

- HISTORY -

1971-1976

From 1971-1976, the club remained a rather loose-knit organization, offering only a few weekend trips and one weeklong trip to either Colorado or Europe each year. In January of 1976, the planned weeklong trip to Steamboat Springs, Colorado had to be canceled due to insufficient trip signups, and a considerable amount of deposit money was forfeited due to this cancellation. This loss created dissension and several resigned ... the organization almost folded. However, Ed Wolff picked up the pieces and kept the club going.

Ed became the president with Larry Huelsman as vice-president, Pat Bea as secretary and Bill Moehring as treasurer. The club was now associated with the Ski Council of Illinois (SKI) and could acquire valuable information from other clubs, such as the Peoria Ski Club, to initiate a constitution and bylaws. At the end of the 1976-1979 ski season, the club's members were 370.

1977-1978

Under the leadership of Larry Huelsman as president and John Carpenter as vice president, the club grew to 609 members. At this time the club began weekly volleyball games during the summer months. The first happy hour was July 7, 1977 at the Cracked Crock Tavern. The tradition of an annual pig roast and hayride also began this year.

In January 1978, the club offered its first trips to Aspen and Lake Tahoe. Also, two annual beginner ski trips were initiated that year to help new members learn to ski.

1978-1979

With John Carpenter as president and Ken Lazar as vice-president, the club was now solidly organized and began summer trips, such as canoe trips to the Buffalo River in Kansas, Wolf River in Wisconsin, and the Current River in Missouri. At this time the club also held a splash party at the Nelson Center pool, the first Mystery Trip, the first Halloween Party, the first of many "Gong Shows"; Las Vegas nights, and bicycle trips.

In February of 1977, a contest was held to choose a name for the Ski Club's newsletter. John Carpenter won the contest with his suggestions of the name "Snowjourner".

1979-1980

As Ken Lazar moved into the presidency with Larry Huelsman as his vice-president, the tradition of the end-of-the-season-party began. About 150 trip participants attended the first party at Bridgeview Park that year. During Ken's tenure, two people were appointed editors of the Snowjourner, elevating the quality of the newsletter tremendously. In 1980, the club entered CMSC's newsletter contest and tied for first place! The year ended with club membership approaching 800.

1980-1981

Under the tenure of Jeff Foust as president, Warren Atherton as vice-president, and Sandy Kirchner as treasurer, the first family trip was organized. It was also the year that the club chartered its first plane departing from Springfield with 100 people for skiing in Aspen.

1981-1982

Steve Scott as president asked Lew Bird to become treasurer and computerize the club's accounting system. This helped the board run a more efficient and fiscally sound club. It was also in this ski season that the first group of skiers ever became stranded due to extremely cold weather. The group was detained at McDonald's in Wisconsin for seven hours during a blizzard while the bus brake lines could be thawed. (Seems like a familiar story!) This Christmas marked the first annual Christmas party at the Brinkerhoff Home.

1982-1983

During this term, Warren Atherton decided to run for president at the last minute and was elected. The club presented outgoing board member Ken Lazar with a distinguished service plaque for his many contributions to the club for seven consecutive years. In accepting the award, Ken mentioned how much fun the club had given him over the years. In this year, the Snowjourner again tied for first place in the CMSC newsletter competition, thanks to the efforts of editor Linda Ragel and her assistant Judy Lazar.

1984-1985

During Larry Michaud's term, summer outdoor events became a greater part of SSC's routine. Events such as a pig roast, SKI picnic (where the Quincy Ski Club provided a water ski show) and a charitable fund-raising booth at Lincolnfest began. During cooler weather, outdoor activities included a hayrack ride, mystery party, and car rally. The winter skiing schedule included trips to Interlaken, Switzerland and Banff, Canada. For the low cost of \$500, 135 members from various SKI clubs journeyed to Chateau Lake Louise for skiing and nightly complimentary parties.

1985-1986

Bryon Low served as president of the 627 members in the club. Twelve winter and six summer trips were taken, including Beginner I and II trips.

