



Minutes of the Spring 2023 Meeting

Date: May 6, 2023

Location: Wildfire Tysons Restaurant, McLean, VA

Host Club: Pentagon Ski Club - Steve Peirce and Susie Pumphrey Coordinating

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

Call to Order

Steve Peirce (Pentagon) President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Steve welcomed the 41 club delegates representing 16 clubs, and five industry professionals including: Mike & Sheri Agnew, Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity; Joe Ferrara, Banchi Outdoor Adventures; Doug Horstman, Encompasse and John Frasca, Ski.com.

2023 Ski Trip Presentations

- **2023 Winterfest (Whiteface/Lake Placid):** Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore) and Joe Ferrara (Banchi Outdoor Adventures) declared a home run with Whiteface, Lake Placid, New York. 104 people from seven clubs stayed at the High Peaks resort and enjoyed skiing Whiteface and Gore Mountain. The seven clubs were Baltimore, Club Crabtowne, Columbia, Fagowees, GEOINT, Peninsula and Pentagon.
- **2024 Winterfest (Sunday River, Maine):** The next trip is scheduled for March 3-8, 2024 at Sunday River, Maine. The lodging will be the Jordan Hotel. 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.
- **2023 Eurofest (Club Med Val d'sere, France):** Mary-Jo Swinimer (SCWDC) and Doug Horstman (Encompasse). 75 participants from 5 clubs experienced great food, drinks, guides, events and snow conditions. Columbia, GEOINT, Potomac Valley Skiers, SCWDC and Snow Searchers attended the first all-inclusive Eurofest at Club Med. Although everyone had a wonderful time it was felt that Club Med would be difficult to run with more than 75 participants as the tour operator could not talk directly to the hotel but had to go through stateside representatives..

- **2023 Western Carnival (Crested Butte, Colorado)**: Ron Kaltenbaugh (Frederick) and Doug Horstman (Encompasse) reported great weather and conditions at the 2023 Western Carnival in Crested Butte. We had 202 participants despite limited air and difficulties working with Vale resorts. The participating clubs were Baltimore, Frederick, Frederickburg, GEOINT, Pentagon, Richmond and SCWDC. The seven clubs gave an overview of a very challenging Western Carnival. Food was immediately a problem as it has been at previous year's Welcome Party and Après Ski.
- **Discussion on Event and Drink Tickets**: Ron Kaltenbaugh (Frederick) led a discussion on food and drink. It has been the general consensus that the Welcome function and now especially at Crested Butte the food does not get to all of the participants. It has been noted that over the years certain people tend to gather at the entry point of delivery and load their plates excessively while others get nothing. It was also noted that the price of alcoholic drinks has become so extreme that it now limits the amount of food in a budget. Crested Butte charged the tour operator \$16 a drink after paying \$12 per drink plus 12% and 22% in additional charges. Steve Peirce (Pentagon) moved to make the Welcome Party and the Farewell Party plated dinners with a fixed menu with limited choices. We will away do with drink tickets and offer a cash bar. The Après Ski could be boxed wine and a keg of beer. Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) seconded and a discussion ensued. Ron Kaltenbaugh chose to simplify the proposal and proposed we eliminate drink tickets at all functions and offer a cash bar only with an offer of free non alcoholic beverages of some kind available. Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore) seconded and the motion passed by a show of hands. Ron Kaltenbaugh (Frederick) then moved that for the Welcome Party and the Après Ski all food distribution will be supervised. Gary Rubins seconded and the motion passed by a show of hands.

Executive Committee Reports

- **Secretary's Report**: Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) previously emailed the September 24, 2022 meeting minutes. There was a minor typo which was corrected. Having no additional request for change or correction Jay Crouthers (Club Crabtowne) moved to accept the the minutes. Steve Peirce (Pentagon) seconded and all approved.
- **Treasurer's Report**: Gary Rubens (SCWDC) reported a balance of over \$30,000. He explained to the council his method of maintaining a running total on a spreadsheet and that he forwards all bank statements to the BRSC officers.
- **Webmaster's Report**: Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) reported Mike Calo (Club Crabtowne) Webmaster was stepping down and asked for a volunteer to take over as Webmaster. Ken Eng volunteered for and was appointed to the position of

Webmaster. Ken will be reviewing our website and make recommendations for going forward.

