



## "Ski News"

### January 2021

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#### Message from the President of Austin Skiers

"Happy New Year Austin Skiers! It is hard to believe another year has passed and we have our first ski trip **January 9** to Beaver Creek, CO.

It's an understatement to say 2020 has been a challenging year for us all. Some have lost loved ones or friends to COVID-19 and other illnesses/diseases. Our heart goes out to those who suffered the pain of loss. I know those among us who contracted the virus had friends step up to help their friend in time of need. Isn't that part of what Austin Skiers is about – not just a group of people who enjoy skiing & travel, but making friends and being there when they're needed most.

We all are desirous for a better year in 2021 and eventually getting back to a more normal way of life. The vaccine, which is now beginning to be distributed, coupled with a spirit of "can do" provides hope and optimism for a better year. In 2020, our not-for-profit social club achieved **50** years of service due in part from the commitment and great spirit of our members and volunteers. Yes, that means you! Thank you for your continued support as a member. I wish you all good health, happiness, and plenty of powder to ski or ride in the New Year! Be well, safe and enjoy!

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson



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

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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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**<<<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](mailto: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](#).

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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

The month of December saw a lot of movement on your **2021** planned Ski Trips. Colorado ski resorts instituted numerous restrictions due to COVID-19 cases evolution, which significantly impacted the **Snowmass** and **Telluride** trips. [All registrants have been informed](#) of the restrictions and made a GO/NO GO decision. As a result, most of the initial registrants cancelled off their trip – so only a few are still going.

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.

If you are anxious to go skiing, our trip to **Snowbird** still have some openings. It is **Ground Only** as we had to release our air seats last month - you will be staying in an hotel, which is a very good choice currently. **It is the ONLY trip of the season for which there are openings we can still add people to.**



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

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### **Happy Hours/Special Activities**

At this time, we have no planned Happy Hours scheduled for the month of January.

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.

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

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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](#).

**SAINT 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...

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. In December alone we had **1 Family** of 2 people and **2 Individuals** join. Total active membership now stands at **343**.

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.

*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.*

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](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

