



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

September 2026

Volume 84 Issue 1



President's Message

Mike Mazza

I was happy to serve as President this past year and to celebrate the club's 90th Anniversary with everyone. **Karen Dash**, who just took over as Social Coordinator this year did a fantastic job in coordinating our celebration on May 16, 2026 at the Villages of Pine Valley with help from **Sue Byer**. We had five former President's present at the event. They were **Jim McHale**, **John Flanagan**, **Dann Clapp**, **Kat Blinebury**, and **Roe Crowley**. I appreciate their attendance.

I look forward to serving again as President in the coming year and I want to thank all of the members that accepted nominations for positions and the committee chairs for accepting positions. We have one new member of the board. That is **Jackie Sloan**, who will be taking over as the Recording Secretary. Thank you to **Cynthia Solis** for a job well-done in holding this position for the last couple years.

I want to thank **Bob Huntowski** for serving as Vice-President, **Greg Blizard** for handling the books for the club as Treasurer, **Kat Blinebury** for keeping us informed as the Corresponding Secretary. I also appreciate all of the committee chairs work on trip coordination, **Roe Crowley**, membership, **Dann Clapp**, hospitality, **Sue Byer**, social activities, **Karen Dash**, and website and social media, **Steve DiMeglio**.

Finally, thanks to **Roe Crowley** for running the Cortina, Italy trip and **Kat Blinebury** and **Karen Dash** for running the Lake Placid trip, and **Diane Garvey** for the Elk trip. All trips were well attended and handled very well.

I appreciate the time **Roe** has put it on working with the tour operators to plan our trips to Stratton, VT and Jackson Hole, WY next season.



PSC Board for 2026-2027 Season

President: **Mike Mazza**
Vice President: **Bob Huntowski**
Treasurer: **Greg Blizard**
Recording Secretary: **Jackie Sloan**
Corresponding Secretary: **Kat Blinebury**
Ski Trips Chair: **Rosemary Crowley**
Membership Chair: **Dann Clapp**
Social Chair: **Karen Dash**
Newsletter/Website: **Steve DiMeglio**
E. PA Ski Council Rep: **Vacant**
Hospitality: **Sue Byer**



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Whiteface, Lake Placid

February 22-27, 2026

Kat Blinebury



We had another successful trip to Lake Placid this year. Forty-two people went on the trip. Our trip started on Sunday, February 22, 2026 and the meteorologists were predicting a major snow storm in the Philadelphia area and New Jersey for that day. The forecast was correct and there was blizzard like conditions later that day that dumped about 16 inches of snow. Luckily, since it came later in the day, I think all of us were able to get to Lake Placid before the storm hit.

We stayed again at the Grand Adirondack Hotel in downtown Lake Placid, which is about a 15-minute drive to Whiteface Mt. and walking distance to many restaurants and Olympic sites.

The ski conditions at Whiteface were excellent. The temperatures were warmer than last year. I think we had just one day where the temperature was close to 0.

We had 27 skiers and almost all of us took advantage of the mountain tour provided by Whiteface volunteers on Monday. We broke into three groups and the guides were great. It's amazing that they were willing to stay on the mountain with us for practically the whole day.

The rest of the group headed out to snowshoe or to visit many of the Legacy Site Activities in the Lake Placid Area. This included the Olympic Center, the Jumping Complex and Mt. Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex. Some other activities that people did were a visit to the High Falls Gorge, tobogganing on Mirror Lake, and a yoga class.

Of course, I have to mention that one of the highlights of the trip was the Curling experience that we had at the Olympic Center. We were able to rent the ice for an hour and a half session. Thirty-four of us participated and it was so much fun. The winter Olympics had just ended so we were all pumped to try curling as we had seen on TV. We soon found out why it is an Olympic event. It's not easy and takes a lot of skill to sweep the ice to create the friction and melt the ice pebbles that are sprayed on the ice to get the curling stone to go just where you want it to. It was a great experience.

We had a delicious sit-down dinner on our first night and another tasty and plentiful Italian buffet dinner later in the week. Our daily breakfast was a little different from the previous year, but definitely sufficient.

Besides our group meals, we had plenty of opportunities to get together with our fellow travelers at the Cloudspin Bar at Whiteface, Marcy's bar at the hotel, or **Glen Barrie's** happy hours in the lobby with his Hot Butter Rum drinks. Delicious. The hotel also accommodated us by letting us use a room off the lobby on the last night to share our snacks and beverages, play some games, and do some dancing. I think there was a little gymnastics going on too.

