



Visit our web site at <http://www.ptarmiganskiclub.org>

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

PTARMIGAN EVENTS

Fall/Winter Ski & Fun Calendar

Special Activities:

Happy Hour - Bill Ortner 5:30pm Every Friday
Entertainment Books - Donna Westgate

Calendar of Events - Post In A Visible Location:

February

Park City, Utah: Curt Johnston Feb 25 to Mar 5

March

Elk Mt, Hooky Day: Joe McDermott 7:00am Wed Mar 2
Trip Innsbruck, Austria: John Meyer Mar 5 to Mar 13
NEPSC Sloppy Slalom (*New date!*) 6:00pm Mon Mar 7
General Meeting: Fullerton Fire Co. 7:30pm Tues Mar 8

April

Spring Banquet: Linda Weaver 6:30pm Sat Apr 9
Mexican Riviera Cruise: John Meyer 8 Days: Apr 22 - 30

May

Western Caribbean Cruise: Curt Johnston May 21 - 28

NEPSC Sloppy Slalom Race: 6pm Monday March 7th

There has been a change of date on the Northeastern Pa Ski Council Sloppy Slalom Race; it will be Monday March 7th at Blue Mt. Sign up in club room from 6:00 -7:00pm.

The race will start at 7:30pm. Any Ptarmigan member can race. Speed is not important.

The course is set on the Vista beginners' slope in front of the Summit Lodge. It's more of an obstacle course than a downhill race, you will ski under or around objects. All racers' times will be added together to get an average time, the racer whose time is closest to the average wins.

Food and beverage will be served after the race.

Fresh Tracks

Well, it's March; that means two things - I'm in Park City, and the season is winding to a close. Hopefully we get one last dump of snow, the temps stay cold, and we extend the season in PA for a few more weeks, but, I won't hold my breath. I've got a few more days planned, and looking to extend the season anyway I can. It's been a good year.

As I understand from the editor... the newsletter is packed with post-trip stories, as well as the usual insight as to what we have going on. Please take a moment to read some of the stories, check out the trip pictures on the website, and feel free to share what you have. We're happy to post your stories, pictures, and memories; don't be shy.

This will be my last article as VP; I'll be trading the title in for a new one come April: President. I'd like to take a moment thank everyone that has congratulated me and wished me well in my new office, and to all that have come forward with offers of support and offers to help. I'm looking forward to working with the new Board, and making our club bigger and better in the coming years. As the new year comes forward, I'll be sharing my thoughts and ideas with the Board, and with the General Membership; PLEASE don't be afraid to share your thoughts, suggestions, criticisms, and comments with me. I'm always happy to listen, and to do what I can to make our club stronger.

In closing, I'd like to thank Art for his time, service, leadership, and mentorship over the past few years. I look forward to working with him thru the transition and in the coming months as we move forward.

It's going to be one hell of a ride, gang. Hang on!

Brian Nuss , VP - Skiing Activities

In My Opinion

As my term as President, runs its final few days, this will be my last column. I can't believe three years have gone by this quickly. My term has had its ups and downs; but, for the most part, I would prefer to look at it in the positive. We've managed to get some new ideas incorporated, some new people involved, joined a new Council, become involved with more of the clubs.

I feel that our new officers, for the upcoming year, are excellent. I offer whatever assistance I can, should it be needed. I feel Brian has the initiative and insight to lead us, and for the club to prosper. One thing that has been a sore spot for me, is the lack of volunteers from club membership. We need volunteers badly, in order for us to move forward. This club has survived because a few members have come forward with their time and ideas, but we do need for more to come forward. I thank you all for the support you have shown, and the commitments some of you have made.

As the ski season slowly comes to an end, I wish that the forthcoming Spring and Summer bring you all rest, relaxation, and enjoyment. I look forward to seeing you at our various Spring/Summer outings.

Looking forward also to next season, with our meetings beginning once gain in September. God Bless, and once again, Thank You All.

Art Orach, President

Club Member Sponsored Ski Trips

Park City

February 25 – March 5, 2005

\$1215 (pp Double Occupancy)

Call: Curt Johnston (610) 868-4750

Innsbruck, Austria

March 5-13, 2005

\$1095 (pp Double Occupancy)

Call: John Meyer (610) 395-8637

Elk Mt. Ski Days - Wed Mar 2nd

When's the last time you played Hookey? ... Hookey Days for the 2005 season are as follows: Tues., Jan. 18; Thurs., Feb. 17 and Wed., March 2. Same drill as past years. Meet 7 a.m. by the Dunkin' Donuts at Kmart Shopping Center on Tilghman Street by the turnpike entrance. Carpool to Elk Mountain. We are typically on the mountain by 9:15 or 9:30 and we ski till about 3 p.m. or whenever people get tired. Please contact Joe McDermott at 610-433-3283 or skiwriter03@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Think Snow! - It's Only March!

