

SKI TRACKS

President's Notes

The ski season is upon us, the boards are tuned and there is snow in the mountains. What more could we ask for? I hope your holiday season brought you lots of special memories with loved ones.

The executive did not meet in December due to everyone's busy schedule so I have not much to report.

A special thank-you to John Zurbrigg and Deanna Sharratt for hosting the Welcome to Winter event at Snow Valley. It was well attended and invaluable for new members to receive ski tour information and connect with existing members.

Another thank-you to Sundance Ski Shop for holding a demo day at Snow Valley for our members to try the latest model of skis.

Our tour coordinators and ski hosts are busy solving the many quirks and incidents that arise with our tours. Please give them a hug and extra smile for all their hard work. We are assessing the new tours and dates for this year so be sure to fill out the surveys and give the executive feedback so we can best meet most of our members' needs.

Fitness classes begin again in January. Kudos to all the members who participate in these classes and other ones to keep in shape so we have fewer injuries.

There is no more beautiful sight than the crystals in the air on a bluebird sky day of on a ski hill. I feel it makes my heart grow three sizes bigger just like the Grinch. It's one of the reasons why I ski and I hope it's one of yours.

"Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers." Kahlil Gibran.

May January bring you lots of time on your boards and lots of kindness.

Happy New Year,
JoAnn Grand
President, RMSSC



Big White, Kelowna BC

Big White

(Kelowna)

There's still room!

Help fill this bus

Tour dates: Mar 10-15, 2019

Contact: Tom or Alan

Gaye, Blaine, Ron
Ski Tour Coordinators

Ski Tours 2019

Ski tours have began and LOTS are coming up! **Big White** and **Silver Star #2** still have a few seats left on the bus. Join us to enjoy the beautiful 'snow ghosts' and slopes these resorts offer.

Club ski trips are fun, good exercise and a great way to meet new friends. Book your seat today!

Important ski tour dates listed on last page of Newsletter.

Thank-you for supporting our Ski Tours.

More Information

Tour description and prices found [here](#)

Find this season's tour dates, tour eligibility, Roommate Matching, hill trail maps, etc [here](#)

See you on the slopes!

Ron Brown, Blaine Larsen, Gaye Carter
Ski Tours Coordinators
tours@SeniorsSki.com

Jasper Mini Tours

Mini Tours are in January, February, March, and April 2019. Self drive, book hotel rooms directly and register with Barbara. More details [HERE](#) Email your completed registration form to Barbara Fowler at barbara2015@telus.net

Jasper Inn rooms: show your RMSSC Membership card when booking hotel and at Marmot's Group Sales when purchasing lift tickets.

Our club's sports accident insurance will apply to all registrations.

Please review our Member's Handbook for explanations of Tours' definition of Draw Dates, Deadline Dates, how they work and other important tour information on pages 5-13.

Travel Insurance

Accidents happen. Additional personal travel insurance always recommended for all out of province travel, ski related or not. Check with your insurance company or Alberta Motor Association.

~ Last Reminder ~

Fun Costume Ski Race Jasper January 30, 2019

Save the date - Wednesday January 30

Is your costume ready? If not, prepare now! This will be a Kodak moment, bring your camera! Wednesday afternoon, during the Club's Jasper Ski Improvement trip January 27-31, 2019 at Marmot Basin, the lessons will be over and the fun will begin. "**Jasper FUN COSTUME SKI Race!**"

Check September and October 2018 Newsletters for RULES, pictures and more details.

Enter (no previous ski race training required) or watch others have the ski time of their life. Take lots of pictures.

Win PRIZES! Fun guaranteed!

Can there be any questions? Al is lonely (and recovery from knee surgery.) Contact him! Call or text **Al Burkin at 780-904-6903**

E-mail: alabur65@gmail.com

Check our website and Facebook page for pictures.



RMSSC Executive

Editor's note: to provide you with a one-stop information source, to avoid errors and limit information duplication, we are including links to our website whenever feasible in our newsletter. It will make things easier for you!

Help Wanted

The RMSS Club is a success because of the volunteers who make it work. The Club needs volunteers to serve on the Club Executive in the coming years. New volunteers on the Executive is important for our Club to continue to be the very successful organization it has become. Are you, or another Club member, one of those volunteers?

Tour Coordinator

Gaye Carter and Blaine Larson will complete their two year term as Tour Coordinators in the spring. Tour Coordinators arrange ski tours. This team makes sure ski tours happen. Tour Coordinators contact the ski hills, arrange for accommodations, the welcome and Wednesday club dinners, lift tickets and, for many tours, the bus transportation. The Club is looking for two Tour Coordinators to share the work with Ron Brown, who has one year remaining in his term. Ideally, you have been a tour host and are familiar with computer software such as word processor programs (MS Word or Pages) and spreadsheets in order to prepare the Tour Hosts Manual.

