



January 13, 2020

Written by [Doug Waltman](mailto:dwaltman@roadrunner.com), dwaltman@roadrunner.com Edited by [Eddie Svec](mailto:esvecii@gmail.com), esvecii@gmail.com
www.chagrinskiclub.com

Greetings Members & Affiliates

We had our first ski bus trip last weekend. Let's just say it tested the old saying "a bad day on the slopes is always better than a good day at work." Conditions were sooo bad I kept thinking I could have used the day doing paperwork at home. Then again, I reminded myself it probably was better being on the slopes than typing at my computer at home.

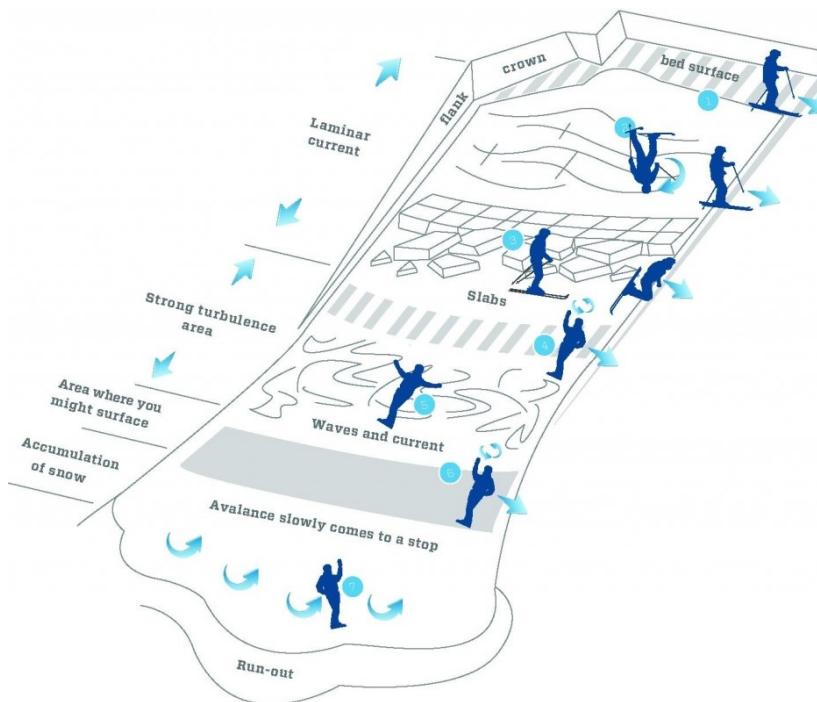
Yeah, conditions were pretty bad. It had been raining heavily the past two days and the slopes at Holiday valley were pretty devastated. There were narrow paths of hard-packed and groomed granular surrounded by pure ice, mud, and grass.

Don Demming commented to me at the top of the hill that he could not remember looking out at the horizon and seeing HV look so barren of snow.

I kept thinking about our crew at Taos. In the morning I thought "they must be getting up about now and having breakfast." Later I thought, "they must be taking their first run." Conditions were so bad I wrapped up about 2:15 and thought of our folks at Taos, "they must be coming in for lunch about now."

Since many of our usual bus riders were absent this trip I had the opportunity to get to know some new folks. *Zack Shapiro* sat around us on the bus along

with some of his buddies. Turns out he's a chocolate chip cookie addict. His buddies included *Sam Shapiro*, *Eric Zelina*, and *Lucy Richmond*. New club member *Phoenix Goldstein* brought his girlfriend *Amy Ridgway* for the first time. They like chocolate chip cookies too. In fact, they heard about the cookies and that's why they came. I didn't see them out on the slopes so who knows. *Rich Ogorek* joined us for lunch and he loves rock'n roll. Toni and I skied together and when she went inside I skied with *Wendy Bruzas* and *Don Demming*.



What to do if caught in an avalanche? Swim uphill, get to the sides, and keep your head above the snow.

So even though we had crappy conditions the camaraderie of making new friends and strengthening ties with existing friends more than made up for it.

