

President's Corner
By Dave Olsen



What a great picnic we had in July with beautiful weather, great food, and a huge turnout! I enjoyed meeting many of our newcomers and seeing so many of you from years past as well. I snapped a lot of photos which I put on our SmugMug photo-sharing website (psc.smugmug.com). I think I captured just about everyone. It's especially nice that we have so many with interest in our summer trips, including those who may have hung up their skis for good but enjoy the camaraderie of our non-skiing trips, plus those who never skied at all but have become part of our family through participation in these trips. How wonderful!

Speaking of our non-skiing trips, we have one getting underway in September (our *Grand Tour* from the Rhine to the Danube), and the two we recently announced for next year have enjoyed tremendous early sales. Both our May 2015 tour of *Historic Turkey* and our August/September 2015 *Adriatic Cruise* have essentially sold out, the latter within just a few days from its being announced. The popularity of both trips may have been enhanced by the early signup incentives we were able to offer.

Our winter ski trips have also enjoyed brisk sales, with several already full or nearly so. If you missed the opportunity for any of our trips — summer or winter — but would really like to go, be sure to contact the trip leaders and get on the waiting list. With so many months between now and their departure, most trips will almost certainly suffer some cancellations, and sending in a deposit now (which we won't cash until we can confirm you on the trip, and you reconfirm that you still want to go) may get you on the trip of your choice.

I look forward to seeing you at our fall meetings. Our focus on September 2 will be trip signups. (Note the new date; we originally announced it for Sept. 9, but the Ft. Myer O'Club wasn't available.) October 7 will feature an Oktoberfest theme and, being Halloween month, we'll encourage the wearing of costumes. November 4 we'll have a Thanksgiving theme. We haven't locked in all our programs, but we hope to focus on some health, safety and fitness issues to help enhance your skiing.

It's not too early to start thinking snow! Several resorts out west typically open by Thanksgiving, with some as early as Halloween — before the next *Liftline* goes to press!

TSA Pre✓

Global Entry Cards

by Dave Olsen

Many of our members have been enjoying the benefits of having obtained Global Entry cards. The cards are especially valuable when re-entering the U.S. from an overseas trip as they essentially give you head-of-line privileges coming through both immigration and customs. Those lines have sometimes been 30-45 minutes each when we return to Dulles Airport on a Saturday afternoon. The cards also give you TSA Pre-Check benefits which afford expedited screening at participating airports. Typically, you'll go through a special (shorter) security line and won't need to remove your jackets, belts, shoes, or laptops.

Global Entry is one of four Trusted Traveler programs maintained by the Department of Homeland Security. A comparison chart is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/comparison-chart>. Enrollment is a fairly simple process. You start by going to the Global Online Enrollment System (GOES) website (there's a link provided in the comparison chart). You'll need to provide your passport information, list the countries you've visited in recent years, and pay a \$100 fee which is good for a 5-year membership.

Once your application is conditionally approved (likely within a week or so), you'll receive notification to schedule an interview where they'll verify your ID and take a photo and fingerprints. In my experience the interview was a quick process lasting literally just a few minutes. You should then receive your card in a week or two. As a final step, you'll need to return to the GOES website to activate your card.

You should log into your frequent flier account with every airline you plan to use in the coming months and enter your Global Entry number. Thereafter, the boarding passes you get when you check in for a flight should bear the TSA Pre-Check symbol.

When you sign up for a trip with the club, you should provide your frequent flier numbers (but *not* your Global Entry numbers) so we can pass them along to our tour operators, and hence to the airlines. We ask for your FF numbers on our trip signup form.

Tip #1: Your FF records may bear only your middle initial and not your full middle name (FMN). You should change your FF records to include your FMN as it appears on your Global Entry card.

(Continued on Page 3)



Pentagon Ski Club

2014-2015 Council & Committees

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www.pentagonskiclub.org

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The Lifeline is issued three or maybe four times per year. All articles are welcome for publication, but the editor has the right to edit for size and PSC policy.

PSC MEMBERSHIP FEES

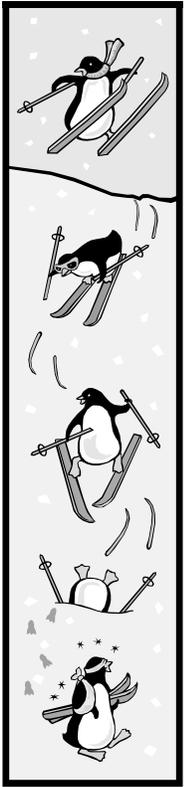
	1-YEAR	2-YEARS	3-YEARS
SINGLE	\$30	\$55	\$75
FAMILY	\$40	\$75	\$100

2014-2015

PSC MEETING SCHEDULE

Our meetings are held on the First or second Tuesday of the month as listed below at the Officers Club at Fort Myer, VA, at 7 PM

- *Picnic, Saturday, July 19*
- *Tuesday, September 2*
- *Tuesday, October 7*
- *Tuesday, November 4*
- *Tuesday, December 9*
- *Tuesday, January 13*
- *Tuesday, March 3*
- *Tuesday, April 7*



Membership Benefits

To access the *Membership Benefits* area in the National Ski Council Federation website at www.skifederation.org (all PSCers are automatically members), use the following:

userid = skiclub; password = member

Membership Updates

Please take a moment to check the date on your newsletter label—it indicates the month your membership expires. If you need to renew or change your address, please see Cheree Peirce at our meetings, contact her at cheree2be@yahoo.com or send her a check (see membership fees up above).

