

THE NEW ZEALAND—AUSTRALIA TRIP

Pat D'Adamo



Our group met at BWI airport on the afternoon of September 23rd for the first leg of our trip to Los Angeles. The 12-hour overnight flight from LAX to

Auckland, NZ, was made bearable by new friendships established among the members of the group, as well as the supportive and friendly Air New Zealand flight attendants.

On arrival in Auckland, we got our bearings on a city bus tour, including a stop affording panoramic views of the city and overlooking Manakau and Waitama Harbors. After a good night's sleep at the Sky City Hotel, group members pursued a variety of activities, ranging from a harbor tour, day-long hike and birding at Tiritiri Watangi Island, a guided tour of the Auckland Museum to learn about the native Maori people and culture, or a trip up to the top of the Skytower—or in the case of one member, a walk along the outside of the tower! Visits across the harbor to the beautiful waterside town of Devonport or to Rangitoto Island were also on the agenda.

From Auckland, we boarded a bus for a visit to the Waitomo Glow Worm caves, then on to Rotarua, an area of New Zealand's North Island known for its unique volcanic landscape. Group members again explored and experienced many things, including the local spa and mud baths, an informative hike through Wai-O-tapu geothermal park—an eerie and fascinating collection of geothermal pools, caves, lakes and streams—a Maori cultural center; or even rolling downhill inside a gigantic ball! A highlight of our time in Rotarua was a traditional Maori dinner, preceded by a welcome ceremony at which our trip leader, Steve, became "Chief" Stevie for the evening. Our Maori hosts put on an energetic and fascinating show of music and dance, using traditional instruments and costumes, and we had the opportunity to talk directly with the performers as they taught us about their food, weapons, ceremonial facial tattoos, and other aspects of their history and culture. After dinner, Chief Stevie participated in a dance performance to close out the evening.

Up next, a flight to the South Island and beautiful Queenstown nestled lakeside in the Remarkables Mountains. Queenstown offered something for everyone: the gondola trip to the top of the mountain with awesome views overlooking the town and lake, the

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**Next Meeting
 January 10**

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



Absentee Ballot Procedures

Executive Committee 2010—2011

- President/Director Darrin Bragunier 301-797-2086
President-Elect/Director Deb McCune 410-637-5454
Directors Tina Dorn 443-546-4124, Gary Prestianni 410-799-4253, 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, 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 410-421-9064
Team Sports Chris Law 410-595-6768
Web Site Jake White
webmaster09@columbiaskiclub.org

Elections will be held at the March 14th Annual Meeting. (See article on Page 5).

If you are a CSC member and you know that you will not be able to attend the March meeting, then you may vote by absentee ballot. The following procedure is quoted from the CSC Bylaws, as approved on Sept. 9, 2002:

Any member may choose to vote by absentee ballot using the following procedure:

The member must send a signed request for an absentee ballot to the Columbia Ski Club P.O. Box. The request must be received no later than the Monday following the nomination meeting in February.

Included with the request must be a self-addressed stamped envelope. The absentee ballot must be received at the Columbia Ski Club P.O. Box no later than the Saturday prior to the Annual Meeting in March.

In addition, the elections committee will have a table at the Feb 14th general meeting, where members may submit a request for an

absentee ballot (don't forget your self-addressed, stamped envelope!).

If you choose to mail your request to the CSC, please mark the envelope:

ATTN: Elections, and send it to: Columbia Ski Club, P.O. Box 204, Columbia, MD 21045.

Here are some important deadlines if you plan to vote by absentee ballot:

Mon., Feb. 22—Deadline for Requests for Absentee Ballots at PO Box (you get an extra day due to President's Day)

Sat., Mar. 12—Deadline for receipt of Absentee Ballots at PO Box.

Although a quorum of only 15% of members must vote for our election to be valid, we strongly encourage all members to vote. This procedure was added to our bylaws so that everyone could vote — please exercise your right to vote!

Snippets

VIP Award

At the December meeting, a new award was announced: the VIP Award. The recipient of the first VIP award was Ken Sall in recognition of his many years of outstanding service, especially those related to the maintenance of the CSC web page.

