

Tips & Tails

March 2015

STARK COUNTY SKI CLUB

MEETING CHANGE



www.Starkcountyskiclub.org

www.Facebook.com/StarkCountySkiClub



Cleveland Metro Ski Council
Cleveland Metro Ski Council



Meeting Schedule

Social @ 6:00PM -Meeting @ 7:00PM

Tuesday Mar. 24th 2015

Tuesday Apr. 21st 2015

Tuesday May 19th 2015 ?



Newsletter articles to be printed for publication should be submitted to the editor no later than the Friday which follows the 3rd Tuesday of the month meeting.

**Stark County Ski Club
Membership Application**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____ Cell(s) _____

Email Address _____

Alternate Email Address _____

Membership (Please Circle Type of Membership)	<u>Renewal</u>	<u>New</u>
Note: Membership year is from Nov 1 to Oct 31.		
Dues: Single Member	\$20	\$30
Couple Membership (2 people who share the same address)	\$25	\$40
Family	\$30	\$45
Our newsletters are distributed by email.		
If you would you like the newsletter mailed to you, add:	\$10	\$10
If "New" member, how did you hear about our club _____		

Make checks payable to Stark County Ski Club.

Total Enclosed with Application \$ _____

NOTICE: By signing and/or accepting any membership benefit, and/or participating in any club activity, applicant releases Stark County Ski Club, its officers, board members, chairpersons, trip leaders and members from any and all liability or any claims including theft, property loss, accident, injury, death of or to themselves, family members, or guests, arising from participation in any club activity, whether resulting from negligence or otherwise.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

**Please return this application form with the appropriate membership dues to:
Alice Nowell 1653 Chatham Avenue NE North Canton, OH 44720**

Optional for New & Existing Members: What most interests you about the Club and/or what would you like to see us attempt in the future?

Stark County Ski Club

View From The Top

View from the Top: March 2015

Another ski season is coming to an end. It seems like only a few weeks ago the Trip Committee and the Executive Committee were finalizing their choices for the season. It seems like only days ago, we were anxiously anticipating the Member Appreciation trip to Peek n' Peak. It's been a great season with no cancellations other than the possible Demo Day trip. We've had great participation and good conditions. We've added many new members and they have joined us often on our season's trips. We have made many new friends and had loads of fun skiing, traveling, and socializing together on the trips. One more trip to go. That "one more trip" is the March 14th Mardi Gras trip to Holiday Valley. There still might be time and space for you. Get in touch with Justin Ford to take advantage of this last chance. It will be a fun day with lots of events, food and good skiing. The "crowds" will be around the Yodeler lift, so plan your ski day with that in mind. However, that's where the Ice Bar and the Ski Patrol cookout will be held. So, time it right and you'll have the best of the skiing and the fun at Yodeler Lodge too.

The Trip Committee is reviewing our options for week trips in preparation for Art Pokopac's trip to the Mountain Travel Symposium in April. While there, Art will talk to resort representatives, tour operators, and lodging sales staffs to hear their spiel and attempt to convince us that their mountain, lodging, or trip set-up experience is the right one for us. The committee's focus this month is to garner as much information on areas we have not been to in a long while to help Art's quest. Western and Eastern Canada, New Mexico, Colorado, Vermont and Maine are on the list, but we are always open to the best deal for our members. Once the week trip (or possibly two trips) has been selected, it will be time to settle our two day trips and then the one days. The trip committee works all summer, meeting monthly to decide and refine our calendar. Our March meeting will be a summary of the season and especially a recap of the trips since the February meeting. It will be a time to get your Stark County Ski Club apparel before we look to ordering for next season. The iron-on patches are selling well. They are very easy to use and cover logos on your old TSC items. And, they stay on through repeated washings. We are getting recognized in our community by our new name and logo.

April is our election month. We will seek nominations for all 4 officer positions at the March and April meetings. In addition, the Board of Director positions of Website administrator, Newsletter Editor, Membership Chairperson, Social Director, and Apparel Merchandizer are open to a vote for anyone interested in those areas. We welcome the current position holders back, if they are still willing to perform the tasks. If you are interested in any officer position or a Board of Director position, please let me know by email, phone or at one of the meetings. Elections will be held as a part of our April meeting. Voting will follow the Constitution guidelines.

Can you still Think Snow?
Jim

March 2015

Timken Ski Club Meeting

February 18, 2014

Rafter's at Meadow Lake

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Kovach at 7:15 p.m. Thirty-six (36) individuals were in attendance.

