



Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



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

July 2018

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President's Message

Mike Mazza

Hi To All: To the members of the ski club: I cannot believe that another season has come and gone.

I would like to thank all the board members for all their hard work and to the trip leaders. **Dave and Marion Brown** thank you for three great trips to ELK. Though January was cold, the few that went are known as 26 and 30 below club, February we had another great lunch, and March the best tacos south of the border. To **Dann Clapp** thank you for the best Okemo ski trip, the dinners and the activities were fantastic and the skiing great. **Roe Crowley**, the trip to Park City, again was organized beyond all expectations, the skiing in Park City and the Canyons was the best, Snowbird on the other hand was quite challenging. **Marianne Haverland** I cannot thank you enough for all your hard work as recording secretary, from the board members THANK YOU. To all remember that we will meet again in the Fall for our annual picnic on the second Tuesday in September. Have a safe summer.

Mike Mazza



The Mineral Basin Cat Track at Snowbird was truly harrowing for many of us lesser talents that day!



July 2018

Tracking the Ski Trips of 2018



Okemo, Vermont Trip *Dann Clapp*



“It was a dark and stormy night” Our PSC group drove up to Okemo on a pouring down rainy Sunday that made us plenty weary at check in to our hotel. At the front desk to our dismay there were bunches of school aged kids coming in for the same week as us. After un-packing and meeting in the lobby at the fireplace; 28 of us were greeted by Melissa Kelly for our reception where they treated us to a cocktail and refreshments. We learned a lot of facts and figures on the resort and won several door prizes for the mountain trivia quiz. We reconvened for our group dinner at the Coleman Brook Tavern where the variety and quality of the entrées were excellent. They seated us in the Wine Room where we could be ourselves (loud) and enjoy the meal together.

Our first day on the slopes was tough because of the soaking rain the day before and the mountain crew could only do so much with what they had. Frozen “cookies” and scraped ice were the surface on many trails. Several of us took a guided tour with Ambassadors Abe and Frank and learned the ropes and were treated to a coffee or cocoa. Each day thereafter the runs improved greatly with the crews grooming and adding snow to make the conditions fantastic. Many of us worked our way across the mountain to the four mountain faces of: Jackson Gore, Solitude, Main Mountain, and Southface.

Each day started off with breakfast at the Roundhouse and packaged treats from **Rosemary Crowley**, **Diane Garvey**, and **Karen DiMeglio**. Tuesday we had a group dinner out to town at **Killarney Irish Pub** where we had comfort food meals and an “Irish Hootenanny” afterwards throwing back a few shots of cheer. **Bob Huntkowski** was the ring-leader/instigator of this fine affair while **Cynthia Solis** showed us her dance moves at tunes from the jukebox.

On Wednesday night the resort arranged for a speaker from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science to address us on their rescue efforts for distressed birds of prey. The speaker brought and exhibited a Rough Legged Hawk, American Kestrel, and Eastern Screech Owl all of which were rescued and housed at their aviary. She had all of us riveted with her presentation. Afterwards we sat to a Valentine’s Day buffet dinner at the Siena restaurant where the food was plentiful and delicious.

Thursday we were greeted by our host: **BJ Donahue** where he offered us a fourth day of skiing at a deeply discounted rate and to exchange un-used days on our tickets. A very nice surprise. Thursday night we secured a private room for our drink-up and eat up party and enjoyed our leftover cocktails, snacks, and some pizza we had delivered. Several raucous games of left-right-center were played and stories exchanged. Skier achievement



Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



July 2018

Awards were announced: A-Team: **John Reynolds** and **Blaine Bauer**. B-Team: **Kat Blinebury**, **Greg Blizzard**, **Bob Davis**, **Steve** and **Karen DiMeglio**, **Dann Clapp**, and **Oleg Uzhansky**. Special B+ Team recognition: **Tom Welsh**. Man Camp inductee: **Eva Brothers** who could ski with the best. Mountaineers: **Wendy Bartel**, **Janice Bartel**, and **Jeanene Bauer** who adventured deep into the woods one day. Master of Ceremony and party starter: **Bob Huntkowski**. Redneck Crew leader: **Dean Browne**. Best Comeback Couple version 3.0: **Helmut & Joan Schilling**. Un-announced feat: **John Siemiarowski** for climbing up Okemo Mountain with skins on his skis.

