



Volume 53 Issue 5

January 2018

Please see the article regarding the winter Olympics in the CMSC News section after Stu's Trip Information.

SNOWSEEKERS.ORG

President

Happy New Year to my fellow Snowseekers. By the time you read this we will have celebrated New Years at Wilmot hopefully with a little snow and fireworks. We look forward to two good trips this year. Devils Head is just a week away. Snowmass is coming with a very full crew due to your diligence in paying and interest in skiing with good friends.

For our sad note we have lost a long time active member, Phyllis Wells. Al and I attended the family wake-memorial right after Christmas. There were many happy photos of Phyllis singing, kayaking, and skiing with the Snowseekers. Her children Bill and Amy had put a fun board together of her activities, all her ski pins, and her trophy for 1995 Skier of the year award. This was a happy occasion to celebrate a happy life.

Our Christmas party was fun again this year with 19 participants. Much good food, lots of laughs, a rousing Christmas gift exchange, and good friends filled the evening with gaiety. Our hall is large and we hope in the future we can add more attendees to assure a fun evening for the members.

Other news for this past month was an informative article in our Legion magazine which Em has posted on our Facebook site. They highlighted the Veterans that have come back from service and volunteered as Ski Patrol in Oregon. We know this has happened across the country. What a joy to know these Veterans find this service helpful to themselves as well as others. I encourage you to check out this article.

We will not have a January meeting due to weather conditions and the upcoming Devils Head trip. For February 13^t we will meet at Wilmot ski resort about 6:00 to socialize and the club will subsidize your dinner entrée bought at the cafeteria. Our March meeting will be at Ginos East and we hope to have a presentation of ski areas we have not visited. If you have enjoyed an area we have not visited please let us know and present the information (10 minutes top) at our March meeting. Please email John Snow if you are able to participate and give us a look at a new area of interest, johnsnow@hotmail.com. Stay warm, but pray for snow across the U.S. that we will have two great trips this year. Happy New Year to All and best wishes.

Jan Billings, President, Snowseekers Ski Club

Membership

To date we have 25 family memberships and 14 single memberships.

Upcoming Birthdays:

January

5	Stana Paic
8	Chelsea Snow Molly Davis
19	Riley Howes

February

2	Jen Davis
3	Jim Leffelman
14	Steven Andes Jon Hodapp Aaron Hodapp
16	Melinda Howes
19	Sabine Herber
24	Talia Sallmann
25	Mark Rasmussen

Remember, you must be a member of the Snowseekers Ski Club to participate in any of our ski trips or other activities. A new membership form must be completed each year by all members.

The membership form for May 2017 - April 2018 is still available on our website:

<http://www.snowseekers.org/>

Click on "Documents and Forms", 2017- 2018 Snowseekers Membership Application and the form will come up. This is a "fillable" form. Please type in the requested information on the light blue lines before sending the form to your printer. After printing, please sign the form and send it to Mary Ellen with your membership dues (\$40 for family and \$30 for single). Mary Ellen's address is on the form. This form may also be printed as a blank form and completed manually if you prefer.

Mary Ellen Hodapp
Membership Chair

80th Anniversary Celebration



Date: 02/10/18

Time: All Day

Location: Wilmot Mountain - Ski & Snowboard Side

Join us to celebrate 80 iconic years of Winter fun at Wilmot Mountain!

In February of 1938, Walter Stopa opened the gates of Wilmot Hills Ski Area for what he thought was going to be a small group, the Snow Chase Ski Club. Instead of the private organization he thought would show up, word got around about the ski hills, and on opening day there were 250-350 skiers lined up for the single tow rope he had running!

Now in 2018, we want to celebrate the hard work of the past 80 years that has made Wilmot Mountain the premier ski & snowboard location of the Midwest!

This is an all day event with family friendly activities and fun for everyone. Hang out in the lodge, have a meal at Walt's Tavern, get some time on the slopes, and spend time with the whole family.

Day's Events:

- Fireworks
- Music
- Commemorative Pins
- Presentation
- Cake Cutting
- Ice Sculpting
- Giveaways

From the Trip Coordinator:

The midwest Devil's Head, Wisconsin and western Snowmass, Colorado trips are now finalized. There are 58 people going on the Devil's Head trip, and 37 people going on the Snowmass trip. The Bloomington, IL Ski Club is sending 15 adults and children for one day on our trip. They join the Snowseeker members along with the members of the Hustler's and Powder Dogs ski clubs.

