



Minutes of the Fall 2014 Meeting

Date: October 11, 2014
Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Columbia, MD
Host Club: Columbia Ski Club
Attendees: The [attendance list](#) is available on this link.

Call to Order

Bill Schrodel, President, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am. Bill welcomed the club delegates, and each introduced themselves. The following tour operators were present: Dan Ellis, Winter Ski and Sport; Judy Miller, Group Trips Unlimited; and Effie Rubinstein, Sportours.

Executive Committee Reports

- **President's Report:** Bill noted that the council's vice president, secretary and treasurer positions were scheduled for election at the next meeting (Spring 2015). Frank Peñaranda (Potomac Ski & Adventure Club) accepted Bill's appointment to chair the **election committee**.
- **Secretary's Report:** Dave Olsen (Pentagon Ski Club), acting for Secretary Inge Lesjak (who joined the meeting after the lunch break), referred to the minutes from the Spring 2014 meeting, which Inge had distributed previously. Stacy Hickman (Fagowees) moved that the minutes be approved, Sonny Short (Peninsula Ski Club) seconded, and all **approved**.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Steve Peirce presented a report tabulating the categorized income and expenses. Stacy Hickman moved that the report be approved, Molly Hochman (Club Crabtowne) seconded, and all **approved**.
- **Webmaster Report:** Frank presented a [Trip Sanction Report](#) which is available on this link. He confirmed that the form used by the clubs for requesting or renewing their BRSC membership is now available from our website, but it cannot be submitted online and must be printed and mailed. The form includes entries for identifying club officers and their BRSC delegates. Bill initiated a discussion on the email distribution list used for sending items to the club delegates. Inge maintains a list, but changes in club delegates and their emails don't always reach her. The membership form would help with this chore, but some clubs simply submit a check for their annual dues and don't submit the form. Frank and Bill explained the trip sanctioning process and the benefit to the clubs and their members. It was recognized that due diligence requires verifying not only that a skier is a current club member, but that the club itself is a current Council member, i.e., that that their BRSC dues are paid. It was recognized that

it's a challenge for individual trip leaders to know who to contact to verify a skier's membership status.

- **Race Report:** Dave presented a [report](#), available on this link, describing the upcoming Western Carnival race at Mt. Bachelor. The resort doesn't participate in NASTAR, which makes the scoring of the race more difficult (but still possible), as the Council Race Rules are predicated on NASTAR handicaps.

Old Business

- **Comps on Western Carnival Trips:** As a follow-on to the 2014 Western Carnival at Vail, and the discussion and motion on comps at the Spring 2014 meeting, Bill proposed establishing a policy on the distribution of comps between the three BRSC officials on the trip. The issue arises when there aren't enough comps earned to cover all three officials (Trip Coordinator, President, and Race Coordinator). After discussion of different ways to handle the situation in the future, it was decided to take no action at this time.
- **2015 Western Carnival Update (Mt. Bachelor, Oregon, Jan 31 to Feb 7):** Mike Jones (Baltimore Ski Club and BRSC trip coordinator) and Dan Ellis reviewed the status and preparations for the trip. Ten clubs are participating with 250-300 skiers, staying at three lodging properties. The resort has recently initiated a web page for the trip that includes a day-by-day agenda. Resort rep Ann Cook is available to connect with Skype to club meetings. On our first ski day (Sunday), skiers will need to leave the mountain mid-afternoon to see all of the Super Bowl; large-screen TVs will be set up at the welcome party. The included six-day lift ticket should help make up for the foreshortened day of skiing.
- **2015 Eurofest Update (Mayrhofen, Austria, Mar 6-14):** Frank Peñaranda (PSAC and BRSC trip coordinator) and Judy Miller reviewed the status and preparations for the trip. Trip sales are in the mid-80's. The pre-trip extension to Slovenia and the post-trip extension to Vienna have been well received. Everyone will be staying in the same hotel, which includes $\frac{3}{4}$ Board (breakfast, après ski, and dinner). A day trip to ski at nearby Kitzbuhel may be arranged. Non-skiing day-trip possibilities include Salzburg, the Swarovski Crystal factory outlet, and a guided tour of the WWII museum in Munich.

New Business

- **2016 Western Carnival (Snowbird, Utah, Jan 30 to Feb 6):** Sonny Clarke (Richmond Ski Club and BRSC trip coordinator) introduced the three prospective tour operators. Judy Miller, Dan Ellis and Effie Rubinstein each gave a short presentation highlighting the features of their proposals. Sonny then wrapped up by reviewing the spreadsheet he had created tabulating key discriminators between the proposals. Dave explained the club voting process, whereby each club was entitled to one vote for each delegate present (maximum of three votes) plus an additional vote for their participation on the three preceding Western Carnivals. Thus each club could have from one to six votes to cast. Dave and

Frank counted the resulting ballots, and Bill later announced that Judy Miller, Group Trips Unlimited (GTU), had been **selected** as the tour operator.

