

# The Flakey News

Publication of the Fox Valley

Snowdrifters Ski Club **January, 2021!!**



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Hi Snowdrifters!

What a great Christmas Party! Thanks so much to Laurel Davis, Peggy Courser, and Maureen Joy. The party went really well, we had lots of fun with the trivia questions and learned more about each other. I hope everyone enjoyed their little gift of holiday cheer for participating! I also found out how many corks Laurel goes through ☺ and had fun singing some songs. I know Santa had a lot of fun and enjoyed his egg nog. Happy New Year to all!

Hopefully you have had a chance to go skiing over this holiday season. The Midwest is currently a little behind in getting snow - too bad we are not in the Northeast. I have been skiing and, in talking to other skiers, there are many approaches to dealing with COVID at the ski areas but it seems a lot like we what have seen with different states and communities. It is pretty clear that all ski areas require masks, but how they are handling lift lines, chair rides, food and beverage are varying. I am happy that in most instances the places the Club is going are taking it pretty seriously. I will say my experience in Michigan was very good - reserved tickets, masks required with good participation of skiers, bar was take-out only, food was ordered by your phone and picked up. I feel very good about the precautions the Club is taking, but it is still up to each individual to be as safe as possible. I recommend that each skier discuss with their travel partner how they are going to address exposure with each other and the others you may come in contact with. For instance, chairlifts are asking if you travel together you ride the lift together. Commingling is not a good idea. We will socially distance at our events but you must continue to be aware and respect each other's space. The biggest challenge is what is going to work for your mask. You may want to try some options and see what is the most comfortable for you to wear as most resorts ask you to wear them all the time and that may be hard while skiing but it is an absolute requirement in lift lines. It is easier to just keep it on than constantly taking it on and off so you may want to figure out what works best. As a Club, we will also require a mask to be worn when with the group.

Granite Peak re-boot 2.0 is now a day trip. It should be lots of fun and you can meet us there or we can caravan up together. There will be a socially distanced Club lunch barbecue and apres skiing. It will be a good way to test your gear, including masks, for the western trips. You should have received an email with the details as well as information later in this newsletter. Please contact Michelle Etherton if you are interested.

Schweitzer is full but we have had cancellations and fortunately we have filled them but we no longer have a waitlist. If you are interested in this trip, please let Joe Hopp or I know as we anticipate that you will be able to go if you want to.

Whitecap, looks like it will go but we still need a few people. Again, I am really excited about this trip. It is a fun area and we will have our own floor at the lodge with large rec room and private kitchen. We will be able to provide socially distanced common space

and skiing on Whitecap's three mountains. If you have never been there it is a very pretty ski area and, of course, has the famous wine bar. Please let Maureen Joy or I know if you are interested.

Mammoth still has room if anyone is interested and should be a great trip. I spent two seasons in Mammoth in the early 80's. It is an awesome ski area and I am looking forward to getting back there. At that time there was no ski in/ski out lodging so this going to be very nice! Please let Frank Hodowal know if you have interest in going.

Finally, we are still planning on skiing in Chile in September. Hopefully, by September the world may be a little more normal. I am looking forward to traveling worldwide again and South America should be a great trip. Let me know if you have questions or are interested in this trip.

Have a Happy New Year, I hope to see you on at least one of the trips.

*John Gamble*

*President*



# **SOCIAL**

## **Northern Illinois Food Bank**

We are still volunteering on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Not only do we volunteer for a great cause, we also get to socialize and have a little fun with some of our fellow Snowdrifters. Please let John Gamble know if you want to be included in his weekly email reminders.



Our Pres is playing in the box of cans.



Eileen Parsons and sister, Marguerite McGowen are labeling cans as Dale Richardson stacks full boxes onto wood crates



The Snowdrifters' Christmas Party was very different from years past. But it was great to see so many join in on Zoom. There were 33 unique log-ins but several of those log-ins had multiple Snowdrifters on screen. And I do think fun was had. As often happens technology glitches prevented some from audio or visual or both. I know I love technology...when it works!

A couple of BIG thank yous to Laurel Davis for being a fine cruise director with her trivia and games, Peggy Courser for being the treasurer extraordinaire with emailed gifts to those in attendance and Santa John Gamble for hosting the fun.

A great game of Snowdrifter/Christmas trivia was played. The 'winner' was the first one to type the answer in the chat box. The first correct answers were provided by: James Litchfield, Chuck Salisbury, John & Susan Walsh, Joe & Dana Hopp, Jay Burstein, Eileen Parsons, Frank Hodowal, John Gamble, Peggy Courser, and Michelle Etherton. Fast thinkers with fast typing fingers won multiple trivia questions! Congrats to all. If you wish to see a listing of all the questions please email me and I will forward them on to you.