This is the time to consider future ski trip destinations. The trip committee tries to plan trips for 2 years in advance. At this time no trips have been planned for 2019 and 2020. A number of destinations are being reviewed by the trip committee. Please feel free to recommend resort areas to the trip committee to consider.

Here are some questions to be considered for future ski trips.

1. **Trip Costs**—costs for a 7 night trip are nearing the \$1,700.00 to \$1,800.00 area, and increasing each year. Do you have a maximum trip cost you would consider?
2. **Length of the Western trips (5 or 7 nights)**—there is now a saving of about \$250.00 to \$300.00 in the cost per person between a 5 and 7 night trip. More clubs are now considering 5 night trips in order to keep the trip cost lower.
3. **High Altitudes**--more people are having altitude health problems at resort destinations where there are high altitudes. Most of the Canadian ski areas have base altitudes beginning around 2,400 feet. The altitudes are also much lower in the Eastern United States. There are some Western areas that have base altitudes around 6,000 feet.
Those altitude ranges could be considered when planning ski trips to help those who have health problems while in high altitude areas.
4. **Medical Insurance Coverage**—medical expense coverage for senior citizens covered by Medicare is very limited for Canadian trips. Very reasonable travel insurance coverage for medical coverage expenses only may be available in addition to our current travel insurance coverage provided through our trip provider. That could give double the amount of coverage for medical expenses. Medicare does not cover seniors for medical coverage unless they are "passing through" Canada. Staying on a ski trip is not covered by Medicare.
5. **Partnering with another CMSC ski club**—many ski clubs are joining together for ski trips in order to satisfy the number of participants needed to make a trip profitable. Out of our last nine western trips, four trips have not met the minimum number of participants needed in order to receive group rates for the trip.
6. **Destination Trips**---We had a very successful trip to Taos, NM, with a day trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico. I have been asked if we could have another destination trip for those who do not ski, or for those skiers who want to visit a tourist destination on their day off. One example might be a trip to Jackson Hole, WY with a day trip to Yellowstone National Park. Let me know if there are any other destination areas you would consider.

These are some of the questions the Trip Committee will be considering for future trips. With these thoughts in mind, I would like to have your input about the questions mentioned. Anything else you would like to have the trip committee consider would be very much appreciated. Please suggest destination areas where you would like to visit on one day during the ski trip. The trip committee welcomes your feedback.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful time skiing and enjoying the fun activities that have been planned for each trip.

Happy New Year!

Stu Howes, Trip Coordinator
2619 Venetian Lane,
Elgin, IL, 60124
stuhowes@flash.net
(P) 847-289-1811

CMSC News

Fox River Grove Ski Jumpers Aim for Olympics

According to Norge Ski Club spokesman Charlie Sedivec, what is being titled as Olympic tryouts on the last day of December on NBC is not quite accurate. The winner of the televised ski-jumping competition will be automatically placed on the Olympic squad to compete in South Korea. All others must qualify the traditional way, compiling enough world cup points throughout the year winning world cup tournaments by placing high in the standings.

Six months ago, we were hopeful that we would place our first athlete ever on the Olympic team. Now, we're very hopeful that at least two of our skiers will make the trip to Korea, and that three skiers would not be impossible. Michael Glasder of Cary, IL, Kevin Bickner of Wauconda, IL, A.J. Brown of Fox River Grove, IL, and Casey Larsen of Barrington, IL, have been competing all over the world this past year, racking up points and honing their technical skills needed to compete at the very top level of competition. Those who have never seen a ski jumping competition will have a chance on January 27th and 28th as ski jumpers from around the world gather at Norge Ski Jump in Fox River Grove IL to compete in the annual ski jumping tournament. On both days, the meet will begin at noon and go till about 4 pm. Tickets are \$15 at the gate, but \$10 in advance at many local merchants. For further information and pre-sale locations, go to www.norgeskiclub.com or call 847-630-4328.

Attention Sports Media: This is a very historic moment in Olympic history as the Norge Ski Club, being the oldest ski jumping club in North America, has never been represented in the Olympic games. Currently, Norge has three of the top six jumpers in the country, and could, in reality, place three skiers as part of the four man US Olympic Ski Jumping Team.

Please free to call me day or night at 847-630-4328. Thank you for your consideration and support.

-Charlie Sedivec



360° Group



CHOICE Protection Plan

The 360° Group CHOICE Protection Plan provides quality travel protection for all ages at competitive group rates; includes trip cancellation & interruption benefits, emergency medical coverage, along with 24/7 travel assistance & concierge services!

