



SITZMARKER

Winter 2016

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2015-2016*

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From Our President: What an Epic Ski Season 2016 Has Been for Our Club!

What an epic ski season our club has had and as I write this, we have one more trip to go! Snow conditions were wonderful for our skier on the Telluride and Aspen trips and the outlook for ski conditions for our upcoming trip to Red Mountain look fabulous too!

I hope you will join us for our annual membership meeting in April. This is a very important meeting in which we will elect our club board members. Again I want to encourage our members to consider running for a position on the ski club board. I believe our club benefits greatly from getting new people involved with fresh ideas and enthusiasm for moving the club forward. I am stepping down from the board this year so that others may have the opportunity to serve on the board. Please contact me if you are interested in running for an office on the board.

Our new board members will be elected at the Annual Meeting on April 14th at **Ruby Tuesday** in Sunset Hills. If you've got ideas on making our club the *best possible ski club*, please consider serving as part of the board! (*Term limits are only 1 year and begin May 1, plus you earn 800 Trip Credits for serving!*)



Reminder: Ski Club News is E-News!

Just a reminder, we've gone electronic with almost all of our communications. So, for the latest updates on what's coming up, or what's been happening, be a frequent visitor to the St. Louis Ski Club Web page. You can access our Web page from any public computer, too!

www.stlouisskiclub.com

And don't forget we've also got a **Facebook** page, so go to the "search" field at Facebook and type in "St. Louis Ski Club" then "Like" us to follow what's going on. The club *also* has a "**Meet Up**" page, so check it out!

And, most important of all, you *should* be getting your monthly "**Out and About**" updates via e-mail. If you're *not* getting them, contact our Vice President, **Joe Bauer**. (*If you need a printed copy, contact Joe!*) His information is at the left! The **Out and About** keeps you updated on what's coming up!

Highlights:

President's Message

Telluride Trip

FSA Awards

Party and Play Wrap-Up

Chili Cook Off

St. Louis Ski Club

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Telluride: Unmatched in North America

On January 17th, led by Bob Ansel, 27 members of the club found their way to Telluride, Colorado, to join 325 others from the Flatland Ski Association!

Once again, an excited group of 27 St. Louis Ski Club loyalists departed Lambert Field for Telluride, Colorado, at the crack of dawn on January 17th. The group was eager to hit the mountain and to partake in the festivities of the 51st Annual Flatland Ski Association (FSA) Race Event. After a foggy, unexpected 3 hour layover in Denver, collectively we weighed down a prop-job plane and made our way to Montrose, Colorado, where our over-stuffed shuttle whisked us off to The Peaks Hotel located in Mountain Village for six days of glorious snow, sun and fun.

On day one, what better welcome than full service ski valet right outside the hotel! A few of us took the mountain tour, hosted by none other than “Sled Tater” (aka Ted), who arrived in Telluride in 1973 and hasn’t really left since! He showed off all the best parts of the mountain, eagerly telling stories and providing his ‘own’ versions of Telluride history of the area. Hmm, how accurate was he?

That evening, the gang piled into Bob and Arthur’s room for the club pizza/welcoming party. Wow, there sure was plenty of pie to go around! But somehow we ran out of wine and beer. Go figure! Ahhh ... morning came, and we all settled into the week’s indulgence of skiing, with fresh snow a few nights and days filled with sunshine, perfect temperatures and all-round great skiing.

Bev Doolin took a detour off the mountain after one shaky night! The Peaks were more than gracious, acting as her personal chauffeur to and from the Telluride Medical Center, only to find the diagnosis of pneumonia! She was prescribed about a ton of oxygen, an oxygen system (hose leash and all) to be taken at 8,750 feet. We were all eagerly awaiting for Bev’s Oxygen Bar to open. After a few days of rest, and plenty of extra air, Bev rebounded quickly and found her skis begging to be slipped on. We were all happy to see those pink sticks back on the snow.

