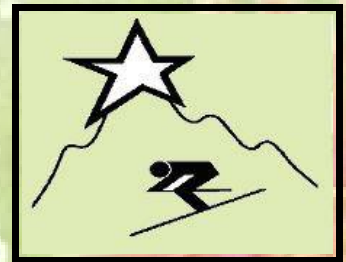


Roanoke Skier

April 2011



Founded 1963

Monthly Newsletter of the Roanoke Ski Club

Visit our web site: www.roanokeskiclub.org

Dates to Remember!

APRIL 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 06 - Ski Club Meeting - 6:30 pm
- Hidden Valley Country Club

April 15 - 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm, Dinner
& Drama of Creation – Natural Bridge

April 19 - 5:30 pm – Happy Hour @
Applebee's, 4340 Electric Rd, Roanoke

April 23 - 9:30 am till...? Wildflower
hike @ Booker T. Washington National
Monument, Hardy

President's Message

Dear Ski Club Friends,

Another ski season is coming to an end with spring breaking out. The trips this year were a success with many memories of a great ski vacations. If you could not make a RSC trip this year, start planning as Trip Director, Jack O'Connell will be announcing the trip roster for 2012 soon.

I would like to to thank the RSC board for last year:

- Vice President - Bill Howard
- Secretary/Newsletter Editor - Pam Lonitz
- Treasurer – Karen Saunders
- Trip Director – Jack O'Connell
- Program Director – Mandy Pommerenke
- Activities Director – Shelley Gibson
- Marketing – Linda Staley
- Webmaster/Membership Director – Ted Lonitz
- Club Historian – Roger Pommerenke

These are the ladies and gentleman that work very hard all year to bring you all the many values that are part of the Roanoke Ski Club experience. It has been my pleasure to work with this very talented and dedicated group of individuals.

Newly elected President, John Schrader will be announcing the new board soon.

Finally, I want to thank the membership for their support of the board, activities, the trips, and me. You are what make it all happen and I appreciate you.

I look forward to seeing all of you April 6,



Gene Collier,
RSC President



Elections



The following are the Roanoke Ski Club election results from March 2nd meeting at Hidden Valley Country Club for 2011/12 fiscal year:

- ★ **John Schrader - President**
- ★ **Pete Krupski - Vice President**
- ★ **Pam Lonitz - Secretary/Newsletter Editor**
- ★ **Chris Nuckols - Treasurer**

I would like to thank the other members of the nominating committee, Sue Parks and Pam Lonitz for their help. I know you will support the newly elected officers and the new board as they create an exciting lineup of activities.

Bill Howard

Chairman Nominating Committee
& RSC Vice President



Activities

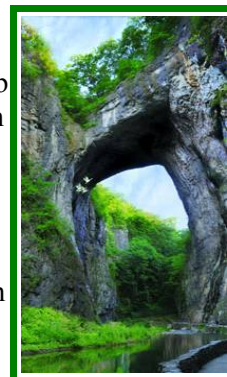


APRIL ACTIVITIES

* Friday, April 15, 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm, Dinner & Drama of Creation – Natural Bridge

Join your friends, enjoy light conversation and share photos of recent winter ski adventures at the “Signature Friday Seafood Buffet”, the Colonial Dining Room, reservations at 6:45 pm. The buffet features all you can eat steamed crab legs, fried shrimp, scallops, seafood chowder, spiced shrimp, salad bar and much, much more! \$32.95 pp/Adult and \$16.95 pp Children ages 5-12 (plus tax). A traditional dinner menu is also available for diners that do not want to eat at the buffet. Reservations are a “must” as this is a very popular event for the general public!

One of the wonders of the world, the [Natural Bridge](#) in Virginia is one of the most beautiful natural creations in the United States. The bridge is a solid rock arch carved out by water that has witnessed many eras of history as legends have passed through it. It was also a sacred site for a Native American tribe. The scenic surroundings add to the panoramic view further.



