



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



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

June 2020

Volume 78 Issue 1



President's Message

Mike Mazza

Hi to all: The 2019 ski season was a great one and one to remember. We had three fantastic trips to ELK. **Dave and Marion Brown**, the trip leaders, did a fantastic job. Our drive-up trip this year was to Sunday River, Maine. We had ski-in, ski-out accommodations and it was put together by **Tom Welsh**. The big trip to Sun Valley, Idaho was a trip that will go in history as most expensive one day trip the club ever had but we all took it in stride. I would like to thank the trip leader, **Oleg Uzhansky**, who went out of his way to make the trip a great one-day trip. Thanks also to **Roe Crowley**, trip coordinator, who helped behind the scenes with all of the trips.

Our Christmas party at Gallos and a day trip to the Museum of the American Revolution organized by **Kat Blinebury** were wonderful. We also had a great walk through Wissahickon Park narrated by **Diane Garvey**. To all the board members, I would like to thank you for all your hard work to make the club what it is today. Thanks to my Vice President, **Bruce Crowley**, for helping out with the meetings and other club needs, **Greg Blizzard**, who survived the first year as the treasurer, **John Flanagan** for mentoring the new treasurer, **Steve DiMeglio** who keeps all the records straight, **Dann Clapp** who remembers all details of every trip the club was on and keeps a pretty good record on membership, and **Sue Byer** for taking care of hospitality.

At this time, the board members plan to meet in June to talk about next season. Hopefully, by then we'll have a better idea of what life will be like come September. I wish everybody a great summer and that we can see each other at the picnic.

Stay safe.

Thank You, **Mike**





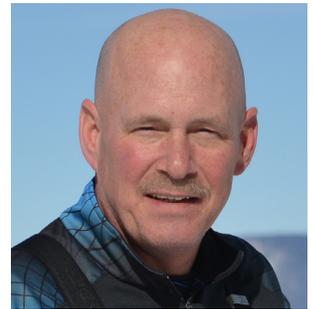
June 2020

Tracking the Ski Trips of 2020



Sunday River, Maine

Tom Welsh



This year's trip to Sunday River Maine started on Sunday January 26th with a rather pleasant drive to Maine. I was informed that some members started earlier in the weekend to visit other areas of New England.

We arrived at the Jordan hotel at Sunday River between late afternoon and early evening where we were welcomed with a smooth check in. Later that evening in the Grand Avenue restaurant, which was reserved just for our club, we had a wonderful vegetable display with hummus and other goodies, later followed by gourmet pizza sponsored by the PSC. Oh and let's not forget the free drinks!!

The rooms were very spacious and accommodating. We had a choice of either two queen beds in a standard style room or a Studio room with a Murphy bed and kitchenette.

Monday morning started with a fabulous buffet breakfast and soon after that we gathered outside the hotel where we met with Taylor our Sales rep and mountain guide. Taylor stayed with us Monday up through lunchtime introducing us to the many trails at Sunday River. I will say, however, that he did do it at a rapid pace. We covered quite a few of the peaks.

At 6 o'clock Monday evening we enjoyed a plated dinner at the Grand Avenue restaurant and I think everyone else would agree, the food again was fabulous.

Tuesday through Friday was a repeat of Monday starting at 7 AM, we enjoyed a wonderful buffet breakfast including made to order waffles and omelets. Members either enjoyed skiing, snowshoeing or shopping/ exploring in the town of Bethel. The Maine Mineral and Gem Museum was a highlight in Bethel. Some stayed back at the hotel and enjoyed walks, the spa, etc.

Tuesday evening, the Sunday River Brewing company provided bus service for our group where we enjoyed a dinner at our own expense, which again I think everyone agreed the food was good and the time and company were even better.

After another day of activities, Wednesday evening we gathered again in the Grand Avenue restaurant for a



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020

buffet dinner and from what I hear everyone was very happy again with the food.

Thursday evening after another great day of skiing and other activities most of us gathered together in the “**Huntowski Ballroom**” for a final night of games, consuming leftovers and various beverages. Late evening turned into a dance party led by **Eva**!