EPSC Winter Carnival Recap - Jan 27th to Jan 30th 2005

For those of you that were not able to attend the EPSC Winter Carnival to Sunday River, ME... let me offer the following: YOU MISSED ONE HELL OF A TRIP! This was my first EPSC Winter Carnival, and I've got to say, I was impressed at how well it was organized, the level of hospitality, and the overall quality of the weekend. Having 23 fellow Ptarmigans beside me helped add to the fun... but we made new friends, and met our share of interesting people from other clubs.

For not being a huge fan of long bus rides, I was surprised at how quickly we made it to Sunday River from Allentown. Bob & Dave (the organizers of the weekend) did a great job with videos, snacks, information, and breaks during the ride. In no time, we were at our destination.

Friday provided very cold temps, but pristine conditions. A group of us took the mountain early, and skied for the majority of the day. It's funny, but once the frostbite sets in, you learn to live with it and enjoy the stinging. Saturday and Sunday offered warmer - blustery by comparison - temps, and quality conditions. We were able to get an early start on Sunday, and get in a full 4 hours before packing the bus and returning home.

On Saturday, 10 Ptarmigans took to the race course. Out of 20 teams, we placed 8th (Ed, Yank, Jon, Justin, Becky and Sparkles), and 12th (Art, Joel, Ben, Brian, Rita and Michelle). Not bad considering it was the first time for the majority of us, and we were up against seasoned racers! Great job guys.

My memories from the weekend: Ski poles filled with liquor; Ben's new friend; my first race; skiing with Art, Ed, Joel, Ben and the Bear; Joel's snow angel at the hot tub; Sparkles molesting my face at the Sudbury Pub; and watching Justin dance at Saturday's party.

The one memory I'll always have is of my new friend Ed Singer, whom I've aptly tagged "the hardest working man in Ski Racing." Ed had a yard sale of a fall on one of his runs; he wiped out, lost his gear, and looked to be out of it. As he was going down, his opponent (and his close friend) was spooked by the cloud of smoke and confusion; he went down, too. Just when you thought both men were down and out... up popped Ed. He grabbed his gear, ran to the gate he missed, jumped back in the saddle, AND FINISHED THE RACE LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED! His opponent... obviously shamed for thinking a DNF was good enough, managed himself back to his feet... and finished, too. What a fantastic effort - and an amazing spectacle - by both men. Ed, for that effort alone, I'll organize a team for you anytime!

We're working to provide you with dates and costs for next year's EPSC Winter Carnival; it will be a week-long event held in Telluride, CO. I'd like to see a flock of Ptarmigans by my side next year... so start planning according.

Enjoy the last few runs of the season. Brian Nuss, VP - Skiing Activates

Steamboat Trip Report - Jan 29th to Feb 5th 2005

Our fellow club members just returned from Mark Baechle's Steamboat Trip, with smiles and suntans. The ice storm in Atlanta delayed the arrival of the group, but all 48 travelers arrived that day, with all their luggage. The group awoke the next morning to beautiful views of the mountain, which was only a short walk across the street. Most days had sunshine and deep blue skies.

With 149 trails open, and almost 3000 skiable acres, the group had plenty to keep them happy. The mountain had lots of variety to offer the group, including 3-mile long easy winding scenic trails, wide blue cruisers that seemed to go on forever, black trails that were both steep and flat, bump trails that felt like they would never end, more open Aspen tree trails than anywhere else in the world, tight pine tree trails that contained untracked powder, and double diamond chutes that caused one member to yell "Mark, how do I get down this!?!?!".

The two hot tubs helped ease the sore muscles, and the 3 parties that were included in the package helped people forget any stress that might have been on their mind before the trip. Trip members found good shopping, great restaurants, and hopping happy hours, all in walking distance from their condos! Many trip members participated in optional excursions including snowmobiling, snowshoeing, trips to natural hot springs, and a day skiing in untracked powder with Steamboat Powdercats.

