



Philadelphia Ski Club

TRACK



March 2014

Volume 72 Issue 1



President's Message

Butch Byer

What a wonderful ski season! Welcome to the spring 2014 edition of the PSC Track. As you are aware, the snow was/is piled high, the weather cooperated (in most cases) and the PSC trip committee could not be happier with the attendance and quantity of participants on our scheduled trips and outings.

This season started in the fall of 2013 with a brewery tour to The Philadelphia Brewing Co and a extended dinner during one of the city block parties along Frankford Ave. PSC continued with our golf outing around Ocean City, MD and our monthly club meetings at Breen's, which were very well attended. The end of 2013 found PSC at Gallo's on the boulevard for our annual Christmas Party and the expectation of a good start to the ski program in early January on our ELK-1 trip. As most of you found out, an early season snow/ice storm squashed our first trip because of hazardous road conditions and closings contributed to health and safety considerations.

In an interesting side-bar, one of my friends looked at me with one of his weird looks. He questioned my sanity when I told him we were headed to CO and VT this year for additional snow. "There isn't enough snow here in Philly?" he asked. I just considered the source. As you know, it isn't only snow quantity, but snow quality is equally important for downhill, boarding, snowshoe, cross-country and sledding.

You will probably read more detail about Snowmass/Aspen later, but we really had an excellent trip with the EPSC and exercised our ski legs throughout the week. The Snowmass trip was followed by ELK-2 with a full bus and a lot of fun. The Stowe/Sugarbush VT trip started with a typical New England warm period, followed by bitter cold. However, all participants found snow activities, happy hours and meals enjoyable with club members and new friends. Unfortunately, ELK-3 was cancelled due to lack of reservations but we will hit it hard next season.

In addition, the PSC web site was updated with many new pictures thanks to **Steve, Tom and Mike**. Please check the site for upcoming events and keep up the good work recruiting new members. **Dan** thanks you because it keeps him busy.

Planning is underway for next season and since my term as President is coming to an end, I want to express my heartfelt THANK YOU to all PSC members, trip leaders and visitors for your interest, participation and help in making new members feel welcome in (hopefully) their new ski home.

TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014**ELK Trip, 2014**

Meg Waldowski



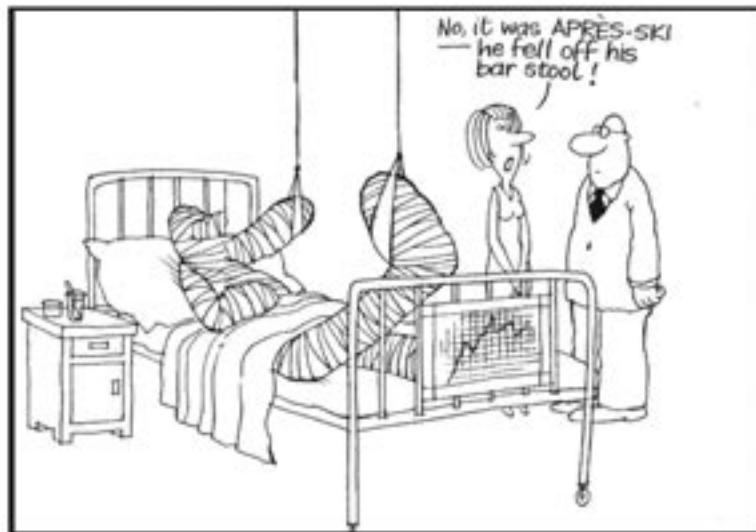
Our club has had wonderful success traveling up to Elk Mountain to ski. With this being our 10th year, we had another wonderful time, hanging out, skiing and drinking in the bar. This year our trip consisted of 54 skiers, some headed up on their own, while others boarded the bus at Huntingdon Valley and Fort Washington. We left on time and arrived at Elk Mountain just a bit before 9am.



It was a 35 degree day with mostly sunshine. Once we arrived at Elk, it seems that everyone is dressed and ready to hit the slopes. Elk has something for every level, skier and snowboarder, and we had some of those with us this year.

