



Minutes of the Spring 2024 Meeting

Date: May 18, 2024

Location: Mountain Branch Golf Course, 1827 Mountain Rd., Joppa, MD. 21085

Host Club: Baltimore- Dave Karczmarek, Eileen Karczmarek and Mary Rose Cook Coordinating

Attendees: The [Attendance List](#) is available on this link.

Call to Order

Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore) Vice President, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am. Steve Peirce (Pentagon) President welcomed the 42 club delegates representing 15 clubs, and five industry professionals including: Mike & Sheri Agnew, Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity; Joe Ferrara and Clay Corcimiglia, Banchi Outdoor Adventures and Doug Horstman, Encompasse.

2024 Ski Trip Presentations

- **2024 Winterfest (Sunday River, Maine):** Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore) and Joe Ferrara (Banchi Outdoor Adventures) were pleased to announce a successful Winterfest. 100 people from seven clubs stayed at the Jordan Hotel and enjoyed the ski-in/ski-out location. The seven clubs were Baltimore, Club Crabtowne, Columbia, GEOINT, Salisbury, SCWDC and Pentagon.
- **2025 Winterfest (Killington, Vermont):** The next trip is scheduled for March 2-7, 2025 at Killington, Vermont. The lodging will be the Killington Mountain Lodge. There are 70 rooms reserved. Baltimore and Columbia have both signed on. The trip will be round trip motor coach, Sunday through Friday, with an included 4 day lift pass. Daily breakfast will be included along with three social programs including a full dinner on Thursday. The 2026 locations being considered are Jay Peak and Sugarloaf, both in Vermont.
- **2024 Western Carnival (Lake Tahoe, California):** Mark Jones (Baltimore) and Doug Horstman (Encompasse). 206 participants from 8 clubs experienced great food, drinks, events and snow conditions. The clubs are Baltimore, Columbia, Harford, Mogul, Peninsula, Pentagon, SCWDC and Sun, Snow and Surf. 2/3 of the participants stayed at Harveys Casino Hotel and 1/3 stayed in Condominiums. Day trips to Northstar and Kirkwood were rescheduled for the end of the week in compliance with the weather. The event coordination improved from the first to the last. Extra food had been called in at the Après Ski. Mark pointed out there was plenty of food at the Farewell Dinner but it took over an hour to go through the buffet lines using 2 serving lines and two drink stations.
- **2024 Eurofest (Kitzbühel, Austria):** Mary-Jo Swinimer (SCWDC) took 70 participants from three clubs to Kitzbühel, Austria. The clubs were SCWDC,

Richmond and Baltimore. They enjoyed a Welcome Party, an Après Ski Party and a Farewell Dinner. There was plenty of snow at the top but lower conditions were not so great. Some people enjoyed day-trips to Salzburg and Innsbruck.

- **Discussion on Event Costs:** Steve Peirce (Pentagon) led a discussion concerning the astronomical costs of events despite the fact that we had eliminated the drink tickets. Steve Pierce moved to eliminate the mid-week Après Ski Party and only have 2 events, the Welcome Party and Farewell Dinner. The motion passed by a show of hands.

Executive Committee Reports

- **Secretary's Report:** Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) previously emailed the October 28, 2023 meeting minutes. Having no request for change or correction Ron Kaltenbaugh (Frederick) moved to accept the minutes as written. Mary-Jo Swinimer (SCWDC) seconded and all approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Gary Rubens (SCWDC) reported a balance of over \$28,297.82. Dues are due at the spring meeting.
- **Webmaster's Report:** Ken Eng says the website is up and running albeit dated a bit. The 23-24 season had 30 trips sanctioned from 10 different clubs. He has been monitoring website usage and noted there were 800 hits in August and 1000 hits in December. Ken is presently working on a history list of past trips, coordinators and clubs.

Old Business:

- **2025 Western Carnival (Park City):** Bill Ferguson (Columbia) and Mike Agnew (WSS/GTS) reported six clubs representing 188 pillows have signed up for the 2025 Western Carnival in Park City, Utah. The clubs are Columbia, Club Crabtowne, Fredericksburg, Peninsula, Pentagon and SCWDC. This trip will include three BRSC events. Delays in securing the venue were caused by the Sundance Film Festival but there is room for more participants if another club would like to join.
- **National Ski Council:** Peter Porton reported on his inquiry into the National Ski Council Federation. The Blue Ridge Ski Council was one of the founding members in 1999 and continues to pay the yearly dues. Peter found the Federation works more with the ski industry and his inquiries were met with no answer from several board members. Jo Simpson, the Public Relations officer said they could not offer any help with lift tickets. Mike Agnew (WSS/GTS) suggested they turn their focus and become an advocacy group for skiers.
- **2025 Eurofest (Chamonix):** Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) and Sheri Agnew (WSS/GTS) reported 6 clubs representing 183 pillows have signed up for Eurofest. The clubs are Columbia, GEOINT, Mogul, Pentagon, Richmond and SCWDC. There are many day trips available and Agnese, Luca and Julia will be the ground crew. The Welcome Party will be held at the Alpina Hotel, The Après

at a Brasserie Terrace and the Farewell dinner are scheduled at the Hotel Lykke. The extension to Nice and the French Riviera includes guide, bus and meals.

