



"Ski News"

February 2021

Message from the President of Austin Skiers

Austin Skiers this month marks its 51st year of providing travel, ski & social opportunities! Happy Birthday, Austin Skiers. Even as we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19 we thank everyone for your continued membership and support! Without you there wouldn't be an Austin Skiers ski club.

Speaking of which, look for an email later this month from the [Nominating Committee](#). Your recommendations for club officer nominees for the 2021-2022 year are as important as ever. Please say **"Yes"** when a committee member asks if you will serve your fellow members. Isn't it time that you, too, offered a couple of hours per month to the club that has provided you so many good times and

adventures? Please write or call me today if you want additional information about serving.

Still thinking snow,

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson



Tim Atkinson, President: President@austinskiers.org

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**.

I'm sure plenty of you have gained experience over the past 10 months or so since COVID-19 entered our lives and transformed in many ways how we communicate. We held our first ever **Virtual Trip Presentation** last **August** and so will be the case of the upcoming **TSC BidFest** - it's going **Virtual** from **April 9-11, 2021**. Stay tuned for more information in the March newsletter!

Being involved in planning our trips is a great way to learn more about how the club works and how we can put together great trips for our members.

Even though our committee started work last month, you can still help us research next year's trip locations. We will meet once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of the

month via Zoom. If you are interested in participating, send me an email at: 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

<<<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 Zoom meetings over the next 3 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.

We particularly need candidates for President and VP Trips, which are open board positions for this next year.

A list of responsibilities for Executive Committee members can be found [here](#).

Remaining Trips for 2021 **(subject to change)**

<u>Pass</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lodging</u>
EPIC	Telluride	Feb 6 – 13	Bear Creek Lodge

IKON [Copper Mtn](#) Feb 15 – 19 Silver Level Condo
EPIC [Heavenly](#) Feb 20 – 27 Lake Tahoe Resort Suites
IKON [Snowbird](#) Feb 27-Mar 6 Cliff Lodge
NA [New Zealand](#)* Oct 5-27 Various properties

*Texas Ski Council Trip



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](#).**

2021 Trips Update

We continue to strive to make the ski season salvageable and appreciate your understanding about the difficulty in working through this fluctuating environment. Due to the volatility, we are facing with the COVID pandemic, it has become impossible to make rapid adjustments trying to add to trip rosters once a member has decided not to attend a trip. This means once you have decided to remove your name from a trip roster, that decision will be considered final even if the resorts reduce restrictions. Frankly it is just very difficult to make last-minute changes to arrange lodging, air, etc.

We have received numerous requests for information on when [trip refunds](#) will be made. In addition to what was specified in the [cancellation policies](#) for each trip, which stated 60-90 days **please understand the following**:

For **CANCELLED** Trips - [Taos](#) and [Lake Louise](#), we received refunds from the tour operator and sent member refunds. Two people have been sent replacement checks.

For **SCALED** down Trips- [Snowmass](#), [Telluride](#), [Copper](#), here is the sequence of events which needs to take place **before** the club can issue refunds:

- * Wait for the Trip to happen;
- * Once the trip has concluded the vendor does a final reconciliation, and once we agree we will begin the process of setting up for refunds; and
- * After we receive the check from the vendor and it has cleared the bank, we will issue refunds.



Elisabeth Poigin, VP Trips: Trips@austinskiers.org

Treasurer

The newsletter normally doesn't have a section for the club Treasurer, but since this has been an unusual ski season and significantly more refunds will be issued than typical, we thought it was important for you to hear from him.

For those who will receive refunds for ski trips the refund by **check** will take five **(5) business days** – generally seven **(7) calendar days**. The club can now process refunds by **Zelle**, which is a U.S. digital payment network setup and owned by Bank of America, BB&T, Capital One, JPMorgan Chase, PNC Bank, U.S. Bank and Wells Fargo. Once your refund has been put into their system it will arrive at

your bank within [minutes](#). Zelle payments are supported by many banks but few credit unions.

If your bank supports Zelle payments and you would like your refund via Zelle, please send an email payment request to treasurer@austinskiers.org with the phone number or email address associated with your Zelle account.



