



Philadelphia Ski Club

TRACK



Philadelphia Ski Club Founded 1936 | www.philadelphiaskiclub.org | philaskiclub@gmail.com

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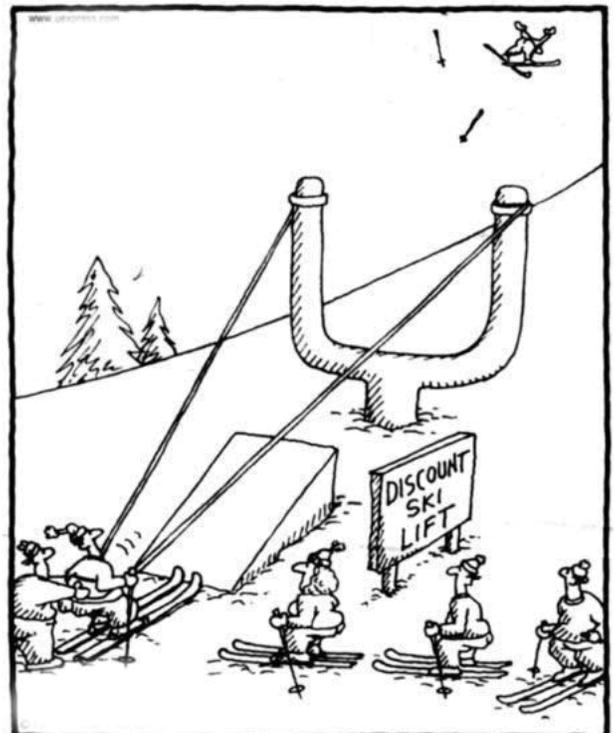
President's Message

Mike Mazza

Hi To All: The 2017 ski season is over, and it's hard to believe that the summer is around the corner.

The last meeting for 2017 was at Randi's Restaurant. We had a great turnout for our spring dinner. About 50 people were on hand for good food, drink and conversation. For the ski season, we had three great trips to ELK mountain. I would like to thank **Dave & Marion Brown** for organizing the trips. The drive-up trip to Stowe, Vermont was another great trip organized by **Kat Blinebury**, and then we had the big trip to Garmisch, Germany with a side trip to Amsterdam. I would like to thank all the board members for all their hard work, and all members for supporting the club. Just a reminder that we will meet again for our annual picnic, on the second Tuesday of September. Have fun and be safe this summer.

TO ALL THE MEMBERS: THANK YOU MIKE





May 2017

Tracking Ski Trips of 2017



Stowe, Vermont Trip

Kat Blinebury



The club ran another trip to Stowe, VT this year and it was great as usual. We went January 22 – 27, 2017. It's such a nice town and mountain, it's always great to go back.

We lucked out this year with reasonable temperatures and plenty of snow, but there was a cloud or fog, whatever you want to call it, laying on top of the mountain all week. It made visibility really poor at the top half of the mountain but the snow conditions were pretty good so we were able to manage without any serious spills. Well, there was the one face plant that **Bob Davis** took. Luckily, it looked worse than it was. **Mike Nelson** had played it pretty safe for the first few days of the trip, skiing from the lifts on the lower part of the mountain. On the last day though when I saw him at lunch, he was eager to go up the gondola to ski from the top and here's what he told me later about his experience:

“Despite your advice, (“Mike: There is no visibility up there.”) I took the gondola up to the top. I had to follow skiers since I couldn't see more than 30 feet. I am a slow skier so I would keep losing them into the fog. Finally, an angel appeared in a blue jacket. It was a Stowe host. He skied slowly in front of me until we were out of the soup. Without the host, I would still be working my way down the mountain.”

I'm not sure if he thought it was worth it in the end, but he had a story to tell and he didn't go home without going on the gondola and skiing from the top. Most of us ended our ski day early that last day since a snowstorm came through and the snow was very wet and heavy.

We had 19 people on the trip and of that number, it was the first time to Stowe with the club for six of the people. It was great to have them along. I was glad to hear that they took advantage of some of the other things to do around Stowe while they were there. I know **Marilyn Herr** and **Charlie Haffey** went to Ben & Jerry's and the Von Trappe Brewery. **Jim Blinebury** and **Denise Wray** brought their ice skates and used them at the rink outside of Spruce Lodge and dropped in to some of the local drinking establishments to shoot some pool. **Mike Nelson** and his colleague, **George Vania**, also went to the Von Trapp Lodge and Brewery. **Marion** and **Dave Brown**, have been on the trip before but I think it was the first year they tried out the ice skating rink and the first time **John Reynolds** traveled up to Jay Peak for a day of skiing.