Officer/Chair Reports

President's Report: Jim Kovach noted that if you have pictures from trips/activities, send them to Dwight Kline at web-admin@starkcountyskiclub.com and to Gary Johnson for posting on Facebook. They will pick a few of the best pictures. Jim mentioned there are many new members taking part in trips and if you are new or unfamiliar with our trip protocols, please visit the website for instructions. Trip leaders, officers and longtime members with knowledge of club procedures have the authority to enforce club policies. If there is blatant abuse of these policies, the club is within its right to ban someone.

Vice President's Report: Candice Ford thanked everyone for the well wishes, cards, and gifts on the birth of their daughter, Isabelle.

Candice noted that all of the marketing events happened earlier this season and felt they were a success with attracting new members.

Treasurer's Report: Donna gave a report of the current bank balance and the different amounts used from Blossom money that went towards each trip. The breakdown is as follows: Peek n Peak used \$811, Seven Springs used \$162, HV/Casino trip used \$550. Many people took advantage of the early sign up discount and Blossom Trip Discount Vouchers.

Membership Chair Report: Alice Nowell reported that membership is at 230 and we had 56 new members join this year.

Newsletter Chair Report: Mike Bishop reported that the newsletter may go out late due to the short week.

Social Chair Report: Diane Marzec reported there will be a social at Perennial Winery on February 20 with musical stylings of Ren. Approximately 15 people ate at The Little Italian Kitchen on February 4. She will send out an email if there are any March socials.

Trip Chair Report: Art Pokopac reported that the trip committee is looking at, but not limited to, the following areas as possible 2016 trips; Banff/Lake Louise, Breckenridge, Lake Tahoe, Mammoth, Mt. Tremblant, and Stowe. Art will be attending the Mountain Travel Symposium and hopes to come back with attractive pricing to present to the trip committee. There will be a survey asking for member input. Art called for the following trip reports:

Trip Reports

Whitefish, MT February 7-14. Both Gail and Jim reported that the plane and train groups were greeted by the hotel owner and representatives who loaded them up personally to get to the resort. Accommodations and dining were top notch and everyone from the owners to shuttle drivers were tremendous. There were a few days of fog and blinding snow and a few days of sunshine.

Holimont, NY February 19. Jeri Johnson reported 41 are signed up so there is room for anyone wishing to hop on this trip. There will also be a pickup at Walmart on Arlington.

Okemo/Mt. Snow, VT February 22-27. Zee reported that departure time has been adjusted 15 minutes but still plan to be at Faircrest at 3:15 AM. 2 checked bags and 2 carry-ons are allowed on the train. A short meeting will be held after the club meeting for trip attendees.

Holiday Valley, March 14 Mardi Gras. Justin Ford Trip Leader. 26 are signed up. A later departure from HV is planned with no stop in Ellicottville so that you can enjoy festivities at the mountain longer.

New Business

Elections: Officer elections will be held in April. Nominations will be taken at the March meeting. The Executive Committee will meet prior to this.

Miscellaneous: Plenty of SCSC merchandise available for purchase. The Martin's purchased Braxton's sitski and are excited for an upcoming family trip.

Meeting Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Bishop; seconded by Art Pokopac. Brief instructions for the poker run were given. Jim Shear had the best hand and won the \$52 prize. Door prizes were also given.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennie Stephan - Secretary

Stark County Ski Club Bus Seating and Baggage Protocol:

Stark County Ski Club trips are scheduled well in advance and priced based on number of participants, number of bus seats available and cost of bus transportation services. Bus size needs are determined by the number of people, length of trip, and estimated amount of passenger luggage (ski bag, boot bag, and one piece of luggage, as the trip requires). The following guidelines have been established for the benefit of all of our club membership while traveling by bus or motor-coach.

- All skis/snowboards and all ski /snowboard boots must be in a proper equipment bag.
- No trip participant may board the bus/motor coach before the trip leader has boarded and has cleared the coach for loading. Baggage loading in bus bays may commence as soon as the driver has opened the bays.
- The two front seats of the bus, on either side of the aisle, are for use of the trip leader as he or she sees fit. They may open one of those pairs of seats to other passengers at their discretion. Special requests of passengers may be considered, but only granted by the trip leader.
- Unless the trip leader indicates that space is available inside the bus, all baggage stated above must be stowed in the bus baggage bays. If participants wish to have their ski boots on the bus, the boots must fit under their own seat.
- Unless indicated by the trip leader, a participant shall not place their boot bag on a seat next to them or a seat nearby. Bus seats are for people participating on the trips.
- All bus seats are to be available to any trip participant. Seats are available on a first come, first served basis. If any participant is traveling by him or herself, it is not permitted by any means to prevent any other participant to sit in the empty seat next to them. If you are traveling with a partner, the companion seat may be “saved” until the partner arrives. .
- Personal items (snacks/food, coolers, clothing items) are permitted on the bus as long as they can be safely stowed under the participants own seat or in the overhead compartment above their seat. The club may provide beverages and snacks depending on the trip destination and length.
- If the trip leader indicates that there is space available, boots in boot bags may be placed in the area of the rearmost seat of the bus or a location determined by the trip leader, stacked on the seat and floor to accommodate all who wish to take advantage of this offer.
- The Trip Leader is in charge and all decisions relating to changes during the trip made necessary by weather, injury or unexpected circumstances are his/hers to make.
- Trip Leaders, Trip Committee members, and Officers of the Club and Board members are empowered to enforce these rules on any club bus trip regardless of the destination, location or length of trip.

