



**Black Diamond**

**PRESS**

*The Columbia Ski Club*



**January 2024**

## **Mackinac Island**

**by Curt Phillips**



The Getaways and Adventures bus trip to Mackinac Island, MI scheduled for June 2024 has an exciting enhancement! Our entire group will be staying (3) nights at the premier **Grand Hotel** on Mackinac Island at **NO** additional cost to trip participants. Staying at the historic **Grand Hotel**, an iconic summer destination since 1887, is certainly the best way to experience the allure of the Island. Since first announcing the trip in August, we've also fi-

nalized many of the trip details including our stops and sight-seeing excursions.

After departing the Columbia area on June 2, we'll travel by bus approximately 2.5 hours for our first stop at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA. Even if you've previously been to this national memorial to the 9-11 heroes of Flight 93, you've likely not experienced the newest additions to the memorial site. The completed Visitor Center offers multi-media and interactive exhibits that put the tragic events into context. The Memorial Plaza provides a moving tribute to the 40 people who perished as they brought the plane down, while the grounds surrounding the Plaza offer walking trails where you can gain an overview of the crash site and memorial. Most impressive is the recently opened Tower of Voices, a 93-foot-tall musical tower containing wind chimes as a living memorial to those whose voices were silenced on that day.

Our trip will continue along the PA Turnpike for approximately 3 hours before stopping to enjoy dinner and a good night's rest at a local hotel near Cleveland, OH.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the trip, we'll travel approximately 2.5 hours to Dearborn, Michigan, for a stop at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. This museum showcases advances in transportation, historical events, and great American inventors, thinkers, and trailblazers, such as the Wright Brothers, Thomas Edison, Rosa Parks, Buckminster Fuller, and many more.

Our travel will then continue through northern Michigan next arriving in Mackinac City where we'll leave our bus to board the hydroplane ferry to Mackinac Island. Arriving on the Island, we'll be taken by horse and carriage to the historic **Grand Hotel** where you'll stay in one of the 388 uniquely decorated guestrooms and free to enjoy the many amenities of the **Grand** including the 660-foot front porch (currently the longest in the world), elegant dining, the historic Ether Williams swimming pool, golf at "The Jewel", the lush spring garden, and

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## President's Corner

### Executive Committee 2023-2024

#### President/Director

Bill Ferguson

#### Vice-President

Mike DiProspero

#### President-Elect/Director

Mary Metzler

#### Directors

Rob Foard

Robin Hershey

Jodi Hillmar

Charise Kasser

Mark Metzler

#### Treasurer

Alexa Fair

#### Secretary

Jean Fregeau

#### Committee Chairs

#### Activities

Bob McCune

#### Commissary

Mark Metzler

#### Community Service

Sue Muller

#### Data Base

Deb McCune

#### 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

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Members:

Welcome to the New Year! We are off and running with our first trip to Vail already on the slopes. There is no better way to start a new year than by putting on your skis and heading out west. Those of us that have worked to make this season a success are grateful for the support you've shown by selling out all our upcoming western and European trips. Many of you attended our holiday party that was also totally filled with our members. It's an exciting time to be a member and we expect that to continue as our season hits it's stride.

The Ski Committee has already booked several 2025 trips and what a year that will be. Skiing has changed significantly in the past few years. To reserve the best locations and lodging options we now must plan ski trips at least a year and a half before the next season. The club could always use more help if you're interested in getting involved.

I am happy to report that we passed the Bylaw amendment allowing the club to do online elections going forward. The annual election of the new Board members and President-Elect has always been way too much work. With our electronic platform we will send a ballot by email so that every member can vote conveniently and easily. What a relief for all of us that have worked under the old system. The February nomination meeting will provide the slate for your ballots. Look for your ballots in early March and please vote.

Today, I am working on my new boots and liners as I write this month's letter. Crested Butte, look out. I and 40+ others are on the way! See you on the slopes.

My email contact is [Pres.CSC@gmail.com](mailto:Pres.CSC@gmail.com). Please feel free to email at any time with suggestions or questions.

Sincerely,  
Bill Ferguson  
President



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

*Mackinac Island Cont'd from page 1*

of course, shopping at “the shops of the **Grand Hotel**”!