We had a great group of people on the trip. Twenty-six of the people that joined us last year came back again and we had 17 new people join us for this trip. I wanted to share some of comments we received from them after the trip.



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Loved the Hot butter Rum! And thank you for the recipe. It was a great week. Enjoyed wonderful skiing and friends! Thank you Kat and Karen for organizing. I especially enjoyed our afternoon of curling. -**Linde**

The trip was amazing! I'm happy to have discovered snowshoeing, I'm a convert!! Kat and Karen you're a dynamite team, thanks for your hard work. - **Lorna**

A big thank you to all and especially those who organized the trip. - **John**

I too want to thank **Kat** and **Karen** for all of their hard work in running a great trip! It was nice spending time with everyone who came. And thanks to Glenn for providing the Hot Buttered Rum and the recipe! - **Wendy**

Thanks again **Kat & Karen!** You Ladies ran a great trip! And since many of you were asking....

HOT BUTTERED RUM RECIPE

- Cider (**NOT** apple juice— Zeigler's preferred!)
- Cloves
- Stick Cinnamon
- Any good DARK rum. We used Captain Morgan's on the trip.

Heat the cider with cloves and stick cinnamon in the pot. Pour hot cider into a cup or mug. Add a shot of rum. Garnish with cloves and stick cinnamon. Top with a pat of butter. Enjoy!! - **Glenn**

I want to thank **Karen Dash** for organizing the snowshoe outings every day and **Roe Crowley** for making the arrangements for the trip.

Photos from Lake Placid, NY ~ 2026





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More Memories Made at Lake Placid, NY and Whiteface





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Snowshoe Adventures
Lake Placid, NY
Karen Dash



The winter of 2026 in New England will be considered one of the best for outdoor sports like skiing and snowshoeing. Our members who traveled to Lake Placid in February will surely agree.

Kicking off four days of snowshoeing, on Monday, we had an ambitious group of ten hikers, which included **Jean Gucciardi, Maureen Marinucci, Paul Antony, Lorna Rosenberg, Jenn Donohue and Joe Alperstein, Cynthia Solis, Wendy Bartel, Janice Bartel and Karen Dash**, some new to snowshoeing, some veterans. Heavenly Hills trail was our first destination. How about that for a start? We did the Bear Cub loop, through quiet, snow-covered pines and nice soft snow. Then to Big Field loop with views of the area mountains. After a break for lunch, some of us continued to the Brewster Peninsula trail hiking along the edge of Lake Placid. In total, a 5-mile day.

Tuesday, a smaller group, **Joe, Jenn, Paul, Wendy and Karen**, hiked the Oseetah Lake trail, a new trail for last year's hikers, where our course took us on the Oseetah View loop in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest. Following our lunch break, we took an afternoon hike to McKenzie Pond on the Jack Rabbit Trail. In total, a 6-mile day.

Wednesday, our short day, took our snowshoers, **Paul, Wendy, Jean, Marion Donohue and Doug Frasier, Jenn, Joe and Karen**, to Henry's Woods for a nice morning hike of three miles. Again, the trail was a peaceful, quiet hike through the woods with a soft, light snowfall.

Thursday, our last day, saw a robust group of ten hikers, **Cynthia, Jean, Paul, Doug, Marion, Maureen, Janice, Lorna, Wendy and Karen**, who hiked the Potato Field and Maple Grove trail loops. This trail took us around views of the Olympic Jumping Complex with stops at John Brown Farm State Historic site. This site is the final resting place of **John Brown**, a prominent abolitionist known for his efforts to end slavery. He moved to the Lake Placid area in 1849 to teach farming to African Americans. In the afternoon, a smaller group decided to repeat their favorite hike to Oseetah Lake Trail. An excellent choice as a finale for the week.





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Lake Placid Snowshoe Photo Gallery, 2026





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Cortina, Italy

Tofana and Faloria Ski Areas

January 16-24, 2026

Roe Crowley and Steve DiMeglio



Trip Overview by Roe Crowley

The group of 56 PSC travelers to Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy enjoyed experiences throughout our trip that were as diverse as the group itself.

The group embarked from Newark International Airport to Zurich, Switzerland, where we met up with our Tour Operator, **Jack Nickerson** and his wife **Roselle**, who accompanied us to Venice, Italy. After a two-and-a-half hour coach ride, we arrived at the quaint, comfortable and immaculate Hotel Pontechiesa (translates to "Bridge of the Church") in Cortina, Italy. The staff was inviting and spectacularly accommodating. We shared daily breakfast and three group dinners in the hotel dining room. The meals were a delicious variety of local fare and served by the sweetest staff. The hotel bar was staffed by one of our waitress's husbands, who stayed until we were off to bed each night.

