



# Cold Tales

Sitzmark Ski Club, P.O. Box 386 Libertyville, Illinois 60048  
[www.sitzmarkskiclub.com](http://www.sitzmarkskiclub.com)

April 2012

## The Prez Sez...

*Your Fearless Leader, Lori Kushar*

Spring is here and some of our lucky members are still finding places to ski. Good for them! The rest of us are getting ready for non-snow related fun like camping, golfing, boating, hiking etc... SO, with that in mind, let's get ready to submit some fun & exciting ideas of things the club should do while waiting for winter again. Contact anyone one of us on the board if you have a great idea... or better yet, attend the Post Party Planning Picnic on Sunday, 4/29. We need ideas (and leaders) for day trips, weekend trips, events/festivals and Barhop locations, preferably with outdoor seating. The PPPP will be at Keith's home in Antioch. Time is 1:00. See more details in this issue.

On Saturday, 4/28, the night before the PPPP is our annual Awards Banquet. If you haven't mailed your check yet, don't delay! Contact our VP, Jeanne Leone ASAP if attending. See the flier in this issue for details. Don't miss the array of "awards" that will be given out to those individuals who earned a spot in Sitzmark glory this past year. Always a fun time.

Another tradition happening soon is the CMSC Trip Seminar on Saturday, May 19th. Attending this year will be Dawn (Ski Mistress) and me. We will be gathering info on resorts and meeting with a few reps to help secure discounted pricing. One idea for this upcoming ski season will be to have an impromptu trip, organized by members, not tour operators. If you are interested in researching a ski trip for the club, please contact the board. More to follow on that during our next club meetings.

Speaking of meetings, starting in June, there will only be ONE meeting each month for the summer, June, July and August. (1st Wed. for June and August, July mtg. TBD) We will resume 2 meetings again in September.

Thanks again to my fellow board gals & guy for handling all the meetings the past nine months while I was attending massage therapy school. *Many, many thanks!*



## Sitzmarkers at Wolves Game

### Sitzmark Board

President	<b>Lori Kushar</b>
Vice President	<b>Jeanne Leone</b>
Secretary	<b>Dawn Ahlgren</b>
Treasurer	<b>Keith Schniering</b>
Membership	<b>Glen Betlinski</b>
Newsletter	<b>Susan Peterson</b>
Regional VP for CMSC	<b>Dawn Ahlgren</b>
Skimeister	<b>Dawn Ahlgren</b>
Webmaster	<b>Carol Janssen</b>



Please join the **Sitzmark Ski Club Group** (click to link) on Facebook! You can RSVP for events, share events with friends, view pics, and see updates of the Club!

Note: The names of Sitzmark Members are bold in each story - first instance only.

# Steamboat Springs, CO



## CMSC Chicago Week Feb 25–Mar 3

*Your Fearless Leader, Lori Kushar*



What can I say? All of us who attended this year's Chicago Week were treated to an amazing amount of fresh powder in a winter where the white stuff was truly scarce. Prior to our arrival, Steamboat had been receiving healthy amounts of snow that totaled about 7 or more feet. After our arrival, it didn't stop much at all. Our first day, Saturday, was clear. Good thing since our departure time had been rudely pushed up to 5:50 a.m. and none of us wanted to have our travel day extended due to weather delays. So, since most of us were flying out of Milwaukee, a few of us decided it would be better to stay the night on Friday near the airport. Rich Blattner found a killer deal at the Super 8, which included the comfort of leaving our cars there and use of the hotel shuttle (door-to-door). After a deep 4 to 6 hour sleep/nap, Saturday morning came UBER early (pre-sun) and our group of Dawn, Keith, Rich, Sharon & Martin, Patrick and me sniffed out the coffee and dragged our tired but excited butts onto our packed shuttle. Checking in wasn't too bad and nobody had a cavity search performed, although I did get pulled

aside in security for a "suspicious" looking package in my backpack. The TSA gentleman was very polite and escorted me to the "searching area" and proceeded to rummage through my pack. A minute of searching prompted the agent to crack a smile and chuckle. He said, "I think I found the problem", and pulled out my "suspicious weapon" (aka my banana that I had put inside a bottle koozie for safe-keeping). We all had a good laugh and no further hunt for "weapons" was needed. We all met up with Terry Kinney, Richard Sitt and his buddy Ken Schulen at the gate, where we all had (more) coffee and some breakfast. Just before boarding time would normally start, Frontier made an announcement that 30 people will need to give up their seats due to a down-size in our plane. (Good grief!)