People are already talking about how to top this trip next year (Tahoe anyone?). Mark Baechle, Trip Leader

Ptarmigan Ski Club - 2005 Membership Application

Please complete the entire form, **date, and sign** it. We look forward to participating with you in the many Club activities. Make check payable to: **Ptarmigan Ski Club** and send your check and this form to: **Nena Hayden, 1236 Main Street #1, Hellertown, Pa. 18055. I'll send your card(s) to you if you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.** Otherwise, you can pick up your card at the monthly meetings. (If you supply an eMail address, please use UPPER CASE to avoid errors).

Last Name: _____
Spouse: _____
Address: _____
Phone(s): _____
E-mail: _____

First Name: _____
Children: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Sponsored by: _____

Membership Dues:

Renewal Before 10/31/04 \$16 Single, \$26 Family.

Renewal After 10/31/04 and **New Members** \$20 Single, \$30 Family

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 or personal injury. I fully accept and understand these risks and voluntarily assume all risks either known or not readily foreseeable. I agree to not 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 and each adult must sign.

Heavenly, Lake Tahoe Trip Report - Jan 29 - Feb 5 2005

Since Dec. 28, up to 19 feet of snow has fallen at elevations above 7,000 feet in the Sierra. Meteorologists said it was the most snow the Reno-Lake Tahoe area has seen since 1916.

What a wonderful time was had by all. We left Allentown early Saturday morning when the temperatures were just 5 degrees. On the flight to Heavenly everyone on the trip got to open their gifts, a canvas fanny pack with all kinds of "goodies" tucked inside. We arrived in sunny Lake Tahoe ahead of schedule at around 3PM with temperatures in the high 30's and a big welcome reception party! It was like Spring skiing all week, sunny skies, packed powder, and temperatures in upper 30-40's range. People who were repeats noticed the millions of dollars that was spent to improve the town and slopes, while us "new bee's" got to just enjoy the 230 million spent over the past few years.

The trails were many and available for all levels of skiers - long and wide with packed powder - none of the ice crystals or crust we are use to in the Northeast! The best part was that there were hardly any lift lines! If we had to wait 3 minutes, it was a long time! We had all level of skiers, those that were the first in line for the lifts to open who most likely were the ones that took the 3:59PM gondola back to skiers like me that started skiing at 9:30 and was finished by lunch time. We would all meet at 12:30 so then people could ski together who wanted to have a "buddy" to watch them fall as they hit the double blacks with the bumps... seriously, we had some really awesome skiers that should have made the Olympic teams. For the more adventuresome there was off trail skiing in deep powder as well as tree skiing (I even did tree skiing, ok it was the outskirts of the trees...)

The hot tubs were great to meet afterwards to tell stories of the mountain, the best stories were the ones that no one else could vouch for! Homemade Blackberry port slid down so nicely and since I came back early, I served wine & hot hors d'oeuvres to those at the hot tub one day. The wacky Wednesday party was great, amazing what people will do for little trinkets, let alone the big Prizes!

Four days of skiing at Heavenly, one day at Squaw Valley, and one day at Kirkwood - phew, one would think that was enough, but we all left wanting more... The flights were great, no lost luggage, no missed connections - we even arrived home 40 minutes early! We all loved this trip and I will be doing another trip to Heavenly in maybe two or three years. Another 50 million will be spent in the next few years, we want to go back then and see what else is new! Next year I think it will be Canada - probably Whistler...

Donna Westgate, Trip leader

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

ONLY \$20 (was \$30 last year)

Available Now - Use Now!

Support Ptarmigan Ski Club with this fundraiser. Save 50% on almost everything. Great savings at your favorite local merchants as well as for informal dining, carryout, local services, national values, etc. **PRICE REDUCED** from last year, **only \$20!** Many new additions this year as well as the old favorites.

Books available at ski club meetings, events, or arrangements can be made for delivery. For more info. or to order: contact **Donna Westgate** at 610-392-9200.

PTARMIGAN SKI CLUB
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Dated Material - Please Expedite

Happy Hour Every Friday

Come after work & join the fun! Get on the Happy Hour eMail list or submit suggestions. Contact Bill Ortner at wortner@att.net or (610) 799-2549

Ptarmigan Email

Message Board

Stay in touch, find out about last-minute activities, ski-trips, etc. If you want to join, e-mail Joe McDermott at skiwriter03@yahoo.com for an invitation.

PEOPLE TO CALL

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

Better Yet: Come to Meetings at Fullerton Fire Co. Sep - Mar

Got e-mail? Get Your Newsletter and Get All Other Ptarmigan Updates.

Send your eMail address to: Membership Secretary, **Nena Hayden**, at nenakochis1@rcn.com.