



Black Diamond

PRESS

The Columbia Ski Club

May 2024

Les 3 Vallées By Kristen Dukes

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Scenic Overlook by Mike DiProspero

We stayed at an all-inclusive ski-in/ski-out resort - Club Med in Val Thorens. Each morning we woke to an all-you-can-eat breakfast and then met our French Ski School guide for morning skiing. At lunchtime we would return to the hotel where we were welcomed



Rock Climbing by Mark Metzler

by outdoor slope-side parties in the snow that included charcuterie-style snacks, beverages, music, and dancing. Next, we would move inside to discuss our morning ski experiences with fellow club members over lunch. After lunch, we would return to the ski area to meet our French Ski School guide for afternoon skiing. Once the lifts closed, we would return to the resort to enjoy après-ski beverages and snacks that included crêpes, paninis, small sandwiches, desserts and more! Needless to say, there was plenty of delicious food to choose from!

Ski highlights included: skiing to neighboring resorts (Méribel and Courchevel) and through glaciers that formed ice caves, seeing the 7th most dangerous airport in the world (located in Courchevel), and having lunch on the slopes with our ski groups.

Other trip highlights included tobogganing, exploring naturally formed igloos on the mountain, and visiting nearby quaint ski towns in the French Alps. Not only did we get six days of incredible skiing, but we also got to experience the French culture, both on and off the slopes!

Scenic Overlook by Mike DiProspero



Led by Mike DiProspero and assistant trip leader, Kristen Dukes, 40 skiers, 4 snowboarders, and 1 non-skier flew to the largest ski area in the world – Les 3 Vallées, France on 16 March 2024! It snowed on our first ski day. While the visibility wasn't ideal, it was nice to get fresh snow for the next five days of skiing. The rest of the week was sunny!



All Inclusive Dining with Chocolate Fondue by Mike DiProspero



Lunch on the Slopes by Mike DiProspero

**Executive Committee
2023-2024****President/Director**

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President-Elect/Director

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Mike DiProspero

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Bob McCune

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Getaways & Adventures

Pat D'Adamo

Hospitality

Christine Hollis

Membership

John Wetterau

Newsletter

Mary Maxey

Publicity / Marketing

vacant

Ski Trip Coordinator

Fran D'Amico

Web Site

Jean Fregeau

Bob McCune

April kept us on our toes at the Columbia Ski Club! We closed up the 2024 ski season with a fantastic post-trip party, thanks to the impeccable organization skills of Ellen Wagner. A huge round of applause goes to the volunteers who dedicated their time to setting up and tidying afterward. Special appreciation goes out to Pat D, Rob Foard, Deb, and Bob McCune for managing the sign-in table, allowing our ski trip leaders to fully enjoy the festivities. And, if you liked the food, you could visit the caterer's restaurant, Pipilinka in the Dorsey Search village center.

Now that the 2024 season has been officially closed, the Board and the Ski committee are in full work mode getting ready for the 2025 season with trip sales starting May 19th. We have a full slate of 11 trips already planned and ready for your enjoyment. The committee reached its goal of announcing the trip schedule early, so that our membership has time to obtain the largest discounts on Epic and Ikon annual passes.

Make sure to save the date for our yearly membership renewal gathering happening on May 13th! This event, taking place at Union Jacks in Columbia, is consistently one of our most popular. We'll be offering details on membership renewals and sign-ups, as well as the chance to reconnect with familiar faces and meet new friends from past adventures. Don't miss out on the buzz that accompanies the start of a new year with the Columbia Ski Club!

Not everything is centered around ski trips! The Getaways and Adventures Coordinator, Pat D'Adamo, will be announcing two new trips scheduled for 2025.

Pat and I were fortunate to travel to Palisades-Tahoe for the Mountain Travel Symposium. We connected there with tour operators and travel industry representatives from both the US and Europe. Additionally, we enjoyed ample networking opportunities with representatives from various clubs. Most importantly, we gathered valuable insights on potential travel options catering to both skiers and non-skiers alike.

On the administrative side of the Club, you will notice that for upcoming trips and events, the club is now accepting credit card payments! We recommend that you update your club profile by visiting www.columbiaskiclub.org. Many of you may be surprised to find outdated email addresses and emergency contact information.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the membership renewal meeting!



The Black Diamond Xpress is published monthly by the Columbia Ski Club, Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of the sport of skiing ... and many other activities

Columbia Ski Club – 2024-25 Membership Renewal

The Early Bird membership renewal period is May 2 – June 10, 2024.