Reasons to Enroll

- 24/7 access to worldwide network of over 727,000 medical providers and suppliers while traveling
- An air ambulance medical transport can cost on average \$20,000 in the Caribbean & \$80,000 in Europe
- Monetary reimbursements, not credits or vouchers
- Protection from the moment you step out your front door until you're safely back home again

Plan Benefits	
Underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company	
Benefits	Coverage Per Person (up to limits below)
Trip Cancellation	100% of Insured trip cost (\$15,000 limit)
Trip Interruption	150% of Insured trip cost
Trip Delay	\$1,000
Missed Cruise Connection	\$1,000
Baggage & Personal Effects	\$1,500
Baggage Delay	\$250
Emergency Medical & Dental Expenses	\$25,000
Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation	\$150,000
Travel Assistance & Concierge Services [†]	Included
Travel Assistance & Concierge Services [†]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Assistance, Consultation & Monitoring • Emergency Medical Payments • Prescription Assistance • 24 Hour Legal Assistance • Emergency Cash Transfer • Travel Document & Ticket Replacement • Information Services for Destination • Emergency Travel Arrangements 	

Plan Highlights

- First payer coverage, no deductibles¹
- Pre-existing exclusion waiver included through final payment
- Trip cancellation/interruption benefits include:
 - Sickness, injury or death²
 - Common carrier cancellations/delays
 - Terrorist act³
- Trip delay benefit - 5 hours or more
- Medical benefits coverage
- Baggage delay benefit - 12 hours or more
- Available for purchase within 24 months of departure date

Pre-Existing Exclusion Waiver

Pre-existing medical conditions are eligible for coverage when:

- Plan is purchased before or along with final trip payment
- The traveler is medically able to travel at the time of plan purchase

A pre-existing condition exists if a traveler and/or traveling companion has an illness or other condition within 60 days prior to policy effective date in which the condition:

- Required taking prescribed drugs or medication
- Received medical treatment or a recommendation for a diagnostic test, examination, or medical treatment

The 60 day look-back on pre-existing conditions only applies to those traveling.

¹Easy claims handling, less time and hassle to receive reimbursement for eligible losses from us first, with no deductibles. Funds may be recovered from your medical or other collectible insurance plans. ²Of you, a traveling companion, family member, domestic partner or business partner. ³Occuring within 30 days of the scheduled departure date for the covered trip in your departure city or in a city which is a scheduled destination. [†]Travel Assistance & Concierge Services are provided by the designated provider as listed in the Description of Coverage. Maximum trip length allowed is 120 days. Rates are subject to change. Plan rates are non-refundable after 10 day review period. This plan provides insurance coverage for a covered trip. The purchase of travel insurance is not required to purchase any other product or service from the travel retailer. You may already have coverage that provides similar benefits and you may wish to compare the terms of this coverage with your existing coverage. If you have questions about your current coverage, call your insurer or agent. The travel retailer is not qualified to answer questions about the benefits, exclusions or conditions of the travel insurance. For a summary of the plan details on coverages, benefits, limitations and exclusions of the insurance plan, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC # 10952. Travelers CA Agency License #0D10209 1522025 TGAC-0816 08.16

Group 360 Choice Protection Plan by Travelex 2017/18 Ski Season

Trip Insurance Cost:

\$1 - \$500	\$50.00
\$501 - \$1000	\$75.00
\$1001 - \$1500	\$105.00
\$1501 - \$2000	\$137.00
\$2001 - \$3000	\$187.00

To sign up for Travelex 360 Group Choice Protection Plan, please fill out this form and mail with a check payable to Sports America Tours. To cover any pre-existing conditions, you must purchase prior to your final payment. If paying the trip in full at time of signup, you must purchase the same day to cover pre-existing conditions. You can purchase after making final payment but it will not cover any pre-existing conditions. We need one form per person. Fill out COMPLETELY. Group insurance may only be purchased 30 days or more prior to your trip departure.

-Full Name _____

-Phone No _____

-Email _____

-Club Name _____

-Destination/Resort _____

-Departure Date _____

-Return Date _____

-Date of Initial Trip Deposit _____

-Date Trip Insurance Purchased _____

-Ski Trip Cost _____

-Cost of Travel Insurance enclosed _____

Mailing Address: _____

For questions regarding coverage, please call Travelex Insurance Service at (800) 228-9792 and reference location number 05-1366. Mail payments to Sports America Tours, Inc., Attn: Leslie, 120 Stony Point Rd, Ste 245, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Make check payable to Sports America Tours.