1987-1988

Mel Logsdon served as president and there were 568 members in the club. Eleven winter trips were taken and the number of weeklong trips increased with eight summer trips taken. One issue of the Snowjourner was printed with all the articles upside down or sideways, so the Snowjourner had to be constantly rotated to be read.

1988-1989

Larry Huelsman served as president and there were 588 members. Twelve winter and eight summer trips were taken. The cover of the Snowjourner was printed in red with a Christmas theme. This was the first time the cover had been changed in three and a half years. Summer memberships only were allowed.

1989-1990

Larry Huelsman served as president as there were 666 members. Eleven winter and seven summer trips were taken. SKI sponsored a five day summer cruise. Trip participants' names were printed in the Snowjourner and captions began to appear under the trip pictures.

1990-1991

Chuck Burbridge served as president with 670 members. Five winter and eight summer trips were taken. The club's traditional parties were held again this year.

1992-1993

During the term of Bob Heth, many exciting changes and/or additions to our club took place in the exciting environment of the club's popularity, growth, and renews. Notable events included the addition of three executive board positions: Finance Committee Chairperson, Sports Director, and Historian. In addition, four non-skiing events were added to the plethora of activities sponsored by the SSC: the bowling league, soccer league, ice-skating, and the fall sports festival.

Finally, the long overdue "no smoking on bus trips" policy was defined and enforced. Although this policy was very controversial, it was very popular and made bus travel much more enjoyable and tolerable for the vast majority of ski club members who do not smoke.

1993-1994

The first woman to be elected president was Sandy Frank. She reigned for two terms, during which the club had excellent participation in trips. In fact, no trips were cancelled. The trip list included one to Cortina, Italy on which 72 members participated at the cost of only \$850 for eight nights. Also during Sand's term, the tradition of the Christmas party was re-established at the newly remodeled St. Nick's ballroom.

1995-1996

During the term of Jim Frank, the club sponsored its first white water rafting trip. Under Jim's leadership, the board authorized the purchase of a computer to be used by the club's treasurer, Cindy Moreno, to keep better tabs on finances. During Jim's term the constitution was also amended to increase the number of elected vice presidents to the board.

1996-1998

During Rich Hunter's two year term, the club, for the first time, reached a membership level of over 1000! Under Vice-President of Membership Maria Ferraro's leadership, the membership database was transferred to a new software program, allowing for many more statistical analyses. Under the guidance of Newsletter Editor Diana MacGregor, the club won third place in the CMSC newsletter contest, against hundreds of other clubs. The 25th anniversary of happy hour occurred during Rich's term. The tradition of the August happy hour being held at the State Fair was changed by Rich's board. It became the very successful "winter trip preview" happy hour. This was also the first year for two European trips.

1998-1999

Under Kristi Katcher's leadership, the club continued to expand its membership. Again, international travel increased with trips to Austria and Ireland. Sports remained popular with much of the membership participating in bowling, volleyball, tennis, biking, rollerblading, and golf leagues at Pasfield and Longbridge courses.

1999-2001

During Barry Erlandson's two year term, exciting trips were planned to France, Spain, Canada, Japan, Italy, Poland, and the Midwest and Western United States. Many Ski Club members participated in a cruise to the Caribbean to welcome the millennium. The Springfield Ski Club web site was launched.

2001-2003

During Theresa Boley's presidency, a real effort was given to encouraging members to serve on committees. New contracts were initiated with travel vendors and three bids were obtained for each trip. Winter trips continued to be successful, in spite of the September 11, 2001, tragedy, which slowed national and international travel. A Vice President for Summer Trips position was established, and this person assumed the planning and organization of day trips. Sports and Activities continued to keep the membership busy between trips. Arrangements were made to initiate the Wednesday night golf league at the Rail in the spring of 2003.

2003-2005

During Lynn Bierma's presidency, an annual Member Appreciation Party was developed, which was also used as a new membership drive. Annual participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with Special Olympics participants was also established. Community Services fundraising increased with the addition of 50/50 drawings at our monthly Happy Hours.

