



"Ski News"

March 2021

Planning has already begun for the **2022** Ski Season!

This rather unusual ski season has come to a conclusion with the final trip of the year to Snowbird, which returned Saturday, March 6.

Believe it or not it's already time to start planning our trips for 2022 and 2023. We look forward to participating in the **Virtual Texas Ski Council (TSC) BidFest** on **April 9-11**.

In 2019 the TSC began planning on a two-year basis. We already have the TSC trips scheduled for 2022 - so check out our Austin Skiers website for destinations and dates. At BidFest, we will be making decisions and voting for the 2023 Fall Expedition and 2023 ski season. We will share the TSC trip results in the **May**

newsletter.

Still thinking snow,

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson



Tim Atkinson, President: President@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. All applications are due by **March 18**.

A list of [responsibilities](#) for Executive Committee members can be found [here](#). The open board positions are: President, VP Special Activities, VP Trips & Director. The open board positions for which the Nominations Committee doesn't already have a candidate stating they're willing to serve is [President](#) & [VP Trips](#). We had secured a committed candidate for VP Trips, but had to withdraw for this year due to a job change. This is a [change](#) from the announcement in the email to the membership on **March 5**. We continue to [encourage](#) those who are interested to submit their name along with an application.

All candidates will be [required](#) to submit a completed application. We will make the announcement of the slate in the April newsletter.

Trip Planning - 2022



Tere Mayne, VP Trip Planning: TripPlanning@austinskiers.org

Remaining Trips for 2021 (subject to change)

<u>Pass</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lodging</u>
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 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

This past year has been challenging for all of us personally and for us as a Club. The Executive Committee (EC), and Elisabeth Poigin in particular worked very hard to provide as many ski opportunities as possible. **Two** trips had to be **cancelled** outright - Taos, Lake Louise, while **two** were **scaled back** to only a couple of skiers - Snowmass and Telluride. And if that wasn't enough to deal with resort closures or restrictions, Austin suffered the worst winter storm in years. As a result, folks couldn't leave for **Copper** – so the Tour Operator was able to grant us **Force Majeure**. **Three trips were able to go**, Beaver Creek, Heavenly and Snowbird, but with smaller numbers than in past years. In all only **63** of us were able to go this season.

Full refunds were issued for Lake Louise **and** Taos.

Full refunds, less contractual fees, will be sent for **Copper Mountain** attendees.

Full refunds, less contractual fees, will be sent to those who were not able to go to Snowmass and Telluride.

Those of you who were able to go will also get refunds.

The EC discussed per person fees and decided the following:

Trip Chair fee of \$33 will not be collected for trips that did not have a Trip Chair – Snowmass, Telluride and Snowbird;

The Pre-Trip and Midweek Party fees, which vary by trip, will not be collected for trips that were not able to have parties - all but Heavenly and Beaver Creek: and

The Post Trip Party \$10 fee will not be collected from anyone. This will be included in refunds to be paid. For Beaver Creek skiers, you will get a \$10 refund.

If we have a Post Trip Party, everyone who went on a trip in 2020 or 2021 will be invited. The Club will pay for the party! There will be no cost to the members.

Finally, I'd like to tell you about a faster way to get your refund. The Club has always sent refund checks from Chase Bank, which will take a week to get to you. However, the Club now also supports refunds by Zelle. Zelle payments will be in your account within minutes from my request for payment.

If your bank supports Zelle payments, and you will to use it, send an email to treasurer@austinskiers.org - Subject "My Zelle," along with the phone number or email you used to set up Zelle..

Zelle is supported by many banks, especially national banks, e.g., Chase, Bank of America (BOA), Wells Fargo and USAA. I'm not sure about state banks. For the most part credit unions do not support Zelle.



Steve Knouse, Treasurer: Treasurer@austinskiers.org

Happy Hours/Special Activities

North Happy Hour

[Easy Tiger LINC](#)

Thursday, March 18th

4:30 - 6:30 PM

[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 **April Happy Hours: 4/1** at Austin Beer Garden Brewery
([ABGB](#))

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 concluded with the **Snowbird** trip (February 27 - March 6). Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming newsletter and email regarding date, time & location.

The [Membership](#) meeting this month will be held at [Marine Max Sail & Ski](#) on **March 23** from 6-8pm.

Stay tuned in the [April newsletter](#) regarding dates/times for the [May Annual Business Meeting](#) and [August Trip Presentation](#).



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](#).

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.

The [Membership](#) meeting this month will be held at [Marine Max Sail & Ski](#) on **March 23** from 6-8pm.

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 the monthly newsletter will be published within about 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. We added a new Family Membership this month making the total active membership **345**.

Amazing death-defying feat by two skiers! You need to read this [story](#) about two snow skiers that navigated down the precipitous slope of "Half Dome" in Yosemite Park. They completed the descent in 5 hours something that no one is known to have ever done - **skiing & rappelling 4,800'** from peak to valley!

Whether you went skiing this year with the club, on your own or sat the season out you might be interested to see the impact it had on the various ski resorts. There are two articles I ran across recently - one from "[Inntopia](#)" and from "[The Know Outdoors](#)." When you compare Presidents Day weekend (typically the busiest of the ski season) in 2020 to 2021 the vehicle traffic through the Eisenhower-Johnson tunnel was down 16%, which while significant may not be as bad as expected. January, for the first time in three months saw a positive year-over-year gains in the booking pace. There are large deficits in both seasonal revue and occupancy and consumers remain focused on short-term trip planning. Cancellations are declining while booking volume remains high -the overall trend remains upward.

*** TRAVEL Info:**

A. **State-by-State Restrictions:** 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. **Domestic/International Travel:** 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. **Re-Entry to United States:** 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. **Airlines**: 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 the sake of the readers I've created a [PDF reference file](#) you can download including clickable links of the above travel information.

Convalescent Plasma:

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.](#)

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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

