

VSSC NEWSLETTER

VALLEY of the SUN Ski Club

December 2023

VSSCskiclub.com

Issue 3

President's Corner

GREETINGS Members and Skiers!

As we celebrate the holidays and ring in the new year, let us take time to reflect on our health, family, and blessings. We have so much to be thankful for. Our Board and volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring you two great trips in 2024. January will take us to Telluride and Snowmass into February. It is important to get to the January meeting as we will be leaving that Sunday morning for Telluride and will not be meeting again before the Snowmass trip. Download the Telluride and Snowmass apps. Get your equipment ready and lastly, PRAY FOR SNOW! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Judy Ainsworth, President

Trip Reports

Telluride, CO: January 7-12, 2024

Traveling via BUS.

We will have 4 days of skiing and 5 nights lodging staying at **The Peaks Resort**, ski-in/ski-out, in Mountain Village. This hotel is an upscale venue. Rooms are spacious, with a mini fridge and coffee maker. The contract includes bus transportation, porter from bus to lobby, ski valet, and accommodation. Breakfast is still undecided, but we will let you know if this ends up being an option. **We still may be able to get group rate lift tickets for the rate of \$399 for 4 days, but all skiers were advised to purchase the 4-day EPIC pass before the rates went up Sept 4, AND make reservations to ski.** If you want to inquire about a group rate, contact Margy Simchak.

For those who stayed there last year, remember how nice it was to have your boots warmed overnight and skis laid out for you in the morning! There are many good restaurants a short walk away in Mountain Village and you can take the Gondola down to Telluride for more choices.

Telluride Bus Pickup

RH Johnson Rec Center, in Sun City West. Aisle #8. Near library. 19803 N. RH Johnson Blvd Sun City West, Az. Be there at 5:30 am January 7th to load luggage. We leave at 6:00 am! More details will be given at the January 4th meeting.

2023-2024

Board of Directors

President

Judy Ainsworth

602-909-4333

Judylea@cox.net

Vice President

Gus Osterback

206-550-8856

GusOsterback@gmail.com

Treasurer

Don Larsen

360-790-6968

donlarsen007@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Sandy Tiedeman

509-860-9644

sandy_tiedeman@yahoo.com

Communications Coordinator

Koni Hohnbaum

360-281-8297

konihohnbaum@gmail.com

Trip Liaison

Margy Simchak

602-702-5275

MBsimchak@aol.com

Meetings are held at the **Kuentz Rec Ctr Kiva Room**, 14401 W RH Johnson Blvd (east of Stardust Blvd). **Our next meeting is Thursday, January 4th** - Social Hour at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00. **Prepaid dinner reservations are required – deadline is 9pm Sunday, December 31st.** It's a BYOB event.

- Remember to bring non-perishable donations and toiletries for charities.

We will stop in Flagstaff for breakfast and Cortez for supplies for your room. On our return home trip, we will stop in Kayenta for lunch and Flagstaff for a snack.

Trip Leaders for Telluride are Judy Gangi 602-290-4661 and Margy Simchak 602-702-5275

Snowmass, CO: January 28-February 2, 2024

Traveling via AIR.

The contract includes airfare, airport transfer to and from the hotel, 4 days of skiing and 5 nights lodging at **Stonebridge Inn**, porter fee, and breakfast voucher for 5 days including tax and tip. **Adult lift ticket for 4 days is \$360. Senior (65+) is \$320.** This destination is world renowned as a supreme environment for skiing on all levels. It is a quaint village with lots of restaurants and shops within walking distance of our hotel.

Trip Leader is Judy Ainsworth, with Koni Hohnbaum assisting.