Cheree Peirce

**19701 Golden Valley Lane
Brookeville MD 20833**



(Presidents Corner, from Page 1)

Tip #2: Our trip signup form asks for your FMN, or just your middle initial, however it appears on the ID you plan to use when traveling. To help assure that everything matches up, you should provide us with your FMN as it appears on your Global Entry card, *even for domestic trips*, so that everything matches.

Tip #3: The TSA Pre-Check symbol must be printed on your boarding pass to allow entry to the special security line. You won't be asked for your Global Entry card. If for some reason the pre-check notation doesn't appear on your boarding pass, having your card with you might not get you into the special line, which is why Tips 1 and 2 are important.

Happy travels!



by Peter Porton

Why go to Jackson Hole? Three reasons: it's during kids' and many adults' vacation time; it's great to start the season early, getting those ski legs ready for the season; and, finally, it's Jackson Hole!

With a 4,139-foot vertical, 2,500 acres of terrain, the Hobacks, Corbet's Couloir, seven on-mountain restaurants, the new 100-passenger tram and an average of more than 450 inches of snow, JH offers anything you want. Also, 50% of the runs are beginner and intermediate, so don't let its reputation scare you away.

We also ski Grand Targhee for a day. It gets even more snow than JH (500 inches), has two mountains with a 2,270-foot vertical on 1,800 acres of terrain, and no lift lines.

We'll be staying in the town of Jackson Hole, at the Parkway Inn. The rooms have two queens or a king bed. We'll have a buffet breakfast included each day and the hotel has two Jacuzzis, a fitness center, his and her saunas, a guest computer plus free WiFi. There's a complimentary ski shuttle and the town of JH has busses going to the mountain as well. We'll be located three blocks from the center of town, where you can go to the Million Dollar Bar, see the elk antler arch, and eat at many great restaurants.

If you don't ski or want something else to do, you can set up a day at Yellowstone National Park and snowmobile to Old Faithful; there are multiple other snowmobile tours available as well. Other events? Try a dinner sleigh ride at Spring Creek Ranch or Mill Iron Ranch, take a dog sled tour, a snowcoach tour to Old Faithful, a JH Wildlife Safari or visit the National Museum of Wildlife Art, and...etc., etc., etc. Jackson Hole has a lot of things going on, which is why we stay in the town.

We have good flights. 7:30 AM flight from Reagan on Delta, via Salt Lake City to JH, arriving at noonish. The return flight

leaves JH at 1:32 and arrives home at Reagan, via Minneapolis, at 10:39 PM

If you need more information, call me at 703-471-7791 or e-mail me at psc001@comcast.net. If you want to go, sign up on our website (www.pentagonskiclub.org, and go to trips) and send me the \$500 deposit. I hope you'll join us for a multi-venue trip, a great vacation, and a great way to start the season.



Rest Up My Friend and Live the Dream

by Susie Pumphrey

Blue skies, crisp air, Utah powder, acres upon acres of Alpine terrain, all yours with the Pentagon Ski Club's January 3-10 Park City, Utah trip. We are staying at the Park City Peaks Hotel situated in picturesque Park City and within minutes of our three world class ski resorts, the 2002 Winter Olympic Venues, restaurants, shopping and entertainment. Breakfast is complimentary in the Rustic Creek Grill. There is a giant outdoor hot tub, and indoor hot tub and sauna, indoor-outdoor pool, upper deck sports bar & grill, and a cookie man delivering complimentary hot cocoa and freshly baked cookies all winter long.

Deer Valley: Ski the Difference! Deer Valley Resort is home to six peaks, three villages, over 10 signature dining experiences, 15 top-of-the-line grooming machines and 2,026 skiable acres in the beautiful Wasatch Mountain Range. The mountain dedicates 17 hours of every day to create exquisitely groomed carpets of snow on over 50 percent of their slopes. From powdery bowls to perfectly spaced glades to serious steeps, you'll find what you came looking for.

Park City Mountain Resort: (It just celebrated its 50th anniversary) boasts up to 50 newly groomed runs on any given day. Skiers and snowboarders cruise past relics of Park City's mining history and can directly access Park City's historic Main Street from the slopes. It has 3,300 skiable acres, 106 trails and 750 acres of bowl skiing.

The Canyons: Play Hard, Live Easy! This is Utah's largest ski resort and has something to satisfy everyone. The Canyons resort covers nine mountain peaks with maximum elevation of 9,990 ft., a vertical drop of 3,190 ft., 4,000 acres of skiable terrain, a ski beach, a vibrant village, and 19 chairlifts including the Orange Bubble Express, the only heated chairlift in North America.

So if you want to ski The Greatest Snow on Earth join us January 3-10, 2015 for an excellent price of \$1480.



by Jim McDonough

Join the Pentagon Ski Club for a fun-filled week in Telluride, Colorado. Telluride averages 300 days of sunshine and over 300 inches of snow annually and was ranked by *Conde Nast Traveler* readers as the #1 ski resort in North America in 2012 and 2013. Telluride's remarkable beauty and legendary runs set it apart from other ski destinations. The \$1,625 package includes: round-trip flights from Washington Reagan National Airport(DCA) through Atlanta (ATL) to Montrose, Colorado(MTJ); bus transfers to Telluride; lodging at the Victorian Inn; and five day lift tickets.