Friday morning we all had our breakfast together and said our good-byes and took off for our return drive home. Thanks to the Okemo staff and all of our members who helped make this a great trip not to be forgotten soon.

OKEMO 2018





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



July 2018

OKEMO 2018





July 2018



Snowshoe Adventures
Okemo, Vermont
Wendy Bartel



Our first snowshoeing trip this year was to **Okemo VT**. We definitely enjoyed the shorter driving time. However, going to Okemo made it a little more challenging this time since we had to find where the trailheads were located in that area. We had become very familiar (and comfortable) with the trails around Stowe. Also, some of the Okemo trails did not have good parking at the trailheads.

On Monday, **Jeanene Bauer** and **Cynthia Solis** joined me and Janice for snowshoeing at the Okemo Nordic Center that was 5 minutes from the hotel (very convenient and had parking too). During the summer, the Nordic center is a golf course. The views were beautiful and there were some challenging climbs too.

However, we do prefer snowshoeing in the woods. So on Tuesday, Jeanene joined us to go snowshoeing at a park located at Lowell Lake. There was a beautiful wooded trail that went around the lake.

On Wednesday, **Kat Blinebury** joined us at Calvin Coolidge State Park. Since the entrance to the park was snowed in, we had to snowshoe up a very long and steep road until we got to the park office and the start of the trailhead. The trail was beautiful and had quite a bit of snow. We were even breaking new trail in the snow. However, about ½ mile into the trail, we saw animal tracks that made us decide to turn back. We returned to the hotel and found a trail around the hotel grounds.

Thursday, we went to a trail again close to the hotel with **Steve** and **Karen DiMeglio**. Unfortunately, while trying to find the trail, we ended up driving on a Class 4 snowmobile road! Oops! That was a real adventure. We ended up getting stuck and having to be towed out! **Steve**, **Karen** and **Janice** had a great time trying to shovel the car out of the snow.



Our snowshoe journey in Utah began with hopping the free bus from the hotel to find the snowshoe rental place. We ended up at the **White Pine Touring Center** to rent our equipment. After renting the snowshoes, we hopped on the bus to go back to the hotel before going out to snowshoe. Our first adventure took us back on the bus again and we ended up at the **Lost Prospector Trail** near Deer Valley Rd and Bonanza Drive. We started the trail walk-



Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



July 2018

ing on the road since there wasn't any snow due to previous rain and warm weather. Finally, we got to the **Union Pacific Rail Trail** and there was snow on the trail, although it was spotty. As we were hiking on that trail, we saw another trail called the **Skid Row Trail**. That was a good switchback trail that was snow covered and uphill. On that day we ended up walking 8.4 miles with 20,148 steps and 10 floors. Whew! Some of that was walking to the bus, snowshoe rental place and back and forth to the hotel. So glad we had a rental car for the rest of the week.

Monday, we got the rental car and headed out. Thanks to our Tour Guide, **Jack Nickerson**, for a ride to the Enterprise Car Rental office. We started at the **Swaner Preserve** and **Eco Center** but the trails there were muddy and no snow. So, next we went to the Information Center near the Olympic Park entrance. Their resources were very helpful for snowshoeing which we utilized for the remainder of the week. After we left the Information Center, we headed to a local trail called **Rob's Trail**. The trail provided views of the **Canyon Ski Resort**, the Valley and Park City near **Kimball Junction**. We climbed the trail and met many friendly people and their dogs. Wendy definitely got her dog fix that day, since **Monty** (her Yellow Lab) did not join us this trip. Rob's Trail also intersects with **Colin's trail** and **Mid-Mountain Trail**. Compared to our first day, we walked 6.3 miles 14,284 steps but 23 floors. Rob's trail was definitely an uphill adventure.

