



www.indyskiclub.org  
May/June 2019

# SCHUSSBOOMER NEWS



A PUBLICATION OF  
THE INDIANAPOLIS SKI CLUB

## In This Issue

**Dates to put on your calendar**

**President's Message**

**Trip Reports: Steamboat Springs, Cortina/Florence, Italy, and Big Sky**

**News from Noli—2020 Trip Planning**

**Brett Farrell's Story**

## Summer Picnic/2020 Trip Sign-up

**Date/Time: Sunday, August 18, 2019 2pm-6pm**

**Location: Indianapolis Sailing Club  
11325 Fall Creek Road**

## Dates To Put On Your Calendar

**May 16, 6pm, Thursday Thirst, 1911 Grill, 1067 N. Main St., Speedway**

**June 14, 7pm, Cool Creek Park Concert, Polka Boy, Carmel**

**June 14 & 15, 5pm Italian Festival, Holy Rosary Catholic Church**

**June 20, 6pm, Thursday Thirst, Hop Cat, 6280 N. College Ave.**

**June 21, 7pm, Cool Creek Park Concert, Jennie DeVoe, Carmel**

**June 28, 7pm, Cool Creek Park Concert, Duke Tumatoe, Carmel**

**July 18, 6pm, Thursday Thirst, Rick's Boatyard, 4050 Dandy Trail**

[Website Events page](#)

## From the Past President:

**Meltdown Time:** To our relief or sorrow ski season has come to an end! About sixty ski club members joined together on April 11 at George's Neighborhood Grill to socialize and share stories of the past ski season. We enjoyed hors d'oeuvres provided courtesy of the club. Brett Farrell arrived by wheelchair to share all the best photos of the season's club ski trips. In addition to having fun, we also elected the club officers for the next year.



**Congratulations to the new Officers:** The new Board will consist of President: *Lisa Rayhons*; President-Elect: *Ray Battey*; Vice President Trips: *Noli Bentley*; Vice President Trips-Elect: *Carolyn McConkey*; Vice President Membership: *Marilyn Rader*; Treasurer: *Jackie Sundboom*; and Secretary: *George Andrews*.



**Thanks to our Leaders:** I'm completing the second of two years as President of the ski club. I've enjoyed working with the other members of the Board as well as some other key leaders who are not on the Board. **Dick Surber** did an outstanding job as Vice President of Trips this year. He polled everyone last spring to see where you wanted to ski and then put those trips together through our tour operator. Then he selected the Trip Leaders to sell and administer the trips. He had to pour over all of the details of the contracts and make payments on time to our tour operators. He added one more trip to our schedule than normal this year. Thank you for a job well done, Dick. Thanks also to **Marilyn Rader** who continues to serve as Membership Vice President. She keeps all your addresses, email accounts, and phone

numbers straight so you continue to receive ski club communications. She also remembers your birthday and works closely with trip leaders and the Schussboomer editor regarding membership status. **Jackie Sundboom** continues for another year as club treasurer. She keeps our club finances straight and gets our non-trip bills paid on time. She also drafts our annual operating budget. She's held the position for about five years. Both Jackie and Marilyn provide continuity on the Board so meetings go much smoother. Thanks also go to **Carolyn McConkey** who served as Secretary and kept minutes of our Board meetings and is stepping up to be Trips Vice President-Elect next year. Her sunny outlook and happy personality made Board meetings more fun and less work. **Noli Bentley** is taking the on the biggest job in the ski club as our new Trips Vice President. Noli met with Mike and Sherri Agnew, new owners of Winter Ski and Sport last December and began work immediately on next season's ski trips. She's a stickler for detail and leaves nothing for mistaken understanding. Her input at Board meetings has also been a big help as she's been a club member for seventeen years and has been on loads of ski trips. **Lisa Rayhons** returns to the office of President she held several years ago. Lisa has held numerous offices in the club and been on many ski trips over years so she knows how everything works. This past year was kind of a rest year (ha-ha) for Lisa as she was our President-Elect. And returning to the Board after a one year sabbatical is **Ray Battey**. Ray will be President-Elect next year and then will serve as President the following year. Ray has been President and Secretary in past years and brings that experience to the Board. He's also the coordinator of our Saturday morning bike rides. Thanks to the other key people who are appointed to important positions in the club. **George Andrews** serves as chair of the Finance committee, audits the general account and the trips account of the club and finds other members to audit the individual ski trips. George is also stepping up to serve as secretary on the Board next year. **Bob Swisshelm** wears two hats and is nearly irreplaceable. Bob maintains the ski club website and keeps it updated with important information. He also has served as Schussboomer editor this past year putting out six full issues and six email issues. He's the "Constant Contact" guy who sends out email reminders and handles online dinner reservations for our annual holiday party. Thank you, Bob. **Dena Aleksa** has served as Social chair for almost two years and was instrumental in planning and pulling off our big 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration last June. Dena also sets our Thursday Thirst calendar and was our point person to plan and coordinate the holiday party/dinner last December. She does a first class job with anything she tackles. **Brett Farrell** has become our de facto club photographer and photo archivist. He's put great photo collections together for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary party, the holiday party, and the recent meltdown party. He's also the guy who gets the BBQ chicken and pork and other accoutrements for the trip sign-up picnic.