*Note: All of those mentioned in this article are Sitzmarkers.*

Luckily, nobody in our group had issues, but it took forever to get going with loading.

When we finally landed in Denver, the sun was warm & shining and nobody's luggage was lost. But the thrill of an early arrival wore off while we waited, and waited....and waited for our bus. A couple hours later, once we got moving the ride was fun. Our usual stop at Applejacks was very efficient and people got back in the 30 minute time allowance with booze and lunches. On our way to Steamboat,



Dawn was in contact with our Colorado resident's, Judy & Bob Ruuhela. Judy warned us that high gusty winds of up to 70 mph were happening. Our trusty driver seemed to have no problems but it was not something I would want to drive in. By the time our group arrived at La Casa condos (last stop), our other members who left later than us, were already there checked in. Barb Mueller, Tom Justus and his grandson Jake had already made themselves at home. Our last arrival of the day/night would be Mark Camera, who was renting a car and driving up.

In keeping with true skier fashion, everyone had some cocktails while unpacking and talking about the great snow that awaited us. A few of us in



my unit, were having our demo rentals delivered that night, so we wouldn't have the hassle of going to the ski shop in the morning and battling the crowds. What a great service!! The 2 guys came with skis and tools to fit us all, and in no time we were all set! Never having to leave our condo!

After such a long travel day, the sound of growling stomachs was heard. Our dinner group of about 10 commenced to trekking to a local favorite pub for dinner. Upon our arrival we realized that just about the rest of CMSC (250) had the same idea. With a wait time of approximately 1 hour at most places, our journey resumed and eventually our noses took us to manly restaurant called 8th Street Steakhouse. My group of Dawn, Keith, Rich Blattner, Richard Sitt, Martin, Sharon and Patrick noticed it was a cook your own, but they had other menu selections the chef prepared. Most of us did order the cook-your-own steaks and they were OMG good! What a fun time and a great way to end the night.

Sunday morning arrived and most everyone was out by 9. Almost all of us signed up to do the free mountain tour at 10am. What a great way to see Steamboat and get to know the layout. Our guide was perfect for our first day getting our legs primed for the rest of the week. Most everyone skied until about 2 or 3, then headed back to our lovely condos to get ready for the Welcome Reception party that night. Dawn, Terry, Judy and I were helping with selling raffle tickets and souvenir drink-ware, so we got to the Bear River bar about 6:30 to get set-up. Patrick came along with us gals and was immediately put to work by CMSC trip leaders, Sue Finis and Rick Drew, by assembling an easel, which required tools. By 7:00 the horde of a few hundred anxious skiers started piling in and keeping us gals busy selling and promoting tickets and souvenir boot steins & wine glasses. The party kicked into high gear when the band switched styles from old hokey country tunes (zzzzz) to upbeat songs. Yours truly can't resist good dance music so I made my way out and started a conga line and grabbed



a few unsuspecting partners along the way. Too fun! During the party, Sue and Rick drew names for the raffle winners. Among Sitzmark, we had quite a few winners. Patrick, Dawn, Rich Blattner and I all won a prize. Blattner won 3 First Track lift tickets! He only had 3 raffle tickets! Since Patrick won a First Track ticket, Richie was bribed into giving one of his to me. I found out Patrick "pimped" me out to give him a massage later for the ticket! The night was capped off by



none other than Billy Kidd -- the ambassador to Steamboat and the first U.S. man to win a gold medal in downhill. Billy gave a lovely speech and stuck around to schmooze and sign autographs. I was lucky to have him sign my prize (a silver flask) and pose for a photo. Later that night, things became a bit "fuzzy" since I was given free wine all night... so for details on how my condo group got home, ask Barb or Patrick when you see them.

Monday was a great day of skiing. Gorgeous powder and not too many lift lines. Tonight was the Pub Crawl night so since Dawn, Teri and myself were in charge of it, we had to quit a bit earlier than most. We had to distribute some items to each participating bar and since Mark Camera had a rental car, he

offered to be our driver. What a brave and wonderful man! Thanks Mark for Driving all the Miss Daisies. With that done, we got ourselves ready and met up with some of our group at McKnights Irish Pub to kick-off the Pub Crawl. After some munchies and beers, we went to bar #2 across the street called The Rusted Porch. More drinks and munchies and it was on to bar #3, The Cabin – which was really a bar/lounge in side the Steamboat Grand hotel. We never made it to the other 3 or 4 bars since they were too spread out, so we ended the Crawl there.

