

Black Diamond

PRESS

The Columbia Ski Club

April 2024

Banff: Last Trip – More Records

By: Bob Craig and John Hubbs

In This Issue

<i>Banff</i>	1
<i>By Bob Craig and John Hubbs</i>	
<i>President's Corner</i>	2
<i>Executive Committee</i>	2
<i>Ski with Purpose</i>	5
<i>Kathy Kirkland</i>	
<i>Food tour</i>	6
<i>Colleen Prosser</i>	
<i>Telluride</i>	7
<i>Robin Hershey</i>	
<i>Ski Trip Leader</i>	8
<i>Fran D'Amico</i>	
<i>Election Results</i>	8
<i>Bob McCune</i>	
<i>Ski Trip Lead</i>	8
<i>Mini Golf</i>	9
<i>Gary Prestianni</i>	
<i>Mini Golf Schedule</i>	10
<i>Gary Prestianni</i>	
<i>Adopt-A-Road</i>	11
<i>Pat D'Adamo</i>	
<i>Toby's</i>	12
<i>Sue Muller</i>	

What a glorious way to transition from winter to spring!!! Thirty-six brave travelers arrived at BWI at zero dark thirty on March 9th to travel north and west to Banff, Alberta, Canada. In total 46 members converged in Banff by the end of the day. The Banff region hosts three different ski areas, Sunshine Village, Lake Louise, and Norquay, being the smallest of the three.

The Canadian Rocky Mountains are more sharply chiseled than our more familiar western Rockies. The town of Banff is located at a sharp bend in the Bow River, and as a result, no matter which point of the compass you look, you are surrounded by glorious snow-covered mountains.

Interestingly, perhaps for the first time in club history, three generations of one family joined a club trip. John Hubbs and his family from Dallas were on the trip together - more on that later.



The trip was led by Mary Maxey and assisted by Priscilla Davis. For the pre-trip party at Mary's house, she prepared this nine-page "Who's Who" with 35 biographical sketches and photos. It's a very classy way to help travelers get to know each other.

Getting there and back

We gathered at BWI at 4 am!! A self-appointed temporary trip leader tried to start the group sign in. Mary arrived in time to sort it out for the 6:00 AM to Chicago on a smooth flight when most of us snoozed. Despite a long trek through three terminals to the international flights, we were on time for a 9:30 AM flight to Calgary; upon landing we had traveled through two time zones in 3 1/2 hours.

Clearing customs was easy at the kiosks. We boarded the Brewster Charter Bus Service to Banff on a comfortable 52 passenger coach. Those familiar from the Denver area remarked on how similar Calgary's sprawling suburbs looked. The bus driver shared his extensive knowledge of Alberta on the road. We had a 45-minute food and liquor stop on the way to Banff. The town is a charming village of 8300 residents (2021 census) at 4537' nestled in a narrow valley surrounded by picturesque mountains. The view from Sulfur Mountain is shown on the next page. Mt. Rundle from town is shown on the right.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Corner

Executive Committee 2023-2024

President/Director
Mary Metzler

Vice-President

President-Elect/Director
Mike Neuman

Directors
Mike DiProspero
Jean Fregeau
Robin Hershey
Julie Hendricks
Charise Kasser
Kerry Siebein

Treasurer
Alexa Fair

Secretary
Michael Wilmore

Committee Chairs

Activities
Bob McCune

Commissary
Mark Metzler

Community Service
Sue Muller

Database
Deb McCune

Getaways & Adventures
Pat D'Adamo

Hospitality
Christine Hollis

Membership
John Wetterau

Newsletter
Mary Maxey

Publicity / Marketing
vacant

Ski Trip Coordinator
Fran D'Amico

Web Site
Jean Fregeau
Bob McCune

Hello Ski Club members!

I am looking forward to taking on the role of President of the Columbia Ski Club for the upcoming year. For those who I have not met, allow me to introduce myself briefly. I've served three years on the CSC board, taken part in ten ski trips over the past four years, was ATL for the Big Sky trip during Covid, and attended social gatherings such as happy hours and other events. Additionally, my husband, Mark, has been a part of the board, while my daughter, Marina, a fellow member, joins for at least one ski trip annually. Outside of my commitments to CSC, I hold the role of Director of Student Programs at the Maryland Council on Economic Education. Additionally, I am a member of the Columbia Gardeners community.