The hotel was located steps from the bridge that crossed a canal and led to the Basilica dei Santi Filippo e Giacomo (Saints Philip & James) at the top of a cobblestone hill. The Basilica was in the center of the charming town of Cortina d'Ampezzo surrounded by an abundance of dining, drinking and shopping options.

Cortina d'Ampezzo offers three ski areas in the Dolomite mountain range – Cortina Skyline, Tofana, and Faloria – each with breathtaking views via cable cars and gondolas to reach the slopes and dining at 'rifugios' offering everything from pizza & beer, cafeteria style to fine dining overlooking the Dolomites. As I did not have clearance from my physician to ski, I will have to depend upon my fellow travelers to share their amazing experiences on the mountain.

A hidden gem in the Alto Adige Region is the Michelin Star Restaurant, Ristorante Tivoli. The adventurous quartet of **Turner Blizzard**, **Christian Crespo**, **Chet Trzuskowski** and **Stephanie Liebel** capitalized on the opportunity to dress to the nines and enjoy a fine dining experience. The youngins sure know how to live!!

A number of non-skiers ventured by cable cars and gondolas to meet our friends on the mountain for lunch. A notable lunch experience was the Super G Mountain Club at Faloria, where the disco at the top had great music blasting to make the outside patio quake. The picturesque vistas added to the delightful day.

Midweek, 40+ of our group ventured by chartered coach and water taxi to Venice. The water taxi dropped us off at Piazza San Marco where many toured the Doge's Palace and the Basilica San Marco. Everyone enjoyed strolls through the canal city to the Rialto Bridge and some took a gondola ride through the Venice canals. The **Murray/Sweeder/Mascoveto** crew had the added thrill of seeing the Olympic Flame pass through the canal streets of Venice before they departed the city to meet us back at the bus station.



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Adding to the group festivities for the week were a “Pop-Up” Happy Hour at Hotel Ambra and a private Wine & Cheese Tasting at Enoteca Cortina. Both provided a taste of local fare & hospitality and an opportunity for our travelers to “raise a glass” and share their experiences.

While we were in the Dolomites only a few weeks prior to the 2026 Olympics, I think it’s safe to say that we were all a little disappointed that there wasn’t a greater Olympic feel during our stay. But most of us managed to grab a little Olympic swag to wear or bring home.

In closing, I want to thank our Board and all of the Philadelphia Ski Club travelers for a memorable trip and the support to run a successful trip to Cortina d’Ampezzo, Italy. Ciao Italia!

On The Pistes by Steve DiMeglio

The whole experience from beginning to end of this adventure was magnificent from the amazing vistas of the Italian Dolomites to the well-groomed pistes to the delicious foods for breakfast, lunch and supper.

Most folks spent 5 or 6 days exploring the pistes of the two major ski areas near our lodging, Tofana and Faloria. Tofana was much larger with many more pistes and lifts to experience, while Faloria was smaller while also being spread out over quite a few square acres. Both were in great condition despite the lack of major natural snowfall.

Cortina’s Tofana & Faloria: A Dolomite Ski Adventure to Remember

Every ski club has those trips that members talk about for years afterward. For me, our visit to Cortina d’Ampezzo in the Italian Dolomites was one of those unforgettable adventures.

From the moment we arrived, it was obvious this wasn’t going to be an ordinary ski vacation. The Dolomites are unlike any mountain range I’ve ever seen. Towering limestone peaks rise dramatically above the valley, creating scenery that looks more like a painting than real life. Of course, beautiful scenery only goes so far if the skiing doesn’t deliver. Fortunately, the skiing was every bit as spectacular as the landscape.

Tofana – Big Mountain Skiing at Its Best

Our first days were spent exploring Tofana, one of Cortina’s premier ski areas. The extensive network of modern lifts made getting around easy, and the beautifully groomed pistes seemed endless.

Intermediate skiers in our group loved the long, flowing red runs that allowed for relaxed cruising with breathtaking views around every corner. The terrain seemed to go on forever, making each descent feel like a true alpine journey rather than a quick run back to the lift.

Those looking for a challenge found plenty to smile about as well. Standing atop the famous Olympia delle Tofane World Cup downhill course certainly gave everyone a new appreciation for the athletes who race there every winter.



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Our snowboarders were equally impressed, enjoying wide-open pistes with very few flat sections that interrupted the ride.

Faloria – Scenic Cruising and Relaxed Atmosphere

Faloria offered a completely different experience, but one that many of us enjoyed just as much.

