

Black Diamond

PRESS

The Columbia Ski Club

June

Aspen Adventures 2023

By John Hubbs

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It all started on March 18 with a four-hour bus ride from Denver International Airport (DIA) to Aspen. The gear and luggage was loaded quickly and the seating comfortable with so few members on board the big bus. Trip Leader, Jim Ferant, did a nice job of pointing out rare fauna and landscape features on the way. Checking in at The Gant condos was well organized although the layout of the complex was...well complex!

We met our condo mates which was first-time introductions for some of us. Greg Clark and Eric Petras shared the large bedroom while I spread out in the master bedroom. As different as we were, we all got along fine. Some folks had to visit Four Mountain Sports to pick up rentals with the great discount we received for CSC. What a mob! The staff handled it professionally. Billy Ganz also had to get sized for boots – don't know what time he got out of there! I got back to condos just in time to check out Pepperjack's café dinner menu and a beer. What a first day!

John Weiland has often expressed his love for Buttermilk, especially for the first day to get ski legs ready for tougher slopes. We met the Gant shuttle at 8:45 for the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority (RFTA) in downtown that effectively manages buses to all four areas. We skied together on a bluebird day while meeting up with Bob Chapman from time to time. An outdoor lunch was a pleasant break on a great first day.

Back at the condos Jim and Assistant Trip Leader, Wade King, hosted a very nice Apres-ski Welcome Party at their huge condo. Brief self-introductions all around got everyone comfortable with new faces. I met Wade's wife, Kristen, who shared her first-day adventure. Pulling on her favorite old Lange ski boots, they just fell apart! So much for the first day in Aspen that they spent shopping for new boots and arranging for her ski rental. She also mentioned that she was looking for someone to ski with as Wade enjoys rapid descents on the slopes. How fortunate! I was wondering how to find someone that shared a more leisurely pace. After getting to know each other with more great conversation, we agreed to be ski buddies the rest of the week.

Next Meeting:

Ski trip sales kick off

Monday, June 12

at

Owen Brown Interfaith Center

7246 Cradelrock Way, Columbia, MD



**Executive Committee
2023-2024****President/Director**

Bill Ferguson

Vice-President**Mike DiProspero****President-Elect/Director**

Mary Metzler

Directors

Rob Foard

Robin Hershey

Jodi Hillmar

Charise Kasser

Mark Metzler

Treasurer

Alexa Fair

Secretary

Jean Fregeau

Committee Chairs**Activities**

Bob McCune

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Mark Metzler

Community Service

Vacant

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Deb McCune

Elections**Getaways & Adventures**

Pat D'Adamo

Hospitality

Christine Hollis

Membership

John Wetterau

Meetings & Programs

Michelle Horton

Newsletter

Mary Maxey

Publicity / Marketing

vacant

Ski Trip Coordinator

Fran D'Amico

Web Site

vacant

President's Corner

Hello members!

Ready, Set, Go! Trip sales are starting. After months of bidding, analyzing bids and selecting trip leaders, we are ready for you to select the 2024 trips that you are eager to join. Sales begin on Monday June 12th at the Owen Brown Interfaith Center located at 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045. From experience, this is the best night to get registered for a trip. We always have several trips sell out on the first night of sales. Don't miss your chance to go on the trips you prefer. Last ski season we had 11 trips and every trip sold out. It was a great year and sets us up for a large turnout for our trip sales kickoff. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

The Club has been very busy this spring. A big shout out to our new technology committee. Great strides have been made with a new website on the Club Express platform expected in late July. It is amazing to see what can be done with a few highly dedicated volunteers.

When you see Bob McCune, tell him thank you for his volunteer activity for the past 31 years! His energy on this committee is remarkable.

Another shout out goes to Gray Prestiani for his work on the Union Jacks membership renewal party. The crowd was huge and the food excellent. Thanks for your hard work organizing and planning the details for the event.

We will soon start selling tickets to the Crab Feast which will be held at the VFW in Ellicott City on September 17th. The pavilion is a wonderful place to hold the event and it should be lots of fun with good friends and plenty to eat and drink!

Our Getaway and Adventure group just returned from Costa Rica where they had a spectacular trip. Sales of our Scotland trip started this spring and sold out in just a few weeks even after increasing the number of spots available. If you are interested in the Scotland trip, please see John Wetterau on June 12 to get on the waitlist.

We've had several new volunteers for activities this year. Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Club. *We need you!* A volunteer fair will be held September 11th at our General Membership meeting. Our various committees and the Board of Directors will give short presentations on what they do and how you can be a part. Being involved in this organization is rewarding on many levels. I can attest to that.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on June 12th. My email contact is Pres.CSC@gmail.com. Please email me at any time with suggestions or questions.