Laurel then picked a Snowdrifter's name and a Christmas Carol title out of a bowl. The person had to serenade us all. We have some great voices amongst the group.

Finally Laurel filled a big glass vase with wine corks and Christmas ornaments. Our job was to guess the correct number of corks. The closest guess to 123 - the actual number of corks was 132. The winner was Eileen Parsons.

Got ideas for some virtual fun or social distanced fun? Let me know!

Here's to 2021 and the hope of face to face fun. Stay Safe. Be well.

*Maureen Joy*

*Social Chair*

[mojoy@comcast.net](mailto:mojoy@comcast.net)

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome to new members - Patrice Conaway and Richard Fontagneres! We look forward to skiing with you!

## **MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

*Submitted by Michelle Etherton*



# **JAMES LITCHFIELD**

## **A.K.A. JAKE**



**Jake and his family live in Crystal Lake**

**Married to Dr. Leah Litchfield, DVM. She practices veterinary medicine at Barrington Animal Hospital as of August 2020 after 13 years practicing in Crystal Lake. (She's always accepting new patients if anyone is looking for a caring, smart vet.)**

**Children: Two daughters, Elena ages 10 and Vivienne is 5.**

**Pets: Three chocolate labs (ages 7 years old, 3 years old, and 5 months old) and two cats. See above section about being married to a veterinarian 😊.**



**Career:** I am a trained middle school educator; I taught middle school math and English for 10 years. I was an assistant principal for three years and most recently a middle school principal for five years. I am currently on a year leave of absence to care for my father, who has early onset ALZ and dementia at age 70. I will be returning to being an educator for the 2021-2022 school year; our nation's students need "all hands on deck" after this pandemic.

**Do you ski or snowboard:** BOTH! I grew up skiing and am teaching my daughters to ski. I tried snowboarding four years ago and got discouraged by the amount of time spent on the snow buckling/unbuckling boots and repeated falling. Two years ago, I came back to snowboarding when I started a middle school ski/snowboard club. The students encouraged me to stick with it and I got hang of it. Now, I own equipment for both sports, considering myself an intermediate (no longer a beginner) snowboarder and advanced (not yet expert) skier.

**Where is your favorite place to ski/snowboard and why?** My "home hill" is Alpine Valley, where we take the middle school club six times a year. I went to Granite Peak in early 2020 and it became my new favorite resort. I have never skied or snowboarded outside of the Midwest and joined Snowdrifters primarily to address this desire to experience more resorts. Once we are beyond COVID and I am back to work, I look forward to taking advantage of this club's wonderful opportunities to GO BIG somewhere outside the Midwest.

**What other hobbies do you have besides skiing/snowboarding?** We are a camping family! I use my F150 truck to pull a 35-foot travel trailer camper that can sleep up to 8 people. We travel as family of four "plus one" with my mother being a co-owner of the camper who joins us in the fun. We go music festivals, NASCAR races, state parks, Jellystone resorts, and anywhere in between. We are considered "weekend warriors" who drive the camper all over, unload a myriad of accessories, cook elaborate meals, drink around the campfire, and head back home.

**During the quarantine, what have you been binge watching?** I watch all three levels of NASCAR (Trucks, Xfinity, and Cup levels) each weekend. I am a University of Illinois graduate and watch all Illini football and basketball. Sitting down to "binge watch" multiple seasons of anything just isn't me. But, a good "NASCAR nap" in the recliner is right up my alley

**Favorite meal to prepare?** I am the grill-master in my house. Otherwise, Leah is the master chef and I do the cleanup. It is her hobby that I get to enjoy.

**Coolest sporting event ever attended?** Taking my daughters to experience football tailgating at the University of Illinois (with the camper) in September 2019 was very memorable.

**First concert attended?** Garth Brooks, late 1990s, at the (then) Rosemont Horizon with my first serious girlfriend.

**Biggest pet peeves?** As a trained educator, I can pretty much ignore or look past anything. I get along with almost anyone and tend to embarrass my wife by engaging strangers like they are my lifelong friends.

**What is your ultimate dream ski vacation?** I'm going to allow Snowdrifters to show me the way to enjoying ski vacations outside the Midwest. I can't wait!

