

The Timken Company Ski Club
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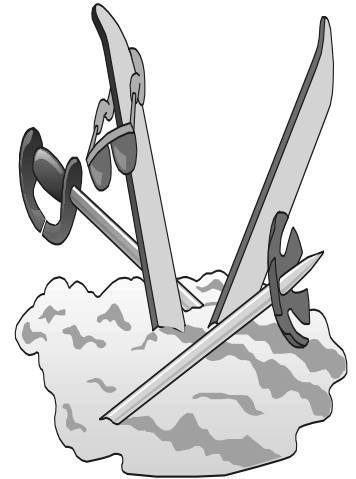
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Tips & Tails

April 2008

www.timkenskiclub.com

Inside this issue:
Mt Bachelor Recap



Newsletter articles to be printed for publication should be submitted to the editor no later than the Friday which follows the 3rd Tuesday of the month meeting.

THE TIMKEN COMPANY SKI CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION **(11/1/07 10/31/08)**

**Make check
Payable to:**

**THE TIMKEN
COMPANY
SKI CLUB**

Mail application to:

**Vanessa Stergios
1241 Burd Ave. NE
Massillon, OH
44646**

Name _____
Address _____

Work Phone _____
Home Phone _____
_____ Single \$20.00
_____ Couple \$25.00
_____ Family \$30.00

NEW RENEWAL (CIRCLE ONE)
Single = One Person
Couple = Husband and Wife, Partners sharing a single address.
Family = Couple and children who are under 18 or are full-time students.

_____ Timken Company Associate
(Members under 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian at all activities)

In consideration of the right to participate in the activities of The Timken Company Ski Club, I agree to assume full responsibility for my injury, misadventure, damage, or loss to my person or property while participating in any club activities, and hereby release The Timken Company Ski Club, The Timken Company (except to the extent of any insurance, medical, or hospitalization benefits that I may have as an employee) and their agents, from any claim that may accrue to me as a result of participation in the activities of the club.

Date: _____
Signature(s) _____

E-Mail _____
Please check here if you do not want listed in _____
The Timken Ski Club Directory.

THE TIMKEN COMPANY
SKI CLUB

**SKI CLUB
OFFICERS**

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Tips & Trails

April 2008

**View from the Top
by Gail Vogt, President**

Hi,

It's been an interesting year. We used three different bus companies and planned a group trip with another member of CMSC. In addition, the club returned to a few places that it hasn't skied for a few years, and supported three trips out West. We changed from Wednesday to Friday for the one-day trips, and members have requested that we go back to Wednesdays. Please give us feedback on where you want to ski and when. I spent a lot of time looking at some new places and mapping the time it would take to get there by bus. One day trips – I know we like to limit it to no more than four hours due to the fact that the DOT rule is being held strictly over the bus companies. Therefore, we might not be venturing to far off our past schedule of resorts.

We were fortunate that we only had to cancel one trip this year, and on an average we came out on the plus side for covering costs of all the trips. We got to go skiing and that is what mattered at the end. Goodyear would like to look at scheduling another trip or two with our club. The first time we did this – we took 49 people between the two clubs. If we plan to do more of these trips it will put a limit on the number signing up from each club.

We are looking for a couple volunteers to work with the 08/09 President and Vice President on planning out ski season for 2009. Please let me know if you would be interested. Some of the duties would be setting the dates, researching bus companies and actually visiting them to see the coaches, requesting quotes for trips, and picking a new place to ski this year (possibly) for the club. We also need some help on trip leaders. We are wearing out the ones we have been using. Some of you – how about stepping up and seeing what it is all about to run a trip? To eliminate any future confusion – the trip leaders are compensated for their lift ticket only. It isn't much, but it does get you very aquatinted with the other club members – specially the ones that call you the night before the trip and want to know if there is room for them :) I motion that the last person to sign up for the trip – has to load the gear on the bus – just fooling with you. We plan on including a dead line date on the sign up forms for 09. This date will be aligned with the deadline we have to cancel with the bus company to avoid any fees. As for the website, Dwight is also looking for feedback on what you would like to see more of on this.

For some reason we had a dark cloud hanging over us this year for injuries. Only a few trips made it with out one, and some suffered more than their share in a short time. Everyone is on the mend, and I am hoping back on the slopes for 09 season. While mentioning this at the meeting, I was corrected – we are not older skiers – we are seasoned skiers. I like that a whole lot better.

