



# The Track

A quarterly publication of the Peninsula Ski Club

## A Message from the President

by Dan Morris

A rough year, there is no denying it. I look on with steely envy at the mega-storms making their way back East and praying we can just get a touch of it. At this point you may be asking: "Was my membership worth it this year?" In all honesty, I asked myself the same question. At the end of the day though, regardless of the weather, the Lodge is still a mecca for great activities, snow or no snow. Where else can you have a guy's getaway at virtually no cost, listen to the Dan's ramble on about past glories, be in the bosom of the beautiful Sierras, reconnect with old friends, make new ones, and of course, create great family memories. The Lodge is a Launchpad for all things outdoors: hiking, kayaking, SUPing, trail running, mountain biking, mountain climbing and the list goes on. Shamelessly I would ask all of you (including me) to remember the club is not just for skiing! So what progress have we made thus far with this administration's current efforts:

1. Identity Change: As discussed from the outset, we need to grow beyond the shortened winter season. We are excited to see a lot of folks planning on using the Lodge in the summer months. We are planning a big bash Memorial Day weekend to kick off our summer and hope you can join us. Alan Walls' long awaited return will be commemorated that weekend and it will be a great time to see everyone. I hear even rumor of hiking and biking tours being sponsored by Mr. Walls!

2. The Digital Lodge: Wow! We really pulled it off! Kevin Corbett has done amazing things with the reservation system and we are seeing a SIGNIFICANT decline in Account Receivables as a result. There were, as anticipated with any rollout, some bugs. Kevin was (and still is) a total rock star in fixing/debugging some of the reservation challenges. This is just the beginning of what we want to accomplish through our web portal to keep you notified and keep the Lodge financially

buoyant.

3. Finances: We have reviewed our receivables and are down to approximately \$1500 thanks to the thorough and diligent effort of Ingela Orlove. We are, even in this horrible period, well into the black and the Lodge is financially doing well. Not enough for the Presidential Guest Room or marble hot tub, but we are getting there.

4. Volunteerism: Now that we are getting the initiatives above moving forward, it is time to start looking at volunteerism. Have YOU done any of the chair or committee postings yet? All members per the by-laws are required to fulfill these posts within 24 months of their membership. Please contact me as we will have committees and vacancies that need to be filled.

Finally, I just want to thank all of the folks that have contributed over the years to make this the best Lodge in the Universe!



### Family

The Gast Family: three from Texas and one from Washington.

On the right: new members, current members, 3 past Presidents, 2 honoree members, and our daughter Kelley, the first junior member.



Anniversary cake with the original cake topper from Skip & Connie's wedding 50 years ago.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

On November 23, 2013, long time members Skip and Connie Gast celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at the lodge. There were approximately 60-70 guests in attendance. "This building has many fond memories." ~ Skip & Connie Gast



## PSC Trip to Steamboat Springs

Debora Hadeen, trip leader

The Peninsula Ski Club Annual out of State trip for 2014 was to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, home of the Champagne Powder. Thirty-three ski travelers gathered in Denver International for the drive to Steamboat Springs. After a lovely orientation reception, we awoke to a bluebird day with enough powder to excite any skier and very long challenging runs! The tree skiers were ecstatic! Deep powder and fun was to be had by all. On Sunday we gathered to watch the Denver Broncos and Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl, followed by our Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday and Left-over night on Friday, while watching the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics.

Each year, we select a venue that fosters a varied range of opportunities to enjoy winter activities. Some of our group took advantage of the snow shoe trails, others the many cross country tracks in Steamboat. Some of us looked longingly at the ski jumps in the town, where the current Olympians trained. Others enjoyed the numerous outdoor hot springs and dinner fare in the very "Western" town. We even found a little spot of New Orleans, my hometown, with po'boys and Abita beer near the Yampa River that meanders through Steamboat.

Planning is beginning for the 2015 Annual Out of State trip – hope to see you! Just remember to sign up early as spots fill up fast! Look for the information in June.