2026 Venue Review

- **2026 Western Carnival Banff:** Banff continues to be the venue of choice for 2026. The Fairmont no longer offers a split trip between Banff Springs and the Chateau. Mike Agnew (WSS/GTS) suggests the Banff Park Lodge or the Caribou Lodge or the Moose Lodge for good value. Ski Big 3 also offers good value on lift tickets. The preferred date is the first full week of February or if a good offer the week prior will be considered.
- **2026 Eurofest/Asiafest:** Dave Karczmarek presented the results of a survey taken after the last meeting to determine interest in a BRSC trip to Japan in 2026. Four voted for Europe, two for Japan and four not applicable. It was noted Europe would be a lower cost trip. Madonna de Campiglio was selected by a show of hands. The preferred date will be be mid March, 7 - 14 or 14 - 21 to avoid the Winterfest timeframe.
- **Alpine X:** Bruce Rankin and Brian Beaumont from the advisory board of Alpine X gave the representatives of the Blue Ridge Ski Council an update on the progress of the new indoor 24/7 ski facility to be built at the Lorton landfill. The design is complete and the letter of intent to build has been submitted, The name will be Fairfax Peak and is scheduled to open Fall of 2025.

New Business:

Ski Trip Coordinators for 2026

- **2026 Western Carnival Banff:** Dina Zeese (Pentagon) was selected as Trip Coordinator for the Western Carnival Banff 2026, to take place the first full week of February, Feb 7-14 or alternatively Jan 31- Feb 7, 2026.
- **2026 Eurofest Madonna de Campiglio:** Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) was selected to coordinate the Eurofest Madonna de Campiglio 2026. To take place March 7 - 14, 2026. Alternate date: March 14-21, 2026.

Council Election: Dave Karczmarek - Election Committee Chair

- Steve Peirce was reelected to another two year term as President by a vote of acclimation.

New Business Continued

- **Western Carnival Future Destinations 2027 and beyond:** Breckenridge was decided upon for 2027 by a show of hands.
- **Eurofest Future Destinations 2027 and beyond:** Five destinations are up for consideration. Tignes, France; Zermatt, Switzerland; Cervinia, Italy; Les Arcs, France and Drei Zinnen, Italy

New Topics from the floor

- **Fall Meeting:** The host club will be Columbia with Ellen Wagner and Bill Ferguson coordinating.
- **Spring Meeting:** TBD. It was noted Paul Weber will be continuing his PRW ski show the first week of May.
- **Phil and Steve Mahre Ski Camps:** Ron Kaltenbaugh (Frederick) recommended hiring the Myer brothers to come on your trip and run a private ski camp for your club. Frederick Ski Club did this a found it to be a great learning experience.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Decisions Summary

- The mid-week Après Ski Party has been eliminated due to rising costs of events. The Blue Ridge Ski Council will now have two events on the Western Carnival and Eurofest trips, the Welcome Party and Farewell Dinner, both to be full meals with a cash bar.
- Banff was chosen as the venue for the 2026 Western Carnival. Dina Zeese (Pentagon) was chosen as the Trip Coordinator.
- Madonna de Campiglio was chosen as the venue for 2026 Eurofest. Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) was chosen as the Trip Coordinator.
- Breckenridge, Colorado was chosen as the venue of choice for The Western Carnival 2027.
- Five destinations are up for consideration for the 2027 Eurofest. Tignes, France; Zermatt, Switzerland; Cervinia, Italy; Les Arcs, France and Drei Zinnen, Italy
- Elections Results: Steve Peirce was re-elected as President

Addendum: The meeting was cut short by a bridal shower making it difficult to hear anything. The vendors were not specified. Doug Horstman has chosen not to bid. The Western Carnival Request for Proposal will be sent to Adam Burn of Ski.Can who requested the opportunity to bid and Sheri and Mike Agnew of Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity. The Eurofest Request for Proposal will be sent to John Frasca of ski.com and Sheri and Mike Agnew of Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Susie Pumphrey
 Secretary BRSC
 June 18, 2024