

In the second year of Debi Barr-Holquist's presidency the club continued to grow. 2024 was a fabulous year for The Springfield Ski & Travel Club with so many fabulous day and international trips along with party after party! The 2024 SSTC Board, Chairs and Committees really delivered on providing non-stop fun events to members.

The growth of membership and volunteers joining in all the activities/sports/parties/trips was so impressive. It is wonderful to see the coming together of old and new friends to provide members with some very special social activities that truly enrich our lives.

International trips to Playa del Carmen, Mexico; Northern Italy, Prague/Dresden/Berlin were some extremely awesome trips! From the Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea in Mexico to Lake Como/Lake Garda in northern Italy to Vltava River in Czech Republic to the Spree River in Berlin the club traveled some beautiful waters/countries and saw some wonderful sights.

The day trips were plentiful and delightful as well. A Brewpub Tour in Decatur, Josephine's Tea Room/Aerie's Winery, Chicago River Architecture Tour, Michael Jackson Tribute Band at the Devon Amphitheatre, Amish Adventures in Arthur, Lewis and Clark trip with the St. Louis Arch, Moonshine/Casey, IL/Tuscan Hills Winery, and the Glow at the St. Louis Botanical Garden were all sold out trips. Just a wonderful offering of fun, well-attended trips with SSTC members!

SSTC party events were held with record setting participation! The April Sign-Up party, the summer picnic, Fall Sign-Up party, Halloween party and the Christmas party were just a great time with delicious food with good friends. Happy Hours each month were held throughout the town and well attended. Dining out each month was a great success this past year with a variety of new attendees. Special shoutout to Larry Michaud hosting the summer picnic and Roger Schnelten hosting the Oktoberfest!

The sporting activities included: Bocce Ball, Bowling Night, Pickleball, Golf League, Tennis and Walking/Biking. These were very appreciated by all that attended! We also had a 'show and go' event by meeting at the Illinois State Fair for harness racing. SSTC, in partnership with S.K.I. Council offered many ski trips to our members this year. The Community Services included: W. Washington St. cleanup, Parking at the Il. State Fair and bellringing for the Salvation Army.

As our club membership is growing the Board approved an **E-Directory** as a cost-effective way to keep our membership connected with a current listing of our ever-changing membership. The **E-Directory** will be sent to you via e-mail on a quarterly basis to keep you in the know of new members. This will replace the hardcopy directory. When you

receive the **E-Directory** simply place it in a folder on your phone or computer where you can access it 24/7, or you may choose to print a copy.

This list of events/activities is an impressive offering for a nominal membership fee!

Many thanks to all Board Members, Trip Leaders, Committee Chairs, and volunteers for making 2024 such a wonderful SSTC year! From the behind the scenes, but so important, the secretary, treasurer, VP, newsletter chairperson, and webmaster positions have just delivered month after month. The true comradery of this very strong board has just been a real pleasure and honor to create an ever-increasing growing and especially fun club!

All of the individual positive feedback from members grateful for the multitude of events/activities and trips is very much appreciated!