Highlights of the SCSC February Socials

On Wednesday, February 4th SCSC gathered at “**That Little Italian Kitchen**” for our first group visit! Food was outstanding and company even better! The snow storm outside didn’t stop 15 of us from gathering for some great Italian food.

The Winery at Perennial Vineyard in Brewster, OH and music by REN was once again one of our best turnouts. On Friday night February 20th, we had 26 people join us for music, dancing, pizza & wine! Yes some of us did join REN as part of his band again. Thanks to all who made this event such a great success! REN ROCKS

MARCH SOCIAL

Wednesday, March 18th

The Geisen Haus in North Canton

5:30 pm – 9:00 pm



The charm and hearty food of Germany come alive at Geisen Haus where authentic German food is prepared according to famous old country recipes. Family owned since 1969, with the motto "always a good time." Geisen Haus offers German-American cuisine, 17 drafts and over 50 bottled beers from domestic to import. Join the SCSC and taste the beers imported from all over the world!!

Geisen Haus

6955 Promway Ave NW,
North Canton, OH 44720-7321
www.thegeisenhaus.com

For more information on upcoming social events or if you would be interested in running an event please contact Diane Marzec at DLMarzec@gmail.com or (330) 497-4261.

APRIL SOCIAL

Saturday, April 18th
SCSC Euchre Night



Time: 6:00 PM

Cards begin at 7:00 PM

Join SCSC Members at Donna & Al Brancifort’s home in Canton for an evening of Euchre! Please bring a small covered dish to share and what you want to drink.

Al & Donna Brancifort’s Home
3885 St. Michael Blvd. NW
Canton, OH 44718

Reservations Required: First 24 people to let me know they want to play Euchre will have a seat at the table! Euchre players will contribute \$3/person towards prize money.

Please Email DLMarzec@gmail.com or call Diane Marzec at 330-497-4261 by Wednesday, April 15th!

SKI CLUB OFFICERS

President

Jim Kovach

(330) 484-5707

president@starkcountyskiclub.org

Vice President

Candice Ford

(330) 212-5176

Candicefinch.56@gmail.com

Treasurer

Donna Brancifort

(330) 492-0083

donna.brancifort@timken.com

Secretary

Jennifer Stephan

(330) 575-1216

JStephan@bicoakron.com

Editor

Mike Bishop

(330) 456-2856

Michael.bishop@timkensteel.com
newsletter@starkcountyskiclub.org

Memberships

Alice Nowell

(330) 494-7248



DYNASTAR ★ VÖLKL ★ BLIZZARD
LANGE ★ DALBELLO
BURTON ★ FLOW



The Ski Shack
PROFESSIONAL SKI SHOP

Get ready for the season at The Ski Shack!

SHAPED SKI PACKAGES
(Skis, Bindings)

SNOWBOARD PACKAGES
(Board, Bindings)

SNOWBLADES

SKIS: Dynastar-Volki-Blizzard-Elan
BINDINGS: Marker-Solomon-Tyrolia
BOOTS: Head-Lange-Solomon-Dalbello
SNOWBOARDS: Burton-Lamar-Flow



The Ski Shack
265 N. Freedom
Alliance, OH 44601
330-821-1220

Stark County Ski Club went to Vermont!

Things could have started off a little bit better than they did. After asking all 40 of our group to show up early due to snowy weather concerns, our bus showed up LATE (way late!). Softening the sharp blow of the situation, our train was running late into Cleveland. We made the trek to Cleveland Amtrak with a few minutes to spare, forcing the Amtrak Station Master and friend into a quick check-in of our luggage and a quicker load onto the baggage car. We loaded ourselves into our coach nearly 2 hours after our scheduled departure time and headed out of Cleveland. Along the way, we lost another hour to freight traffic. We recovered, slept, ate, read, played cards and laughed along the way to Schenectady, NY. Due to our untimeliness, we had time enough to swap luggage bays from train to our Wade Tours bus and head out toward Ludlow, Vermont, the Pointe Hotel and Okemo Resort. Our driver, Jackson, was a delight and soothed our ragged nerves with a non-eventful drive. Our dinner plans were trash now since we were 3 hours late. The Branciforts who drove up early for personal reasons came to the rescue to salvage dinner and drinks for us at our hotel. Via phone, the Branciforts and the Kovaches were able to coordinate a pizza and beer/wine party at our hotel to provide sustenance to our group at 8:30PM. Hot tub or lobby lounge and drinks followed dinner.