I promise you this. Ski conditions for the next bus trip will be better, because they couldn't get much worse.

Last How How Upcoming Events

Banff Pre-Trip Meeting

- Thursday, January 23rd
- Burntwood Tavern, 33675 Solon Rd.

- 6:30 PM
- RSVP Judi Fordyce, juditravels@live.com

Second Ski Day Trip

- SIGN UP NOW!
- Holiday Valley
- January 26,

- Contact Dave Rock.
- Details inside.

What To Do If You're in an Avalanche

This year appears especially bad for avalanches. We commonly think they only occur in the back country— they don't. I've been at areas more than once where they had in-bounds avalanches close to where I was skiing. Luckily I've never been in one and I want to keep it that way.

We also think they only occur out west. They don't. The "Wall" at Holiday Valley has seen at least one avalanche in the past.

If you're headed into the back country you should have all the essential rescue gear (shovel, beacon, inflation device). How many of us carry that gear when we're inbounds skiing? Like none of us. Perhaps we should.

When you find yourself in an avalanche you don't have to be a passive victim. You can fight for survival. Here's what the Mountain Academy of Salomon recommends you do if the snow falls out from under you.

Goal — Whatever you do, when the slide comes to an end you want to make sure your head is above the snow. If you're completely buried you only have a 50% chance of surviving.

As soon as you realize the snow is giving out from under you start YELLING. Another goal for surviving an avalanche is to make sure somebody sees you get caught in it.

Other steps:

#1— When the avalanche starts try to avoid sliding with it. Take a step uphill or dig into the surface. Or try to angle to the side and ride it out.

#2— Should you fall and begin sliding downhill try to get back on your feet and move to the side and out of the avalanche.

#3— If you're in the midst of large gliding blocks try to push yourself away from them and steer towards the sides of the avalanche.

#4— Get rid of your equipment. Skis and snowboards act like an anchor and will pull you down.

#5— Keep your legs down, arms up, and roll sideways to the edge of the avalanche.

#6— Keep an angle of 40° uphill and swim uphill. Grab as much of the snowpack as you can that is not sliding and use to get to the sides.

#7— If you're caught in a slide going full force, "swim" vigorously against the current (*i.e.*, uphill). You want to be as close to the surface as possible when the avalanche finally stops.

#8— When the avalanche begins to slow down you once again want to "swim" uphill and make sure you get on top of the snow mass and try to stay there.

#9— Once the slide stops you want to make sure

some part of you sticks up above of the snowpack. Ideally it's your head, but anything will do as long as you're visible from the surface.

#10— If you're under the snow make an air bubble around your head and mouth. Stay calm and wait for rescue.

That's a lot to remember. I'm certain you won't recall these ten steps when the moment comes. So let's sum them up into three steps.

#1— Swim uphill.

#2— Swim to the side of the slide.

#3— Keep your head above the snow.

I figure you'll automatically yell. Also, if you're rolling down the hill there's a good chance you'll lose your skis and poles anyway.

When I think about it, these steps sound like what you'd do if you find yourself in the water going through a set of rapids. Hey, that's right, you are swimming in water when you're in an avalanche.

The News From SKItown

Welcome back to SKItown, the mostly fictional ski resort where the stories are mostly true.

The recreational holiday skiers have gone home leaving the resort to the hardcore ski bums. The problem with ski bumming it is trying to survive. The painful reality is that skiing and working are incompatible. After all, there is no J-O-B in S-K-I. Ski bums can't work during the day, even a part-time job, because they'll miss a powder day. Ideally, they work some sort of afternoon job that allows them to get the freshies in the morning and still earn enough at night to eat and keep warm.

As writer and inveterate ski bum Jackson Hogen once commented, "*The ski bum trades security for face shots, the future for the moment. Considering how hollow the promise of a corporate career has become, who can say the ski bum is not the wiser investor in his or her youth.*"

It has been really snowing here in SKItown. This week alone they've seen an additional 45" of fresh champagne powder. That was on top of the 68" they received last week. This season to date SKItown has received 295" of snow for the season and the season is not quite half over. The resort is 99+% open with a base of 75-105." With that kind of snow there is only one word for the conditions— POWDER!

