

Spring 2015 Meeting Minutes



Date: May 2, 2015
Location: Maggiano's, McLean, VA
Host Club: Ski Club of Washington DC
Attendees: The attendance list is available on this [link](#).

Call to Order

Bill Schrodel, President, called the meeting to order at 8:50 am. Bill welcomed the club delegates from 18 clubs, and each introduced themselves. The following tour operators were present: Dan Ellis, Winter Ski and Sport; Judy Miller, Group Trips Unlimited; Effie Rubinstein, Sportours.

Acceptance of NGA (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) Ski Club to the BRSC.

Jane Pawlukiewicz and Linda Steele introduced their club (incl. 240 members) and Susan Arnold (Sun, Snow & Surf Ski Club) moved that the NGA Ski Club be accepted. Frank Peñaranda (Potomac Ski & Adventure Club) seconded the motion, and all approved.

Presentation by Guests

Mike Agnew (Sports America Tours), a partial sponsor of this meeting, described many of his firm's services. He specializes in 24/7 travel support, onsite group management and individual lift pass sales service. He invited clubs for the "Bike and Barge" adventure, a popular summer experience in Vail. Bill Schrodel thanked him for his sponsorship.

Dave Karczmarek, (Baltimore Ski Club) introduced **Joe Ferrara, Banchi Outdoor Adventures) Eastern Ski Resorts Tour Operator and Lauren Garfield, Sales Manager** who invited clubs to join Winterfest 2016 at Lake Placid. They offered flexible bus transportation schedules or U-Drive options, affordable accommodations, Olympic activity venues and a multiple resort ski pass. Details can be worked out with individual club representatives. Peter Porton, Vice President, commented that there are no "add-on fees" for council members for this trip. Sign-up deadline is 1 September 2015. For a FAM trip in December contact Joe Ferrara directly. Frank Peñaranda moved to make Winterfest a BRSC sponsored event; Ted Dietz (Columbia Ski Club) seconded and all approved.

Simon Diggins, resort representative from Snowbird, Utah informed the audience about the latest improvements at the Cliff Lodge with a new restaurant opening next season. Snowbird lift tickets may be upgraded to include Alta on a daily basis. New for next year: lift tickets will be "hands-free" cards (the RFID standard). Clubs will have the option to purchase breakfast vouchers.

Eric Corliss, resort representative from Big Sky, Montana informed the audience about upgrades to the Huntley Lodge and invited clubs to come and ski Big Sky and Moonlight Basin!

Executive Committee Reports

Secretary's Report: Inge Lesjak referred to the summary of the minutes from the Fall 2014 meeting, which are available on the BRSC website. Stacy Hickman (Fagowees) moved that the minutes be approved, Molly Hochman (Crabtown Skiers) seconded, and all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Steve Peirce presented the current 2015 year-to-date status of the accounts balance sheet of income and expenses; which confirmed the deposit for Snowbird 2016 has been paid. A motion by Frank Peñaranda to approve the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Valerie Chafee (Richmond Ski Club) and passed unanimously.

Webmaster Report: Frank Peñaranda presented the [Sanctioned Trips Report](#). The website is ready to accept summer and winter trips for the new season. There is also room on the BRSC website to share newsletters from individual clubs. Sonny Short (Peninsula Ski Club) mentioned that the membership form available on the website is not accepting updates. While this glitch is still being worked on, Frank suggested sending any club leadership changes to him and to the Secretary by E-mail to keep a club's records current. Otherwise there's no need to submit an annual re-registration form. In addition to the BRSC website, check out the Facebook link!

Race Report: Dave Olsen (Pentagon Ski Club) presented the [race participation report](#) from Mt. Bachelor. In spite of the rainy weather many skiers received good results and medals. The Fredericksburg Ski Club won the award for the most participants, and the Columbia Ski Club won the Team Competition Trophy for the second time in a row. Congratulations! Judy Miller, GTU, raised the question about a refund for non-racers. But according to Dan Ellis, the tour operator, Mt. Bachelor resort did not provide any refund based on the bad weather conditions. The race did take place. Dave was asked to provide historical statistics on Race participation, to which he agreed.