Sincerely,
Bill Ferguson

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dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of the sport of skiing
... and many other activities

(Continued from page 1)

Many of us headed to Snowmass, a favorite with most CSC members. Kristen and I explored many runs off the Big Burn lift. Sheer Bliss was a challenge with new snow covering chopped conditions underneath. We enjoyed lunch at Ullrhof and ego-building runs in the afternoon agreeing to ski here on Wednesday after my day off to recoup.

Back in town we joined Billy and his brother-in-law, Rick Russell, and the crowded Mi Chola Mexican restaurant - noisy but the food was good. After some discussion of how to split a single bill for the table, Wade showed us how to give the waiter four credit cards with the amount to charge each one. It worked great! Rick insisted we had to visit the J Bar nearby at the classic old Jerome Hotel. Surprisingly few people were there, and we enjoyed a leisurely beer before calling the Gant to pick us up to round out a full day.

The next day was a rest day to allow my legs to get ready for three more days on the slopes. Slept in, went shopping at City Market, and visited the hot tub in early afternoon. An enjoyable conversation with Irene Abdou resulted in an invitation to dinner that evening with some of her friends. We met at Mezza Luna, a very nice airy Italian restaurant with Clint Harold and condo-mate Eric. The food was excellent and wine even better. I was able to apply the new-found skill of splitting a single check for the table between three credit cards.

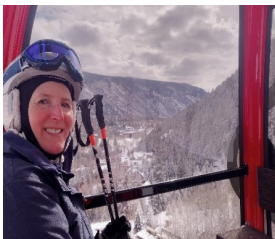
Wednesday at Snowmass with Kristen, we encountered a blizzard of wet snow in changing conditions. We picked our way down a few runs before lunch again at the Ullrhof. She shared her adventures the day before at Highlands saying it was not all that difficult. Since she had not skied Buttermilk and neither of us had Aspen Mountain, we planned the next two days to say we skied all four in the area.

We walked down to the lift and while stepping into my skis, discovered my fanny pack was still on the chair at Ullrhof. Dreading my uphill climb to the restaurant, Kristen did not hesitate to step out of her skis, walk the hill to retrieve it. What a ski buddy! Apres-ski drinks and snacks were on me. We skied the lower runs off the Coney Glade lift with better visibility the rest of the day. That evening the Gant hosted an apres-ski party with live music in the spacious meeting room. The chicken sliders for \$12 were a bargain and we got to use the free drink tickets from the Gant. The drummer from Hall & Oates was a big hit with songs accompanied by guitar,

The next day Kristen and I skied a full, hard day at Buttermilk. This was followed by a culinary adventure at Hickory House Ribs. The fixed price all-you-can-eat for \$30 was collected in advance from 23 members. We sat at a long table down the middle of the room at place settings that were 14" pizza platters with house-imprint wax paper on top. The family-style servings started with a delicious green salad, coleslaw, and baked beans. Then came platters of smoked ribs and chicken halves. At the end Wade pulled \$690 cash from his CSC arm band; Jim made up the difference from our trip fees. What a feast!

We were a bit concerned when the bus back to DIA was running late. We loaded quickly but the driver had trouble backing out of the lot; it took 15 minutes with help from two guides in back. We encountered mixed weather conditions around the tunnel but made it to the airport on time to close out our Aspen Adventures.

Thank you, Jim, and Wade.



MOOSE TRACKS

Lots of ski resorts, especially those in California, were open until Memorial Day. Here is the short list:

Killington. The Beast of the East, stayed open due to a great deal of snow farming to provide skiing on Super Star.

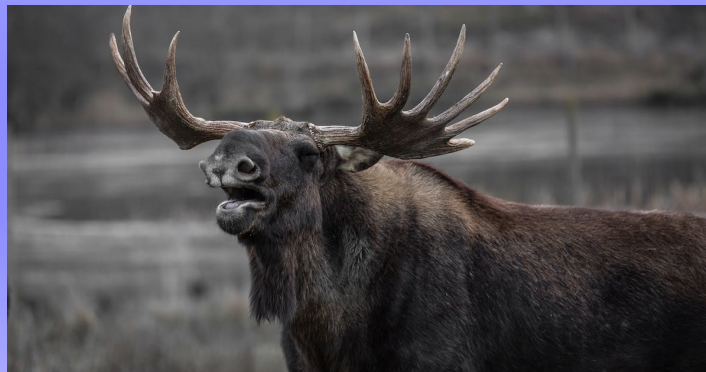
Arapahoe Basin skied through May along with Arizona Snowbowl, Palisades Tahoe, Snowbird Utah, Timberline Basin in Oregon with an 88" base at 6,000'. Mammoth with 10 lifts spinning providing service to 86 trails. It was quite a ski season.