MTS Trip

The trip leaders for the Oct 27—Nov. 6 trip to Hawaii will be Sue Muller and Ted Dietz

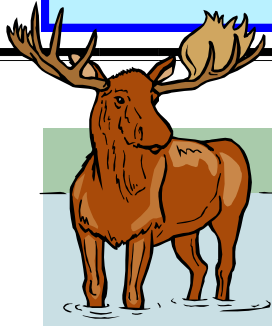
2011 BRSC Trip

Next year's BRSC trip will be Aspen/Snowmass. It's not too soon to start planning as some are wont to sign up early ... and often

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

MOOSE TRACKS



Decembrrrrrrrrr has passed and the New Year is bringing record snowfalls for all the ski resorts, you just gotta love that El Nino!

35 of our skiers converged on Crested Butte in Colorado to

celebrate the New Year in the snow. Our trip to Vail is just around the corner. I wonder where that phrase came from; must be city folk where the corner is just a short block away. If you live on a farm the corner, or end of the block, could be a mile or two! We also welcome 20 new members to our club who just had to go to Vail with us, and who could blame them? Epic snow at an epic resort with an epic ski club how epically perfect.

2011 marks our 30 years of fun in the snow. It was 30 years ago, even after Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play, that Ron Fedorcak started *The Columbia Ski Club* and became our first president. Our own kitten on the slopes Kitty Imdahl is a founding member too, and is now the envy of us all by retiring in Park City just a short walk from the lifts. She will be there to greet us

as 64 CSC'ers descend on Park City for the BRSC winter carnival. We are also sporting our new bandanas celebrating 30 years of fun in the snow.

If you are one of those people that just had to wait to see just how much snow will be available to ski in, your pickin's are slim indeed. We only have a few spaces left after closing in on 400 spaces sold. There is a spot or two left on Copper, Mammoth, and Powder Mountain/Snow Basin, and a short wait list for Aosta. So talk to those trip leaders but don't forget your checkbook because if you don't sign up at this meeting you are pretty much out of luck or on your own. Skiing alone is no fun, so sign up and join forty or more of your best friends on the slopes.

The ski trip coordinator torch is being passed to Bill Schrodel. Bill is another long time member and this is also a repeat for him as ski trip coordinator. Please support Bill in his efforts to bring you an even better ski season in 2012.

Sign up early and often,

The Moose

Panzer House Concerts

Date	Artist
Jan 9	Ellis Paul
Mar 13	Patty Larkin
Apr 30	Buskin & Batteau

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

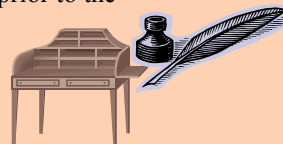
A Note From the Editor

Hope your holidays were joyous and full of friends and family. By the time you receive this issue you should have recovered from all the festivities, and our first ski trip, Crested Butte, will already have returned. And, the second trip of the season, Vail, will be nearly on their way.

January is the start of the election cycle, which culminates with the election of a President-Elect and at least 3 members for the Board of Directors. There are several important articles in this edition of the Newsletter that relate to the elections that should be of interest to you.

For the sake of honesty, I must confess that the material related to the elections, absentee ballot procedures, and exhortations to volunteer were shamelessly plagiarized ... errr, borrowed from articles written by Lynne Wagner in a past newsletter.

Finally, the Newsletter will be published and mailed out in hard copy form on a bimonthly basis. However, I will be trying to get out a web-only version for the intervening months. So be sure to check the website just prior to the general meeting each month to get the latest.



Special

Date	Event
2/13	Dessert Night at Ted, Jeannie & Richard's

NZ/AUS continued from Page 1

jumping off a bridge and into the gorge, while three members took advantage of the end-of-season snow to go skiing at the nearby runs.