Reached by cable car from Cortina, Faloria feels quieter and more laid back than Tofana. The wide pistes invite smooth carving rather than high-speed charging, and every run seems to offer another panoramic view of the surrounding peaks.

Lunch Becomes Part of the Ski Day

If there's one thing everyone agreed upon, it was that mountain dining in Italy deserves its own award.

Forget grabbing a quick burger before heading back out. The mountain rifugio (alpine lodges) serve meals that many restaurants would be proud to offer.

Fresh pasta, wood-fired pizza, creamy risotto, grilled meats, local cheeses, homemade desserts—and yes, outstanding Italian wines—made lunch something we looked forward to every day.

Many of us enjoyed tagliatelle with wild mushrooms or truffles while soaking up sunshine on a terrace overlooking snow-covered peaks. Another day featured hearty polenta with slow-cooked beef, followed by espresso before clicking back into our equipment

Nobody seemed to be in a hurry. Lunch was as much about enjoying good company as it was refueling for the afternoon.

More Than Great Mountain Experience

What makes Cortina special isn't just the skiing. It's the complete alpine experience. The pistes are impeccably groomed. The lift system is modern and efficient. The scenery is simply breathtaking. The food is exceptional.

And the charming town of Cortina d'Ampezzo offers plenty to enjoy after the lifts close, from cafés and shops to lively piazzas perfect for an evening stroll.

Final Thoughts

Our club has been fortunate to visit many outstanding ski destinations over the years, but Cortina stands apart. The combination of world-class skiing, unforgettable scenery, incredible food, and authentic Italian hospitality makes it a destination that's difficult to describe until you've experienced it yourself.

Whether you enjoy challenging terrain, leisurely cruising, mountain photography, or simply sharing a long lunch with friends at a sunny rifugio, Tofana and Faloria have something special to offer.

As we boarded the bus for the airport, one comment kept coming up among the group: "When can we come back?" For me, that's probably the best review any ski destination can receive.



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Photos from Cortina, 2026





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Elk Mountain Trip

Diane Garvey



The Philadelphia Ski Club ran a trip to Elk Mountain on February 6, 2026. The trip was sold out with 54 registrants on the bus and three additional members meeting us at the mountain. On that day Elk Mountain in Uniondale, Pennsylvania experienced highly favorable midwinter conditions. Following an unusually frigid late January, temperatures had moderated offering comfortable skiing weather. The trails featured well groomed, soft powder and the resort experienced light to moderate natural snowfall. The surface conditions were thick powder with excellent coverage and no noticeable ice, making for optimal skiing and riding. The temperature was generally mild and comfortable compared to the extreme sub 0 cold waves experienced earlier in the season. It was not very crowded with virtually no wait times at the lifts allowing for plenty of space across the mountain's 27 trails.

In the afternoon, skiers trickled into the bar at the lodge to enjoy after ski refreshments and the company of others on the trip. As usual, the last member off the slopes was **John Reynolds**.

I want to mention that we were all happy that **Roe** could join us on the slopes at Elk and that she had a banner day, doing about 15 runs. She was thrilled. Thanks to all who helped unload the skis from the bus. Those trips to the gym come in handy right **Bob Huntowski**? Also, thanks to all for being on time at the pick-up locations in the morning and getting on the bus for the ride home. Finally, thanks to **Linde Lauff** for bringing the delicious cupcakes for everyone to share.

Next year's trip will be Friday February 5, 2027. Sign up early to avoid being wait listed!



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Elk Mountain Day Trip, February 6th, 2026





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Social Events Wrap-Up

Karen Dash



As the new Social Events coordinator, it's been a year of learning, organizing and managing a variety of tasks. All to the end of having fun with a great group of people. Some of our social activities were new events, while others are established events that we all look forward to.

Cooking Class: New for 2025, in April 2025, 14 members participated in a hands-on cooking class called Tastes of the Mediterranean Foods, at Conquering Cuisines, in Doylestown.