Mountain Travel Symposium: Bill Schrodel reported on his participation at this year's event. He liked the extensive interaction with other ski councils. For example, Effie Rubinstein, Sportours organized a "ski instructor day", a great way to build relationships. Bill invited BRSC members to gain this experience by attending one of the upcoming meetings in Keystone, Colorado (April 3-10, 2016); Banff, Canada (March 26-April 1, 2017) and South Lake Tahoe, Nevada (April 8-14, 2018). The Black Ski Inc. expressed interest in getting involved.

Fall 2015 Meeting Location: Steve Peirce (Pentagon Ski Club) reported that the facility at Ski Liberty is available the weekend of October 17/18, 2015 and Bill Schrodel suggested meeting informally on Saturday afternoon and continuing with the business meeting on Sunday morning. Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore Ski Club) moved that Steve find out if Ski Liberty will sponsor part of the Fall meeting and if the resort will have special room rates for BRSC members during that weekend. Ted Dietz (Columbia Ski Club) seconded, and all approved.

Old Business

2015 Western Carnival Report (Mt. Bachelor, Oregon, Jan 31 to Feb 7):

Mike Jones, BRSC Trip Coordinator and Dan Ellis, Tour Operator, summarized the excellent support the BRSC group received on this trip from the local organizers who, everyone agreed, went out of their way to provide additional bus service from the hotels to the mountain during inclement weather. In this regard, Mike suggested that because of the extra transportation costs incurred by Winter Ski & Sport, their per person rebate to BRSC be decrease to \$5 from the

agreed to \$10. A motion to that effect was made by Ted Dietz, seconded by Stacy Hickman and approved by all. Dan expressed his gratitude. Overall, there was plenty of food at the BRSC parties, great entertainment, sightseeing trips to Sisters and Smith Mountains, and the charming town of Bend was very welcoming of BRSC members.

2015 Eurofest Report (Mayrhofen, Austria, March 7 – 14, 2015):

Frank Peñaranda, (PSAC) BRSC Trip Coordinator and Judy Miller, Tour Operator explained the confusion about the name of the destination. Judy noted that Mayrhofen was used for the purposes of recognition and simplicity. It became the "generic" label for the trip, although each club clearly stated the actual, specific destination as being Hintertux. All 100 plus trip participants stayed in one hotel, the Badhotel Kirchler, a 5 minute shuttle bus ride away from the gondola to the Hintertux glacier gondola. Breakfast and Dinner service at the hotel was plentiful and the GTU drink tickets were accepted at all the hotel bars. Skiing on the glacier and throughout the Tuxer Valley was excellent. The hotel provided a complimentary ski guide for the group during three days of this week. The pre-trip to Bled, Slovenia was organized by Inge Lesjak (Potomac Valley Skiers) where 36 members enjoyed staying at the very statetly lakeside Grandhotel Toplice with breakfast and dinner provided. Guided sightseeing trips and dancing were also enjoyed. The GTU post trip to Vienna included breakfast at the Hotel Schoenbrunn and metro fare to downtown where guests enjoyed music performances, a guided sightseeing tour, the museums, cafes and shopping. A well-received finale by all who participated.

2016 Western Carnival Update – Snowbird/Alta, Utah:

Sonny Clarke (Richmond Ski Club and BRSC Trip Coordinator) reported 9 clubs plan to participate with 306 members. Judy Miller (Tour Operator) announced the price of the basic trip at \$1,300, including 6-day lift tickets, air fare and 3 full dinners. Day trips to Salt Lake City are optional.

2016 Eurofest Update – Madonna di Campiglio, Italy:

Judy Burlbaugh (SCWDC and BRSC Trip Coordinator) invited clubs to participate. Flight destination is Venice with a 3 hrs bus ride to the hotel near Madonna di Campiglio. The spa hotel is “ski-in ski-out” with breakfast and dinner daily plus shuttle service to downtown provided. Pre- and post- trip destinations and sightseeing day trips are offered for individual club selection.

New Business

Elections – BRSC Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary 2015 – 2017:

Frank Peñaranda, Election Chair, announced that Vice President Peter Porton and Treasurer Steve Peirce volunteered to continue in their position for another two-year term. Bill Schrodel nominated Jim Ferrant, (Columbia Ski Club) for the Secretary position. There being no other candidates, Stacy Hickman (Fagowees) moved to accept all nominees, Molly Hochman seconded the motion and all approved.