As darkness falls, the Natural Bridge transitions to Nature's own Theater as the Drama of Creation unfolds in words and music – a bridge tradition since 1927. Symphonic music fills the ancient Blue Ridge Mountain walls. Choreographed lighting creates a rainbow canopy across the great stone archway. The drama begins at 9 pm and lasts approximately 1 hour at a cost of \$10-15 pp depending on our group rate.

Please join the Roanoke Ski Club for one if not both of these exciting events! PLEASE RSVP by Friday, April 8 to Shelley Gibson, Cell # 434-444-3951 or by email shelley@roanokeskiclub.org.

*** Tuesday, April 19, 2011 5:30 pm, Happy Hour @ [Applebee's Neighborhood Grill](#)
4340 Electric Road, Roanoke – 540-989-4526**

Drink & Appetizer specials for club members and Bill Howard will be our host!
(Please note special prices end at 6 pm...)



*** Saturday, April 23, 2011 9:30 am till...? Wildflower hike at [Booker T. Washington National Monument, Hardy, Virginia](#)**



The Roanoke Ski Club will join the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society for a hike on the Jack-O-Lantern Branch Heritage Trail to discover the bounty of wildflowers in the park. The trail loops 1 ½ miles from the tobacco barn through many acres of the original Burroughs property. Following the hike and visit in the park we will gather for ice cream at nearby Homstead Creamery. Unfortunately our very own RSC Park Ranger, Betsy Haynes will not be working on this day... Please bring/wear comfortable shoes for the

hike and a camera!

*** We am looking for a host/hostess for this event and would appreciate a volunteer!The organizing, planning is done, all they need to do is be there as the club representative to meet and greet, etc! *Please contact Shelley Gibson (cell # 434-444-3951 or by email shelley@roanokeskiclub.org) to volunteer to be our Host/Hostess.*

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Valhalla Vineyard Band Night – Friday, April 8 @ 4 pm–8 pm, 6500 Mt. Chestnut Road, Roanoke

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and picnic to enjoy live music on the outdoor deck (weather permitting). Doors will be open at 4 pm, band plays from 5:30 – 7:30. Admission is free and music is provided by our own RSC members, Pat and Debbie Richards. This is not a “scheduled” club activity, therefore; there will not be a host/hostess for the event nor reserved seating area for club members.



Please note that Band Night is the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month April through October, 2011!

Pet Expo at the Roanoke Civic Center, Saturday, May 7 – Details to follow!

Lynchburg Regional Airshow - Airshow of Dreams, featuring the Blue Angels, Saturday, May 21



– certainly no easy task to get this incredible air show in Central Virginia! PLEASE purchase your tickets on line nowwhile they last! Car-pool, vans, bus may be available depending on the number attending. Details to follow!

Shelley Gibson,
Activities Director



TRIP REPORTS



Our 2011 ski trips are winding down. **Innsbruck/Munich**, **Snowmass**, and **Jackson Hole** have been run, and a small group leaves for the final trip of the year - heliskiing at **Revelstoke BC** - this weekend. We had a wonderful ski season, leaving us all with many great memories. I wish to thank all of the trip leaders for their hard work. They spend many hours working out the details of the trips, collecting deposits, and making sure that everything goes smoothly for their participants. I think they did a great job. Please **thank** them personally when you see them.



Annual Trip Survey

Thank you for your participation in the annual Trip Survey. This is our best way of knowing where YOU want to go on next year's trips. We received responses from over 75 members this year and there are some clear choices. Thanks to promotion by our own "scouting crew" led by Bruce Prillaman and a visit by a resort representative at the October membership meeting, a "new" destination for the club, **Crested Butte CO**, topped the list. Members also long for Utah's famous "Greatest Snow on Earth", as they ranked **Park City/Salt Lake City UT** just a tick below Crested Butte on the survey. Other popular choices were perennial favorites **Big Sky MT**, **Steamboat Springs CO**, **Telluride CO**, **Banff/Lake Louise Ca**, and **Lake Tahoe**.