CANCELLATION Policy: Please read the cancellation policy in your Hold Harmless Agreement or online at <https://vsscskiclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/HHA.pdf> and put the cancellation dates on your calendar. It is important that you **call** or **email** Margy Simchak if you need to cancel a trip. You will receive a full refund if cancellation is received more than 90 days before the departure date. We will start a waiting list for all trips as soon as they are full. **Consider purchasing trip insurance.**

Trip Liaison

Margy Simchak
602-702-5275
MBsimchak@aol.com



NOTE: Room options for The Peaks (Telluride)

The Peaks 2 people 2 King \$1,645pp
The Peaks 3 people 2 King \$1,229pp
The Peaks 4 people 2 King \$999pp

Dinner Reservation Recorder

Mary Ann Vangelisti
602-799-3855
suntracusa@cox.net

Welcome New Member

Conrad Kreick



2023-2024

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, January 4
February, February 8
Thursday, March 7
April, TBD

Please mark your calendar!

Eve's Place

Eve's Place continues to accept donations at their Community Center. Please bring food and toiletries to the meetings. They no longer accept clothing. Thank you.

2024 Trip Schedule

Destination	Dates	Price	Deposit	Balance Due	No Refund After
Telluride, CO (Bus)	Jan. 7-12 (4 ski days)	See above note	\$150	NOW	Oct. 4
Snowmass, CO (Air)	Jan. 28-Feb 2 (4 ski days)	\$1,262 land \$541 air	\$150	NOW	Oct. 28

Trip costs are per person, double occupancy. Single rooms may be available at additional cost. Prices are subject to change due to unforeseen airline or other vendor surcharges.

Reminders

Be prepared!! Stretching, yoga, tai chi. Anything to prevent injury and be ready for the ski season.



Get those skis tuned up before the rush!

From the Treasurer

Important things to remember when making payments:

- Trip Application forms must be sent along with a check for dues (\$20 per person) and trip deposit(s) if you are signing up at this time.
- The Application must be filled out COMPLETELY (both sides) and SIGNED.
- The Hold Harmless Agreement must be initialed on the front and signed on the back.
- **Carefully note the dates for Balance Due and No Refund After.** If you need to cancel a trip, please call the Trip Captain prior to that date.
- Please write, "Balance for XX trip(s)" on the Note line of your check.
- Make checks payable to Valley of the Sun Ski Club, or VSSC, and mail to:

VSSC
P.O. Box 5186
Sun City West, AZ 85376-5186

Note: If you are paying dues only, please include the Dues/Trip Application with your check. Be sure to complete both sides and sign it, along with the Hold Harmless Agreement, initialed and signed.

Trip Invoices

Invoices for BOTH trips with the BALANCE DUE for both trips were mailed out.

If you know anyone who wants to join us, please reach out to me for a trip application.

konihohnbaum@gmail.com. Checks are payable to VSSC and are to be mailed to VSSC, PO Box 5186, Sun City West, AZ 85376-5186.

If you need the Dues/Trip Application or any other information, you can find it on our website at VSSCskiclub.com. A host of information is available under the Valley of the Sun Ski Club menu. Dates for meetings, ski trips, and due dates can also be found on the Calendar page.

Dinner Reservations

All dinners are required to be paid in advance. For the dinner on January 4th, please mail your check and reservation form to:

VSSC c/o Mary Ann Vangelisti
15234 W. Via Montoya
Sun City West, AZ 85375

The cost is \$24.00 for members, \$25.00 for non-members. It is important to make your reservation no later than 9:00 PM Sunday, December 31st. At this meeting you will have the opportunity to pay for your dinner reservation for the following meeting. Please direct any questions to Mary Ann Vangelisti at 602-799-3855 or email to Suntracusa@cox.net.

Please do not include Trip Applications or deposits for ski trips with your dinner reservation.

Membership Roster

The membership roster will be sent only if you request one. If you elected to be included last year, your signature is valid and stays in force as long as your dues have remained current, unless you request a change in writing or via email. If there is a lapse in membership, then all forms need to be re-signed. If you want to make a change and did not note it on your application, please mail it to Valley of the Sun Ski Club, PO Box 5186, Sun City West, AZ 85376-5186.

Trip Updates:

Telluride is full, but we are accepting people on a waitlist.

Snowmass is full, but we are accepting people on a waitlist. Although we were not able to meet our contract, the vender Sandy of SkiGroup, worked with us for both the hotel and the resort to accepting our numbers. The trade-off is you will not get a voucher for a drink and apps. We have 16 going and of those 11 will be flying on American Airlines direct to Aspen.

