



Minutes of the Fall 2024 Meeting

Date: November 9, 2024

Location: Turf Valley Resort, MD plus Zoom access

Host Club: Columbia Ski Club - Ellen Wagner coordinator

Attendees: The attendance list is available on [this link](#).

Call to Order

Steve Peirce, (Pentagon) President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Steve welcomed the 32 delegates representing the 13 clubs and the five tour operators attending: Adam Burns and Andrea Lovesz of Skican, John Frasca of Ski.com and Joe Ferrara and Clay Corcimiglia of Banchi Outdoor Adventures. Mike and Sheri Agnew attended via ZOOM. Bruce Rankin of Whitetail also attended

Executive Committee Reports

- **Secretary's Report:** Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) previously emailed the minutes from the spring meeting to all representatives. There were minor corrections made and the minutes were again sent out prior to the meeting. There were no additional changes or corrections requested. Dina Zeese (Pentagon) moved and Linda Steele (GEOINT) seconded to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2024 Spring meeting as e-mailed to the council. The motion passed.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Bill Ferguson (Columbia) Treasurer, introduced himself and thanked Gary Rubens (SCWDC) for a job well done. Bill assumed the Treasurer position just prior to the fall meeting as Gary had resigned in August. He reported the club has a small amount of savings.
- **Website Report:** Ken Eng (SCWDC) Webmaster reported 32 trips had been sanctioned by 8 of the 22 member clubs. He has had trouble with Amazon links disappearing and asks all clubs send in live links or pdf files for accuracy

Old Business

- **2025 Winterfest Update (Killington, Vermont):** Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore) and Joe Ferrara (Banchi) introduced Clay Corcimiglia who is a new partner with Banchi Outdoor Adventures. Clay brings in youth and a new perspective. Joe

talked about the success of the program which began in 2016 with Lake Placid, New York and is now in it's tenth year. It has achieved a high of 123 participants and has had a low of 68. Killington presently has five clubs signed up with 62 participants staying at the Killington Mountain Lodge. A midweek trip to Pico will be arranged. The participating clubs are Baltimore, Columbia, Richmond, GEOINT and SCWDC. Rooms are still available. A FAM trip is offered December 12 - 15. 3 night/2 days with social activities. Contact Dave Karczmarek if interested in going. The 2026 venues under consideration are: Sugarloaf, Quebec City, Jay Peak and Tremblant. It will be held the first week of March.

- **Bruce Rankin of Whitetail:** Bruce gave a short appeal for ski instructors to join Vail Resorts at Whitetail. Benefits include free Epic passes for employees and dependents and a 40% discount on food and lodging.
- **2025 Western Carnival (Park City, Utah):** Bill Ferguson (Columbia) Trip Coordinator explained how the trip was delayed from the start as properties presented at the bid were not actually available due to the Sundance Festival. Airline seats were difficult for some clubs to secure. The result is we have low sign ups and do not meet the minimum number required for our food and beverage commitments. We have only 95 signed up and the bid was for 200-250. Mike Agnew (GTS) reported talks were very complicated and we needed at least 150 people so as not to raise prices and cancel events. The person he was working with at Vail Resorts has left the company and he is trying to work with another person to mitigate damages. He reported we need at least 110 people as Legacy Lodge has a minimum just to rent the facility. We are booked at venues that can not be cancelled without major penalties. He plans to cancel the Apré Ski.
- **2025 Eurofest (Chamonix, France):** Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) and Sheri Agnew (GTS) reported great success with Chamonix with six clubs signed up with 187 base trip participants and 64 on the extension. The clubs are Columbia, GEOINT, Mogul, Pentagon, Richmond and SCWDC. Agnese and Marco will be on the ground when we land. The Euro is holding steady so no increase in pricing is expected.

New Business

- **2026 Bids for Eurofest (Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy)** - Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon), Trip Coordinator. Bids were solicited from Ski.com and Group Travel Simplicity. Ski.com and Group Travel Simplicity provided bids. The vendors were

given 15 minutes to highlight their bids and answer questions. Susie Pumphrey then presented a bid comparison spreadsheet and allowed for discussion. Steve Peirce (Pentagon) BRSC President conducted a vote by a show of hands. John Frasca of Ski.com was chosen to be the Tour Operator for Eurofest. The date March 14-26, 2026 was chosen by a show of hands.

- **2026 Bids for Western Carnival (Banff, Canada)** - Dina Zeese (Pentagon) Trip Coordinator. Bids were solicited from Skican and Group Travel Simplicity. Both vendors presented bids for Banff. Each vendor was given 15 minutes to highlight their bids and answer questions. Dina then presented a bid comparison spreadsheet and allowed for discussion. Steve Peirce (Pentagon) BRSC President conducted a vote by a show of hands. Adam Burns and Andrea Lovesz of Skican were chosen to be the Tour Operators for Western Carnival Banff to be held January 31-February 7, 2026. The more exclusive Sulfur Mountain Farewell Dinner was chosen by a show of hands.
- **Election Committee for Vice President ,Treasurer and Secretary at Spring Meeting 2024:** Steve Peirce (Pentagon) volunteered for and was accepted to chair the Election Committee for Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Anyone wishing to run or to nominate another should contact Steve.
- **2027 Western Carnival:** Breckenridge remains the preferred venue for Western Carnival 2027. Ron Kaltenbaugh noted it's good venues, properties and easy air into Denver.
- **2027 Eurofest** Drei Zinnen, Italy (3Peaks) was chosen as the venue for Eurofest for it's good location next to Austria and good pricing as it is in Italy. John Frasca (ski.com) also noted it was a good venue for non skiers as one could take a train to Bolzano or visit Cortina.
- **Spring Meeting 2026:** The next meeting to be held the first week of May to support the Paul Weber Ski Show.
- **Topics from the Floor:** Dave Karczmarek suggested developing a summary sheet filled out by vendors for easy reading of bids. He warns clubs to look out for additions in contracts that were not in the bid,
- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:16 pm

Decision Summary

- Tremblant, Jay Peak, Quebec City and Sugarloaf are possible venues for Winterfest 2026.
- John Frasca, Ski.com chosen to be the Tour Operator for the BRSC Eurofest 2026 to be held March 14 - 21, 2026.
- Adam Burns and Andrea Lovesz of Skican were chosen to be the Tour Operators for the BRSC Western Carnival Banff 2026 to be held January 31 - February 7, 2026.
- Steve Peirce to chair the Election Committee for Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- Breckenridge was chosen as the preferred venue for the Western Carnival 2027.
- Drei Zinnen was chosen as the preferred Eurofest venue in 2027
- Spring meeting to be held the first week of May, 2025. Coordinator needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Pumphrey
Secretary BRSC
November 24, 2024