Our membership renewal meeting will be on May 13th at Union Jacks.

The CSC Membership Year is June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

Announcing the new CSC **reduced and simplified annual dues** effective this membership year beginning May 2, 2024. The cost for a regular membership is now \$35, and each additional family member, over 21 living at the same address, is an additional \$15. That's it, no other categories to cause confusion. And, if you join or renew before the June 10th meeting you can take \$5 off with the "Early Bird" discount.

There are 3 ways to renew/signup for CSC membership: Online, via U.S. mail or in person. Online renewal/signup is greatly preferred and the only way to pay by credit card. Remember you must be a member to sign up for a club trip.

A. Online Membership Renewal/New Member Signup:

Member Renewal: If you are a CSC member who is renewing online, go to the club website (<https://columbiaskiclub.org/>) and login. *Note that renewals need to be initiated by the primary family member.*

If you have trouble logging in, click on the "**Login Help**" button on the upper right side of the home screen. All members (and previous members) have a username.

After logging in, the system will display a renewal message and then display the Membership Renewal Page. Click "**NEXT**" after completing each step.

New Member Signup: If you have never been a CSC member, visit the club website (<https://columbiaskiclub.org/>) and select the "**MEMBERS/Join or Renew!**" menu item to display the Membership Signup Page. You have the option to join online, by mail or in person. For joining online click the "**Join Online**" button and follow the steps. Click "**NEXT**" after completing each step. During this process the system will assign you a username and you must enter a password to create a login account that you can use for trip payments and membership renewals.

B. Mail in Paper Forms: If you prefer to mail a membership application, complete and print the fillable PDF membership form available on the club website: [Fillable Membership Application](#). (It helps to save it to your desktop). Mail the completed membership application with your check (no cash) to: Columbia Ski Club/Membership, P.O. Box 204, Columbia, MD 21045

C. In Person: Complete the fillable PDF membership form (see link above) and come to the May 13th membership renewal meeting or any monthly meeting. Only check or cash can be accepted at the meeting; credit cards are accepted only with online signups. See our meetings web page for our club: [Meetings Schedule](#).



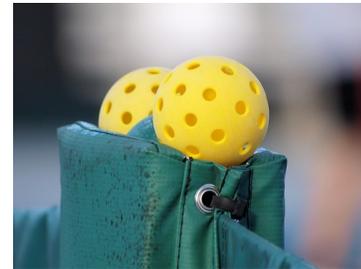
Pickleball Social

By Mike DiProspero

*Pickleball Social 5:00-7:00p Saturday May 11 at Dill Dinkers Columbia
[Columbia, MD - Dill Dinkers](#)
9179 Red Branch Road Columbia MD 21045.*

Come join your Columbia Ski Club friends for 2 hrs. of indoor pickleball and fun. We have 4 courts reserved for open play. One court will be set aside for newbies/never evers. Loaner paddles are available. Cost is \$16 per person. Attendance limited to the first 24 to sign up.

Contact Mike at (410) 365-6782 or mikedipros@gmail.com to reserve your spot.



2025 Ski Trip Sales Start May 19th

The Ski Trip Committee has been busy preparing the 2025 ski trips. Sales will kick off on May 19, 2024, at the Ellicott City VFW. The lineup with preliminary pricing is presented here. Information will likely change before the kickoff date, so please check the CSC website for updates between now and kickoff day. There is also important information on lift pass purchase options posted on the website, with links to members-only purchase discounts. The links are on the top of the home page at www.ColumbiaSkiClub.org.

The kickoff sales event starts at 1:30pm. Sales tables will close at 4:00pm. Please come with a completed sign-up form to avoid crowding at the sales tables. Signup forms can be found on the Document Library on the CSC website under the "About Us" menu in the "Forms for Public" folder.

The lottery remains in place for 2025 so it is not important to be first in line. You can show up at any time during the sales window and have the same chance of getting on a trip. Out-of-state members should coordinate sign up forms and deposits with the assigned trip leaders. Contact information for leaders will be available on the website. Deposits, signup forms, and current membership must be in place by 4:00pm on May 19th to qualify for the lottery should a trip oversell the first day.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the kickoff event.

Think Snow!