## From the President—continued

In addition to the many hours of work all these volunteers gave to the club, they are all to be commended for the spirit they had while serving the club. Our Board meetings were harmonious and a positive outlook always prevailed. I hope they all had as much fun this past year as I had. They sure made the President's job easier.

**Thursday Thirsts:** Dena Aleksa, our Social Chair, has put a fun schedule of Thursday Thirsts together. You can visit the home page of our website at [www.indyskiclub.org](http://www.indyskiclub.org) for updates. On May 16 we'll meet at the 1911 Grill at 1067 N. Main Street in Speedway from 6 pm to 9 pm. It'll be fun to watch Indy 500 practice Thursday afternoon and slip over to the 1911 Grill when the track closes for the day. On June 20 we'll gather at Hop Cat at 6280 N. College Avenue in Broad Ripple. Let's have a big turnout for both upcoming Thursday Thirsts.

**Cool Creek Summer Concert Series:** Last summer we had a ski club gathering at a couple of the summer concerts at Cool Creek Park in Carmel. Admission is only \$ 5 (cash only) per person. Some early summer concert dates are listed on the front page of this issue. Last summer we sat on the south side of the concert grounds near the shrubs and trees (for shade). Come and join your ski club friends and wear a ski club shirt! You can bring in a small cooler with drinks and snacks, or they have food trucks there.

**Rehab Update:** **Brett Farrell** had a serious fall at Lake Louise on the Banff trip and fractured his pelvis. Following two surgeries and hospital rehab, he's back home and making progress with his physical therapy. Brett's personal account of his trials and tribulations appear in this issue. He's been getting around by wheelchair and is planning to ski next winter!

**Luke Mongin** had a bad fall and broke his leg skiing at Whistler-Blackcomb with his father, Mark Mongin. So far Luke is recovering without any problems.

**OBITUARY:** We lost long time ski club member Evelyn Hill. Evelyn passed away unexpectedly earlier this month. Many of us visited with Evelyn at the club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary party last June. I met Evelyn not long after I joined the ski club in 1990. She enjoyed many of the club's social activities and particularly liked to play matchmaker in the ski club. Some of you may have been introduced through Evelyn. She was a kind soul and will be missed.

Randy Ridgway, Past President

## COOL CREEK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

### Dates:

6/14/2019, 6/21/2019, 6/28/2019, 7/12/2019, 7/19/2019,  
8/2/2019

Location: Cool Creek Park

Address: 2000 E. 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:15 PM

Price: \$5 per person; kids 12 and under are FREE



### Saturday Morning Bikes Rides in Spring, Summer, and Fall

Enjoy a nice social ride with the ski club. Email announcements weekly.

To receive notifications send your name and email to Ray Battey at: [rsbattey@aol.com](mailto:rsbattey@aol.com)

## Steamboat Ski Trip -- March 17-24, 2019

As time drew near, I prayed to the ski gods for three things. One, all skiers arrive at the airport on a timely basis and that the flight goes without incident. Two, we lose no luggage. Three, all skiers remain safe and sound. And four, we get home without incident.

Well, March 17<sup>th</sup> arrived... everyone appeared on time to a Spring Break bustling airport and yet, we moved through security in record time. Decent departure times and a direct flight into Hayden started our week on a great and excited note! One small bump in the road..... Steve Rice, at the Dayton airport, was bumped from his flight due to overbooking. The good news was United Airlines offered him \$1200 to take the next flight! I understand he and Gina are now planning a trip to Hawaii.

Second prayer: all luggage arrived and was accounted for at Hayden, except for Mike Wier's. It was still sitting in some dark lonely corner in Indianapolis and wouldn't be sent till Monday. Luckily, American Airlines covered the cost of rental equipment and clothes. So Monday morning, Mike turns up on the slopes looking quite spiffy and by day's end was in absolute love with his rental snowboard. Last I heard, he was seriously searching the web to purchase.

Third prayer re serious injuries on the slopes: My name was written all over a TREE WELL DISASTER. But with the help of Rick White, a couple of ski patrol, and a deep tissue massage I survived unscathed and lived to ski the rest of the week. And the fourth prayer regarding our flight home: We all arrived home tired, safe and sound, and in great spirits.

