions revolved around the value of the Ski Club, Council and NSCF. At one time, people joined a ski club for more affordable group travel. However, this is no longer the case. Most people now join a ski club for the camaraderie, the opportunity to socialize with people with similar interests. There has

been a lot of discussion about the aging of the club population and discussions of how clubs can attract younger members. Some options include scheduling more informal gatherings, offering non-ski travel, and not requiring club membership to travel with the club (reciprocity with other clubs and organization).

NSCF is also looking at this issue. Why belong to a club, which belongs to a council, which belongs to NSCF? NSCF provides many benefits to its councils, including a monthly Newsbeat, which discusses industry news and trends. NSCF also provides a number of benefits, including discounts on lodging, travel, and other goods and services to members. These are available on the NSCF website, www.skifederation.org. To receive these benefits, you will need to register on the website and be approved by an administrator. NSCF also has a Zoom membership which can be used by its councils and clubs free of charge. In addition, the NSCF 6th annual auction is in progress until November 1, 2023, with ski tickets, gear, and lodging being bid on.

With all of this change in the industry, how can ski clubs and councils receive the attention we know they deserve from the industry? We might think that the industry is big enough and sophisticated enough to know what kind of impact our members have on their success. However, that is not the case. The industry has asked NSCF to help their councils and clubs to determine their total economic impact on the industry. It is not difficult to determine how much impact a particular ski trip has at a resort. However, those same skiers that went on a trip have skied at other resorts during the winter and maybe gone on additional non-club trips. They also ate at restaurants in the resort town, purchased goods, rented equipment, etc. NSCF is currently developing a spreadsheet template, with the assistance of the Texas Ski Council, which will be available in the near future. If CMSC's clubs can accumulate data and send it to the Council, then the Council can send it to NSCF, who in turn can send it to the industry to show it the full economic benefit of NSCF and its members.

Next year's meeting will be at the Elevation Hotel in Crested Butte, Colorado from August 21-25.





NSCF Virtual Silent Auction

The Virtual Silent Auction
opens at 12:00 PM EDT (Noon)
on October 1st.

The auction will close at 5:00
PM EDT on November 1st.



The National Ski Council Federation Auction is open to all ski clubs' members of member ski councils across the USA and the skiing public. Spread the word, tell your friends so they can join in on the fun.

The 6th Annual NSCF virtual silent auction features a pair of Icelandic Skis, Nexus Skis, a Gilson Snowboard, several lodging packages, lift tickets, an IKON pass, an Indy Pass, Mt Bachelor trip and many accessories.

Remember:



To participate in this auction, you need to go to the link below or use the adjacent QR code. <https://www.32auctions.com/NSCFAuction2023>

Scroll down the home page to the NSCF Virtual Silent Auction section and click on ENTER THE AUCTION. Once you are on the auction site you can view the items in the auction. To place bids and update your bids you will need to register on the auction site. Click the Login button at the top of the page - it will ask you to log into your account.

You will need to create an account your first time on this site. This is a pretty quick procedure and not invasive. After that just log in and bid away.

Bidding starts October 1, 2023 at 12 PM EDT.

Bidding stops November 1, 2023 at 5 PM EDT.

If you have any questions, contact:
vicepresident@skifederation.org.