I am already working with our trip providers to come up offerings that will provide wonderful memories and great value for our members. Thank you for participating in the survey and special thanks to those of you who volunteered to lead next year's trips!

Check out the following trip reports submitted by our trip leaders.

Jack O'Connell

Trip Director



WHITEFISH, MT

Exceptional, extraordinary.....magnificent and if that was not enough..... NO trip delays, not even a lost or "delayed" bag! Pretty good for a group of 35 travelers! Especially considering that 10 of which came from locations "other" than the Roanoke area and as far North as Alaska!

Upon arrival we were warmly greeted with a Welcome Reception sponsored by Whitefish Mountain Resort and it was a meal in itself! After the "heavy hors'devours" we were joined by the Mountain Ambassador, Ski School and a representative from the Adaptive Ski Program. Yes, I am very proud to say that Nick Stamper (son of Jan O'Connell) was the Roanoke Ski Club's first adaptive skier! Nick's instructors were very dedicated and gave him their undivided attention through the weeks stay. In the mornings Nick completed "regular" skiing holding a rectangular shaped metal frame, in the afternoons he was "sit-skiing". All of this was quite an accomplishment for Nick's first attempt at skiing!



The Morning Eagle, newest slope-side, luxury condo lodging at Whitefish was our home away from home with such amenities as ski locker storage, elevators to all floors, well equipped workout facility, and a spectacular rooftop hot tub! Sunday night our group enjoyed a gourmet, candlelight dinner at the "Summit" followed by a "Moonlight Ski" (translation - pitch black darkness, as the moon had yet to rise) For those daring and adventurous skiers and boarders...we made our way down the mountain via an incredible star-lit night! Never have I seen such a magnificent show of stars in the sky! (not quite like a full moon's glow though to guide us down)



We enjoyed multiple exceptionally mild days of skiing while at Whitefish to include what the local folks call an "inverted mountain". This is something that does not happen frequently but luck was with this group! The clouds were in the valley below and we were above them with bluebird skies! The National Glacier Park in our "back-yard" was absolutely breath-taking and everyone was captivated by the unique shapes of the Snow Ghosts at the top of the mountain and had fun deciphering what they resembled! A group of 16 took a side, day-trip to "Fernie, British Columbia" for a day of skiing, while others took in such activities as dog sledding, touring the National Glacier Park and shopping in the charming downtown Whitefish! Mid-week everyone in the group was treated to a superior dinner and dessert at Tupelo Grille. The restaurant met with rave reviews, including the "must have" bread pudding soaked in rum! As the week was winding down....unfortunately, we did have an injury in the group as Peg Leister took a fall on Thursday resulting in a broken tibia. We are all wishing Peg a quick and positive healing experience!

Some comments by our trip participants were as follows:

So enjoyed talking with Nick and his 2 instructors & watching them take Nick down on the Sit-Ski - the two men were obviously dedicated to their work and truly loved what they were doing! Enjoyed new friends, warmth and fellowship of all participants. Thanks for making it so easy and such a pleasure to be associated with the Roanoke Ski Club! Always ski with someone....never alone! Thursday on the mountain filled one of my bucket list wishes....best day skiing and the views were unbelievable! Happy to reconnect with folks from a prior trip and make new friends this time around! I am so glad I made the decision to join this fun-loving group of people! This is a trip I will always remember! Thanks for the memories! As always....I had a blast and I would certainly go again! Thanks for the recipe of Dean's awesome spaghetti casserole that last night! Each day I had a favorite run, only to be replaced the following day by a new "favorite"! I loved how much of the mountain was accessible to intermediate skiers! I definitely want to go back!

Shelley Gibson,
Trip Leader



Click here to check out more [Whitefish MT](#) pictures!

INNSBRUCK/MUNICH

The trip to Innsbruck/Munich was an extraordinary trip of a lifetime filled with fantastic skiing, excursions and memories for 42 of the club's members!