The Ranch Condos were not a ski-in/ski-out location, but the private to your door shuttles made everything much easier. Monday morning, bright and early, fresh snow and sunny skies greeted us on the mountain. Such a welcome relief from our gloomy Indiana grey skies. We had a couple of cloudy days with high winds but mostly, good skiing conditions. Dan Pack and Bruce Davison were out early each day and skied late. Dan must have been on a private mission to ski the most runs. He definitely received the AWARD FOR MOST SKIED RUNS IN A SINGLE DAY: 29! I believe Bruce was a close second. And he might have won but wasted time looking for everyone on "Vortex." Of course, everyone was looking for him on "Rolex." Rick White took the Steamboat Mountain Tour and skied across the mountain with a private guide. He said it was well worth the time and effort. Others in our group enjoyed "off slopes" activities. Holly Harrell and Lyn Williams went horseback riding one day and then spent an afternoon at the Strawberry Park Hot Springs. Steve and Gina Rice went fly fishing at Yampa Valley Anglers. Suzanne and Kyle Boyd seemed to have quite a time enjoying the hot spots in town. Kyle, her son, was the youngster on our trip and discovered places of interest from a whole different perspective. Bob Swisshelm, Chris Dammann, Mary and Kurt Auzins, and Bruce Davison spent their evenings playing "Name That Tune." Bob Swisshelm's extensive music library and the groups' knowledge of name, singer and date were quite impressive. Bruce might have earned the MUSIC MAN AWARD but Mary deserves the MS. CONGENIALITY AWARD because she was the only woman in that condo. Karen Morris, Keith Adams, Julie and Al Glover seemed to experience the better restaurants in town and often were seen gadding about in the evening. Laurie Ewer's brother, Donnie, drove in from Littleton, CO to spend the day with her. And Lennie Voegel earned the title of BEST KEEPER OF THE FIRE. It was so special to start and end the day with a wood burning fire in the fireplace, thanks to Lennie's efforts. Farshad Mirzadeh, Jack Bell, and Frank Wilder could be seen hitting the slopes early and staying late for the Après Ski hour. Frank spent most of his morning trying to get his fellow skiers to move to black slopes. Occasionally, he succeeded. Farshad and Jack found the live band at the top of the gondola and the sunset well worth the price of admissions. The lunch meeting spots worked well, everyone seemed to show up and our \$50 lunch vouchers certainly were appreciated. Plus it gave everyone a chance to connect, rest and begin anew.

For more photos of the Steamboat Springs trip, click below:

[https://public.fotki.com/indyskiclub/2019-steamboat-ski-trip/?cmd=fs\\_slideshow](https://public.fotki.com/indyskiclub/2019-steamboat-ski-trip/?cmd=fs_slideshow)



The Pizza Party was midweek at BeauJo's. There was the usual menu of pizza but also homemade soups and salads. The biggest treat of the night was the dessert. We celebrated Marilyn and Richard Rader's 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Kurt Auzins' 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Plenty of cake and laughter to go around.

Getting the group photo was quite an experience but Kurt pulled it off in style. He receives the BEST PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE GROUP award.

Ten of us spent an evening at Hazie's Restaurant at the top of the gondola. It was a spectacular evening with a gourmet meal, incredible views, and fireworks! A perfect way to end the week of skiing.

Even with the bumps along the way, it was a great trip. Everyone seemed to start early on the slopes, skied together, met for lunch and skied some more. There was a little shopping, a little sightseeing, a little adventure, a lot of partying, and a whole lot of skiing making this trip one of the best!!

### *Carolyn McConkey*

Trip Leader

Kurt Auzins celebrated a birthday.

Richard and Marilyn Rader celebrated their anniversary.

Three hot tubbers celebrated après ski.





## **News from Noli - 2020 Trip Planning**

It is NOT too early to start thinking about where you want to ski next season; in fact, we already have our first three trips booked! Pricing is not yet set.

### **Snowbird January 4-11**

We'll be staying at The Cliff Lodge & Spa. Built in 1974 by Dick Bass, the founder of Snowbird, The Cliff is one of North America's most iconic ski lodges and is truly ski-in/ski-out. The ski locker room (each lodge room is assigned a private locker outfitted with boot dryers) is literally just steps from the slopes. You will not be disappointed with the view of Little Cottonwood Canyon from your newly renovated lodge room, or from the beautiful Aerie restaurant on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of the lodge, or from the relaxation room at the world class spa. The picture postcard Snowbird tram carries you up to an elevation of 11,000 feet to the top of Hidden Peak and The Summit- one of the most beautiful day lodges I've ever stepped into with some of the most spectacular views in skiing. Or, if one day you don't feel like going over the mountain to get to Mineral Basin, you can take a magic carpet ride right **through** the mountain! Snowbird and Alta are consistently rated in the top five North American ski resorts and, after skiing there, you will realize that Utah's trademarked tourism motto "The Greatest Snow on Earth" is not an exaggeration.

