

The Liftline

Pentagon Ski Club

Winter, 2015



President's Corner

By Dave Olsen



As I write this in mid-February we've already got more than half our trips under our collective belts: Our New Year's trip to Jackson Hole, our January trips to Park City, Telluride, Schladming and Steamboat, and our February trips to Mt. Bachelor (the BRSC Western Carnival), Big Sky, and — just about to depart — Sun Peaks/Big White. By all accounts I've heard, each has been a great success, albeit with less than ideal snow conditions on a couple of the trips. Of course we (your Council members and other trip leaders) can't influence the weather, but we have a tremendously lot to do with the overall success of our trips.

Your trip leaders put endless hours in preparing for each trip, and especially dealing with the situations that arise both during and, equally important, before a trip. We've had several situations where we had either a late cancellation from a trip, leaving a space needing to be back-filled, or an "empty bed" in our inventory that we needed to fill in order to assure group pricing on the trip. In each case we've had great success announcing these vacancies using what we term an "email blast" that we send to everyone. Granted, we've been able to offer these spots at a modest discount in order to entice a fill-in, but the system has worked well. In one case the email went out at 8 AM, and the trip leader had a signup form and a check in-hand from a replacement within just a few hours! Everyone was happy: the skier who got on the trip at a relative bargain, the skier who had to cancel (who got most of his trip refunded), and the trip leader as well.

The Council met in early January to put wraps on our desired trips for next winter, and we've now sent the Request for Proposals to our tour operators. We anticipate getting proposals back for the earlier trips in April, and for the rest in May. Then we'll get together to select the best proposals and appoint trip leaders. And then put them up on our website so the signups can begin! Our annual picnic traditionally kicks that off; you can mark your calendars for Saturday, July 18, at the same venue as before — the Sparks Community Club at Ft. Myer.

I hope to see you at our meeting in early March (Tuesday, March 3). We'll celebrate the impending St. Patrick's Day with the "wearing of the green" and our traditional (and always complimentary) Irish menu. Then our April 7 meeting will feature our Council election and our annual campaign to support Disabled Sports USA.

By Peter Porton

It's been more than a decade that we have collected donations for the "Wounded Warrior Project" at our April meetings. So far we have collected \$38,750; your generosity is overwhelming.

If we add the wounded warriors we have taken on trips and separate contributions made by individual members, the total is around \$80K. There is an explanation that needs to be made, however. We have always promoted this as the Wounded Warrior Project. Of late, news has been getting out that the organization of the same name behind the project spends substantial amounts of funds it collects on collecting more funds. Thus their overhead is extremely high, not a project we want to spend our well-intended donations on.

However, over all the years we have collected these donations, we have dealt with and sent the funds to Disabled Sports USA, which participates in the Wounded Warrior Project activities on their own. The difference: their overhead is very low (about ten percent, probably because of travel for DS-USA personnel to accompany the wounded warriors).

I have called them for explanations and they even sent me last year's tax returns as proof. I'm sure many of you have seen the endless ads on TV for the Wounded Warrior Project — those commercials cost a lot of money. The only thing you will see from Disabled Sports USA is their quarterly magazine. In addition, Disabled Sports USA was started almost 50 years ago and accepts all disabled warriors. The Wounded Warrior Project only accepts military personnel involved in activities since 9/11.

Thus, we have been doing the job correctly and all the money is going to those who need it. We will again have a wounded warrior at our April Meeting and ask for donations. For those of you who can't make it, you can always send me a check, made out to Disabled Sports USA. My address is 11918 Moss Point Lane, Reston, VA 20194. Again, thanks to all of you who have supported this program all these years.





Pentagon Ski Club

2014-2015 Council & Committees

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The Lifeline is issued three 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

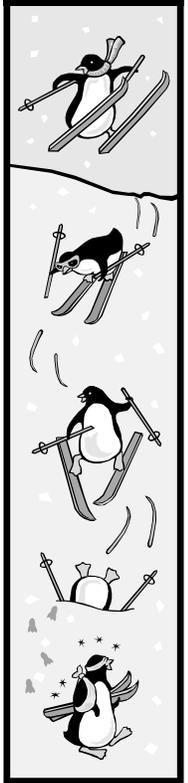
	1-YEAR	2-YEARS	3-YEARS
SINGLE	\$30	\$55	\$75
FAMILY	\$40	\$75	\$100

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 9*
- *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**





Jackson Hole, Real Snow

By Peter Porton

What do you do when you have a mountain with the most snow (70-80 inches) in the USA, all of it genuine pow pow, low temperatures, and no crowds? You ski it, of course! Add this to the fact that it was the first trip of the ski year, we had 39 folks (including lots of kids), the resort is Jackson Hole, and we stayed three blocks from the center of town. It had all the potential for a good trip and it was.

All the flights were great. It was still snowing and would for the first two days after arrival. No complaints from the real skiers but kinda tough for some others since there was no grooming and visibility was limited to a couple hundred feet. Plus it was cold up to mid-mountain; there was a weather inversion and the top was a little warmer (gee, maybe up to 15 degrees).

