



www.snowdrifters.net

Fox Valley Snowdrifters
Ski Club Officers &
Committee Chairpersons

PRESIDENT:

Chuck Salisbury
630-584-7680

c.salisbury@computer.org

VP: Joe Hopp

630-896-4320

jhopp23@hotmail.com

TREASURER: Leo Ahasic, Jr.

bahasic@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY:

Donna Buchholtz
630-690-6378

donnahomeagain@aol.com

TRIPS: Rick Poulton

847-697-4345

rpoulton@prodigy.net

SOCIAL: Pat Quetsch

630-761-1985

quetsch@sbcglobal.net

CMSC and RACING:

Mike Baurle
630-406-0217

MEMBERSHIP:

Wendy Hodowal
Mary Ann Kratochvil

PUBLICITY:

Roger Vogtmann
630-253-4207

NEWSLETTER: Greg Olson

olsongv@comcast.net

HISTORIAN and WEBSITE:

Paul Fredricks

fredricp4@comcast.net

NOMINATIONS:

Larry Clinton
630-584-7181

REG. AGENT: Frank Hodowal

630-584-0868

fhod@aol.com

PAST PRES: Frank Hodowal

630-584-0868

fhod@aol.com

The Flakey News

A Publication of the Fox Valley Snowdrifters Ski Club

A Note from the President February 2012

Our ski year got off to a fine start in January. The Granite Peak trip was a good kickoff. Considering the warm weather here, the snow in Wausau was better than most expected it to be. The temperatures cooled down for the weekend, making it good skiing weather. It was an enjoyable gathering for the folks who concentrate on Midwest skiing as well as a good tune-up for folks heading out west later. We all wished a happy anniversary to our trip leaders, Roger and Barb, who have celebrated their anniversary with us on this trip for the past several years.

Many of us just returned from the trip run by Greg to Taos, New Mexico. Despite the troubles with snow in many places out west, Taos was in good shape and all the runs were open. Most of us took advantage of low cost lessons during Ski Week. The feedback was unanimous that we've been placed on the path to become better skiers as we learned to identify our bad habits and worked hard to replace them with newer and better ones. Unfortunately there was a bad accident - I'll let Greg describe it in his trip report - one that gave us a different kind of lesson, a reminder of how fortunate we each have been to enjoy our sport safely for so long.

This month we send off two more groups, one to Winter Park and another to Indianhead. Winter Park is our most popular western destination this year, as we have 30 people going. It's nice to see the interest in Indianhead, too. This is the first time in several years that we've been able to offer two bus trips and provide more options for local skiing. If you are still thinking about Indianhead, final commitments are needed at the February 6th meeting. These bus trips are an affordable way to take kids and grandkids skiing and are a good way for new members to get acquainted with others in the club. The trips to both Granite Peak and Taos included several of our new members and we look forward to more skiing with them in the future.

As you head out to the slopes, remember that we always have a good use for your photos of Snowdrifters in a group. We need pictures to decorate our booth at the annual ski show and for CMSC articles, our tri-fold brochure, web site, and more. Remember the wonderful pictures in the past presidents' albums last month? We want people to see what it's like to be part of our club as well as for us to remember our experience.

Enjoy the snow and ski safely.

Chuck

Happy Valentine's Day



Where to Go, Where to Go?

Although some of us have just returned from Taos, many are planning to head to Winter Park in the next few days and others are planning to travel to either Indianhead or Telluride in the next few weeks some continue to consider where the club will be headed in the 2012/2013 season.

Members have mentioned a return to Alaska yet airfare alone will be around \$800 (including today's fuel charge rate), while others are anxious to return to Europe which is attractive in the Euro based countries yet the fuel charge and taxes now exceed the cost of the flight itself and quotes are expected to be in the \$2100-\$2700 range with the higher cost including a 3-4 day side trip.

Other sites that might be considered are Big Sky, Keystone, Lake Tahoe, Mt. Bachelor, Steamboat, Sun Valley and of course Western Canada. This of course is a very limited list of locations that are being investigated and in the next month we will be soliciting your input to where you would like to go and what you would like to do. Please look for an email that will provide an opportunity for your input or contact me directly with your suggestions.

So many places yet so little time... .