Beartooth Basin opened on Memorial Day weekend and will remain open throughout the summer since that is their normal ski season. If you haven't heard Beartooth is a summer only ski resort. Anyone for summer skiing? Beartooth Basin opened in the mid 60's by Austrians Pepi Sailor and Anderl Molterer for use as a training ground for Alpine Ski Racing Summer camp. It is one of the oldest North American ski training areas. A younger generation of skiers wanted to open the area to the public and when they took over control of the area they staffed it with lift operators and a ski patrol. There is lots more history to be found on their web site.

Wouldn't it be fun to get a group of our Columbia Ski Club skiers on a trip to the ski in the summer? What do you think ski committee??

Have you picked out your destinations for the upcoming ski season. Don't tarry because it will soon be time to sign up early and often!

The Moose



By Robin Hershey

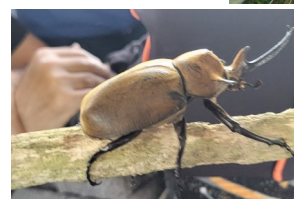
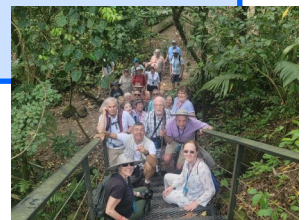
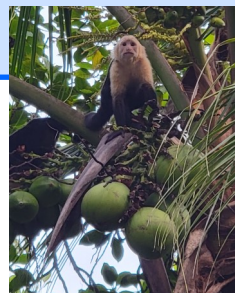
Thirty-two incredibly happy CSC members had a marvelous Costa Rican adventure from April 22 to April 30, 2023. We arrived on April 22 in San Jose, Costa Rica without a hitch and immediately boarded our bus to an exotic hotel where we met our Globus Tour Guide, Jorge. Jorge stayed with us the whole trip, providing great insight into the natural beauty of Costa Rica and the social, political, and historical aspects of the country. Besides being a great tour director, he was a fantastic naturalist. Most of us agreed we would not have seen 90% of the wildlife or understood the local vegetation, without Jorge.

Each day was full of exciting adventures. Early on the second day, we boarded an elegant coach bus and travelled to Tortuguero National Park, encompassing eleven different habitats. On the way, we passed several banana plantations, with Jorge providing valuable commentary along the way and stopping to dig a Hercules Beetle out of the tree to bring into the bus to amaze us and let us take pictures. The final leg of our journey included a 1 ½ hour boat ride to get to our hotel, seeing wildlife and jungle vegetation all along the way. We spent two days in Tortuguero, including bird walks, canal cruises for up-close viewing of jungle flora and fauna, a talk from a local naturalist, and hanging by the pool watching the monkeys play (see photo below). We obtained and surprised Jorge with a birthday cake on his day!

On day four, we traveled to the Sarapiquí region via boat initially, to where our luxurious coach bus awaited us. We then toured an organic pineapple farm, afterward partaking in delicious pina coladas made with fresh pineapple. We arrived at our lush hotel, in the middle of a rain-forest jungle. The next day, Jorge led us on a hike (see photo below) through lava fields, to take pictures at a spot with a view of the still active (but not dangerous at this time) Arenal Volcano. Jorge warned us that most times, Arenal's top was covered in clouds, but we had a sunny day with great visibility (photo below). Only 3% of the world's population has ever seen an active volcano! In the evening we drove to nearby Ecotermales Hot Springs for a dip in the wonderful pools and dinner afterwards. Optional excursions the next day included horseback riding, zip lining, rafting, or lounging by the hotel pools.

On day six, we traveled to Monteverde, 5000 ft elevation in the Santa Elena Cloud Forest, where we stayed for two days. Along the way, we had a private cooking class and explored the Cloud Forest via 6 Sky Walk Hanging Bridges. What a thrill! During our stay in Monteverde, we had a group dinner at a nearby restaurant made possible by Trip Leader, Alexa Fair, and an optional coffee/cocoa/sugar cane plantation visit. On the last day in Monteverde, we enjoyed the farewell dinner by Globus.

Overall, our trip to Costa Rica was an enormous success. Look at all our happy faces (see photo below). A beautiful and incredible biodiverse country. I highly recommend visiting, but better yet please join us on another tour with the Columbia Ski Club Getaway and Adventures Group!



