



CHICAGOLAND
Club 50
Ski & Sports

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

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Guest writers – Marlene Berman, Josh Kiem, Jane Lamshead, Aryliss Lisner, Peggy Simonsen, Joe Strzelecki

Hiking at Deer Grove East in Palatine

A clear, blue bird sky, brisk temps and open prairie expanses made for the perfect beginning to the fall hiking and biking season! Brandt's of Palatine was the location of our post-hike lunch and Sue Halloran our gracious flash hike host.



Flash Biking through the Bridges of DuPage County

Jer Prochaska led a midweek bike ride on the Elgin branch of the Prairie Path to the Geneva Spur in Winfield before heading to historic West Chicago. Sorry you missed this trip? Keep your eyes open for upcoming spring and summer rides!



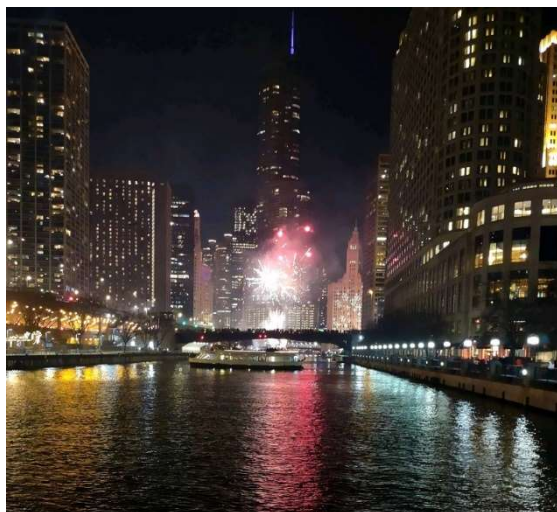
Happy Times Dining Together at Mack's Golden Pheasant Restaurant





Chicago's Christmas Ship Fireworks Benefit Cruise

by Aryliss Lisner



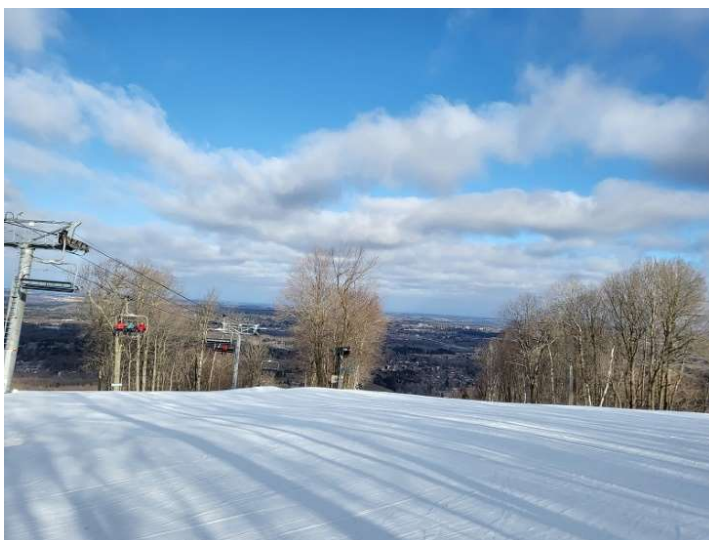
Club 50 once again participated in Chicago's Christmas Ship Fireworks Benefit Cruise on the Chicago River. This year the group participated from the comfort of Chicago's *Classic Lady* where they enjoyed snacks, camaraderie and beautiful fireworks on the Chicago River.

This annual event helps raise funds to bring Christmas trees to disadvantaged families. Since its inception in 2000, the committee has provided nearly 29,000 trees. The trees supplement year-round services provided by local agencies. The Christmas Ship Fireworks Cruise commemorates the loss of the schooner Rouse Simmons, which was bringing Christmas trees to Chicago in 1912 on its last run of the season. The crew and trees went down in a severe storm.

December Flash Trip to Granite Peak

by Joe Strzelecki

Joan and I were the lone Club 50 members able to make this trip. We posted kind of last minute. It was cold and windy, but good to get out for the first time this season. Warm weather meant ski areas were having trouble opening everything up. Joan was happy to see that the Laquinta, where the club stayed the last time we went to Granite Peak, had been remodeled.





January Flash to Boyne Highlands: Good Powder, No Crowds and Cold

by Josh Kiem

Midweek skiing at Boyne Highlands was great, but both Earl and I have to say we missed our fellow "50 clubsters!" We made a wise decision on our return to Chicago. We went over the Mackinac Bridge through the UP and down through Wisconsin. It was a longer distance than the traditional route through Indiana, but spared me from driving through lake-effect blizzard conditions.