Monday AM was COLD! As we were getting ready for the slopes, one of our party remembered that his lift ticket was sitting back on the dresser at the hotel. With some serious sweet talk, he was able to negotiate a one-day ticket eliminating a time-consuming bus ride. Oh, Oh! The sun was out and skiing conditions at Okemo were wonderful. Okemo is the King of Grooming. Miles of vertical later most called it quits and headed back for our Welcome Party of stuffed mushrooms and Swedish meatballs and drinks. Afterwards, we headed to Mr. Darcy's or Sam's Steakhouse for dinner. Tuesday was another beautiful sunny ski day at Okemo. With 3 base lodges, we took advantage of those opportunities to congregate and warm ourselves up with food and drink. Did I mention that it was cold? On Tuesday afternoon, at the end of the ski day, we headed to Mt. Snow and the Snow Lake Lodge. Walt's Pub was open in our hotel and most stayed in for food and drink on Tuesday night. Wednesday morning was cold (what else?), but sunny. Grooming at Mt. Snow did not measure up to Okemo, but the slopes were empty and runs were non-stop. On Thursday, it was cold and gray. Skiing was still great and the sun came out late morning. Most of us found Cuzzin's to be a suitable meet-up place during and after skiing. Some of us just need to remember to pay our tabs before eagerly heading back to the slopes. I won't say who, but initials of the guilty are J, S, J, & Z. At the next break, tabs were paid and they were welcomed back for more...just under a more watchful eye! There is something to be said about dressing conspicuously. At 3 PM, we were all back at the bus, ready to head back to Schenectady for dinner and to await our train. We helped Amtrak with our luggage, said goodbye to Jackson and we spread out for dinner at Katy O'Byrne's, Pinhead Susan's, Thai Thai, and Clinton's Ditch. No crowds and good food greeted and treated us. At 7PM, we were back at the station to await departure. We loaded and headed back to Canton nearly on time. The ride back was COLD! We were split up into several groups on the train due to a full train. We arrived in Cleveland later than planned, but our BRT coach was there waiting for us. It took a while to get our luggage off the train, sorted and stuffed into our bus, but we headed out, tired and weary for home. The rest was easy. No lost luggage, no missing people, and no dead batteries.

Thanks to all of our travelers! Zelda and Jim

Trip Agreement & Application

The undersigned participant applies to participate in the Stark County Ski Club (SCSC) trip described below, subject to the following conditions:

1. **Payments:** Trip deposits will vary trip to trip. The required deposit for this trip is \$_____, and must be paid and submitted along with this signed "Trip Agreement and Application". Balance shall be due & payable in accordance with payment schedules established by SCSC & described in the trip description in "Tips & Tails", the club newsletter, or on the club website, www.starkcountyskiclub.org. Charges may be added for supplemental costs such as fuel surcharges, taxes and airport departure changes to the price of the trip. All payment checks shall be payable to "Stark County Ski Club" & sent to trip leader noted.
2. **Withdrawal & Change:** Stark County Ski Club may withdraw any trip from its schedule at any time; may refuse to accept or refrain any person as a participant at any time for any reason; and may change the itinerary at any time.
3. **Responsibility:** SCSC is acting gratuitously for the applicant and shall not be responsible or liable for any loss of or damage to any baggage, property, or for any loss, injury, death, accident, delay, inconvenience or any other loss occurring during or occasioned by an applicant's participation in any trip, and as a result of any actual or alleged negligence of SCSC or any SCSC member or officer.
4. **Identification:** Participants are responsible for any required identification for travel. This may include, but not limited to, an up to date and valid passport, visa, drivers license or proof of identification and citizenship.
5. **Minors:** Any minor's participant's "Trip Application & Agreement" must be co-signed by his/her parent or legal guardian. The minor must be accompanied on the trip by a parent or legal guardian or their designee who shall be wholly and fully responsible for said minor's conduct and well being.
6. **Cancellation & Refunds:**
 - A). Cancellation by participant means & includes: failure to abide by terms of this agreement, notice of intent to cancel; failure to make timely payments; failure for any reason to meet the departure or return of the trip.
 - B). When TSC cancels or withdraws a trip, the participant shall be entitled to a full refund unless such cancellation or withdrawal is necessitated or caused, in whole or part, by participant's cancellation or failure to make timely payments.
 - C). Where participant cancels more than 30 days before departure of a 1-day or multi-day trip or more than 60 days before the departure of a longer trip, then participant shall be responsible for a cancellation service charge of not less than \$10.00 & any fees charged by an airline if seats have already been ticketed.
 - D). Where participant cancels less than 30 days before the departure of a 1-day or multi-day trip or less than 60 days before the departure of a longer trip and where the trip departs full or where participant provides an immediate replacement who completes this agreement, then participant shall receive a full refund less the cancellation service charge & any fees accessed because of the name change. If the trip departs unfilled and the participant has not provided a replacement, then the participant may be entitled to a partial refund less any amounts pre-paid by SCSC for participant's unused transportation, lodging, meals, lifts or amenities and less the cancellation service charge. If the applicant cancels and the trip departs unfilled, the applicant will be refunded the amount of any un-purchased lift tickets. Transportation, lodging and other special costs may NOT be refunded. Specific trip circumstances will determine if any refund of these costs are possible. In any case, the participant is responsible to SCSC for any amounts paid out by SCSC over and above payments made by participant. Any pre-paid expenses that are not refunded to the club by the airlines, resorts, etc. are not subject to be refunded to participant. For 1-week or longer trips, it is advised to purchase trip insurance for refunds. SCSC may modify or change balance due dates & cancellation deadlines to accommodate its payments to airlines, lodges, bus companies and travel agents.
7. **Eligibility:** Participation in this trip is first available to SCSC & CSMS members. Any non-members must pay an additional charge of not less than \$10.00 and is designated within the trip description.

TRIP APPLICATION

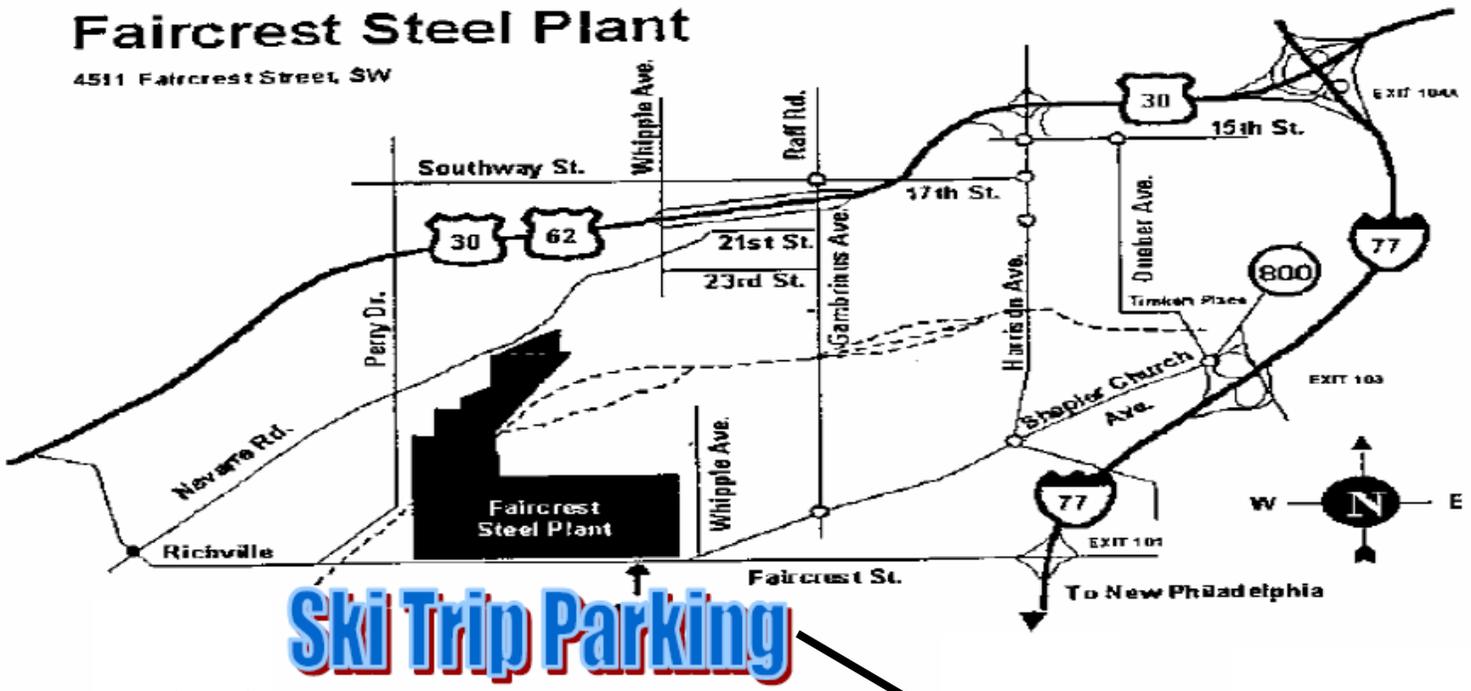
Name of Trip	Date of Trip	\$_____ (Payable to Stark County Ski Club) Deposit Amount
Date of Application	Yes _____ No _____ Member of SCSC?	Yes _____ No _____ Interested in Trip Insurance? (Week Trips Only)
Participant Name(s) – As On Travel Documents	Home Phone	Cell Phone
Address	City	State Zip
Email Address	Alternate Email Address	
Participant Signature(s) (also Co-Signer if minor)		
Emergency Contact Name	Relationship	Phone numbers(s)