Tuesday, our snowshoe adventure took us to the **Wasatch National Forest**. This trail reminded us of **Smuggler's Notch** in **Stowe** since it was a closed road that is used for winter sports like cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. It was a straight shot that took us past several campground sites. Actually, the campground was a good treat for us since we got to eat our lunch at a picnic table rather than standing. Stats that day were 6.6 miles and 15,043 steps.

Wednesday, **Jackie Pine** and **Kat** decided to join **Wendy** and me for snowshoeing. Since the weather was calling for rain, we decided to go back to **Rob's Trail**, which was close to the hotel. **Jackie** and **Kat** decided not to rent snowshoes but just use their hiking boots. That was good for a while but some of the path was slick. So we split our snowshoes with **Jackie** and **Kat** and all ended up with one snowshoe each. A man on the path stopped to take our picture and said, "What happened? Are you guys too cheap to purchase additional snowshoes?". We did look funny with one snowshoe but it



gave us all some traction on the trail. And sure enough the rain did come so we had to end our day early. After that we went to the **Olympic Park Museum** and took in some skiing history.

Thursday, we went to **Empire Pass**, which was our favorite snowshoe adventure of the week. The path was beautiful and had plenty of snow. Our distance that day was 5.9 miles, 15,235 steps and 38 floors. The Pass took us by some of the **Deer Valley** chairlifts, and some very nice, upscale lodging places.

Our last day of snowshoeing took us to a different area of the Wasatch National Forest, specifically to **Mill Creek Canyon** and the **Pipe Line Trail**, which included **Rattlesnake Gulch Trail**, **Burch Hollow Trail** and the **Grandeur Peak Trail**. Total for the day was 5 miles and 12,543 steps and 35 floors.



July 2018

 **Park City Utah Trip**
Roe Blinebury
PARK CITY



All Roads Lead to Park City, Utah???

In March, 2018 for Philadelphia Ski Club, all roads led to Park City, Utah. Thirty-one travelers came from Boston MA, Philadelphia PA, Washington DC, Phoenix AZ, and San Diego CA. We were a FUN group of friends, family, work colleagues and newcomers who were greeted at our Park City lodging by Classic Ski Tours President, **Jack Nickerson** and his wife, **Roselle**, with a lovely wine and cheese reception.

Trip Highlights:

Well, of course, the skiing at Park City/Canyons, Snowbird and Deer Valley were the ultimate highlight; but our journey had many other high points throughout the week:

- After a great day on the mountain in Park City, we all convened for Après Ski at Baja Cantina at the base village. Nachos hit the spot and the margaritas were wet, cold, tasty and flowing.
- We hit the road early on Wednesday for Snowbird. The tram ride up the mountain provided breathtaking vistas and there was plenty of mountain for everyone. A handful of folks even managed to ride through the mountain via the Peruvian Tunnel, which opened in 2005. The Peruvian Tunnel is a 600-foot-long George Jetson-like passageway carved through the mountain with a conveyor belt allowing easy access to Mineral Basin on the back side of Snowbird. One note about Snowbird, they don't groom intermediate trails – there's a reason that last run of the day was called "Bassackwards"!!!
- Following the lead of **Diane Garvey**, a group of us ventured the "From Silver to Slopes" historic ski tour of Park City Mountain. It was an intermediate, informative tour of how, from 1884 to present, the California-Comstock and Silver King Silver Mines, with the financial aid of President John F. Kennedy, became Treasure Mountain and, ultimately, Park City Ski Resort.
- Thursday, after another fun day of skiing, boarding and snow-shoeing, our path lead us to Main Street Park City for happy hour, 'wetting the shamrock', and celebrating St. Patty's Day. 'Flanagan's On Main' is a renowned Irish Pub with references to Fr. Flanagan's Boys Town dating back to 1919. We took over the stone basement, munched on corned-beef sliders, Dubliner wings & potato jackets, washed down with Guinness and Jameson, played darts and giant-sized Jenga. **Jack Nickerson** was bestowed an Honorary PSC Membership at our St. Patty's Day Party.
- A 'ski' trip to Utah is not complete without a visit to Deer Valley, the US home of Stein Eriksen, 'father of free-



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



July 2018

style skiing'. So, on our last day of skiing, about half of the crew made our way to the site of the 2002 Olympic Free-Style Ski events. The lodges were lavish and terrain plentiful.