### **Beaver Creek January 25- February 1**

We'll be staying at The Charter @ Beaver Creek, a ski in/ski out luxury property located right in the village. This is a Wyndham Resort hotel recognized by Conde' Nast as one of the "Top 50 Ski Hotels in the US & Canada". Our accommodations will be 2BR 2BA condos (both bedrooms with ensuite baths) with full kitchens and daily housekeeping. On-site amenities include 24 hr. concierge, two restaurants, ski rental shop, game room, spa, health club with pool and hot tub, valet ski storage and grocery delivery. I want to live there.

BC has three mountains and a lot of immaculately groomed greens and blues meandering down two of them (I love Bachelor Gulch). If you want more of a challenge, there is plenty of advanced and expert terrain to ski off the Grouse Mountain lift. Better yet, try your luck on the Byrds of Prey downhill course, an annual fixture on the men's Alpine Ski World Cup tour. (I mean really.. how hard can it be?) Want to ski a day or two of Back Bowls? Hop the ski bus from the village for a short ride up the valley to Vail. Your package includes a 5-day Epic pass (upgrade to 6-day available) that is good at both BC and Vail.

### **Jackson Hole February 8- 15**

We'll finally be back in one of the most iconic ski destinations in the world. Our lodging will be in downtown Jackson at the 49er Inn, an easy walk to the town square and all shopping, restaurants and bars. The entire property has been completely remodeled and the on-line pictures are impressive (they call the indoor pool and hot tub area "The Beach". Whoa!). Breakfast is included and I've heard from a couple ski club members that it is great. The dedicated 49er bus will take us directly to/from the inn and mountain- 3 runs in the morning and 2 runs after après ski at the Mangy Moose. If you miss the private bus, just hop on the START bus- there is a stop right at the hotel.

Don't let JH's reputation as an expert ski mountain scare you off this trip. 50% of the trails are graded as beginner or intermediate. Even the black off the world famous JH Tram is actually more blue-black and is easily skied on a blue bird day. Maybe we can talk someone into trying Corbet's Couloir which, actually, doesn't really look all that nasty... from the bottom (Hold My Beer!). Your package includes a 5-day lift with a 6<sup>th</sup> day option but remember some of us will be taking a day to go over the pass and back up into the Tetons to Grand Targhee. It's a small classic mountain with lots of snow – average of 500" per year (as of April 26 the **base** is 115").

### **Remaining Trips**

Other US trips that are currently out for bid include Crested Butte, Taos and the ever popular Snowmass/Aspen. Randy is currently planning a trip to Val d'Isere France with an extension to Paris. I will have more information regarding these trips in the next Boomer.



## Cortina d' Ampezzo and Florence, Italy

March 1 to 14, 2019

The Cortina / Florence trip had 21 participants after Ray Battey was forced to cancel ( Ray had trip insurance! ) due to a ski injury to his neck. Our flight itinerary took us through Atlanta and Paris-Charles De Gaulle to Venice, Italy on Delta and Air France airlines. Upon gathering all our baggage and clearing customs we discovered there was no bus driver holding a placard in the airport terminal to meet us. \*\*\*\*! Not the kind of Ski Club first any of us wanted to happen. Calls to the Cortina Express bus company yielded nothing but "who are you" and then a dial tone. So, the tour operator received a call at 6:00 am EST. Expletives were filtered out on our end, but shallow excuses on their end yielded nothing. Finally, two and a half hours later we had a bus. The two hour trip to Cortina d'Ampezzo included a brief stop for the restroom and a bite to eat. Our check-in at the 3 Star Hotel Pontechiesa went smoothly and everyone quickly got settled in. Some of the group ventured out to rent equipment and purchase lift tickets while others napped or got oriented with the hotel bar. The hotel is located on the northwest side of town. A ski shuttle stop was about 200 meters from the hotel, and the Tofana aerial tram station was about 600 meters away.

We met for dinner in the hotel restaurant each evening at 7:30 pm. We were provided a large table for our use at dinner as well as at breakfast. We had nice table linens and full sets of flatware. This was Continental dining. We began each dinner with an extensive salad and cheese bar. The Maitre d' Hotel was a congenial man named Mario who spoke very good English and kept us on our toes with his sense of humor. We were served starters or Primi Piatti following salad. We had a choice of three entrees. A dessert table or gelato was available at the conclusion of the meal. We also enjoyed a breakfast buffet of breads, fruits, yogurt, cheese, and meat every morning with scrambled eggs, too.

Sunday morning greeted us with sunny, blue skies and we rode the ski shuttle to the Faloria tram near the bus station and skipass office. We skied the Faloria area that faces north on a high plateau above Cortina in the morning and then crossed a roadway to the Cristallo ski area. We then returned to Rifugio Faloria for lunch. For most of the week we'd be skiing hard packed snow conditions.

Monday, the group ventured to the Tofana aerial tram and skied the high terrain of Ra Valles. Later, many of the group had lunch on the sun deck at Col Druscie at the mid-mountain restaurant. Following lunch, some ventured over to the Pomedes ski area famous for the Ladies World Cup Downhill and Super G race course that passes through two massive rock projections.