We stayed at the Golden Eagle again but went to some new places for happy hour and dinner this year. We went to Charlie B's for happy hour and many of us stayed there for dinner. We also went to the Cork Wine Bar & Market for happy hour one night which was in the village and some folks stayed there for some excellent soup, I heard. Charlie and Paulette App took advantage of being close to Harrison's, a very popular restaurant in Stowe, and made a reservation to go there. Others that didn't think too far ahead and couldn't get into Harrison's went to the Whip Bar & Grille, another fine restaurant which is in the Green Mt. Inn. Besides our group dinner at the Colonial Café the first night, we also had a very nice group dinner at an Italian restaurant called Juniors. I think everyone had a great experience at all of the places..On our final night, as we did last year, we met in the Golden Eagle conference



May 2017

center to have our farewell party, pizza dinner and what has become game night too. We had an added bit of entertainment this year with **George Vania** providing a presentation from his excursions for many years to some of the 10th Mountain Division huts in Colorado. It was very interesting to hear how they were helicoptered in to some huts, the beauty of making fresh tracks in the backcountry and seeing and hearing about the use of climbing skins on their skis to get back up the mountain. Thanks **George!**

I want to thank **Greg Blizzard** for bringing the game, Right, Left, Center. We all had a ball playing that game. Lots of laughs and excitement, especially from the winners. I know I was one of the winners and **Steve** and **Karen DiMeglio** also won. Afterwards, **Janice Bartel**, **Karen**, **Mike** and **George** had lots of fun playing ping pong in the game room, while **me**, **Steve**, **Jim** and **Denise** played a little tamer game of pool. We almost had to call it a night around 10:00 when the hotel employee came around to lock up and turn the lights out, but we convinced him to let us close up when we were finished playing our games.

Finally, I can't end this article which I am writing in mid-April without telling a story about our buddy, **Jack Bartel**, who was with us in Stowe but passed away suddenly on March 26, 2017 at the age of 63. I took a day off from skiing to go snowshoeing with **Wendy**, **Janice** and **Jack** (Wendy's husband and Janice's brother) and **Monty** (Wendy & Jack's dog). Since the roads were snow covered, **Jack** thought we should snowshoe behind the Golden Eagle so we wouldn't have to drive. But before we left breakfast, we invited **Karen** and **Steve** to come along with us and they said they wanted to go. Right away you could see a twinkle in **Jack's** eyes and that something was going through his mind. When I asked what he was thinking, he said we have to go to a better place since **Karen** and **Steve** are coming. That's the way **Jack** was. He wanted everyone to have a good time and get the most from their experience. **Karen**, **Steve** & **I** got snowshoes from the Golden Eagle and **Jack** and **Wendy** were able to outfit everyone with whatever else they needed and off we went. They took us to the Catamount trail and we did the trail called the 8 Bridges. It was a beautiful day and really fun. Snowshoeing can be strenuous at times but it's also very relaxing compared to downhill skiing. We took turns leading the way, **Wendy** made sure we stayed on the right trail, we stopped along the way to stand and eat our lunch, **Steve** checked his Fitbit at our request occasionally to look at the number of steps and miles we went, and **Jack** made us take a little loop off trail just to see the difference (much more difficult). It is with great sadness that I know **Jack** won't snowshoe with us again, but I hope that we all get the opportunity to go again and take him along in our memories. He would like that.



Team 8 Bridges

Left to right: Janice, Karen, Jack, Wendy, Monty and Kat

Photo by: Steve DiMeglio

TRACK



May 2017

STOWE 2017





May 2017

Snowshoe Adventures Stowe, Vermont Trip

Wendy Bartel



As always, the snowshoe group (**Jack, Wendy, Janice and Monty**) had a great time during their stay in Stowe.

