

Ptarmigan Ski Club NEWSLETTER

April 2020

A non-profit organization founded in 1947 and dedicated to the promotion of all facets of skiing & winter sports - plus activities for the education and enjoyment of its members.

A member of Eastern PA Ski Council. <http://www.easternpaskicouncil.org>

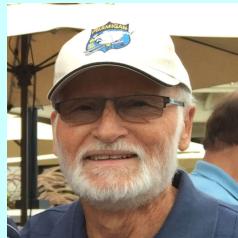
You can also find us on Facebook. [Click here for Facebook](#)



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

Calendar of Events - Post In a Visible Location:

Happy Hour: Contact Bill Ortner, 5:00 pm Every Friday	
General Meetings at Christopher's – Knights of Columbus (KoC)	
Book Club: Third Wednesday of every month 6:30 pm.	
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Apr	
Habitat for Humanity: Canceled	Thu TBD Apr 16
Spring Banquet: Canceled	Sat 6–10 p Apr 18
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May	
Special Olympics: Canceled	Fri May 1
Iron Pigs Game: Canceled	Wed 5:45 p May 13



President's Message

Phil Hublitz

President, Ptarmigan Ski Club

COVID-19 is upon us as we hunker down...

The ski season was over much faster than we wanted it to be but, in some ways, it was one of the best ever. We had 8 ski trips from Panorama to Garmisch-Mayrhofen, all with great snow conditions; look for additional reports in this issue. The trips I participated in had some blue bird days and plenty of snow. Great memories to reflect on as we hunker down during this worldwide pandemic. At least one couple, Harvey & Carolyn, who returned sick from France in March, needed to be isolated and tested for the virus. They went through hell to get it done and waited 5 days for the results, but in the end, tested negative, hooray.

Most of us are retired and sit in a better position to weather this storm than the working stiffs (we have some) and the poor. Yes, the market is down big time and hopefully you will not have dig into your accounts before the recovery - and that recovery will come. The \$2.2 Billion relief package should go long way to help those who need it.

In the meantime, we will suspend all of our social gatherings until it is safe. The other day I met with several Ptarmigans at Illick's Mill in the pavilion practicing the 10-foot rule with packed lunches and a few beers. We need to practice the social-distancing until this is over and if occasionally a couple of us get together outdoors, I see no harm. The best thing to do is to communicate by email, texting, Facebook, Instagram and phone. As soon as this is over, the dancing, parting, golfing will commence. Spring is here so you can hike, walk, bike, fish, garden, do that home project you have been putting off or exercise in any way you like as long you keep your distance from others. I know that this is the diametric opposite of how we operate but we will be back together before you know it. Wash those hands and get out into open air when the weather is good. Hang in there and stay safe.

Elections Results

Results from the Officer/Board Elections Tue, Mar 10th

Officers Elected:

President	Phil Hublitz
Vice President	Jeanne Weiser
Treasurer	Kathy Seufert
Membership Secretary	Mary Laronge
Recording Secretary	Gwen white

Elected Board Members:

Bill Ortner, Joyce Gilmore, Joe Reilly

Appointed Board Members:

Three Appointed Board Members will be announced at a later date.

Spring Banquet: Iron Lakes CC – Sat Apr 18th

Canceled

We have canceled this year's Banquet due to the Covid-19, but instead have rescheduled it again at Iron Lakes Country Club for next year April 24, 2021.

All checks received so far will be shredded, unless you want it back (contact Kathy kathyhm@rcn.com 610-393-7324).

All Scheduled Events are Canceled

Apr 16th Habitat for Humanity: Canceled
Apr 18th Spring Banquet: Canceled
May 1st Special Olympics: Canceled
May 13th Iron Pigs Game: Canceled

All Events Normally Scheduled for June and July are on hold until for now.

Between the Covers Book Club Is Canceled

Between the Covers is canceled for April. Check the May newsletter for updates. Keep reading!