Having 10 days to explore Austria, Italy and Germany, many of the participants spent a majority of their time traveling the countryside. Several spent a day in Salzburg seeing castles, fortresses and cathedrals;



not to mention checking out sites from the Sound of Music and Mozart's birthplace. Half of the group spent a day in Venice. The architecture was stunning and the gondola ride with champagne was a nice addition. St. Mark's Basilica, St. Marco's Plaza, art museums and incredible shopping were some of the day's highlights. Others from the group enjoyed an excursion to see the famous Neuschwanstein castle. A number of adventuresome folks headed out one night to the 1976 Olympic Bobsled Course for a 60mph / 44 second ride. What an exhilarating rush! Oh yeah, skiing! Being in the heart of the Alps, there were nine mountains within an hour shuttle to choose from. Most skied at



Stubai Glacier and Aximr Lizum, both a short bus ride from our hotel. The Glacier, at 11,000 feet and above the tree line, was an overwhelmingly vast section of mountains as far as you could see. Looking down the mountain towards the base of the slope you were on, people looked like ants. So many choices, a bit of fresh powder mid-week and a couple of blue-sky sunny days made for some good skiing. The average # of days skied by folks in this group was two. We did have three folks tie for the most days skied - five. Great accommodations in Innsbruck, with amazing breakfast buffets (that conveniently served Prosecco) and delicious dinners made for great group experiences.



After 7 days in Innsbruck, we spent 3 days in Munich. No skiing here, but we were on our own to explore sights such as the Glockenspiel, Dachau Concentration Camp, The Romantic Road, the BMW factory, Medieval towns and more castles and cathedrals. But the #1 favorite memory of just about everyone on the trip when asked was the group dinner at the Hofbrauhaus (Germany's oldest and largest beer hall that seats 3,500)! A great meal with a stein of beer included (many of us had several!), fun music and amazing German women who could carry 8 steins of beer at a time was the start of many great memories for the rest of the night. But what happens in Munich stays in Munich.

We did have a few mishaps (some broken ribs, sprained knee, stolen equipment, and kidney stone) and even with those, folks had a fantastic time. As the trip leaders, Dave and I want to say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who went on the trip – it was a spectacular group of people that made for a lot of fun memories!



Dave & Melinda

Trip Leaders

Click here to check out more [Innsbruck/Munich](#) pictures!



SNOWMASS

Early on February 26, 36 lucky people departed for a great ski experience to Snowmass, Colorado. All arrived on time with bags and skis ready to settle in and enjoy the many wonderful things that is Snowmass.

We were welcomed at a wine and cheese reception sponsored by the mountain and told about Snowmass resort and The Top of the Village condominiums. The accommodations were very nice and truly ski in and ski out. A beautiful Red Fox would come and visit the condos, enhancing most evenings.



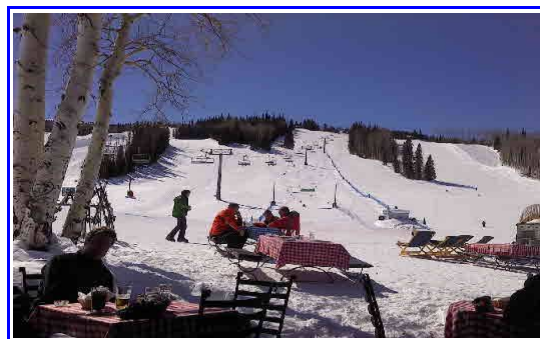
Some skied Snowmass, some skied Aspen, some skied Aspen Highlands and some skied Buttermilk. I think all agreed that Snowmass was the best for large variety of terrain and the quality convenient ski experience. Several went snowmobiling, dog sledding and trout fishing to round out their Colorado experience. One individual just could not miss “hugging” the only tree on a certain slope. For those that got up early, we were treated to an early “First Tracks” experience on Thursday by Bob Maticce, a

professional Aspen/Snowmass ski instructor.



Snowmass is so large with many long wide runs that you find yourself measuring your day by how many miles you ski instead of the number of runs in a day. Did I mention virtually no lift lines on mostly high speed lifts?