Steve Knouse, Treasurer: Treasurer@austinskiers.org

Happy Hours/Special Activities

South Happy Hour
[Austin Beer Garden Brewing Co.](#)



Thursday, February 11th

4:30 - 6:30 PM

1305 W. Oltorf
Austin, TX 78704

[MAP](#)

NOTE: We have a 10-top table reserved. After that it's first come/first serve.

Please wear your name badge

North Happy Hour

Culinary Dropout - Domain



Thursday, February 18th

4:30 - 6:30 PM

11721 Rock Rose, Ste. #100
Austin, Tx. 78758
512-777-3394

[MAP](#)

NOTE: We have a 10-top table reserved. After that it's first come/first serve.

Please wear your name badge

Save The Dates for March HH: **March 4** @ [Nomadic Beer Works](#) (South) AND **March 18** @ [Easy Tiger LINC](#) (North)

We continue to work 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 and will be posted on our website under Calendar Events.



Mary L. Goetschel (ML), VP Special Activities Activities@austinskiers.org

Save The Date

Post Trip Party

This has been the most challenging years to organize trips and group functions because of COVID-19. We are endeavoring to put together a [Post Trip Party](#) after ski season, which concludes with the [Snowbird](#) trip (February 27 - March 6). Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming newsletter and email regarding date, time & location.



Lara Pavanelli, VP Programs: Programs@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.

Reminder...

- Sun & Ski provides a 10% discount to our members on full priced ski items.
- Saint Bernard Sports is extending their 15% discount thru May 2021!
- Do you need rentals? Visit Marine Max Sail & Ski to rent equipment and clothing for skiing and boarding

Stay safe and stay well! Jackie



Jackie Bayly, Director: Director@austinskiers.org

Message from the Membership/Communications Chair

Gary's tidbits...

Just as a reminder this monthly newsletter will be published withing 3-5 days following the monthly executive committee board meeting.

Even in a very difficult year where travel and social interaction has become a significant challenge, we are grateful for so many of you continuing your membership in the Austin Skiers! Throughout the fall we've had people joining for the first time and past members renewing in spite of the pandemic. Membership now stands at **344**.

If you haven't already checked out the webpage lately you might want to take a look at the Trip Highlights video posted by Mohamed Kerry, Trip Chair for Beaver Creek. Just click on the link under his trip on our home page and it will take you to a YouTube video or click [here](#) to take you directly there. Thanks to Mo putting it together and others who contributed to the video.

TRAVEL Info:

A. Whether you're traveling with the club on a ski trip or going on your own you'll need to know the various [state restrictions](#) due to COVID-19. Check out the *Condé Nast Traveler* [article](#), which provides a comprehensive review of each state with travel restrictions.

B. There is another pretty comprehensive [article](#) by Condé Nast Traveler addressing domestic and international travel regarding airline, cruise and hotel reservations changes and cancellations. It also includes a country-by-country guide to: how Europe is reopening; Caribbean Islands reopening this summer; and how Asia, Central and South America and African Countries are reopening.

C. According to an email I received on January 22, 2021 from [Trip Advisor](#) if you're traveling internationally the CDC recently issued a COVID order that may impact your plans for re-entering the United States. **Effective January 26, 2021 for travelers arriving in the United States:**

"You will need to get **tested** for COVID-19 **no more than 3 days** before departing to the United States **AND** show a **negative** test result to the airline before boarding **OR** show documentation of recent recovery from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding. This new order applies to **(1) all air passengers** — including U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents — **aged 2 years and older. (2)** It also applies **regardless of the length of time spent** outside of the United States.

Acceptable documentation of recovery from COVID-19 includes both a **positive viral test** result within 3 months of travel (or the time- period specified in current CDC guidance) **AND** a **letter** from a healthcare provider **OR** public health official stating that the passenger is cleared to end isolation. Passengers who have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to delay their travel until they meet the criteria to end isolation; learn more [here](#).

If you need more information visit this [FAQ](#) page at [CDC](#)." Trip Advisor also has posted [links](#) to countries located in: North America/Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Middle East, South America, Africa, and Oceania that provides current travel guidance and number of cases for each country.

D. I thought it might be helpful to repeat this article as travel plans continue to be formulated and you need to know if you're traveling via Airlines for the upcoming Ski Season or other personal travel here are links to some of the airlines website specifically regarding what you can expect insofar as how they're handling "social distancing:" [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

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