- **2016 Eurofest:** Judy Burlbaugh (SCWDC and BRSC trip coordinator) gave an overview of the proposals received. We had initially specified Kitzbuhel, Austria, as the destination, as selected at the Spring 2014 meeting. Bill explained that because he had gotten objections from several clubs to having consecutive trips to Austria (2015 and 2016), that he had asked Judy to also solicit proposals for Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, which had ranked well during the Spring meeting's deliberations. Judy confirmed that she had received proposals for both destinations from Group Trips Unlimited and Ski.com, but that Encompasse Tours had declined to bid. She then invited Judy Miller of GTU to give a short presentation on her two proposals, highlighting the key features of the two resorts. Ski.com was not present to present their proposals. Bill asked the delegates to decide whether to go to Kitzbuhel or Madonna di Campiglio; by show of hands, the delegates overwhelmingly **selected Madonna di Campiglio** as the destination for the trip. Judy Burlbaugh then reviewed the spreadsheet she had created tabulating key discriminators between the two Madonna proposals. Following our lunch break, by show of hands, the delegates **selected GTU** as the tour operator, **February 26 to March 5, 2016**.
- **Skiing at Local Resorts:** Gary Prestianni (Columbia) discussed the benefits of the discounted "Night Club" learn-to-ski program offered at the three nearby Pennsylvania resorts, Liberty, Whitetail and Roundtop. The resorts' Advantage Card also offers reduced-cost lift-ticket benefits.
- **DC Ski & Snowboard Expo:** Bill encouraged attendance at the upcoming Paul Webber show, the evening of Monday, November 3, at the Tysons Corner Marriott Hotel. Unlike Paul's Spring show which is intended for ski club group leaders, the new fall show offers free admission to the public. Many of the larger clubs will have tables at the show. Bill said that the Council will also have a table at the show and will receive proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets. Bill recommended, and it was **approved** by a unanimous show of hands, that the Council donate the proceeds to the ski patrols at Liberty, Whitetail, and Roundtop ski resorts.
- **National Ski Council Federation and Mountain Travel Symposium:** Bill discussed the two annual industry events, the NSCF Annual Summit Meeting in the fall and MTS in the spring, and highlighted the benefit to the Council of being represented at the events. Bill asked whether the Council would consider sponsoring an Executive Committee member to attend one of the events each year, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$600. Judy Burlbaugh moved, Molly seconded, and all **approved** by a unanimous voice vote.
- **Expanding and Improving the BRSC:** Bill led a general discussion of how to improve the value of the Council to the member clubs. Judy Miller suggested that the clubs advertise their trips and other events at no cost in the local Gazette newspapers. It was suggested that the "sanctioned" label on the website trip list may be confusing to those unfamiliar with what it means. Frank said he would

change it to something more transparent; perhaps simply “Trips” instead of “Sanctioned Trips.” Terry McClung (Columbia) talked about his club’s use of social media — Twitter, Facebook and Meet-Up — for advertising club events, and encouraged others to try the same in order to boost membership and trip participation. Bill said he would pursue some ideas for an eastern Council trip that could expand the participation opportunities for the smaller clubs.

- **Future Eurofests:** At the Spring 2014 meeting the delegates selected Morzine, France, as the destination for the 2017 trip. Judy Miller was asked for her views on the suitability of the resort for a Council trip. She said that the village had numerous small, family-run hotels, but that no two hotels together could hold the entire Council. She recommended consideration of Villars, in the French-speaking area of Switzerland, near Verbier. There would be easy flights into Geneva, and a “ski safari” could be set up, going to a different resort each day. There’s a nearby train station for convenient sightseeing trips. Judy also recommended consideration of Grindlewald, Davos, and Engelberg in Switzerland, and Val Gardena in Italy. Zermatt, Switzerland, would work well for the Council if the trip were moved into March to avoid the large crowds from Great Britain. After discussion of these suggestions, Christina Anderson (Pentagon) moved, and Stacy seconded, that we go to Grindlewald instead of Morzine. The motion was **approved** on a unanimous voice vote.
- **Future Western Carnivals:** At the Spring 2014 meeting the delegates selected Breckenridge, Colorado, as the destination for the 2017 trip. This selection was implicitly **reconfirmed** during the ensuing discussion. Recommendations were discussed for 2018 and beyond, including Whistler/Blackcomb (with an extension in Vancouver a possibility), Sun Valley, and Banff/Lake Louise. Judy Miller suggested that instead of deciding upon and announcing a chosen destination for the trip, that the Council should consider asking two (or more) resorts to compete for the trip based upon their net price for lift tickets and for the race. She thought this had the potential to lower the trip cost by as much as \$100.

Future Meetings:

- **Spring 2015:** The Council’s next meeting will be hosted by the Ski Club of Washington, DC at Maggiano’s in McLean, Virginia, on Saturday, May 2, the day after the Paul Webber ski show.
- **Fall 2015:** Bill asked Steve Peirce to look into having the Fall 2015 Meeting at Liberty Mountain Resort, possibly on Saturday, October 10.

Adjournment

- Bill adjourned the meeting at 3:15pm and thanked everyone for attending, and the Columbia Ski Club for hosting the meeting.

Decision Summary

- Appointed Frank Peñaranda (Potomac Ski & Adventure Club) to chair an election committee.
- Approved the Spring 2014 meeting minutes.
- Approved the Treasurer's report.
- Selected Judy Miller, GTU, as the tour operator for the 2016 Western Carnival at Snowbird, Utah. Trip dates are January 30 to February 6.
- Selected Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, for the 2016 Eurofest with Judy Miller, GTU, as the tour operator. Trip dates are February 26 to March 5, 2016.
- Approved the donation of the fundraising proceeds from the November 3 DC Ski & Snowboard Expo to the ski patrols at Liberty, Whitetail, and Roundtop ski resorts.
- Approved a motion to sponsor an Executive Committee member to attend either the National Ski Council Federation Annual Summit Meeting (in the fall) or the Mountain Travel Symposium (in the spring) each year, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$600.
- Approved a motion to hold the 2017 Eurofest in Grindlewald, Switzerland, instead of Morzine, France, which had been selected at the Spring 2014 meeting.
- Reconfirmed holding the 2017 Western Carnival in Breckenridge, Colorado.
- Next meeting (Spring 2015) will be hosted by the Ski Club of Washington, DC at Maggiano's in McLean, Virginia, on Saturday, May 2, the day after the Paul Webber ski show.

Inge Lesjak, Secretary

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November 6, 2014

Includes notes taken by Dave Olsen, Pentagon Ski Club