Friday morning we checked out of the hotel after another wonderful buffet breakfast and headed for home.

All in all I heard nothing but good reviews, we had a spacious hotel, great food, and a very accommodating staff and, of course, lots of great skiing and other activities. A bunch of us enjoyed after dinner drinks and playing trivia and Jenga in the lobby each night.

Thank you to Sunday River, PSC and our members who collectively make this a great trip. Hopefully, we can do it again.

If you would like to see some more photographs and or download your own copies enter this URL into your browser window: <https://photos.twphotoarts.com/gallery/11640565/>

Notes from **John Siemiarowski**: *“Some of us, who are clearly not the smartest people in the group, chose to go up the mountain on several occasions without a lift. Looking back, my personal experience with ‘skinning’ up at ski areas has been an opportunity to see the area from a different perspective. The slow pace gives one an opportunity to pay attention to details that go by too quickly on the way down. This year on the last day at Sunday River Erick and I went up in the morning and as the sun was starting to shine on the trees the overnight coating of ice started to melt. As the ice slipped off of the branches, it made a very delicate almost musical sound. It was like the tiniest wind chimes ever. That lovely sound was drowned out when other skiers came sliding down the hill. This was an experience that only we got to have. I would imagine that if you were to be traveling on snow shoes you could have a similar experience. But then, of course, you would have to walk back down. Erick and I bookended that 1st trip up in the morning with another trip up the mountain at the end of the same day. Several people stopped to comment that they saw us going up on their first run of the day and were now seeing us again on their last run of the day. Skinning up a snow covered hill is not as hard as one might imagine. Since it’s not a race a person can set their own pace. There is no need to exceed one’s aerobic capability. So, the experience can be invigorating but not too taxing. In the end, I would highly recommend finding a place to rent alpine touring equipment and try it out. You never know, you might like it!”*



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020

Photos from Sunday River 2020





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020

Food, Fun, and Games in Sunday River





Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



June 2020

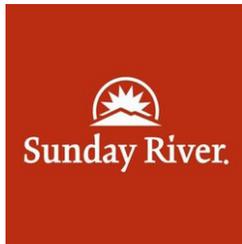
It Never Ends in Sunday River



Philadelphia Ski Club Sunday River 2020



June 2020



Snowshoe Adventures Sunday River, Maine

Janice Bartel



The snowshoe division (**Wendy and Janice**) of the Philadelphia Ski Club left by car on a beautiful Sunday morning to Sunday River, Maine. We both said we were glad we didn't leave on Saturday since the East coast had a belting rain all day. Our ride was uneventful as we drove from New Jersey to the Jordon Hotel in Newry, Maine.

Let the snowshoeing begin: Monday, January 27th, was our first snowshoe day where we drove to the Mount Will Trail in the Town of Bethel. This trail was stated to be a 3 mile loop, moderately strenuous with short steep sections. Well they were correct about the trail. It was very steep at some sections and Wendy and I both had to navigate it on our bottoms, so we didn't go over the cliff. We ended up doing 18,605 steps for 7.82 miles and 81 flights. With all those flights traveled we were quite tired from all that climbing. The trail would have been easier, if it had been more snow covered, but with all the rain from Saturday some of the snow had washed away. We should sleep good tonight. Tomorrow's another adventure!

Tuesday, January 28th, we decided to do an easier trail, so we headed to the Bethel Village Trails. These trails are a project of the Mahoosuc Pathways a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation for multi-use recreational use such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and fat tire bikes. In the warmer weather, it is a golf course. On our adventure today we accomplished 13,239 steps for 5.59 miles and 34 flights climbed.

On Wednesday, January 29th, **Kat Blinebury** joined us for snowshoeing. Today, we headed to the Rumsford Whitecap Mountain Preserve. The summit of the mountain is accessed by two trails, the orange/red marked trail or the Starr trail. The trails merge about 2 miles up the mountain and continue another half mile to the summit. We accomplished 14,689 and 6.21 miles with 82 flights. Good climb today to the summit. Thanks for joining us Kat.