We are excited to introduce the new Board of Directors who will lead our club for the upcoming year. Each member brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their new roles. Join us in welcoming President-elect Mike Neuman, along with new board members Jean Fregeau, Julie Hendricks, and Kerry Siebein. They will join Charise Kasser, Robin Hershey, and Mike DiProspero, who have one more year in their term. Alexa Fair will continue her role as Treasurer. Michael Wilmore will become the club's secretary. We express our sincere gratitude to outgoing board members Mark Metzler, Rob Foard, and Jodi Hillmar for their invaluable contributions during their terms.

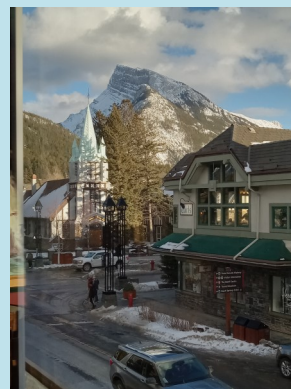
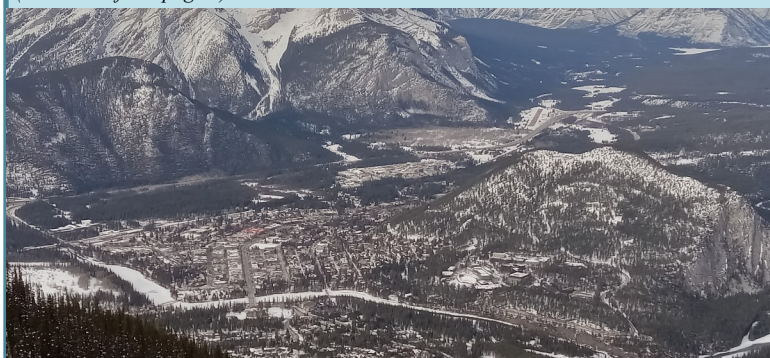
We also extend our appreciation to outgoing President Bill Ferguson. Under his leadership, the club has focused on improving internal efficiencies and enhancing the member experience. The club website has been modernized and redesigned for easier navigation. In the future, members will be able to pay for all club-related events, and ski trips online using a credit card. This year, implementing online voting has made it much simpler for out-of-state members or those unable to attend meetings to participate in board elections. Special recognition goes to Jean Fregeau, Bob McCune, and Tom Donahoe for their work on implementing the new voting process.

For the May newsletter, I will announce plans for the upcoming year. In the meantime, look for an announcement of 2025 trip sales and a new G&A trip. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at President@ColumbiaSkiClub.org

Sincerely,
Mary Metzler

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dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of the sport of skiing
... and many other activities

(Continued from page 1)



The trip home also started early at 0 dark thirty on the bus. We cleared US customs in Calgary. In Chicago the two flights were across the concourse from each other for restful stop-over at Chicago O'Hare airport.

Lodging

We arrived at the Caribou Lodge in time for the 4pm check-in of small rooms with two queen beds and the usual amenities. The front desk was very helpful getting the family of five in adjacent rooms on the 2nd floor. The Keg Steakhouse restaurant is a full-service facility for breakfast and dinner at the hotel. The Red Earth Spa features a large hot pool and fitness room plus massages, etc. Complimentary Internet and coin operated washer/dryer are available. Ski lockers are provided in the garage.

Located on the east side of Banff Avenue are 17 hotels and lodges. Caribou is the second stop in line to pick up borders and skiers for the slopes; very convenient as the buses fill up quickly, but another bus is usually close behind.

Ski Areas

Most of the skiers spent their ski days at either Sunshine Village or Lake Louise. Sunshine Village is the higher of the two, mostly above the tree line, and straddles the Alberta/British Columbia border. Lake Louise Ski Resort is a bit lower, with more trees to provide shelter from the wind. The first three days were most definitely winter then on Wednesday the sun came out and brought on spring. The snow base was more than adequate, and it even snowed 5 cm (about two inches) on Sunday night.

Additionally, Jim Suh led 7 hard-core skiers on a side-trip to Kicking Horse, about two hours from Banff. Here are some statistics on the four ski areas: The area gets an annual snowfall of 360 inches.