- As is our tradition, the last night was a gathering to share memories, pizza, snacks and beverages. And, there were Skier Achievement Awards:
 - ◇ Best Ski Guide & Trailblazer Par Excellence – **Brian Nishitani**
 - ◇ Best Lost Puppy & Crawl Back Home – **Karen DiMeglio** – after making a wrong turn at Snowbird and taking an hour and a shuttle to make it back to the lodge
 - ◇ Best Buddies to Drive Each Other into the Ground – **Bob Davis** and **Greg Blizard** – ‘anything you can do, I can do better’...
 - ◇ Best Collision that Both Walked Away From – **Blaine Worrall & Diane Garvey** – I was on your other left :)
 - ◇ Best Ragdoll, Backward Flip Down the Mogul Field – **Bruce Crowley** – “Bassackwards”!
 - ◇ Honorable Mention to the Member Who Brought the Most Guests – **Mike Nelson** – his crew were **Catarina & Blaine Worrall, Russ Nelson, Mike & Matt Murray** and **Mike Sweeney**.
 - ◇ Newest Club within Our Club – the E.P.A.ers – **Kat Blinebury, Janice Bartel, Wendy Bartel, Brian Nishitani, Marie Holman** and **Jackie Pine**.
- I'd like to welcome a few newcomers to PSC on this trip – **Justin Kwan, Ron Tomasso** and **Dan & Nicole Piasecki**.
- And thanks to loyal members **Mike Mazza, Steve DiMeglio, Charlie Haffey, Marilyn Herr, Dann Clapp** and **Denise Davis**.

It was a memorable journey. Stay tuned to see where the road leads us next ski season!



Two views of Skier Sculpture inspired during this trip by **Steve DiMeglio**



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



July 2018

Park City, Utah Trip 2018: Park City, Canyons, Snowbird & Deer Valley





Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



July 2018

More Photos from the Park City, Utah Trip 2018





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



July 2018



Elk Mountain Trips

Marion Brown



Skiing is a winter weather outdoor sport with all the variations that our unpredictable 2018 winter weather could bring! Our 2018 Elk trips goes down in the record books with record setting weather variations ... whether we like it or not!

January 5th: record breaking wind chills! 26 stalwart and very well clad skiers and boarders skied in the gusty winds on the Elk slopes. Riding the lifts, which often had a snowy covering and sometimes also some ice, chilled our buns but our not our spirits. We were a very determined bunch! We would ski three or four runs and then come in to warm up and do clothing adjustments. The day of high energy and well oxygenated time on the slopes led us to name ourselves 'the 26/30 club': 26 of us enjoying our Elk day in 30 below wind chill weather. We felt great!

February 2: a nice wintry day, a full bus, and a lot of good skiing! The hoagie lunch treat that Roe and others arranged for all of us in the lodge, a feature of our February trips, was much appreciated. Several people took lessons. Elk lessons continue to work out well for us: we get the group rate for group lessons, but there are often no other people in the group! The Elk ski instructors are very good.

March 2: in Philadelphia, it was warming up and raining. A lot of people bailed and did not go at the last minute. So, our bus that was overly full early in the week with a waiting list, well, everyone on the waiting list got to go and the bus was not so full any more. Surprise ... as we got further north into the Poconos, the rain turned to snow. Indeed, by the time we arrived at Elk around 9AM, there was already a couple inches of fresh powder on the trails and the lifts. We hit the slopes. The snow kept coming. A couple inches became at least six inches of fresh ungroomed snow on top of the existing packed surface and covering up occasional icy spots. And, while we were skiing through the snowstorm, the roads were becoming more treacherous ... and the Hagey bus company wanted all their buses to come home right away! The turnpike was closing! So, Elk kindly gave us take-homes for our planned apres ski end of season party! We called the hearty souls who were still skiing in off the slopes, Elk plowed out the parking lot and freed up our bus, and we got loaded and pulled carefully out of Elk around 3:30PM. **Bob**, the bus driver (our favorite driver) navigated expertly to get us on our way, the turnpike re-opened, and we got back pretty much on schedule ... having started an hour and a half earlier than anticipated. Wow!