Selection of Trip Coordinators for 2017 Western Carnival and Eurofest:

2017 Western Carnival - Breckenridge, Colorado:

Sonny Clarke (Richmond Ski Club) moved to select Marshall Walsh (Richmond Ski Club) for 2017 BRSC Western Carnival Trip Coordinator based on his ski trip leader experience; Frank Peñaranda seconded and all approved his selection.

Future of Western Carnival:

Based on the reduced attendance at Western Carnivals over the last half-decade, VP Peter Porton led a discussion on some of the causes, such as not having enough new resorts and the problems of some of the good resorts have with the capacity of the airlines serving them. Big Sky was cited as an example. No conclusions were reached. Stacy Hickman indicated that BRSC's future trip selections are considered by the individual clubs in preparing their own trip planning schedules, and urged the BRSC Executive Council not to change their selected trip destinations without getting approval from all the clubs. The group again unanimously accepted Breckenridge, Colorado for the 2017 BRSC Western Carnival Destination.

2017 Eurofest – Grindelwald, Switzerland:

Peter Porton (Pentagon Ski Club and Vice President) volunteered to be the coordinator and Rosemary Schwartzbard (Potomac Valley Skiers) nominated Jerry Poley (Columbia Ski Club) for this position, seconded by Ted Dietz. The group selected Peter Porton.

Selection of Tour Operators for 2017 Trips:

Eurofest 2017:

Nominated: Snowtours; World on Skis/Central Holidays; Alphorn; Holidaze; Encompass; and GTU.

Accepted: World on Skis/Central Holidays; Holidaze; and GTU

Western Carnival 2017:

Nominated: Sports America; Winter Ski and Sport; Sportours; and GTU.

The motion to accept only 3 Tour Operators did not carry. Mike Jones (President, Baltimore Ski Club) made a motion to accept all four tour operators for the Western Carnival in 2017. Ted Dietz seconded the motion and all approved.

Future Trip Destinations selected for 2018 :

Western Carnival 2018: Whistler, Canada (2nd place Banff, 3rd place Big Sky)

Eurofest 2018: Bride les Bains, France (Trois Vallee ski area)

Other Discussions:

Senior Lift Tickets Discounts versus Group Lift Tickets:

The group determined that generally, the Group Lift Tickets are a better value than the individually purchased tickets, unless Seniors or others are skiing on selected days only.

How many Comps for council members:

The "Free Comps" issue was discussed again. Peter Porton submitted the following options:

1. Raise the price of the trip to cover 3 full comps
2. Accept comps as provided in the trip proposal and divide by 3.
3. Delete racing from the trip activity program.

Clubs are invited to send recommendations to Peter.Porton@gmail.com

Winterfest 2016:

The group discussed the proposed Winterfest, which was earlier voted as a BRSC sponsored trip, as a joint venture, as proposed by SCWDC, where one club leads and receives 50% of the comp and shares remaining comp with other participating clubs. Sonny Clark moved to promote this trip as a regularly BRSC sponsored trip. Peter Porton seconded and all approved.

Fall Meeting:

The Council's next meeting is scheduled to be at Liberty Mountain Resort on the weekend of October 17, 2015. Details to follow. POC is Steve Peirce.

Adjournment:

Bill adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm and thanked everyone for attending, and the SCWDC for hosting the meeting.

Decision Summary:

- Approved the NGA (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) Ski Club for Membership in the Council.
- Approved Fall 2014 meeting minutes.
- Approved Treasurer's report.
- Selected 2017 trip destinations: Breckenridge, Colorado, Western Carnival; and Grindelwald, Switzerland, Eurofest.
- Re-elected Peter Porton for another two-year term as Vice President.
- Re-elected Steve Peirce for another two-year term as Treasurer.
- Elected Jim Ferrant for a two-year term as Secretary.
- Selected tour operators for 2017 bidding process.
- Selected 2018 trip destinations: Whistler, Canada, Western Carnival; and Bride les Bains, France (Trois Vallee ski area), France for Eurofest.

Inge Lesjak, Secretary

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May 7, 2015