# Cross country skiing report

by James Rosen

We are lucky to have 5 cross-country ski centers near PSC, offering more Nordic ski terrain than any other ski region in the US. Cross-country skiing is a great workout and a way to add some variety to your visits at the Lodge. I like the natural setting of the woods and open views of the North Tahoe area without the commercial and crowded setting of a downhill resort. Kids like cross-country skiing too: it's playful, natural, and they can have a picnic on skis. My granddaughter Jada was quoted in the Track at age 7: "Cross-country skiing is a lot more harder and brings up an appetite and makes you warmer. Downhill skiing – you're not doing much work. Cross-country skiing goes uphill and is a lot of effort – I like it a lot. When you cross-country ski off trail, it's really fun."

Here is brief guide to our XC centers. 1) Royal Gorge – closest to PSC, operated by Sugarbowl and can be accessed at its lodge in Soda Springs or via Sugarbowl. 2) Tahoe Donner XC center up Northwoods Blvd out of Truckee. My favorite for the variety of terrain & extensive trail system. Beginners will find more easy trails within reach here than elsewhere. 3) Auburn Ski Club, located at the west end of the Boreal parking lot. The cheapest place to XC ski. A hilly area with little beginner terrain. Closed on Mon & Tues. 4) Northstar XC center, accessed from the downhill resort with a special lift pass or use a regular lift ticket or season pass if you are downhill skiing too. A hilly area. 5) Tahoe XC center, Tahoe City. Trails start at lake level, so the snow base can be lower than elsewhere. All centers except Auburn Ski Club offer equipment rental and lessons.

There are two ski techniques. Skate skiing is faster and a more intense workout. The skis are shorter, more maneuverable and use the wide skate lane on the track. If you alpine ski, you probably already skate, so the learning curve is not as challenging as most people imagine. Classic skiing or striding uses longer skis with a grip zone under the boot and is skied in the tracks. All the XC centers groom trails for both techniques. To help you decide which to try or to learn the technique, watch some cross-country ski technique videos on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

We also are lucky that the North Tahoe area has the best organized and well-attended cross-country ski race series in the country. Nearly every weekend a race is staged at one of the five XC centers. Of course there are hard-core racers at the front, but these are "citizen" races that are designed to be fun for everyone. For beginners, it's a challenge and thrill to be on a racecourse and forces you to ski fast. At the beginning of the season, races are short, about half an hour. Later the longer races are staged including two point-to-point races that take a couple hours. Check the Far West Nordic association for information [www.farwestnordic.org](http://www.farwestnordic.org)

At the present time during our low snowpack, all XC centers are open with limited, but adequate terrain. XC centers do not have snowmaking, so thin coverage exists.

Here's to having fun on skinny skis!

# Online Reservation System

Bill Cohen, PHC Membership Chairman

Have you tried our new ONLINE RESERVATION SYSTEM YET? It's KILLER and kudos to Kevin Corbett for doing such an outstanding job on it! In fact it's PERFECT from my personal experience of using it - and super easy, too. So if you haven't used it yet (or haven't tried out ALL the options on it), here's what you can do with it....

First, load up (BUY) some "credits" with your credit or debit card. Just tell it how much you want to "preload" into the system and charge your card so that they are THERE whenever you want to reserve space (and you CAN'T BOOK A BED without credits - or enough credits). So bank some in there ASAP. And the best part is, they'll NEVER EXPIRE - they're always there ready for use.

Second, MAKE A RESERVATION - just go in, select your dates, find your bed/bunk - and if you need a layout, click on the built in diagram to find your "favorite spot". Simple as that.

Third, here's what ELSE you can do with it - SEE ALL RESERVATIONS - find out who else is going to be there when you are, or how many people are going to be up - remember, the lodge sleeps around 55, so if it says 25 are taken, that LEAVES 30 more spaces! So it's easy to do a check before you come up!

Or CHECK YOUR CREDITS or CREDIT HISTORY to see how many you have left or how many you've already USED. The system automatically ADDS credits when you buy them and DEDUCTS them when you use them - so you can check your current balance and see if you need to add some more.

And if you have to CANCEL a reservation, even at the last moment like I did when my grown son decided to visit with his fiance rather than go skiing with his Dad (can't understand it!), I just went in and CANCELED his reservation and the system automatically released the bunk and credited back the units to my account. SLICK, FAST, EASY, PERFECT!!!

