

# The Flakey News

Publication of the Fox Valley  
Snowdrifters Ski Club



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## "Flakes" from the Ski-EO

We had a great first general meeting in May and with all new board members, first that I remember in a while. There's a lot of excitement "snowing on" with membership being up, the great trips we've had this past year and the new ones Frank has planned for us this next year. Encourage everyone you come into contact with to check out the Snowdrifters online or come to a meeting and see what we're all about (remember they get a free drink for checking us out at the meeting and I'll buy you one myself for bringing them).

Don't sit back and wait before you decide on this next season's trips in 2018. Reread previous information on trip info and signup procedures before you signup. Frank just signed the contract for Jackson Hole, Wyoming, February 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> as a better price came in for airline tickets from Winters Ski & Sport, even though Crested Butte was on our radar. A lot of us are already talking about Morzine and Nice France in January (42 spots) and Twin Peaks in British Columbia (28 spots) in March. Come to the next meeting on Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot. These are all great destinations and they're gonna go fast.

Frank, John Walsh and I went to the CMSC Trip Seminar on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton-O'Hare Hotel. We attended a couple of seminars and came away with a few good ideas. We visited several trip vendors from the US and abroad, a few bus companies and many ski resorts - all reaching out to us to have us come ski and stay with them. In the thinking stages we're talking about a warm weather trip to Mexico and, maybe, a Sept trip to Germany, Oktoberfest and Austria in 2019. Give us your ideas on these and let's make one or both happen. 20 people minimum seems to be where the magic happens on the best price points.

Michele is also working hard on getting us together with her Dinner Club idea. Many of us have already signed up. Barb and I and Dan and Sue Stanciu did this with 4 other couples for 6 years and it was great. Think outside the box, get to know your fellow members better. I gave my wife, Barb, her Mother's Day/Birthday (5/29) present, which was a birdbath, handmade by Kai Schulte. He's very talented, a true artisan, and, if you can think of it, he can make it.



Looking forward to "skeeing" you at the next meeting.  
Your PreSKIdent,  
Leo

# **MEMBER'S CORNER**

## **SNOWDRIFTERS' 2018 TRIPS**

We have been receiving trip quotes for the upcoming ski season and are close to establishing our final western ski trip destinations. We have already signed a contract for our January European trip to Moins and Nice, France - trip details are in the newsletter. For February, we are looking for a short trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming and, for March, we are close to confirming a weeklong trip (March 10<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>) to Sun Peaks, BC Canada (another first time club ski destination). Once we have confirmed all our destination trips, we will schedule a date for our bus trip (tentatively a weekend trip in February to Granite Peak in Wausau Wisconsin).

**We plan to put all trips on sale at our June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Remember, you have to be a current paid-up club member to sign up for trips.**

***We are in need of trip leaders for our February and March trips, please help us out and volunteer to be a trip leader.***

Trip Coordinator

*Frank H*

## **Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council**

The Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council's (CMSC) primary goal is to promote and support our member clubs in their effort to further the interest in skiing, snowboarding and year round activities - social activities.

CMSC is a not for profit organization with 70 member clubs throughout the Chicago metropolitan area and neighboring states, representing over 10,000 skiers and snowboarders.

Judy Gratz, CMSC Regional V-P, attended the May 15<sup>th</sup> General Meeting to provide an update on future CMSC activities; August 20<sup>th</sup> Chicago Cub Rooftop party, August 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic, October 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> Windy City Ski & Snowboard Show, January 21, 2018 Adventure Travel Expo and next year's trips. All of this information and more can be found on the CMSC website at [www.skicmsc.com](http://www.skicmsc.com).

# 2017 Trip Credits

All four of our 2017 ski trips were successfully completed under budget so we will have trip credits for those who attended the specific trips. The table below indicates the trip credits for each trip based on the type of package that was registered for the member.

