

Black Diamond

PRESS

The Columbia Ski Club

March 2024

Jackson Hole

Michael Wilmore

Our hearty international cast of 40 skiers led by Michael Wilmore and Wade King trekked to Jackson Hole this January 20th to 27th. Most took the standard flight on American Airlines from BWI to the Jackson Airport. Ski conditions were good although fog sometimes added additional challenges to what onthesnow.com calls the “#1 Expert Terrain in North America”. Fortunately, the week before saw a bitter cold winter storm front drop 4-feet of snow before warming up to temperatures in the 20s and 30s. Naturally we did more than ski, such as après ski events at the iconic Million Dollar Cowboy Bar, the legendary Mangy Moose Restaurant and Saloon as well as our Chinese dinner (catered by China Fun) and Mexican nights held at El Abuelito's. Some people took optional trips to view nature or spa treatments.



The snow conditions this week allowed for most people to consider all-mountain skis although conditions varied. We made use of the GroupMe app to communicate during the trip such as where to meet up. Eating lunch outside while listening to classic rock being blared from the Bear Flats Restaurant's boom box was a real treat. While paper maps were available, the JH Insider App tracked our location, stats, and trail status. Others used a similar Ikon app.

Here are some considerations for future Jackson Hole trips. The town does not plow their sidewalks, which can make walking in Jackson hazardous. Fortunately, our hotel, the Elk Country Inn, allowed us to use their breakfast room to host our welcome, midweek, and farewell parties, which featured delightful pizza from Pinky G's. We even played word games in here. This was already one of this year's better values, which was enhanced by the hotel's free buffet breakfast. This provided everyone with an easy opportunity to fuel up as well as huddle up and plan the day. Coordination was essential because it is not easy finding someone on their 2,500 skiable acres even with our green bandannas. The resort is steeper than most (total vertical drop of 4,139-feet) and over 50% of its 131 runs are black or double black. There are over 50 blue runs although often these are labeled as “double blue” runs. Besides the 13 lifts, there are many traverse runs can be used to cross the mountain. These are typically blues and can extend for miles. Beginners should be aware that very few runs are green. Everyone needs to be aware that the aerial tram that leads to the highest peak and the Corbet's Cabin restaurant often has long lines especially on Friday and weekends.

Being in town had certain advantages such as walking to the historic town center and proximity to various restaurants and shops. The hotel also had two hot tubs and a pool that spanned both indoors and outdoors. This was a nice way to manage soreness and chat with others. The disadvantage was that we needed to take the free bus shuttle of 25 minutes between the hotel and the mountain, and this only ran certain times in the days. The town's elevation and the base of the mountain are about 6,300-feet above sea level, and this is well below 8,000-foot where some people begin to experience altitude sickness.



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President's Corner

Executive Committee 2023-2024

President/Director

Bill Ferguson

Vice-President

Mike DiProspero

President-Elect/Director

Mary Metzler

Directors

Rob Foard
Robin Hershey
Jodi Hillmar
Charise Kasser
Mark Metzler

Treasurer

Alexa Fair

Secretary

Jean Fregeau

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Members:

As I write this month's newsletter, it comes with mixed emotions, as I announce that this will be my last newsletter as your President. It has been an incredible journey leading this esteemed club over the past year, and I am honored to share some significant news about the future.

Firstly, I am thrilled to welcome Mary Metzler, who will be taking over the reins as President on April 1st. Mary is a dedicated and experienced member of our Board having served as President-Elect this past year. I have full confidence that Mary will continue to steer our club to even greater heights.

Together with Mary and the unwavering support of our dedicated Board of Directors, we have accomplished most of the goals we set at the beginning of my term. Whether it was organizing events, planning ski and G&A trips, or creating our new website and implementing credit card payments for future trips. These accomplishments are a testament to the collective efforts of this Board, the committee chairs, and many volunteers.