This trip departs from DCA on Saturday, January 10th, 2015 at 6:00 AM on Delta Airlines and returns to DCA on Saturday, January 17th, at 9:10 PM. We'll be flying into Montrose, CO, a 90-minute drive from Telluride. A grocery stop will be included.

Telluride is located in a box canyon in a remote part of Colorado in the rugged San Juan range. The top of Telluride offers some of the most stunning views in American skiing with vistas accessible to skiers of every ability. Because of its remoteness, the mountain is never crowded and lift lines of five minutes are considered mob scenes. It's the kind of place that takes a little effort to get to, but once you arrive you are glad you did.

Our lift tickets are for 5-of-7 days so you can choose the day you want to take off or purchase a sixth day of skiing for \$32.

Telluride truly offers something for everyone. Beginners have their terrain, including a 4½ mile run down from near the top, something not many mountains offer. Intermediates have it made because Telluride has tons of very varied blue and double blue runs – and not just groomed cruisers. Improving advanced intermediates can try bump runs and powder skiing and glades. Telluride has an incredible assortment of advanced choices from single black steeper cruisers to long, steep double black bump runs, glades and chutes, plus more than a dozen even higher rated EX (Extreme Terrain) trails. Expert skiers can access black, double black and EX - Extreme Terrain - right off the lifts. Last year Telluride did extensive renovations on its slope side restaurants so we'll have plenty of options for our lunchtime get togethers. For those interested in racing, NASTAR is available.

Telluride has two towns built in the '90s: one in the 1890s and one in the 1990s. The historic town (home to the first bank ever robbed by Butch Cassidy) is charming and quaint with a diverse dining and drinking scene. Having over 50 restaurants, Telluride excels at casual dining. For pizza and real slow smoked barbecue, Brown Dog Pizza and Oak have been described as the best in class at any ski resort in the country. The newer town, Mountain Village, is a short gondola ride (operated from 7 AM to midnight as public transportation) up the hill and has shop-

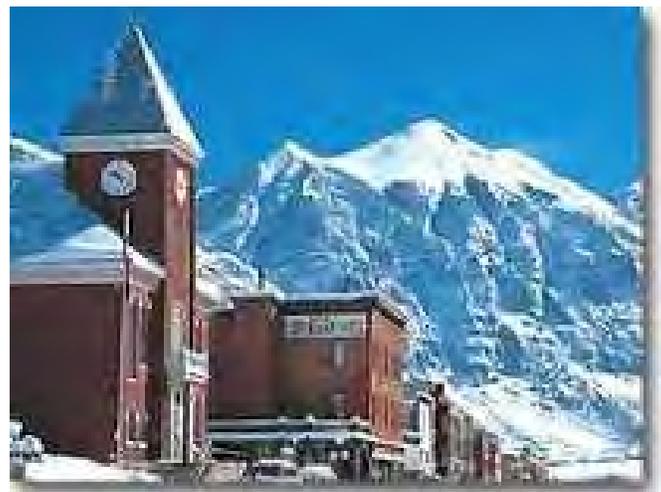
ping plazas, a skating rink, and heated sidewalks. People staying in town can ride up to Mountain Village to eat, drink and shop, keeping the Telluride visitor experience delightfully car-free. For those who don't ski or want to enjoy off-slope activities, Telluride offers sledding, ice climbing, dinner sleigh rides, dog sled tours, snowmobiling, and snowshoeing. You can also relax in the spa, go paragliding or take a hot air balloon ride. If all this is too strenuous, you can visit the Telluride Historical Museum.

We'll be staying at the Victorian Inn located in downtown Telluride 1 block from the Gondola, and only 1/2 block to Historic Main Street. We'll have a short walk to the lifts, restaurants, and shops. The hotel provides a free grab-and-go breakfast and has a quaint lobby with seating for up to twelve people. Room amenities include: free wireless internet, cable TV with HBO, coffee makers, mini refrigerators, ski racks, and humidifiers. The hotel has a spacious outdoor hot tub and a Sauna. Add \$599 if you want a single supplement.

Mountain Stats

Avg. Annual Snowfall:	309"
Vertical Drop:	4,425 (3,845' Lift served)
Telluride Town elevation	8,725
Mountain Village elevation:	9,545'
Top Elevation (Palmyra Peak):	13, 320'
Skiable Acres:	2,000+
Number of Runs:	127
Terrain:	23% Beginner, 36% Intermediate, 41% Advanced/Expert
Lifts:	18 Total: 2 Gondolas, 7 High Speed Quads, 1 Fixed Quad, 2 Triples, 2 Doubles, 2 Magic Carpets for beginners, and 2 Surface Lifts

To get more information, go to the Ski Trips link on our website at PentagonSkiClub.org. You'll also find links to the Telluride and Victorian Inn websites there. If you want to join us on the trip, sign-up while you're perusing the website and send a deposit of \$500, made out to the Pentagon Ski Club, to Jim McDonough, 916 DeWolfe Dr, Alexandria, VA 22308. Phone 703-619-0020; E-mail: jmcdono683@aol.com.