-Fran D'Amico
2025 Ski Trip Coordinator

 2025 SKI TRIPS SCHEDULE ** Preliminary Pricing (4/20/2024) **					
Jan 4 - Jan 11	Breckenridge, CO			\$1,944	
	Beaver Run	TL:	Mary Maxey		
	Condo (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Jill Lewin	Epic	
Jan 11 - Jan 18	Steamboat, CO			\$2,495	
	Gravity Haus	TL:	Mark Metzler		
	Hotel (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Torrey Fording	Ikon	
Jan 18 - Jan 25	Beaver Creek, CO			\$2,347	
	The Charter	TL:	Bill Ferguson		
	Hotel (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Nicole Kocis	Epic	
Jan 25 - Feb 1	Taos, NM			\$2,089	
	Snakedance	TL:	Kerry Siebein		
	Condo (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Charise Kasser	Ikon Plus	
Feb 2 - Feb 8	Park City, UT (BRSC)			\$2,495	
	The Peaks	TL:	Bill Makowy		
	Hotel	ATL:	Wade King	Epic	
Feb 8 - Feb 15	Schweitzer, ID			\$2,252	
	Selkirk Lodge	TL:	Dan Morrissey		
	Hotel (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Mike Neuman	Ikon	
Feb 22 - Mar 1	Sun Peaks, Canada			\$1,980	
	Sun Peaks Grand	TL:	Ellen Wagner		
	Hotel (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Angela Carbone	Ikon	
Feb 28 - Mar 8	Chamonix, FR (BRSC)			\$3,555	
	Hotel Alpina	TL:	Mike Ryan		
	Hotel	ATL:	Bill Schrodel	Ikon	
Mar 2 - Mar 7	Killington, VT (BRSC)			TBD	
	TBD	TL:	Colleen Prosser		
	TBD	ATL:	Kathy Kirkland	Ikon	
Mar 8 - Mar 15	Snowmass, CO			\$2,460	
	Top of the Village	TL:	Jim Ferrant		
	Condo (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Jean Fregeau	Ikon Plus	
Mar 15 - Mar 22	Big Sky, MT			\$2,230	
	Huntley Lodge	TL:	Julie Hendricks		
	Hotel (ski-in/ski-out)	ATL:	Mike DiProspero	Ikon	
NOTE: Lifts are not included in 2025 pricing. See www.ColumbiaSkiClub.org for lift info and purchase options.					

Getaways and Adventures Trips
By Pat D'Adamo

Announcing the next Getaways and Adventures Trip, October 8-19, 2025: An eleven-day tour of central Europe as we embark on an idyllic eight-day **Jewels of the Rhine River cruise!** We will experience the lovely Rhine Valley, traditional architecture, beautiful countryside, and UNESCO Heritage sites on this quintessential Rhine River experience. This classic river cruise itinerary begins in Amsterdam and takes us through the countryside of Holland, Germany, and France, before disembarking in Basel, Switzerland. The cruise ship will stop in Cologne, Koblenz, and Ludwigshafen/Heidelberg, Germany as well as Strasbourg, France and the Black Forest region near Freiburg, Germany. Our 8-day river cruise will include excursions in each port of call, highlighting the history and culture of these Central European cities. We will have an opportunity to explore Amsterdam for two days prior to embarkation as well as a night in Zurich before returning home.

We will begin taking trip reservations at our next Columbia Ski Club meeting on May 13 at Union Jack's. Our Trip Leader, Pam Plantz-Poley, will be on hand to accept your G&A trip application form and \$500 check deposit. Additional details about the trip will be available by this meeting.



Adopt-a-Road:
By Pat D'Adamo

Join CSC friends at our next Adopt-a-Road trash clean-up on Saturday, May 4! Meet at the 7-Eleven at 10730 Little Patuxent Pkwy (LPP) at 9:00 AM. Bring work gloves and dress appropriate for the weather. We will provide trash bags, grabbers, and safety vests. We'll pick up trash along LPP between Cedar Lane and Broken Land Pkwy, which usually takes about 2 hours. Afterwards, the work group will convene at the Bagel Bin at Wilde Lake Village Center for refreshments, courtesy of the ski club.

Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources		
More-Than-Ski Google Group	Opt-in here: email: csc.mts.manager@gmail.com	To post after opting-in, send email to csc-mts@googlegroups.com
Facebook Group	https://www.facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub	Must have a Facebook account



Save the date
Sunday September 15, 2024
Annual CSC Crab Feast

Next Meeting:
Monday, May 13, 2024
at
Union Jack's
10400 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD
6:00– 8:30 PM

The Columbia Ski Club

P.O. Box 204
Columbia, MD 21045

www.columbiaskiclub.org