We all met back in the bar area at around 3pm where **Bernie Niessen** was saving a few tables for our club. We all had a drink or two, or three, a few snacks, and then headed back to the bus for a two hour ride home. Thanks to Tom Welsh for supplying the movies this year, they were enjoyable. Another FUN day at Elk Mountain Ski Resort with Philadelphia Ski Club. It's a real shame that the weather prohibited us from doing our January and March trips this year. We'll definitely have something to look forward to in 2015...

Signing off...**Meg Waldowski**





TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014

SNOWMASS, 2014

Meg Waldowski



The Philadelphia Ski Club headed out west this Year to join in on the fun and games. EPSC 2014 Winter Carnival. What a wonderful time we had!!!



Just to recap some of the fun things we got to do in Snowmass/Aspen this year: Our trip Started early on January 18th, with the arrival of our club at the Philadelphia International Airport, Actually I would say our club minus one...Now who could that have been who wasn't ready to Board with our other members, well it was our own **Dave Brown**, who decided that he had Plenty of time to go back home to NE Philly to get a bag that he forgot to bring. I'll get back To that again shortly... We all loaded onto flight #2185 bound for Denver, Co, it was a Gorgeous day, and our flight couldn't have gone smoother. Our arrival in Denver was on time, The gathering of our luggage was effortless, but remember we are still minus one member. Dave Brown was left behind in Philly Airport to find his way out to us in Colorado. Well we did Find a way for Dave to catch up with us, and I believe that in the end Dave made out pretty well.

Our motor coach ride was long, everyone was hungry, tired and excited to get to our lodgings. We did get to make two stops, one for food and the other for food, and liquor. By the time we made it up into the mountains it was already past 6:30 pm, and we were missing our Welcome Party...Fear not, we made it over, not much left of the food, but who cares, we're HERE!!!

Now the FUN begins....Our accommodations were FANTASTIC...we stayed at the Stonebridge, right In the heart of Snowmass....The hotel was clean, the staff was courteous and accommodating...Our Rooms were cozy. If you had paid for the breakfast each day, that didn't disappoint at ALL...It wasn't Your usual Continental breakfast, but a huge breakfast with several, I mean several different options, each morning.

Our week started with a Welcome Cocktail Party, a Meet and Greet Breakfast on Sunday morning. Happy Hours each day after skiing, a Magic themed dinner and dancing party at the Westin, (where Our group sported, Top Hats for the Ladies, and Bunny Ears for the Men, it was toooooo funny)...A BBQ Picnic Lunch and lots more fun...We got to spend time with many other ski club groups and Made some friends, and may have stolen a few of their members who really enjoyed hanging out At the bar with PSC...Our travel person, Joann Pieretti made sure that we had everything we needed To enjoy our week. The entire week was pre-scheduled with fun things to do.

We skied each day with weather that got better and better as each day went on...We had gorgeous Blue skies, Sunshine and Smooth Snowy Slopes.

The X Games were going on over at Buttermilk, which was a real TREAT. Ski Buttermilk, and watch the X games going on at the same time. We got to ski Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk (continued...)



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TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014

SNOWMASS, 2014

Meg Waldowski (continued)



And Snowmass...it was a week of wonderful skiing...

Our week came to an end with a bring your left over food and sing a long party in **Paul** and **Meg's** Room.. This is tradition with our club, we get to hear everyone sing, and some of you really can sing. Then we traveled over to the Farewell Dessert Party at the Westin, it was now time to wind down the week, start packing up to head back HOME.

Thank God we brought back all 24 skiers, (including **Dave Brown**) with no injuries, or broken bones.

Karen Heller honored us with her presence this year. I love having her on our trips. We had some new faces, and some old faces.

Saturday, January 26th, we loaded up on the charter bus to roll us down the mountain to the Denver Airport. We arrived home to Philly late on Saturday night, a slight snow delay out of Denver. Leave it up to Philly to lose some of our luggage, but they did manage to get it to our members the next day.

