

Paris and the Aosta Valley

John Hubbs

Of the eleven Columbia skiers headed for Italy, eight departed four days early for Paris on Feb 22. Trip leader, Judith Schlesinger, arranged an excellent three-hour, private-minivan tour by Joel, a local guide, who stopped at several places for us to walk around. His informative talk and ready answers to our questions provided a great overview of the City of Light. For the next few days, we traveled Paris in ones and twos walking, or learning the excellent public transportation system, to shop, and visit museums, cathedrals, the Eiffel Tower (one of us made it to the top), or the hop-on-hop-off boat tour of the Seine. Most of us took in the late floor show at the Moulin Rouge close by the hotel.

The 4:00 a.m. taxi ride to the airport started our Saturday, followed by our flight to Geneva, and then a long bus ride through the Mont Blanc tunnel to our 4-star Cheval Blanc hotel in Aosta. There we met the other three members of our group as well as CSCers Jerry and Pam Poley (he was the BRSC coordinator for a very successful Eurofest 2011).

Comments of "green snow" in town were disappointing, but the local area near town, Pila, provided plenty of skiing on Sunday. Most who did not ski all day, took advantage of a 2 ½ hour walking tour of

Aosta led by knowledgeable and entertaining local guides. Many of the Roman ruins dating to pre-Christian times are still visible today. Over the centuries, Aostans have built new structures incorporating the structures and materials from prior eras, for a very eclectic look to this city of 35,000. A welcome party, one of many fine events at our hotel, gave us a chance to meet folks from the other Blue Ridge Ski Clubs who were staying at other venues.

The first of four daily bus rides to Aosta Valley ski areas took us to La Thuile in France, where a light snow cover aided ski conditions on Monday. A tour of area castles (Fenis and Issogne) was in store for those who did not ski. The après-ski party at Bataclava, a local bar, got the BRSC skiers and non-skiers in a dancing mood.

The next day saw another dreary morning rain before the long drive to Monterosa, where we were greeted with 4" of new snow at the base area and 24" at the top. The best snow of the trip was aggressively skied by all levels. The non-skiers toured Chamonix and the Morgex wine cave. Wednesday was another bus ride with many sharp switchbacks to Cervinia where a few brave souls tried to get over to Zermatt and back in time for the scenic

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**Next Meeting
April 11**

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month
Doubletree Hotel Columbia
At 7:30 p.m.



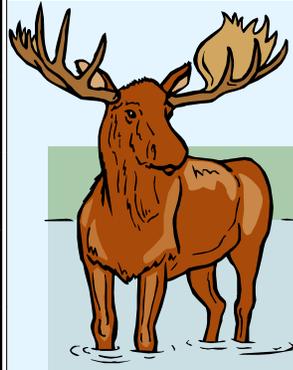
Executive Committee 2011—2012

- President/Director**
Deb McCune 301-797-2086
- President-Elect/Director**
John Wetterau 410-637-5454
- Directors**
John Hubbs
Jean McCardle 410-360-7854
Pat D'Adamo 410-740-4946
Karen Law
Buzz Bunting
Eliezer Richmond 410-578-0324
- Treasurer**
Alexa Fair 410-465-2966
- Secretary**
Molly Hochman 410-721-4407

Committee Chairs 2010—2011

- Activities**
Bob McCune 410-637-5454
- Community Service**
Sue Muller 301-498-8462
- Hospitality**
Anne Trent 410-730-5927
- Membership**
Jan O'Connor 410-531-6320
Judith Schlesinger 410-721-1984
- Meetings & Programs**
Vacant—need volunteer
- Newsletter**
Mario Tinto 301-776-3487
- Publicity**
John Lyons 410-884-6124
Kate Farber 410-715-4564
- Racing**
Bruce Brown 41-356-9545
- Ski Education**
Grant Wagner 301-725-4094
- Ski Trip Coordinator**
Bill Schrodel 410-935-6595
- Team Sports**
Chris Law 410-595-6768
- Web Site**
Jake White
webmaster09@columbiaskiclub.org

MOOSE TRACKS



The Moose was just reading an old column that commented on how early the snow was coming to the Rockies and what a great season it was going to be. Guess what? We just had that great season, with record snowfalls at most of the resorts we visited. In fact, Vail has recorded 464" as of April 4th with more snow in the forecast. Let's hope we have another La Nina season in 2012.

The ski committee is hard at work developing the plan for next season, and we are working on incorporating your recommendations from the trip evaluations. We are pretty sure prices will again be going up due to airline costs, but we will still be offering the best value on our trips. Some of the accommodations were not up to our usual Columbia Ski Club standards and we will do our best to rectify this situation next season. Many of you said you were willing to pay more for better condos and hotels, so that is what we will do.