We will be having an April meeting to include nominations and elections of your 2008/09 officers. Same place – same time, and we can hear all the stories from the Aspen trip. So, I hope to see a lot of you on April 15th. Spring party is May 18th @ Lake Mohawk - one club golf outing 9:00am to 1:00pm to start it off for those who want to take part. The club will provide the meats for the grill, and members are asked to bring covered dishes. Don't feel like golfing then just come and enjoy the day with all of us. Also, Al Brancifort is working on a bike ride for those who are interested and these will be trail rides. If you're interested in a road ride – contact Al.

Thanks gail

While the CMSC Whistler group enjoys mid-March skiing and the TSC-Snowmass/Aspen travel contingent prepares for departure, I will take a little bit of my place in space to thank those who volunteer to be trip leaders for ALL ski trips. The pay is lousy, the opportunity for difficulties is high, and the “feel good” rewards are questionable. The fact that 24 CMSC clubs continue to draw people interested in being trip leaders either means that there are a lot of masochistic people in the world or that these people really enjoy performing the task. Over the years, I have run a lot of trips. 99% were extremely enjoyable. I'd like to relate a little of my experience with running the CMSC Crested Butte trip this year to show you how challenging things can get for a trip leader. I will leave personalities out of this and concentrate only on the challenges presented by weather and 'Untied' Airlines.

Let me start by saying that the skiing was GREAT! We had more snow than I have ever seen in Crested Butte. Fifty-five people from 10 CMSC clubs joined me on this trip. Most left from Cleveland, 10 left from Akron, 2 from Dallas, and 2 met us at CB. At 4AM on departure day, I was informed that 'Untied' Airlines had cancelled CAK flight. Fortunately, Frontier stepped in to cover that minor set back. In Cleveland, 2 e-ticketed passengers were told that they needed “paper tickets” in order to travel. We solved that by having them BUY other tickets with the promise that I would get their money back somehow. Our plane was overweight trying to leave Denver, so we had to dump some people. They were lucky! They got 'comps' for the inconvenience. We finally left Denver, only to return because our destination airport was snowed in! We returned to Denver. 'Untied' Air cancelled our flight and tried to brush us under the rug. Busses weren't running! Mountain passes were closed. 'Untied' wasn't willing to do anything until I spoke to some supervisors. We got discount rooms at Doubletree and they added a flight for the next day so that we could get to our destination. We arrived, checked in, partied, skied the next 4 days and had fun.

On departure day, we were leaving at the same time as Detroit Ski Council. Our bus arrived, (albeit, too small for all of us and luggage), Detroit's did not. Their bus driver had a heart attack going to his bus. Crowds at Gunnison made our departure late. The CAK group missed their flight from Denver, but, once again, Frontier stepped in to save their day. The large group had to wait for 'Untied' to decide that they would “hold” our ORD to CLE plane until we got there. There weren't many happy people on that flight besides us! We finally made it to CLE, only to find that all the baggage handlers had gone HOME because it was after midnight. An hour and a half later, we finally got our luggage. What a relief! What's that? Our skis are still in Chicago???? A final trip to an 'Untied' office got paperwork filled out so that all skis could be delivered to our homes the next day.

My hair has gotten 'grayer'. It took me a week to get back to normal. I never want to see an 'Untied' Airline's plane, ticket agent, or supervisor EVER!

Please thank your trip leaders for volunteering their time and energy.

Jim Kovach

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Timken Company Ski Club Meeting

March 18, 2008

Rafter's at Meadow Lake

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Gail Vogt at 8:00 p.m. Thirty-five (35) individuals were in attendance.

Action Items

- **Treasurer's Report:** Donna Brancifort is away on business, Al Brancifort filled in. He noted there is \$23,843.45 in the club account with some Aspen Checks and Debits still pending. He wanted to make everyone aware that when we started this year, \$19,000ish was in the account, so the club is not looking to make lots of money off of trips but we do need to keep a high balance for when deposits are due on the bigger trips and for buses.
- **Secretary Report:** Please see the newsletter.
- **Website Report:** If you have any suggestions for the website, email Dwight.

New Business:

- The Spring Party will be held **May 18** at the indoor clubhouse at Lake Mohawk. There will be a 1 Club Golf Outing prior to the party.
The golf outing will start at 10 am and lunch after will start approximately 12:30 pm. The club will provide meat and the members are asked to provide a dish.
- Mike Wile will be going to the Mountain Travel Symposium this year. Trips he will be checking on include Snowbird, Mammoth/Big Sky, Winter Park, Steamboat, and Keystone, just to name a few. If you have any suggestions for future trips, please contact Mike.
- There will be an April meeting on the 15th for officer elections.
- Al Brancifort would like to schedule some bicycling outings for the club this summer to keep our legs in shape for ski season. His tentative thoughts are to start with, every other Monday interested parties could meet at the Towpath Inn for supper and then bicycle the Towpath. More to come on this later.
- **CMSC Report:** Jim Kovach, our CMSC Representative, reported that currently the Whistler trip is going on. Future trips CMSC is looking at include Mt Tremblant, Keystone/Breckenridge, and Powder Mtn, as well as others. See Jim's report for more details.