As trip leader, please let me take a moment to thank everyone who went on this trip. You made this a wonderful, fun experience for me, and I will never forget it. **Paul Waldowski, John Flanagan, Rosemary Crowley, Kat Blinebury, Mike Mazza, Greg Blizzard, Amanda Blizzard, Karen Heller, Sue and Butch Byer, Marion and Dave Brown, Bill Bristowe, Tom Welsh, Diane and Dan Clapp, Tracy Taggart, Phyllis Taggart, Janet Carpenter, Bobbi and Jim McHale, Charlie Haffey, Marilyn Herr**

Signing off, Trip Leader, **Meg Waldowski**, January, 2014



Photography by Tom Welsh

TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014 TO SNOWMASS VIA HOUSTON

Dave Brown

What do you do if you arrive at the airport way early and realize your carry-on bag, full of personal essentials, is back at home? If you're me, you rush back to get it. After all, I have two hours, it's still dark on a Saturday morning, which means no traffic, so why not?



I find out. Oh, I get back (just) in time all right, texting my progress while my wife and others already on the plane cheer me on. I arrive at the gate, and begin to board.

But, oops: "We can't let you board, Mr. Brown. We've given your seat away." On the plane, **Marion** answers my distress call: "But I've been saving your seat – it's right next to me!" She tells a stewardess, and I tell the gate attendant. "Oh, sorry," they say. "It's a weight problem, not a space problem. And we've already offloaded a much baggage as we can." I'm thinking that if they're flying from Philly to Denver at the height of ski season they might have planned for those heavy ski boots, but it's their airline, not mine.

Assured that I'll "be taken care of" ("I don't need to be taken care of, I need to be on the plane!"), I watch the plane leave the gate, then return to the service desk. They arrange a new set of flights to Denver: Houston via Nashville, then change planes for Denver. A little roundabout, but I only have a carry-on bag and no place else to go, so I begin to relax.

Until I picture the end of my flights: SW Airlines is only getting me to Denver, Snowmass is a 4-hour drive west from there, and the chartered bus should be all the way there by the time I get in. Oops again! Thank goodness for smartphones! And for Meg, our intrepid trip leader. Even an unexpected plane change in Nashville comes in handy, giving me time on the ground for googling and texting and making an online reservation for the van shuttle Meg finds out about and recommends. The confirmation comes to my phone just as the aircraft door is being closed for the flight from Nashville to Houston. Sighs of relief!

As for the flying, I have an excellent adventure, snagging a window seat on each flight, and enjoying clear skies most of the way. Having to get off the plane in Nashville is a shock, but fun: It's Nashville, after all, and even the little restaurant near the gate has someone playing guitar and singing. Not that I have time to listen, what with arranging the Denver-Snowmass shuttle. But I do get a lunch to eat on the plane.

The rest of the trip is uneventful, and I even have a van bench to myself for sleeping on the way to Snowmass. I walk into Stonebridge Inn at 1:45 am – aww, no one waited up for me. Plenty of teasing in the morning, though, happy because it all worked out.

A final detail: Before I left the service desk at the original gate at PHL, the attendants had me fill out some paperwork about releasing SW Airlines from further obligation, saying apologetically, "This is the best we can do for you." Then I signed a release for a \$1300.00 (!) compensation check. I had, indeed, been well taken care of. ~**David Brown**





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TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014

STOWE, VERMONT TRIP

Kat Blinebury

Stowe

I experienced a lot of firsts on this trip. It was the first time I went to Stowe, first time I ran a trip with **Roe Crowley**, first time I ran a New England trip with a ski tour company (Classic Ski Tours), first time I went snowshoeing, first time I skied at Smuggler's Notch, first time I had a dog on a ski trip, and many other firsts that I would be glad to experience again. Well, maybe not Smuggler's Notch unless it's about twenty degrees warmer.