The Parkway Inn, where we stayed was, just like the last time I led this trip, fantastic. Even though we were there with 25 SCWDCrs, we had our own bus (8:30 departure and 3:30 coming back; alternatives were the local bus, but that's 45 minutes (because of all the stops at other sites) versus 25 minutes and costs \$3). Their daily breakfasts were great and the owner/manager and her staff were total professionals. They gave us the breakfast room for our pizza party on Saturday night – only a half pizza left: success!

On Tuesday, most of us headed over to Grand Targhee, a smaller resort but generally with more snow (not this time, but only by two inches). It was groomed, not as cold, and a bluebird day. The road was clear both ways and we made good time to get back in easy time for dinner. Because the group consisted of many family and friend groups, we never tried for a group dinner. We were so close to the crowded center of town that even finding our folks was difficult. In essence, this became a self-led trip. Maybe you'd encounter someone at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar or elsewhere or see someone downtown to watch the NYE fireworks.

The week before we left for this trip, a lot of trip participants had increased their tickets to ski all days. Good choice! Good trip, good folks. As far as I can tell no-one got hurt. NYE trips are always a lot of fun. This one was fantastic. Thanks to all participants for making my job so easy.



By Susie Pumphrey

On January third of this year as the trip leader of the Park City Utah trip, I had the pleasure of experiencing Park City for the first time. It's fabulous. How much are those snow flake earrings in the window? Why a measly \$2750. But go inside and get decent pendant for \$30! Lovely stores, lovely restaurants, lovely skiing. I was told this was the worst snow in Utah in 8 years and it was still good skiing.

We found Deer Valley to be the plushest overall. The service on the mountain is incredible. Attendants dressed in green are every where to help and direct you. The restaurants are fabulous. Some of us chose to try the Seafood Buffet and some chose to try the Open Hearth Dinner. Both were expensive but everyone agreed the splurge was worth it. This is the last year Park City and Canyons are two separate resorts. Next year they will be combined as one super ski resort and since Vail is the owner, your Epic pass will work there. The best snow was at Park City. It was also the best groomed. The Canyons was interesting for skiing past mansions disguised as ski chalets and as far as we could tell nobody lives in them. Not a soul. I'm looking forward to next time.



Ski Town USA – Steamboat!

By Steve Thompson

The last week of January a group of skiers headed out to Colorado with anticipation of a fun week skiing the champagne powder of Steamboat. We departed Dulles airport on time flying United into Denver. We picked up a few folks in Denver who had flown in from other locales and while missing a few sets of skis, we headed on our way with United promising to send the skis to our hotel in Steamboat. We made the obligatory stop at the grocery and liquor store en route and arrived at the slope-side Ptarmigan Inn around 3:30 pm. After settling into our hotel rooms, the hotel staff provided a welcome reception and gave the group a briefing on what to expect for the week ahead.

Following the reception, the group headed down the street to Terry's Sports where those who needed to rent equipment could be outfitted and everyone enjoyed some delicious hand-made pizzas from a local food truck pizza oven that was set up outside the shop. Embers Wood Fired Pizza did an amazing job and eventually was able to satisfy the appetites of all the skiers. I think it only took about 30 pizzas! The folks at Terry's were kind enough to supply drinks for the group too.

Sunday morning we gathered for the first of our week-long complementary breakfasts at the hotel. Each morning the kitchen provided some variety to the standard fare and it was a delicious start to the day with eggs, bacon, potatoes, fruit, oatmeal, coffee and juices. The restaurant staff were very attentive and often handled special requests for hot chocolate and other items not on the buffet.

The hotel is ski-in, ski-out and they provide a ski-storage room just as you come in from the slopes. This worked well throughout the week. There was a nice outdoor hot tub and swimming pool that many of us took advantage of throughout the week to soothe our aching muscles. The hotel had a nice lobby area with several couches that provided the group with a convenient gathering area most evenings.

On Monday night, a group dinner was arranged at a local Italian restaurant in town. After a short bus ride, everyone arrived at Mazzola's Italian Diner for what turned out to be a delicious meal with excellent service by the staff. Former PSCer Andy John and his family happened to be in Steamboat and they joined the group for the meal. I believe he told me that this was their eighth ski season to be in Steamboat, they really love the mountain and town. During the week, everyone enjoyed visiting many of the restaurants in town, from the historic Ore House to newer establishments like E3 Chophouse, Carl's Tavern, and Sweet Pea, which are all located down by the Yampa River that runs through town.

Unfortunately, we didn't receive any new snow during our ski week, but luckily they had a solid base that the groomers could work with to keep the conditions good. The temps were warm, it was spring skiing in January, not what anyone had expected. It was good to see Joe Kirschner, who retired to Colorado, when he joined several of us for a couple of days of skiing.

On our last night, many of us rode the gondola up to the Western BBQ Dinner. The food was excellent and the live music was a real treat. The band had several folks out on the dance floor learning some new dance steps, like the Texas Two Step.