**GRANITE PEAK SKI TRIP  
REBOOT 2.0  
SATURDAY JANUARY 9, 2021**



**LOCAL TRIP:  
UP & BACK THE SAME DAY -  
CAR POOL  
RSVP BY: 1/3/21**



**The Details:**

6:45 am - Meet at Saint Charles Government  
Building on Randall Rd, Accross from the

Fairgrounds

7:00 am - Depart for Granite Peak

11:00 ish - Arrive Granite Peak

2:00 - Tailgate BBQ Lunch (club providing)

If we get 20 people

lift tickets will be \$50.00 plus tax

less than 20 people lift will be \$89.00 plus tax



**To sign up for this trip call or text  
Michelle Etherton (630) 777- 8549  
or email [carey\\_michelle@live.com](mailto:carey_michelle@live.com)**

# Schweitzer Mountain, Idaho January 23–28, 2021

Here we go!!!

<https://www.schweitzer.com>

## United Airline ITINERARY

|         |       |    |         |        |        |
|---------|-------|----|---------|--------|--------|
| UA-379  | 23JAN | SA | ORD/DEN | 7:00A  | 8:43A  |
| UA -502 | 23JAN | SA | DEN/GEG | 11:20A | 12:51P |
| UA-1103 | 28JAN | TH | GEG/DEN | 1:50P  | 5:02P  |
| UA-451  | 8JAN  | TH | DEN/ORD | 6:13P  | 9:31P  |

ACCOMMODATION:      Selkirk Lodge      (877) 487-4643

Five nights' accommodations at Selkirk Lodge • 3 or 4 day Schweitzer Mountain lift pass • Daily Breakfast • Idaho Potato Welcome Party plus group dinner TBD.

Note: We have provisions in place for refunds in case of travel restrictions because of COVID 19.

**Trip Leader:**                      **John Gamble**      [johnhgamble@me.com](mailto:johnhgamble@me.com)  
**Asst. Trip Leader:**              **Joe Hopp**              [jhopp23@hotmail.com](mailto:jhopp23@hotmail.com)

# Happy New Year!!

*Here's hoping what happened in 2020  
stays in 2020!!*



Davos Swiss Hotel  
3 nights – Th-Fri-Sat.  
February 25, 26, 27, 2021

\$300 per person, includes 2 days lift tickets

\$210 per person NON-Skier

\$200 Single Room - 2 Floors

- 20 Rooms
- 2 Full kitchens
- 2 Spacious gathering rooms
  - Plenty of social distancing room
  - Group dinner/gathering on sight
- 43 downhill runs!!
- See <https://whitecapresort.com> for more details.



A list of members willing to carpool will be compiled.

It is up to individuals to arrange their transportation.

**THE LAST DATE TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP IS JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE LET MAUREEN KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING.**

Contact Maureen Joy [mojoy@comcast.net](mailto:mojoy@comcast.net) to sign up!





**March 13-18, 2021**  
**Saturday - Thursday \$1,375\***  
**Opening for one male left**



Mammoth Mountain California is unquestionably one of the finest Alpine Skiing Mountains in the world. An average of over 400 inches (33 feet) of snow falls onto the 11,053 foot summit, making the entire 3,500 plus acres of skiable terrain enjoyable for all. Choose from heart-pumping steep chutes, wide open bowls, tree skiing, bumps, gullies, or wide open, well-groomed trails.

**Trip Details**

- 5 nights at Mammoth Mountain Inn - Ski-in/ski-out
- Standard rooms with 2 per room – Portage Included
- R/T Airport Hotel Transfer – 13 miles
- A **\$100 resort credit** will be given to each person upon arrival and is good at any mountain retail location to purchase resort wear, gear, food, cocktails and more.
- **4 day lift ticket included**
  - **Trip Cost Reductions for Lift Tickets:** (3-day - \$60, Senior 4-day - \$50, senior 3-day - \$100, 80+yrs or Non-Skier - \$300)\*
- Welcome breakfast on first day
- Complimentary group mountain tour

*Round Trip Air Fare on United*

|        |       |        |        |        |
|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| UA2465 | 13MAR | ORDDEN | 810AM  | 945AM  |
| UA5478 | 13MAR | DENMMH | 1115AM | 1246PM |
| UA5726 | 18MAR | MMHSFO | 1100AM | 1213PM |
| UA 732 | 18MAR | SFOORD | 125PM  | 732PM  |

**Mammoth Mountain Inn**

Situated at the base of the mountain just across from the ski area's Main Lodge, Mammoth Mountain Inn hotel rooms offer stunning views, ski-in, ski-out convenience and proximate. access

to Mammoth's best mountainside activities and attractions. Hotel room sleeps 2 guests and features 2 double beds and bathroom with tub/shower. All hotel rooms include a coffee maker, iHome media player, DVD player and HDTV with satellite and premium channel service.