Ten clubs have already committed to going on the BRSC Western Carnival trip to Snowmass. You will need to sign up for this one in June to make sure you get on the trip. Speaking of signing up in June, did you know that one this past season's trips sold out at the June general meeting, and 90% of our schedule was sold out by the August meeting? We will also offer the possibility of doing a back-to-back trip with Snowmass and Breckenridge—hmmmm 14 days in the Colorado mountains. That combo trip will sell fast! Whistler may be on the schedule also, as many of you asked for it. We felt it was too expensive for last season, but I think we are all over the "sticker shock" and will be signing up early because that is one of our favorite places to ski. There is more, but I don't want to give too much away.

Be sure to join us at the April meeting and check out the ski trip committee table. We will give you lots of information about the committee and have a preview of things to come.

Put some money aside so when the June meeting comes you are ready to sign up early ...and often.

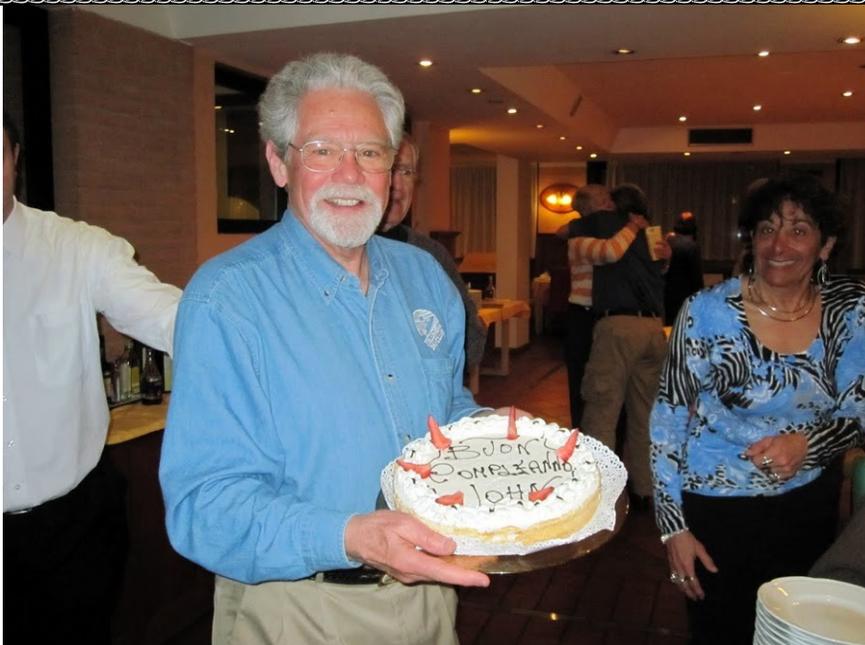
The Moose

BOD Business Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm, in the Owen Brown Community Center. Business meetings are open to all members. Please contact the President in advance to have an item included on the agenda.

The **Black Diamond Xpress** is published bimonthly by the Columbia Ski Club, Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of the sport of skiing. ... and many other activities

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ride home. Even the backside of the Matterhorn is impressive! That evening, the CSC contingent enjoyed a typical four-course dinner served in the leisurely Italian style at the hotel. Thursday was another day at Pila with more new snow, and a trip to Turin for the non-skiers. The highlight of the day was a sumptuous Farewell Dinner with an excellent DJ who played dance numbers that had many on their feet between courses and well into the night. The final day of skiing after a shorter (30-minute) bus ride was to Courmayeur where the clouds often turned visibility to zero, despite the good conditions in a massive area. After the final CSC group dinner at the hotel, fellow CSC members surprised me with a wonderful pre-birthday cake to kickoff my 70th! Many thanks to all for a wonderful introduction to skiing the Alps.



John with “pre-birthday” cake.

Photo courtesy of Eli Connor

Did You Know?

The CSC has members in 20 states
... and Puerto Rico!

The Hawaii trip is now full, and is wait-listed
For information on this fabulous trip, check out the details on the CSC website, under the More Than Skiing/More Than Ski Trips tab.

Community Service

Date	Event
May 14	Adopt-A-Road Cleanup
Sept 17	Adopt-A- Road Cleanup

Panzer House Concerts

Date	Artist
Apr 30	Buskin & Batteau
May 21	Steve Seskin
July 30	The Refugees

Donation \$20. BYOB
Light refreshments served.
Bring dessert or appetizer to share if desired.