They went to the Cady Hill trails, which are very beautiful and so convenient to the Golden Eagle Resort. During the summer, those trails are used for hiking and mountain biking. They also went back two days to the beautiful Sterling Forest and snowshoed on the Catamount trail in that area. The Catamount trail is a backcountry cross-country ski trail that runs the length of Vermont. One of the highlights of going to Sterling Forest was on Tuesday when **Kathy, Steve and Karen** joined the group. It was **Steve and Karen's** first time on snowshoes and they seemed to enjoy it. That was a fun day and **Monty** loved having the additional company – especially when people were giving him parts of their P&J sandwiches.

The snowshoers also visited a new trail this year. The access to it was south of the hotel off of Route 100 via Moscow road. It is called the Nebraska Notch, Lake Mansfield trail and it's an out and back trail that runs along a portion of the lake. The trail starts at the Lake Mansfield Trout Club. It was listed as a moderate trail but it became very steep going up into the forest and it was definitely tricky at times going back down the trail. There was a beautiful waterfall at the top.

Monty also wanted to thank everyone for making him feel so welcome and inviting him to the group party Thursday night. His tail never stopped wagging!





May 2017



Elk Mountain Trips

Marion Brown



Elk Mountain, Here We Come!

Our three 2017 Elk trips all featured nearly full buses, everyone very on time at the bus, good skiing and lots of food and fun. One of the trips included free hoagies and chips for everyone at lunch time. For our final 2017 Elk ski day on March 3rd the conditions could have been better, but, still a fun day and for some of us our final ski day for this season. With the apres ski in the upstairs dining room plus the Nutty Irishman and homemade brownies that Roe gave us on the bus home... well, it was a happy day!

We are tentatively penciling in 2018 Elk ski trips with PSC for the first Fridays in January, February, and March and hope you will do the same:

- **Friday, Jan. 5, 2018**
- **Friday, Feb. 2, 2018**
- **Friday, Mar. 2, 2018**

Check the PSC website and watch for the registration snail mail envelope this summer with details and registration forms for 2018 Elk trips!

A lot of people took lessons at Elk this year: skiers and snowboarders at all skill levels. We get group lessons (usually only 1-3 people in the group!) at a very favorable group rate (\$26) with excellent Elk instructors. We gained more snowboarders this year, and yes, Elk does rent snowboards and has snowboard lessons.

Kudos to **Jim Cassidy** who joined us on March 3rd: the first time in his life he had ever been on skies!

And a shout out to **Denise Davis** and **Bill Ewing**: they got back on skies after a long ski sabbatical!

Five year old **Riley Klink**, our budding Olympian, continues to smile as she rides the lift to the top of the mountain with her Pop, **Bruce Crowley**, and skies down with rapidly developing expertise.

For **Cory Skorski**, a nine year old Elk ski school participant, skiing has improved his confidence and coordination! He is very proud of his accomplishments and enjoys spending time on the mountain with his Dad, **Mike Skroski**.



May 2017

Bob Huntkowski tells us: Great trip. My highlight is always the skiing...my favorite Pa. mountain. I have been doing the Jan and March trips now for many years, and the format for the trip is great and always looked forward to...wouldn't change anything. The food setup looked great.

Charlie Haffey says, "The two Elk trips this year had great snow and the skiing was terrific. I would have made the third one but something came up which caused me to miss the trip."

Sharon Fang exclaims, "I look forward to the Elk trip because it's such a fun, easy day. Great skiing (no lines) and a very friendly group to travel with. They never fail to make me laugh. Kudos to the organizers- you all really pull off a great event."

Mike Nelson raves, "Good job and will be signing up for all three Elk trips next year! Keep lining up helpers ahead of time."

Many thanks to all the people who helped to make this year's Elk trips such a success, including: **John Flanagan** (our treasurer), **Roe Crowley** (she orders the buses), **Claire Lozowicki**, **Julia Miller**, **Chris Daley**, **Miriam McCauley** (she creates the trivia game), **Tom Welsh**, **Bruce Crowley**, **Steve DiMeglio**, **Karen DiMeglio**, **Tony Navarro**, **Greg Blizard**, **Dann Clapp** (membership), **Charlie App**, **Paulette App**, **Jim Fallon**, **Mike Nelson**, **Shawn Keaveney** and others!