For Week Trips –

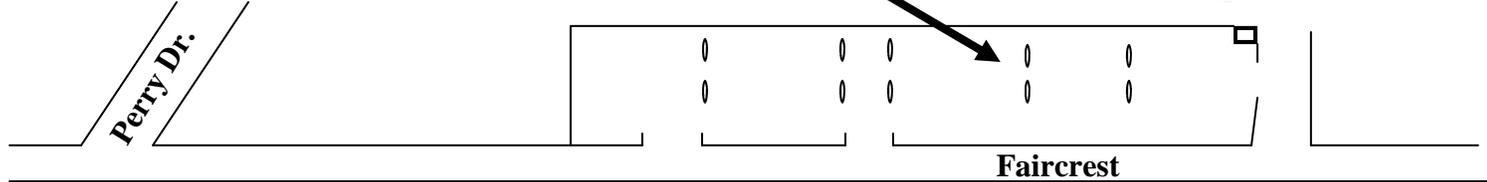
Please send copy of Drivers License or Passport with Your Trip Application

Faircrest Steel Plant

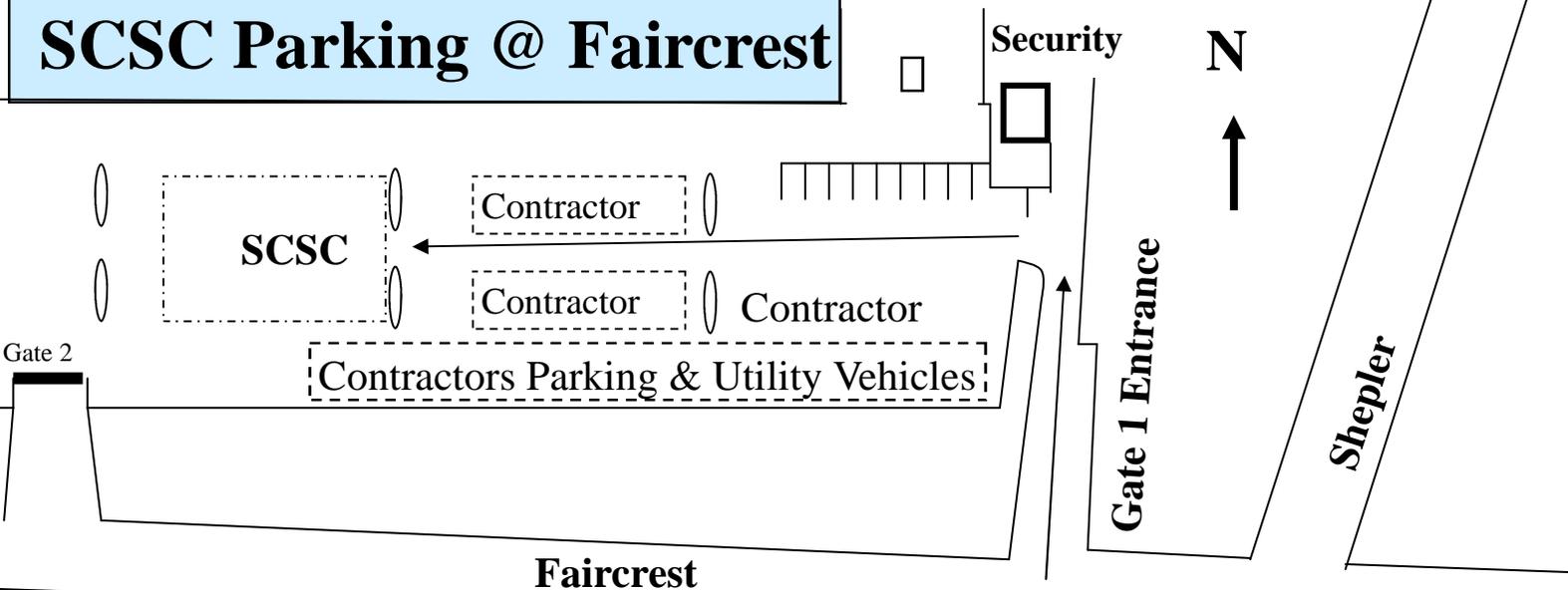
4511 Faircrest Street, SW



Ski Trip Parking



SCSC Parking @ Faircrest



The SCSC parking at the Faircrest steel plant is returning to the original parking location. Please take a close look at the above map for an exact location. The club must park in this location only, and not the contractor parking spaces.

2014-15 Stark County Ski Club Trip List

Thank the folks who worked the Blossom Concerts! They raised funds to keep our bus trips costs down!

For all trips, fill out a "Trip Application & Agreement" & send with your payment to the address listed below. Checks to be written to: Stark County Ski Club. The form is available in the newsletter and on the website <http://starkcountyskiclub.org/> under "**Documents**".

One Day Trip #1 Saturday Dec 20

(Self-Drive) Demo Day

Trip Leader: Jim Kovach

Email: skovach@sbcbglobal.net

Holiday Valley, NY
Done

Cost: \$52

(Group Rate if 16 Lift Tickets Sold)

Phone: 330-484-5707

One Day Trip #2 Sunday Jan 11

SCSC Member Appreciation Trip

Trip Leaders: Bill & Cindy Bail

Email: billb.scsc@gmail.com

Peak'n Peak, NY

Cost: \$50 SCSC Member Price

\$65 All Others

Phone: 330-328-3825

Address: 16820 Jackson Road, Doylestown, OH 44230

Load bus at 6:40AM, Depart Faircrest lot at 7:00AM
Depart ski area 6:00PM NO DINNER STOP Home around 10:30PM

Done

One Day Trip #3 Friday Jan 16

Trip Leader: Art Pokopac

Email: pokieman@aol.com

Seven Springs, PA

Cost: \$60 (Non-Members add \$10)

Phone: 330-697-7941

Address: 3956 Troon Drive, Uniontown, OH 44685

Load bus at 5:40AM, Depart Faircrest lot at 6:00AM
Depart ski area 7:00PM NO DINNER STOP Home around 10:30PM

Done

NEW Holiday Valley-CASINO WEEKEND

Saturday & Sunday Jan 24 & 25