As the 2016 FSA Races grew closer, several club members took the race clinic to warm up, while a few of us somehow missed the snowshoe race completely. (*Oops ... we neglected to get a team together in time!*) Then race day arrived. Racers at the ready! While the men’s races went fairly smoothly, but took a while, there were a few little mishaps with the women’s races. After a mishap with race timing equipment for one of the start gates, everyone finally made their way through down the courses with times collected ‘old school’ (aka manually). The best part....we had some big wins this year, and the primary reason our club ranked! Medalists were:

Gold FSA Medal – Bill Hayes

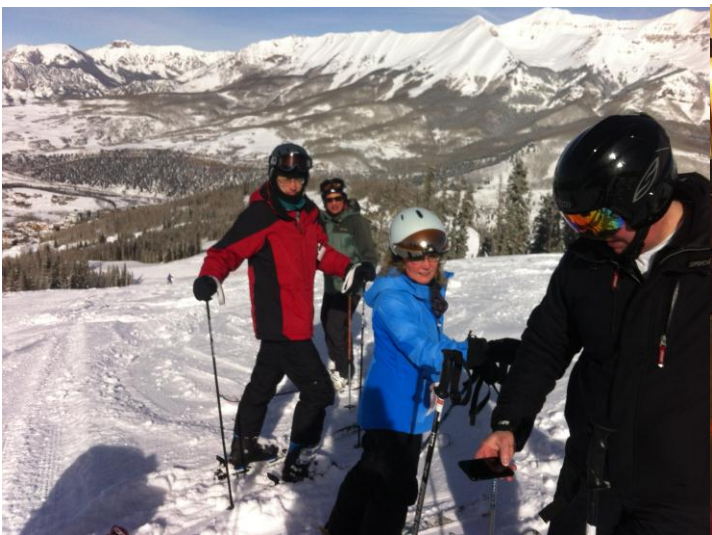
Silver FSA Medal – Judy Hayes

Bronze FSA Medal – Dan Rath

A big Thank You goes to all 12 of the racers who did their part (*6 men and 6 women*). And to round out the event, three of our club members participated in the Novice Race, all doing their part to add points to our standings!

The Awards Dinner was the crescendo of the week! (*Although the race directors “draw” for seed order to race, which is also the “eating” order at the banquet. Joe needs to draw better next year ... not dead last!*) Our own Bill Hayes, who was more than deserving, was presented the Judy Award for his dedication and spirit of promoting ski racing. (*See the additional articles on the FSA and on this award!*)

Check out the photos here and also at the **St. Louis Ski Club** Website under “Photos.”





Excess Ski Equipment?

As we get closer to the end of the ski season, members of the **St. Louis Ski Club** who have “gently used” ski equipment or ski clothing that they’re no longer using *may* place a notice in the Sitzmarker (or monthly “Out and About” e-mail) to let other club members know about its availability. This is only for club members, and *only* for ski-related equipment or clothing, though, to help your fellow club members out; it’s not a public garage sale site!



Holiday Party Wrap ...

This year we tried something different for our holiday party to make it easier and more fun for everyone ... and no financial outlay for the club, either!

Our party was held on Saturday December 12th at **Vito's in the Valley** in **Chesterfield**. We started with a “social” time, or happy hour gathering, from 4 – 6 pm, giving people a chance to come and go as they pleased, mingle and meet with others, and the like.

At 6:30 most of the people who came for the social time also stuck around for dinner, plus we were joined by a few others. Vito's did have fantastic food, but we did have more people decide to stick around than originally planned for, so they did have to squeeze us in a little. Even so, we had an enjoyable time. So it looks like this will be a good model to follow in future years!



Bill with the FSA Race Directors

Bill Hayes Receives Special Award!

The Flatland Ski Association (FSA) has awarded the **Judy Cup** at the FSA Ski Week every year since 1990. It is presented to persons who have made exemplary contributions to FSA, demonstrating service and/or sportsmanship in the Flatlands' tradition. The recipient is selected by the FSA Board, and this year's unanimous winner was our own **Bill Hayes**.

A member of the St. Louis Ski Club, Judy Nania was a true Flatlander, full of the racing spirit. She was a behind the scenes worker and promoter of the races. Oh, how she loved the races. Judy passed away on December 2, 1989 after a valiant battle with cancer.

Judy is not gone from the Flatlands. Her memory is preserved by a loving cup awarded each year to an outstanding individual who exhibits her drive and dedication. This beautiful trophy is provided each year by Judy's husband, Vince Nania, of the St. Louis Ski Club.