	Steamboat			Mayerhfn	Alyeska			Shanty Creek		
	Air, Land, lift	Land, lift	Air, Land	Air, Land	Air, Land, lift	Land, lift	Air, Land	Family	Skier	Non Skier
<b>Credit amount</b>	\$23	\$14	\$18	\$25	\$15	\$9	\$14	\$32	\$14	\$12
<b># of credits</b>	19	5	1	43	28	2	11	1	26	3.5

The trip credits can be used for membership payments, 2018 trip payment credits, or returned as cash. The 2017 trip credits need to be utilized or paid within the current fiscal year ending in April 2018. In general, these trip credits will be applied to your 2018 trips unless the member specifically requests the credits be used for membership payments or a return as cash.

Please see me for any questions or specific requests that you may have.

*John Walsh*

Treasurer

# **TRIP INFORMATION**

## **Snowdrifters' Trip Pricing**

The most significant components of the price of our trips are the airfare and the lodging. The cost of airfare in particular has increased in recent years. The trip coordinator works with a vendor (for domestic trips it is typically Winter Ski and Sport) to choose a destination, transportation, and lodging that meets our Club's expectations for quality and cost. Factors we consider include:

- ❖ Destination resort: Member preferences, special opportunities or pricing, time since last visit
- ❖ Lodging: condo or hotel, distance to slopes, quality of accommodation, local transportation
- ❖ Transportation: airline used, connections, flight schedule, bus transportation at the destination

The trip coordinator selects trips based on the vendor's ability to meet our requirements. The vendor then provides a contract that provides per person costs for lodging, airfare, and lift tickets. These costs are all based on group rates for the requested number of participants. In some cases an airline or resort will offer a complementary ticket for a sufficiently large number of participants. Ground transportation at the destination is also included in the contract, normally as a cost per bus trip rather than a per person cost.

The trip coordinator adds costs for a number of other items to the contract price:

- ❖ Ground transportation to O'Hare
- ❖ Bus driver tips
- ❖ Group dinner / pizza party / "meet and greet"
- ❖ Miscellaneous trip expenses

Again, the bus related costs are per trip, not per person. The final pricing must account for the possibility that the trip will not sell out and the per-trip costs must be borne by fewer than the targeted number of participants.

If the group size exceeds expectations or we meet our "comp" targets, the Club often has money for additional trip events (pizza, après ski, resort gift cards, et. al.) The converse holds if the expected number of participants is fewer than planned. This was often the case just three or four years ago and led to us using more conservative assumptions in pricing current trips. When trip sales are finalized, the trip budget is re-evaluated and the trip leader adjusts the off-slope activities accordingly.

For international trips, a vendor may include terms that are affected by the monetary exchange rate.

In the end, the result is a price for a trip that begins and ends at the Kane County Fairgrounds for a skier that brings his/her own skis. To provide reasonable pricing for non-skiers and remote members, the club offers three price levels:

- ❖ Lodging, Transportation, and Lift tickets (for skiers)
- ❖ Lodging and Transportation (for non-skiers)
- ❖ Lodging and Lift tickets (for remote club members)

Continued on next page

For some club members, these pricing options do not exactly match the services they actually use. Specifically, our pricing options do not separate out the use of ground transportation and they do not separate out lift ticket prices based on age.

The issue with ground transportation is that our costs are per trip, not per person. We do not know upfront how many people will take the bus either to O'Hare or at the destination, since that depends on where people that go on the trip live and the details of their travel plans. To adjust for your actual use of transportation services, we would need to add at least three pricing levels (both ends, destination end, neither). Actual prices would depend on who signs up and what their travel plans are. These could change when, for example, the airline schedule changes.

For lift tickets, our experience has been that in the majority of cases senior discounts are not substantial enough to warrant the additional bookkeeping of adding more pricing levels. While the contract from the vendor does not offer group rates for different age ranges, the price the club pays for group lift tickets is normally well below window prices, even for seniors. For example, our group rate at Steamboat was \$65 per day compared to over \$100 at the window for a regular adult ticket. However, in some cases it may make sense for a senior to sign up as a non-skier and purchase tickets at the window for the senior rate and possibly for a reduced number of ski days. When the trip roster is finalized, we do work with the vendor to get the discounted rates. The savings from any reductions are funneled back into the trip budget to be used for group activities.