2019/2020 Ski Season – Trips:

Mayrhofen, Austria: Thu Jan 16 – Sun Jan 26, 2020

- Mike Feeney: 484-256-5215 sirfeeney@aol.com

Grindelwald, Switzerland: Fri Jan 24 – Sun Feb 2, 2020

- Catherine Chrapacz: 610-428-3547 katyataz@yahoo.com

Mammoth, Ca: Sat Jan 25 – Sat Feb 1, 2020

- Donna Westgate 610-392-9200
travelswithdonna@yahoo.com

Sunday River, Maine: Sun Jan 26 – Fri Jan 31, 2020

- Vicki Morris 610-791-3421 vlm2378@rcn.com

Val Thorens, France: Sat Feb 1 - Sun Feb 9, 2020

- Karen Lewis 800-451-1830 KarenL@ski93trips.com

Panorama BC: Sat Feb 8 – Sun Feb 16, 2020

- Mark Baechle, 610-657-5825 SkiPro99@gmail.com

Winter Park, Co.: Sat Feb 22 – Sat Feb 29, 2020

- Brian Nuss: 610-730-2777 brianjnuss@gmail.com

Tignes Val Claret: Sat Feb 29 – Sun Mar 8, 2020

- Mark Baechle, 610-657-5825 SkiPro99@gmail.com

Editor's Notes: Ptarmigan Ski Club requires all advertised trips to have a written cancellation policy - Please read the trip flyers for details and cancellation policy. All Flyers are available at <http://ptarmiganskiclub.org/Trips.html>.

These are all Member-lead and Organized trips - Ptarmigan Ski Club does not run any trips of its own, we only advertise for our Members. These trips are open to members and non-members.

See the Trip Reports on the pages below.

Membership DUES: 2019/2020 Season

Renew your membership for the 2019/2020 Season.

Send your dues beginning September 1st until Oct 31st to: Mary Laronge, 556 Parkside Court, Allentown, Pa 18104.

Early Renewal: \$16 Single or \$26 Family.

Late Renewal (after Oct 31st): \$20 Single or \$30 Family

New Members: \$20 Single or \$30 Family

New Memberships are valid for 2 years, until Apr 30, 2021

All Members will receive the Ptarmigan Newsletter FREE by Email.

Members wishing to receive Hardcopy must pay \$5 in addition to their annual dues.

BE COOL IN SUMMER ☺ GO SNOW SKIING!

Bruce Springsteen gave New Jersey his "Tunnel of Love" and American Dream gave the state a tunnel of SNOW!

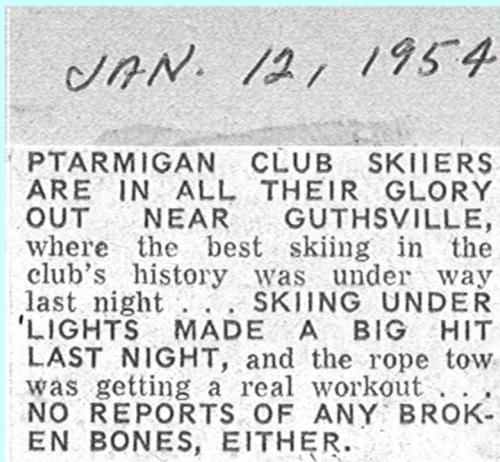
If you're interested in skiing North America's first indoor real-snow and snowboard center this summer, email Ronnie at veronica.rother@gmail.com to discuss a trip to the Meadowlands mega mall and entertainment complex.

<https://www.bigsnowamericandream.com/>

<https://www.americandream.com/>



A Look Back In Time



Grindelwald & Luzern, Switzerland January 24-February 2, 2020

Trip Report by Catherine Chrapacz

It was seven years since the Ptarmigans went to Grindelwald, Switzerland, in the heart of the Jungfrau Region. On that trip, Tony & I got engaged. This year we celebrated the anniversary of our engagement here in Grindelwald and another couple, Elizabeth & Martin, chose the same venue for their engagement proposal.

Per Elizabeth, they both took the gondola up to Männlichen and Wengen. She never saw anything so beautiful. She took a panorama 360 with her phone. When she looked up from her phone, Marty was on his knee and asked her to marry him. It was the most beautiful proposal in the most beautiful place on earth. Congratulations to Elizabeth & Martin!