Mother Nature treated us to several blue sky sunny days with nice snow to play in. Everyone enjoyed the weather, snow and all that Snowmass has to offer. Having lunch outside on the mountain in the sun at



Snowmass only added to a wonderful day of not working... Ha! How was that “Grilled Buffalo Risotto” Pete?

The group enjoyed a wonderful happy hour on Monday at Garnish, a new and popular restaurant in Snowmass. Appetizers were very tasty and the two drink tickets went fast as many ski tales were shared.

A group dinner with entertainment was enjoyed by all at the Artisan in Snowmass on Wednesday. The choice off the menu food was great and we were totally mesmerized by

“Doc” Eason with his wonderful slight of hand magic skills.

The week ended with a farewell happy hour in the Gate House at Top of the Village and all seemed pleased with the 9 – 10 inches of fresh powder to play in on Friday.

Thank you to a wonderful group of fellow travelers and I am grateful that we had no injuries.

Gene Collier,
Trip Leader



Ctrl-Click here to view [Snowmass slide show!](#)

(then click on - Aspen/Snowmass Trip 2011 by Pam Lonitz.)

JACKSON HOLE

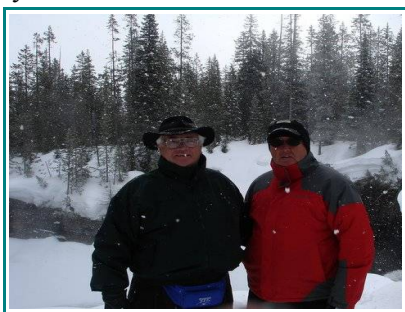
Jackson was a very charming old west town with a rich past with exploits of famous Explorers, Trappers, Ranchers and Presidents. The 49er Inn and Suites was located in downtown Jackson Hole and provided the Roanoke Ski Club with spacious suite. The outdoor and indoor hot tubs provided great therapy after a long day on the steep slopes.

The staff of Renie, Jessie, Barry, Paul and Steve went above and beyond the call to provide wonderful friendly services. From our Sunday arrival Wine and Cheese Party to our Saturday Night Farewell Pizza Party the Gold Pan Room

was the perfect size setting for our group. We had snow 4 out of 7 days and the powder buffs in the club were in Heaven. From the top of the summit the 360* Panorama View and Grand Teton National Park was breathtaking as well as pictures.

Accident 1st day, 1st run, Rusty separated his shoulder. From his Doctors exams, full recovery is expected. GOOD LUCK RUSTY.

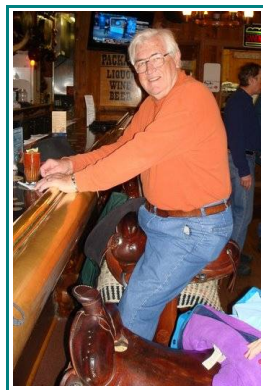
10 People in our group went to Yellowstone National Park for a Snow-coach or Snowmobile 12 hr day ride. It was well worth it the trip. On Thursday our bus took us on a 1hr trip over the Teton Pass to Grand Targhee. Resort ranked #2 in USA for snow. It was full of intermediate groomed slopes as well as powder. A little happy hour @ the Trapp Bar was very relaxing.



a

Upon returning to Jackson we had a group "BIG GAME" dinner with Elk BBQ and all the trimmings. Everyone loved the Elk as well as the wine and beer. On Friday John & Mick hosted happy hour while some of our group went to a ranch for a dinner and sleigh ride pulled by two Belgian horses weighing 1900 lbs ea. which pulled a sled of 16 people over 150 acre ranch with all kinds of wildlife including 2200 elk refuge. The stories for 6 generations in the family (1887) as well as the T Bone steaks were wonderful.

The very famous COWBOY BAR where all the bar stools were western saddles and the SILVER DOLLAR BAR



with 2200 inlaid silver dollars in the bar, tables and walls were frequented by some of our group each night. The Mangy Moose was our Ski Après each day.