The board views pricing transportation and lift tickets individually as adding unnecessary complexity to the job of pricing trips. We do not see other ski clubs doing differential pricing and believe that our pricing, based on group rates, represents a great value even with these simplifications.

### **Trip Cancellation Policy**

In essence, our cancellation policy is that all money that is refunded to the Club is in turn refunded to the member. The actual amount will vary depending on how far in advance the cancellation is made. In some cases we are able to avoid additional costs when there is someone on the trip waiting list. Prior to joining a trip, everyone signs an acknowledgement of our cancellation policy. If you would like to be reminded of the details, the form is available on our web site at [http://fvssc.wildapricot.org/Resources/Trip%20forms/Liability\\_and\\_refund\\_forms.pdf](http://fvssc.wildapricot.org/Resources/Trip%20forms/Liability_and_refund_forms.pdf).

### **Online Payments**

People have also asked about making payments online. We have investigated this and determined that the Club would incur service charges to provide this capability. There are various online payment options requiring either a flat fee or a per transaction fee. Potentially this would become an additional factor to consider in pricing (e.g. a credit price and a cash/check price). Anyone who would like to investigate this topic further is invited to step forward.

# *Morzine & Nice, France Ski Trip, 10 Day - \$2,175*

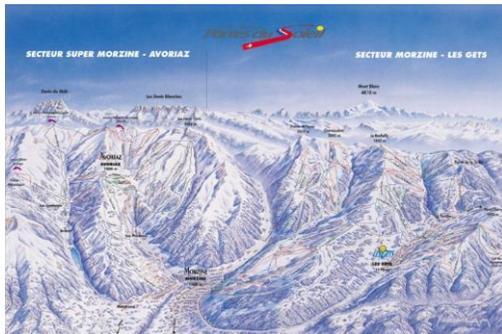


*January 12th - January 23rd, 2018*

Come join the Snowdrifters on January 12, 2018. We will follow the sun and snow to the winter wonderland in the heart of the Portes du Soleil, Morzine, France. It is the largest town of all the “Portes du Soleil” resorts. On January 20<sup>th</sup>. We will follow the sun for a three night extension to Nice, the heart and soul of the French Riviera. This is our crème-de-la-crème trip next season.



This unique ski area interconnects 12 resorts in France and Switzerland, passing from villages of Savoie to the landscapes of the Valais; one lift ticket does it all (no supplements for cross-border skiing and riding). Loosely translated, “Portes du Soleil” means “gateway to the sun”, and the vibrant Rhone Alps town of Morzine is the main portal to this incredibly large ski circus. Via its state of the art modern lift and piste connection with adjacent Avoriaz, Morzine accesses 214 lifts and 435 miles of pistes linking over a dozen villages in two countries. It just doesn’t get much grander than that!



Variety is the spice of skiing and the choices are many on the slopes of the Portes du Soleil. Skiers and riders wake up in the morning to difficult choices. Head west and you’ll find yourself in the stylish part of the Portes du Soleil resort Morzine-Les Gets, head east, and you’ll find yourself skiing across the border to the Swiss part of the resort - Champéry, Les Crosets and

Champoussin. Take the ski lifts from the center of Morzine to the adjacent valley of Ardent and Les Lindarets. This section, also accessible by shuttle bus, is aptly named “Super” Morzine-Avoriaz. There, you can break for lunch at “La Chalande,” an old converted farmhouse where the cuisine is matched only by the charm of the décor. Your lunch choices on the mountain are abundant. Frankly, it’s impossible to make a bad ski decision in Morzine.

