



LEWIS SKI CLUB

NEWSLETTER

April 2026

Next up...

International Food Fest and voting!

Tuesday, April 7th. Happy hour in the bar at 5pm – meeting begins at 6pm

**Donauschwaben German-American Culture Center at Lenau Park
7370 Columbia Rd, Olmsted Township**

Bring cash if you wish to participate in the 50/50 raffle + donations to our refreshment fund are always appreciated!

Coming up...

May – no meeting

June 2nd meeting – Ice Cream Social

July – no meeting

August 4th – club picnic



Volunteers are the lifeblood of our club. In April, we will elect a new board and trustees to ensure our success into the future. Craig Wright is heading up the nominating committee. He has secured the following candidates: President/Kim Hulick, Alpine VP/Mark Manthey, Activities Director/Therese Telzrow, Publicity Director/Shari Williams, Nordic VP/Tom Vannuyen, Treasurer/Janet Dubas, and Recorder/Allison Wood. Reach out to Craig or come to our April 7th meeting to vote, volunteer or nominate your friends for an office.



Dear Friends of Lewis Ski Club,

Last April I assumed the role of president having spent a few years as the Alpine VP. Those years helped prepare me. I've met so many great people and have found good friends being part of this club. I'm extremely grateful for our board, (Mark, Tom, Therese, Shari, Janet and Allison) who have all stepped up and done their best to keep Lewis Ski Club thriving.

Over the last twelve months we've added a variety of refreshments creating monthly themes. April brings us to our third annual International Food Fest. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to share from anywhere around the world or right here in our neighborhood. Desserts are always welcomed.

New membership and meeting attendance is on the rise. It's great to see the faces of so many snow enthusiasts!

Board elections are in April so please plan to attend and support the board with your vote.

June brings the Ice Cream Social, August the annual picnic (grill your own), September is our farewell to summer hot dogs and more. Last October sailed in with an Italian menu, November's open house included a baked potato bar, December was our holiday gift exchange and potluck, and these were all well attended. Celebration of the New Year kicked off 2026, February's annual chili cook-off, and March isn't March without corned beef celebrating St. Patty's Day.

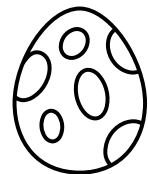
I want to thank everyone who renewed their membership, understanding that every little bit helps. Even if you don't attend any of our events, your membership helps. I am especially grateful to welcome our new members over the last few months. We look forward to getting to know each of you! Thank you to everyone who makes time to come to our meetings. It is very much appreciated as I know that not everyone is retired as I am from UH. We wish you luck in winning our Name Tag Wine Raffle, 50/50 or our new newsletter trivia game. (Better read the newsletter thoroughly to be prepared to win.)

Last month we discussed changes to our upcoming August picnic. We have decided that we will not provide beer or wine. Instead, guests are encouraged to BYOB. We have a slight increase in costs as expected. We will also have live music by Paul Cody along with door prizes and more. Look for more live music at future meetings too!

Sadly, ski season ended much too abruptly!

Kim

My friend told me she wouldn't eat beef tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. So, I gave her an egg.



Alpine VP Message



It was an unusually good winter for skiing and boarding here in the Midwest, with snow on the ground for weeks and many local ski resorts fully open for a good part of the season. Unfortunately for me, however, the only factor that seemed to negatively impact getting snow at a ski resort was whether I was there. I skied for 16 days at five different ski resorts this season and not on a single day was there new snow. In fact, for my trip to Mount Bohemia (which had over 300" of snow this season) during the first week of March, the resort had a big snowfall the week before and then had another 12 inches the week after I left. So, to give our members going to Big Sky their best chance for some powder days, I did NOT go on the trip. I hope to hear that strategy worked.

Planning is in full swing for our 2027 week-long ski trips, both of which are on the Ikon Pass. There has been a date change for Mount Bachelor (it will be one week later in March), and registration for that trip, and for the late-January trip to Mammoth, will be open once air flights have been secured, which should be soon. Now pay attention, as this may be confusing: registration for both of those 2027 weeklong trips *may* be open in *May*. Don't let the two "mays" confuse you - it's not like a double negative, which results in a positive. Two maybes would still equal a maybe. But one of these "mays" is actually a month, and not a maybe, so it's really just a single maybe. I hope that's all clear to you. Regardless, look at the dates set for those trips, and be ready for registration before this summer. If this past year is indicative of a trend, these trips could sell out quickly!