Frequently trips to Mackinac Island ferry over for just a single day then return to the mainland for an overnight stay in Mackinac City. However, our tour includes 3 nights and 2 full days on Mackinac Island allowing you the opportunity to explore and take full advantage of the island’s many sights and activities, or simply relax in the charming Victorian atmosphere of this unique and picturesque town, where no cars are allowed.

Once on Mackinac Island, our tour includes a narrated horse and carriage tour through downtown to Surry Hills, Arch Rock, Ft. Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park. With included carriage taxi service on the Island, it’s easy to take in other sights, such as the Carriage Museum, Butterfly House and Insect World, the Manooagian Art Museum, Maze of Mirrors, Little Stone Church, Blacksmith Shop, and more. Alternatively, you can explore on your own by foot, by kayak, or by bike; everything on Mackinac Island is readily accessible. Golf, spa and massage services, sampling world-famous Mackinac Island fudge at one of several renowned downtown shops – there are many possibilities to fill your days. We will enjoy the Grand Luncheon Buffet at the world-famous Grand Hotel, overlooking the world’s longest porch and the Straits of Mackinac. We’ll embark for a Sip and Sail Sunset Cruise featuring live entertainment and picturesque sunsets.

Upon departing Mackinac Island, we’ll re-board our bus for a 1-hour trip to Sault Ste. Marie, MI, where we’ll visit the “Soo” locks, including a boat ride through the locks. You’ll be able to experience first-hand how the locks have made the Great Lakes one of the world’s busiest shipping channels, enabling transport of raw materials and consumer goods to and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Midwest.

We’ll depart the Upper Peninsula, and we’ll travel approximately 3.5 hours to the German-style of Frankenmuth, Michigan, also known as “Little Bavaria”. You’ll be able to enjoy the festive atmosphere of this Bavarian village, along with its shops and restaurants, and visit Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland, the largest Christmas shop in the world. Our stop will include dinner at Oma’s Restaurant, famous for their traditional German and American Food. Our overnight accommodations will be near Toledo, OH, approximately a 2-hour drive from Frankenmuth.

On our final full day, we’ll return home to Maryland! We’ll be taking plenty of stops along the way for breaks and meals.

Check out the Michigan Travel Bureau website <https://www.mackinacisland.org/video-tours/> for videos of the many things to do and see on Mackinac Island, then make plans to join us! Contact our Trip Leader, **Curt Phillips** for more information and to sign up today!

Curt Phillips

410.624.8559

Cjphillips00@gmail.com



### Benefits of Membership – Online Member-Only Resources

|                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| More-Than-Ski Google Group | Opt-in here: email: <a href="mailto:csc.mts.manager@gmail.com">csc.mts.manager@gmail.com</a>                  | To post after opting-in, send email to <a href="mailto:csc-mts@googlegroups.com">csc-mts@googlegroups.com</a> |
| Facebook Group             | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub">https://www.facebook.com/groups/Columbiaskiclub</a> | Must have a Facebook account  |



# HOLIDAY PARTY

By Bill Ferguson

Black Diamond Xpress

- A magnificent time was had by all at our annual holiday party. This annual event is becoming such a hit with members that we almost ran out of seats. Next year, we may have to move the party to the Capital Center! Food and drinks were plentiful, and no one went home hungry. Santa took time from his busy schedule to visit with his bag full of treats. The Club's social events just keep on getting bigger and better.

With opening remarks, our President Bill Ferguson highlighted some outstanding volunteers for the year. Mary Maxey was singled out for taking on the newsletter editor position without missing a beat and Mario Tinto was thanked for all his years of service as our former newsletter editor. Fran D'Amico, as trip coordinator, was noted for putting together another year of sold-out trips! The Treasury team led by Alexa Fair were thanked for their year-round efforts in handling our finances. Bob McCune and Jean Fregeau were amazing volunteers as they took on the job of creating the new website and transitioning to fully integrated trip management. It was a very productive year and Bill thanked all the other volunteers for helping make Columbia



Ski Club a premier club in the metropolitan area.