BRSC Western Carnival

by Susie Pumphrey

An amazing adventure awaits you on a stratovolcano atop a shield volcano in the Cascade Volcanic Arc and the Cascade Range of central Oregon. There is no geothermal activity at present, but the Blue Ridge Ski Council plans to heat things up with a stupendous ski week. Mt. Bachelor is so called because it “stands apart” from the Three Sisters, a group of three volcanic mountains that are northwest of Mt. Bachelor. It features the ability to ski 360 degrees off the summit with breathtaking views of the Three Sisters and other Cascade peaks. Mt. Bachelor features 88 trails spiraling across 3,700 acres of lift accessible terrain. 15% beginner trails, 25% intermediate, 35% advanced and 25% expert. Boasting an annual snowfall of 462" Bachelor is also one of the largest ski areas in the U.S. and the Pacific Northwest.

I said stupendous, right? Not only are we going to have a fabulous ski adventure, we are also going to have a lot of entertainment. Super Bowl Sunday features a BRSC Super Bowl party at the River House Ballroom complete with beef sliders, potato salad and lots of other yummy Super Bowl food. Tuesday's adventure is Night at the Museum with an evening of fun, intrigue and high desert food at the High Desert Museum, a delightful regional gem. Raptors? Yes, raptors after dinner. We will engage in a live birds of prey presentation. Thursday puts us back at the ballroom for the Hawaiian Cascade Confluence Dinner. I myself have never eaten confluence cuisine. Oh wait. It's about geology - the confluence of the Cascade and the Hawaiian volcanic geologies. We are going to Hawaii! We are being wined and dined aloha style. Bill Keale, a local Hawaiian musician, will woo us with his wonderful vocals and slack guitar while we are mesmerized by the Hokulea Dancers. If that is not enough the night commences with the clash of Fire and Ice performed by the Hawaiian Spinsterz Fire Dancers.

We are staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton. It is right in downtown Bend. Bend is a brew town. We get a free tour of the Deschutes Brewery with our room. How cool is that? Bend is also a happening place with great brew pubs, restaurants, quaint shops and spectacular First Friday festivities. There are street performers, artists, and special menu items in the restaurants. You have a choice of King or Queen beds in our newly remodeled hotel complete with spacious rooms, indoor pool, hot tub, game room and bar, hot daily breakfast, \$20 Anjou Spa Voucher, welcome reception and the famous Double Tree cookie.

Trip date: January 31 through February 7. Trip Price: \$1725 for all of this and it includes 6 days of skiing.



By Steve Thompson

The PSC trip to Steamboat will depart Washington Dulles on Saturday, January 24 and return the following Saturday, January 31. We fly to Denver on United Airlines and will take a bus for the 3-hour ride to the ski resort. The trip includes 7 nights in the Ptarmigan Inn, a ski-in/ski-out hotel located adjacent to the gondola. We will enjoy a welcome wine and cheese reception and a daily buffet breakfast. 5-of-7 day lift tickets at Steamboat Mountain Resort are included, and kids 12 and under ski free! The trip has been a popular one this year with our club members. Contact the trip leader for the latest on availability of air seats and accommodations. Steve Thompson can be reached at stevethompsonva@gmail.com or 703-862-6535 (cell).



Lots of Snow and Even More Fun!

By Jean Esteve

Join the Pentagon Sky Club for a great 7-day trip to Montana's snowy Big Sky resort - "The Biggest Skiing in America." Now that Big Sky and Moonlight Basin resorts have combined, we will experience more than 5,700 acres of skiable terrain on the same 5-day lift ticket. The combined resorts provide 29 lifts, 250 named runs covering more than 110 miles, and a vertical drop of 4,350 ft – all with a history of virtually no lift lines! A sixth day lift ticket is available for an additional \$90.

In addition to great skiing, Big Sky has plenty of other activities in the area to include dog sledding and snowmobiling, the latter in Yellowstone National Park (YNP) – a once in a lifetime experience! The trip leader will coordinate a YNP snowmobile trip for all trip members who want the experience (not part of the package). Even if we cannot go as a group, individual trips are readily available and information on how to make reservations will be provided in a timely fashion.

We will stay at The Lodge, which is slope-side at the base of Lone Peak with an easy walk or shuttle ride to the lifts and great access to the village. All two queen bed suites are spacious, with a great view of the mountain and lots of amenities, including complementary daily hot breakfast, WiFi, microwave and re-

frigerator. The Lodge offers hot tubs, inside and out, with an indoor pool, a gym, a full service bar and cozy fireside lounge – great atmosphere to hang out with friends. The ambiance is warm and, as the PSC discovered in 2011, the Lodge’s management is superb and treats every guest like family. Add \$450 for the single supplement for those who desire a room to themselves.

We’re scheduled to depart National Airport on Delta at 7:30 AM Saturday, Feb 7, with a connection in Salt Lake City, and arrive in Bozeman at 12:29 PM. A scenic bus ride will have us at Big Sky by mid-afternoon. Our return flight departs Bozeman at 3 PM on Saturday, Feb 14, with a stop in Minneapolis and arrives at National at 10:39 PM. Travel insurance is available from our tour operator. Non-PSC members are welcome as the trip is BRSC Sanctioned. (Note: If you have previously seen flyers or announcements with Feb 8-15 dates for the trip, the dates have been moved up by one day to save us \$100/person.)