As the torch passes to Mary, I am confident that the club is in very capable hands. I encourage all members to extend the same level of support and enthusiasm to her as you have to me. Together, you will undoubtedly achieve new milestones as we move forward.

I want to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors, all committee members and all club members that made this year a success. Your dedication and passion for this club have been the heartbeat of our success.

While I bid farewell to the role of President, I am looking forward to continuing my involvement as an active member and supporting Mary and her leadership team in their endeavors.

Thank you all for an amazing year. Here's to new beginnings, continued success, and the enduring spirit of our incredible club.

Sincerely,
Bill Ferguson
President



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

Park City 2024

By Mark Metzler



Led by Mark Metzler and ATL Ellen Wagner, forty-four club members hit the slopes at Park City Ski Resort. With good snow conditions that included a combination of bluebird days as well as powder days, it was a fantastic trip filled with memorable runs.

Nestled in the stunning Wasatch Mountains of Utah, Park City Ski Resort offers world-class skiing and snowboarding just 35 minutes from Salt Lake City. With

over 7,300 acres of terrain spread across two main mountain areas - Park City and Canyons Village - it is one of the largest ski resorts in the United States. Park City has long been a premier ski destination, hosting events during the 2002 Winter Olympics. So, it's no wonder that this is a favorite destination for CSC club members.

On the mountain, our group took full advantage of the gondola to ski between the Park City and Canyons Village areas, giving easy access to over 7,300 acres of combined terrain. From the perfectly groomed runs off the Payday lift at Park City to the powder stashes in Jupiter Bowl at Canyons, there was terrain for every ability level.

The fun extended well beyond the slopes as well. There was the Super Bowl party on Sunday and three club sponsored happy hours! A group went bobsledding at the Olympic Park. On Wednesday we went to Deer Valley and rode up the funicular to the St. Regis Hotel to see the sunset champagne sabering ritual. The views were awesome as the resort began to light up for the evening. On Thursday, nearly the entire group gathered at The Cabin in Old Town Park City for an incredible dinner organized by Ellen.

A huge thanks goes to our trip leaders who organized such an incredibly smooth and memorable week.



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

Jean Fregeau, Board of Directors

Columbia Ski Club members - I am throwing my name in the hat for the position of CSC Board of Directors for the 2024-26 term. Upon retiring in 2022, I joined CSC to go on the 2023 Taos ski trip. It was such a great experience that I found myself getting more involved in the Club, first as Secretary and then as part of the Web Team. There is more to be done in the coming term and I would like to continue to be a part of it.

A bit about my backgroundI retired from the Howard County Public School System, where I was an engineering teacher for 12 years. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I was passionate about recruiting and supporting students from diverse backgrounds in the field of engineering. Today I enjoy seeing the processes and programs that I created live on even though I am no longer at the helm.

Prior to my teaching career, I spent 20+ years working in the field of engineering, first as a design engineer, then a project engineer and finally as a small business owner. In addition to my career experiences, I have launched three children into adulthood, enjoy hiking, gardening, pickleball, yoga, and almost anything that takes me outdoors. I have enjoyed working, over the past year, with the many dedicated members that make CSC such a wonderful organization and look forward to continuing that work.

Kerry Siebein, Board of Directors

Greetings Columbia Ski Club members! I am running for a position on the board of directors of the Columbia Ski Club and want to tell you a little about myself. I am a relatively new member of CSC, but I really enjoy the club activities, especially the skiing. I know that running a club like CSC takes a lot of work and I thought this a good way to help with the organization of the club and events.

