



"Ski News"

April 2021

Planning has already begun for the **2022** Ski Season!

‘How much worse could it get, right?’ was a rhetorical question probably best unasked for the 2020-21 ski season. Austin Skiers did survive intact, thankfully, and even managed to have 63 of us enjoy vacations in snow country.

Kudos to Trips Vice President Elisabeth Poigin and the trip chairs for unintended familiarity with terms like *force majeure* and *non-refundable*, and to Trip Planning Vice President Tere Mayne for saving us from getting the short end of the

stick in contract negotiations. Words cannot express the never-ending complications Elisabeth & Tereendured.

While the progress in COVID-19 vaccinations and herd immunity is encouraging, we still face uncertainties in planning trips. Most recently, the October 2021 trip to New Zealand was cancelled by the tour operator because NZ will not even consider international arrivals until the end of October. Canada presently is slightly more promising, with the U.S. hoping to relax Canada and Mexico border restrictions by mid-May, while the Canadian government remains less optimistic. Rest assured that the Trip Planning Committee will offer as many trips as we can next year, hopefully to your favorite resort.

Austin Skiers will continue to follow the recommendations of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and respective state and local governments to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID. We have gradually resumed our Happy Hours with good turnouts and meetings when and where the venues can accommodate social distancing guidelines. Please watch the newsletter and notices.

Still thinking snow,

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson



Tim Atkinson, President: President@austinskiers.org

<<<Nominating Committee Report>>>

The 2021 Nominating Committee consisted of six Austin Skiers members with Cindy Berry serving as chair. Other committee members included: Tim Atkinson, Bill Seymour, Steve Knouse, Chris Vrba and Gary Armstrong. Each committee member was tasked with reaching out to various club members during trips, happy hours and club meetings to share information about officer positions and gauge their interest in serving.

Our committee met to review all prospects and the slate as listed below was submitted to the board in March with a recommendation to approve all positions. The following [slate](#) was approved by the board at the April 6 Executive Committee meeting and will be presented to the membership for approval at the [Austin Skiers Annual Meeting](#) on Sunday, **May 23**.

- * President - Tim Atkinson
- * VP Trips – Cindy Berry
- * VP Trip Planning - Tere Mayne
- * Treasurer - Steve Knouse
- * Secretary - Mary Jo Humphreys
- * VP Communications - Gary Armstrong
- * VP Programs - Lara Pavanelli
- * VP Special Activities – Bill Estes
- * Director – Chris Vrba

Thanks to outgoing board members: Jackie Bayly, Director; Elisabeth Poigin, VP Trips; and Mary Lisa Goetschel, VP Special Activities. We appreciate your service you provided to our members this past year. There are plenty of ways to spend your time, but you choose Austin Skiers and we are all grateful you did. Give some thought over this next year if you might consider donating your time to Austin Skiers. We're always looking for good & dedicated people.

Trip Planning - 2022

The **Pre-Select Committee** met Saturday, March 13 and discussed **46** trip proposals submitted for consideration for the **2023 ski season** and the **2022 Fall season**. This was presented to the TSC BidFest held April 9-11 via Zoom. The decision of the delegates was as follows:

Traditional:

Snowmass, CO (**January 14-21, 2023**)/Sports America

Winter Expedition:

Ischgl-Samnaun, Austria (**January 21-28, 2023**)/Winter Ski & Sports

Winter Shootout:

Steamboat, CO (**February 11-18, 2023**)/Sports America

Final Showdown:

Lake Louise, Canada (**March 11-18, 2023**)/Ski White Diamond

Fall Expedition:

Russia: (Dates in **September, 2022**-Dates TBD)/Collette



Tere Mayne, VP Trip Planning: TripPlanning@austinskiers.org

Remaining Trips for 2021
(subject to change)

<u>Pass</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lodging</u>
NA	<u>New Zealand*</u>	CANCELLED	Various properties
NA	Zermatt, UT	August 14-19	Zermatt Resort & Spa

*Texas Ski Council Trip



Proudly partnering with the Texas Ski Council (TSC)

Visit [Texas Ski Council](#) for more information

Please take time to review our [Trip Policies](#) AND [Trip Cancellation Policies](#) (**for each trip** as they are not necessarily the same).

We encourage our members going on our trips to consider trip insurance for those unexpected emergencies before or during your trip. **Here is a link for more information on [Trip Insurance](#).**

Proposed Bylaw Changes

After careful review of the current bylaws the Executive Committee is proposing the following [changes](#) to be presented at the Austin Skiers [Annual Meeting](#) on Sunday, **May 23** for a vote.