Tuesday was race day! I got to the Nastar area early to hand out our clubs' bib numbers and/or get people signed up. The wind was a bit gusty at times but the course was pretty easy. Almost everyone in Sitzmark raced and no one crashed. After racing we headed to our group lunch area which was outside. Having to wait our turn to go in the "hut" felt like forever -- since the wind picked up and was blowing snow all over. Hot food never felt so good! After we filled our tummies, Rick Drew took our group photo. I snapped a few of Rick since he was taking all the pictures and not getting in the photos himself. Popping back in our skis, people split off into small groups and enjoyed the rest of the afternoon picking out their favorite runs. By 3:00 some of us went back to our condos to



get cleaned up for the 1st apres party of the week. At 7:30, many went back to the Bear River Bar & Grill again for free drinks and appetizers. Needing a "real" meal, Mark, Rich Blattner, Patrick and I went to The Truffle Pig (Chicago native chef) to celebrate Rich's B-Day (which was today). Besides lots of laughs, we had a most amazing meal that none of us will ever forget. Google this place and you will drool reading the menu.

Wednesday was our "OFF" day with no CMSC scheduled events. Everyone, except Patrick and I, went skiing. We went to the private club/resort, One Steamboat Grand, and indulged ourselves in a luxurious 90 massage spa treatment. Afterwards, all nice and relaxed, we went to have an amazing sushi lunch at Saketumi. Two thumbs up! After that we went into town to do some shopping and then pick up the clubs' dinner. No sooner had we gotten off the bus than we met up with Mark who was only 1 block away with his "limo". After shopping, Mark drove us over to Mazzola's (another Chicago native chef) restaurant so we could pick-up dinner. Again, Mark was a life-saver! We got back to our unit, which is where the club dinner was being held. Everyone helped get the condo cleaned and prepped for our group arriving shortly. The food was de-lish! Homemade lasagna, fresh Italian sausage and peppers, 2 kinds of salads, bread and I forgot what else. Just when we thought we could eat no more, I brought out a Tres Leche cake in honor of Rich Blattner's birthday. Joe Kus made Rich even happier when he brought over his very smooth tequila. The club dinner party was a fun time. I was being very good not drinking, maybe 1 glass of champagne, since tomorrow Patrick and I (and a few others) would be getting up at 6:00 am for First Tracks.

Thursday: 6:00 a.m. sharp and I was out of bed (Yes! Me!) – and super excited to experience my first ever First Tracks. The snow was deep already but more was falling lightly as Patrick and I got ready. We were in line for the gondola even before Bob and Judy! Once we got out at the top,

Bob and Judy took off because we would hold them up and Bob's rule on powder day is; "NO skiing with friends on powder days." LOL!

I don't blame Bob one bit. I found myself falling a few times in the thigh-high powder trying to get used to the floating effect that most of us Midwest skiers are unfamiliar with. But by my second time going down, I had the rhythm and was smiling ear-to-ear. For those of you who have never experienced first tracks on a really good powder day, it's hard to explain. I can only urge you to do it at least once in your life. The trees were coated with snow, hardly anyone was around, just the sound of my skis "poofing" through the sparkling snow. So quiet... and there was plenty of untracked snow to float through. I was in a deep tranquil daze when I thought I better stop and see if Patrick was still behind me. Being the more experienced powder skier, he had me go first. But there was no Patrick in sight. I waited...and waited. I asked a few lone skiers that passed me by if they had seen a guy in a gray coat. Nope! I started getting worried after about 15 minutes passed, and no sooner had I started leaving him a voice message that I saw him coming down. Turns out he took a nasty spill in some really deep waist high powder. Not only banging his head hard enough to cause stars, (he was wearing a helmet) but losing his skis and having to hunt for them – poor guy. So we headed back down the mountain so he could rest. I didn't have the heart to tell him we were all the way on the other side, so I kept telling him it was only a little further every time we stopped and checked the map. By the time we got down to the base (1 hour or so), we had some lunch with friends. Patrick headed back to the condo while I went out to do a few more runs before calling it



quits. Later on he was feeling a bit better so we joined everyone for the 2nd apres ski party of the week over at the Tug Boat. They had plenty of good appetizers (including a bowl of shrimp that kept getting refilled) and free and discounted drinks. Good times were had by all. Not sure what happened Thursday night afterwards. Since the party was early and only served apps, most of us went our separate ways for dinner. Patrick and I went to the Old Towne Pub where we wanted to eat the first night but was packed. We shared some famous tasty hot wings and had a nice time just the two of us.

