



## "Ski News"

### **May 2022** **President's Message**

Dear Friends,

I am unable to be with you for the [Annual Meeting](#) this year because of unforeseen scheduling changes, so please excuse my absence. It has been an honor to serve you these past two years.

With your permission, I am taking this opportunity to share with you only some of what has happened this past year, specifically the [personal](#) side.

I served as [president](#) before in **2013-14**. Things have changed a lot over nine years. In 2013-14, the executive committee (EC) met in person. Through big parts of 2020-22, the EC met mostly online via Zoom. The changes in the intensity and frequency of communication over ten plus years have been significant. In **2013-14**, I read, replied to, or wrote **1,006** club email messages. In **2020-22**, there were more than **5,157** emails. This does not count the hundreds of text messages and phone calls.

Have you ever had that feeling during a meeting that you are the dumbest person in the room? I had it in my first executive committee meeting two years ago. I have had it every meeting since. It has been a pleasure to serve with such sharp minds.

Have you ever had that feeling during a meeting that everyone else has spent countless hours doing their job and being prepared, but your own efforts paled by comparison? I have had it practically every executive committee meeting. It has been a pleasure to serve with such hard-working, competent, and dedicated individuals—people you can count on to do what they promised.

At the annual meeting, the executive committee members will give you their reports. I urge you to listen to their summaries and reflect on the time and efforts spent selflessly by each and every one. While there is so much more I could share, these examples stand out to me:

**Treasurer – Steve Knouse.** Steve has kept meticulous books. He has done so thoroughly and promptly, ranging from sending payments within hours of request and authorization, to having monthly treasurer's reports, bank statements, balance sheets, profit & loss statements, reconciliation reports, journal entries, etc., no later than the day after the end of the month or else when the bank statements arrived. No one was waiting on the treasurer for anything. And every month, accounts balanced and reconciled. Steve has been as good as it gets, and he has been an outstanding counselor to me; we could not have asked for more.

**VP Trips – Cindy Berry.** We were in deep yogurt when Cindy's predecessor Elisabeth Poigin retired and moved to France after an utterly exhausting year dealing with the decimating outfall of the Covid pandemic. Previous executive committee member and president Cindy was the sole volunteer to offer to take on the responsibility. Cindy did so without the benefit of current on-the-job training. Dealing with Covid-related complications for travel and lodging, Cindy yet was able to recruit, train, and assist trip chairs; deal with resorts, airlines, and tour operators; and ultimately make it possible for us to have a nearly normal number of trips and trip participants. Were that not enough,

Cindy also has been our parliamentarian, assuring that we abide by Robert's Rules.

**VP Trip Planning – Tere Mayne.** Tere has been our rock. Her encyclopedic knowledge of resorts, tour destinations, and tour operators, has been invaluable. With her first-name bases with tour operators, she knew which ones could be counted on if problems arose, something invaluable when dealing with Covid- related considerations. She insisted upon more favorable tour contracts at a time when ski resorts were raising prices and demanding large nonrefundable deposits. Her negotiating skill saw to it that contracts were modified to include force majeure clauses favorable to our members. Tere not only represented Austin Skiers at the Texas Ski Council, but she also took part in Mountain Travel Symposium where she and Cindy Berry met with dozens of national and international tour operators and destination representatives. No other ski club in Texas offers so many trips as we, and this would not be possible without the work of Tere and her trip planning committee volunteers.

**VP Communications – Gary Armstrong.** Gary has been essentially single-handedly responsible for our dependable newsletter, our web page, and our social media exposure. Without fail, Gary has published our newsletter promptly every month, and without fail it has been full of timely and necessary information. In addition, Gary has maintained our club membership roster, our email roster, and the associated software that make it happen. For two years I've not worried whether the newsletter will be broadcast on time, or whether the online trip registration process will work. In addition, Gary's commercial insurance expertise had made it possible for Austin Skiers to be insured adequately and for members to be protected by increasing coverage types, consolidating policies, and now having all policies contain anniversaries that align with our fiscal year. And of personal benefit to me, Gary has been an invaluable counselor and confidant.