So this is a NO PROBLEM, NO HASSLE, NO MISTAKE way to make your reservations, pay for it in advance, make changes and even see who and how many people will be there when you are. And for the CLUB, it completely eliminates the problem of receivables and trying to collect on past reservations that you may have forgotten to pay. PERFECT for YOU and PERFECT for the CLUB TREASURY!

One more thing - this has been a "very skinny ski season". But there's snow up there NOW and I'm sure more will be coming in - and right from the reservation system (or the main page on the website under RESERVATIONS) you can check the weather and look 10 DAYS AHEAD for your planning purposes. We've got plenty of time left for some nice skiing, and LOTS OF BEDS available to use (over the President's Day holiday, there was GREAT SNOW and only about 20 people in the cabin!).

So make your plans to COME ON UP, use the new Reservation System to select your spaces and TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CABIN and the rest of winter through March and April, and then SPRING AND SUMMER, TOO! Tahoe is gorgeous then, and there's LOTS TO DO, especially for families with kids that are looking for a fun, low cost, outdoor activity vacation ANYTIME YOU WANT! See ya' there...

## New Sierra Club Backcountry Hut

An agreement was signed January 29 between the Sierra Club and the family of the late Paul Ward to construct a new backcountry ski hut in his memory. The agreement establishes the conditions under which the Ward family will fund the construction.

This would be the fifth Sierra Club hut in the Donner Summit/Lake Tahoe area, but the first new one since 1957. In the late 1990s the Bradley Hut was relocated from Five Lakes Basin, between the Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley resorts, to its present location in the Pole Creek drainage after the original location became part of Granite Chief Wilderness.

The four existing huts are on public land between Donner Pass and Desolation Wilderness and are managed under a Special Use Permit issued by the Truckee Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service.

The site of the new hut will be determined during an initial 'feasibility study', which will also consider environmental issues, hut design and engineering, and cost. The feasibility study will begin as soon as the donor account is set up within the Sierra Club. Timing of construction will depend on results of the study. Opportunities for volunteer participation (especially during site selection) will be outlined in a follow-up message once the feasibility study is underway.

Paul Ward grew up in San Francisco and Burlingame, settled in San Jose, and had a successful career in South Bay technology, working for Eimac, Memorex, and Verbatim. He discovered skiing on his own; his parents did not ski. At age 17 he was at Squaw Valley, watching the 1960 Winter Olympics; a few years later he was working as a weekend ski patroller at Dodge Ridge. He was quick to put his own children on skis; daughter Kerri started when she was two. More recently he was taking his grandchildren to Peter Grubb and Bradley Huts, which inspired the memorial. He and his wife, Lynn, maintained a second home in the Tahoe Donner section of Truckee. He passed away in February 2013 after a long battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease). He is survived by his wife; his daughter, Kerri Antes, of San Jose; her husband, Todd; their sons Drew, Will, and Bennett; his son, Bryan; and sisters Laurie Krassilnikoff (San Mateo) and Diane Gartner (Pleasant Hill).

## Save the Dates!

**Mar 8, 9** - stay up all night Daylight savings time party!

**Mar 21, 22** – RACE WEEKEND!!!

**April 5, 6** - April fool's, foolish ski garb

**April 18, 19** - Ham and Lamb Easter barbecue

**May 16, 17** - snowboarding surf set, leis, Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts

**May 24, 25, 26** – Memorial Day Weekend. **Welcome Back Alan Walls!!!**

**June 21, 22** - work weekend

**July 19, 20** - work weekend

**August 23, 24** - work weekend

**Sept 19, 20** - Petroglyphs and cowboy beef barbecue

**Oct 17, 18** - Oktoberfest, bring fun beers to share

**Nov 14, 15** - Madmen cocktail party, martinis and manhattans, snow????

## Race Weekend!!!

Hello! Ryan Wallace here.

We are finalizing the race with Viking on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Donner Ski Ranch—conditions permitting. Let's beat Viking! We will need the following information from you for the registration, Name, Race (Ski/Snowboard), Age (Youth(16 or under)/Adult), and Sex. Please send me your information if you would like to join us – at [oskifan@gmail.com](mailto:oskifan@gmail.com). Let's pray for more snow!