Rick Poulton, Trip Chair

Kicking-off the Season – Granite Peak Trip Report

Excitement was in the air as 25 Snowdrifters departed from the Kane County Fairgrounds on January 6th for the first ski trip of the season to Granite Peak in Wausau, Wisconsin. When we arrived at the Stoney Creek Inn, lift tickets and room keys were passed out to everyone and our traditional wine and cheese party started off the festivities.

Snowdrifters laughed and talked until well into the evening.

The next day, everyone boarded the bus for the first full day of skiing. Even though there was little snow at home, the Granite Peak snowmaking capacity proved to be more than adequate for skiing. Icy runs were minimal and overall skiing conditions were great.

Granite Peak is a well run resort with very nice facilities for your ski equipment as well as good eating establishments. That evening a very excellent meal was shared by Snowdrifters at Nueske's at Gulliver's Landing. Sunday proved to be

an even more beautiful day with sunny skies and good snow conditions. Happy, tired Snowdrifters left Granite Peak at 3:30 p.m., heading home to rest up for the next skiing adventure.

Trip leaders were Roger Vogtmann and Barb Gavin assisted by other helpful skiers especially: John Arendt, Elaine Patterson, George and Jeanne Hesseling, and George Krarafczyk.



Taos – Small Town Hospitality, Big Time Skiing!

If anyone ever offers you the chance to take a week of ski lessons for \$99... If you ever get the opportunity for a home-cooked meal at the condo manager's home... If the club ever goes back to Taos... Jump at the chance!

We left Chicago just after the snowfall on January 21. Our flight was slightly delayed for de-icing, but that was the only hitch in our trip to Taos. We had a relaxing bus ride from Albuquerque to Taos with a brief stop in Santa Fe to grab a bite to eat and to say hi to Bonnie and Rick Mahlum. Check-in and our orientation to Snakedance condos and Taos Ski Valley were a breeze and we were treated to beer, wine and snacks that evening.



Rick Poulton enjoys a margarita while chatting with our hosts

The fun really began the next morning, with the \$99 ski week lessons. Then, on Monday evening, the club was bussed to Roger and Diane Marianis' home in Taos for dinner. Roger and Diane were wonderful hosts and fantastic cooks. On the way we stopped to view the Rio Grande Gorge and take a few photos. The meal was excellent, as were the margaritas.

Unfortunately, Leo Ahasic fell while skiing and crushed the ball of his hip joint. Taos Ski Patrol did a fine job of getting him off the mountain and down to the town of Taos. He was then air-lifted to the hospital in Santa Fe. Leo underwent successful hip surgery and now has about four months of therapy. Good luck with your recovery Leo, and we hope to see you on your skis again soon! Special thanks to the Taos Ski Patrol, Bonnie and Rick Mahlum, Joe Hopp, Rick Poulton and Winters Travel for all of their efforts in making everything a little easier on Leo and Barb. (Sorry if I left anyone out.)



Joe Hopp poses with Taos Ski Patrolter, Austin - the first responder to Leo's accident.



Kevin Hopp at the Martini Tree

The rest of the week went a little more smoothly for the Snowdrifters as lessons continued, skiers improved, the snow kept coming, and the sun continued to shine in the afternoons. Some of us even got to take part in a Taos Ski Valley tradition – the Martini Tree.



Dave Shriver finishes up a great week of skiing.

Evenings were eventful too. Several Snowdrifters took part in fondue night at the Bavarian Lodge, and still others enjoyed the bands during the week – especially the Monkey Feeders! A few of us even participated in the Taos Winter Wine Festival dinners and tastings.

Leo and Barb rejoined us for an uneventful trip back to the Fox Valley. Trip leaders Greg Olson and Joe Hopp would like to thank everyone for a wonderful trip to



Enjoying Fondue night at the Bavarian Lodge

Taos. Here's to hoping that the club returns to Taos in the not too distant future.



Winter Park, Colorado

February 8-13

...And We are Off!

Winter Park has already received over 100" of snow this season and while another 6" are anticipated this week the forecasters are expecting that later into February the snow storms and snow showers will increase.