Cost \$215 (Non-Members add \$20)

Holiday Valley, NY 1 Night Lodging at Seneca Allegany Casino – 2 days of skiing at Holiday Valley!!

Trip Leaders: John Masalko **Email:** johnmasalko@sbcbglobal.net **Phone:** 330-949-6016

Mike Lockhart **Email:** marinelock@earthlink.net **Phone:** 330-704-0360

Address: 3925 Dueber Ave. SW, Canton, OH 44706

Load bus Saturday at 4:30AM, Depart Faircrest lot at 5:00AM
Depart ski area Sunday 4:00PM – Dinner at CASINO – Depart Casino at 6:00PM Home around 10:00PM

Done

Popular H&H Trip! NEW DATES

Wednesday – Friday Jan 28 – 30

Ellicottville, NY

Cost \$255 (Non-Members add \$20)

Ski Holimont & Holiday Valley OR Ski 2 Days at Holiday Valley!!

Trip Leader: Bob Hoff

Email: hoffrw@sbcbglobal.net

Phone: 330-497-0134

Address: 2298 Radford St. NW, North Canton, OH 44705

Load bus Wednesday at 4:30PM, Depart Faircrest lot at 5:00PM
Depart ski area Friday 6:30PM - **NO DINNER STOP** Home around 10:30PM

Done

Whitefish, Montana February 7 – 14

Plane

Cost: \$1,350 (Plane)

Train

\$499 (Train)

Plane Trip Leader: Gail Vogt **Email:** gail.vogt@sbcbglobal.net **Phone:** 330-323-8211

Train Trip Leader: Jim Kovach

Email: skovach@sbcbglobal.net

Phone: 330-484-5707

Done

One Day Trip #4 Thursday Feb 19th

Holimont, NY

Cost: \$65 (Non-Members add \$10)

Trip Leader: Gary & Jeri Johnson **Email:** gejohn432@gmail.com **Phone:** 330-456-6674

Address: 1312 Woodward Place NW, Canton, OH 44709

Load bus at 4:40AM Depart from Faircrest lot at 5:00AM
Depart ski area 4:15PM with a Dinner Stop in Ellicottville Home around 10:30PM

Done

Sunday / Friday Feb 22 - 27 Okemo/Mt. Snow, VT by train Cost: \$639 (Non-Members add \$20)

Trip Leader – Zee Kovach Email: zeekovach@SBCglobal.net Phone: 330-484-5707

Done

One Day Trip #5 Saturday Mar 14 Holiday Valley, NY

Cost: \$75 (Non-Member Fee Waived)

Holiday Valley - Winter Carnival - Mardi Gras!