Now that I have been to Stowe, I see why people like **Charlie** and **Paulette App** and my brother-in-law **Gil** go back there year after year. I suppose it was also why we ended up with 40 people on the trip. I've been in the club since 1996 and other than the day trips I don't think I have never gone on a trip with so many people. It was really great. Besides the skiing, there were plenty of other outdoor activities available and many nice bars and restaurants.

We all drove up on Sunday with little incident (I'll let **Roe** tell that one, if she wants) and met at 6:00 for our welcome wine and cheese party and dinner in the Colonial Café at the Golden Eagle Resort. It was a lively, friendly group and I think everyone felt welcomed including the many people that were with us for the first time. There was **Janice** from NJ, **Wendy, Jack, John R., and Bruce J.** from Delaware County, PA, **Burton, Holly** and their puppy from MD, **Tom, Dave and Dan** from the Stroudsburg, PA area, **Blaine** and **Jeanine** from Lehigh County, and **Gil** from Montgomery Co., PA. We were glad to have all of them with us on this trip.

On Monday morning, there were quite a few decisions that folks had to make, such as, what should I order for breakfast, should I take the shuttle or drive to the mountain, should I go to the old Mansfield Base Lodge, the newer Midway Base Lodge or take the Over Easy gondola to the beautiful new Spruce lodge. The next decision was whether to meet for the mountain tour. For those that were not downhill skiing, it was whether to go snowshoeing, cross country skiing or just walking around the resort area or checking out downtown or the Ben & Jerry's factory. So, many things to do...so many decisions to make. Well, decisions were made and at the end of the day when we met first for the manager's wine and cheese in the lobby and then at the happy hour at O'Grady's across the street (and we really could walk there), everyone seemed to be happy with what they decided to do and had lots to talk about. I have to admit that the skiing conditions were not as great as I would have liked for our first day. The weather had been warm over the weekend and with the colder temperatures on Monday, the conditions were a little icy. In any case, we had almost 20 people meet for the mountain tour and four hosts showed us the mountain and gave us a little history lesson about the mountain. (There's a couple more stories here again for **Roe** to tell...poor thing).

On Tuesday, we knew more about the shuttle (convenient but easier to take the car) and lodges (go to mid-mountain or Spruce if you want to avoid the climb up the hill or stairs at the Mansfield lodge) and where to go for different activities (stay on the marked trails for snowshoeing and skiing so you don't get lost) and that the locals were pretty nice about giving rides when you looked lost. (continued...)



TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014

STOWE, VERMONT TRIP

Kat Blinebury (continued)

We were pleasantly surprised to find fresh powder on the mountain at Stowe. **Dot** skied one too many runs that day with **Jim McCauley** and **John Kemble** and her ski boot blew apart when she was getting off the lift for what was supposed to be the last run of the day. Those guys are rough. Luckily she was able to take the lift back down and got through the incident without harm. Some folks ventured over to the Trappe Family Lodge and tried cross-country skiing. On Tuesday night, we had another great happy hour at the Vermont Ale House. Some stayed there to eat dinner and a group of us ended up at Mr. Pickwick's at Ye Olde England Inne (right next door to the Golden Eagle). Interesting place...definitely a place I would recommend for dinner or even if you just want to stop in for a drink.

On Wednesday, a few people skied again at Stowe (where I heard that conditions were even better than the day before since there were more freshies). Most of the crowd went to Sugarbush and were happy with their decision to go there. I choose to join **Wendy**, **Janice** and **Jack** for a six mile (three hour) snowshoe trip up to the cabin on the grounds of the Trappe Family Lodge. We came across **Reggie** and **Rita** cross-country skiing there too. At the cabin, they served great soups and other food and there was a nice fire going so you could dry out and warm up. It was a great way to spend the day. The **Browns** and **Diane Clapp** also enjoyed some cross-country skiing there on Wednesday. We originally had no plans for happy hour on Wednesday night but through **Roe's** good organization skills many of us met at the Trappe Family Lodge for drinks. Some stayed for dinner and another group had a great meal at the Trattoria La Festa .