Trip Reviews:

- **Mt Bachelor.** 23 people went for five days to Mount Bachelor with a side trip to Mount Hood. Please see Gail Vogt's trip report for all the details.
- **Aspen, March 29 – April 5.** Carol Main reported that Aspen has recently been blanketed with 28" of snow. Representatives from Aspen/Snowmass will be at the arrival party to answer any questions you have about your stay and Carol will pass out your lift tickets at the party. Please remember, 1 ski bag, 1 boot bag and one bag under 50 lbs. for the plane ride and be at the airport at 5 am.

Old Business:

- TCSC got a verbal commendation from CMSC for their involvement in the Hope on the Slopes benefit. Gail pointed out that the club came in second for their fundraising efforts with well over \$2,000 brought in by the club. This includes \$400 given by The Timken Co. Bearing Division, \$750 from the Timken Foundation and the golf basket that was raffled which was donated by the Steel Division.

Meeting Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Capestrain; seconded by Dwight Kline

Door Prizes:

- Wine Basket – Tom Sinacore
- Embroidered Fleece Blanket – Jim Shear

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennie Stephan - Secretary

Airline Baggage Information

United Airlines has changed their baggage policy for ski and snowboard equipment starting May 5, 2008. You may read about it here:

[United Baggage Information](#)

Basically, the policy is this:

The new policy means from May 5 on you'll get **one checked piece** of baggage for free and **pay \$25 each way for a second**; that means \$50 per person for each trip. Our guess is at some later date they'll say a ski bag and a boot bag no longer count as one piece of checked baggage; that will mean \$100 per person for each trip (\$25 for second bag plus \$25 for third bag, each way).

Our goal is not to get United to reverse the change; we can't hope to do that. Our goal is to get the other airlines to not follow United's lead; that might get United to reverse things.

With regard to the UA issue on baggage rules, here are two attachments. Click on the links at the right. One is a letter template you can use (and amend as you see fit) to advise airlines other than United how you feel about their new baggage policy. The second enclosure is a list of mailing addresses for nearly all the airlines you might want to write.

I would advise writing promptly as the longer the dust is allowed to settle without complaint, the more likely others are to follow suit. I will be sending one as prez.

We have already engaged several destination resorts whose primary service is United, several of our tour provider partners, NSAA and Congressman (Dem Senatorial Candidate Select) Mark Udall's office are working this issue. You may (are encouraged) to call in what ever reinforcements you may know to help - local congress person, related industry partners, local business people, influential whomevers.

You can download these two articles and format as you wish. You may even elect to send via e-mail but not sure where or on whose desk that may end up.

Any questions, obviously, don't hesitate to call.

Thanks in advance for your support,

Mike Sanford
President
National Ski Council Federation

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(858) 695-1442 (H)

robert.m.sanford@navy.mil (W)

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February 23, 2008 -

Wanted to pass on the recent letter sent by our Congressional Caucus Leader Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO), concerning United Airlines' recent policy decision on charging for baggage. Along with other winter recreation agencies and industry resorts we had encouraged this action by the Congressman's office to express our displeasure with the UA actions on luggage policies. We are pleased to be part of the industry movement to convince UA (and other airlines contemplating similar actions) that the proposal for such charges are not in the interest of sports enthusiasts, nor the average traveling family and has the potential to be very harmful to our industry partner resorts reliant on UA as their primary air passenger providers.

Our best to you all and wishes for a great season,

Mike Sanford, President National Ski Council Federation

Mt. Bachelor – March 1 – 8, 2008

OK – this trip almost put me over the edge, and not a snow covered one! Transportation arrangements changed from a bus to cars a week before we left, and I'm sure that everyone was so tired of my e-mails by the time we had left. We left our local airport late due to extra de-icing. After boarding Dwight passed around cookies that Cindy had made for all of us, and Karen passed around some homemade brownies. Thanks so much, these really hit the spot. At baggage claim in Portland we were made aware that nine of our group's bags were left at CAK. These would come on a later flight and be delivered to our hotel that evening. The group gathered bags and climbed into a variety of vehicles that ranged from SUV's, Mini Van, to a 4x4 truck for the scenic drive to Bend. The mountain pass gave us a rain and snow mix leading into the desert drive that was breath taking, and the views of the various mountains were beautiful. Everyone was pleased with our accommodations at the River House Hotel. The rooms were large and each had a full kitchenette as well as large bathrooms. We had our usual meet and greet with the hotel rep – Ron who gave us some clues on where the best places to eat and shop were. Bob, our rep from Mt.B, informed us they got 12 inches of new snow that day; then warned us about Sunday being crowded on the mountain. They were sponsoring the Special Olympics that day.