As was mentioned in last month's article we depart February 8, 2012, from the Kane County Fairgrounds and head to Midway to check in and board Frontier flight # 538 which is scheduled to depart at 12:30 p.m., and arrive in Denver at 2:04 p.m. From Denver, we will board a chartered coach and should arrive at Winter Park before dinner so that we can check into Zephyr Mountain Lodge and enjoy a Wine & Cheese/orientation party. We will then have 4 days to enjoy all the skiing one might imagine as well as other activities (i.e., shopping, sledding, snow cat tours, bike skiing, ice skating, spa treatments). One evening, we will meet for dinner at a local establishment to share experiences, favorite trails and trip highlights.

Late Monday morning, February 13, we will again board our chartered coach and head back to Denver to catch Frontier flight #539 departing at 3:00 p.m., and scheduled to arrive at Midway at 6:17 p.m., so that we can all arrive home with ample time to unpack and rest up for Valentine's Day!

I am hoping that all trip participants can meet at 7:00 p.m., prior to our February 6, 2012, club meeting, so that we can collectively review the itinerary, hand out airline tickets and discuss/finalize our plans.

Please contact Bonnie or Rick Poulton (847 697-4345) if you have questions.



Indianhead Mountain

February 24 – 26

(Friday – Sunday)

Adult (17 through 64) \$287

Child (16 and under) \$281

Senior (65 and over) \$281

Without Lift Tickets \$227

Last Chance to Experience Some of the Best in the Midwest!

With the lack of snow cover being experienced in most other parts of the continental U.S., Michigan's Upper Peninsula is the exception - and Indianhead is the place to go. Ski season is in high gear and the latest snow reports are excellent! Indianhead is not too far away and the weekend price is right. The bus ride allows for relaxation plus the opportunity to meet and greet other skiers - old and new. Of course, your friends are invited and will be most welcome to come along. The late February timing also serves as a "tune up" for those going on to Telluride or other western destinations in March.

But, there's a catch! If you want the best in Midwestern skiing, you must sign up by the end of the February 6, club meeting.

The bus departs Kane County fairgrounds on Friday, February 24, at 2:00 p.m., and arrives at Indianhead about 9:15 p.m. We'll have food and beverage (Alcohol - BYO) en route. We'll be staying slope side at the main lodge - unique for a mid-western ski trip. Saturday allows for a full day of skiing followed by a group buffet dinner in the evening. Sunday includes a partial day of skiing before returning by bus at 2:15 p.m. and arriving at the Kane County fairgrounds at about 9:30 p.m.

Packets will be available on or before February 20. We have 24 skiers going to Indianhead, so there are only a few spots left for this trip. For more information, contact trip leader John Arendt at home at (630-554-3156), or on his cell at (904-206-1185).



Telluride, Colorado

March 3-10
(Saturday-Saturday)
\$1,625 per person

Telluride!



113" and more on the way!

At the time of this writing there are still two spots available for any interested participants however, since we have released any remaining airline seats flight arrangements/costs may differ. Regardless, if you are interested contact Dave ASAP!

Telluride has already received 1/3 of its annual 300+" of snowfall and more is expected prior to our departure.

As stated in the last issue the bus will be departing the Kane County Fairgrounds at 9:00 a.m., March 3, for our United Airlines flight that is currently scheduled to take off from O'Hare at 12:05 p.m. This is a direct flight into Montrose airport where we are scheduled to arrive shortly after 2:00 p.m. From there, we will take a chartered bus to Telluride's Mountain Lodge which is located in the mid-mountain village. While there, we will be spending the week in 2BR/2BA condos. There will be a group dinner one night during the week and other informal gatherings throughout our stay.

On late Saturday morning, we will board our chartered bus to head back to Montrose airport for our United Airlines flight scheduled to depart at 2:45 p.m., flying directly to O'Hare with an anticipated arrival time of approximately 6:30 p.m. From there, we will take our bus back to the fairgrounds exhausted... but in a good way.

It is hoped that all trip participants (except those residing out of town) will attend the February 20, meeting (arriving a bit early) so that final details including an itinerary and airline tickets can be shared and any related questions answered.

If you have questions prior to our departure or between our February meetings please contact Dave Shriver or Kathy Stuebinger at (630-513-717).