**Payment Schedule (per person)**

- **January- Balance Due**

|                               |                       |  |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Trip Leader:</b>           | <b>Frank Hodowal:</b> | <a href="mailto:ftod@aol.com">ftod@aol.com</a>                   |
| <b>Assistant Trip Leader:</b> | <b>Leo Ahasic:</b>    | <a href="mailto:bahasic@sbcglobal.net">bahasic@sbcglobal.net</a> |

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## **PORTILLO, CHILE**

**Late summer 2021 - \$3,150 per person**

Package Includes: Airfare to and from Santiago and transportation to Hotel Portillo at the Portillo Ski Area for 4 nights. Over the past 60 years, Portillo has earned a reputation as an excellent destination for skiers and snowboarders from all over the world. The snow quality in Portillo is excellent and is often likened to that of the Rocky Mountains. Skiers of all skill levels find what they are looking for on a mountain and come back year after year. Here is a general breakdown of the terrain: Beginner -15%, Intermediate – 30%, Advanced – 30%, Expert – 25%. The ski area features 1,235 acres of ski-able terrain, 14 lifts and 35 runs. Beginner and intermediate runs are groomed nightly, off-piste runs are challenging and steep, and the powder is often deep. The bowls and shoots perfectly collect the light, dry snow and the above-tree-line landscape turns into a white playground. Pair this with frequently sunny, blue skies and it is easy to understand why many guests, even professional skiers, say they've had some of their best ski days at Portillo.

Rate includes: Full Board, Lift tickets daily Hyatt Centric 3 nights - Santiago Hyatt Centric Las Condes is one of the 5-star hotels in Santiago, Chile, located in the modern district of Las Condes. Offering an ideal location to explore the city, the hotel is close to metro transit, providing a convenient connection to discover Santiago's popular historical spots. This bustling area is surrounded by trendy restaurants, specialty shops, local cafes, and more. Rate in Santiago includes: breakfast daily and all transfers.

Trip Leader for additional questions: John Gamble 630-761-9550  
Johngamble@icloud.com

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## *Blast from the Past*



Steep runs, fast groomers, slope side bars, great food, and friendly service - what do these all have in common? Switzerland! Twenty five Snowdrifters traveled to Interlaken, Switzerland for seven days to partake in skiing, shopping and/or sightseeing. The skiing was outstanding with options for all levels of skiers. The shopping

was great including Swiss Army Knives, Swiss Watches, Cow Bells, Cuckoo Clocks, and Swiss cheese to name a few. The sightseeing from on top of the mountains was breathtaking. There was something for everyone to do.

The skiers in our group found three areas to ski. First is a small area, but had challenging runs including a slalom through gates. Mannlichen /Kleine Scheidegg made up the middle of the three ski areas. They provided the largest area to ski as well as the most diverse runs. The area also had many restaurants and bars to stop for food and drink. Schilthorn was the third ski area that included the famous 007 ski run. There were options to travel to all areas either by bus or train and/or gondola - the train being the most unique to the European experience.

The 2013 Snowdrifters' World Cup Ski Crawl and Poker Run was held on the last day of skiing. The start of the crawl was toasted by the coordinator Joe Hopp. Ming (Steve Larson) was the navigator who led us around the mountain to the six stops. It all started at the "Start Bar" located at the top of the mountain. From there we proceeded to the Coca-Cola Tee Pee where the "Pit Boss," Tom Quetsch, handed out the first playing card. The high card was held by The Kid (Kevin Hopp) who won a flask from the Peg Meister (Peggy Schmidt). Many thanks to Peggy and Timbo (Tim Briggs) for supplying the prizes for the poker run. Sweet Sue (Sue Slankard) had the toasting honors for her elegant toast at the Tee Pee. The next bar was Arven Glade where Timex (the Time Master, Dale Richardson) reminded us we were behind our schedule.

We quickly skied to the Club 21 on Rte. 21 for our next card and drink. Club 21 was named by Big Daddy (John Larson) but the actual name on the bar was the Holster Bar. Upon arriving, the bartender provided all crawlers with a free shot of schnapps. Steamer (Dave Shriver) won the high hand. Some drifters partook in a little dancing to the music and as you can tell we were all starting to groove. We put on our skis to ski to the next bar which was about 50 meters away and was coined Greg's Creamsicle (you'll have to ask Greg or Big Daddy). The sights from these bar patios were spectacular. From here, Haus (Joe Hopp, Jr.) led us to the Tap 3-21 for another round of drinks. Timbo captured the event on his camera taking numerous pictures. Besides drinking, Swiss cheese was purchased by many of the crawlers. The final stop in the Ski Crawl was the Quickie Bar located at the bottom of the mountain. Here, Sarah Richardson joined the crawl after a day of snowshoeing. We were also joined by Denise Brouillette and Tom Tourtellotte, who were finishing up a day of sledding. Many toasts were made thanking everyone for their participation.