Destination	Mtns	Drive	Summit	Vertical	Acres	Lifts	Runs	% difficulty
Lake Louise	3	45min	8650	3250	4200	10	145	25%, 45%, 30%
Sunshine	3	20min	8954	3514	3358	12*	137	20%, 55%, 25%
Mt. Norquay	1	15min	6700	1650	198	5	74	31%, 25%, 44%
Kicking Horse	1	111m	8278	4314	3486	5*	130	16%, 11%, 73%

*Includes a gondola



Photo by Bob Craig

An informal poll indicated Lake Louise was the most popular of the areas with a few votes for Kicking Horse.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Club-sponsored Events

We ate together at Chili's nearby for welcome dinner, the Old Spaghetti Factory, St. James Gate Irish pub, Carlito's pizzeria, and at The Keg at the Caribou Lodge. Some of us visited the Upper Hot Springs after a hard day on the slopes. The differential between the Canadian and US dollars allowed us to eat, drink, and shop at a nice discount: 1US\$ bought 1.35CA\$.

On our last day, March 15th, spring hit in full force. The sun was strong, the winds were warm, and the base got soft and sticky by the end of the day. It was clear that winter in the high country was nearing its end, and it was time for us to go home. For our party, what a wonderful way to end a wonderful ski season.

Brewsters in Banff

It's hard to get around Banff without noticing the name "Brewster". It appears on a mountain, a hotel, and the bus company that carried us from the Calgary airport and back as well as the major ski areas.

The Hubbs family was intrigued as three of them have "Brewster" as a middle name. The grandfather (OPA) is John B Hubbs II, his first-born (Jay) is JBH III and his first born JBH IV goes by "Brewster"; and his fraternal twin Conrad "Hunter" sees his middle name many places. Laura Heins-Hubbs keeps the Dallas family organized with many activities and friends. Opa learned more about the Brewster name on visits to the Whyte Museum and Banff Information Center. Jim Brewster (1882-1947) is known as "Canada's Mountain King". He and his brother William started the "W & J Experienced Guides and Packers". They were awarded the Canadian Pacific Railways outfitting concession in the region. For more information on this amazing entrepreneurial family visit Brewsteradventures.com.



Last night at the Lodge.

Hats off to Mary and Priscilla for leading an exceptional adventure to the Canadian Rocky Mountains.

Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources

More-Than-Ski Google Group	Opt-in here: email: csc.mts.manager@gmail.com	To post after opting-in, send email to csc-mts@googlegroups.com
Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub	Must have a Facebook account

Skiing and/or Biking with a Purpose-Results

By Kathy Kirkland



Back in January, I wrote an article about skiing with a purpose about the opportunity for CSC members to join me in supporting Two Top Adaptive Sports Foundation. On February 26, Team Kathy-CSC Krewe participated in the fundraiser. The team had six members, three of whom, Colleen Prosser, Mary Maxey and I represented CSC. I also recruited two fellow instructors from TwoTop and a friend from Potomac Runners. We all had Columbia Ski Club bandannas, Two Top 100K t-shirts and smiles.

There were eight teams doing their best in pretty lousy snow conditions. However, despite the conditions, every-

one had a great time and over \$30,000 was raised including \$1,910 by Team Kathy-CSC Krewe. The pictures with this article include all the participants, Team Kathy-CSC Krewe, and the three CSC members. Mary Maxey was on the temporarily disabled list, so she stayed at the bottom of the slopes and checked in participants as they completed runs.

After we gave it our all to achieve as many runs as possible, the party ensued. There was a great lunch donated by Mission Barbeque and music outdoors. No regrets if you missed it. I have verbal commitments from all six team members to do it again next year and we'll gladly accept any new team members. Also, if you still want to donate, feel free to do so at <https://www.twotop100k.org/participants>



For those who missed the first article Two Top winter sports are held at Whitetail Ski Resort. There is a core team of employees plus a small army of volunteers to teach alpine skiing/snowboarding. This includes: Two-track and/or snowboarding for those with mild deficits in their motor skills, Three-track for those who use one ski and outriggers, Four-Track for those who use two skis and outriggers and Sit-skis for those who require a wheelchair. Lessons are usually done with a minimum of two instructors per veteran with some requiring more assistance, particularly those in Sit-skis.

