

VSSC NEWSLETTER

VALLEY of the SUN Ski Club

January 2024

VSSCskiclub.com

Issue 4

President's Corner

Greetings

Telluride was amazing! We missed those that were not with us!

As you read this newsletter there will still be 16 of us headed to Snowmass, topping off our ski season. Of course, we hope you can take advantage of skiing opportunities at Snowbowl and Sunrise before the season ends.

Many of you may be aware that our club has struggled with getting new members and having people volunteer for various positions. I have been a member of VSSC for about 16 years and most of that in a volunteer position. I have enjoyed the support of many past officers, which in turn gave me the encouragement to serve the club, its members, past and present. I am grateful for the support received from our current Board members, Gus, Don, Koni, Sandy, and Margy, but would also remind the membership that without the dedication of Barb Stevens, working with our trip vendors, the two trips this year would not have happened. It takes a village! Please continue to promote the club.

Your dinner reservation form was already e-mailed, and I hope you will make a reservation for the dinner meeting, February 8th.

Bring a friend and volunteer for a position. The menu is Italian.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your President.

Respectfully,

Judy Ainsworth

Trip Reports

Telluride, CO: January 7-12, 2024

Traveled via BUS.

Telluride was wonderful!

We were on the road by 6:00am January 7th. The bus ride was smooth going. We did encounter snowy roads at Cortez but no issues. Thank you, Sandy Tiedeman, for the raffle prizes and the goodie bags!

The Peaks Spa and Resort was nice as ever. It is such a great location. Ski out, ski in, hot tub, adult beverage (or not), and

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, February 8th** - Social Hour at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00. **Prepaid dinner reservations are required** – deadline is **9pm Sunday, February 4th**. It's a **BYOB** event.

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

good food. Whether you ate at The Peaks, wandered into Mountain Village, or took the Gondola down to Telluride, good food was everywhere. There were 3 fresh snow days and one Bluebird Day. So yes, I'd say the skiing was pretty darn good!

Paper Plate Awards!

Pocket Rocket – Koni Hohnbaum “watch out, just wait until next year.”

Jake Tiedeman – Hey Jake, do you know where your cell phone is?

Jeff Beierschmidt – Don't you think that's a “Bad Idea!”

Dan Edwards – Will brake/break for Starbucks!

Thank you, Sandy Tiedeman!

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



Dinner Reservation Recorder

Mary Ann Vangelisti

602-799-3855

suntracusa@cox.net

Welcome New Member

No new members this month



2023-2024

Meeting Schedule

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

Dues/Trip applications will be sent to the membership in March. Hopefully the 2024-2025 trips will be decided by then.

If you know anyone who wants to join us, please reach out to me for a Dues/Trip application. konihojnbaum@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 February 8th, 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, February 4th. 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:

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 accept 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 have received your flight 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 nearby 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

VSSC Membership Meeting
January 4, 2024

Board members present:

Judy Ainsworth- President

Gus Osterback- Vice President

Don Larsen- Treasurer

Sandy Tiedeman- Recording Secretary

Koni Hohnbaum- Communications

Margy Simchak- Trip Liason

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm
Judy wished everyone a Happy New Year!

Past presidents were introduced:

Ursula Parrent, Margy Simchak, Saunders McDonald

New members and Guests were welcomed:

Conrad Kreik, Chris Stickney, Maureen DeFrance

Currently we have 63 members with 24 out of the area.
There were 40 reservations for dinner tonight.

Recognition was given to member volunteers:

Richard Wilse and Brigitte Ebert-Table decorations

Martin Umberger- Slideshows

Maryanne Vangelisti and Sherry Osterback- dinner roster & check in.

Bob Stone-name badges

Frank Simchak-50/50

Wendy McKenna-soft drinks and Eve's Place donations

Telluride- Jan 7-12, 2024-Margy Simchak

Luggage tags and armbands were available for those going on the trip.

The bus will depart from RH Johnson parking lot at 6am. Please be there

to load luggage at 5:30am. There will be 2 stops, Flagstaff and Cortez. Currently, there is a 24" base with 7" snow forecast for Sunday, Jan 7.

Skiers will be staying at The Peaks Resort and Spa which is in the Mountain Village and accessible to the lifts.

Snowmass- Jan 28-Feb 2, 2024-Judy Ainsworth & Koni Hohnbaum

The skiers will be staying at Stonebridge Inn with breakfast included. There is a pool and sauna. Incline Ski shop is in the hotel and Snowmass Sports in nearby for rentals.

A mountain tour is recommended for both resorts.

The Future of VSSC-Koni Hohnbaum

Since COVID, our ski club has declined in membership.

The importance of volunteers and need for new members cannot be stressed more! Publicity has gone out to several magazines, newspapers and bulletins to advertise VSSC. Without a board, volunteers and reliable vendors to plan trips, the future of our club is uncertain. With many members not skiing anymore, we have not been able to fill the ski trips for 2024. There are no ski trips after the beginning of February.

Koni Hohnbaum has offered to make a running email list for active skiers to plan ski trips on our own. There would be informal meetings at a restaurant to discuss this and everyone would be responsible for their own travel arrangements. There are also other clubs to join such as Phoenix and Scottsdale Ski Club.

Mary Ann Vangelisti and Tony Mullozzi would like to see the meetings continue through April.

Ursula Parrent asked about the bylaws in place and the mission of our club.

Richard Wilse also had concerns for continuation of the club and explained that other clubs have had to make concessions.

Margy Simchak talked about how we are not getting the group discounts we would like and that the commitment to resorts is demanded with deposits much earlier. Costs of everything has gone up and we need to adapt to change.

It was decided we will revisit this discussion at the February meeting. The meeting adjourned with some unsolved concerns.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Tiedeman



The Telluride Gang



Sandy Tiedeman, Mike Wegner, Dan, Bob, Jeff
Beierschmidtt, Koni Hohnbaum



Beautiful scenery!