Trip Leader: Justin Ford Email: jford400@gmail.com

Phone: 330-221-8531

Address: 5119 Broadway Avenue Louisville, OH 44641

Load bus at 4:40AM Depart from Faircrest lot at 5:00 AM.

Depart ski area 6:00PM **NO Dinner Stop** Home around 10:00PM

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The Whitefish Story-Part 1

Twenty Stark County Ski Club members departed on our Thomas Limo bus from Faircrest Steel on Friday, February 6th, at 12:30AM for our trip to Amtrak Cleveland. Our travel to Chicago was quiet (too early in the AM for most). After arrival, we all headed to Lou Mitchell's, a famous Chicago dining institution, for breakfast. Retreating to the Metropolitan Lounge after breakfast cocktails, we waited for loading of the Empire Builder train to Whitefish. Thirty hours, 4 meals, and several SCSC member provided cocktails later, we arrived in Whitefish, Montana. We had 6 never-before train travelers with us this time. Everyone enjoyed the freedom to walk, read, doze, dine, and converse that the train provides.

Our hosts from the Lodge at Whitefish Lake picked us up at the train station, delivered to the Lodge, and quickly checked in and on our way to our rooms. Some paid a quick visit to the Boat Club Lounge for a nitecap. Sunday morning, we awoke to find warmer weather than we expected. Wow, Ohio was colder! Skiing was good, but a little heavy at times. No crowds, no lift lines, but no fresh snow either. Monday morning brought rain. A few intrepid souls made the trek to the mountain for a few morning runs. The rest headed to town for libation and shopping. Tuesday brought 4-6" of new snow to the mountain, but nothing for the town. We did have a great day of skiing, with lots of vertical. Check with Dwight on that actual figure. Wednesday was a cloudy, but warm day on the mountain. Thursday was filled with sunshine and we had a good day of skiing.

We had our Welcome Party on Monday night with the combined group of CMSC and Fagowees. It was good to mingle and be entertained by our mountain and lodging hosts. Lesson sign-ups, ski waxing and other adventures were being offered to our group at special rates. We were the most elegantly attired of the entire group as the Fagowees attended in their host provided robes. Monday night was also ½ price bottles of wine in the Boat Club. You can bet that we took advantage of that event. Wednesday night was seafood buffet night and we sat and watched people gorge themselves on crab legs and shrimp. Many roamed the town testing the local bar scene and dining scene on the other evenings, but we could always count on seeing most back at the Boat Club before bedtime for that last cocktail and some friendly chats. Friday morning, the train riders were at the train station, courtesy of our Lodge hosts, awaiting our train. We started a little late due to BNSF freights, but got to Chicago almost on time. The sights of Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin flew by, sometimes at over 90 miles an hour as we worked our way back. We had some great restaurant plans in Chicago, but they dissolved when we found the temperature to be negative 6 degrees. We worked our way into and around Union Station without having to go outside and found bars and restaurants to satisfy us until train #448 was ready for loading to head back to Cleveland. We almost made it on time into Cleveland, but we had to sit on the tracks somewhere outside of Lakewood waiting for CSX freight train traffic to clear. A very cold loading of our bus, an eventful snow-covered road trip to head back to Canton, and drifted-in cars in the Faircrest lot were our further adventures. The only thing left was a van that wouldn't start. Shear, Stiers, Bail, Kovach, and Patterson were there to assist, but after several unsuccessful attempts to make it GO, Roger gave up and called AAA. Steve Patterson and Joan Green stayed with Roger to wait. I went by later that morning and didn't find any evidence of complete lack of success, so I guess everything turned out alright.

We were joined by 10 of our own club who chose to utilize Untied Airlines as their carrier. We did have three incidents on the trip. One occurred downtown, one occurred at the Lodge and one occurred in the trees! I'll let the participants in those incidents tell their own stories. They may want to elaborate more than I could. Thanks to all who participated. All 30 of the SCSC group agree that it was another great trip to a great ski resort area. We were a good group! Jim