All the Portes du Soleil resorts share the marvelous terrain. Beginners (30%) can stick close to the resorts and intermediates (30%) won’t have a problem if they stay on the trails, while both the extensive off-piste skiing and the exhausting expanse will stretch experts (40%). The terrain at Portes du Soleil stretches over an area so wide that it defies simple definition. Busy beginner slopes drape down the mountainsides on the fringes of Morzine and other nearby villages. Long boulevards wind through shaded forests as they drop thousands of vertical feet from high ridges into deep valleys. Piste markers define groomed routes down vast snowfields above the timberline. And from the mountaintops, the panorama starring the Mont Blanc massif, western Europe’s highest peak, is displayed like a rack of postcards—each a little different from the others, but all unique.

While in Morzine, our hotel is **Hotel Fleur des Neiges** located in the heart of the village and is family owned. The hotel is located 300 meters away from the Super Morzine lift and allows you to be on the Morzine-Avoriaz ski slopes quickly. Hotel Fleur des Neiges features a cozy lounge, a charming restaurant featuring a menu combining local traditions and culture, as well as spa, sauna, gym, heated swimming-pool and game room. Of course, there is the hotel bar with music.

Morzine Après ski is exciting with many tropical bars and discos to choose from or you may enjoy a hockey game or figure skating exhibition at the Ice Palace. There is also cross-country skiing, dog sledding and ice climbing. Ski Morzine and discover an authentic alpine Savoyard village offering many activities for nonskiers alike: skating, hiking, shopping, guided tours of historical Morzine, guided tours with snowshoes around Morzine and sleigh rides. Morzine is close to Geneva, Annecy, Montreux, Lake Geneva and many other points of interest for day trips and activities.

**3 Night extension to Nice, the heart and soul of the French Riviera**

Nice is located in the heart of the French Riviera. There are too many things to do. You can relax on the beach, or daily excursions can include a visit to a traditional village bistro, visit local open air markets, medieval villages, and explore Roman ruins, monuments, and museums. Nice is considered the crown jewel of the French Riviera. Cannes, about 20 miles while Monte Carlo is 13 miles away...easily reached by local transit! You can visit the ancient town of Antibes where the Alps loom in the background from a harbor filled with fishing boats and big yachts. Moreover, Nimes is home to some of the greatest Roman ruins such as the Pont du Gard, an aqueduct that is over 34 miles long. This engineering feat, built by the Romans in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, was part of a 50-meter long aqueduct that carried waters from Uzes to Nimes. You will also have the opportunity to visit the Picasso museum, the Popes' Palace, the greatest Gothic palace in Europe, the Saint Benezet Bridge, a UNESCO world Heritage monument, or the changing of the guard at the Royal Palace in Monaco which is a colorful daily ceremony. Did I forget to mention the many wineries that one has the opportunity to visit, such as Chateauneuf du Pape?

Our Nice hotel is the **Westminster Hotel & Spa**, a 1 minute walk from the beach on the Promenade des Anglais. The hotel features a spa, private beach and seafront terrace. The hotel is decorated in a Belle Epoque style and offers both a bar and lounge areas.



**Full Package Cost: \$2,175\***

**Lufthansa Air fare Chicago to Geneva - Nice to Chicago**

✚ LH 431 12 JAN ORDFRA*	415P 725A +1
✚ LH1214 13JAN FRAGVA	905A 1015A
✚ LH1069 23JAN NCEFRA	705A 845A
✚ LH 430 23JAN FRAORD	1040A 110P

- Ground Transfer from Geneva to Morzine
- 7 nights lodging at Hotel Fleur des Neiges (double occupancy) Breakfast and dinner daily (<http://www.hotel-fleur-des-neiges.com/>)
- Ground Transfer from Morzine to Nice
- 3 nights with breakfast 4-star Westminster Hotel & Spa (double occupancy) (<http://www.westminster-nice.com/en/>)
- (Option: Nice Sea View Room \$70/person extra)
- (Morzine/Nice Single Supplement \$590)

Payment Schedule (per person):

- Deposit \$350
- July \$350
- August \$350
- September \$350
- October \$350
- November \$350
- December Balance Due

\* NOTE: All taxes that are currently in effect, including airline taxes are included in the price. Please note any additional airline tax or fuel surcharge imposed before our final ticketing is beyond our control and will require an adjustment in the final price. Any fuel surcharge imposed on our ground transfers is also beyond our control and will require an adjustment. Also, currency exchange rate fluctuations may affect final payment.