2005-2007

During Dennis Bomke's presidency, the approach to Community Services was changed so the fundraising activities were focused on one or two charities that were chosen early in the year. This allowed a better emphasis of the charities throughout the year. A Trivia Night and a Silent Auction were added to increase funds raised for the selected charities. The number of day trips was increased so that one was offered nearly every month in the year.

2007-2009

During Erin Gorman's leadership, the Springfield Ski Club began looking at what needed to be done to gain awareness of the Club, what needed to be done to change with the times, and also to become a club for younger members to join. A very successful Membership Appreciation and Recruitment Party was held again. A new position was added to the Board, VP of Technical Support, who is responsible for updating the website. Efforts were started to convert the Snowjourner to electronic format to allow members the choice to receive either an electronic version or a paper version. The Skier Development and S.K.I. Chairperson positions were combined into one board position. And, for the first time in several years, the SSC made and entered a float for the St. Patrick's Day parade, and WON FIRST PLACE!

2009-2011

During Dave Elder's presidency, several efforts were put into place to increase membership and public awareness of the club. In March 2009, a Membership Appreciation and Recruitment Party was held. The Ski Club created parade floats for both the 2009 and 2010 St. Patrick's Day parade, and won first place both years! The club joined the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and set up a Facebook account to increase awareness of the club. Other activities included a third annual Winter Float Trip on the Huzzah River due of the overwhelming response to the first two trips in 2009 & 2010. A billiards/pool league was established for the members in 2009. As always, the club sponsored several great ski trips, day trips, sporting activities, social events, and monthly dining out & happy hours. As of November 15, 2010, the club had 658 members.

2011-2013

During Ron Miller's presidency, a new vibrant web site was launched which allowed members to sign-up and renew their membership on-line. The social media site, Facebook, was utilized by several members and board members to promote the club, share pictures, and increase awareness of the club's activities. This was the 4th year for the winter float trip at Bass Resort in Steelville, Mo. on the Huzzah River. Members enjoyed the continued traditions of monthly dining out, monthly happy hours, ski trips, day trips, social events, and sporting events such as bowling, billiards/pool, golf, and tennis. As of December 28, 2011 there were 662 members. As of November 2012, membership was at 466.

2013-2015

During Nila Riggs' presidency, the club membership remained steady. Skiers had the chance to ski at Aspen, Vail, and Jackson Hole. More trips were offered as part of day trips, including the Chicago Chocolate Festival, the "Book of Mormon" at the Schubert Theatre, and Christmastime in Hermann, MO. In 2013, the SSC took a spring trip to Germany and Italy. In 2014, the European trip to Prague and Budapest completely SOLD OUT in a matter of hours. Our members always come back with terrific stories from their trips. For the first time in recent history, the SSC offered a FALL European Trip for 2014. As always, the sports leagues consisting of golf, tennis, bowling, and billiards remained popular. The Dining Out Group and Happy Hours were enjoyed by many members too. The 2014 Trivia Night benefited the Make-A-Wish foundation and showed how much our members care about their community. Also, under Nila Riggs' second year as President, the SSC Constitution was amended, and many changes were incorporated. In March 2015, we held a 50/60/70 dance, which was a huge success. In order to encourage more members to volunteer for SSC events, a point system was initialized wherein members are rewarded with early trip signup upon reaching a certain number of volunteer hours. As hoped, more members have since volunteered for SSC events. Skiers traveled to Steamboat, Lake Tahoe, and Telluride to ski. Many local trips were offered to members, including a weekend fishing trip to Lake Michigan, Chicago for the Holidays, Jimmy Buffett themed day at a local winery, and Taste of Souldard in St. Louis. A Fall European trip to Scotland and Ireland was offered to members. A trip to Sicily and Italy was offered in Spring 2015. The SSC also participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade again. At the Fall Signup Party, the SSC presented a check for \$1518.97 to the Matthew Project as part of the Club's Community Service activities/events. The Club's website now includes all the newsletters for the past few years, in addition to other information regarding membership, activities, etc.