Judy & Bill Hayes



The Flatland Ski Association – Since 1965

Shi Faster ... until the thrill of speed overcomes the fear of death!

The St. Louis Ski Club has been a part of the Flatland Ski Association (FSA) since 1966 ... but how much do you really know about the FSA and who's part of it?

The FSA races began March 21, 1965 in Crested Butte, Colorado. The Kansas City Ski Club originated and hosted the first event, and it took two years of challenges before others accepted. The first year it was clubs from Kansas City, Omaha, Amarillo, and Wichita. St. Louis joined the second year and participated regularly through 1982, then was "in and out" for a number of years following that. But we've been regularly participating in FSA events for the past 10 years!

The first year there were 40 racers, and this year there were approximately 350 people who came to the event, most of whom participated in at least one of the races. There have been as many as 12 clubs in the FSA over the years, but in recent years it's been 9 core clubs from the Midwest: St. Louis, Columbia (MO), Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Lincoln (NE), Omaha, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. Each club has a volunteer who sits on the FSA board, and all of the FSA officers are also volunteers. They put in countless hours of planning for the events each year just because they enjoy the fellowship and the racing! (*Bragging rights in some cases, too, but all in fun!*) In recent years Candy Girth has served as the FSA Activities Director and Bill Hayes as the FSA Race Director, coordinating those events for *all* the clubs. Candy Girth and Paul Snyder have both served as the St. Louis FSA representative for the past few years. Paul served as the national Vice President of the FSA last year, and will begin his term as president in June. Candy Girth was just elected secretary, and will also begin serving her term this coming June.

The races *are* the main reason for this annual event, and this year was the 52nd year of racing! There are challenge races for men and women (*by age brackets*), an "open" race that anyone can pay to participate in, and a novice race for those who haven't competed in the challenge races in the past or haven't won Nastar or other medals in the past. We had three club members do this in January! There's also normally a "team" event, which for the past several years has been a snowshoe relay race. It is one of the most entertaining things to watch! And every year the individual club Race Directors have a "fun race" and sell tickets to raise money for the charity the FSA adopts each year. In 2016 it was Telluride Adaptive Sports. This year SLSC members Bill and Judy Hayes and Dan Rath won in their challenge races, and Joe Bauer represented the club as our Race Director in the "fun" race!

The FSA also give out other awards, besides just the race winners. The **Dave Vannett Race Director's Cup** is presented by the club race directors to whomever they feel has made a significant achievement in racing. Sometimes an individual, and sometimes a club.

Another award presented is the **Judy Cup**, named after a true Flatlander, Judy Nania of the St. Louis Ski Club. After her death in 1989, her husband Vince honored her memory with this award. Each year this beautiful cup is presented by the FSA Board to an individual who has made exemplary contributions to the FSA, demonstrating service and sportsmanship in the true FSA spirit!

THE OTHER SIDE



A SPIRITUALIST COMEDY BY
DAVID HAWLEY

The Play's the Thing ...

A group of SLSC members were fortunate enough to see a great new comedy by our own David Hawley at the Thomas Hunter Memorial Theatre at DeSmet high school.

The plot involves two graduate students from England and Ireland studying in Boston. They combine their study of spiritualism with their need to make a few bucks, and comedy ensues as they encounter the family of a missing mafia boss, and other assorted colorful characters.

Good work David ... we're all looking forward to the next one!

Annual Chili Cookoff

The club's annual **Chili Cookoff** was held on Saturday February 27th at the Elks Lodge in Manchester. *(It was a little tricky to find ... but ended up being a great location.)*

We had **seven** very different types of chili to sample and vote on from mild to wild. So a little something for everyone ... plus side items and a full selection of beverages from the Elks Club bar.

This year's champions were:

1st Place – Cindy Girth

2nd Place – Lola Buyce

3rd Place – Mary Robert

Congratulations all!



Activities **YOU'RE**Interested In?

If you've got ideas for future activities, please contact our vice president or one of the other board members. We're always looking for fun new things and people to help plan and organize them! Your input is *greatly* appreciated!