On our last ski day, most of us drove over to Smuggler's Notch and although the conditions were great and there was excellent intermediate skiing, the slow speed lifts in single or near single digit temperatures had most of us stopping frequently to thaw out. **Madge**, **Bernie** and **Karen** stayed warm inside and played cards and after a few runs they were joined by **Amanda**. The smarter folks, like **Jim McCauley**, **John Kemble** and **Diane Clapp** went to a lower mountain where the temperatures were warmer and the sun shined. But, I understand the cold didn't bother **John R.** and **Blaine** and they skied right up until the lifts closed. **Butch** and **Sue** enjoyed visiting the "things to do" in town and the Ben & Jerry's factory tour on Thursday. We had another great happy hour(s) at **Roe** and **Bruce's** condo before and after our pasta bar dinner at the Colonial Café.

In conclusion, I want to thank **Greg** and **Mike** for providing transportation for the trip to me and some of the other ladies and making sure rides were provided when needed during the week. Thanks to **Charlie** and **Paulette** for providing the list of restaurants and other activities to do in Stowe. I want to thank everyone for coming on the trip and for participating in everything we had to offer. Also, since **Roe** put me in charge of the complaint department, I'm glad that no one felt the need to complain about anything (except maybe the rather slow service for breakfast... I was with you on that one.) I especially want to thank **Roe** for all of the work she did on the trip and all of the little extras, including those yummy snacks each morning, which she provided to make it a great experience for everyone. I was also happy that we decided to use **Jack Nickerson** from Classic Ski Tours to help us with the trip. He got us fantastic lift ticket prices, arranged the mountain tour, and some very nice happy hours. (continued...)



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TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014

STOWE, VERMONT TRIP

Kat Blinebury (continued)

If approved by the board, **Roe** and I would definitely like to do the trip again next year since we had such a great time and there are still quite a few restaurants that we need to try and we still need to do the Ben & Jerry's tour. If we do, I hope that you will be able to join us and maybe bring along some other folks so they can experience Stowe and the friendly people of the Philadelphia Ski Club.

STOWE, VERMONT TRIP: ROE'S PERSPECTIVE

Roe Crowley

The 4th Annual **Emily Casey** Memorial Trip was an overwhelming success!!! Although there were three times during the first 24 hours when I was wondering if Emily was sending me a strong message that she ran trips to New Hampshire, not Vermont. Let me just get this out of the way so we can reminisce on the fun stuff:



1. I got a speeding ticket in Vergennes, VT on our trip up (while **Bruce** was eating lunch in the car);
2. My ski poles got stolen outside The Den at Mt. Mansfield before I even got on the mountain on Monday morning;
3. **Bruce** had a nasty fall during our mountain tour on day one followed by a 'sleigh ride' down Mt. Mansfield courtesy of the ski patrol.

After I was sure that **Bruce** hadn't broken his shoulder, I returned to my trip leader high! I was so excited to run my first PSC trip; I guess I needed something to bring me back down to earth. **Kat** did such a nice job of recapping our week that I would be redundant to repeat. However, I want to echo her thanks to all who were there. It was fun to spend the week with old friends, and wonderful to welcome new friends & members to the Philadelphia Ski Club family. Without your enthusiasm, there would be no trip. So, please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Stowe, VT offers a variety of activities for the skier, and non-skier alike. It was a joy sharing the week with all of you; I hope you had as much fun as Bruce and I did. And although many of you preferred our accommodations to yours, we were so happy that you shared them with us for happy hours. It was funny, when folks entered the condo for the first time the resounding comment was, "I want to be a trip leader!" So, I wrote your names down, and as newly appointed PSC Trip Coordinator, you will be getting a call from me (haha).