Milford Sound was next on our itinerary, including a scenic bus ride through steep pastures, along clear mountain lakes, and through alpine scenery to arrival at the boat dock. The nature cruise down the full length of Milford Sound fjord to the Tasman Sea offered sights of steep, tree-covered hillsides rising right out of the water, and with the rainy weather, frequent waterfalls cascading from the top of the hills into the water below.

With the New Zealand part of our trip at an end, we boarded a flight for Sydney, Australia. The transition from the small-town feel of New Zealand to the bustling city was eased by an introductory bus tour and harbor cruise, where we saw the famed Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge, and took in the many smaller harbors that make up Sydney Harbor.

An excursion from Sydney took us to the Featherdale Wildlife Park where we saw kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes, koalas and other indigenous animals, then on to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains for a short hike or train ride through the rain forest down to the valley floor. The bird-loving members of the group visited other nearby wildlife parks along the coast, and added many species to their life-lists. Those who took a wine tour to the Hunter Valley winery were able to glimpse kangaroos in the wild.

Our hotel in Sydney's The Rocks district was perfectly situated as a jumping off point for many activities, such as exploring and shopping in downtown Sydney, catching

some rays at Manly Beach, strolling the Botanical Gardens, or touring the world-renowned Sydney Opera House, Aquarium, and many other sights. Whether enjoying the active nightlife in Darling Harbor, or taking in the breathtaking night views of the Opera House and harbor at night from the roof of the hotel, everyone had plenty to see and do. Three members of our CSC group left us at Sydney for the trip back home, while the rest of

us boarded a light for Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef. The boat trip out to the Reef, with plenty of time to snorkel or scuba, and view the reef from a glass-bottom boat or semi-submersible, was a highlight of the trip for many of us!

Cairns also was the starting point for a multi-faceted trip into the Kuranda Rain Forest. Starting out with a steam train ride up the mountain, we visited a wild animal park, getting up close and personal with koalas and several types of kangaroos, along with macaws, parakeets and lorikeets, wombats, and other indigenous Australian animals. We also took a vintage WWII DUKC tour of the rain forest to an aboriginal village, where we learned about the culture through dance and music, and even were able to try our hands at boomerang-throwing! Chief Stevie once again showed off his dance skills, along with Ron and Tom, in a traditional aboriginal dance. The culmination was a peaceful gondola ride over the top of the rain forest back down to sea level.

Even our last full day of the trip included a host of activities, whether shopping, exploring the fascinating, local botanical gardens, or getting out of town to Port Douglas and Mossman Gorge for some additional birding or hiking.

Our adventure had to come to an end, and the long trip home took us from Cairns back to Auckland and LAX, where we had a 9-hour layover—long enough for some of us to head out to Santa Monica for lunch and relaxation on the docks. The final legs of the journey to Chicago and back to BWI were uneventful, and we all arrived back home happy, exhausted and full of memories, 18 days after setting out.

Our trip leaders, Steve and Sue, with considerable support from Sherri, did an exceptional job to ensure the multiple plane-bus-boat-connections went off without a hitch, and that every traveler in the group had an fantastic time, proving that CSC really does Much More Than Ski!

— Pat D'Adamo



Monday, March 14, 2011 is the CSC Annual Meeting

At this meeting we will hold elections for three (3) Board of Director positions and for the position of President-Elect. The Directors each serve a two (2) year term on the Board. The President-Elect (also a Director) serves one year on the Board, learning the ropes, then serves a second year as the CSC President.

The Columbia Ski Club is incorporated in the state of Maryland as a not-for-profit corporation. The [CSC bylaws](#) are the governing documents of this corporation (CSC) and are kept up-to-date with state regulations.

The Board of Directors ensures that the Club's actions are in keeping with our bylaws, and also set the policy for how the club does business.

On rare occasions, the Directors may have to resolve problems brought to their attention by trip leaders, activity leaders, or other CSC members.

CSC Bylaws state that the CSC Board meetings are run using Robert's Rules of Order. The President serves as a moderator to the Board—setting the agenda, ensuring that all directors are heard equally, and chairing the Board Meetings and General Meetings. The President may also set goals for the club during their in the office. Some past goals have included: increasing the Club's membership, increasing CSC's community service activities, and increasing the Club's involvement with other Blue Ridge Ski Council and other social clubs.