Jan 28th, 2024, AA#3222 Depart PHX 9:40am Arrive ASE 11:36am

Feb 2nd, 2024, AA#3222 Depart ASE 12:07pm Arrive PHX 2:06pm

Times are subject to change. **Those flying to Snowmass will receive an email with the information to check yourself in for your flight the night before the trip.** There will be a baggage fee- \$30 for the first bag and \$40 for the second unless you have an AA credit card. Skis and boots count as one bag. Room amenities include a mini fridge, coffee maker, and free Wi-Fi. The resort has a large heated pool, spa, fitness center, restaurant/bar and Incline Ski and Snowboard Rental downstairs. Another rental shop is Snowmass Sports which is in the village right on the ski slope.

Barb Steven 623-546-2811

Trip Leader- Judy Ainsworth 602-909-4333

Valley of the Sun Ski Club Membership meeting December 7, 2023

Board members present:

Judy Ainsworth- President

Gus Osterback- Vice President (absent)

Don Larsen- Treasurer

Sandy Tiedeman- Recording Secretary

Koni Hohnbaum- Communications

Margy Simchak- Trip Liaison

Past board Presidents in attendance:

Saunders McDonald, Margy Simchak, Ursula Parrent

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

President Ainsworth welcomed guests:

Conrad Kreick, Chris Stickney, Bill Pratt, Rich Minkin

Treasury and Membership Report-Don Larsen

Telluride was paid after receiving an invoice.

A final payment was also made for Aspen Snowmass.

This leaves a balance of \$4,500 in the account.

There are currently 63 members with 24 out of the area.

It was expressed that it is encouraging to note the interest in the club for tonight with several new potential members and inquiries.

However, it is imperative that we all continue to recruit!

There were 33 for dinner this evening.

Telluride- Margy Simchak

There will be 34 members on the trip with 32 on the bus and 2 arriving on their own. It is impressive that we have 6 skiers over the age of 80 on the trip!
We will be staying at the Peaks Resort and Spa.

Aspen Snowmass

Judy Ainsworth and Koni Hohnbaum will be trip leaders.

Snowmass Sports is convenient and has rentals with discounts if booked online. There is a waitlist for this trip, but those individuals will need to make their own transportation arrangements. There are 16 on the trip.

The flight from Phoenix leaves at 9:40 am and arrives at 11:36 am.
Luggage charges are \$30 for the 1st bag and \$40 for the 2nd bag.

There is a shuttle provided to our accommodation at Stonebridge Inn.
There are breakfast vouchers for 5 days including tax and tip from 7:30-10am. The hotel has a fitness center and offers a Happy Hour from 3:30-5:30am.

It was suggested to use both the Telluride and Aspen Snowmass apps for more information about the ski areas.

Thank you and Appreciation Recognition:

Wendy McKenna for taking donations to Eve's Place.

Mary Ann Vangelisti for her organization of the roster for Dinner Reservations.

Barb Stevens for all her work dealing with vendors and handling details concerning our ski trips.

The future of the Ski Club depends on volunteer help and members should consider stepping up to fill positions that several members have been doing for a long time, often doing multiple jobs.

Richard Vangelisti-retired Travel Agent

He spoke a little about the history of the club which began as Sun Cities Ski Club, founded in 1979 by Miner Patton. Richard came on board in 1989. He was asked to organize ski trips and the membership was over 200!

Richard and Mary Ann took care of all the details. They were dedicated and devoted to organizing fun family ski trips and encouraged multi-generational participation. Since their retirement in Mar 2020, we have had to rely on outside vendors. This is perhaps when it was realized how much they did for the Club. Thank you both for such good memories. Richard requested that we all initiate interest in keeping the ski club going.

Raffle Winners of \$20 each

Jack Shorr, Sandy Tiedeman, Warren Field, Ursula Parrent

President Ainsworth concluded the meeting at 7:40pm with Holiday Greetings to everyone!

Respectfully submitted by **Sandy Tiedeman, Recording Secretary**