Thank you to all the Board and all the volunteers below who made the party so enjoyable. Most of whom are listed below:

Michelle Johnson, Mary Maxey, Priscilla Davis, Jack Cashin, Kristen Dukes, Colleen Prosser, Kathy Kirkland, Julie Hendricks, Kat Rhee, Kerry Siebein, Jim Ferrant, Lisa Shepherd, Mike Wilson, Bill Makowy, Michael Wilmore, Susan Vasco, Charisse Kasser, Marie Ferguson, Eric Johnson, Bob and Deb McCune. Great teamwork and Thank You!!

Speaking of social events, our **January meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> will be a social get together at Nottingham's Tavern located at 8850 Stanford Blvd in Columbia.** Start the ski season off with a bang. Join us for a great time with your club friends and guests. All are welcome. Let's start the New Year with a full house just like we had at last year's Janu-



## Holiday Caroling with CSC

By Alexa Fair



For the second year since COVID, Debbie Harding lead a caroling activity by Columbia Ski Club members for Seniors at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living in Columbia. Caroling had been initiated by her late husband, Tom Delaney (former CSC president, deceased Jan. 2022).

About 20 of us sang everything from "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" to "Oh Holy Night", accompanied by Tim Delany (Tom's brother). Tim's wife, Eileen, announced each song. These in-laws of Debbie were a welcome addition, while our Club singers were enthusiastic, holiday-dressed, and bell-shaking for about 50 residents



of Brighton Gardens. Full of the holiday spirit, many residents sang along with us as the song sheets were shared.

At the end, Sue Muller, Pat D'Adamo and Kat Rhee passed out small candy canes.

Then, after the caroling, a dozen or so went to Grotto Pizza to continue the cheer! Everyone agreed it was a fun event and a wonderful way to spread a little seasonal joy to others!





## Community Service Committee

### Operation Adopt a Soldier

By Sue Muller

#### Unwanted Holiday Treats?

At the February meeting, I will be collecting treats for "Operation Adopt a Soldier". If you received too many boxes of chocolates or cookies etc. over the holidays, bring them to the February meeting and they will be given to soldiers overseas! All treats must be in unopened packages, nothing homemade. Alternatively, you can donate \$15 directly on the website to ship one box, <https://www.operationadoptsoldier.org/>.



### Howard County Food Bank

By Pat D'Adamo

The Columbia Ski Club, through the Community Service Committee, has supported the local Howard County Food Bank and the Maryland Food Bank for many years. One of our traditions is the Thanksgiving food collection, however, since we collected coats this year at our November meeting just before Thanksgiving, we postponed our typical food collection. At this time of year, at the holidays, the Food Bank receives many generous donations from local families, businesses, and other donors. However, the Food Bank needs donations throughout the year in order to support the many families in need. Therefore, our next food drive will be scheduled for the member meeting in April 2024. You may, of course, donate to the Food Bank at any time throughout the year; your donations of non-perishable foods, toiletry items, and cash or check donations are most appreciated and support so many Howard County families in need.

Thanks for your continuing support to this Community Service activity.

You can contribute/donate at:

<https://cac-hc.org/food-assistance/>

<https://mdfoodbank.org/>



## ELECTION NEWS

### Bylaw Election Results

Club members attending the Monday December 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party approved a change to the club bylaws to allow on-line voting. 112 members voted which was more than enough for a quorum. The bylaw change was approved with a vote of 110 "For" and 2 "Against".

Our upcoming 2024 elections will commence with candidate nominations for President Elect and Board Members at the February meeting. Our general election in March will use both online voting and in person voting using paper ballots. For on-line voting members will need to log-in to their CSC Club Express account. Look for an email and newsletter article detailing online voting instructions in February.

The Amendment to our Bylaws allowing for our Board of Directors and President-Elect to be elected by online elections, we would like to extend the opportunity to the membership to express their desire to be a potential candidate for our 2024-2025 Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please email to the following email addresses:

[Pres.CSC@gmail.com](mailto:Pres.CSC@gmail.com) and [CSC.PresElect@gmail.com](mailto:CSC.PresElect@gmail.com)



**THINK SNOW!!!!**



**Next Meeting:**  
**Monday, January 8**  
**at**  
***Nottingham's Tavern***  
**8850 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD**

**The Columbia Ski Club**

P.O. Box 204  
Columbia, MD 21045

[www.columbiaskiclub.org](http://www.columbiaskiclub.org)