The price of all this precious powder is the increased risk of avalanches. They've had two in the local backcountry and side-country the past week. Fortunately, Ski Patroller Jack and his buddies have succeeded with their avalanche prevention. Oh how I love the sound of explosions in the morning. It sounds like powder.

SKItown has been lucky to not have any deaths due to avalanches, YET. Other places have not been so fortunate. A snowmobiler was killed in an avalanche in the Elkhorn Mountains of Oregon this past

week. Another avalanche pushed a car off the road in Little Cottonwood Canyon just below Snowbird UT three days ago. Three skiers were killed in the



Lost teens being rescued. Where's your homework?

past week due to an inbounds avalanche at Silver Mountain ID, Teton Pass WY, and gateway to Jackson Wy, was closed for a time due to two large avalanches. Yeah, Ski Patroller Jack again warns us to obey posted signs, and have avalanche rescue equipment if you plan to go into the back country.

There was one close call this past week. Two 16-year-old snowboarders got lost in an out-of-bounds area near SKItown. They couldn't find their way home so they had to brave a night of sub-zero temperatures and snowfall.

Realizing they were lost with nightfall approaching the resourceful teens made a make-shift shelter. They collected twigs and wood for a fire. To light the fire one of the teens had his homework in his backpack that he used to start the fire and keep it going through the night.

Next morning a rescue helicopter spotted their smoke and picked them up. What kind of an excuse is that for not turning in their homework? No teacher would ever believe that story. "My dog peed on it" is a more credible excuse. Try that one.

That's what has been happening in SKItown this week, the place where there's always fresh powder and the locals say "let's take a run."

Ski Report

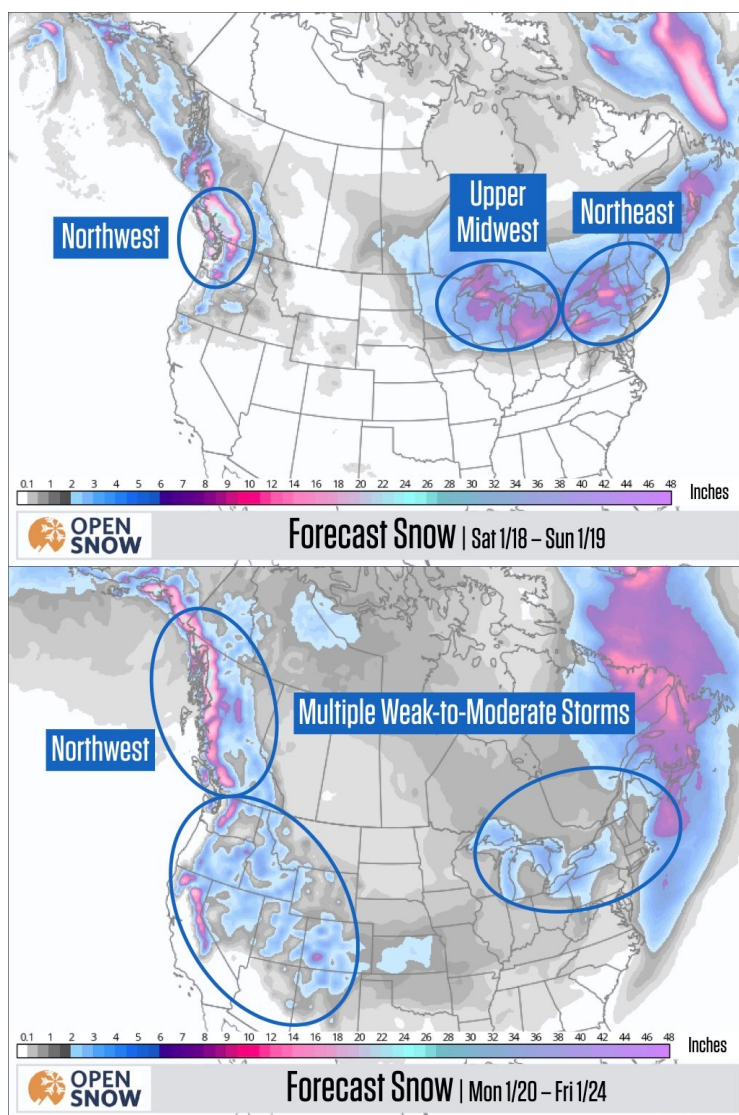
As it turned out, conditions at **Holiday Valley** last Sunday were wonderful compared to what it was like last night at **Brandywine**. First of all they barely had any runs open. Bare areas outnumbered the snow-covered areas. Then it began to "r." The kids didn't seem to mind the conditions though.