Special Activities Coordinator

This spring, Rob Fenton will complete his two-year term and the Club needs someone to work with Tom Richards. The Special Activities Coordinators organize the summer activities of biking and golf, assisted by the many volunteers who support them. They also arrange the fall and winter ski conditioning classes. Ideally, the individual has a keen interest in these two activities.

Social Coordinator

After working as one of our two Social Coordinators, Bonnie Burn will be stepping down in the spring. The Club is looking for an individual to work with Judy Mackay to organize the Club's social events. They gather information from establishments that can host our social functions, select menus, arrange pricing and tickets, and deposit the monies collected for each social event.

Secretary

After serving as the Club Secretary for four years, in the spring, Wendy Saunders is stepping down. The Secretary records the minutes of the Executive meetings as well as the Annual General Meeting. He/she also maintains and updates the Club Policy and Procedures Manual. The individual must have word processing skills (MS Word or Pages) as the minutes of the Executive meetings are prepared and distributed shortly after each meeting (about 8 each year.)

Membership Coordinator

After serving two years as one of our Membership Coordinators, Deanna Sharratt is retiring in the spring. The Club is looking for an individual to work with John Zurbrigg who is continuing on. The individual should have good computer skills as the Club is looking to automate our membership processing, allowing members, both new and long-standing, to apply or renew their memberships. This will be an exciting step forward for the Club.

Vice-President

Every second year, the Club elects a Vice-President. The Vice-President is the individual who normally becomes the Club President in the following year. In the spring, JoAnn Grand, the President, will commence her second year. The following year (2020), the Vice-President will likely be elected at the Annual General Meeting as the Club President. This individual needs to understand the Club history, its Objectives and the Policies and Procedures followed in the operations of the Club.

Summary

If you are interested in assuming any of these positions or would like more information about any of these upcoming opportunities, please contact me. My contact information is pastpres@seniorsski.com Alternatively, feel free to discuss the positions with any of the current coordinators.

Jim Vine, Past-President

Getting to know.....Ursula Maydell (nee Bielenstein) by Jim



Ursula Maydell

Meeting with Ursula to gather the information for this article was most interesting. I later concluded that Ursula reminded me of Rose in the movie Titanic: adventurous, free-spirited and full of life.

Ursula was born in Riga, Latvia. Since she was born shortly before the start of WW2, the war had a significant impact on her early life. In 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact. As a result, Estonia and Latvia were assigned to the Soviet sphere of influence. The Pact allowed for the transfer of Baltic Germans to areas under German control. Unfortunately, Ursula and her family had to leave in haste, leaving homes, valuables and food behind. By 1940, they were among the 51,000 Baltic Germans that were forced to move.

By January 1945, it was apparent that where Ursula, her mother, brother and sister were living would soon be in Soviet hands, so they took the last train to Erfurt in central Germany.

There they found relatives. Ursula's father was a geologist and had been recruited into the German air force, working in Finland. He too realized that the war was ending and decided to escape to areas that would be outside Soviet influence. While Ursula's family was visiting with relatives, there was a knock at the door and there stood her father. Reunited, they then made their way to Göttingen on foot and later stayed in Hannover.

These years were, to say the least, very trying. Little food, no proper shoes. Ursula remembers occasions when her mother boiled rocks to leave the impression that they were to get some hot soup! She doesn't dwell on these details, having found her home in Canada, and Edmonton especially.

Ursula's father decided that they should emigrate to either Australia or Canada. Canada was the primary place of choice as it had seasons. In 1951, they settled on a farm in Manitoba. Ursula's father was hired by the Geological Survey of Canada and spent time travelling across the country. He decided that they would make their home in Edmonton.

Settling into their new home, Ursula completed her schooling. Realizing that it would further her opportunities, she took a course to be a comptometrist. For those who don't know, a comptometrist was trained to use a mechanical calculator to complete mathematical calculations in a fast and accurate manner. Remember, this is long before computers and pocket calculators were available! Her training took her to Vancouver where she worked for the summer saving money for her university education. It was there that she met her future husband.

Ursula started in pre-med. However, she found the courses not to her liking and switched to math. Math was logical and the results were either right or wrong, no in-between. She graduated with a B.Sc. in Math in 1960. She continued her education and in 1963, earned a Masters of Science in Mathematical Statistics. In 1964, she went to Kingston, Ontario where she worked as a statistical analyst. Perhaps more interestingly, it was during her stay in Kingston that she earned her pilot's licence. She married shortly after, but allowed the pilot licence to lapse.

In 1964, she moved back to Edmonton and helped form the Department of Computing Science at the University of Alberta – developing several new courses in this brand new Department besides research and lectures. Remember, this is 1964 when women and the sciences were regarded as an oxymoron! Ursula spent the next 35 years with the University and says that she never had a dull moment. As Associate Professor in the Department she and her PhD and MSc students did research on computer performance, networks and medical imaging. Ursula spent two sabbaticals in Switzerland: 1973-1974, as a visiting professor at the University of Zurich; 1985-1986, at the IBM Research Laboratory in Rüschlikon; and half a sabbatical, 1978, at Stanford University.