While major funding for Two Top comes from a grant from the US Veterans Administration, the grant doesn't cover everything, and has restrictions. All donations are tax deductible. Two Top Mountain Adaptive Sports Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization and has been a chapter of "Move United" since 2008. If you or someone you know is a disabled veteran, become one of our Participants. Two Top makes every effort to work with any disability. The goal is to help everyone enjoy outdoor activities. All lessons are done by reservation only, during the winter or summer. For more details or questions about Two Top or the fund-raiser contact Stacey Schmader at stacey@twotopadaptive.org.



Food Tour of Sunday River, Maine By Colleen Prosser

Black Diamond Xpress

Eat, drink, ski, sleep, repeat is what the Members of the Columbia Ski club did while at Sunday River Resort in Maine.

Arriving late Sunday night after a long bus ride several of the group had dinner at Slider's Restaurant located in the Jordan Hotel. The restaurant serves an Italian themed menu, salads, pizza, and pasta. During the week it was a great spot to meet for lunch or after a long day of skiing.



Breakfast everyday was served at the hotel. The choices were vast and the only complaint I heard was when the cinnamon rolls were all gone. The morning's breakfast, which was included in the price of the trip, was a nicely laid out buffet with many options including a hot chocolate and waffle bar.



Tuesday evening our group headed over to the Steam Mill Brewery in Bethel. When in Maine it is a must to eat lobster, and with lobster rolls on the menu most of our group enjoyed this Maine specialty. Beer was also enjoyed by many with a large selection of drafts and beer flights for those who wanted to taste all the brewery had to offer. At the end of the meal, we were all satisfied and ready for the bus ride back to the resort.



After a long day of skiing, Wednesday afternoon the group met at the Shipyard Brewery, a Maine brewery, located slope side. Joe Ferrara from Banchi Outdoor Adventures hosted an après ski and no one was thinking about dinner after enjoying heavy hors d'oeuvres. Bacon wrapped scallops, chicken wings, and meatballs were some of the selections from the buffet.



On the last day of skiing many of our skiers were sighted at the outdoor hot tub and pool. I even heard that some of the Columbia Ski Club members (Sandy and Michael) had to be escorted off the slopes by the ski patrol because they were enjoying every minute on the slopes at this very large resort. The last night of our trip at we had a full, sit-down buffet dinner at the hotel for the entire Blue Ridge Ski Council Group. Dinner was a nice time to reminisce about the full week of skiing and enjoy each other's company.

Another fantastic CSC Ski Trip! Thirty-nine fun-loving participants went to Telluride for a great week of skiing from March 2nd through March 9th. A beautiful location. Many of us now consider Telluride now our favorite ski town!

The group had a great week of skiing with a few days of some nice snow. We stayed at a CSC favorite Telluride location – the Bear Creek Lodge. Our group was divided up into 2- and 3-bedroom condos. Each condo was very spacious with large living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens. The slopes were only a five-minute bus ride away. We never had to wait longer than 5 minutes for a bus.

We had a private mountain tour and folks really enjoyed that. Our guide showed us all around the mountain— a great way to get your bearings of where all the slopes and lifts are. We also had lunch meetups on the mountain every day so folks could socialize and find new partners for their afternoon of skiing.

We also did much more than skiing on our trip. A happy hour at the base the first day of skiing. Over 30 of us attended! A *s'mores* night, with appropriate amount of beer/wine, by the Bear Creek Lodge large fire-pit. Three of our participants never had *s'mores* before – it was fun teaching them all about it. Fun at Taco Tuesday at the Village with really yummy margaritas! A group dinner one night where we all stuffed ourselves! A few of us also went to Allreds – located at the top of the gondola with just amazing sunset views. Best meal I have had in months!

Mid-week several of us had a private snowshoeing tour. What a great time. Our guides took us up a long ski lift and we snowshoed through some beautiful woods and meadows. Another afternoon we had our own walking historical tour of Telluride, stopping for a drink along the way and dinner afterward.

All in all, it was a great trip. Join us another year in Telluride!



Want to be a Ski Trip Leader in 2025?