Adopt-a-Road Clean up

After a rainy spring that caused us to postpone our Adopt-a-Road trash clean-up several times, we were finally able to get out on a beautiful Saturday morning on May 20 to complete this community service activity. Twelve CSC members joined forces to pick up 8 bags of trash along Little Patuxent Parkway between Broken Land Parkway and Cedar Lane in Columbia. With so many willing participants, along with Rob driving sweep, we were able to complete in the clean-up in less than 2 hours, after which we gathered at the Bagel Bin in Wilde Lake Village Center for bagels, sandwiches, coffee, and conversation. Thanks to John T, Denise B, Deb and Bob M, Eric T, Jay F, Mark and Maria K, Alexa F, Tom D, Bill P, and Rob F for participating in CSC's longest-running Community Service activity!



Save the date
CSC Crab Feast
Sunday September 17, 2023
Ellicott City VFW pavilion
2pm -6 pm
Crabs, shrimp, corn on the cob



2024 Ski Trip Schedule

The Columbia Ski Club is pleased to announce a ski trip lineup for the 2024 season. ***This list is subject to approval of the CSC Board of Directors. Pricing is subject to change.*** Trips will go on sale at the ski club General Meeting Monday, June 12th 2023. Updates will be posted on the website. Stay tuned for future announcements. Thanks to all that applied to be a ski trip leader or assistant leader. Congratulations to all that accepted the position. The club runs on volunteers.

2023-2024 Destinations	Dates	Trip Leader	Assistant Leader
Vail, Colorado	Jan 6-13, 2024	Jim Ferrant	Mike Ryan
EPIC Resort	\$2,529		
Crested Butte, Colorado	Jan 13-20, 2024	Sue Vasco	Jack Cashin
EPIC Resort	\$1,865		
Jackson Hole, Wyoming	Jan 20-27, 2024	Michael Wilmore	Mike Neuman
IKON Plus Resort	\$1,519		
Taos, New Mexico	Jan 27 - Feb 3, 2024	Bill Makowy	Nicole Kocis
IKON Plus Resort	\$2,079		
Lake Tahoe, CA (BRSC West)	Feb 3-10, 2024	Kerry Siebein	Charise Kasser
EPIC Resort	\$2,265		
Park City, Utah	Feb 10-17, 2024	Mark Metzler	Ellen Wagner
EPIC Resort	\$2,120		
Big Sky, Montana	Feb 24 – Mar 2, 2024	Kat Rhee	Lisa Shepherd
IKON Resort	\$2,498		
Telluride, Colorado	Mar 2-9, 2024	Robin Hershey	Julie Hendricks
EPIC Resort	\$2,137		
Sunday River, Maine (BRSC East)	Mar 3-8, 2024	Colleen Prosser	Jim Denzler
IKON Resort	\$1,425		
Banff, Alberta, Canada	Mar 9-16, 2024	Mary Maxey	Priscilla Davis
IKON Resort	\$1,879		
Les 3 Vallees, France	Mar 16-24, 2024	Mike DiProspero	Kristen Dukes
	\$3,817		

Pass Details

- Note that Ikon Base and Ikon Base Plus include only 5 days of skiing for each destination. Members wishing to ski 6 days on a trip must purchase the full Ikon Pass, which allows up to 7 days.
- Members wishing to ski at Telluride must buy a full Epic Pass, because the Epic Local pass does not allow access to Telluride.
- Members wishing to ski at Jackson Hole or Taos must purchase an Ikon Base Plus pass.
- Pricing for both Epic and Ikon can increase on a month-to-month basis, often without notice. The best advice is to purchase early.

Lift Pricing

Each trip has a different lift pricing approach. Destinations that use the Epic Pass offer attractive lodging rebates when the pass is purchased through the tour operator. Details will be available from the Trip Leader when they are assigned on June 5th.



GETAWAYS AND ADVENTURES TRIPS

Finger Lakes, NY

June 1—June 5 2023
\$645 pp

Croatia

Sept 19 22—Oct 2, 2023
Price \$4410

Scotland Highland Fling

September 18-29, 2024

Fine Wines and Fun

Includes

- 4 night;s lodging at the Best Western Inn, Penn Yan, NY
- Wine tasting at Finger Lakes Winery
- Group dinner at a local restaurant
- Daily breakfast at the hotel
- One additional activity TBD; lake cruises, museum, et al
- Welcome Party
- Pre- and post-trip parties