Although her time at the University did not leave many weekends free, she did find the time to enjoy the outdoors that she loves.

Ursula had been introduced to skiing at the end of the '50s. Her first foray was to Jasper with friends (although her experience makes me wonder about the term "friends"). I was, as you may also be, surprised to learn that long before Marmot Basin came into being, the skiing in Jasper was near the youth hostel at the end of Whistler Road (to the Sky Tram). The parking lot was at the top of the ski area and one had to ski down to the bottom of the lift. Told to "point them and go", Ursula started down the hill. "Turn, they cried!" Of course Ursula had no idea of how to turn. Seeing a ditch across the slope, she decided that the best alternative was to fall, which she did. Thus went her introduction to what is now her favourite sport. Over the years, she honed her skills skiing at Lake Louise and in 1999, joined what is now the Rocky Mountain Seniors Ski Club.



Enjoying the mountain slopes

Ursula also joined the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC). A trip filled with many memories is the climb of Mount Logan (June, 1977) – climbing up, roped together, on skis with skins, heavy packs and crampons and ice-axes - the highest peak (19,500 feet) in Canada and the second highest in North America. This six-week adventure was fraught with dangers from frostbite, avalanches and bad weather. They spent one week cooped up in their tents due to blizzard conditions sleeping with water bottles and food in their sleeping bags so they would not freeze. They persevered and achieved their goal. She said she loved ski-mountaineering with downhill skis and bindings that could release the heel for upward ski climbing.



Stinky socks!

About 1968, Ursula started running. She has completed the New York marathon twice, as well as three other races. Among her many other ski mountaineering trips, she skied into the Stanley Mitchell Hut in Yoho to climb the President and Vice-President peaks to ski down in untracked powder. On northern Baffin Island with an ACC ski mountaineering expedition, she climbed 8 never-climbed-before mountains. She said that with 24 hours of daylight, the freedom of time was extraordinary! Two other ski mountaineering climbs, with just one partner, were Mt. Orizaba (third-highest in North America at 18,490 feet) and Mt. Popocatepetl (fifth-highest in North America at 17,800 Feet) in Mexico. Closer to home, Ursula has climbed and skied in the Rogers Pass.

Upon retirement, Ursula also pursued the arts. She enjoys the MET operas and paints (watercolours, and pencils, mainly landscapes but also a few portraits). Her goal is to keep skiing for as long as she can, seeking out the deep and elusive powder that many of us crave. She also still wants to experience the wild, colourful northern lights in Canada.

Ursula has also been a member of Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, for over the past 30 years and is an active volunteer. It helps her to recognize the joys of life every day.

She is again a ski host this year for the Lake Louise tour, and is a regular at Snow Valley. She also belongs to the Seniors-On-Skis for weekly cross-country skiing or walking in the summer. Say hello when you next see her!

Executive Contact Information

Position	Name	Email
President	JoAnn Grand	president@seniorsski.com
Past President	Jim Vine	pastpres@seniorsski.com
Secretary	Wendy Saunders	secretary@seniorsski.com
Treasurer	Alan Lister	treas@seniorsski.com
Communications	Rosalynn Ruptash	communications@seniorsski.com
Membership	Deanna Sharratt John Zurbrigg	info@seniorsski.com
Newsletter Editor	Rosalynn Ruptash	newsletter@seniorsski.com
Social	Bonnie Burn Judy MacKay	social@seniorsski.com
Special Activities	Rob Fenton Tom Richards	activities@seniorsski.com
Tours	Gaye Carter Blaine Larsen Ron Brown	tours@seniorsski.com
Webmaster	Bryan Harris	webmaster@seniorsski.com

Calendar

January 2, 2019

CLOSE for Lake Louise

January 8, 2019

CLOSE for Jasper Ski Improvement

January 30, 2019

Fun Costume Ski Race - Marmot

February 1, 2019

OPEN for Marmot in March

February 5, 2019

New Members Day, Snow Valley

February 12, 2019

DRAW for Marmot in March

February 26, 2019

CLOSE for Marmot in March

Ski Tours 2018-19

Jan 6 to 11, 2019

Sun Peaks 1

Jan 13 to 18, 2019

Sun Peaks 2

Jan 20 to 25, 2019

Silver Star 1

Jan 27 to 31, 2019

Jasper 1 (Ski Improvement & Fun Costume Race)

Feb 4 to 7, 2019 Jasper Mini

Feb 10 to 15, 2019

Lake Louise

Feb 18 to 21, 2019 Jasper Mini

Feb 24 to Mar 1, 2019

Silver Star 2

Mar 4 to 7, 2019 Jasper Mini

Mar 10 to 15, 2019

Big White

Mar 17 to 21, 2019

Jasper 2

Apr 1 to 4, 2019 Jasper Mini

Tuesday & Thursday 9am-Noon

Club Skiing & Coffee, Snow Valley