If you are looking for a great week in Montana, reserve your place by signing-up on the PSC website and send the trip leader (Jean Estève) your deposit (\$600 per person, payable to the Pentagon Ski Club). If you’re not a club member or if you need to renew, please include a separate check and a membership application. A \$600 interim payment will be due at our October 7th club meeting, and final payment (\$530) will be due at our December 9th club meeting.

our doorstep. As the resort’s signature property and only full-service hotel, the Grand offers an in-house mountain-view pool, terrace and health club with 3 hot tubs, a well-equipped gym, a steam room and sauna, as well as an on-site grocery store, boutiques, eateries and a nightclub. The spacious guestrooms are luxuriously appointed, offering one king or two double beds. All rooms have free WiFi, a hair dryer, mini fridge, coffee maker, kettle, iron & ironing board.

Big White, voted best intermediate terrain by Ski Canada magazine, is a hidden gem, offering something for everyone with its 65 miles of marked runs (118 designated trails). There are tremendous champagne powder bowls, wide-open glades, great groomed cruising runs, and night skiing. It’s also an impressive mountain for serious skiers with double-diamond runs along the cliff. As one of the largest on-mountain villages in Canada, it offers a wide range of amenities and adventure activities including dog sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, two spas, an outdoor skating rink, an ice climbing tower, and the Mega Snow Coaster Tube Park. The village center is at 5,757 feet, the summit elevation is 7,606 feet, and the vertical drop is 2,550 feet. We’ll stay at the ski-in/out White Crystal Inn, voted one of the “Best in Canada.” Located ideally next to Lara’s Gondola and the Bullet Express chair, the hotel’s amenities include an outdoor hot tub, sauna, ski storage, a fine dining room, the Grizzly Bear Cocktail Lounge, and room service. Our spacious superior-rated kitchenette rooms are configured with two queen beds (or one queen with a sleeper sofa), free WiFi, a mini fridge, coffee maker, microwave, gas hot plates, and a fireplace.

Our trip includes a 3-day lift ticket at each resort, covering every day we’ll be there. No need to pay extra to ski every day! 65+ seniors may deduct \$55 on the cost of their lift tickets, and non-skiers may deduct \$340 for the package without lift tickets.

We’ll be flying on Air Canada, departing Reagan National Airport at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 14, connecting through Toronto, and arriving in Kelowna, BC, just before noon. We’ll make a lunch/grocery/beverage stop upon our arrival, before our three-hour scenic drive to Sun Peaks. Tuesday after skiing we’ll transfer to Big White with a dinner stop en route. We return the following Saturday, February 21, with a 9:20 a.m. departure from Kelowna, connections in Calgary and Toronto (the only arrangement that was available), and a 10:21 p.m. arrival at Reagan National. As with every club trip, the flights and times may change in the coming months. Check the Trip Details page on our website for the most current information.

To confirm your place, sign up online and send your deposit (\$500 per person, payable to the Pentagon Ski Club) to Dave at 14555 Candy Hill Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. If you’re not yet a club member or if you need to renew, please include a separate check and a membership application. A \$500 interim payment will be due November 4 and final payments (\$600) will be due at our December 9 club meeting. Skiers requesting a single room should add \$380 to their final payment. If you have questions about the trip or need to arrange flights from other cities, contact Dave at 301-579-2749 (home), 202-267-2744 (day), or 301-807-0918 (cell).



Ski the Okanagans!

by *Dave Olsen and Georgiana Hallheimer*

Give yourself a treat for Presidents Week and pamper yourself with six days of prime-season skiing at two exciting, challenging Canadian resorts and seven nights of pampering at two superb ski-in/ski-out hotels.

The resorts are situated in BC’s interior, about midway between Whistler to the west and Banff and Fernie to the east. Sun Peaks, with three mountains to choose from, offers terrain for every level of skier with stunning alpine open bowls, groomed cruisers, and great glades. Since its renaissance in the early nineties, Sun Peaks—located in British Columbia’s scenic Thompson-Okanagan region—has become an internationally renowned destination resort, offering the second-largest ski area in Canada. The Village base elevation is at 4,117 feet, Burfield Summit elevation is 6,824 feet, and the vertical drop is 2,891 feet. The 4-star Sun Peaks Grand Hotel (formerly the Delta Sun Peaks) has a convenient ski-in/ski-out location in the heart of the Tyrolean-esque pedestrian village, with chairlifts, trails and activities at



Mammoth
M O U N T A I N

by Pat Riggs and Lesa Scott

It's time for the PSC to head back to Mammoth – my “home mountain.” There are a lot of great changes just waiting for you on the top of California. There's no more long bus ride (we fly into Mammoth Lakes), we have on-mountain lodging, a super cheap price of \$1360, and some of the most amazing terrain in the USA. What's not to like?

This is a world-class mountain. There's 3,100 feet of vertical and over 3,500 acres of terrain. Mammoth tops out at over 11,000 feet and is blessed with over 300 days of sunshine every year. Add 28 lifts to get you up the hill, 150 named trails and a season that normally runs from November to June, and you have a place that has something for just about any skier or rider.