Yes, this has been a dismal week for our region of ski country. You recall it "r'd" heavily last Friday and Saturday, and then it stayed warm. There

were no snowmaking lows. Bases withered away. We weren't the only ones affected. Throughout the Northeast it was the same story. Ski area bases took a huge hit. Places like **Stowe, VT** have less than half the runs open as they did last week.

Other areas held steady. These included the Upper Midwest and the Poconos. Out west was a different story. It has been snowing almost daily just about everywhere. Ski areas reported snowfall amounts upwards to 70" in the past week. Most of the areas out west have powder and packed powder conditions.

The good news is that snow is coming back this weekend for eastern ski country. Most areas are calling for several inches this Saturday. OK, it won't be a big dump, but it's far better than what we've had the past week. Also temperatures will be cold enough to make snow.



That is, except for us. Junior, the Great Awesome Weather Computer, tells me we can expect snow-making lows from now into the next week. That's

the good news. The bad news is that the dreaded "r" is expected Saturday with a high of 44. Looks like I'll be getting wet again on Saturday. Sunday should be a little better with some flurries.

Things look better for Western New York this weekend. They're expecting 3-6" today and probably the same amount on Saturday, and a lesser amount on Sunday. Highs will only reach freezing throughout the week. If you head up there, expect to go deaf with all the snow guns blowing.

Conditions will be better in Western Pennsylvania too. They're expecting some snow today, an icy mix on Saturday, and some snow showers on Sunday. Temperatures this weekend will get up to the upper 30's with snowmaking lows at night and well

into next week.

Let's hope we've had our January thaw. Looking at our local long-term forecast it appears winter will be with us for the rest of the month and for the first half of February. There does not appear to be a lot of snow in the forecast the next month, but no "r" either. We can expect snowmaking lows every night for the next month.

After this weekend the resorts in our region should be back to normal. There should be plenty of manmade snow on all the runs this time next week. Let's hope we get some natural dumps so we can do some off piste tree skiing.

That's it for now ski bums.