**VP Programs – Lara Pavanelli.** Lara has made it possible, especially during a pandemic, for Austin Skiers to have meeting and event venues that are safe, accessible, accommodating, enjoyable, and affordable. Her business and people skills come to the fore when dealing with venue management and negotiating favorable contracts. I

learned early on that if there was even the slightest concern for something during an event, all I needed to do was share it with Lara, but in most cases that was unnecessary because she already was ahead of me and the problem was being addressed. Equally important, Lara has been a valued member of the executive committee, reviewing our considerations thoughtfully and participating actively and positively.

**VP Special Activities** – **Bill Estes**. Bill has made it possible for us to have special activities (like happy hours and wine-tasting parties) throughout the year and across Austin. He has done so despite the constraints of pandemic restrictions and the ever-decreasing ability of venues to provide private or semi-private gathering areas gratis. I can't recall a single repeat venue, and usually the spot is one that I want to return to again for dinner or a snack.

**Secretary** – **Mary Jo Humphreys**. Mary Jo has been the best secretary ever of any nonprofit or not-for-profit organization for which I have served. Each month we could count on having accurate, thoughtful, and thorough minutes for our review within days of the meeting. Further, she organized and brought online our corporate records into one spot (Google documents) where we could review them. With the proposed minutes online and editable, when committee members suggested changes, they simply could make the changes themselves, streamlining the review and correction process. Consequently, meeting minutes have been approved almost always without changes, additions, or corrections. For the rare occasions when Mary Jo could not be present for a Zoom meeting, she simply created the minutes from the meeting video recording, so it was not necessary for another to take the minutes. I just found out that she was presented on April 26 a "**Lifetime Achievement Award**" by the Texas Library Association! Congratulations &\* well deserved! We are all so proud of you!

**Director** – **Chris Vrba**. Chris was the first-person last year's nominating committee thought of to work with local ski shops to build and maintain relationships with store managers, and to enhance their awareness and promotion of Austin Skiers. We could not have had a more personable representative. Especially, however, I am grateful for

how Chris's beneficence influenced the deliberations of the executive committee.

I suspect often it is ingenuine when a member of a winning sports team says, "This has been a team effort." In the case of the management of Austin Skiers, Inc., however, nothing could be truer. Quite simply, what this club accomplishes would be impossible without the dedication and varied skills of so many selfless volunteers. It's not so easy as it looks. For these officers and all the other volunteers that make it possible, I am so thankful. Hopefully you feel likewise.

Thinking Snow...

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson



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

### <<<Nominating Committee Report>>>

This is the report of the Nominating Committee to the Executive Committee of Austin Skiers, Inc., regarding the **2022-23** officer slate, which will be submitted to the club membership for consideration at its Annual Membership meeting **May 12, 2022**. Click on this [link](#) for

a PDF file of the recommended board slate. It provides more information on each person along with a picture.

### The Austin Skiers 2022 Racing Review - by Tom Mowdy

This Austin Skiers 2022 Racing Review covers the TSC (Texas Ski Council) Race Season, the individual races, TSC club competition, and the Austin Skiers who participated in NASTAR National Finals. All Austin Skiers, TSC, and NASTAR racing includes snowboarders.

The Austin Skiers participated in two TSC racing events in 2022. Park City and Telluride. TSC usually has three racing events each year. They are known as the "Traditional," "Winter Shootout," and "Final Showdown." The 2022 TSC Final Showdown was cancelled because the Mammoth ski resort did not renew their NASTAR contract and a "private" race was cost prohibitive.

The records show 108 TSC members competed for Fastest Overall female and male and the TSC Gold, Silver, and Bronze, in their age divisions at Park City and Telluride. Their individual race results were used to calculate the TSC Club Competition results.

#### Park City - "Traditional:"

The Park City "Traditional" race ended up being held in Deer Valley due to COVID problems. There were 42 TSC racers who just showed up & skied for 2 hours. Six Austin Skiers made it to the Deer Valley competition: Jo Mowdy, Pam Monday, Tom Mowdy, Brian Lawrence, Stuart Rowe, and Moose Stoval.

Jo Mowdy won the Traditional's Fastest Female medal and took TSC Gold in her age group with a 46.45 total time. Jo also won two NASTAR Silver medals, one for each course. Tom Mowdy won his age group TSC Gold medal and finished 3rd Overall Male with a 44.38. Tom also won two Silver NASTAR medals. Moose Stovall took TSC 3rd Place in his age group finishing with a 58.86. Pam did win a NASTAR

Bronze medal on the course she raced proving she was fast enough to win a TSC medal in her age group and more!

