



President's Message

Last season we started leading some backcountry/uphill skiing events. We had tried offering skinning at PCMR, but I guess the cold temperatures, darkness and early start put people off (6.30am because you have to be off the mountain by 8.30am). So, we tested an “Intro to Backcountry” event where we met people at White Pine Touring to rent their gear, carpoled up to Guardsman’s Pass Road above Empire Lodge, skinned up to Quincy Knoll, did a few short runs practicing transitions from uphill to downhill and back, and then skied down in the sunshine at a civilized hour. We ended up leading four or five of the intro sessions and some intermediate sessions. This year we have 43 people interested in backcountry, have had two intro sessions and two backcountry tours and have run three Avalanche One courses, graduating 13 members.



I decided to do the AVI1 course. It spanned the full range of emotions – excitement, fear, concern, a realization of how ignorant I was of avalanches and terrain and how ignorance is bliss. Now I know what could happen! The first part of the course is around ten hours of online courses, including a number of quizzes. The later videos are of avalanches or analyses of avalanches. Suddenly we are reading avalanche reports, looking at videos, reading articles and then trying to understand why avalanches happen. We learned how to read the avalanche report each day, figure out the slope angle (I have an inclinometer now), slope aspect (Caltopo is the preferred app) and the Wasatch Backcountry Ski app is great too. On the practical course, we hunted for hidden beacons to learn how to rescue someone buried in an avalanche, we dug snow pits to look at the snow structure and saw the Christmas Eve Rain Crust (CERC), which has featured widely in the avalanche reports, learned how to put in skin up-tracks in safe locations and how to backcountry ski safely, letting people ski down one at a time and get into a safe zone before the next skier descends.

One of the things that I was surprised by (and shouldn’t have been) was the impact of the human factor. People so want to ski that they sometimes forget the importance of safety. Times like now, with no snow, people go crazy when snow falls and forget all the rules. Some of the biggest avalanche accidents have been due to

human factors. So never be afraid to speak out if you have concerns, even if you think you are surrounded by experts!

I may never ski slopes in the backcountry over 30 degrees, but I now understand the importance of being aware. Next time we snowshoe in the Uintas, I will be looking at the slope angles above where we are snowshoeing, to make sure it can't slide above, even if the slope angles we are on are not going to slide.

Come and join us on the next intro or intermediate or advanced backcountry trip. And congratulations to the members who've taken AVI1 – you crushed it!

The 2026 Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner/Dance: AKA The Bash will be taking place on Saturday March 7 at 6pm at the Jeremy Ranch Clubhouse. The Bash serves as the Annual General Meeting for all current members of Park City Mountain Sports Club. In addition to the meeting, there will be a buffet dinner and dance. **Seating is limited to 120** so RSVP early to ensure that you get a ticket. There will be a waiting list once that number is reached. This is a **members-only event** due to the presentation of budget reports and voting in of new and returning Board members. The proposed board members for 2026/7 are: Jeri Brooke, Michele Lienres, Sophia Lucey, Rich Marx, Ruth Mather, Maggi Messina, Jackie Oken, Ellen Sherk, Kate Stephenson and Irene Tendler.

This year's theme is Western, so bring out all those cowboy hats, boots, belts, and clothing if you have them. Western dress is not mandatory so come as you are. DJ Dave knows our tastes in music and will play them all.

Don't forget to submit your recipes for the Club cookbook. Use the word template we sent out with the original email and send it to recipe@pcmsc.org.

In case you missed it, we now have a Club Facebook Group. It is a private group. Only members can join, and we ask that you agree to the set of "rules" governing how we act in the group and answer two questions. Take a look at photos of recent Club events. The link to join is:

www.facebook.com/groups/parkcitymountainsportsclub/

January Events

Events

There were 55 events in January. They comprised 25 ski events, 4 Nordic ski opportunities, 4 backcountry events, 11 snowshoe/winter hikes, 2 MTB rides, 1 knit and stitch, 4 TGIFs, 3 Après Skis and one special music jam evening.

Sports Events

Skiing:

You can ski every weekday at one of the Park City resorts with the Club twice a week at Deer Valley and multiple days at Park City or Canyons. This month there were 25 opportunities to ski with the Club. The groups are led by: Pris Watson, Bill Watson, Vince Gilotti, Billy Mitchell, Jane Sagerman, Irene Tendler, Bob Johnson, Dan Fling, Steve Peer, Don Winsor, Kathy Kelleher, Ray Naudain, Diane Jamail, Bruce Woelfle, Sharon Heckman, Larry Rose, Don Roll, Dan Albano, Howard Kantor, Rusty Gower, Diane Gower, Lisa Hunter, Karen Zorzy and Bill Hertzling. (Let us know if we inadvertently missed anyone).

Nordic:

There were four Nordic events this month, led by Eric Klosterman (2), Joan Entwistle (1) and Sue Johnson (1).

Backcountry:

This month kicked off the backcountry season with two Intro to Backcountry led by Jim McClave and Kate Stephenson; and two backcountry tours led by Jim McClave.

In addition, 13 members joined three Club AV11 courses, led by Wasatch Mountain Guides on our behalf.

Snowshoe/Winter Hikes (where spikes are required):

There were eleven snowshoe/winter hikes this month, one easy led by Tony Edwards (1), eight moderate led by Ellen Sherk (4), Tim Lanz (1), Lisa Humter (1), Jeri and Rob Brooke (1) and Denise Konrad (1), one moderate plus led by Ellen Sherk (1) and one semi-strenuous also led by Ellen Sherk (1).

Mountain Biking:

Don Winsor led one advanced MTB and one moderate eMTB.

Social Events

Knit & Stitch:

One Knit & Stitch event at Hugo's organized by Caryn Harkins and Jennifer Gurs.

TGIF:

There were four TGIFs this month, generously hosted by Michele and Bjorn Lienres, Andrea Bear, Bill Silliman and Bill and Pris Watson.

Après Ski:

Three Après Ski events took place, hosted by Lisa Power and Mike Benson, Bill and Pris Watson and Kate Stephenson and Jim McClave.

Special Event:

Jim McClave and Kate Stephenson hosted a Club music jam session, where members joined the band to play a number of tunes including Stand By Me, Love Me Do, Wagon Wheel, Fulsom Prison Blues and Bad Moon Rising.

Thanks to our winter sports director Ellen Sherk, and all the event coordinators: Downhill ski – Diane Gower, Nordic Ski – Joan Entwistle, Snowshoe/winter hiking – Jeri Brooke, Uphill skiing/backcountry – Jim McClave and Après Ski - Kathy Kelleher.

Keep doing the snow dance....

Kate Stephenson

President

Facebook

Please join our new Facebook group so you can post pictures and possibly see the latest news

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parkcitymountainsportsclub>

Photos

Have you taken any pictures on club outings that you'd like to share?

Please send them to photos@pcmsc.org and post them to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/parkcitymountainsportsclub>

















Weather can cancel an event, please check the calendar and/or contact the leader if there might be a chance that the activity will be cancelled.



Birthdays!

See who's got a birthday
[this month](#)



Check the [calendar](#)
frequently, as activities
get added regularly



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