Special

Date	Event
May 14	Indoor Go-Karting
June 6-12	Cape May Weekend
July 23	CSC 30th Anniversary Dance; Savage Mill Ballroom

Cinema Sunday at the Charles

April	10, 17
May	1, 15, 22
June	5,12, 19, 26



The 2011-2012 Ski Season

With the 2010-2011 ski season having recently concluded—the members who went on the Mammoth trip are likely not yet finished unpacking—the Ski Committee is already busy working on the next ski season. So, if you are mourning the passing of the ski season, fret not, as another mind-boggling set of choices for next year’s trips will go on sale in June. Keep close tabs on the website and the newsletter for details.

What is certain for the moment is that the BRSC trips for the next ski season will be:

- Andorra (March 4-12, 2012) — ski down into France for some pastry and a nice wine.
- Snowmass (Feb 11-18, 2012)

The other, currently tentative, CSC trips being considered are:

- Big Sky
- Telluride
- Whistler/Blackcomb
- Breckenridge (back-to-back with Snowmass)
- Lake Tahoe
- Alta
- And how about Chile, in August?

Watch this space and ... think snow!

And, Speaking of Which ...

SKI TRIP LEADERS (STILL) WANTED

We are in need of trip leaders. CSC is still looking for volunteers who are willing to give of their time and energy to help make the coming ski season successful. Please see Bill Schrodel’s article in the March Newsletter, and give some serious thought to applying for the position of Trip Leader or Assistant Trip Leader for the 2011-2012 ski season.

As you can see from the reprint of Tim Kempisty’s article, which accompanied Bill’s in the March Newsletter, the job requires numerous skills, as well as patience and perseverance. On the other hand, the hours are long and the pay is terrible. But, you would be providing a service to your fellow CSC’ers in an activity that is central to the club’s purpose; and the experience will be rewarding.

The Ski Trip Leader Application form can be found on the back page of this newsletter (pg 8), and can also be found on the CSC website, under the Documents tab.

Please email Bill Schrodel if you have any questions at: bill@schrodel.com. If interested and willing to volunteer, please fill out the form and get it to Bill no later than April 11th.

Ten Reasons to Participate in CSC's Adopt-a-Road

Did you know that the Columbia Ski Club has adopted a stretch of Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia to pick up the trash that accumulates along the road? Have you ever considered joining the group of faithful CSC members who come out 4 times a year to collect and bag the trash? Under the auspices of the Howard County Department of Public Works, CSC has conducted this volunteer activity for nearly 15 years. Here are 10 reasons to consider joining in yourself:

10. Keep your quads and glutes in shape for the ski season by bending down to pick up all that trash - not to mention giving your biceps, delts and pecs a workout as you carry those trash bags!
9. Find all kinds of interesting (?) things along the way! Come see what you can pick up! Recent finds: cell phone, action-hero figurine, grocery list, an assortment of liquor bottles, intact deer skull (see photo on the CSC website!).
8. Enjoy the fine weather outdoors! The Adopt-a-Road dates are always in March, May, September, and November (no heat, no bugs.)
7. Meet up with your CSC friends, or make new friends!
6. Help the environment!
5. Support your local community - and earn points towards the CSC Volunteer of the Year Award!
4. Promote the Columbia Ski Club by wearing a neon-yellow safety vest emblazoned with the CSC logo!
3. Get some exercise! Walk approximately 1 1/2 miles, starting from Princeton Sports, while picking up trash in the median strip and along the sidewalks.
2. Join the group for lunch afterward at a nearby restaurant.

And, finally, the number 1 reason to participate in the Adopt-A-Road campaign ...

1. Support the Columbia Ski Club's Community Service activities - and still have the whole afternoon to bike, hike or do other great CSC activities. The trash pick-up starts at 9:00 and is usually completed between 11:30-12:00



The next Adopt-a-Road clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th at 9:00. Meet at Princeton Sports, 10730 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. See Pat or Rob at the monthly CSC meetings, or call 410-740-4946 for more details. Come on out!