Speaking of the Ikon Pass, it is already on sale for the 2026-2027 ski season, and you can take advantage of our special group, as well as early-season, pricing at this website (we will share the required password at our club meetings or upon your request to myself, Shari W, or Kim H):

[Lewis Ski Club Ikon Pass](#)

Also, for next ski season, I will be discussing with the Suburban Ski Club their potential bus trip to a major eastern ski resort for next season. Suburban has run many bus trips to the east, and it hopes our club will help fill up enough seats to make it a go. Planning will begin in earnest over the summer, and details, dates, and prices will be shared as I get them.

Mark

Word Scramble

LTTOORSAANVC



Please join us and welcome our newest members – **Kate & Dave** - to the Lewis Ski Club! We're excited to have you on board and look forward to sharing great adventures together!



OFF-SEASON ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Thursday, April 9th at 5pm at Burntwood Tavern

5600 Great Northern Blvd., North Olmsted

Come enjoy some food and drink (pay on your own) as we discuss all the fun possibilities to make this the best off-snow season ever! Have your social calendar handy so we can get some fun events scheduled!

Therese

2027 Ski Trips

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN, CALIFORNIA

January 30 – February 6, 2027.

We will fly in/out of **Bishop Airport** and stay slopeside in condos at Juniper Springs with walk-out / lift-off access from the Eagle Express chair.



MT. BACHELOR, OREGON

Dates: March 13 – 20, 2027

Ski a stratovolcano!

We have rooms reserved at the newly remodeled Riverhouse Lodge in Bend.

Word Scramble Answer

Bring the answer to the next meeting for a chance to win a prize!



Holiday Valley

Overnight

Despite some minor inconveniences with check-in process and luggage storage, our first overnight trip to Holiday Valley went very well and I've received very positive feedback since we've returned. A total of 45 people – about equally split between the Suburban and the Lewis Ski Clubs – filled up the bus cargo holds with luggage. I will say I was surprised how some people can fill up a regular size carry-on bag for a single-overnight trip – I don't think we could have crammed anything more under the bus!

On the morning of our departure, we had the rare occurrence of someone meeting the bus at BOTH the west side AND the east side pick-up locations (he had forgotten his ski jacket and raced home and then to the east side, just in time). We arrived at 9:30am, and after individual room check-in and storing luggage for the day, we hit the slopes. The late-February timing was perfect, as the area was 100% open (and “some guys” went beyond that, finding off-piste skiing in the woods) and had excellent snow conditions.

After skiing, our group quite literally grew very close, as we filled up the relatively small hot tub. While most of us then took our bus into town for dinner, there were a few folks, dedicated to our sport, who took advantage of the night skiing and had dinner near the Inn. Not that there wasn't room on the bus, but after dinner in Ellicottville, the president of the Suburban Ski Club then walked back to our hotel after dinner in Ellicottville. It's not a bad walk – there are sidewalks the entire distance back to the Inn and it is less than 1 mile, easily manageable for the youngster.

Day 2 began with a full buffet breakfast at the Inn, and then hauling luggage to the storage room before walking out to the adjacent chairlift. After another great day on the slopes, we got a nice group picture on the stairway in the lobby of our hotel (that is Terrian Nowden welcoming everyone in the front of the picture, and I am apparently the only one who noticed the American flag out the window). We left the Inn at 5:30, making a small side trip back into town so that one lucky gal could retrieve her credit card left the previous night at one of the restaurants. With the earlier departure, we arrived back at the west side pick-up at a nice early time of 9:15pm.

Feedback from many people shows many want to do this again next year, with several people suggesting we add a second night and possibly a third day of skiing at Holimont. We will be

considering that, as well as whether our own club would have enough people to make the trip on our own. For this trip, there were waiting lists for both clubs, so we know we could have had even more people going, but people would have to learn to pack less stuff!

Mark

Save the dates

CMSC RACE BANQUET

April 18th

Reinecker's Party Center in Macedonia.

MIDDLE BASS ISLAND MUSIC FEST

July 11th

CMSC GOLF SCRAMBLE

July 26th

CAMPING WEEKEND

Friday-Sunday, August 7th - 9th

(Optional Thursday 8/6 – Monday 8/10)

GUARDIANS ROCK-N-BLAST

Friday, August 14th

Section 446, dollar dogs, \$2 brews and a spectacular fireworks show.