#### Telluride - "Winter Shootout:"

Austin Skiers sent eight of the sixty-six TSC Winter Shootout racers. Terry Champion, Alisa Cook-Roehs, Marcia Cross, Lara Pavanelli, Joanna Schima, Moose Stovall, Jake Sullivan, and Brian Lawrence.

Terry Champion won the TSC Winter Shootout Fastest Female and took TSC Gold in her age group with a 64.76 total time. Terry also bagged two NASTAR Bronze medals, one for each course. Lara Pavanelli snatched her age group TSC Gold with a 71.59.

#### TSC Club Competition:

TSC Clubs compete for an annual racing trophy in three divisions. Austin Skiers finished 3rd in Division 1 won by Los Amigos. Division 2 was won by Club St. Bernard, and Division 3 by Clear Lake.

#### NASTAR National Finals:

Three Austin Skiers qualified & competed in the NASTAR National Finals at Snowmass. Showing tenacity and skill, the three Austin Skiers finished with two podiums and a top 6 finish in their respective age groups. Jo Mowdy took Third Place, Platinum Division. Tom Mowdy, Third Place, Silver Division. Lou Horwitz Sixth Place, Silver Division. Lou just missed qualifying for the all age group NASTAR Silver "Race of Champions" by a mere 1/100th of a second. Such a small difference means you are in the very top of the Silver Division!

#### The Austin Skiers 2022 Racing Summary:

Thanks to all the TSC Officers and club trip staff who make TSC Racing possible. Congratulations to all those Austin Skiers who slid their skis and boards to the start gate and competed in 2022.

Skiing and boarding are humbling and rewarding sports, and more so for those who race. Racing helps improve your skills and enjoyment. The more you race, the more you learn and connect to those edges. Then, there is that something about standing in the start gate. Looking down that course. Accepting a challenge with the desire to have fun,

learn, create a memory, and maybe earn some individual and club bragging rights.

I wish to thank Tom Mowdy (pic below) for penning this article. Please click on this [link](#) to download the PDF file of his entire report with pictures.



**Remaining Trips for 2022**  
(subject to change)

Pass	Location	Date	Lodging
	<a href="#">Scotland/N. Ireland</a>	May 18-29	Multiple Properties
	(Pre-Trip):Manchester	May 14-19	

Please take time to review our [Trip Policies](#).

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](#).**



## VP of Trips Report

*Club members who are interested to serve as a Trip Chair or Trip Chair Assistant please consider applying. It's not too early to let us know. Qualified applicants will receive a trip reimbursement of **\$1,300** as a Trip Chair or **\$300** as Assistant Trip Chair.*

We cannot run a trip without a Trip Chair & is a critical leadership position for our club. If you are interested in serving as a Trip Chair or Assistant read through the trip chair's [responsibilities](#) and submit your [application](#). Email your completed application form and any questions you may have about the trip(s), to Cindy Berry at [Trips@AustinSkiers.org](mailto:Trips@AustinSkiers.org).

Trip chair trainings will be announced at a later date, but probably sometime during July so they're ready for our trip presentation meeting in August.



Cindy Berry, VP Trips: [Trips@austinskiers.org](mailto:Trips@austinskiers.org)

## Trip Planning Report

The Trip Planning Committee has been hard at work researching trips for our 2023 ski and travel season, as well as reviewing TSC trip proposals for 2024 and determining the best lodging locations at each.

The committee also researched several non-ski destinations. We are returning to Sonoma for a Wine Tour, September 18-22, 2022. Be sure to talk to the Trip Chair for more details on the wine trip. The Trip Page will be open soon for registration. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time we will have Sports America a long-standing Tour Operator handle the registration and payments on behalf of the club. There will be a link posted on the Trip Page.

In addition, we are scheduling a trip to New Zealand with the Texas Ski Council in October of 2023. As you know this trip has been cancelled the past 2 years, but we feel the 3<sup>rd</sup> time is the charm. There will be an extension trip on the front end to Australia and post trip to Fiji. More information on this trip will be on the website in the coming months. Registration for New Zealand will be in August with the rest of our trips.