Ski Report for the weekend of January 16, 2019

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions/Comments
Eastern Great Lakes						
Holiday Valley NY	32	53%	10-49"	0"	9"	Machine groomed
Seven Springs PA	13	39%	23-33"	0"	5"	Machine groomed
Bristol NY	18	53%	6-24"	0"	5"	Machine groomed, variable
Snow Trails OH	11	65%	10-24"	0"	4"	machine groomed, variable, "R"/snow mix Saturday
Peek'n Peak NY	13	48%	24"	3"	11"	Machine groomed, MEOW! 7" expected Saturday
Kissing Bridge NY	4	10%	6-50"	3"	9"	Machine groomed, variable, MEOW! 6" expected Saturday
New England						
Stowe VT	44	38%	24-48"	8"	5"	Machine groomed
Killington VT	73	47%	24"	2"	7"	Machine groomed, hard packed
Jay Peak VT	27	33%	20-30"	6"	5"	Machine groomed, variable
Cannon Mtn NH	51	53%	11-21"	1"	5"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Sunday River ME	85	63%	18-24"	2"	6"	Machine groomed
Sugarloaf ME	62	38%	24-30"	4"	5"	Hard packed, machine groomed
Catskills						
Hunter Mtn NY	42	63%	6-18"	0"	6"	Machine groomed
Windham NY	30	56%	8-20"	0"	6"	Machine groomed, variable
Belleayre NY	24	48%	6-20"	2"	6"	Machine groomed, variable
Poconos						
Camelback PA	27	73%	40-50"	4"	5"	Variable
Elk Mtn PA	17	63%	18-48"	3"	5"	Machine groomed, variable
Blue Mtn PA	29	73%	24-42"	0"	0"	Machine groomed
Upper Midwest						
Boyne Mtn MI	47	78%	36"	13"	7"	Machine groomed, variable, MEOW! 6" expected Saturday
Nubs Nob MI	53	100%	48"	2"	7"	Machine groomed, MEOW! 7" expected Saturday
Granite Peak WI	68	100%	48-88"	2"	5"	Machine groomed, packed powder
Lutsen Mountains MN	53	85%	24-40"	13"	9"	Machine groomed, packed powder
Mt. Bohemia MI	74	74%	40"	3"	8"	Packed powder, variable, MEOW! 6" expected Saturday
Northern Rockies						
Jackson Hole WY	114	88%	32-91"	83!"	2"	Powder, snowing heavily the past two weeks
Grand Targhee WY	97	100%	84-90"	65!"	4"	Powder, snowing daily the past two weeks
Sun Valley ID	109	91%	31-43"	12"	1"	Powder, packed powder
Big Sky MT	310	98%	33-57"	13"	2"	Powder, packed powder
Lake Louise AB	134	92%	50-55"	7"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Sunshine Village AB	132	91%	55"	25"	0"	Powder, packed powder
Schweitzer ID	92	100%	68-114"	39!"	3"	Powder, machine groomed, snowing heavily the past two weeks
Central Rockies						
Aspen/Snowmass CO	331	98%	33-50"	17"	4"	Packed powder
Vail CO	184	95%	50"	19"	4"	Powder, packed powder
Telluride CO	132	90%	37-39"	11"	2"	Packed powder, machine groomed

Ski Report for the weekend of 1/16/20 continued

Resort	open runs	% open	Base	Snow past week	Snow this weekend	Conditions
Central Rockies (continued)						
Steamboat CO	169	100%	53-70"	30"	2"	Powder, snowing daily the past two weeks
Copper Mtn CO	146	97%	30-47"	7"	3"	Packed powder, light snow daily the past two weeks
Breckenridge CO	165	88%	44"	7"	3"	Powder, packed powder
Keystone CO	119	93%	38"	11"	2"	Powder
Winter Park CO	156	94%	50"	23"	5"	Packed powder, snowing almost daily the past two weeks
Snowbird UT	87	62%	105"	68!"	6"	Powder, MEOW! 6" expected Friday
Park City UT	309	91%	54-66"	39!"	5"	Powder, packed powder, heavy daily snow the past week
Deer Valley UT	101	99%	60"	12"	5"	Packed powder, machine groomed, heavy daily snow the past week
Snowbasin UT	107	100%	61"	48!"	6"	Powder, packed powder, MEOW! 6" expected Friday
Powder Mtn UT	154	100%	48"	6"	5"	Powder, snowing daily the past week
Southern Rockies						
Taos NM	110	100%	50"	13"	3"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Ski Apache NM	42	76%	38"	6"	0"	Packed powder, variable
Arizona Snowbowl AZ	55	100%	54"	0"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Lee Canyon NV	26	100%	20"	0"	0"	Machine groomed, variable
Pacific Northwest						
Whistler Blackcomb BC	164	70%	76"	18"	26"	Packed powder, machine groomed, HOWL! 13" Sat & Sun
Sun Peaks BC	137	100%	68-77"	17"	0"	Powder, snowing daily the past 10 days
Revelstoke BC	75	100%	91"	72"	2"	variable
Mt. Bachelor OR	81	72%	84-103"	69!"	4"	Powder, heavy dumps this week
Mt. Baker WA	38	100%	128-163"	62!"	14"	Powder, MEOW! 6-8" Saturday & Sunday, big dumps this past week
Mt. Hood Meadows OR	60	71%	101-131"	67!"	8"	Powder, packed powder, big dumps this past week
Sierras						
Mammoth CA	154	100%	45-85"	1"	0"	Machine groomed, variable, has been dry the past two weeks
Squaw Valley/Alpine CA	173	71%	36-89"	11"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed, snowed often the past week
Heavenly CA	94	96%	29-49"	6"	0"	Packed powder, machine groomed
Northstar CA	95	95%	20-50"	3"	1"	Packed powder, machine groomed