Pat D'Adamo



Scenes from the BRSC trip to the Aosta valley
Courtesy of Eli Connor

A c t i v i t i e s

4/7/2011	Monthly Happy Hour - Join Anne at Bare Bones in Ellicott City at 5:30pm. New members and prospective members welcome. Contact Anne via email at annetrent@yahoo.com
4/11/2011	Monthly General meeting at the Doubletree Inn (old Columbia Hilton). Socializing starts at 7:30pm with the meeting starting at 8pm. Sign up for activities and ski trips. Door prizes, raffle and cash bar
4/14/2011	Join Frank for dining out at one of our favorite places: Bangkok Delight in Columbia (8825 Centre Park Dr # A Columbia, MD 21045). Meet at the restaurant at TBD time. Contact Frank at FranKMacJr@aol.com.
4/27/2011	CSC Mini Golf Tour 2011. Join us for the second season. Fun, active, new friends, inexpensive. Only \$5 entrance fee to join the tour (playing fees are separate. Last Weds of each month plus Sunday double bonus event. Socials after each event. Rain date is always one week after the event. Start times: 7pm-7.15. This month's location is Laurel Golf Center. (http://www.Laurelgolfcenter.com). Contact Chris at chrismlaw@yahoo.com or 443-955-0955.
4/30/2011	Panzer House Concert - Acoustic music in an intimate setting at the Panzer home in Columbia. Featuring Buskin and Batteau. Show starts at 7pm. Suggested donation of \$20.00. BYOB. Light refreshments served. Bring dessert or appetizer to share if desired. Doors open at 6:30pm. Reservations required. Please RSVP to Sherry P. at spanzers@gmail.com or 410-531-9233
5/5/2011	Happy Hour - Join Brad for this month's happy hour at the Twist and Turn Tavern in Clarksville. Time to be determined. New members and prospective members welcome. Contact Brad at Farrell.Brad@bls.gov.
5/7/2011	Join Ron C. for an outdoor adventure at Terrapin Adventures in Savage Mill. More details to follow. Contact Ron C. at Coteassoc@aol.com.
5/9/2011	Monthly General meeting at the Doubletree Inn (old Columbia Hilton). Socializing starts at 7:30pm with the meeting starting at 8pm. Sign up for activities and ski trips. Door prizes, raffle and cash bar
5/12/2011	Monthly Dining Out at a TBD location. Contact Joyce W. at joycewronka@hotmail.com.
5/14/2011	May is Adopt-a-Road cleanup month. Please volunteer to help clean up our adopted ski club road near Princeton Sports in Columbia. Meet at Princeton Sports at 9:00 AM. Bring garden gloves to wear and wear long sleeves. Reflective safety vests and garbage bags provided. Contact Pat D. at 410-740-4946 by email at pwda2@yahoo.com
5/21/2011	Panzer House Concert - Acoustic music in an intimate setting at the Panzer home in Columbia. Featuring Steve Seskin. Show starts at 7pm. Suggested donation of \$20.00. BYOB. Light refreshments served. Bring dessert or appetizer to share if desired. Doors open at 6:30pm. Reservations required. Please RSVP to Sherry P. at spanzers@gmail.com or 410-531-9233
5/25/2011	CSC Mini Golf Tour 2011. Last Weds of each month plus Sunday double bonus event. Socials after each event. Rain date is always one week after the event. Start times: 7pm-7.15. This month's location is Nighthawk Golf Center, Gambrills. (http://www.nighthawkgolfcenter.com). Contact Chris at chrismlaw@yahoo.com or 443-955-0955.