The Columbia Ski Club is a volunteer organization; none of the Directors are recompensed for their service—at least not monetarily. However, the rewards in giving back to the CSC are immeasurable. Perhaps this is

why we see so many members who have served on the Board in the past, throwing their names into the ring for an opportunity to serve again.

However, in order for the CSC to remain a vibrant, growing organization we must continually infuse the leadership of the Club with new people; this means you! If you've never considered running for the Board, please take some time and consider it now.

If you have any questions about the Board, or if you would like to run for Board of Directors or President-Elect, then please contact the Elections Committee at:

elections09@LIST.ColumbiaSkiClub.org.

The deadline for submissions of nominations to run for the Board is the February 14 general meeting.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at this meeting. Here's a summary of important dates regarding the CSC Annual Meeting:

- Monday, February 14, 2011—deadline for nominations at the General Meeting**
- Saturday, February 19, 2011—deadline for candidate statements emailed to [Newsletter, Elections, and web](#)**
- Monday, February 21, 2011—deadline for absentee ballot requests**
- Saturday, March 12, 2011—deadline for receipt of absentee ballots at CSC PO Box**
- Monday, March 14, 2011—CSC Annual Meeting; Elections held**

Lynne Wagner

Think About Serving

The Columbia Ski Club is a not-for-profit corporation and it is run by volunteers. It is entirely dependent on members—you—to set our policies, conduct our meetings, deal with the administrative details of running a corporation, to manage our finances, to plan our trips, to plan activities that keep us busy, and to entertain and inform us.

If you'd like to know more about being a Board member (i.e., a Director) then talk to any of our current board members. If you'd like to run for office then please contact the elections committee or Lynne W. (contact info below) prior to the Feb. 14 general meeting.

If you're interested in running for a CSC Board position (Director or President-Elect)

Please contact the elections committee at:

elections09@list.ColumbiaSkiClub.org

or contact Lynne W. at 301-725-4094

SKI TRIPS 2010 –2011

Crested Butte, CO

December 28 to January 3
\$1374 per person

Trip Leader: Dave Hodges
 302-412-3352
 Email: daveTL4CrestedButte@verizon.net

Assistant Trip Leader: Deb Dwyer
 443-802-3731
 Email: DebAsstCB2010@verizon.net

**Sold Out
 Wait List**

Jackson Hole, WY

February 12—19
\$1284 per person

Trip Leader: Molly Hochman
 410-721-4407
 Email: mollyhochmann@verizon.net

Assistant Trip Leader: Tom Stanitis
 410-997-0754
 Email: stanitis@comcast.net

**Sold Out
 Wait List**

Vail, CO

January 15—22
\$1324 per person

Trip Leader: Bob Craig
 410-381-4749
 Email: rpcraig55@verizon.net

Assistant Trip Leader: Michelle Horton
 301-572-6031
 Email: michelle@esa.org

**Sold Out
 Wait List**

Steamboat Springs, CO

February 19—26
\$1390 per person

Trip Leader: Gary Prestiani
 410-799-4253
 Email: zebraterp@comcast.net

Assistant Trip Leader: Kat Rhee
 410-627-9537

**Sold Out
 Wait List**

Taos, NM

January 22—29
\$1475 per person

Trip Leader: Bob Schroeder
 410-935-6595
 Email: bill@schroedel.com

Assistant Trip Leader: Jim Ferrant
 Email: jkferrant@aol.com

**Sold Out
 Wait List**

Aosta, Italy

February 25—March 5
\$1865 per person

Trip Leader: Judith Schlesinger
 301-805-7455
 Email: Judith@super.org

Assistant Trip Leader: Tina Dorn
 443-546-4124

Powder Mountain/Snow Basin, UT

January 28—February 4
\$1220 per person

Trip Leader: Cathy Homens
 410-796-1190 (home)
 Email: Cathy@homeartisans.biz

Assistant Trip Leader: Julie Slater
 410-799-1038
 Email: slaterjas@yahoo.com

Copper Mountain, CO

March 5—12
\$1154 per person

Trip Leader: Alvin Friendlich
 410-356-3585 (h)
 Email: permaglaze@comcast.net

Assistant Trip Leader: Renee Speer
 410-721-8671
 Email: data.magic@verizon.net

Park City, UT

February 4—13
\$1773 per person

Trip Leader: Tom Donohue
 410-747-6529
 Email: tom.donohue.csc@gmail.com

Assistant Trip Leader: Mike DiProspero
 410-750-2521
 Email: mdiprospero@comcast.net

**Sold Out
 Wait List**

Mammoth, CA

March 19—26
\$1479 per person

Trip Leader: Maria McDonough
 410-456-8111
 Email: cmmcdonough04@yahoo.com

Assistant Trip Leader: Jim Miller
 410-263-2250
 Email: jimmler155@msn.com

For full details, see website:
<http://columbiaskiclub/skitrips/skitrips.aspx>

Activities

1/7//2011	Happy Hour —Meet John W. at a special happy hour in his honor as a prize for Quiz Night. Join us at Pizzeria Uno (Long Gate Shopping Center) at 5:30pm. New members and prospective members welcome. Contact Karen L. by email at dreamattack329@yahoo.com
1/9/2011	Panzer House Concert - Acoustic music in an intimate setting at the Panzer home in Columbia. Featuring Ellis Paul. Show starts at 7pm. Suggested donation \$20. BYOB. Light refreshments served. Bring dessert or appetizer to share if desired. Doors open at 6:30pm. Reservations required. Contact Sherry P. by email spanzers@gmail.com or 410-531-9233
1/13/2011	Monthly Dining Out. - Join Theo for a New Year’s dining out with a theme. Bring your least favorite holiday gift for an exchange. Meet at TBD restaurant at TBD time. Contact Theo K. by email at theo78@hotmail.com
2/13/2011	Dessert Night: Back by popular request—Dessert Night at Ted, Jeannie & Richard's NEW place in Ellicott City, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Bring one of your favorite desserts and drink to share. Dessert suggestions include cookies, pies, cheesecake, fruitcake, pastry, anything chocolate, etc. As an alternative, finger foods are also welcome...Bonus points for Valentine’s Day Theme goodies. RSVP via email to GreekTed@gmail.com if you'd like to attend, specifying “Dessert Night” in the email title
3/13/2011	Panzer House Concert - Acoustic music in an intimate setting at the Panzer home in Columbia. Featuring Patty Larkin. Show starts at 7pm. Suggested donation \$20. BYOB. Light refreshments served. Bring dessert or appetizer to share if desired. Doors open at 6:30pm. Reservations required. Contact Sherry P. by email spanzers@gmail.com or 410-531-923

Interested in Leading a new Activity?

To add a NEW activity to the list, either call Bob M. at 410-637-5454, or email the activities committee (preferred); activities09@columbiaskiclub.org.

If approved, activities are added to the activity database which is used to generate the newsletter list, monthly meeting list, and the activity web page.

For full details, see the activity web page at:

<http://columbiaskiclub.org/activities/activities.aspx>

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Leaders also needed for happy hours, dining outs, and birthday bashes.

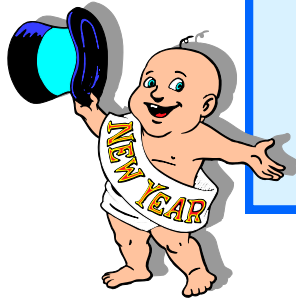
Become a leader and get to choose your favorite location for your activity

Note: The above descriptions have been abbreviated in the interest of space. For a more complete description of any specific activity, check the website:

www.columbiaskiclub.org/activities/activities.aspx

Next Meeting

January 10



Ski Trips

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ski trip details at:

<http://columbiaskiclub/skitrips/skiskiskitrips.aspx>

The Columbia Ski Club

P.O. Box 204
Columbia, MD 21045

www.columbiaskiclub.org

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