For this trip we're staying at the Mammoth Mountain Inn, which allows us to walk across the parking lot and hop on the gondola to either McCoy Station or right up to the aptly named Top of the Sierra. At the Inn, you can begin and end your days with luxurious linens, deluxe bath products and the convenience of complete hotel services. We can après-ski at the Dry Creek Bar or The Yodler. At the hotel enjoy the heated outdoor swimming pool and hot tubs. Also, you can be a little lazy with the ski valet services at the end of the day. Finally, there's an in-house ski and snowboard rental shop for those who aren't bringing those items.

There's so much on the mountain that I can't cover it in one article, so let me tell you about one of my favorite sets of runs. I'm a great fan of Chairs 13 and 14 on the west side of Mammoth in an area called the Outpost. There's a little bit of black in the area, but it's mostly a lot of blue groomers that encourage non-stop top-to-bottom runs. The chairs are a little slow coming back up, but after those runs, the rest can be a pleasant interlude. Outpost is also a great place to stop for a simple lunch, sitting out on the deck and catching some of those California rays.

How about dropping into one of the steepest groomed blacks I've ever skied – Cornice Bowl? Then there's Broadway, taking you right down the face of the mountain. And don't miss the trees on Dragon Alley off of the Cloud Nine Express Chair. There's... you get the picture. This is a big mountain with terrain for just about everybody.

In the past we've flown to Reno and had a long bus ride to Mammoth. But since our last trip out here commercial air service has come to the mountain. We'll fly from Washington National, leaving at a very civilized 9:15 in the morning heading non-stop to LAX, and then do a quick hop up to Mammoth. How's a 30-minute bus ride compare to 3-4 hours? (Yeah, we know there's a layover at LAX. We're looking at hopping taxis to

Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach for a little beach time and some munchies before heading to the Sierras....)

To do all of this you need to get signed up with one of our two Trip Leaders. Our fearless local Trip Leader is Lesa Scott, who will be happy to answer questions and discuss special lodging or travel arrangements at the club's monthly meetings or via email. You can reach Lesa at 703-477-2951 or email her at lesa.scott@verizon.net. As your California-based Trip Leader (that's why it's my mountain...), you can call me at 703-615-2709 or drop an email to pat.riggs1@verizon.net and we'll get answers to your questions.

See you March 1 at Mammoth!



Where Is That Place?

By Steve Peirce

Sestriere is located in the very top northwest corner of Italy just 11 miles from the border of France and about 3 hours drive from Geneva, Switzerland. The resort was established in the 1930's when FIAT's owner's built the two original hotel towers to provide a holiday retreat for their factory workers located in Turin. Sestriere has hosted two Olympics and is a famous start and arrival point on the Tour de France.

The top of Sestriere is 9,200 ft and the base is at 4,400 ft. As one of Europe's highest resorts and having extensive snow making capacities, Sestriere is one of the most snow-sure resorts in the world. It is also situated within one of Europe's largest ski areas, known as the Via Lattea (Milky Way). The Milky Way Ski pass provides access to 5 Italian ski resorts and can include the French resort of Montgenevre, which all together includes 275 miles of ski runs serviced by 89 ski lifts.

Between Sestriere and the neighboring resorts there should be skiing to satisfy all abilities of skiers. There is off-piste and steep terrain for advanced skiers, an endless number of trails for intermediates, and good slopes for beginners to learn on. During the mid-week the lift systems should be nearly vacant.

We will be staying at the exclusive and historic 4- star Hotel Roseo, considered the #1 hotel in Sestriere, known for its fine dining, spa, and adjacent ski lifts. We will have a daily breakfast buffet and daily 4-course dinner including complimentary mineral water & wine. Our \$2800 March 6-14 trip includes: lodging, meals, emergency medical & repatriation insurance, non-stop RT flights on United Dulles/Geneva, and RT bus transport to/from the resort. Lift tickets are not included. There is also an optional trip to Bruges Mar 14-18 for \$650.

The trip was not quite sold-out at the PSC picnic. Contact me at 301-924-5173 to inquire about the limited space available on the trip.



by Fred Gardinier

So where is Schweitzer? It must be in Europe. Or some foreign country! But no, it is in Idaho. Well, in Idaho but almost in Canada, give or take a few miles.

It has been said that Schweitzer is the best resort you have never heard of. That must be true because I had not heard of it until recently myself. Their acreage places it among the top 10 resorts in North America. We will be going late in the season which should guarantee snow. Last year one of the my condo mates at Taos went there, at a similar time, and they had a foot of fresh powder for three days. Certainly no one can guarantee that, but we should not be lacking for snow. And if there is not enough powder for you, there is the option to cat ski for about \$350-400. They will take you to the back country that will be lightly traversed and skied by only a few each day

The lodge has ski-in/-out access so we do not have to schlep our skis far. The price includes lift tickets for the full 6 day stay. It also includes daily hot breakfast in the hotel. The resort has plenty of intermediate terrain and also enough steeps to make things fun. Did I mention they also have tree skiing?

Check out the trip flyer and detail sheet on the pentagonskiclub.org web site, or pick up a paper copy at the next ski club meeting (or the ad in the back of the newsletter). But take this trip and tell your friends later what a great time you had at a resort they never heard of: Schweitzer.

and Roman sites on the Aegean Coast, the incredible city of Istanbul (once Constantinople, hence the old song, as well as Byzantium), or the great food and wonderful people.

But you are all ahead of my need to do so. Still, if you are interested, let me know: people do drop out and we'd love to have others going on this splendid trip.

Contact me at psc001@verizon.net and/or check the website for more information..