Foto of the week—Mt. Bachelor OR 1/12/20—neck deep pow



Join us this winter on our day ski bus trips.

Forget the white knuckle drive to Holiday Valley and back. Sit back, sleep, relax, drink, eat, and chew the fat with friends. Then enjoy a day on the slopes at a discount. All trips are on a Sunday.



Chagrin Valley Ski Club Bus Trips For 2020
SIGN UP NOW FOR ALL 4 AND SAVE
Bus Trip Dates: January 12th & 26th, February 9th & 23rd
(Tentative - Weather Permitting)



The bus LEAVES the Solon Marcs parking lot (SR 91 north of SR 43 and south of Solon Road) at 6:00 AM sharp. A second stop is made at the Willoughby Hills BP Gas Station lot (SR 91 north of I-90) at 6:20-6:30 AM. Park at far end of Cracker Barrel/Texas Roadhouse lot.

- The bus leaves Holiday Valley at 4:00 PM.
- Bring your own dinner/beverage.
- The four trip prepayment cost will be \$65.00, members only.
- Refund if we cancel more than one trip (due to weather).
- The per day of the trip cost will be \$30 per CVSC member and \$35 per guest.

Email your single pay/day reservation to:
daverock46@yahoo.com

Single pay reservations NOT cancelled by the Friday prior to Sunday trip will have member charged \$30.00 bus fee.

Pre-paid members contact Dave by email **ONLY** if you will not be there.

Pick Up Point GPS address:

Marc's (Solon) 6231 S.O.M. Center Road, Solon, OH

BP Gas Station (Willoughby): 2481 S.O.M. Center Road, Willoughby Hills, OH



Pre Pays for All 4 Trips is \$65.00 (bus only)

(Money must be received BEFORE the first trip.)

Message Dave Rock (daverock46@yahoo.com) for more info.



Join your fellow CVSC members for laughs, bus movies, shared meals, some libation and of course fun on the slopes!

Non members welcome.

\$35 for bus, same discount on tickets (\$56 pp).

Email, Text, Call or Message Dave Rock for more information.

Dave Rock: (440) 622-9516 - daverock46@yahoo.com

The following trips are listed on the Cleveland Metro Ski Council's website under "trips". It is suggested that you search the individual ski club's website to gain more information on any specific trip you may be interested in.

ONE DAY TRIPS

Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
Clymer, NY	11-Jan-20	Stark County Ski Club	Scott Hunsinger	huns@roadrunner.com	(330) 340-7548
Ellicottville, NY	12-Jan-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Dave Rock	daverock46@yahoo.com	(440) 622-9516
Ellicottville, NY	26-Jan-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Dave Rock	daverock46@yahoo.com	(440) 622-9516
Ellicottville, NY	9-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Dave Rock	daverock46@yahoo.com	(440) 622-9516
Holimont, NY	12-Feb-20	Fagowees Ski Club	Doc Tony T	holimont@fagowees.com	(440) 225-5035
Seven Springs, PA	14-Feb-20	Stark County Ski Club	Janet Brunecz	bruneczjm@yahoo.com	(330) 412-5415
Ellicottville, NY	23-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Dave Rock	daverock46@yahoo.com	(440) 622-9516
Ellicottville, NY	28-Feb-20	Stark County Ski Club	Jeri Johnson	skierjkj@gmail.com	(330) 495-9260
Ellicottville, NY	6-Mar-20	Stark County Ski Club	Roberta Graham	skiingdef@gmail.com	(330) 418-2613