I joined the Columbia Ski Club 2 years ago. Prior to that time, I was a member of the SCWDC for a couple of years. My ski club activities include being the trip leader for the Lake Tahoe Ski Trip (2024) and going on a few ski trips a year with various ski clubs. I am currently a Physical Scientist at the Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST) Nanofab User Facility at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). I work on semiconductor materials with a focus on materials characterization. In my present position, I assist facility users with characterization projects and provide consultations on how to get the information required using the characterization techniques available at the center. I am also involved in numerous technical societies. Most recently, the Microanalysis Society (MAS) where I was the Committee Chair for the Affiliated Societies and Tour Speaker Committees for 6 years. I am also a reviewer for the International Society for Testing and Failure Analysis (of semiconductors) (ISTFA) and the International Conference on Electron, Ion and Photon Beam Technology and Nanofabrication (EIPBN). I am a gardener and have been the Treasurer of the SEBA Gardens at NIST, which is a community garden on the NIST campus. I am also a dancer and was involved with the Friday Night Dancers (FND) group that puts on weekly contra dances at Glen Echo Park. I was on the FND board of directors for a total of 4.5 years including being president of the group for 3 years. I like to hike and bicycle and play pickleball. Pickleball anyone?

If elected, I look forward to serving on the Board of Directors of CSC.

Continued on page 5



Julie Hendricks, Board of Directors

Hello Columbia Ski Club Members! My name is Julie Hendricks, and I was delighted to be asked to consider running for the Board of Directors and I'm thrilled to put my name on the ballot. I officially joined the club in 2020 to join the Big Sky trip, On the trip, I really enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the group and I have been a member ever since. I have gone on several club ski trips each year. I've been an avid snowboarder for 20+ years and I've enjoyed boarding in the US, Europe, Asia, and South America.

Last spring, I added my name to be an ATL and was honored to be matched with Robin Hershey for the Telluride trip. Over the years, I have taken pleasure in volunteering for many organizations, and I have benefited from taking active roles as president, treasurer, and event coordinator.

I have worked in the financial field for over 30 years. As a CPA, I provided audit, tax and accounting services to a variety of entities including nonprofit organizations, corporations and individuals. For the past 22 years, I have enjoyed working for myself. I help other small businesses with their daily financial functions including accounting, budgeting, and payroll. In addition, I consult with clients regarding financial reporting, internal controls, and tax preparation. I really enjoy supporting the behind-the-scenes efforts of my clients, which is something I would love to do for the Club!

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Club's Board!

Mike Neuman, President-elect

Hello everyone, I am running for President-elect of the Columbia Ski Club (CSC or the Club) for 2024/25.

I have been an active CSC member for over 15 years and have participated on a Club ski trip annually since then. I have also been a trip leader in 2022 (Powder Mountain/Snowbasin) and 2023 (Red Mountain).

I was member of the Club's Board of Directors from 2020- 2022. I have also served the treasury function through a financial statement and internal control review in 2019. Most recently, I have helped the club with accepting e-payments.

Outside of Club activities, I am currently employed full-time with Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore where I hold the position Chief Financial Officer. I get a lot out of being a member of the Club and welcome the opportunity to serve the Club in this leadership role.


Thanks for your consideration.



Vote Online – Early voting starts Feb 26th

This year members can vote on-line for the President Elect and Directors via the CSC web site. If preferred, members can vote in person at the Annual Election Meeting on Monday March 11, 2024. Either way, you must be a member to vote. Early online voting will commence on Feb 26, 2024 and end on March 9, 2024. Voting online is easy and takes only a minute or two. To vote online perform the following steps:

Log in to the CSC Web site

1. Go to <https://columbiaskiclub.org/>
2. Click on **Member Login** on the upper right side of the screen.
3. Login with your username and password.
 - If you forgot your User Name or Password, you can click on Forgot My User Name/ Password. You will be prompted to provide the email address you used on your membership application. The system will send you a password reset email. Follow those instructions.
 - If you need login help, click on the  button on the upper right of the screen of the home page or email: osepe@columbiaskiclub.org
The Login Help page contains instructions for both desktop and phone.

Display the Elections page

1. Once you are logged in select the MEMBERS/Elections page to display the Elections 2024 page.
2. Scroll down to read the candidate bios for President Elect and Directors.