Note: participants are responsible for their own transportation

See flier on CSC website for full itinerary

For more information, contact
Rob Foard
smokeater46@yahoo.com
410-740-4946

14 days / 13 night escorted tour; Zagreb to Dubrovnik

Includes

- Roundtrip Airfare, including airfare, taxes, fees, & fuel surcharges
- Intra-Europe transportation & transfers
- Accommodations at deluxe and first class hotels
- 19 meals: 12 full breakfasts and 7 dinners
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours
- English-speaking tour director throughout
- Pre-trip & post trip parties
- On-trip gratuities
- Optional side trips
- Medical, evacuation, repatriation Insurance

Trip Leader
Bob McCune
goldmac@comcast.net
410-292-7037 (c)

Assistant Trip Leader
TBD

WAIT LISTED

12 days/11 night escorted land tour

Includes

- Hotels (1st class or better), airfare and transfers
- Fully escorted land tour
- Daily buffet breakfast, 2 lunches, 6 3-course dinners
- Sightseeing in modern, air-conditioned coach, with WiFi
- Daily sightseeing, including entrance fees
- Visit Glasgow, Edinburgh, Orkney Islands, Isle of Skye, Inverness, Loch Lomond, and much more!
- English-speaking tour manager and local guides
- One included extra day in Glasgow with TBD tour
- Gratuities for tour manager, bus driver and local guides
- Pre-and post-trip parties
- Group dinner
- \$4640 (pending final air)

Trip Leader
John Wetterau
inspctrmrs@aol.com
443-745-4813

WAIT LISTED

Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources

More-Than-Ski Google Group	Opt-in here: http://bit.ly/MoreThanSki	To post after opting-in, send email to csc-mts@googlegroups.com
Facebook Group	facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub	Must have a Facebook account

Upcoming Activities

June 7— Mini Golf Round 7—Rocky Gorge Mini Golf	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
June 8—June Happy Hour—Nottingham's	5:00 PM -7:00 PM
June 10 - BWI Trail Bike Ride	10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
June 11— Mini Golf Round 8—Mitchell Golf Complex	12:30 PM – 2: 00 PM
June 11—Mini Golf Round 9—Mitchell Golf Complex	1:30 PM—3:00 PM
June 12— CSC Monthly Meeting and Ski Trips Sales Kickoff	7:00 PM— 8:30 PM
June 28—Mini Golf Round 10—Laurel Golf Center	6:30 PM— 8:00 PM



Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources

More-Than-Ski Google Group	Opt-in here: http://bit.ly/MoreThanSki	To post after opting-in, send email to csc-mts@googlegroups.com
Facebook Group	facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub	Must have a Facebook account

Membership Renewal for 2023-24

CSC Membership runs from June 1st through May 31st each year (regardless of what date you joined).

You can join or renew membership in one of two ways:

1. **Via [ClubExpress](#)** - complete online & pay online with credit card (or mail a check); most expedient and preferred method

Note: If you were a CSC member in the past you already have a Club Express account. Please do not create a new account.

If you forgot your username/password you can reset it when logging in.

If you need help with your Club Express username or logging in, send an email to: osepe@columbiaskiclub.org (*)

2. **Fillable PDF form** - download, fill out, print and mail in with a check.

[Visit this web page then](#). It will indicate the various membership rates and other details.

(*) See [more detailed signup instructions](#) especially if you're having trouble with ClubExpress.



Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources

Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources		
More-Than-Ski Google Group	Opt-in here: http://bit.ly/MoreThanSki	To post after opting-in, send email to csc-mts@googlegroups.com
Facebook Group	facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub	Must have a Facebook account

Thank You Columbia Ski

Our family would like to offer a sincere thank you to the wonderful members of the Columbia Ski Club. As many of you know, we experienced a house fire on April 14th, 2023. The fire started in our detached garage, but the wind was blowing toward our house, which led to the house catching on fire as well. Thankfully, several local fire departments responded quickly, greatly minimizing damage. If they had arrived 5-10 minutes later, we would have lost the house as well.

We are currently residing in a temporary home while ours is being restored. The restoration is estimated to take about 6 months. If things go well, we will be back in our home for Christmas, and ready for the ski season.

We are very thankful to everyone who reached out to offer support during this challenging time. With the support of our friends and family, we know that we will emerge stronger from this event. We look forward to seeing everyone at future ski club events and trips.

Sincerely,

The Kings: Wade, Kristen, Kalyn, and Skylar



Next Newsletter will be September 2024

Have a fantastic summer!



**Ski Trip Schedule
now available**

See Page 7



The Columbia Ski Club

P.O. Box 204
Columbia, MD 21045

www.columbiaskiclub.org