MULTI DAY TRIPS

Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
Holiday Valley, NY	3-Jan-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080
Holiday Valley, NY	15-Jan-20	Stark County Ski Club	John Masalko	jmasalko02@gmail.com	(330) 949-6016
Breckenridge, CO	22-Jan-20	Cleveland Metro Ski Council	Curtis Bell	curtiscmsc60@gmail.com	(330) 240-8005
Victor, NY	26-Jan-20	Warren Ski Club	Pat Kearney	attorneypkearney@gmail.com	(330) 550-8400
Bristol, NY	7-Feb-10	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080
Okemo, VT	2-Feb-20	Stark County Ski Club	Scott Hunsinger	huns@roadrunner.com	(330) 340-7548
Canaan Valley, WV	21-Feb-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080
Holiday Valley, NY	21-Feb-20	Fagowees Ski Club	Mark Pillon	mrpillon@gmail.com	
Holiday Valley, NY	13-Mar-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080

WEEKLONG TRIPS

Location	Start Date	Sponsor Club	Trip Leader	Email	Phone
Taos, NM	11-Jan-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
Steamboat, CO	25-Jan-20	Lewis Ski Club	Kim H	steamboat2020@lewisclub.org	none given
Mammoth, CA	25-Jan-20	Suburban Ski Club	Melinda Kellerstrass	melindassc@gmail.com	(440) 237-9849
Kitzbuhel, Austria	31-Jan-20	Cleveland Metro Ski Council	Curtis Bell	curtiscmsc60@gmail.com	(330) 240-8005
Sun Valley, ID	1-Feb-20	Hi Rise Ski Club	Bob Macluachlan	bobmaclauchlan@yahoo.com	(440) 622-1283
Niseko, Japan	1-Feb-20	Erie Ski Club	Tim Yapple	tlyapple1969@gmail.com	none given
Winter Park, CO	1-Feb-20	Warren Ski Club	Mary Kirila	mekskier1@gmail.com	(330) 502-9360
Big Sky, MT	1-Feb-20	Goodyear Ski Club	Thurl Carmany	thurlskis@gmail.com	(330) 678-9087
Killington/Sugarbush, VT	3-Mar-20	Sandusky Ski Club	Tina O'Hara	tinacm70@yahoo.com	(419) 357-7158
Hakuba, Japan	7-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
Hokkaido, Japan	18-Feb-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
Sunday River, ME	23-Feb-20	Suburban Ski Club	Joe Sullivan	joe@suburbanskiclub.org	(216) 932-3636
Mammoth Mountain, CA	29-Feb-20	Lewis Ski Club	Tom Vannuyen	mammoth2020@lewisclub.org	(440) 879-8088
Banff, Canada	29-Feb-20	Warren Ski Club	Mary Kirila	mekskier1@gmail.com	(330) 502-9360
Banff, Canada	7-Mar-20	Chagrin Valley Ski Club	Judi Fordyce	juditravels@live.com	(440) 289-5511
South Lake Tahoe, CA	8-Mar-20	Goodyear Ski Club	Mary Beth Grether	mbgrether4@gmail.com	(330) 328-3797
Mammoth, CA	14-Mar-20	Fagowees Ski Club	Tom Keller	tomkeller@gmail.com	(216) 224-1066
Lake Tahoe, CA	14-Mar-20	Cleveland Metro Ski Council	Curtis Bell	curtiscmsc60@gmail.com	(330) 240-8005
Red Mountain, BC	14-Mar-20	Erie Ski Club	Vince Dunsworth	red2020esc@gmail.com	none given
South Lake Tahoe, CA	14-Mar-20	Stark County Ski Club	Art Pokopac	pokieman@aol.com	(330) 697-7491
Telluride, CO	21-Mar-20	Suburban Ski Club	Beth Silverman	bethsilverman59@me.com	(216) 799-2001
Lake Tahoe, CA	4-Apr-20	Beaver Valley Ski Club	Ray Lucci	raymond@luccikitchens.com	(724) 312-7080