❄️ Lewis Ski Club Takes on Big Sky: The Trip That Had Everything March 21–28, 2026 • Big Sky, Montana • 33 Adventurers, 1 Gas Leak, and Unlimited Sunshine

The Lewis Ski Club descended upon Big Sky Resort for a week of skiing, sunshine, and the kind of unexpected events that make a trip legendary. Our home base was the **Huntley Lodge**, conveniently located next to the Explorer Gondola and, as it turns out, also conveniently located next to a kitchen capable of producing early morning gas leaks. But we'll get to that.

✈️ Saturday: Cowboys, Pizza & a Surprisingly Functional TSA



The trip began with a miracle: **Cleveland Hopkins TSA was fast**. Yes, even during a partial government shutdown. We're still not sure how that happened.

Upon arrival at Huntley Lodge, we were greeted by **cowboys** who unloaded our bags.

We kicked off the week with drinks and specialty pizza at **Vista Hall**, where we carbo loaded like responsible athletes preparing for a week of skiing... or at least a week of trying.



 **Sunday: The Great Pajama Party of 2026**



At 4:09 a.m., the power went out. **At 5:45 a.m.**, the fire alarms went off.

If you've never tried evacuating a hotel in total darkness while half asleep and wearing pajamas that were never meant for public viewing, we highly recommend the experience. It builds character.

Guests were herded to The Exchange to stay warm, then upgraded to The Summit Hotel where **blankets and coffee** were distributed.

Once the food court opened, we were rewarded with breakfast—because nothing says “we’re sorry about the gas leak” like scrambled eggs.



Big Sky staff handled the chaos beautifully and even gifted each room a **\$150 resort credit**, which softened the blow and funded many a souvenir, snack, or après ski beverage.

Our mountain tour was pushed back an hour, giving everyone time to recover from the early morning cardio.

🚠 Skiing, Sunshine & Terrifyingly Transparent Floors

With temps above freezing and sunshine pouring down, Big Sky's fancy heated seats and blue bubble covers were mostly decorative. But they looked cool, so we rode them anyway.

A highlight was **Kirkcliff**, the observation deck atop the Lone Peak Tram. At **11,166 feet**, the glass floor gave us a clear view straight down the fall line of Lone Peak. Some called it exhilarating. Others called it "Nope, absolutely not."



The 360° views included the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone, proving that the scenery alone was worth the elevated heart rate.



Wednesday: Hank, Hero of the Only Snowfall All Week

Midweek brought a Montana avalanche dog demonstration at the mid-station—and finally, someone showed up who took his job *very* seriously.

Enter **Hank**, an avalanche rescue dog with impeccable manners, undeniable charisma, and more professional credibility than anyone else on the trip.

Hank's handler walked us through how avalanche dogs are trained to locate buried skiers quickly and efficiently. Hank, meanwhile, stood by calmly, radiating confidence and silently judging us for needing jackets when it was above freezing.