August: **Greg and Pam Blizard** hosted their annual pool party again. It was a beautiful day to connect with friends and delicious food to share. (photos sent Aug 4)

September: Our Fall Picnic, held at Burholme Park, is always well attended. It was nice to catch up with friends and learn about their summer events. Thank you to **Mike Mazza** for picking up the Hoagies from Fink's, **Dann Clapp** for providing the cooler of beer and soda, and everyone who attended and brought an extra dish or dessert. (photos sent Sept. 11)

In November, twenty members of the Philadelphia Ski Club met at The Villages at Pine Valley for a heated Trivia competition. All were enthusiastic about the questions posed by our Trivia Host, **Charley Haffey**. His goal was to provide five category groups, such as PBS trivia, food trivia, and music title trivia, to try and stump the teams. Congratulations to the winning team, **Eileen and Brian Carey, Terry Liebel, Greg and Pam Blizard and Diane Garvey**, for answering the most questions correctly from all five categories. Thank you to **Sue Byer** for organizing the Game Room. With pizza and snacks to share, it was a fun evening. (photos sent Dec 2)

Holiday Dinner: Fifty-five club members celebrated the Holiday season and enjoyed a delicious meal at Gallo's on the Boulevard. Members came out with family and friends to enjoy the festive season, enjoying drinks, tasty food and raffle giveaways. Thank you to **Marion and Dave Brown, Mike Mazza, and Claire Lozowicki** for their raffle gift donations. Thank you to **Kat Blinebury** for organizing the raffle gifts and for **Cynthia and Aaron** for handling the tickets. Also, thank you to **Roe Crowley** for preparing the name cards.





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they or a member of their family experienced during a military conflict. The museum is full of memorabilia and relics of military events collected by veterans from throughout the Philadelphia area. Thank you to the veterans who spent time with the group explaining the exhibits and items on display.

May 16, 2026 HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The Philadelphia Ski Club celebrated in a **BIG WAY** an Anniversary Party commemorating 90 years of an active social organization. The Village of Pine Valley Club House held a rowdy party attended by 55 members who came out to celebrate and recognize the dedication and efforts of our volunteers, Board Members, past and present, and all members for their hard work in keeping this club a vibrant community.

Special thanks go to **Sue Byer** for arranging all the details within the Club House room and kitchen details; **Cynthia Solis and Rafael Alvaraz** for their tireless work providing support, set up and breakdown involved in handling a catered event; **Dann Clapp** for providing the beverage items, coolers and ice; **Roe Crowley** for providing the wine and Prosecco choices; **Mike Mazza and Diane Keener** for donating gift certificates and flowers, and **Kat Blinebury** for creating a google photo album by pulling together over 1200 photos from previous albums of club trips and events. When you have the time, you can view the photos with this link.

Congratulations go to our gift certificate prize winners: **Maureen McKelvey, Terry Liebel, Linde Lauff, Sue Byer, Jim Leighton, Greg Blizard, Diane Keener, and Mike Mazza.** Thank you to **Mya Casey** for doing her usual exceptional job of picking the winners.

Thank you all who brought memorabilia and added it to our Cake Table.

It was a memorable night and I hope everyone had a good time. I have compiled an album of photos. Thank you to all that contributed their pictures. You can view the photos from the party with this link.

Upcoming social events:

We are so fortunate to live in an area with a wide variety of bike trails and state and local parks with great trails for all to enjoy. Hope to see you on the trail. If you are interested in being notified of an event, send me an email so I can add you to our "Biking/Hiking List" at cody18976@yahoo.com.





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Social Event Photos 2025-2026





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Side Tracks

2026 was certainly a season to remember with our first overseas mountain adventure in the Italian Dolomites. While we did not get any powder days and the snow was largely machine made, the conditions were quite satisfactory and we had a wonderful time at both Tofana and Faloria. It was interesting to watch the progress of the mountain crews as they prepared for the Winter Olympics two weeks later. The Italian National Team were testing out the Women's Downhill course and we watched them rocket down from the lift above.



The best part of the trip for us was that our daughter **Alyssa** and her husband, **Lenny**, were able to join us for part of the trip. It had been many years since we had been able to be on the mountain with **Alyssa** who was skiing for the first time since injuring her knee skiing in Turkey where someone crashed into her from behind. (The Turks ski like they drive, unpredictably and with wild abandon.) She did well and we took her up to Cinque Torre on her last day with us. **Len** doesn't ski but he was able to join us for lunch at the rifugio at both Tofana and Faloria. In February, we all went to Finland and spent a day at Ounsavaara Ski Area in Rovaneimi where **Lily** and **DJ** took a snowboard lesson. They were able to manage to ride down the bunny slope and ride up on the rope tow. Turns will have to wait until next time. **Lil** says she wants to try skiing next time. We enjoyed our week in Lapland on the Arctic Circle with **Alyssa**, **Lenny** and the grandkids. We absolutely loved our experience in Finland. It is truly paradise if you love snow, forests, the cold and of course, the Northern Lights.

Karen and I hope that everyone has had a happy, healthy, and prosperous summer. We look forward to seeing all of you at Stratton, Jackson Hole, and Elk next season.

~Steve DiMeglio