We are busily reviewing other proposals and contracts. We are working towards finalizing the remaining club trips soon and will share them with you at the May 12 Annual Membership meeting. Right now we are working on trips to Snowmass (TSC), Crested Butte, Taos, Whistler, Steamboat (TSC), Winter Park and Lake Louise (TSC). We are still researching Beaver Creek and Jackson Hole.

Just keep turning



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

## **VP of Programs**

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

The **Annual Business Meeting** of Austin Skiers will be held on **May 12** from **6-8PM** at the **Balcones Country Club**. We are excited at the prospect of seeing everyone in person. We will have a Cash bar & complimentary sandwich buffet. Click [here](#) to register for the event.



Lara Pavanelli, VP Programs: [Programs@austinskiers.org](mailto:Programs@austinskiers.org)

## **Happy Hour/Special Activities**

## **NORTH** Austin Happy Hour

### Plank Seafood Provisions

**May 5, 2022**

**4:30 - 6:30 pm**

11401 Century Oak, Suite 136  
Austin, TX 78758  
737-234-1122

[MAP](#)

Please wear your name badge

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## **SOUTH** Austin Happy Hour

**May 19, 2022**

**4:30PM - 6:30PM**

It's Italian Cucina

1500 S. Lamar Blvd., # 110  
Austin, TX 78704

[MAP](#)

Please wear your name badge



Bill Estes, 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](#).



When thinking of shopping for ski gear this season, remember to shop [Sun & Ski Sports](#). Please **let their staff know** Austin Skiers enjoy a **15% discount off regular-priced** items in the store.

In addition, you will receive **50%** off the cost (labor) of tune-ups, waxes & edging.

Check out their ski/snowboard bundles - goggles, ski poles, boot bags and snow apparel! Follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and other social media sites listed on their website.



Also, please remember our long-time partner [Marine Max/Sail & Ski](#). Follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and YouTube along with other social media listed on their website. **Please note the discount policy applies for 1 month following our membership meeting. This was a corporate decision to tie discounts to "events."**



Chris Vrba, Director: [Director@austinskiers.org](mailto:Director@austinskiers.org)

### Message from the Membership/Communications Chair

#### Gary's tidbits...

#### Membership:

Membership as of **April 30, 2022**, stands at **443** "active" members.

For those of you who are not currently members of Austin Skiers, **membership** runs from **June 1 - May 31**. Keep in mind we often times have **summer/fall trip** sign-ups prior to **June 1** - so if you join anytime **March 1** & after you will have an opportunity to register & travel with us. Anyone joining or renewing **before June 1** will have their membership run for up to **15 months**. Membership is not prorated.

#### Favorite Ski Destinations:

For readers' of [Ski Magazine](#) you already know they do an annual survey of your favorite ski destination. They want you to rank up to **five** ski resorts you've visited over the last couple of seasons in **15** different categories, from Snow Quality to Après-Ski and everything in between. So - here's the [link](#) if you want to spend a few minutes to let them know.

#### Ski Passes:

Ski Magazine has put together an [article](#) on "How to Choose a Season Pass" based on: your skill; where you ski; which multi-pass (EPIC or

IKON) offer the most perks; what's best for your family: and best for frequent fliers & storm chasers. They've also put together 12 of the most common FAQ's on both passes.

### Trip Photos:

You have the ability to **directly** upload trip photos to our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). There is also a section on the website where you can find pics of trips, although not all trips have pics. If you haven't already sent some of your photos you'd like to have posted under one of your trips from this past season - it's not too late. You can send them to me at [communications@austinskiers.org](mailto:communications@austinskiers.org)

We look forward to continue providing **Ski/Non-ski** trips as we look to the future in addition to special activities, happy hours and other social opportunities for you and your family to enjoy!

[Click here to renew your membership](#)

**Follow us on:** [Instagram](#)

**"Follow" us on** [Facebook](#)



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



## **Executive Committee - Austin Skiers**

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson - President  
Cindy Berry - VP Trips  
Tere Mayne- VP Trip Planning  
Lara Pavanelli- VP Programs  
Gary Armstrong - VP Communications  
Bill Estes - VP Special Activities  
Steve Knouse- Treasurer  
Mary Jo Humphreys - Secretary  
Christine Vrba - Director