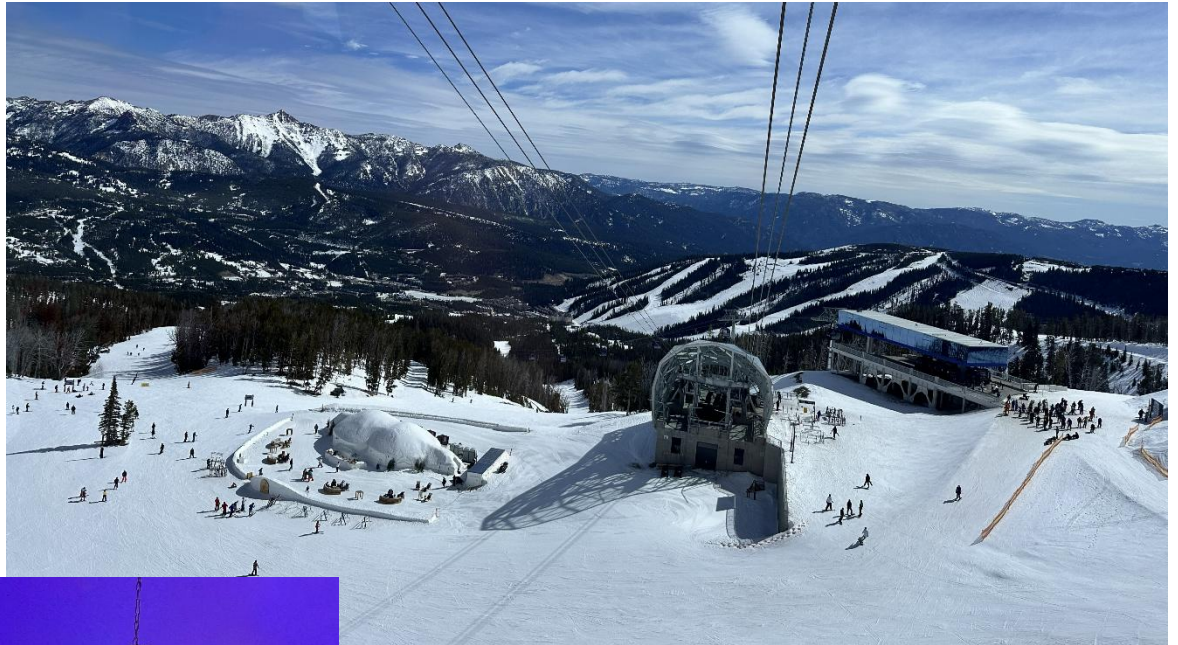


Then, as if on cue, snow pellets fell from the sky. **Actual snow.** Not enough to freshen the runs. Not enough to justify optimism. But officially—and tragically—the **only new snow Big Sky received all week** happened during an avalanche safety demo.

Hank performed flawlessly, accepted enthusiastic applause like the seasoned professional he is, and exited having single-pawedly accounted for 100% of the week's snowfall.

❄️ **Iglu: Because Après Ski Should Be Slightly Ridiculous**

Near the base of the Lone Peak Tram stood **Iglu**, a full-size igloo built from snow and ice by an Austrian company. Inside, we found colorful lights, music, furry blankets, an ice bar, Arhaus furniture, and ice sculptures—basically the world’s fanciest freezer party.



 **Cowboys: Our Handsome Shuttle Service**

The bell staff spent the week chauffeuring guests into town center in their spacious Expeditions. They were rugged, helpful, and photogenic. A winning combination.



Evenings: Warren Miller & Fine Dining

On Monday night, many enjoyed a **Warren Miller film** at Huntley, because nothing motivates you to ski harder than watching professionals do things you absolutely cannot.



Our group dinner at **The Cabin Bar and Grill** delivered upscale comfort food, including steak, tenderloin, chops, and wild game meatloaf.

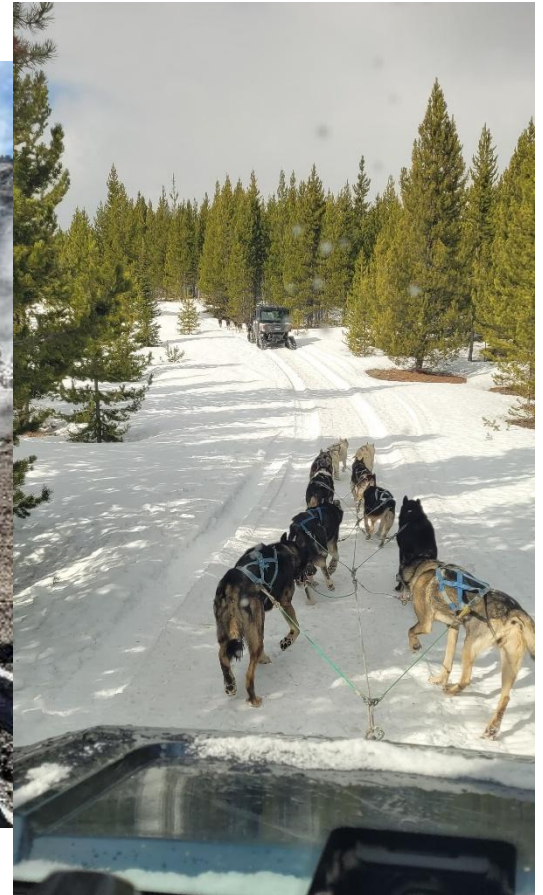


The **Huntley Lodge breakfast buffet** also lived up to its legendary status, fueling us for the demanding task of skiing in sunshine and soft moguls.