2015-2016

During Christa Morris' first year as President, Standing Rule #10 "Trip and Activity Sign-Up Practices" of the Constitution was amended. Also, the Bad Bowler's League was reinstated after a few years absence. A Fall Color Cruise to New England and Canada was offered to the members. A trip to Spain was also offered, as well as a cruise to the Southern Caribbean. A day trip was offered nearly every month, and many of them sold out! A record 31 skiers enjoyed a trip to Park City, and another trip was offered to Aspen. Although not yet a full league, the club had two Bocce Ball teams playing in a league at Obed and Issac's. A record amount was raised and donated to the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery Center from the annual Trivia night. A new position, VP for Tour Trips, was added to the Executive Board.

2016-2017

During Christa McLaren-Morris' second year as President, the Ski Club issued the first member directory in three years. Christa personally revamped and regularly updated the Springfield Ski Club web page. Under Christa's leadership, the SSC had 2 popular ski trips and 1 SKI trip. Under the new position of VP of Touring, a Fall trip to Napa Valley and a Spring trip to Ireland were offered. The SSC also offered 6 day trips, 2 golf leagues, bowling, pool and bocce ball. The SSC entered a float in the St. Patricks Day Parade and won a \$200 prize! Christa also professionalized the Springfield Ski Club Board meetings, by sharing officer reports ahead of time by email.

2017-2018

During Cheri Brueggemann Sloat's first year as president, the Ski Club increased membership to 510. After attending the Mountain Travel Symposium and talking with other presidents and VP of ski trips, Cheri started a committee to write a Trip Leader Manual for overnight trips. A working draft is ready for use with new trip leaders. Under Cheri's leadership, the SSC had two very popular ski trips and one S.K.I. trip. Under the position of VP of touring, a winter trip to an all-inclusive in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, fall riverboat trip down the Rhine River to visit the various European Christmas Markets, and a spring trip to Tuscany and the Amalfi Coast. Many very popular day trips were offered monthly, there were two golf leagues, bad bowlers league, pool league, and bocce ball. Our Trivia Night donated \$1577 to Grounds of Grace and the Rutledge Youth Foundation. Also, our first Spring Great Gatsby party was held and was a huge success, signing many new members into the club. Socially, happy hours were very well attended and well organized, and a Halloween party was a rollicking great time.

2019-2020

The year started out with a boom! Unfortunately, it ended with the coronavirus which put a damper on our activities. The name, Springfield Ski Club was changed to SPRINGFIELD SKI AND TRAVEL CLUB to define a bit more about what our club is. The board also adopted a new logo which Linda Hammer helped to create. Changes were made to our by laws which clarified some of our procedures for sign up parties. Our growth of 25 took us to 535 members, and hopefully they all enjoyed our many activities. We had several fantastic happy hours, both inside and out, and several Dining Out experiences where we all got together to socialize and try new restaurants. In our sporting activities, we enjoyed our bowling league, our golf leagues, and our pool league. The idea of a pickle-ball and boccie ball leagues were discussed and hope to become a reality soon. Our first ever Casino-Membership night was a tremendous success with donations collected for Washington Street Mission. Also, a day time trivia event helped the Fifth Street Renaissance. Ringing bells for the Salvation Army and helping out at the Holiday Store for Mini O'Beirne rounded off our December. Four Adopt a Street clean up dates were held as well.

A ski trip to Mt Bachelor, Oregon in January, 2019, a September, 2019 Edinburgh, Scotland and London trip was well attended, as was our February, 2020 warm weather trip to The Grand Palladium in Riviera Maya, Mexico. Unfortunately, the Exploring Portugal had to be rescheduled to a later date due to the Covid 19 outbreak. Wonderful day trips included the Cinco de Maya Celebration and Boom Boom room in St Louis, our Peoria Adventure, train ride to Chicago for a Cubs-Cardinals game, winning Illini trip and tailgate party to Champaign, 1920 Mystery Dinner, and a St Louis Blues hockey game.