Friday came and the snow was doing a start and stop all day. Patrick stayed at the condo to rest, along with Mark and Teri who had gotten colds. The sun wasn't around much all week, but I didn't mind too much. I'd rather have too much snow and no sun, than no snow and too much sun. But hey, that's me.

I did mind the blowing snow when I got stuck trying to get down the mountain with Richie. Visibility got so bad that we had to stop more times than usual. Rich fell in some deep snow but luckily wasn't hurt. It took us twice as long to get down to the base area since we missed a run we needed to take. It was quite the adventure getting down. Just in time for a late lunch, we ate with Martin and Sharon at Saketumi. By 3:00 everyone was back at their

condos getting cleaned up for our big dinner party. This year it was held on the mountain at the top of the gondola in the banquet hall. Beautiful, stunning views of the sunset over Steamboat could be seen outside the floor to ceiling windows on one side of the great room. The dinner was plentiful and delicious. CMSC trip leader (and Sitzmarker), Sue Finis announced the top 5 Nastar winners (no one from Sitzmark), and then pulled some names for raffle prizes. A few from Sitzmark won some fun swag items. After some more announcements and recognitions, the band got under way. Luckily they switched their format from country to rock and pop, otherwise no one would have been dancing.

The party lasted until 11:00 when we had to all download in the gondolas. In our bunch was Dawn, Keith, Barb, Rich B., Joe Kus, Sue, Rick, Mark, Teri, Patrick and me. Since we were not ready to end the night, our little group continued our own party back at my unit. Since it was the last night before departure, there was leftover food and booze that needed to be taken care of. So, we did our due diligence and polished off as much as possible while taking turn telling jokes and stories I can't repeat in this publication. What a blast we all had.

Saturday morning: departure day. No one was ready to leave (I think), at



least not me. No problems returning and we landed on time back in Milwaukee. A few others flew back to O'Hare & Midway. Getting back to our cars and cleaning them off from a weeks worth of ice and snow, was fun compared to the snarl of traffic that was on 94 going south. Luckily I received a text from Dawn (and others called) to warn of the parking lot condition due to construction, and to take the frontage road. Whew! That saved us a major headache getting back home.

So, I hope most of you read my entire re-cap. It was a great week of not only skiing and parties, but getting to know some new people and making new friends. Thanks to Dawn who did the bulk of the trip leader duties and to my condo mates who helped with the club dinner party. Mark your calendars for next year, Feb. 23 – Mar. 2 2013. Chicago Week in Aspen/Snowmass! Sign-ups will start as early as August 2012.



# 2012 Calendar of Events

Jeanne Leone, VP

**Note:** All events subject to change. Please confirm dates with the contact person or VP (Jeanne Leone) Some trips and/or events can be paid for via VISA or MC from our website: [www.sitzmarkskiclub.com](http://www.sitzmarkskiclub.com)

**Watch for the full calendar in the May issue of *Cold Tales!***

May	
May 2 (Wed)	SITZMARK MEETING – 8:00 pm at El Barrio lounge
May 11 (Fri)	Bar Hop – Viva le Vine, Libertyville – see info at right
May 16 (Wed)	SITZMARK MEETING – 8:00 pm at El Barrio lounge
June	
June 6 (Wed)	SITZMARK MEETING – 8:00 pm at El Barrio lounge
June ? (Fri)	Bar Hop – Location and Date TBD
<b>NOTE!</b>	Only one meeting per month in the Summer!

## Friday, May 11 Bar Hop!

Join us for the May Bar Hop at *Viva le Vine* in Libertyville. Meet “around” 6:30pm. They offer an interesting collection of rare old wines, everyday wine, wine gift baskets, wine accessories, hand crafted brew, gourmet foods, and ports.

[www.vlvwine.com](http://www.vlvwine.com)

338 Milwaukee Avenue  
Libertyville, Illinois  
Back door entrance and plenty of parking.



Tickets went on sale to the general public on April 26, 2012. Please remember that donor orders are filled prior to the public sale.

**Online:** Ravinia Festival's online ticketing makes ordering tickets for your favorite performances easier than ever before. It is available 24 hours a day at [www.ravinia.org](http://www.ravinia.org).