There are three resorts in one: Grindelwald-Wengen that includes: Kleine Scheidegg, Lauberban & Mannlichen; Grindelwald-First; and Murren-Schilthorn. Grindelwald is situated at the center of spectacular high mountains and glacier regions. Grindelwald village is at the bottom of the Eiger.

There are 45 ski lifts, 5591 ft. of vertical and 128 miles of ski area. The infamous Eiger is 13,026 ft high. The bottom of Kliene Scheidegg has great views of the Eiger which is the highest peak in Grindelwald. The Jungfraujoch, with a restaurant and museum known as the Top of Europe, is at 11,333 feet above sea level and 9,473 feet above the town of Interlaken.

Switzerland had a great base but needed some new snow at the end of January. Grindewald Ski Resort did get fresh snow on the 2nd day. The wind was so bad, the lifts closed for a day. Due to the great train system, a lot of us took a quick 35-minute train ride to nearby Interlaken, a town between two lakes, which is the economic and cultural center of Jungfrau Region. A few of us stopped at the Famous Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel where 20 francs (\$21) for a drink is a standard. Shopping and eating in Interlaken at the Grand Hotel was fabulous as well.

At the top of the Schilthorn the Piz Gloria, a rotating restaurant, has a very impressive 360-degree panorama. Great stop for a great lunch and view. The restaurant also features a James Bond 007 Museum and Walk of Fame. This Restaurant was famous for the James Bond movie; "On Her Majesty Secret Service" where Bond skied off the restaurant onto black diamond terrain. The Hotel Bellevue at the Kleine Scheidegg for the Clint Eastwood's movie "The Eiger Sanction". Great place for photos for your memory book.

The Jungfrau Railway, the highest railway station in Europe runs every 30 minutes and takes you from Kliene Scheidegg to the Top of Europe (11,332 ft above sea level). The train ride is approximately 5.6 miles long and takes about 40 minutes. In addition to the restaurant, Top of Europe includes Ice palaces, the Alpine Sensation and the Spinx Observation Deck where you have a great view of the Swiss Alps. What a beautiful train ride to the skiing region and the Top of Europe.

The Derby Hotel is located next to the train station. It was quite convenient and easy to hop on the train or bus to get to the ski resort of your choice or to Interlaken. The food at the Derby was great, from the breakfast choices and dinner menu daily. The Party room on the top level, was a plus for our group, thanks Doug and Tim. The Derby Hotel has a 2nd restaurant, the Cellar Restaurant Cava which specializes in Fondue. Our group of 44 had a special Fondue Night with filet mignon and cheese fondues on each table. Each table had several fondue pots with plates filled with special condiments of sugared peppers and onions, etc. What a delightful evening, after Fraulein Uta brought the cheese fondue to us.

Several people ventured out to Bern Switzerland, which is a 1.5-hour nice train ride through Switzerland. Bern is the Capital of Switzerland. Bern is known for their medieval centre of over 3.5 miles of arcades, upscale shops, bars, cafes, restaurants, and 11 renaissance fountains. The astronomical clock, Zytglogge, a clock tower, is another 800-year landmark. Every three minutes before the hour a circus of mechanical creatures come out to put on a little show. Another great day trip. A must see.

Lake Lucerne was our last day in Switzerland. Another lovely city around a lake and many sites to see. The Chapel Bridge dated back from the 14th century located in the old town, Jesuit Church also dated from the 16th Century, and Lion Monument- the lion represents the Swiss Guard, which was massacred while trying to protect Louis XVI at the Tuileries Palace on 10 August 1792 during the French Revolution. Many shops and restaurants to choose from to get your last minute souvenirs.

Another great European Ski Trip. Lots of skiing, group dinner parties, and après parties. I am glad we all arrived back home safe and healthy. Hopefully Skiing in Europe will be back to a normal state next year. We have to pray for America and our European Ski Resorts.



Trip In Review - Sunday River, Maine Sunday, Jan 26 – Friday, Jan 31, 2020

By Vicki Morris

The week trip to Sunday River took place Sunday, January 26 to Friday, January 31. This was Senior Week at Sunday River with lots of activities scheduled during the week.

