



**"Ski News"**  
**December 2020**

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**Message from the President of Austin Skiers**



## Seasons' Greetings Austin Skiers...

Austin Skiers regrettably has cancelled the December 6 Holiday Party because of complications and risks related to the COVID virus.

Looking for that special holiday gift for your winter sports enthusiast? Don't forget that Austin Skiers members get discounts at Sun & Ski Sports on Anderson Lane, Sail & Ski in North Austin on 183 or St. Bernard. The ski shops promote Austin Skiers and host our meetings, and this would be a perfect time both to return the favor and at the same time get the perfect gift for that special someone.

We are looking forward to kicking off the first ski trip of the season, which is Beaver Creek, January 9-16. There's still space available for Telluride, Copper Mountain, Snowbird, and New Zealand (non-ski). Ever though there are 3 SOLD OUT trips, you may want to go ahead and sign-up on the wait list just in case there is a cancellation—I've got on two trips that way.

On behalf of our Austin Skiers Board of Directors, I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year!

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson



**Tim Atkinson, President: [President@austinskiers.org](mailto:President@austinskiers.org)**

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**Trip Line up for 2021**  
**(subject to change)**

<u>Pass</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lodging</u>
EPIC	<a href="#">Beaver Creek</a>	Jan 9 – 16	The Charter
IKON	<a href="#">Snowmass</a> *	Jan 16 – 23	Top Of the Village
EPIC	<a href="#">Telluride</a>	Feb 6 – 13	Bear Creek Lodge
IKON	<a href="#">Copper Mtn</a>	Feb 15 – 19	Silver Level Condo
EPIC	<a href="#">Heavenly</a>	Feb 20 – 27	Lake Tahoe Resort Suites
IKON	<a href="#">Snowbird</a>	Feb 27-Mar 6	Cliff Lodge
NA	<a href="#">New Zealand</a> *	Oct 5-27	Various properties

\*Texas Ski Council Trip

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Proudly partnering with the Texas Ski Council (TSC)

Visit [Texas Ski Council](#) for more information

Please take time to review our [Trip Policies](#) AND [Trip Cancellation Policies](#) (**for each trip** as they are not necessarily the same).

We encourage our members going on our trips to consider trip insurance for those unexpected emergencies before or during your trip. **Here is a link for more information on [Trip Insurance](#).**

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## 2021 Trips Update

We have **three SOLD OUT** trips - [Snowmass](#), [Heavenly & Beaver Creek](#). [Lake Louise](#) has been **cancelled**. The decision was made by the tour operator & their Canadian counterparts due to the unanimous belief the border will not reopen in time to travel to Canada. All Lake Louise registrants have been informed by email.

There is still time to register for the remaining trips - [Snowbird](#), [Copper & Telluride](#). We will keep everyone apprised of any changes via email to the respective trip participants and our website.

The [New Zealand/Australia/Fiji](#) trip is scheduled for **October 5, 2021**. Sign-up for the trip is open, but hurry as there are only a few spots left. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact [Sylvia Blair](#), Trip Chair.

You can also [Download](#) a PDF file of the **2021** trips for your convenience.



Elisabeth Poigin, VP Trips: [Trips@austinskiers.org](mailto:Trips@austinskiers.org)

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### <<<Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates>>>

The Austin Skiers Nominating Committee is looking for members willing to serve to recommend to the board a slate of candidates for next year. The committee will have two face-to-face meetings over the next three months with follow up thru email and phone calls. if you are interested or have questions about serving on our Board for next year please contact Tim Atkinson - [President@austinskiers.org](mailto:President@austinskiers.org).

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## Airline Mile Programs/No Fee Changes

If you've been a flyer for very long you've become accustomed to all the fees airlines charge in addition to the fare to **ACTUALLY** fly - baggage, seat reservations, carry-on, flight changes. I've probably missed one here, but fee and flying have become synonymous. You may have read recently some of the major US Airlines are eliminating change fees! Check out this [article](#) on the latest booking policies.

You might also be interested to know how special airlines are when it come to pandemic relief & how their pitching to banks using you as well sorta like "collateral." You might give a second look at the value of airline mileage programs after reading this [article](#).

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## Trip Planning - 2022

We are already working on the **2022** season. If you would like to help research and plan our trips for 2022, **please contact me** about serving on the [Trip Planning Committee](#). It's a great way to learn more about how the club works and how we can put together great trips for our members. Meetings will begin in January and run through April. We will meet once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month via zoom. If you are interested in participating, send me an email at: [tripplanning@austinskiers.org](mailto:tripplanning@austinskiers.org) and I will send you details about the meetings.