We had a very fun cooperative group and I know from observation a lot of people have made new friends to party and ski with in the future.

Bill Howard

Trip Leader



Programs

Well, another season of finely run trips has come and gone, and it's time to gather for fond reminiscing, photo exchanges and tall tales. Please come to socialize whether you went on a trip this year or not.

We'll meet Wednesday, April 06, 6:30pm, at Hidden Valley Country Club. As usual, we'll have some nice snacks to offer, and the cash bar will be in full swing.

See you then.

Mandy Pommerenke

Program Director



RSC MEMBER ART GEBHARD PASSED AWAY MARCH 6, 2011

by: *Roger Pommerenke*, Club Historian

Perhaps the “glory year” of RSC was 20 years ago, Jan 4-5, 1991. It was arguably the only time the Roanoke Ski Club had a successful race team. **Art Gebhard** was on that team. He passed away March 6, 2011.

In the old days, RSC planned several trips a year to Snowshoe. One of the highlights was participating in the annual Subaru Ski Club Championships. That year the RSC fielded 3 teams. Unfortunately RSC's two best teams were disqualified in the prelims. However the RSC worst team (“Roanoke Rowdies”) miraculously qualified for the finals. (See prelim results below). It consisted of Donna Nelson, Charlie Bates, Bill Franz, John Hufnagel, Roger Pommerenke, and **Art Gebhard**.

10 Blue pass & slip
Art Pre 270e

CLUB NAME		Roanoke					
TEAM		Rowdies					
NAME	BIB#	BLUE TIME	PTS.	RED TIME	PTS.	PT	
✓ Donna Nelson	102	45:08	59	44:31	61		
Charlie Bates	2	40:14	43	44:41	68		
Bill Franz	3	DQ		41:11	57		
John Hufnagel	4	57:5	129	62:17	14		
Roger Pommerenke	5	37:46	34	37:51	36		
Art Gebhard	6	48:29	67	44:33	51		
Pts. 249		POINTS				283	



Preliminary results for the RSC “Rowdies”. Each team raced twice (blue and red gates). Scoring is based on the best 5 out of 6 times. A team is disqualified if two skiers are disqualified (by missing a gate or wiping out) in the same race.

Jan 4, 1991. RSC racers wait for prelim results at bottom of Skipjack. L- Norma Davenport 102, John Rogers 65, Donna Nelson 1, **Art Gebhard** 6, Joe Greblumas 97, John Hufnagel 4

Since the RSC “Rowdies” was the worst of the qualifiers, they went last in the finals. Conditions were icy. By the time it was the Rowdies turn, six teams had already disqualified. This meant our team could place 10th, or better, if we did not disqualify. And the RSC team, including **Art**, did it! The team did not DQ and got an automatic 10th place!

Icing on the cake, two RSC team members, Donna Nelson and John Hufnagel met each other and later married.

Roanoke Ski Club Board Members and Leaders, 2010-2011



TITLE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
President	Gene Collier	389-9091	gene@roanokeskiclub.org
Vice President	Bill Howard	989-9399	bill@roanokeskiclub.org
Secretary/Newsletter	Pam Lonitz	977-4054	pam@roanokeskiclub.org
Treasurer	Karen Saunders	520-9560	karen@roanokeskiclub.org
Activities Director	Shelley Gibson	434-444-3951	shelley@roanokeskiclub.org
Program Director	Mandy Pommerenke	774-5823	mandy@roanokeskiclub.org
Ski Trip Director	Jack O'Connell	420-2394	jack@roanokeskiclub.org
Webmaster	Ted Lonitz	977-4054	ted@roanokeskiclub.org
Club Historian	Roger Pommerenke	774-5823	roger@roanokeskiclub.org
Marketing	Linda Staley	224-4953	linda@roanokeskiclub.org
Interim Membership Director	Ted Lonitz	977-4054	ted@roanokeskiclub.org



Roanoke Ski Club
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