Open the Ballot and Vote

1. Click on the VOTE NOW button to display the CSC 2024 Election Ballot.
2. Click on the check box next to the President Elect candidate or write-in candidate.
3. Click on the check box next to each of the three Director Candidates or the check box next to a write-in candidate.
4. Click Next
5. Review your selections or use the back button to make changes.
6. Click the "Submit Response" button.
7. Click OK to close the "Thank you for your response" message box.
8. Logout (mouse over your name in the upper right corner and select Logout)

Note that you can only vote once. You can certainly attend the March 11th meeting even if you already voted online.



Ski Trips 2025

Fran D'Amico

Get Ready to Ski in 2025!

Here it is... the preliminary ski trip lineup for 2025. We have secured prime lodging at Snowmass, CO and Big Sky, MT for some great March skiing. Also, we are excited to introduce a new destination, Schweitzer, Idaho in a prime spot the second week of February. All three are ski-in ski-out locations. Back by popular demand is Taos! Another great ski-in ski-out destination with the best ski lessons in North America. The Blue Ridge Ski Council (BRSC) is offering Park City for the Western Carnival, and Chamonix, France for the Eurofest. The BRSC Eastern Winterfest location is still to be determined.

We are presently soliciting bids for Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, and Steamboat, CO the first three weeks of the season. Also, we're trying to secure a reservation at Sun Peaks in Canada. We hope to receive favorable bids for these destinations. **Please note that this is a preliminary schedule that is subject to change.**

We are encouraging members to purchase Ikon or Epic passes far in advance of the 2025 season. Early-season deals will be available from mid-March 2024 through mid-April 2024. Dates have not yet been announced. Rates will increase in mid-April and will go up again around Memorial Day weekend. Buying a pass can be a complex decision. Details will be posted on the CSC website to help guide your lift pass purchase. Stay tuned for more announcements.

Dates	Destination	Pass
Jan 4-11	Breckenridge, CO **	Epic
Jan 11-18	Beaver Creek, CO **	Epic
Jan 18-25	Steamboat, CO **	Ikon
Jan 25 - Feb 1	Taos, NM *	Ikon
Feb 2-9 ^	Park City, UT (BRSC) *	Epic
Feb 8-15	Schweitzer, ID *	Ikon
Feb 22 - Mar 1	Sun Peaks, Canada **	Ikon
Feb 28 - Mar 8	Chamonix, France (BRSC) *	Ikon
Mar 1-8	BRSC East (TBD)	TBD
Mar 8-15	Snowmass, CO *	Ikon
Mar 15-22	Big Sky, MT *	Ikon

* Destination and date secured

** Destination under bid, subject to change

^ Sunday to Sunday

Yellowstone National Park

Pat D'Adamo

If you're skiing with the Columbia Ski Club at Jackson Hole or Big Sky and would like to extend your trip in Montana or Wyoming, check out the winter packages at Yellowstone National Park offered by Xanterra (<https://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/packages/>). Four ski club members just returned



Fountain Paint Pot

from a week at Yellowstone on a Couples Winter Package tour - a wonderful way to experience the park, its wildlife, and thermal features on daily, fully guided tours. Our tours by snow coach took us to the most iconic areas of the park, including the Lamar Valley, the Madison Valley and Old Faithful. Not only were we treated to incredible views of the Gallatin and Absaroka Mountain ranges, the scenic valleys and many geysers, mudpots, fumeroles, and hot springs, we also saw a wide array of wildlife, including bison, elk, moose, fox, coyote, wolves, bald and golden eagles, and even the elusive pine marten! Overcast skies and cold temperatures - in the single digits on a few days - did not detract from the overall experience: excellent food and good service, a knowledgeable and experienced coach driver, comfortable accommodations at the historic Mammoth Hot Springs Lodge and Snow Lodge at Old Faithful, and efficient shuttle service. Opportunities for guided or independent snow-shoeing, cross country skiing, and winter hiking are also available at both the Mammoth Hot Springs and Old Faithful areas. This trip offered the rare chance to experience Yellowstone without the crowds and traffic jams that are so common during the summer.