On Tuesday, we took the Dolomiti ski bus from the bus station up to Passo Falzarego. We rode the aerial tram up Alpe Lagazuoi for spectacular views of the Italian Dolomites. After lots of photos we skied into and through what has become known as the Hidden Valley, unseeable from adjacent roads. In WWI the Italians dug into these mountains to combat the Austrian army. Today this area is known as Alta Badia and extends through several mountain valleys. The ski track takes you to Rifugio Scotoni and a nearby chapel dedicated to the fallen soldiers of WWI. We happened to be there on Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday and all the staff at the Rifugio were dressed for the occasion. From there the ski track passes a frozen waterfall where two ice climbers practiced. Onto the flats to where the horse sleighs pull forty skiers at a time up the incline to Armentarola for 2 Euros each. After a Poma ride we skied to the village of San Cassiano and rode the Piz Sorego gondola up to a

## Cortina d' Ampezzo and Florence, Italy

### Trip Report continued

mountain restaurant for lunch. From lunch we found our way back to Armentarola and took a bus up the mountain road to Passo Falzarego. We skied the Col Galina area and descended to the Cinque Torri ( five towers ) ski area. From there the Dolomiti ski bus returned us to Cortina. It was a great day to ski and experience Alta Badia.

Another local ski area accessible by the ski shuttle is Socrepes at the base of Tofana. Several in our group skied this area on a couple different days.

Wednesday was to hold a new adventure even for those in the group who had skied Cortina in past years. Our hotel owner, Emanuela reserved two taxis for our group of eleven to take to Corvarra, in Alta Badia. That would be our launching point to explore Piz La Ila, La Villa, skiing on the Gran Risa – another famous World Cup ski venue, continuing north to the village of Badia. Two more lifts up the mountain with a 100 meter walk uphill to Santa Croce ( Holy Cross ) to Rifugio La Crusc. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site at 2,045 meter elevation. We just beat the crowd for a lunch table inside the Rifugio. Someone needed a cough drop .... The trip back to Corvarra was fun and we had time for some outdoor apres-ski drinks before meeting our taxis for our return to Cortina.

Thursday's weather was cloudy and foggy with a wet snow / rain mixture. Only a few hardy (or was it fool hardy) souls ventured out to ski. A few runs constituted a "day" of skiing. The afternoon was spent having a leisurely lunch and walking around Cortina waiting for better weather on Friday.

Friday was nice and partly sunny. It seemed like everyone was comfortable in going on their own to ski their favorite runs one last time. Faloria was the most popular area for our last ski day in Cortina.

We learned that the Hotel Pontechiesa was one of the earliest buildings in Cortina and was originally built as a home. It was converted into a hotel in 1925. Emanuela Villafranca Soissons is a fourth generation family member to operate the hotel. Our group was very comfortable with the lodging and meals provided.



On Saturday, we enjoyed breakfast and boarded our bus bound for Florence. Upon arrival the bus had to park about three blocks from the Hotel Orto de Medici because the street in front of the hotel was too narrow. We got to haul all our bags, skis, and boots to the hotel on foot. We had a variety of room styles and sizes spread all over the facility. Tradition holds that in its garden is where Lorenzo Medici met a 14 year old apprentice sculptor named Michelangelo in 1489. Following check-in we set out on foot to discover Florence. Our visit coincided with many Italian schools spring break so the streets, museums and restaurants were crowded. We wound up at the Piazzale Michelangelo for an evening view of Florence. Our walk of 5.2 miles seemed like a death march at the time, but we would walk even more miles in the coming days.

On Sunday, we had a walking tour of Florence arranged by Noli "Cough Drop" Bentley. We met our guide Nora at the Piazza Strozzi and toured the popular sites south of the Arno River, before crossing Ponte Vecchio and seeing the Uffizi Galleria. We quizzed Nora about the Netflix series of the Medici family and found that she has an extra's part as a noble woman during Cosimo's coronation as the Grand Duke in season three. In spite of many historical inaccuracies, the Florentines are grateful for the renewed interest in their city created by the TV series. There was an additional afternoon walking tour that part of the group participated in while ten of our group went to an Italian cooking class arranged by Eldonna Rees.



## Cortina d' Ampezzo and Florence, Italy

### Trip Report continued



Monday, we headed out on foot to the train station to meet our Walkabout Tours bus for a day long tour of Tuscany. Noli Bentley again arranged this excursion which all 21 of our group took advantage. We had a delightful and entertaining tour host named Elisa. Our tour first visited the city of Siena. We saw the Piazza del Campo, home of the famous Palio horse race. We also visited the Duomo and saw its marble inlaid floors. From there we went to a Tuscan organic winery, Fattoria Poggio Alloro. Following a short tour, we had a lunch of typical Tuscan cuisine and enjoyed four different wines. Our next visit was to the hilltop walled town of San Gimignano. This is a tourist mecca with so many shops it felt like a shopping mall. However, the views of the surrounding Tuscan countryside were breathtaking. Our tour then went to Pisa and its Piazza Dei Miracoli (Field of Miracles). Besides the Leaning Tower, the Romanesque Cathedral and its marble pulpit sculpted by Giovanni Pisano are even more remarkable. A storm had just missed Pisa, but the black clouds created a backdrop to the setting sun in the west. Everyone got some amazing photos. What a tour – all in one day. Thanks again to Noli.