In spite of the lack of fresh snow, the week was a lot of fun. We had an amazing group of fun folks who were all there to have a great time and make some new ski memories with old and new friends from the Pentagon Ski Club. As the group was driving back to Denver early Saturday morning on January 31, it was snowing. We made it over the Rabbit Ears Pass without any problem and back at the airport in plenty of time to be checked-in for the flight. It must have just kept snowing in Steamboat because a few days later I received an email announcing that Steamboat had received over two feet of snow in February! Sometimes you get lucky and get hit with the snow at the right time, but that was not the case for us this year. Maybe next year, we hope!

The Bag People of Mt. Bachelor

By Susie Pumphrey

It was a little rainy for our Blue Ridge Western Carnival but that did not stop the Pentagon Ski Club from having a great time. Our week started with an amazing Super Bowl Party at the Riverhouse Convention Center followed on Tuesday with dinner and very interesting tours of the High Desert Museum. The dioramas and artifacts of Native Life and Western Expansion were some of the best I have seen. The race was wet and we took a lot of falls but no injuries. On our best ski day, Wednesday we were able to go up to the summit to enjoy the view and our evening celebration at the Hawaiian Themed Gala which began with fire dancers was astounding. Our hosts went out of their way to see that when the weather didn't cooperate we had access to the Deschutes Brewery, the Old Mill, town, Smith Rock, Crater Lake, Sisters, Oregon and the mouth of the Metolius River. Bend has excellent restaurants and we were able to have a final dinner at the Pine Tavern which actually has two trees growing through the roof of the dining room. The best part of the trip was the fact that everyone was enjoying themselves despite the rough conditions. PSC is just a wonderful group to ski with.





PSC Places Well in BRSC Race!

By Dave Olsen

Despite a most unpleasant rainy day, ten hardy PSC'ers survived the racecourse to compete for our club in the Blue Ridge Ski Council's early February Western Carnival at Mt. Bachelor, Oregon. Although the resort does not actually participate in the Nastar recreational racing program, the race was scored similar to Nastar according to BRSC rules. Unofficial handicaps and "virtual medals" were determined based on finishing times and an unofficial pacesetter.

Participation Award

Scoring for the Participation Award was based on the percentage of each club's skiers that raced. A club's participation base was first discounted so they weren't penalized if they had non-skiers, beginner/first-time skiers, young skiers (pre-teens), older skiers (70+), "visiting" skiers (members of a different club) who chose not to race; or injured skiers who were physically unable to ski (let alone race). The top three clubs were presented with honorary plaques recognizing their achievement. And the PSC took home the 3rd-place plaque! Fredericksburg placed first, followed by Columbia Ski Club.

Team Competition

Scoring for the Team Competition was based on ad hoc teams from each club consisting of the two ladies and three men earning the best medal points. (Medal points were calculated by subtracting from each racer's best-run handicap, the handicap needed by that racer, in their age and gender category, to earn a gold medal. The better a racer's performance, the lower were their medal points earned.) Each team's medal points were added together and results compared amongst all participating clubs.

Only two of the nine clubs that participated in the race had sufficient finishers to compete for the award (at least two female and three male finishers). Those clubs were presented with honorary plaques recognizing their achievement, and their team members were recognized with medals. The first-place club (Columbia Ski Club) will also have its accomplishment recognized on the BRSC Western Carnival traveling trophy which will be presented to the prevailing club at the spring BRSC meeting. Congratulations to Kristina, Claire, Jim, Woody and Lynn who contributed to the PSC's 2nd-place finish!

Individual Competition

Awards were presented to the fastest racers overall, based on having the lowest handicap. Awards were also presented to the fastest three in each age group, and to the fastest snowboarders; as with the team competition, the individual awards were based on the handicapped medal points determined by how close each racer came to winning a gold medal. The two fastest skiers, the fastest snowboarders, and the top three racers in each age group were recognized with medals. The two fastest skiers and the two fastest snowboarders were also recognized with honorary plaques. Five PSC'ers were included in the honors, as indicated in the table. Congratulations to all!

(Ed's note: the race tables did not translate into a usable form for the newsletter. Dave is skiing in Canada plus we have run out of time to get this newsletter to you before our meeting. We hope to get them on the web. My apologies.)





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 your 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 resealed 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. in? All of these things are to ski helmets what that frayed airplane seat belt is to your safety in that airplane. They render it 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 your 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.

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." 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 all your ski outfits. 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 snowsnke@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.



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Peter Porton, Editor

11918 Moss Point Lane

Reston, VA 20194

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Winter 2015



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



Our last two meetings of the year are on Tuesday, March 3, and Tuesday, April 7. Both start at 7 PM. Bring your photos for the March meeting. Most trips are sold out now or are in the stage where we are committed for rooms and airline seats, but people always do drop out, so check with the trileaders still selling trips to see if there is an opening for you.

The April meeting will include the council election and the Disabled Sports USA Charity.

Our meetings start at 7 PM. We hope to see you there.