Hot spring



Snowy Bison



Snow Lodge and Snow Coach

Moose Tracks

Ted Dietz

How do Moose Survive winter?

There isn't much to eat leaf wise in winter since the ground is covered with snow. During winter they have to rely on a smaller diet, about $\frac{1}{4}$ of what they are used to eating during summer. Their digestive system allows them to eat the stems of plants and wood pulp from saplings and small tree branches to get them through the winter without starving.

Moose are ruminants, animals that chew their cud. Deer, elk, goats, sheep, and cows are all in the family of ruminants and all have compartmentalized stomachs. Bringing up their food several times gives them the nutrition they need.

Microbes in their stomachs allow them to digest their winter diet. This change happens as they gradually change from their leafy diet in summer to the stems, bark, and wood pulp in winter. If that change wasn't gradual the moose and any other ruminants would become malnourished. So ... when you are on the trail don't feed the moose!

The Moose



More Than Ski

Pat D'Adamo

The next Adopt-a-Road trash pick-up will take place on March 16th along Little Patuxent Pkwy in Columbia. The group will meet at 9:00 at the parking lot adjacent to the 7 Eleven, at 10730 Little Patuxent Pkwy. The trash pick-up normally takes about 2 hours. We provide safety vests, trash bags, and grabbers; you'll need to bring a pair of work gloves and dress for the weather. Afterwards, participants will regroup at the Bagel Bin at Wilde Lake Village Center to enjoy bagels and coffee, courtesy of the Columbia Ski Club.

The Getaways and Adventures Trips Committee has selected the trips we will offer in 2025! We will be doing a European river cruise on the Rhine River and a Black Hills adventure to Mt. Rushmore and Custer State Park. Trip details, including dates, itineraries, and pricing information will be announced at the member meeting on March 11, and will also be available on the website (columbiaskiclub.org).

Heavenly

Charise Kasser and Kerry Siebein



The Group photo was taken in the lobby of Harvey's Casino and Hotel at our last get together of the trip.

On February 3rd thirty-eight club members departed BWI Airport for Reno for a week of skiing at Heavenly Resort as part of the BRSC Western Carnival. We lucked out because Tahoe had back-to-back snow storms the week before we left and picked up additional snow just about every day we were there! 98% of the Heavenly terrain was open and we enjoyed skiing from Nevada to California on fresh snow every day. In addition to getting a fair amount of snow during the week, there were at least two beautiful blue-sky days with great views of the lake from the slopes. Harvey's Hotel and Casino, where we stayed, had large rooms with views of the lake and mountains. The hotel was a short walk to the Heavenly gondola and a good variety of dining places.



We were surprised to see so many trip members enjoying the music and dancing at the farewell dinner dance!

The BRSC Western Carnival activities included a Welcome Après Ski Party on Sunday, a Mid-Week Après Ski Party on Tuesday, and a Farewell Dinner Dance on Thursday night. The Farewell Dinner Dance was especially memorable because the Columbia Ski Club participants filled most of the dance floor for a while. Everyone had a good time! The BRSC events provided an opportunity to meet people from other MD ski clubs and catch up with old friends. On the other nights, small group dinners were arranged at restaurants inside the hotel and Heavenly Village. BRSC also organized excursions to NorthStar and Kirkwood Ski resorts which were enjoyed by several club members. Everyone arrived home safely and in plenty of time for the Super Bowl on Sunday.



A great part of Heavenly Mountain are the magnificent views of the lake



A few skiers pause before they head over to the 2 mile long Olympic run.



Next Meeting:
Monday, March 11
at
Dive Bar

8600 Foundry Street
Savage, MD
7:30

The Columbia Ski Club

P.O. Box 204
Columbia, MD 21045

www.columbiaskiclub.org