Tuesday turned out to be sunny and warm. A few adventurous peeps took the bullet train from Florence to Rome. They then frantically rode a tour bus to see all of Rome's most iconic sites, before zipping back to Florence. Others of us visited our favorite sites in Florence. It was an especially great afternoon to walk through the Boboli Gardens. Others saw the Uffizi Galleria, the Pitti Palace, the Accademia Gallery, the San Lorenzo Cathedral, the Duomo, the Orsanmichelle, and the Museo di Duomo.

Our final day in Florence, Wednesday would be a drizzling, damp day but fine to visit more museums, admire sculptures, and have a long lunch. We gathered in the hotel for their happy hour before packing and heading out for a final Italian dinner.

Our return flight from Florence took us to Paris for a direct flight to Indianapolis on Delta airlines. We went through customs in Indianapolis and headed home ready for some rest.

Our return flight from Florence took us to Paris for a direct flight to Indianapolis on Delta airlines. We went through customs in Indianapolis and headed home ready for some rest.

Thanks to everyone for your patience in Venice when we didn't have a bus, and not griping about hauling your skis and luggage to the hotel in Florence. In between it was a fantastic trip with memories for a lifetime.

Ciao,

Randy Ridgway

Trip Leader



For more photos of the Cortina / Florence trip, click below:

[https://public.fotki.com/indyskiclub/2019-cortina-italy/?cmd=fs\\_slideshow](https://public.fotki.com/indyskiclub/2019-cortina-italy/?cmd=fs_slideshow)

## Big Sky Trip Report

Well, we had an exciting time on our Big Sky Trip this year! First off was the horde of people at 4am at the American counter! Lots of kids and families on Spring Break! It took us 45 minutes to get through the line. This was the most people we've ever seen at the Indianapolis Airport!

The flights to Bozeman were a bit bumpy, but timely. We were able to collect all three "ground" people in our vans (many thanks to Shuttles to Big Sky!). When we got to Big Sky, we had to wait various times until we could get in our rooms. There were issues with the Big Horn Condo, in that the bedding situation was unacceptable. Fortunately, rooms were available in the Huntley to accommodate our six.

The Wine and Cheese Party was Saturday night, which got people mingling. Mel gave the newbies a tour of the mountain Sunday afternoon. Most days we got an inch or two of snow, and temperatures were low to mid 30s, so skiing was pretty good for spring skiing. One day was very icy, and Friday got in the 40s, so we skied on "mashed potatoes" (sigh...). But we had a good "Last Run Party" on Friday- thanks to Z for scouting out the mountains and finding us a great place (the Scruff Shack) for the party!

Apres' ski was primarily at Chet's, as it was quiet and had room for all of us! We had a special apres' ski / pizza party at Andiamo's on Wednesday: salad, breadsticks, and lots of very good pizza! (We even had leftovers!) The folks at Andiamo's were very accommodating and gracious. Another special apres' ski was on Thursday at The Cabin: drinks and appetizers thanks to Mel and Cathy. And Rick Ward (former ISC member who now lives in Montana) was there as a bonus! Many got to ski with him Thursday and Friday! Many thanks to Mel and Cathy for their hospitality!

The tree-skiers were able to find good snow, but had to search for it! The groomers were good most days. Those who skied from the top of Lone Peak found the snow crusty and firmly packed, but definitely skiable. Others went to the top for photos and the great view and took the tram back down.

Fortunately, we only had one injury, a calf strain or tear. Fortunately, she was back on the snow after three days of rest!

Overall, it was a very compatible group of people- all got along! We had euchre games in the Firehole Lounge a couple nights. People made many trips to the hot tubs. The Huntley's legendary breakfasts were really good, a great way to start out the day!

The trip home was somewhat eventful: the 1<sup>st</sup> leg was overbooked, 2<sup>nd</sup> leg had a 2-hour delay in DFW, due to many cancellations earlier due to severe weather in the SE. Thank goodness we didn't get stuck in DFW- we made it home that night!

Thanks to all the trip participants, for making it a fun trip to lead!

**Jackie Sundboom**



For more photos of the Big Sky trip, click below

[https://public.fotki.com/indyskiclub/2019-big-sky-ski-trip/?cmd=fs\\_slideshow](https://public.fotki.com/indyskiclub/2019-big-sky-ski-trip/?cmd=fs_slideshow)

## Lessons Learned from My Most Expensive Ski Trip Ever

By Brett Farrell

I was delighted to sign up for the ISC trip to Banff; returning to two great ski resorts I enjoy so much in Sunshine Village and Lake Louise and at a terrific price thanks to the favorable exchange rate between US and Canada. Little did I know the painful and expensive lessons to come.