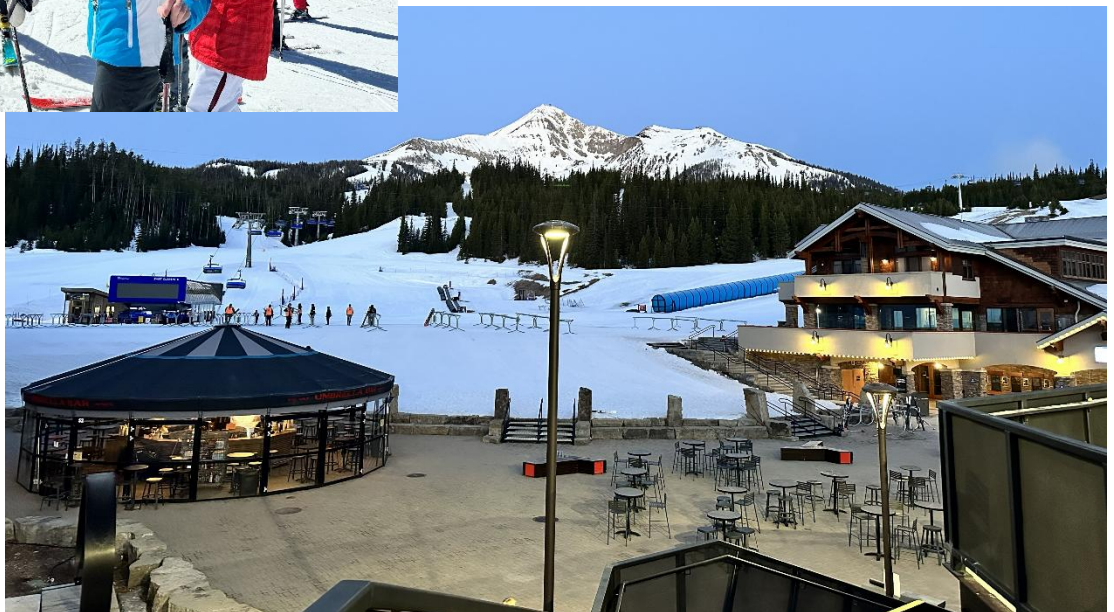
Off Mountain Adventures

Some members ventured into **Yellowstone** for a wildlife tour, while another booked a dog sledding adventure but ended up **dog trekking** instead—because when there's no snow, the dogs simply walk you.



☀️ **Spring Skiing: Big Sky, but Smaller**

With warm temps and bare spots closing some runs, Big Sky was a bit **smaller** than advertised. But softer moguls, blue skies, and our signature **red leg bands** kept spirits high. After all, the best memories aren't made on perfect snow—they're made when things go sideways and everyone laughs anyway.



Final Verdict

Between cowboys, gas leaks, glass floors, igloos, sunshine, avalanche dogs, and a pajama-clad evacuation, this trip had everything. It was chaotic, hilarious, beautiful, and unforgettable—the kind of adventure that sticks with you longer than snow on a south facing slope.



Shari



THANK GOD THE TIKI BAR IS OPEN!

The 2026 CMSC Racer's Banquet (Tiki/Luau Attire Encouraged)

Saturday, April 18, 2026
Cocktails 6:30
Dinner and Awards 7:30

PRESENTED BY



CLEVELAND METRO SKI COUNCIL

Reinecker's Party Center
8575 South Freeway Drive
Macedonia, OH 44067

Open Bar
Music by DJ Larry

HULA HULA!

Cost: \$65 per person. RSVP by April 11th. Cash or check (payable to CMSC Racing)
Mail to: Beth Skalak, 29524 Sylvan Drive, Willowick, OH 44095

Name: _____ Ski Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone/Email: _____ Number of People _____ x \$65.00 = _____

Camping and Boating Weekend—2026

Date: Friday evening, Aug 7 thru Sunday, Aug 9

Check in at 3 pm Friday; Checkout at 1 pm Sunday



Come join us at West Branch State Park for our 9th annual camping weekend. The campsites we reserved are in the shade; no tents baking in the sun! The plan is to repeat the good food and great company from the last **8** years. 5 campsites have been reserved.

Location: West Branch State Park is east of Ravenna, at 5570 Esworthy Rd. It has camping, hiking trails, disk golf, fishing and a marina. One of the boat launches is close to the campground.

Bring your own camping gear and cooking gear, beverages and food. The **\$37 fee per person** will cover the campsites for Friday and Saturday nights. If more than the breakeven number of participants sign up, firewood and Friday night subs will be provided by the club—as funds allow. This is the same price as last year.

There will be at least three kayaks to share: two singles and a tandem. It's likely another 3 kayaks will be brought by other campers as well.

Campsites allow up to 3 tents, or 2 tents and a camper, and 2 cars per site. Pets are allowed, although they can't be left unattended. (Small dogs will fit in the tandem.) For more information, contact the Activity VP. Reservations can be made at the lewisskiclub.org website.

Reservations by July 6 are strongly suggested, as unclaimed sites will be released the next day.



Lewis Ski Club Membership is required. Please see the Membership Page for more information.