A passport is required for this trip and your passport must not expire 6 months past our return to the USA.

TRIP LEADERS:

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## SOCIAL

6/24-[Livia Italian Eatery](#)- 207 S 3rd St in Geneva.

Let's try out a new Italian Restaurant. We'll meet at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 6/24. But let me know if you plan on going by 6/20 so I can make reservations! You can email me at [quetsch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:quetsch@sbcglobal.net).

If you have a suggestion for a fun activity, please email me at [quetsch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:quetsch@sbcglobal.net).

*Pat Quetsch*

Social Director



MAY 28 **COLOR VIBE**  
5K RACE



JUNE 2-3 **TWO BROTHERS SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
X AMBASSADORS & MORE



JUNE 11 **TOUR DE CURE**  
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOC.



JUNE 16-17 **BLUES ON THE FOX**  
MAVIS STAPLES, JOHNNY LANG & MORE



JUNE 18 **SACRED HEART**  
ANNUAL CONCERT & FESTIVAL



JUNE 24 **DARK STAR ORCHESTRA**  
GRATEFUL DEAD EXPERIENCE



JULY 2 **GOOD VIBES** FEATURING  
DRU HILL, GINUWINE & MORE



JULY 4 **FOURTH OF JULY**  
CELEBRATION



JULY 7 **DOWNTOWN ALIVE! THE CHICAGO EXPERIENCE**



JULY 14 **JOHN FOGERTY**



JULY 20 **STEVE MILLER BAND**  
WITH PETER FRAMPTON



JULY 21 **KESHA** AND THE CREEPIES



JULY 28 **ALABAMA**



AUG 4 **DOWNTOWN ALIVE!**  
AMERICAN ENGLISH



AUG 11 **JASON DERULO**



YAVIS BEAT  
MONTGOMERY CENTER  
THE MARSHALL  
TUCKER BAND  
THE OUTLAWS

AUG 17 **SOUTHERN UPRISING**  
FOUR SOUTHERN ROCK BANDS



AUG 25 **GET THE LED OUT**  
THE AMERICAN LED ZEPPELIN



SEPT 18 **FIESTAS PATRIAS**



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# Recipe

## Thai Crunch Salad with Peanut Dressing yum

Servings: 4

Total Time: 30 Minutes

Ingredients

### For the Thai Peanut Dressing

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- 1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons unseasoned rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice, from one lime
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce (use gluten-free if needed)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2-1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 1-inch square piece fresh ginger, peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro leaves

### For the Salad

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- 4 cups chopped Napa cabbage or shredded coleslaw mix (I like to toss in a little shredded red cabbage for color)
- 1 cup prepared shredded carrots
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced into bite-sized pieces
- 1 small English cucumber, halved lengthwise, seeded and thinly sliced
- 1 cup cooked and shelled edamame
- 2 medium scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup loosely packed chopped fresh cilantro

Instructions

1. For the dressing, combine all of the ingredients except for the cilantro in a blender and process until completely smooth. Add the cilantro and blend for a few seconds until the cilantro is finely chopped. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
2. For the salad, combine all of the ingredients in a large bowl and toss to combine. If serving right away, drizzle the peanut dressing over top and toss; otherwise, serve the dressing on the side so the salad doesn't get soggy.

# Snowdrifters' Calendar

## SAVE THE DATES

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.  
General Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
@ Old Towne**

**June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Livia Italian Eatery 6 p.m.  
207 S. Third Street, Geneva**

**July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Board Meeting 6:45 p.m.  
General Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
@ Old Towne**