Our trip chair, Paul Segasser, did a great job as first-time trip chair. All details were presented to us and having skied there once before, thought I was fully prepared. However, travel outside the US entails review of insurance coverage which often is different or even completely lacking unless a supplemental policy is added. I thought I was sufficiently covered, but soon found out otherwise on this trip. First lesson: Review and understand all trip details, including insurance coverage.

All went well for the majority of the trip; nice accommodations and good skiing at both resorts. That all changed on my fifth day of skiing, Thursday afternoon. It would be my last day at Lake Louise and I was looking forward to one more ride to the top and planned to join friends for a last run down a fun open glade tree run called "Jerry's Jungle". Chris Pratt kindly joined me on the gondola, but I erred in suggesting that lift, since it was not what I actually needed. Second lesson: have some idea where you are and how to get to your destination.

Despite my error picking the wrong lift, Chris had a plan to get to my destination. We just needed to ski through several black diamond runs; easy for him, less so for me. A Lake Louise "Ski Friend" also joined us and we skied through gladed trees until they became thicker. I misunderstood a suggestion on skiing through them. Unfortunately, I hit a tree branch, flipping me in the air. I landed hard on my lower back and side, then flipped again and slid into another tree. Third lesson: have some idea what you're doing before you start a run down an unknown course and be fully prepared to stop if necessary.

I was seriously injured in the crash, but didn't realize it at that moment. Chris kindly gathered up my gear and stayed with me. Our Ski Friend immediately called ski patrol and gave them an accurate location. They came quickly, did field tests, then bundled me onto the "sled of shame" to the base. Fourth lesson: ski with a buddy, especially when in challenging terrain. Without the help of Chris and our Lake Louise Ski Friend, things could have turned very ugly for me in a hidden patch of trees.

EMT/Paramedic supervisor examined me and decided I needed immediate transport to Emergency hospital in Banff. Chris informed our group so they would know why I didn't return to our hotel. Several ISC members tracked me down at the hospital to cheer me up. I greatly appreciated their visit considering my dreadful circumstances. The doctors and staff took X-rays, etc., indicating a traumatic injury to my pelvis, with an initial diagnosis of an "open book" fracture, plus additional injuries. They quickly decided that I needed immediate transport to a Level 1 Trauma hospital. They placed a binder on me to hold my pelvis together for a trip to Calgary, the only hospital that met this requirement. With no available aircraft, I rode by ambulance with 2 EMTs, neck brace, oxygen line and ports installed to pump saline and various drugs to control shock, blood loss and pain. Fifth lesson: nice to have qualified staff on site or nearby to deal with medical emergencies.

After reviewing X-rays, CAT scan and MRI, the trauma surgeon decided I needed immediate surgery. The next day, he operated, installing external fixators and bolts to my pelvis. I woke up to a "tinker toy" set of rods sticking out of my pelvis and connected to each other. It was very unnerving to see an erector set sticking out of my pelvis, but not too painful. Not being a Canadian citizen, the surgeon and transport staff wanted to be paid before I could return home. Our trip chair, Paul, immediately contacted my family, who in turn contacted my insurance company, the beginning of a process that would soon turn ugly. (See first lesson.)



At this point, three amazing things happened. First, Paul and Mary Kay went to my hotel room and gathered some essential documents and clothing. They also gathered the rest of my gear so it could be returned home. Second, Randy and Eileen Ridgway delivered these essential items to me at the hospital. Third, my daughter flew in from Phoenix to be with me. I felt so blessed and lucky for the essential help they all provided. Sixth lesson: ski trips with ISC or group of friends can be invaluable in times of need.

While recovering from this procedure, I worked with my insurance and caseworkers at the hospital to come home for additional care. After nearly two weeks of fruitless conversations, I was told to pay my own way home. Air ambulance to St. Vincent Hospital's level 1 trauma unit would cost \$37000CAD! I was so frustrated by everything, but Randy and Eileen took time out of their Canadian ski tour to visit me yet again before I left for home. Seventh lesson: even if you have travel insurance, you may still be required to pay up front for certain services. Have some cash reserve when travelling. I was especially blessed to have several family members step up to help in my time of extensive financial need.

St. Vincent's top trauma surgeon, Dr. Renn Crichlow, immediately repeated X-rays, CAT scan and MRI, deciding that more extensive surgery was required to properly fix the broken bones and ligaments. He removed the Canadian hardware and installed multiple internal plates, screws and bolts. I soon learned that he also oversaw Don Birt's health after his own serious pelvic injury last year. Judy joked that we should ask him for a club discount.