We had 13 new people join us for our 25th Annual Trip this year. We had a fantastic week of great weather, fabulous snow and good times with fellow skiers!

Tuesday night we had a group dinner with 33 people at Rooster's Roadhouse with 23 of us feasting on Maine Lobster! Wednesday night there was a pizza party for the group with enough door prizes that everyone got something. Barry Miller was the winner of a \$125 Gift Certificate that was donated by Sunday River Ski Resort Leisure Sales. Everyone enjoyed a great week of skiing and seeing friends we haven't seen since last year's trip.

A **Very Special Thank You** goes to everyone who donated all the great door prizes for the pizza party Wednesday night.

Thanks to everyone for another great trip.



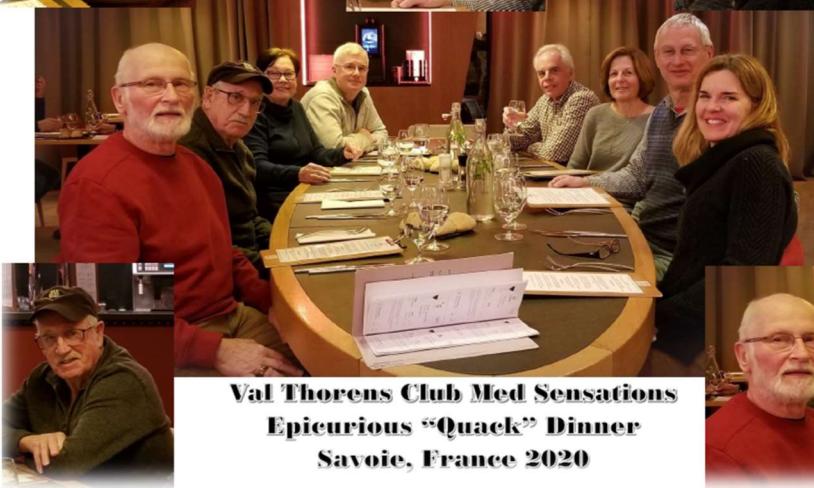
Val Thorens, France Ski Trip Sat Feb 1 – Sat Feb 9, 2020

By Phil Hublitz

The question was could the perfect experience of the ski trip last year be repeated? The Trois Vallée Domaine in the Savoie region of France is the largest ski area in the world. With 180 lifts and 400 miles of one Piste trails it is an experience to be had. The Club Med Sensations is only 4 years old and its chef holds a Michelin star. Not a bad start, add entertainment and dancing every night and what else could you ask for, how about the best ski instructors in the world (école du Ski Fédération) adding 6 hours of instruction and guidance for 5 days into the mix. Throw in 18" of fresh powder (one day white-out), 3 days of blue bird skies and voila, what do you have, another perfect trip. As an all-inclusive resort, you will not spend another dime, except to tip your instructor extraordinaire, Vivre la France...



Val Thorens has it all



**Val Thorens Club Med Sensations
Epicurious “Quack” Dinner
Savoie, France 2020**

Winter Park Ski Trip

By Phil Hublitz

I hadn't been back to Winter Park since 1986, didn't remember much and was hoping for the best. Turns out this area of Colorado had nearly 300" of snow and weather, we here in the East would die for; man, it was cold. Winter Park is divided into three areas: Winter Park, Mary Jane and Vazquez; the Parsenn Bowl rising to 12,000 feet. The snow conditions were superb, after a one-day blow-out, multiple blue bird days. There was plenty of challenge for every level of ability with steeps and deeps, bumps and trees. My favorite runs were Mary Jane (the trail, in the area) and Sleeper, they seemed to drop forever. Yes, that last day we hit nearly 20,000 vertical skiing from 9 to 3. An off-Piste highlight for us was dinner at the Sunspot Restaurant at sunset (10500 feet up the mountain). Yes, they rolled up the carpet at 9 PM but that meant you could hammer the slopes the next day. The mid-week party at Doc's was a smash with all the goodies and drinks provided by our trip leader Brian, kudos...it was all smooth as silk.