Ski Helmet Update

By John Pratt

Most of us fly on airplanes to go on our club trips to destinations near and far. Now the question is: what would you do, as you settle into you seat and notice that the seat belt you're supposed to use, is worn, frayed, cut, or otherwise looks unserviceable and it might not work properly when you really need it? I think most of us would ask to be reseated or at a minimum ask for a new seat belt. Now take out that helmet you've used for the last several years and examine it. Have you taken a real hard fall wearing it? Is it dinged up pretty good? Is the Styrofoam, in the helmet liner, full of gouges and scrapes from using it as a pail to carry your ski gloves, goggles, etc.? All of these things are to ski helmets what a frayed airplane seat belt is to your safety in that airplane. The effect renders the helmet as marginally useful in performing its intended purpose of keeping your brain from being damaged. In the military they call it Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). It is normally caused by explosions in combat zones, but the same type of TBI can occur when you brain meets a hard object on the ski slopes at 20 MPH. Bottom line is, inspect your helmet and see if it's time for a new one. After all, you get new boots and skis when they wear out.



Historic Turkey

by Peter Porton

I'll use the second oldest cliché in the PSC (the oldest is Think Snow!): I need a woman. Our trip to historic Turkey is just about sold out, but as we go to print, I need a single female to room with another single female and save single supplement costs.

I could go on about this trip, how we are staying in only two hotels and only have to use busses for the first half of the trip. How historic (hence the title) the trip is: the ancient Greek

Now that I've got you thinking that using a properly functioning helmet might not be too bad an idea, PSC has an easy, inexpensive way to make that helmet thing happen. For the price of a lunch on the slopes you can have your own new personal "Brain Bucket." The PSC is offering ASTM 2040 certified ski helmets. The ASTM certification process for ski helmets is explained in <http://www.telemarktips.com/Helmets.html>.

Because of an increase in shipping costs and the desire to provide the helmets to our club members at the lowest cost, we have instituted a change. Your club will now only make one helmet order a year to our supplier. Orders for new helmets will be taken at all Ski Club meetings throughout the year, but the order will not be placed until after the November Meeting. The new model helmets have an adjustable nape of the neck strap, with turn ring, for custom snugness. For those of you who are really fashion conscious, at \$28 each, you can have one that matches your ski outfit. That is the price for ordering at any meeting and delivery of the helmet at the December club meeting. If you want it delivered to your home, the price goes up to \$46.45 regardless of when or where you order it. They come in Blue (as shown, unfortunately without showing the nape strap), Red, Black, and Silver. The new manufacturer also provides X-Small and X-Large helmets, for those of you who've had a problem with the normal S, M, & L. You can order them at club meetings and have them by the December meeting at \$28 each. If you can't make the meetings, but want me to order one for you, send me an e-mail at snowsne@aol.com and I'll e-mail you back a packet with: the size charts; the website to choose your color(s); along with an order form. As soon as I get your order form and check, I'll place your helmet(s) order on the list for the November order and when they arrive in December, I will let you know, so we can make arrangements to get you your helmet. If you want it delivered directly to your home the cost will be \$46.45 each. If you chose the home delivery method, I will order your helmet as soon as I receive your paperwork, and that way you don't have to wait till the December delivery.



PSC Logo Items

Want to get extra Ski Lotto tickets or just some great clothing? At all ski club meetings except the picnic we have Ski Lotto, and if you are wearing something with the PSC logo on it, you are entitled to an extra ticket. Even if you don't attend the meetings or play Ski Lotto, the logo items are a great way to show off your club while you are on the slopes. We have all of the following in stock: automobile license plate holders, baseball caps, and cloisonné ski pins.

For clothing and others items such as tote bags, our supplier is Jill Lee of *Jill's Designs*. Jill has set up a web site at www.jillsembroidery.com.

It's also accessible on the PSC website as a link to Jill's site. At the website you can pick the item you want from the pictures shown there, but if you don't see it listed, don't hesitate to contact Jill directly. Just pick out what you want, print out the order form, mail it to Jill, and she'll get back to you when it's ready.

In addition to picking out the basic color of the item you want, you also get to pick out the colors on the logo: the skier; the pentagon diagram; and the words can be all the same color or whatever colors you want them to be.

2014-2015 Schedule

This is our ski seasons' schedule. Please be aware that prices may change due to taxes and fuel surcharges. Airline schedules may change because that's what airlines do.

Even if a trip is sold out, we suggest you get on the waitlist; quite often people have to drop out, and this way you get on your trip, saving the other person money as well. It's a win-win proposition.

If you have any questions, the best thing to do is call or e-mail the tripleaders; they have the latest information and will respond as quickly as possible. Enjoy your season!

 **December 27
- January 2
\$1575**

Sat - Fri, 6 nights in Parkway Inn (hotel rooms) 3 blocks from center of town. Daily continental breakfast, dedicated shuttle to mountain, welcome wine & cheese party, pizza party, free wifi, pool and spa. 3-day lifts to JH, 1 day at Grand Targhee. RT on Delta, Reagan to JH via SLC (out) and MSP (back).

Contact Peter Porton at 703-471-7791 or psc001@verizon.net



**January 3-10
\$1480**

Sat - Sat, 7 nights in Park City Peaks Hotel. Welcome reception and daily breakfast buffet. 2-day lifts at both Park City and Deer Valley, 1 day at The Canyons. RT nonstop on Delta from Reagan to SLC.