2020-2021

During Richard Bergt's first year as president, the SSTC was plagued by the Covid 19 pandemic. Illinois was in lockdown. The board felt it was important that no one from the club become ill from a club sponsored event. So, all SSTC events were cancelled until it would be safe again. The board stated that members needed to be vaccinated to go on a trip and that masks needed to be worn at club events until the CDC said it was safe. Planning for future events did not continue. Board meetings and Happy Hours were not in person, but done via Zoom meetings. Trips that were cancelled included Hannibal, Missouri, Iron Mountain Railway trip, and the winter trip to San Diego. There were no sign-up parties, but trips were still offered by mailing in registrations. Because there were no events scheduled, the board waived dues of present members for the next club year of 2021-2022. There was an ad hoc committee formed that reaffirmed our constitution and the need to follow more closely. The findings stated the volunteer hours would be limited to serving on club committees, club functions, or events approved by the board. Finally, we are taking our Portugal trip that has been delayed for over a year and a half. The board is once again able to meet in person. Happy Hours have been attended. Our fall sign-up party generated enough interest to travel to Aruba, Greece and Croatia! Our club stayed strong though it all with nominal change in membership.

2021-2022

In the second year of Richard Bergt's presidency, as the global pandemic lessened, our SSTC club moved toward a priority to ease up on covid-restrictions and to gradually increase activity and a return to normalcy. We all had enough of isolation! We all were encouraged to spend more time with friends and new acquaintances. Our club continued to have Dining Out and Happy Hours. We particularly enjoyed adding a new venue, at Harvest Market. Sporting events will resume once there is enough interest by the members to form teams. Because of limitations placed by covid restrictions, no ski trips were planned. But several club members went to Zermatt, Utah through the S.K.I. Council of Illinois. Hoping for a renewed interest in ski trips, plans were made to go to Whitefish, Montana through S.K.I., and a Show & Go to Chestnut Mountain in Galena, and Sundown in Dubuque, Iowa. The most successful Day Trips were to see the musical "Hamilton" at the Fox Theater and to a Cards-vs-Cubs baseball game in St. Louis. We hope to revitalize interest in Day Trips by having more trips with more people attending the events. These trips are planned through Peoria Charter Tours, so at least a minimum number of sign-ups are necessary to carry out the plans.

Tour Trips are going strong. In January, many club members traveled to Aruba for a winter dose of sunshine. There were also two European Trips that were very enjoyable. We traveled to Croatia-Slovenia, where much of the travel was on a large yacht exclusively for the 40 SSTC club members on the trip. On a later trip we toured the Greek Islands on a cruise ship. At our two general meetings, we had sign-ups for trips in 2023 to Iceland, and also Peru. Both are sold out. Two special parties this year celebrated the Halloween and Christmas seasons. The Christmas party was held at the Sangamo Club and was formal dress. These were quite enjoyable events.

An addition to the Constitution was made and approved in April that the retiring board members will be credited ten service hours per year in recognition of their service to the club. At the 2022 April elections, six board positions were still vacant, so according to the Constitution, Article 3, #3, all people presently holding those positions remained in office until a successor could be found. By year's end these positions were filled by the president, which is one of the president's constitutional duties.

In 2022 we had an increase in new memberships. We hope to increase activities and participation to make this a growing and active club!

2022 - 2023

During Debi Barr-Holquist's first year as president, membership exploded with a total of 72 new members joining Springfield Ski & Travel Club. Word is spreading throughout the Springfield area that SSTC is offering an opportunity to join in the fun we offer with social gatherings, day trips, international trips, ski trips, sport activities, holiday parties, picnics and a wonderful place to find and renew friendships.