2020 Tignes Val Claret & Val D'Isere Trip Sat Feb 29 – Sun Mar8, 2020

By Mark Baechle

Mark Baechle's trip to Tignes Val Claret & Val D'Isere in March was packed with skiing, eating, and drinking in the ski-in/ski-out Tignes Val Claret Club Med, with unlimited food, unlimited drinks, entertainment, lessons, and guides to show us the secret stashed of untracked powder. Some days we had fresh powder, some days we had blue sky and sunshine, and some days we had both!

On our first morning at Tignes Val Claret Club Med we were introduced to our Guides/Instructors, that stayed with us every morning and every afternoon for 5 days. They gave lessons to those that wanted to improve, and showed everyone the best places to ski for their ability, including many areas that they would never have found on their own. Our guides took us to Val d' Isere, for additional great skiing.

We had around 40 of us in Tignes Val Claret Club Med. Some were concerned ahead of time of the Corona Virus, but we found no cases of that illness there (unlike Italy!). One week after we returned, the French government shut down all ski resorts, as a precaution. We got our trip in just in time!

Everyone had a great time, and is looking forward to skiing and partying together soon (once this panic-demic dies down!). Please let Mark know where you want to go next year.



PTARMIGAN SKI CLUB CONTACTS

Officers	President	Phil Hublitz	484-809-4102	philhublitz@rcn.com
	Vice President, Ski	Jeanne Weiser	610-844-2590	weiser@ptd.net
	Treasurer	Kathy Seufert	610-393-7324	kathyhm@rcn.com
	Membership Secretary	Mary Laronge	610-737-2349	larongem@gmail.com
	Recording Secretary	Gwen White	610-349-2426	gwenmwhite1@gmail.com
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	Elected	Bill Ortner	610-799-2549	wortner@att.net
	Elected	Ronnie Rother	610-657-6267	veronica.rother@gmail.com
	Elected	Joyce Gilmore	610-683-6593	mindycat36@yahoo.com
	Appointed	Joe Reilly	610-737-8133	sretal@aol.com
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	Eastern PA Ski Council	Tom Weiser	610-462-5847	weiser@ptd.net
	Special Olympics	Dale Gogel	610-767-1546	dalego@aol.com

PTARMIGAN SKI CLUB - 2019/2020 Season Membership Renewal and New Member Application

Please complete this entire form *including* the date and your signature. Make checks payable to **PTARMIGAN SKI CLUB**.

Send form, payment and a *self-addressed stamped envelope* to: **Mary Laronge, 556 Parkside Court, Allentown, PA 18104**. Otherwise, you may feel free to pick-up your card(s) at our monthly meetings.

Name: _____

Spouse: _____ Children: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Home Ph#: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Ph#: _____ Email: _____

Please Provide a Cell # to get last minute updates on events

Please provide an email address to get club Newsletters

Print email in UPPERCASE to avoid confusion

How Did You Hear About Us? _____

The Ptarmigan Newsletter is sent Free by Email (be sure to include your Email Address); however, you may request a Hardcopy by U.S. Postal for \$5 in Addition to your Dues – Check the box below for Hardcopy.

2019/2020 Season - Membership Dues: Please Check the Appropriate Boxes Below

- New Member Application:** \$20 Single \$30 Family **New Memberships valid for 2 years, until Apr 30, 2021**
- Yearly Renewal:** \$16 Single \$26 Family **Must Renew by Oct 31, 2019**
- Late Renewal (after Oct 31st):** \$20 Single \$30 Family
- \$5 Additional for Hardcopy Newsletter via US Postal (everyone will get it FREE by Email)**

Acknowledgement of Responsibility / Release of Liability:

The Ptarmigan Ski Club is a year-round sports and social club providing a variety of activities for its members. Participation in these activities can involve risk and personal injury. I fully accept and understand these risks and voluntarily assume all risks either known or not readily foreseeable. I agree not to hold the Ptarmigan Ski Club, its officers, board members, or any volunteers, liable for any accident or injury resulting from my participation in any club activity.

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: Adult member is responsible for each named minor. Each adult must sign.

Demographic Information: Age: 21 -39 40 - 59 60 & over Male Female

Visit us online at <http://www.ptarmiganskiclub.org> and FACEBOOK