Our last day of snowshoeing on Thursday took us to Maggie's Nature Park, which is located in the town of Greenwood. The park was donated to the Town by Maggie Ring a life-long resident and conservationist. We started out going left on the trail which ended up being difficult due to all the obstacles in our way like trees and rocks. So we decided to go back to the trailhead and then proceeded to go right, which ended up being a nice trail for snowshoeing. We ended up doing 6.95 miles and 16,470 steps with 75 flights. As we ended our walk we took a few minutes to enjoy the scenery which included a snow covered lake. Then, we headed back to the hotel for our last nite of fun, which included a nite of eating pizza, everyone's leftovers and playing right, left, center. The ski club also holds an awards ceremony where **Wendy** ended up getting the award for best trivia player.



Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



June 2020

PSC Snowshoe Team Takes on Maine





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020



Sun Valley, Idaho
Oleg Uzhansky



Another Eventful Trip

It all started with a cough; somewhere in a far, far away land called Wuhan, China. In the words of the great **Greg Blizzaarrdd**, “It ended up being the most expensive and furthest single day ski trip the PSC has ever taken”. It felt like you were able to take a breath of fresh air in the first 24 hours upon arriving in Sun Valley, Idaho. However, things took a turn very quickly following the two runs in zero visibility conditions on March 15th, which we can refer to as THE DAY. Shortly after, I was given the heartbreaking task of informing our group of brave souls, who decided to weather the storm and go on this soon to be historic & memorable trip, that we would be packing our bags and heading home only 48 hours after arriving at the mountain. The threat was real and that was confirmed once I arrived home and felt ill two days later.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for “not freaking out too much” as the world was looking apocalyptic & crumbling at our feet. Everyone was very patient and understanding of our unforeseen circumstances and for that I thank you. I needed to make sure everyone got home in time to buy as much toilet paper as possible, and with the help of JP Tours we were on one of the next flights home. I particularly would like to thank **Roe** for all the support and guidance helping put together THE DAY of skiing. It really was glorious, and the Sawtooth Mountains did not disappoint one bit. We made do with what we had and made the best of it. Lesson learned, if you see a triple black diamond with a warning that states even if you think you are an expert you are still not good enough to ski this run- and the run's name is COVID-19, stay home everyone, even you crazy skiers!

Folks, it's been a real pleasure skiing with everyone this season and I hope to see everyone next year on the slopes. Take care of yourselves by putting on a mask and telling others to do so, wash your hands vigorously for 20 seconds and stay home.