Ski Trip Insurance

Ski Trip Insurance is now available through the club. The cost is 5% of the cost for your Western ski trip excluding lift tickets. To purchase, go to our website and click on the *Our Ski Trips* button. Then, click on the trip insurance link to go to the Travel Guard site where you can input your information. Once you get to the section for Trip Vendor, input "None", and continue to key in your information. The purchase link is:

http://www.travelguard.com/agentlink.asp?ta_arc=190654&pcode=SVPP&agencyemail=fthod@aol.com

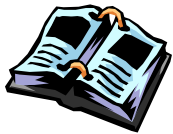
Ski trip insurance highlights include:

- Medical coverage is now PRIMARY during the course of the trip
- \$600 in Trip Delay coverage (\$200/day) - increased from \$500 (\$100/day)
- Trip Cancellation coverage for job loss or layoff
- Baggage Delay Coverage increased to \$600.00
- "Fire" and "Wildfire" are now included in the definition of "Natural Disaster"
- Longer window for the waiver of pre-existing medical conditions – now included when the plan is purchased up to 21 days after initial trip payment (was previously a 14-day window).



Snowdrifters Meeting News

February 20 – Charlie Zine, owner of Paddle & Trail Outfitters, will speak about outside outfitting. His business focuses on paddle sports, cross country skiing, running, and cycling.



Snowdrifters' Social Calendar

Saturday, February 18

Two Brothers in Warrenville. We'll be meeting there at 5:00 p.m. In my opinion the location in Warrenville has a much better menu than the one in Aurora. Don't be fooled when you get there because it looks like a warehouse with no sign. It's so good it doesn't need a sign. There's always a line of people waiting. Here's a copy of the [menu](#), and here are the [directions](#). Don't get confused because it's in an industrial park. See you there.

Pat



Member News

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Snowdrifters celebrating this month.

Name	Date	Name	Date
Mary Ann Kratochvil	4	Paul Fredericks	13
Al Spitzenberger	5	Eric Brendel	18
Jeff Larson	7	Rachel Reifstec	22
Gwen Bosshart	11	Jane Hankison	23
Henry Shriver	13	Tom Popp	23

Snowdrifters in the News



The *Chicago Tribune* published the article about the Snowdrifters Ski Club's 50th anniversary in the *Triblocal* edition for December 29. Thanks to Roger Vogtmann and Janette Quinn for getting the club some nice press!

Please let Chuck Salisbury or Greg Olson know if you would like an e-copy of the article.

Recipe of the Month



For the Super Bowl we usually do a bunch of finger food. This is one that we'll be having this weekend. It's also the perfect food to bring to a party.

Garlic Chicken Puffs

Yields 32 puffs (I made a double batch)

4 ounces cream cheese

1 tsp garlic powder

1/2 cup cooked shredded chicken*

2 cans refrigerator crescent rolls

Mix cream cheese, garlic and chicken until well blended. Unroll crescent rolls and cut each triangle into 2 triangles. (When you unroll the crescent rolls, 2 triangles are attached making a big square. Just cut the perforation for your first cut. Then make another cut from the other corners, giving you 4 little triangles.)

Place 1 tsp of chicken mixture on the center of each triangle and fold the corners in over the creamy mixture. Place on a cookie sheet and bake at 375 degrees for 12-14 minutes. I used 2 cookie sheets at a time, and had to bake 3 batches to get all of mine baked. (So, allow for that time if you're making a lot.) Also, mine were ready in about 11 minutes, so watch for how your oven cooks.

*For cooked chicken, I buy the big bags of frozen chicken tenderloins. I just throw 6 of them on a cookie sheet and bake for about 25 minutes.

Pat



THE FOX VALLEY
SNOWDRIFTERS SKI CLUB
P.O. BOX 697
BATAVIA, IL 60510

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Snowdrifters' Calendar

February 6th

General Meeting 7:30 PM

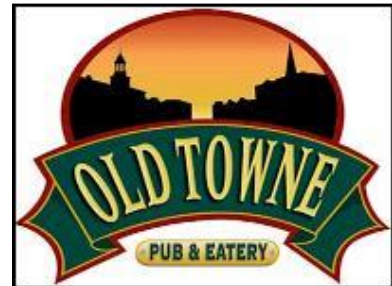
February 18th

Two Brothers, Warrenville 5:00PM

February 20th

Board Meeting 6:45 PM

General Meeting 7:30 PM



201 W State St
Geneva, IL 60134

**Happy
Skiing!
Winter Park
&
Indianhead**