While recovering at St. Vincent, something amazing happened. Friends and family came to visit every day. I was especially gratified to have so many friends from ISC stop by. Your visits were a special sort of medicine and always the highlight of what were otherwise difficult days. I won't name names, but thanks to each and every person who took the time to call, text or visit.

After one week of stabilization post surgery, I was transferred to Community North Rehabilitation Hospital. Their goal was to engage me in intensive physical and occupational therapy (PT and OT). Over the next two weeks, they helped transform me from bedridden to wheelchair capable and more. For that, I'm immensely grateful. However, due to a flu advisory that was strictly enforced, no visitors were allowed except for immediate family. Bummer! After 15 long days, I was discharged to my home to continue my recovery with more PT/OT.

My surgeon and the PT/OT staff said that a full recovery is likely, even though it could take a year. I feel blessed to have a chance to return to full health, especially after committing a dumb mistake that could have turned out so much worse. But I am also blessed to be a part of the ISC family. I value your friendship and support through this difficult journey. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again soon and returning to the ski slopes when the time is right, but perhaps not on a tree-filled black diamond course outside the US.



Banff ER with first ISC visitors, Carol Phipps & Jean Thompson



President Lisa Rayhons visits at St. Vincent Hospital



On board Learjet 45. Just two pilots, two EMTs and me.  
Less than 3 hour flight from Calgary to Indy.



Paul Segasser, Jackie Sundboom, Z Burdeski, Randy & Eileen Ridgway at St. Vincent Hospital

### Do you have an interest in writing for the Schussboomer?

We'd like to have more people write about their skiing experiences and their favorite moments in the ski club. We hope to include these guest ( or ghost ) writers stories in the upcoming September, November, and January issues. Possible storylines might be: Your favorite ski trip with the club; a memorable or funny occurrence on a ski trip; your first day to try skiing.

Submit your idea, outline, or the article itself to: [ridgway.randal@gmail.com](mailto:ridgway.randal@gmail.com)  
Please use Microsoft Word for your writing.



### Announcing: A used ski equipment exchange



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In years past, the ski club held a ski swap one weekend in the fall at such iconic locations as Fourplay, Sitzmark, and Galyan's. Either those ski swaps became too much work or we became too affluent. But, many of you have gently used skis, boots, clothing, and accessories that may need a new home. We're going to offer a free listing to ski club members to either sell or give away such items. This is on a trial basis. You may submit a brief description and photo of the item(s) you're offering. Include price, size, color, and condition along with your

contact information name, email, and phone number. We'll run your item once. Send to: [ridgway.randal@gmail.com](mailto:ridgway.randal@gmail.com)

## Member Birthdays

### May/June

Rudolf	Hoellein	5/1	Ronald	Evans	6/1
Kevin	Dougherty	5/2	Elizabeth	Miller	6/2
Phil	Booher	5/4	Richard	Rader	6/4
Joan	Naffziger	5/5	Bryan	Smith	6/6
Scott	Boatman	5/7	Donald	Hand	6/8
Carolyn	McConkey	5/11	Joseph	Smith	6/8
Sue	McNiel	5/14	Carol	Phipps	6/13
Barbara	Duke	5/14	Jean	Thompson	6/13
Lisa	Rayhons	5/16	Joan	Alfred	6/15
Gregory	Kalisz	5/16	Curtis	Fox	6/15
Ray	Bathey	5/17	Sarah	Darlington	6/18
Charles	Grant	5/17	Christy	Sharp	6/20
William	Maxwell	5/18	Phil	Buehler	6/24
Marie	Johansen	5/20	Klaus	Seibert	6/25
Nancy	Rosiak	5/21	Lisa	Schmadeke	6/28
Dena	Aleksa	5/22	Virginia	Klimeck	6/28
Karen	Morris	5/23	Judy	Birt	6/29
Mark	Mongin	5/27	John	Stobaugh	6/29
Steven	Pyles	5/29	Bob	Corya	6/29
Gina	Rice	5/29			

## New Members

None to be added this month. All of you need to do more recruiting!



Be sure to express your appreciation for the people/companies below who support the ski club via advertising by making use of their services!

### You Can Buy Clothes Anywhere...

Especially at those expensive ski resort shops. If you want to be 'ski club proud' and wear something with one of our two logos, then the SKI RACK is where you need to shop. Visit our online catalog to see what we offer. The prices are very reasonable and include our regular black logo or our script logo. Check 'em out!



Colored Threads, our vendor, is located at 217 W. 10th Street, Suite 125, Indianapolis. You can have your merchandise sent to you or you can pick it up at their place to save shipping costs.

**Click below to browse and shop!**

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Questions? John Oberlies

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May/June 2019

# SCHUSSBOOMER NEWS



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## **Indianapolis Ski Club Officers 2019-2020**

see photos at <http://indyskiclub.org/abouttheboard.asp>

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**Articles for next Issue to:**

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