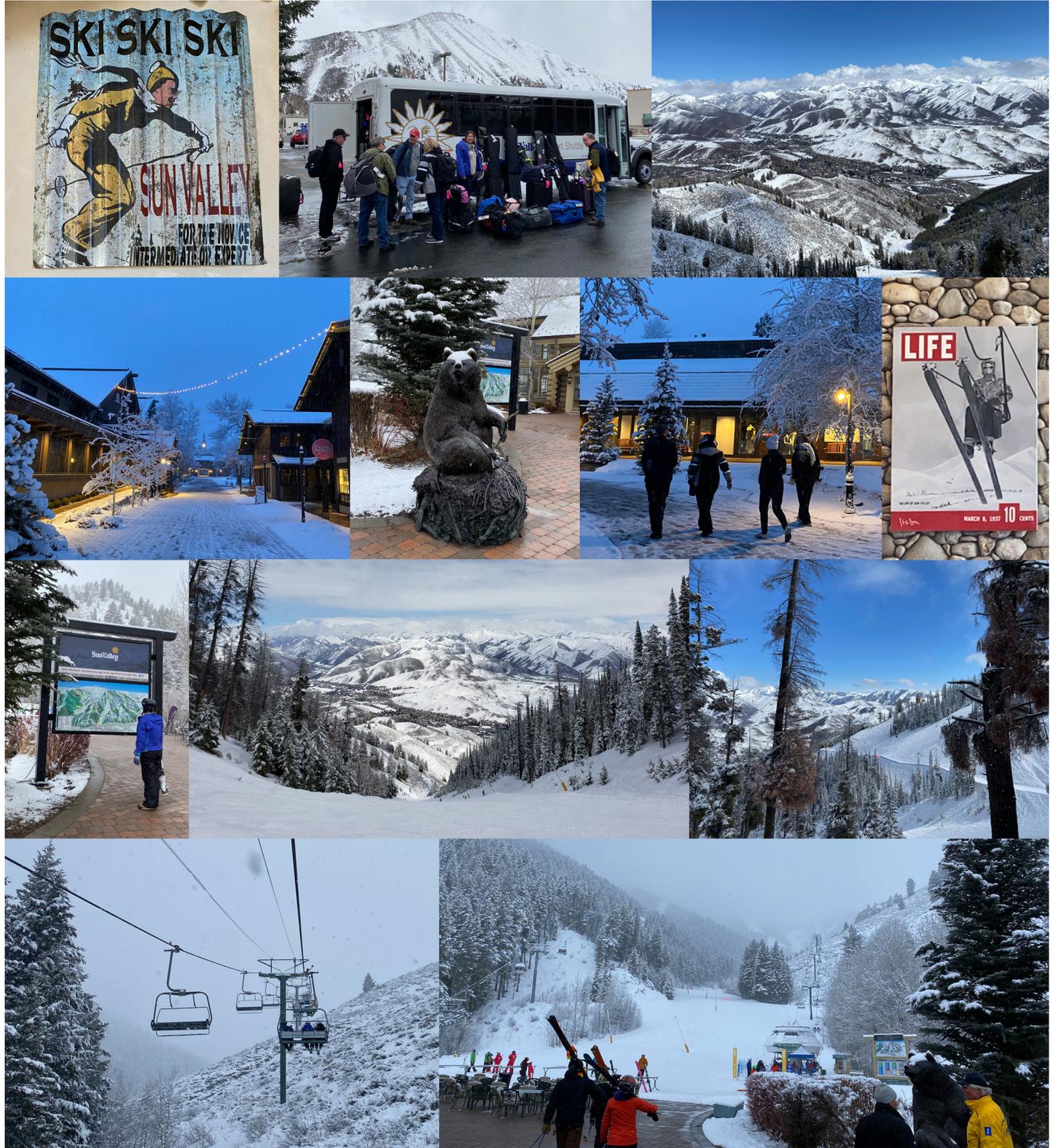
The sanitizing wipe routine on all of our flights!



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK

June 2020

Sun Valley, March 2020





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020

More Photos from Sun Valley





June 2020



Snowshoe Adventures Sun Valley, Idaho

Wendy Bartel



The area outside of Sun Valley and Ketchum have great snowshoeing and cross-country skiing trails. A number of trails were located about 15-20 miles north from Ketchum. There was definitely more snow the further north you went (which was good for snowshoers). The driving was easy (no traffic or icy conditions) with beautiful views and the trailheads were pretty easy to find. We rented our snowshoes in Ketchum.

The trails are maintained by the Blaine County Recreation District and we needed to buy passes in order to use them. No one ended up checking our passes, but the fees help them maintain the trails for both winter and summer use.

On Sunday, **Karen Dash** and **Wendy Bartel** went to Galena Lodge which is a very popular place for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. There is also a small lodge there where you can get food, rent equipment, etc. While on the trails, we ran into several yurts that people could rent during the winter and summer. There was even a sauna available! The trails were beautiful and well-marked but hilly at times and we ran into some snow squalls along the way. Many of the trails ran through the woods.

It was at Galena Lodge that we found out that the mountain in Sun Valley was closing. The Galena Lodge facilities were also closing but the trails were still going to be open and maintained.

Although there was no skiing available for the rest of the week, 3 of us (**Karen, Wendy, Eugene Bukh**) decided to stay since snowshoe trails AND the Inn were still going to be open. A big thanks to Oleg for making arrangements so we could stay.

On Monday we went to Billy's Bridge Loop with Oleg and Eugene. I believe this was their first time snowshoeing. Being the "youngsters" that they are, they blew right past us. Much of the trail was in an open meadow and not so hilly. The views were beautiful. While we were out there, Eugene took a "detour" from the trail and climbed up a very steep hill on his snowshoes. At one point, he was up so high we couldn't see him – he was amazing! Monday night we had pizza/snacks and drinks in the **Crowley's** room. We were given extra snacks and even vodka to fortify us for the rest of the week.