Contact Susie Pumphrey at 703-691-3944 or wachtraum@msn.com



**January 10-17
\$1625**

Sat-Sat, 7 nights in the Victorian Inn in downtown Telluride, 1 block from gondola, lift, and Main Street. Daily continental breakfast, 5-day lifts. RT flights on Delta from Reagan to Montrose via Atlanta.

Contact Jim McDonough at 703-619-0020 or jmc dono683@aol.com



**January 16-24
\$2560**

7 nights in 4-star Sporthotel Royer with daily full breakfast buffets and extensive gourmet dinners. RT nonstop on United, Dulles to Munich. Emergency med. and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included. Lift tickets extra. Optional 4-night post-trip extension to Berlin for \$695, returns Jan 28.

Contact Christina Anderson at 703-719-6714 or gerakisparta@yahoo.com



**January 24-31
\$1525**

Sat-Sat, 7 nights at Ptarmigan Inn (hotel rooms), with welcome wine and cheese reception and daily breakfast buffet. 5-day lifts. RT nonstop on United, Dulles to Denver.

Contact Steve Thompson at 703-435-5170 or stevethompsonva@gmail.com



**January 31 -
February 7
\$1725**

Sat-Sat, BRSC Western Carnival, at DoubleTree by Hilton hotel in center of Bend. Daily deluxe breakfast buffet. Super Bowl Welcome Party, club ski race, Night at Museum dinner, farewell Hawaiian dinner dance. 6-day lifts. RT on Delta, Reagan to Portland via SLC (out) and Detroit (back).

Contact Susie Pumprey at 703-691-3944 or wachtraum@msn.com



**February 7-14
\$1730**

Sat-Sat, 7 nights at The Lodge at Big Sky (hotel room/suites) with welcome reception, deluxe daily breakfast buffet, and 5-day lifts. RT on Delta from Reagan to Bozeman via SLC (out) and Minneapolis (back).

Contact Jean Esteve at 301-352-5336 or jesteve@comcast.net



February 14-21
\$1600



Sat-Sat, 7 nights Presidents Week split trip at two great resorts; 3 nights at ski-in/-out Sun Peaks Grand Hotel and 4 nights at White Crystal Inn at Big White. 3-day lift tickets at each resort. RT on Air Canada from Reagan to Kelowna via Toronto (out) and Calgary/Toronto (back). Contact Dave Olsen at 301-579-2749 or pscracer@yahoo.com; or Georgiana Hallheimer at 703-795-4572 or geoha7@yahoo.com



February 21-28
\$1675

Beaver Creek

Sat-Sat, 7 nights in 2 BR/BA and 3 BR/BA ski-in/-out Kiva Condos with welcome reception, 5-day lifts good at Beaver Creek and Vail (co-hosts of Alpine World Ski Championships (Feb 2-28). RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Denver.

Contact Maggie Fitzgerald at 703-461-3027 or magsfitzgerald@comcast.net



March 1-7
\$1360

Sun-Sat, budget-saver trip with 6 nights at slopeside Mammoth Mountain Inn (hotel rooms). Welcome reception and 5-day lifts. RT on Alaska Airlines from Reagan to Mammoth Lakes via Los Angeles.

Contact Pat Riggs at 310-372-0271 or pat.riggs1@verizon.net; or Lesa Scott at 703-250-3211 or lesascott@me.com



March 6-14
\$2800

7 nights at 4-star Hotel Roseo with daily breakfast buffet and 4-course dinner w. compl. mineral water and wine. RT nonstop on United from Dulles to Geneva. Emergency med. and repatriation (not cancellation) insurance included. Lift tickets extra. Optional 4-night post trip extension to Bruges, Belgium, for \$650, returning March 18. Contact Steve Peirce at 301-924-5173 or sypeirce@verizon.net or Peter Porton (for Bruges) at 703-471-7791 or psc001@verizon.net



March 21-28
\$1570

Sat-Sat, 7 nights at slopeside Selkirk Lodge (hotel rooms) with welcome reception and daily hot breakfast. 6 day lift tickets. RT on Delta from Reagan to Spokane via Minneapolis.

Contact Fred Gardinier at 301-739-5097 or skiwithfred@gmail.com



March 28 - April 4
\$1750

Sat-Sat, 6 nights at luxury ski-in/-out Hotel Alyeska plus 1 night (Friday) at Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. Welcome orientation/breakfast, 5-day lifts. RT on Delta from Reagan to Anchorage via Minneapolis.

Contact Christina Anderson at 703-719-6714 or gerakisparta@yahoo.com

Pentagon Ski Club

The Liftline

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Fall 2014



CLUB HOTLINE: 301-579-2749

CLUB WEBSITE: WWW.PENTAGONSKICLUB.ORG

MEETING DIRECTIONS: WWW.PENTAGONSKICLUB.ORG/DIRECTIONS.PHP



Our season started out with a bang at the summer picnic and trips are selling quickly, so be sure to contact the tripleaders to ensure you get on your favorite trips.

The regular season meetings start on Tuesday, September 2 at 7 PM, or earlier for some of the old-timers. The yearly meeting schedule is on Page 2. Check our website for more information on the meetings, menus and themes.

And remember, don't drink and drive. The MP's check out the traffic!