Old Business:

- **2024 Western Carnival (Lake Tahoe):** Mark Jones (Baltimore) and Doug Horstman (Encompasse) reported that nine clubs representing 300 pillows have signed up for the 2023 Western Carnival in Lake Tahoe. The clubs are Baltimore, Columbia, Fredericksburg, Harford, Mogul, Peninsula, Pentagon and SCWDC. Six clubs will be staying at Harveys and 3 clubs will be staying at the Forest Inn. Air is presenting a challenge. 80% of participants will be flying into Sacramento with the remainder flying into Reno. Mark was in Heavenly this year and informs us that day lockers are available by the gondola as well as the bus station. One could walk down in street shoes and change. He recommends this trip especially for non skiers as there is plenty of dining and entertainment. Doug will be sending out a poll to gauge interest for day trips to Kirkwood and/or Northstar.
- **2024 Eurofest (Kitzbühel):** Mary-Jo Swinimer (SCWDC) and John Frasca (Ski.com) reported 4 clubs representing 129 pillows have signed up for Eurofest. The clubs are Baltimore, Pentagon, Richmond and SCWDC. John has secured most air seats but is still waiting on some as present air is almost double what was projected. Clubs should now plan their pre or post trips. A day trip to Innsbruck could be added. There would need to be 20-40 participants for a good price on the bus.
- **Rotating Destination Schedule:** Ron Kaltenbaugh (Frederick) presented a spreadsheet displaying major destinations out west, color coded as to pass affiliation, primary airport and council suitability. Ron explained his method and ranking system. Steve Peirce (Pentagon) reminded the council of the need for a back up plan due to some resorts, like Steamboat raising their rates beyond our reach.

2025 Venue Review

- **2025 Western Carnival Park City:** The council began their 2025 venue selection. Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) passed out the ballots. Dave Karczmarek (Baltimore) verified the results. Park City was the first choice. If found unsuitable the trip coordinator will move on to the second choice Breckenridge followed by the third choice Banff. The preferred dates are Feb 1 - 7. Alternative dates with significant savings will be considered.
- **2024 Eurofest Chamonix:** Chamonix remains the preferred venue for Eurofest 2025. The preferred dates are Mar 1 - 8. Alternative dates with significant savings will be considered.

New Business:

Ski Trip Coordinators for 2025

- **2025 Western Carnival:** Park City. Bill Ferguson (Columbia) was selected as Trip Coordinator, to take place Feb 1 - 7, 2025. It was determined by a show of hands that bids will be accepted from Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity, Ski.com and Encompass Tours.
- **2025 Eurofest:** Chamonix - Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) was selected to coordinate. To take place March 1 - 8, 2025. Alternate date: March 8-16, 2023. A show of hands determined Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity, Ski-Com and Alpine Adventures will be invited to bid.

Council Election: Steve Peirce - Election Committee Chair

- Dave Karczmarek, Vice President, Gary Rubens, Treasurer and Susie Pumphrey, Secretary were reelected to another two year term as President by a vote of acclimation.

Steve Peirce attended the Mountain Travel Symposium this year representing the BRSC.

New Business Continued

- **Western Carnival Future Destinations 2026 and beyond:** Breckenridge and Banff were suggestions.
- **Eurofest Future Destinations 2026 and beyond:** Ken Eng led a discussion on the possibility of going to Hakuba followed by Kyoto and Hiroshima. He suggested developing a ski trip with cultural activities along with the ski activities.

New Topics from the floor

- **Fall Meeting:** Wintergreen, Virginia, was selected for October 28, 2023. Karen Noakes (Richmond) coordinating.
- **Spring Meeting:** TBD Dave Karczmarek and Mary Rose Cook (Baltimore) coordinating.
- **Early vs Later Scheduling:** Mike Agnew (WSS/GTS) and Doug Horstman (Encompasse) agreed that clubs were booking early and it wasn't necessary at all resorts. Clubs are being stuck with hotel rooms and are unable to obtain suitable air. They recommend waiting until the air can be booked with the lodging. They

also recommend the use of a tour operator from the very beginning instead of trying to book the lodging independently.

- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Decisions Summary

- Drink tickets have been eliminated for all functions. A cash bar will be offered as well as free soft drinks of some kind.
- All food will be supervised at the Welcome Function and Après ski.
- Ken Eng (SCWDC) appointed to Webmaster
- Bill Ferguson (Columbia) was chosen as the Trip Coordinator of Western Carnival 2025 to Park City. Bids will be accepted from Encompass and Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity and Ski.com.
- Susie Pumphrey (Pentagon) was chosen as the Trip Coordinator of Eurofest 2025 to Chamonix, France. Bids will be accepted from Alpine Adventures, Ski.Com and Winter Ski and Sport/Group Travel Simplicity.
- Elections Results: Dave Karczmarek reelected as Vice President, Gary Rubens reflected at Treasurer and Susie Pumphrey reelected as Secretary.
- Breckenridge and Banff were selected as possible venues for the 2026 Western Carnival.
- Japan remains the preferred venue for the 2026 Eurofest.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Pumphrey
Secretary
June 2, 2023