The bargain of the trip was the purchase of beer steins for only 3 euro. The best poker hand was held by Sweet Sue and she was awarded a chunk of Swiss cheese. Everyone made it down the mountain safely and many laughs were shared by all. Thanks to Timex we all made it to the bus on time where The Kid had a twelve pack of cold brews for the drive back to the Hotel.

Following the skiing portion of the trip, we took a bus from Interlaken through Switzerland, with a short stop in Lucerne for shopping and dining; then along the Lichtenstein border and into Austria for another short stop for food. (Some of you may want to ask Pat about the proper way to clear customs at the border.) From Austria we entered the German countryside and reached our hotel in Munich. Fritz, our tour guide provided commentary on the sights along the way.

Our stay in Munich was wonderful. It included a brief tour of the city's sights including a stop to view and hear the glockenspiel, a visit to the grounds of the Nymphenburg palace and a view of the citizens of Munich enjoying their Sunday skating, playing Eisstockscheissen (curling), and hockey along the Nymphenburg canal. Our bus driver, Thome, masterfully squeezed our bus through the parked cars and away from the palace to end our tour at Munich's Olympic Park.

Meals in Munich were a real treat – excellent Bavarian specialties. And no trip to Munich would be complete without several stops at some of the world’s great brew houses – Lowenbrau, Hofbrau, Augustiner, and Andechser to name a few. While in Munich, a few of us opted for a moving visit to the memorial at Dachau concentration camp, while most of the group chose an enjoyable trip to the famous Neuschwanstein castle of “mad” King Ludwig with a stop in Oberammergau, home of the Passion Play and Bavarian wood crafts.

It was another great European trip. Thanks to all of the trip participants for helping to make this such a memorable trip. Special thanks to Pat Quetsch and Joe Hopp for leading the trip. And thanks to Sue, Tom, Denise, Tim, Peggy, Jim and Gail for joining us from out of state. We hope to see all of you on future Snowdrifters’ trips.

*(Reprinted from a past newsletter)*



We encourage you to join the Snowdrifters Ski Club Facebook page if you have not done so yet. The monthly newsletter will be posted there, updates on any Club activities/meetings, articles and photos. Please feel free to post any skiing articles and photos from trips/events/meetings.

## *Sue Stanciu*

*Social Media Chair*

**ALPINE ACCESSORIES**  
Ski, Snowboard, Paddleboard

**Dry boots are the best!**



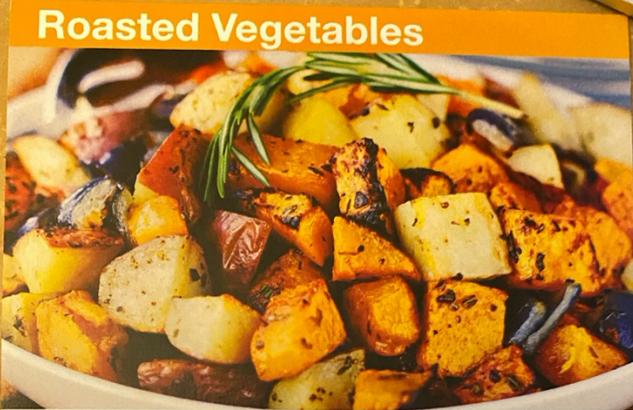
**January store hours are;**  
10-6 Monday through Friday  
10-5 Saturday 12-5 Sunday

**Rick & Laurie**  
Alpine Accessories  
847-854-4754

Shop on-line or in store.

[www.AlpineAccessories.com](http://www.AlpineAccessories.com)

# Recipe



**Roasted Vegetables**

**Ingredients**

- cooking spray
- 4 cups assorted vegetables, cut into equal sized pieces
- 2 tablespoons oil or melted butter
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon salt

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 425°. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the vegetables, oil or butter, black pepper and salt. Pour the mixture onto baking sheet.
4. Bake for 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are slightly brown and tender.

*6 servings*

The Food Bank is committed to providing nutrition education to the community. Free resources include cooking demos and videos, and great recipes like this one.  
Visit [www.SolveHungerToday.org](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org) for more information

## Snowdrifters' Calendar

Jan 9: *Midwest Ski Trip Granite Peak*

Jan 18: *Board and General Meetings will be Zoom Meetings until further notice*

Jan 23 - 28: *Schweitzer, Idaho Ski Trip*