A c t i v i t i e s

6/10/2011	Cape May Weekend - June 10-12. Stay at the historic Chalfonte Hotel in beautiful Cape May. Trip includes: 2 nights lodging, family style. dining on Friday and Saturday evening, plus extensive buffet breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres before dinner on Saturday. Dining room has a dress code, no jeans, bathing suits or tank tops during dinner. Take a short bike ride around town to see the Victorian homes or the longer ride to the lighthouse. Helmets are required. Or, just explore antique shops, go to the beach, shop or relax and read in a rocking chair on the veranda. Nominal cost for the beach. The Chalfonte Hotel, 301 Howard St. Cape May, NJ 08204, is assessable by driving around or taking the Lewes, DE Ferry, 1-800-64-Ferry. Ferry fees are not include. Rooms are double occupancy, some rooms have baths and some baths are in the hall. Single supplement extra. Children extra. The hotel has installed baths in most rooms. Also, their will be air-conditioning the Grand Magnolia Dining Room. There are multiple room options from \$205pp to \$360pp (see flyer). Contact Molly H. via email at mollyhochman@verizon.net or at 410-721-4407.
6/13/2011	Monthly General meeting at the Doubletree Inn (old Columbia Hilton). Socializing starts at 7:30pm with the meeting starting at 8pm. Sign up for activities and ski trips. Door prizes, raffle and cash bar
6/29/2011	CSC Mini Golf Tour 2011. . Only \$5 entrance fee to join the tour (playing fees are separate. Last Weds of each month plus Sunday double bonus event. Socials after each event. Rain date is always one week after the event. Start times: 7pm-7.15. This months location is Columbia Sports Park (http://www.columbiasportspark.org). Contact Chris at chrismlaw@yahoo.com or 443-955-0955.
7/11/2011	Monthly General meeting at the Doubletree Inn (old Columbia Hilton). Socializing starts at 7:30pm with the meeting starting at 8pm. Sign up for activities and ski trips. Door prizes, raffle and cash bar
7/24/2011	CSC Mini Golf Tour 2011. . Only \$5 entrance fee to join the tour (playing fees are separate. This is the Sunday double bonus event. Rain date is always one week after the event. Start times: 3pm-3:30. This double bonus event location is Adventure Park USA, New Market (http://www.adventureparkusa.com/) Contact Chris at chrismlaw@yahoo.com or 443-955-0955.
7/27/2011	CSC Mini Golf Tour 2011. Only \$5 entrance fee to join the tour (playing fees are separate. Last Weds of each month plus Sunday double bonus event. Socials after each event. Rain date is always one week after the event. Start times: 7pm-7.15. This month's location is Rocky Gorge Golf Center (http://www.rockygorgegolf.com). Contact Chris at chrismlaw@yahoo.com or 443-955-0955.
7/30/2011	Panzer House Concert - Acoustic music in an intimate setting at the Panzer home in Columbia. Featuring The Refugees. Show starts at 7pm. Suggested donation of \$20.00. BYOB. Light refreshments served. Bring dessert or appetizer to share if desired. Doors open at 6:30pm. Reservations required. Please RSVP to Sherry P. at spanzers@gmail.com or 410-531-9233
8/8/2011	Monthly General meeting at the Doubletree Inn (old Columbia Hilton). Socializing starts at 7:30pm with the meeting starting at 8pm. Sign up for activities and ski trips. Door prizes, raffle and cash bar
8/31/2011	CSC Mini Golf Tour 2011. Only \$5 entrance fee to join the tour (playing fees are separate. Last Weds of each month plus Sunday double bonus event. Socials after each event. Rain date is always one week after the event. Start times: 7pm-7.15. This months location is Arundel Golf Park (http://www.arundelgolfpark.com) Contact Chris at chrismlaw@yahoo.com or 443-955-0955.
9/12/2011	Monthly General meeting at the Doubletree Inn (old Columbia Hilton). Socializing starts at 7:30pm with the meeting starting at 8pm. Sign up for activities and ski trips. Door prizes, raffle and cash bar
9/17/2011	September is Adopt-a-Road cleanup month. Please volunteer to help clean up our adopted ski club road near Princeton Sports in Columbia. Meet at Princeton Sports at 9:00 AM. Bring garden gloves to wear and wear long sleeves. Reflective safety vests and garbage bags provided. Contact Pat D. at 410-740-4946 by email at pwda2@yahoo.com

COLUMBIA SKI CLUB 2011-2012 SKI TRIP LEADER APPLICATION

Please complete this application if you are interested in leading or assisting a CSC Ski Trip next season. Submit this form no later than April 11, 2011, to Wild Bill Schrodel 825 Caren Drive, Eldersburg, MD 21784.

If you have any questions, call Wild Bill Schrodel 410-935-6595.

Please read the information for Trip Leaders provided at the bottom of this page before completing this application.

NAME: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Choose One:

_____ I am applying to be a Trip Leader

_____ I am applying to be an Assistant Trip Leader.

(I understand that if called on I am willing to step up and lead the trip)

_____ I am applying to be an Assistant Trip Leader.

(I am not willing to lead the trip if the situation requires a new leader)

Membership: Number of Years with CSC _____

Skiing Ability: ___ Beginner ___ Intermediate ___ Advanced ___ Expert

Number of Ski Days with CSC in 12/10 through 4/11 _____

CSC TRIP LEADER EXPERIENCE 2007 THROUGH PRESENT

Ski Area / Location	Ski Trip Dates	# of Participants	Comments
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CSC LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE 2007 THROUGH PRESENT (COMMITTEES, BOD, ETC):

ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS ORGANIZED / LED FOR CSC:

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE CSC TO ASSIST IN EVALUATING YOUR APPLICATION,

Please list dates you will not be available during the 2011-2012 season: _____

Note: Leading a CSC Ski Trip can be both a rewarding and frustrating experience, it can be a challenging and time consuming undertaking. If selected as a leader or assistant, you are required to attend the trip leader training session and the monthly General Membership Meetings. Extensive management, organizational, people and sales skills are required. Trip leaders must plan, sell and execute all facets of the CSC Ski Trip. Trip leaders will be expected to demonstrate a good attitude and mature judgment in all situations. Travel agents, transportation companies and airlines can create issues that need to be resolved under pressure situations. If you feel you have the necessary skills to be a CSC Trip Leader or Assistant Trip Leader, or wish to develop them, CSC wants you to apply.

Signature: _____

Date: _____