Black Diamond Xpress

The Columbia Ski Club is seeking leaders for 2025 ski trips. Applications are now being accepted for those interested in being either a Trip Leader (TL) or Assistant Trip Leader (ATL). Applications are due to the Ski Trip Coordinator by 4/12/2024. An information document is posted on the CSC website that provides detailed instructions on the application process, scoring criteria, and selection timeline. A Selection Committee of three senior Club members will rank the applications and conduct objective assignments based on the scoring criteria, past performance (if applicable), and best interests of the club.

All applicants must attend an in-person Orientation meeting on Sunday, 4/14/2024 from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. A Zoom link will not be an option because the purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for potential leaders to interact. We will introduce candidates to the selection process, fundamental TL/ATL duties and expectations, and TL/ATL benefits such as discounts and lifts. Candidates will have an opportunity to meet other candidates with whom they may be working together as a TL/ATL pair, as well as members of the Selection Committee.

Serving as a TL or ATL is a challenging and rewarding experience and can be a lot of fun. We will have a significant training program for the 2025 leaders so that leaders will have the information and encouragement they need to succeed. This year's TL/ATL selection is one month earlier than usual to allow leaders and members to make informed decisions on early purchase of Epic and Ikon pass products.

The TL/ATL application form, plus information on selection process can be found on the CSC website at [Apply here](#)

CSC 2024 Election Results

Our annual election meeting was held on March 11th at the Dive Bar in Savage Mill, MD. Eleven members voted in person at the meeting and 114 members voted online using our new online voting capability bringing the total to 125 voting members which exceeded the number needed for a quorum. The final election results are as follows:

President Elect - Mike Neuman
Director - Jean Fregeau
Director - Julie Hendricks
Director - Kerry Siebein

We welcome our new President, Mary Metzler, and these newly elected Board members to the club leadership team. We wish them success this year.

We would like to thank outgoing President Bill Ferguson for his outstanding leadership for the past year. Most notably, under Bill's direction, the club moved forward with the new CSC web site which, among many useful features, will allow club members to sign up and pay for trips online.

Many thanks to outgoing Board members Rob Foard, Jodi Hillmar and Mark Metzler for their service to the club.

Thanks to everyone who voted and thanks to the many dedicated members who keep the club running smoothly year after year.

MINI GOLF 2024 TEES OFF APRIL 3rd**By Gary Prestianni**

Welcome to a new season of CSC Mini Golf, this summer marks the 13th year of our tour. Each summer we average forty plus people coming out to play a round or more; normally anywhere from eight to eighteen folks play per round.

It's a friendly competition; while we try our best on the course it's the fun and socializing that brings us out. No prior experience or skills are needed; once you see us play you'll know how true that is. You can play as many or as few rounds as you wish, just show up at the scheduled mini golf course. No RSVP's are required to play but for some post round venues we may need an RSVP to reserve enough seats for everyone.

Eighteen rounds are scheduled again this year through mid-September. Mid-week rounds are scheduled every three weeks at courses close to Columbia. One Sunday each month we do modest road trips to courses in Gaithersburg, Frederick, Annapolis, Reisterstown or Westminster. After each event the group goes out for food and drinks: our post round venues usually include wineries, micro-breweries, BBQ's, and seafood restaurants.

This summer the schedule has been switched a bit, we'll play the Mitchell course in April to avoid the summer heat and go to Gaithersburg in June for a change. For our Wednesday rounds, we play each local course twice.

Upcoming round announcements, as well as any weather related postponement info, will be sent out on mts emails, posted on the CSC Mini Golf web page, the CSC Facebook page and Meetup. Should a round be postponed due to weather, we typically reschedule on the same day one week later. Hope to see you on the mini links this year!

Schedule is subject to change based on weather and course conditions.