Late January Flash Trip to Granite Peak

by new member Jane Lambshead

While the sunshine and daytime temperatures above freezing made us concerned about snow conditions, we (Carol Hynes, Cindy Ward and



Jane Lambshead) had a great time skiing at Granite Peak. We considered it well worth the long drive to get to Wausau! We were sorry that it didn't work out for others to join us. The rising temperatures throughout the day gave us the opportunity to practice various ski skills, as the snow conditions changed from groomed iciness to beautiful, carvable firmness, to a bit of mashed potatoes.

Difficult Conditions, Wise Decisions at Sun Valley!

by Peggy Simonsen

Some explanation is needed: First, green runs at Sun Valley's Bald Mountain would be blue or dark blue at any other ski area. And second, the area was very short of snow, with most of the runs closed, but they had made snow on the green runs. Some intrepid skiers in the group ventured onto some blue (aka black) runs to find them icy and hard as rock. For three days we had blue skies and lots of sun.

Then the snows came on Thursday, heavy wet snow with fog! In the morning, snow had accumulated to several inches and continued to fall, making visibility difficult. I left the group I was skiing with to head down, but to do so, I had to take a chair back to the top for a long run called College to the base. When I got to the chair loading area, the fog was so thick I couldn't even see the chairs going up, so figuring the visibility at the top would be even worse, I took the gondola down to



the base. Not ready to stop skiing, I took a chair up River Run, the one true green run on the mountain, low enough to be out of the fog, but it was raining so hard I got soaking wet, realizing how much my ski pants need to be waterproofed! I went into the lodge and had a hot chocolate!

It turned out my decision to come down was the right decision, as others who tried to ski College in the fog had to call the ski patrol. Josh Kiem experienced vertigo, disoriented, not knowing what was up or down and losing balance. Others called the patrol for guidance, not being able to tell the edges of the curving run and concerned not to end up with zero visibility on a double diamond chute off to the sides.



Friday was much better skiing with several inches of new, somewhat heavy snow and better visibility. Some of us ended the day by partying at the Round House on the mountain and taking the gondola down; others of us eased our muscles in the hot tub at the Sun Valley Lodge.

With no serious injuries, we celebrated the unusual week and our wise decisions to not fight mother nature. At our final après-ski party, we thanked Joan and Joe Strzelecki for all their work organizing the trip.

Chicagoland Club 50 Bowling Extraordinaire!

by Marlene Berman

I started bowling with the Club at Pinstripes in South Barrington in 2013 when I retired. At that time, the cost was \$10 for three hours of bowling, which also included bowling shoes, socks and balls, endless salad and flatbread pizza, non-alcoholic beverages and a sweet treat at the end.

A few years later, the cost went to \$12 — still worth it. In 2024, the cost is now \$15 — definitely still worth it.

For anyone who has never had the opportunity to join us, you're missing out on a lot of exercise(?), laughs, camaraderie, and maybe not-so-great bowlers. Our numbers vary each month due to vacations, other commitments and illness. You can come as often as you like. Your attendance is not written in stone.

We welcome everyone. This month, we had a member and his wife who had never bowled before. They had a great time figuring out how to 'throw' the ball and not land in the gutter. (We actually put up the gutter guards for them when they got tired of missing the pins, ending up in the gutter.)



All it takes from you is a quick email to Marlene Berman to let her know you'll be joining the group. We bowl the second Monday of each month. If there is a change in the date, we make sure everyone knows it. It's a great way to spend a few hours and get to know people you might not have talked to before, while getting out and enjoying yourself.

A Snowy Blast at Banff



Twenty Club 50 members flew to Calgary, Alberta and traveled to Banff to ski with CMSC at the big three resorts of Sunshine Village, Lake Louise, and Mount Norquay. As is usual with CMSC Chicago Week trips there was plenty of skiing, mountain touring, après-skiing, banqueting, ski racing, pub crawling and of course more skiing! Members were alternately hungry, thirsty, joyful, and tired and then hungry, thirsty, tired and happy over and over again throughout the seven-day trip! Skiers new to Club 50, Jim Wallin, Jane Lamshead and Merrilie Gregory, were fun additions to the group. Many thanks to Carol Hynes who was the trip organizer.





Chicagoland Club 50 – Ski & Sports

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Chicagoland Club 50 – Ski & Sports is for active people aged 50 and over. Primarily a ski club, Club 50 organizes year-round activities for its fun-loving, energetic membership. Because of COVID, monthly Sunday evening dinner meetings, as well as some Club activities, have been modified to conform to CDC and State of Illinois medical guidelines. Most regular activities have started back up in earnest.