**Thanks Again, looking forward to a Great 2021 ski season!**



Tere Mayne, VP Trip Planning: [TripPlanning@austinskiers.org](mailto:TripPlanning@austinskiers.org)

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## Happy Hours/Special Activities

At this time, we have no planned Happy Hours scheduled for the month of December. Since we will not have a Holiday Party this year, we are considering a “virtual” option e.g., wine tasting. We will let you know via email, website & Facebook.

We are still working to provide a safe environment to get together for Happy Hour, which includes wearing masks & practicing social distancing. The venues we select will have outdoor seating, although few [will provide reserve seating](#) for us due to already limited capacity imposed by COVID-19 restrictions.

A separate email will be sent outlining the details of the venue date, location and time.



Mary L. Goetschel (ML), VP Special Activities [Activities@austinskiers.org](mailto:Activities@austinskiers.org)



Proudly partnering with the  
Texas Ski Council (TSC).

Visit [Texas Ski Council](#) for more information.



The Texas Ski Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation. Which means Austin Skiers are members and have some great benefits. Please check them out and register at [National Ski Council Federation](#).

**SI BERNARD**



Austin Skiers appreciates the support of our local ski stores, [Sun & Ski Sports](#), [MarineMax Sail & Ski](#) and [Saint Bernard Sports](#) for hosting our club meetings this fall and winter. Please shop local, these stores are adding more ski related inventory every week and giving our members discounts during each meeting.

Speaking of discounts [Saint Bernard Sports](#) is extending the **15% discount** they offered at our November Membership meeting - it will run from October thru May!



Jackie Bayly, Director: [Director@austinskiers.org](mailto:Director@austinskiers.org)

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## Message from the Membership/Communications Chair

### Gary's tidbits...

As you look at the trip line-up please also read the [Trip Policies AND Trip Cancellation Policies](#). The [cancellation policies are not necessarily the same for each trip](#) - so please read the one applicable to the trip you are interested in.

If you purchased an **EPIC PASS** for the 2020/21 ski season you know reservations are required - to allow for "social distancing" for the entire season. EPIC PASS is divided into two "seasons" - Early Season" (Nov. 6 - Dec. 7) and a "Core Season" (Dec. 8 - April 4). EPIC PASS holders will receive priority. They have an online video explanation and an FAQ. Click on [EPIC PASS](#) for further information.

As a reminder for those holding a **Military EPIC PASS** it does **NOT** provide access to their partners - Telluride, Sun Valley, Snowbasin along with Resorts in the Canadian Rockies (Fernie, Kicking Horse, Kimberley, Nakiska, Mont Sainte Anne, Stoneham), Hakuba Valley, Rusutsu or any European access.

I thought it might be helpful to those planning to travel via Airlines for the upcoming Holidays and Ski Season links to some of the airlines website specifically regarding what you can expect insofar as how they're handling "social distancing." Here are links to some of the airlines - [Alaska](#), [American](#), [Delta](#), [Frontier](#), [JetBlue](#), [Southwest](#) & [United](#). You might want to check out the website "[The Points Guy](#)" who has a lot more information about each airline - aircraft cleaning, face masks, passenger loads and other measures. Austin Skiers does not endorse nor has verified the information they provide. We encourage you, which I'm sure you're doing, to also check out the particular airline you're flying, which may have more up-to-date information.

For those of you that have recovered from **COVID-19** or know someone who has and developed the antibodies from the virus, please consider donating your **convalescent plasma** through "[We Are Blood](#)," which is the local blood bank for the Travis County Medical Society. They are in **desperate** need for donations! They have an [online form](#) you can submit your information to see if you qualify. If so, the total amount of time at their facility will take you 1-1/2 to 2 hours. They recently announced as of **October 28** they will be providing **COVID-19 Antibody**



**Testing** for any **donation**. **Reservations** are mandatory! They have **three** locations around the Austin area. Your donation can literally **save a life!**

We look forward to providing another **GREAT** year, albeit very different due to COVID-19 , of **ski** trips, special activities and other social opportunities for you and your family to enjoy!

[Click here to renew your membership.](#)

Follow us on: [Instagram](#)

Like us at on: [Facebook](#)



Gary Armstrong, VP Communications: [Communications@austinskiers.org](mailto:Communications@austinskiers.org)

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## **Executive Committee - Austin Skiers**

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson - President

Elisabeth Poigin - VP Trips

Tere Mayne- VP Trip Planning

Lara Pavanelli- VP Programs

Gary Armstrong - VP Communications

Mary L. Goetschel - VP Special Activities

Steve Knouse- Treasurer

Mary Jo Humphreys - Secretary

Jackie Bayly - Director