Whether we wanted it or not, the weather made this a very interesting year for our Elk trips!



Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



July 2018

One more thing: thanks to **John Siemiarowski** some of us are putting **Hot Buns** bun warmers on our wish lists for 2019. Yes, bun/butt warmers! No, this has nothing to do with pornography. Bun warmers are a neoprene type 'apron' that ties around your waist and comes down to protect your buns from the cold/snowy/icy chairlift seats!

Found online for \$55 at www.powdercordpouch.com/product-p/hotbuns.htm if you want to get them for yourself or someone you love.



Marion and Dave were touring in South Africa at the time of February Elk trip so **Greg Blizzard** and **Kat Blinebury** filled in as our hosts.





Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



July 2018

More Elk Mountain 2018 Photos



Bowling Party April 2018

Kat Blinebury



The ski club had another great bowling party at Thunderbird Lanes. We had an even a better turnout than we had in October. There were nine more bowlers this time with a total of 34 bowlers plus a few more spectators. Thanks to everyone that participated.

Prizes were given out for highest scores to:

Children: 1st Place: **Maggie Whitfield** (Carol Heffner's granddaughter), 2nd: **Colin Keaveney** (Mike Nelson's grandson) and 3rd: **Riley Klink** (Roe Crowley's granddaughter).

Adults: 1st Place: **Tony Navarro**, 2nd: **Brian Nishitani** and 3rd: **Dann Clapp**

Here are the team photos:





Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



July 2018

Spring Dinner Meeting Calabrisella Restaurant

Kat Blinebury



We wrapped up the 2017-2018 season with a great dinner meeting at **Calabrisella Restaurant** in Bensalem on May 12th. We had 45 people come out for the dinner and we almost maxed out on the occupancy limit so it was quite “cozy”. The food was wonderful and **Roe Crowley** selected great wines and beers for us and brought a cute cupcake “cake” and really delicious cannoli in baskets. As usual, we had plenty of great prizes and lots of happy winners. To name a few, I actually won two prizes. One was a box of fine chocolates donated by **Roe** and the other was a basket of games and snacks donated by **Cynthia Solis**. It’s only three days later and the chocolates are almost

gone and I’m working on all of the puzzle books. The **Clapps** won two prizes also, a bottle of red blend wine and a pet lovers basket. The main prizes are the day trips to Elk Mt. which went to three people sitting side by side (funny). They were **Oleg Uzhansky, Cynthia Solis** and **Pam Blizard**.

I want to thank **Cynthia** for bringing a beautiful long stem rose for each of the women present in honor of Mother’s Day. It was really a nice touch.

SPRING FLING 2018





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



July 2018

Side Tracks

The season went quickly and while the conditions were not the greatest at Okemo, they improved as the week went on and we had a great group of club members to party with every night.



Well, as you probably noticed, I launched a redesign of the annual **TRACK** this year. The new format is in color. The version sent US mail will still be grayscale to keep printing costs down but you can view the Track in living color on the web site @www.philadephiaskiclub.org by clicking on the banner on the homepage. You can then print it out on your home printer. I hope you enjoy all of the color photos from our trips and events this past year. Thank you to **Tom Welsh** who utilized his professional photography talents to provide us with great shots from the Okemo Trip.

Karen took over my role as the lost sheep in Utah at Snowbird this year. Somehow she missed a turn and ended up at a different lodge. She did manage to find her way to the shuttle and linked up with the rest of us a while later no worse for wear. She found us all recovering from navigating the frighteningly narrow, crowded, and scary “cat tracks” of the the back bowl, Mineral Basin, on the first run of the day. The beers and whiskey helped with that.

I would like to thank Marianne Haverland, our recording secretary for the past 20 years, for setting the bar high for me as her successor. I will do my best to serve as well, if not as for as long, as she did.

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*



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