May 2017

GARMISCH, GERMANY & AMSTERDAM

Mike Mazza



Our trip started on February 10, 2017 at the Philadelphia Airport, we all arrived about 2 1/2 hours prior to departure. We departed at 6:00 PM. Our flight with Lufthansa was good with food, drinks, and movies. We arrived in Frankfurt about 8:00 AM with a small layover to Munich. Once in Munich, it was a little slow getting started needless to say. We all gathered to meet the bus, but we could not find the bus. We looked high and low, and walked past the bus numerous times. After a couple phone calls, and getting the right name of the bus, we are on way to Garmisch. We checked in at the hotel Garmischer Hof. Wow what a place, nestled in an old village town, and picturesque mountains. Saturday night we start with a wine and cheese party, and dinner. Sunday the skiers went to the mountains, and sightseers went to the train or bus station. We all started our adventure.

The side trips were organized up by **Pam Blizard**, and what a great job she did. Monday was a fantastic day to ski, but some went to Dachau Concentration Camp. The love of history does not prepare you for the camp. We all left with a different outlook of life. Tuesday and Wednesday was some of the best skiing we all had, the fresh air, and the warm sun up on the mountains, and the scenery looking down through the clouds at the village below. At night we all tried different restaurants, each night was better than the last. Thursday, our last day, the diehards went out skiing, and the sightseers went to Bavaria's Neuschwanstein Castle. Disney's Cinderella's Castle was designed with this castle in mind. It was built in 1880 and was the personal refuge for King Ludwig II of Bavaria. Thursday night dinner at the hotel was peaceful with a lot of good conversation.

Friday, we are off to Amsterdam which is known for its artists, canal system, and narrow houses. We checked in at the hotel Rho, another fantastic hotel. Had a wonderful sightseeing tour via the Hop-on-Hop Off boat/bus transportation system, which was a great way to see what was in Amsterdam. Some of us toured the Anne Frank House, Rijks Museum, Heineken Experience, Maritime Museum and even had a peek of the Red Light District and a few coffee shops. Quite interesting, if I may say so. We had three fantastic days in Amsterdam, and Monday we were home and back to reality. So with all this being said I would like to thank all the people that took the time to go on this trip and creating wonderful memories.



Janice and Kat in Germany

Greg and Pam in Amsterdam



May 2017

Germany/Amsterdam 2017





May 2017

Spring Dinner Meeting

Kat Blinebury



We held our Spring Dinner Meeting on May 13th at Randi's Bar and Restaurant, where we are having all of our meetings now, and we had a great turnout for it. I think it got a little noisy from the music coming from the bar, was maybe a little crowded but some think cozy, however the food was good, the drinks were plentiful and the prizes were plentiful. I know **Jim McHale** was one of the big winners, winning two of the prizes. He won a flashlight and I believe the other was a gift card to Applebee's. **Tom Welsh**, **Terry Liebel's** daughter, **Teresita** and **Steve DiMeglio** won gift certificates for an Elk Mt day trip. **Mike Mazza's** grandson, **Justin**, was happy to win the Amazon gift card. **Tom Netherly** got the bottle of Tito's vodka. **Charlie** and **Paulette App** got the tray of chocolates, which they planned to share with their grandchildren. There were many more prizes, bottles of wine, WAWA gift cards, etc. too numerous to mention.

Thanks to **Sue Byer** for handling the prize tickets and selection of winners. Also, thanks to **Roe Crowley** for designing and ordering the cake.





May 2017

Side Tracks

The season went quickly and while the weather wasn't very cooperative at Stowe this year, all three trips to Elk were fantastic (as usual). As **Kat** mentioned earlier, **Karen** and I went snowshoeing this year with **Jack**, **Wendy**, **Janice**, **Kat** and **Monty**. You are lucky in life to meet someone like **Jack** who would literally give you the boots off his feet to share his love and enthusiasm for an activity and for nature. Having decided at breakfast to try it out, we were not at all prepared. **Jack** lent me his extra pair of hiking boots and came back later with **Wendy's** extra pair for **Karen**. He helped us get into our snowshoes, lent us poles and coached us on the basics. **Jack** had us stop and listen to the silence of the woods along our way and you could see how much he enjoyed sharing this experience with all of us. This was a really special day and we will never forget **Jack** and the joy he shared in sharing. I think the photo below says it all.



See you on the slopes next year. Until then, **Karen** and I wish you all a happy and healthy summer and fall. Be well. ~*Steve DiMeglio*



Jack goes off-trail.

Photo by Steve DiMeglio