I certainly don't want to contradict my trip co-leader, but I was actually happy that the service at breakfast every day was unhurried. That little bit of extra time in the Colonial Café gave me a chance to roam the room, hear what folks had planned for their day and distribute your snack-of-the-day. For those readers who were not with us, I want to explain. You know when you are on the mountain, it's getting close to lunch time and you get that little craving but you don't want to go into the lodge when it's crowded? Well, **Kat** and I solved that dilemma. Every morning at breakfast, we distributed a snack-of-the-day to satisfy (continued)



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TRACKING SKI TRIPS OF 2014

STOWE, VERMONT TRIP: ROE'S PERSPECTIVE

Roe Crowley (*continued*)

the craving and get you through the lunch crunch. Monday we had mitten-shaped homemade sugar cookies (red for girls, blue for boys), Tuesday was a sack of fun-size candy, Wednesday – homemade roasted bourbon candied pecans, Thursday – homemade chocolate chip cookies and Friday, a sack of trail mix for the trail home. I think the concept was a HIT, but if **Kat** & I are gonna run future trips, we've got to come up with new ideas to keep the concept fresh.

In closing, I've got a few 'thank-yous':

1. I want to thank the PSC Board for letting me co-run the Stowe, VT trip. It was fun and I'd do it again in a heartbeat;
2. A note of gratitude to my sister-in-law, **Kat Blinebury**, and our Membership Chair, **Dann Clapp** for willingly mentoring me as a PSC trip leader - your generosity and assurance gave me the confidence I needed to take on a trip for forty (40) people;
3. A tip of the hat to my Mom, **Madge Blinebury**, who taught me how to throw a party and be an attentive hostess;
4. **Jack Nickerson** of Classic Ski Tours was a pleasure to work with. He and his wife, **Roselle**, are originally from Philadelphia and they loved having Philly folks visit for a week;
5. Last, but certainly not least, to the Philadelphia Ski Club members – new and old – who traveled to Stowe. Thank you for your kind comments at week's-end, for helping to make the trip a success and for sharing in the fun and happy memories we made. I can't wait to do it again!





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Upcoming Events

April 12, 2014 - Dinner and Dancing at the Austrian Village, contact **Dot James** at 215-728-1724 or at burjams@aol.com

May 10. 2014 - Spring Dinner Meeting at Gallo's Seafood, see flyer, sign up by April 26th.

June 22, 2014 (tentative) - Segway Tour of Philadelphia, contact **Roe Crowley** at rbcrow@comcast.net or at 215-284-4998

September 9, 2014 - Burholme Park Picnic Meeting at 6:00 PM (no reservation needed)

October 2014 (date TBD) - Ocean City, MD Golf Outing, contact **Dot James** at 215-728-1724 or at burjams@aol.com

Side Tracks

*Thanks to **Kat** and **Steve** for taking on the publication and posting of Tracks. It will be wonderful to have it appear regularly in our mailboxes AND email boxes AND on the club website, AND maybe the Facebook page.*

Those "and's" are important. We're in a time of multiple communication modes. Some of us prefer email, Facebook, or downloading from websites; some of us can use those resources but rarely do; and some prefer or need to receive a paper copy. I'm one of the transitional people: as much as I prefer communicating by email, and often download material from websites, I do best with hard copy in my hands, and I appreciate having a newsletter floating around the kitchen table to get my attention. I like reading books and newspapers and magazines I can hold and physically turn pages. Having Tracks join the other newsletters and magazines in my mailbox will be great.

*If you're more comfortable with screen-only communications, by all means opt for that. Maybe I'll do the same at some point. Meanwhile, thank-you to those willing to do the work of getting out a paper edition of Tracks. ~**David Brown***

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*So what do you think of the new face of TRACK? I tried to give it a bit more of magazine look while retaining the newsletter format. Thank you to all of the content contributors and to **Kat** for wrangling it all for me. I invite your comments, thoughts and suggestions. steven.dimeglio@gmail.com*

*By the way, I was one of those that got lost at Stowe. I came down a run that didn't end with a lift but in a condo development. Luckily, a nice local lady named **Penny** picked me up in her new Mercedes and gave me and my snowboard a ride about a half mile back to the lodge. Thank you Penny wherever you are. ~**Steve DiMeglio***