**Mail or Fax:** Order your tickets by printing out the printable order form. Fill it out and mail or fax it to:

- Mail: Ravinia Festival, P.O. Box 896, Highland Park, IL 60035
- Fax: (847) 266-0641

**By Phone:** Phone sales begin May 20th, 2012. Order tickets by phone by calling 847-266-5100.

See the *Ravinia Festival* website for detailed information and concert schedules. At the PPPP we will choose concerts for Sitzmark outings, watch your updates!



## Links

**Chicago Events** [www.explorechicago.org/city/en.html](http://www.explorechicago.org/city/en.html)  
**Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council (CMSC)** [www.skicmsc.org](http://www.skicmsc.org)  
**El Barrio Restaurant** [www.elbarriorestaurant.com](http://www.elbarriorestaurant.com)  
**Jim Jake's Ski & Sports Chalet** [www.skiandsportschalet.net](http://www.skiandsportschalet.net)  
**Lake County Forest Preserves** [www.lcfdp.org](http://www.lcfdp.org)  
**REI** [www.REI.com](http://www.REI.com)  
**Ravinia Festival** [www.ravinia.org](http://www.ravinia.org)  
**Williams Ski & Patio** [www.williamsskiandpatio.com](http://www.williamsskiandpatio.com)  
**Winter Ski & Sport** [www.skitherockies.com](http://www.skitherockies.com)

## Sitzmark Ski Club Meetings

Join us for socializing and event information!

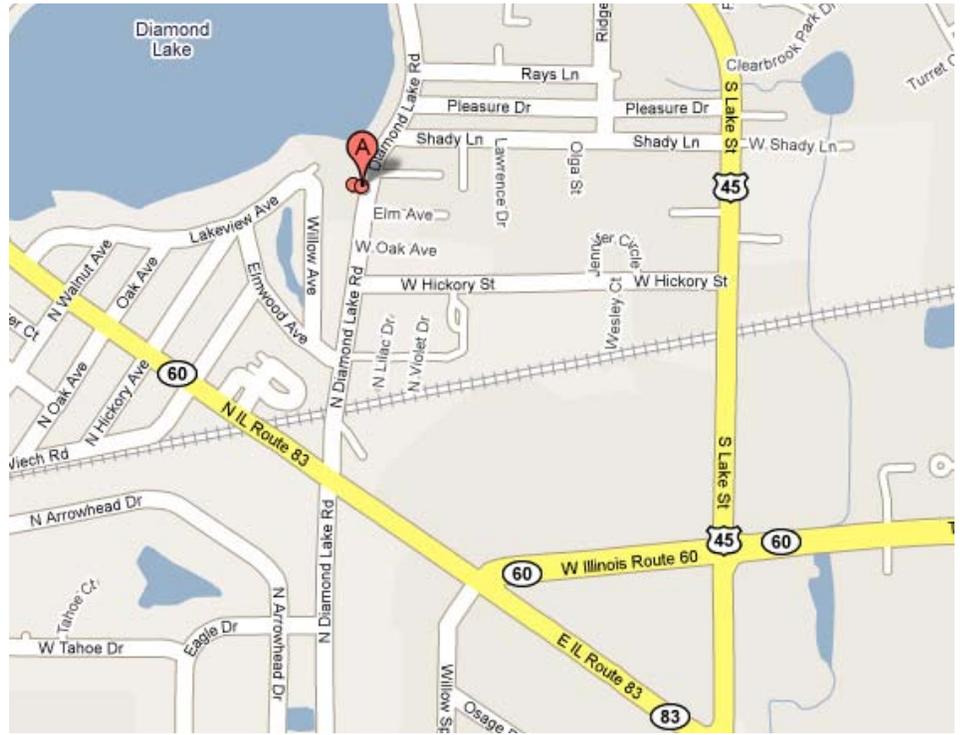
**Where:** El Barrio  
1122 Diamond Lake Rd  
Mundelein, IL 60060

**Day:** 1st & 3rd Wednesday  
of each month

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**Web Site:** [www.sitzmarkskiclub.com](http://www.sitzmarkskiclub.com)

**Contact:** Jeanne Leone, VP  
[jeannel812@att.net](mailto:jeannel812@att.net)



---

**Sitzmark Ski Club**  
PO Box 386  
Libertyville IL 60048

**To:**

---

---

---