On Tuesday we went to the North Fork Loop which is part of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. That is a very quiet and scenic area that is right next to the Wood River. We also saw a number of locals that were cross-country skiing with their dogs. Many were friendly and would stop and chat with us for a few minutes. It also snowed at times there. When we returned, the staff at the Inn asked if we could move to the Lodge. There were only 6 of us left in the Inn and they wanted to consolidate us. So, we packed up and moved over there.



June 2020

On Wednesday we decided to take a break and we took some walks along trails close to the Lodge and in Ketchum. **Eugene** found a very large and impressive antique shop that was still open. It was filled with all kinds of furniture, rugs, etc. from the Middle East.

One of the men who ran the antique shop suggested that we drive over Galena Pass to a town called Stanley which is about 1 hour 15 minutes north of Ketchum. He said the views of the Sawtooth Mountain Range were beautiful along that ride. We did that Thursday and he was absolutely right about the views. It happened to be a beautiful, clear day and the mountain views were just magnificent. We also rode along the Salmon River. There were a number of overlooks to stop and take photos. Stanley was a different story. The town, in the middle of nowhere, has a population of 63 (at least that's what the sign said) and is VERY rustic in nature. On the way back, we stopped to snowshoe at the Galena Lodge trails.

On Friday we went back to Billy's Bridge Loop. On the way back, we stopped at the Ketchum Cemetery to see **Ernest Hemingway's** grave. He loved that area of Idaho and had a home in Ketchum. Although much of the cemetery was snow covered, we found his grave from the beer bottles that were left around it. People leave empty bottles of liquor and beer and other mementos on his grave. There are a few other family members buried there beside him.

The scenery and the trails in that part of Idaho were just beautiful and we are glad we stayed. However, we REALLY missed everyone – especially our happy hours! The bars and restaurants were closed but you could still buy liquor at the grocery stores and get take-out. But it just wasn't the same.

Our flights back from Salt Lake City were changed Friday night to include an additional stop on the way home. **Eugene** and I were almost stuck in Minneapolis when a ground stop was issued for Philly and NYC airports. However, after an hour, that was lifted and we were able to get home. Whew!

Snowshoe Photos from Sun Valley 2020





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020



Elk Mountain Trips

Marion Brown



2020 was another great year for our Elk Mountain day trips. Mostly full buses with good friends plus several new people joining us on each trip ... they want in on the good times!

The amazing thing is that even with the warm winter we had and with very little snow accumulation around Philadelphia, we still had great ski days at Elk! The Elk magic came through for us every time!

On the sometimes, rainy bus rides up (Hagey buses, all warm and comfortable and NO bus glitches), we wondered ... and when we got off the highway leading to Elk, voila! There was snow! Trails groomed, lifts running, people skiing! We were suddenly very happy! We learned again why Elk is PSC's favorite local mountain. They always manage to have snow and they do great grooming.

The February hoagie lunch (thank you, **Roe and Bruce Crowley** for organizing this) and the March apres ski are always highlights. Skiing together is great. Eating and imbibing together is terrific! We are a sociable bunch for sure.

Moving forward, we have already reserved with our favorite and most reliable Hagey bus company for our 2021 Elk trips. Let's be optimistic that we'll be able to have these trips and mark your calendars now and plan to join us on first Fridays:

- **January 8, 2021**
- **February 5, 2021**
- **March 5, 2021**

We really enjoy running the Elk trips!
See you on the bus!

P.S. There may be some changes in the pick-up locations for 2021. Watch the flyers!

P.P.S. On a personal note, **Marion** skied! Having had a serious accident on the slopes at Bend, Oregon in March of 2018, well, discovering that I can get back on the slopes was VERY exciting! Thanks to **Tom** and **Greg** for accompanying me. We are looking forward to some very modest skiing in 2021 with PSC.



Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020

2020 Elk Mountain Photos





Philadelphia Ski Club
TRACK



June 2020

Social Events Wrap-Up

Kat Blinebury



Well, we went from a great season of getting together socially to something I never heard of, “social distancing”, and something we were never told to do by the government, “stay home”.

How life changed in a matter of weeks. Based on these changes, we had to cancel the last three social events on our calendar, axe throwing, the spring dinner and a Phillies game. I know these are minor things compared to changes people may be struggling with, but hopefully, we will be able to do things like this again soon.

We started the season off with our September picnic at Burholme Park which was well attended, as usual. It was good to see **Georg Simon** and his wife, **Janet**, who we hadn't seen for a while. Also, **Dann Clapp** got **Tony Pello** and his wife, **Marge**, to attend and to take over the grilling duties for Jim McCauley, who couldn't be there. We missed you, **Jim and Miriam**. Thanks to everyone, who helped out with this event, especially **Dot James and Dann**.

Our next event in October was the golf get-together at the Northampton Country Club. It turned out that the date just wasn't good for a few people and I guess we just don't have that many golfers in the club anymore. But **Mike Nelson** did his best to boost attendance, and in the end the group that went had a great time and the country club kept the prices the same even though we were below the contract minimum. **Mike** suggested that we try to get another ski club to host the event with us next time. If anyone has any contacts with other clubs that may be interested, please let me know.

Another event that we sponsored in October was the visit to the Museum of the American Revolution. I was happy to organize this event for the club. We had a nice turnout and everyone really seemed to enjoy the museum and our private group tour. Although our group did get infiltrated at times. The unveiling of the original tent that George Washington used as his office and sleeping quarters for much of the Revolutionary War was an awesome surprise in the theatre, and I also learned from **Wendy Bartel** that her husband, **Jack**, helped to build the ship used in the War at Sea exhibit. We also had a really delicious and fun brunch at the Plough and the Stars Restaurant.

In November, **Diane Garvey (Clapp)** hosted a walk in Wissahickon Valley Park. We started the walk at the Northwestern Equestrian Facility Entrance. Diane gave us some history of the area during our walk and we stopped at the Wissahickon Environmental Center along the way. I think Tom Welsh's dog got the most exercise that day. We had a lively lunch afterwards at the “From the Boot” BYOB restaurant nearby in Lafayette Hills.

We didn't know it at the time, but the Holiday Dinner Party at Gallo's was to be our last social event for the season. We had a great time at the party with many of us enjoying those wonderful crab cakes, that we look forward to eating each year, and lots of nice prizes were given out. I just checked my notes and I see that **Barbara Nelson** and **Linda Fioretti** won the spring dinner gift certificates that we offered for the first time. Since we cancelled our spring dinner, I think they should hold on to the certificates and hopefully, they'll be able to use them at a future dinner.

Thanks to everyone that participated in these events and I look forward to getting together with everyone soon, “socially close”.



June 2020

Photos from the Covid-shortened Social Events of 2020





Philadelphia Ski Club **TRACK**



June 2020

Side Tracks

Well 2020 certainly wasn't your typical, run-of-the-mill season.

Like last year the Track will be available two ways. 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.philadelphiaskiclub.org by clicking on the banner on the homepage. You can then print it out on your home printer. Thank you to **Tom Welsh** who utilized his professional photography talents to provide us with great shots from the Sunday River trip and some of the social events.



Karen was unable to attend Sunday River this year as the week we went conflicted with some inescapable work meetings. So I was on my own...until I wasn't. I had a bad coughing spell due to a wicked cold and actually sprained a muscle in my lower back. I literally could not move off of the floor on the Saturday night before Sunday departure with Tom Welsh in his truck with the guys. Oh well, looking forward to next year's trip back to Sunday River. I also hope that **Karen** will be able to get away from work too!

Then there was our travel odyssey to Sun Valley which was a lot of fun and laughs for all that attended even if it was very short. I am sure I'm not alone in wanting to return to the beautiful Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho.

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*



Philadelphia Ski Club: Your Place for Winter Sports and Social Festivities all Year Long!