The SSTC day trips offered were so well received they were sold out events! Trips to: Fairmount Horse track/Fast Eddies'; Missouri Botanical Garden's Chihuly Show/Favazza's on the Hill/ St. Louis Basilica; The Illinois Vintage Wine Festival in Utica, Horseracing at the Illinois State Fair; Yoga and wine at Sheedy Shores Winery; Illini Homecoming Football Tailgating and Game; Tina the Musical at the St. Louis Fox Theatre; and Christmas in St. Charles, Mo. What a wonderful slate of day trips/ events for the membership! Sold out international trips to Iceland and Peru were both trips of a lifetime. Iceland's views of spectacular waterfalls, flowing lava, active geysers, a storm with 100 mph, the famous Blue Lagoon and seeing the Northern Lights could not be beat. Visiting Peru's Machu Picchu/Floating Islands of Uros/Colca Canyon and touring the Andes Mountains among the wandering alpacas, llamas, and vicuna were simply mind blowing.

The annual summer picnic on Lake Springfield at Larry Michaud's house had the highest attendance known at 130 members! The 45th annual Oktoberfest at Roger Schnelten's house was very well attended and a wonderful offering to SSTC members. (2 bands, 2 bike rides, 5 kegs, 100 brats, 100 burgers, 20 lb. Mike's famous fish, 1 huge bonfire)

The monthly Happy Hours and Dining Out events have seen huge growth in attendance this past year. Sports activities' walking and bicycling groups continued to meet once a week throughout the summer. The Pool League was a huge success this fall. An introduction to Bocce Ball was provided to members with instruction/play time held at Obed and Isaac's outdoor courts. The SSTC Golf League also continued this past summer. A golf game for members was offered at Bunn Golf Course. The Events Committee has really pulled out all of the stops in providing a Spring and Fall Sign-Up parties on the lake and a Holiday Party at Panther Creek Country Club broke records in doubling Holiday party attendance and maxing out capacity at Panther Creek Country Club!!

As an all-volunteer club, the willingness and delivery of all board members, committee chairs, and trip leaders has been outstanding in 2023! Many thanks for all contributions to the club from volunteers and members.

GROWTH HISTORY

YEAR	PRESIDENT	# OF MEMBERS
1972-1973		243
1973-1974		n/a
1974-1975		214
1975-1976		292
1976-1977	Ed Wolff	370
1976-1978	Larry Huelsman	609
1978-1979	John Carpenter	762
1979-1980	Ken Lazar	793
1980-1981	Jeff Foust	800
1981-1982	Steve Scott	684
1982-1983	Warren Atherton	700
1983-1984	Earl Zahlne/Dave Ford	606
1984-1985	Larry Michaud	572
1985-1986	Bryon Low	627
1986-1987	Peter Levan	628
1987-1988	Mel Logsdon	568
1988-1989	Larry Huelsman	588
1989-1990	Larry Huelsman	666
1990-1991	Chuck Burbridge	748
1991-1992	Chuck Burbridge	670
1992-1993	Bob Heth	724
1993-1994	Sandy Frank	771
1994-1995	Sandy Frank	787
1995-1996	Jim Frank	880
1996-1997	Rich Hunter	1008
1997-1998	Rich Hunter	1104
1998-1999	Kristi Katcher	1215
1999-2000	Barry Erlandson	1125
2000-2001	Barry Erlandson	1011
2001-2002	Theresa Boley	980
2002-2003	Theresa Boley	868
2003-2004	Lynn Bierma	868
2004-2005	Lynn Bierma	865
2005-2006	Dennis Bomke	776
2006-2007	Dennis Bomke	729
2007-2008	Erin Gorman	669
2008-2009	Erin Gorman	642
2009-2010	Dave Elder	674
2010-2011	Dave Elder	658

2011-2012	Ron Miller	662
2012-2013	Ron Miller	466
2013-2014	Nila Riggs	461
2014-2015	Nila Riggs	490
2015-2016	Christa McLaren-Morris	399
2016-2017	Christa McLaren-Morris	388
2017-2018	Cheri Sloat	405
2018-2019	Cheri Sloat	510
2019-2020	Richard Griminger	535
2020-2021	Richard Bergt	491
2021-2022	Richard Bergt	489
2022-2023	Richard Bergt	479
2023-2024	Debi Barr-Holquist	536