The hotel lounge was the place most of us headed for dinner. Too tired to go anywhere else... this place got our repeat business throughout the week with great food. It was an early night for the whole group, and the next morning got a rough start, for the luggage did not arrive as planned. After several phone calls, we found out the luggage had been left off the flight to Bend for the same reason it was left in CAK... too much cargo weight. This is when we became the sharing club. Most of the bags contained equipment, but some were missing ski cloths. Other members stepped up and loaned what ever was needed to ski that day. We hit the rental shop and were off to the slopes. Sunday was a little tough with 12 inches of new snow on Saturday and no grooming the night before. Though it was blue sky-sunshine day you just had to work on the turns a little more that day. We looked for the crowds that Ron warned us about. For us it was just ski down and back onto the lift. We watched some of the Special Olympic events, and some of us got to share the joy of winning a medal from a few of the participants with lots of hugs and smiles for everyone they came in contact with:). A call to the hotel at noon set my nerves back to normal. The bags had arrived and had been delivered to the member's rooms. Monday and the first part of Tuesday delivered more blue skies and sunshine, and everything was groomed for lots of runs. Tuesday afternoon we had a weather front sneak in on us, and it was a slow creep along the catwalk to find the way back to trail signs to the lodge. Thank goodness for those green circle marker things. The rest of the week was overcast, but who cared... we were skiing. Most of our group started the day at the smaller Sunrise lodge, and we got to meet several of Mt Bachelor's "seasoned skiers". They were called the "Over the Hill Gang", and this was their territory which we found out quickly. They were very friendly, and wanted to know where we skied in Ohio. When we told them about our local ski places (and the vertical feet), they got a good laugh and welcomed us their mountain. Each morning one of them would announce when we walked in ... Ohio's here!

The five days we skied at Mt Bachelor were fantastic. The views of the surrounding mountains and color of the sky were breathtaking, and the terrain was challenging and tempting enough for some to ski areas they would normally tend to shy away from. Everyone got lots of vertical feet in daily, and the sore muscles were soothed at the nightly hot tub gathering. Several members of our group took some time away from skiing to try snowmobiling, fly fishing, or cross country skiing for the day – they had a wonderful time.

Friday was an early get up to load the gear and suitcases, and head to Mt Hood for a final day of skiing. The day was overcast and windy in certain areas, but it didn't matter. We skied the whole mountain under a cloudy day on the slopes which is better than none at all. At noon we met for a group lunch in the loft of the lodge, and everyone enjoyed the small gathering and great food. Some of our group left to go sight seeing on the way back to Portland, and some skied till late in the afternoon. Several of us took the historic highway that ran along the Columbia River, as well as three waterfalls. It was beautiful to see.

(Oregon Continued)

Our early flight from Portland to Denver was quiet – or it was our group that was quiet, for most of us napped. Arriving in Denver, we had a nice surprise – Cindy greeted us at the gate. She had missed her connecting flight to Portland, so we all got to sit and visit with her. CNN and the weather channel aren't the best things to watch at an airport – especially when your destination is the area of the storm they are broadcasting about. Pete used our long lay over in Denver to get everyone's pictures loaded on his computer, and then will transfer them to Dwight to have a DVD made of the trip. We were surprised when they boarded our flight on time and took off to get us home. The pilot announced that he needed a half-mile of visibility to land, and that is what he had to get us into CAK. Our Frontier crew got a round of applause from the cabin when our plane came to a stop, and then taxied to the jet way.

Sorry to report that we didn't get by without an injury. A snowboarder took out Ida on the third day; this sidelined her skiing for the rest of the trip. She is mending fine, and can still go on the Aspen trip – thank goodness.

On a personal note – I have had the advantage of skiing several places in the West, and each one is amazing in it's own special way. Mt Bachelor is truly under rated. It is a beautiful place to ski with all levels of terrain and skiing, no crowds, outstanding staff hospitality, and various types of sports in the surrounding area to satisfy everyone. I am sad that more people didn't take the opportunity to be a part of this trip – glad I did. Also, I would like to extend a Thanks to Frontier Air Lines for getting there and back, Ski.Com for working through all the headaches, The River House Hotel, and everyone who joined me on this trip.

Gail