2024 CSC MINI GOLF				
Wed. April 3	ARUNDEL GOLF PARK - BWI <i>1501 Dorsey Rd (Rt. 176), Glen Burnie, MD</i>	Round 1	6:30	
Sun. April 21	MITCHELL GOLF COMPLEX <i>301 Mitchell Drive Reisterstown, MD 21136</i>	Round 2 Round 3	12:00 1:30	
Wed. April 24	LAUREL GOLF CENTER <i>9801 Fort Meade Rd (Rt. 198), Laurel, MD</i>	Round 4	6:30	
Wed. May 15	NIGHTHAWK GOLF CENTER <i>814 Route 3 South, Gambrills, MD</i>	Round 5	6:30	
Sun. May 19	ADVENTURE PARK USA <i>11113 W Baldwin Rd, Monrovia, MD</i>	Round 6 Round 7	12:00 1:15	
Wed. June 5	COLUMBIA SPORTSPARK <i>5453 Harpers Farm Rd, Columbia, MD</i>	Round 8	6:30	
Sun. June 16	SOUTH GERMANTOWN MINI GOLF <i>18056 Central Park Circle Boyds, MD 20841</i> GAITHERSBURG MINI GOLF COURSE <i>514 S Frederick Ave (Rt. 355), Gaithersburg, MD</i>	Round 9 Round 10	12:30 1:45	
Wed. June 26	ROCKY GORGE GOLF <i>8445 Old Columbia Rd, Laurel, MD 20723</i>	Round 10	6:15	
Wed. July 17	LAUREL GOLF CENTER <i>9801 Fort Meade Rd (Rt. 198), Laurel, MD</i>	Round 11	6:30	
Sun. July 21	ISLAND GREEN MINI GOLF <i>1199 S Pleasant Valley Rd. Westminster, MD 21158</i> Post round @ Old Westminster Winery	Round 12	1:00	
Wed. Aug. 7	ARUNDEL GOLF PARK - BWI <i>1501 Dorsey Rd (Rt. 176), Glen Burnie, MD</i>	Round 13	6:30	
Sun. Aug. 11	SEVERNA PARK GOLF CENTER <i>1257 Ritchie Hwy, Arnold, MD 21012</i> PASADENA GOLF CENTER <i>4358 Mountain Road (Rt. 177) Pasadena, MD.</i>	Round 14 Round 15	12:00 1:30	
Wed. Aug. 28	NIGHTHAWK GOLF CENTER <i>814 Route 3 South, Gambrills, MD</i>	Round 16	6:30	
Wed. Sept. 11	LAUREL GOLF CENTER <i>9801 Fort Meade Rd (Rt. 198), Laurel, MD</i>	Round 17	6:30	
Sun. Sept. 15	COLUMBIA SPORTSPARK <i>5453 Harpers Farm Rd, Columbia, MD</i>	Round 18	1:00	
END OF SEASON AWARDS DINNER – OCTOBER TBD				

By Pat D'Adamo

Our quarterly Adopt-a-road trash pick-up took place on Saturday, March 16. Eleven club members met at the 7 Eleven on Little Patuxent Pkwy and split into two groups to clear the sidewalks and roadside of trash between Broken Land Pkwy and Cedar Lane. In all, we collected six large bags of trash that had accumulated since our last clean-up event in November. The clean-up crew gathered at the Bagel Bin at Wilde Lake Village Center after the clean-up to socialize over coffee and bagel sandwiches provided by the Ski Club. Thanks to our "regulars," Mark and Maria, Bob and Deb, Bill, Willy, Denise, Tom and Alexa, and Rob for coming out again for this regular community service activity.

Our next Adopt-a-Road clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at 9:00; come join us.



Toby's

By Sue Muller

Off to Toby's Dinner Theatre for **JERSEY BOYS!**

The fascinating evolution of four blue-collar kids who became one of the greatest successes in pop-music history! JERSEY BOYS takes you behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Discover the secret of a 40-year friendship as they work their way from the streets of Jersey to the heights of stardom. Filled with chart-topping hits including: "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "Dawn (Go Away)," and "My Eyes Adored You," which brought them their highest honor: induction into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. Please note: Contains mature language and themes.

Enjoy a large variety of menu items from the buffet and salad bar. Of course, the forever favorite make your own sundae bar! Every topping you can imagine.

Friday, June 28, 2024

Doors open at 5:45pm

Cost - \$68.50 includes tax and tip

Payment due at the April meeting. Please make checks out to Sue Muller



Next Meeting:
Monday, April 8, 2024
at
Owen Brown Interfaith Center
7426 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD
7:00– 9:00 PM

The Columbia Ski Club

P.O. Box 204
Columbia, MD 21045

www.columbiaskiclub.org