Happy Hours/Special Activities

North Happy Hour

Jardin Corona

Thursday, April 22

4:30 - 6:30 PM

[MAP](#)

NOTE: We have a 10-top table reserved. After that it's first come/first serve.

Please wear your name badge

We continue to work to provide a safe environment to get together for Happy Hour, which includes wearing masks & practicing social distancing. The venues we select will have outdoor seating, although few [will provide reserve seating](#) for us due to already limited capacity imposed by COVID-19 restrictions. A separate email will be sent outlining the details of the venue date, location and time and will be posted on our website under Calendar Events.



Mary L. Goetschel (ML), VP Special Activities Activities@austinskiers.org

Save The Date

Post Trip Party

This has been the most challenging years to organize trips and group functions because of COVID-19. The board decided recently to host a **Post Trip Party** in **June** for those who **participated** in ski trips during **2019-20** and **2020-21**, including "+1's." Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming newsletter and email regarding date, time & location

The **Annual Business Meeting** of Austin Skiers will be held on **May 23** at **Balcones Country Club** (In-Person and Zoom). More information about the meeting particulars will follow via email and the **May** newsletter. The **August Trip Presentation** date/time have not been set, but will be announced at a later date.



Lara Pavanelli, VP Programs: Programs@austinskiers.org



Proudly partnering with the
Texas Ski Council (TSC).

Visit [Texas Ski Council](https://www.texas-skicouncil.org) for more information.



The Texas Ski Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation. Which means Austin Skiers are members and have some great benefits. Please check them out and register at [National Ski Council Federation](#).

SI BERNARD



Austin Skiers appreciates the support of our local ski stores, [Sun & Ski Sports](#), [MarineMax Sail & Ski](#) and [Saint Bernard Sports](#) for hosting our club meetings this fall and winter. Please shop local, these stores are adding more ski related inventory every week and giving our members discounts during each meeting.

Reminder...

- Sun & Ski provides a 10% discount to our members on full priced ski items.
- Saint Bernard Sports is extending their 15% discount thru May 2021!
- Do you need rentals? Visit Marine Max Sail & Ski to rent equipment and clothing for skiing and boarding

Stay safe and stay well! Jackie



Jackie Bayly, Director: Director@austinskiers.org

Message from the Membership/Communications Chair

Gary's tidbits...

Just as a reminder the monthly newsletter will be published within about 5 days following the monthly executive committee board meeting.

Even in a very difficult year where travel and social interaction has become a significant challenge, we are grateful for so many of you continuing your membership in the Austin Skiers! Throughout the fall we've had people joining for the first time and past members renewing in spite of the pandemic. We added a new Family Membership this month making the total active membership **349** (up **5** from last month).

Most of us have driven or taken a bus charter from the Denver Airport headed to the resorts off **I-170** and you know how slow the traffic can be especially during high volume times. The **Colorado DOT** a few years ago installed an "express" lane a few years ago & charged for it, but barely made a dent in the flow of traffic. According to Ski Magazine they're trying a different approach - a series of shuttle vans to transport skiers during peak ski months **beginning** in the **2021-22** ski season. They'll use **14-passenger vans**, which eliminates the need for drivers to have a Commercial Driver's License and makes it much easier to hire drivers. These smaller vans will also be less than 25-feet long, which also means they're allowed to use the express lanes - so stay tuned.

You may have already read Vail's big news is they've instituted a **20-percent across-the-board price** cut to all of its **EPIC** season pass products, essentially taking rates back to the 2015-'16 season when the Vail portfolio of resorts number **11** as opposed to today's **70**. See the details on their website at Vail.com. This applies solely to North American pass products only. Restrictions and exclusions apply.

* **TRAVEL Info:**

A. **State-by-State Restrictions:** Whether you're traveling with the club on a ski trip or going on your own you'll need to know the various **state restrictions** due to COVID-19. Check out the *Condé Nast Traveler* [article](#), which provides a comprehensive review of each state with travel restrictions.

B. **Domestic/International Travel:** There is another pretty comprehensive [article](#) by

Condé Nast Traveler addressing domestic [and](#) international travel regarding airline, cruise and hotel reservations changes and cancellations. It also includes a country-by-country guide to: how Europe is reopening; Caribbean Islands reopening this summer; and how Asia, Central and South America and African Countries are reopening.

C. [Re-Entry to United States](#): According to an email I received on January 22, 2021 from [Trip Advisor](#) if you're traveling internationally the CDC recently issued a COVID order that may impact your plans for re-entering the United States. **Effective January 26, 2021 for travelers arriving in the United States:**

"You will need to get [tested](#) for COVID-19 **no more than 3 days** before departing to the United States **AND** show a [negative](#) test result to the airline before boarding **OR** show documentation of recent recovery from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding. This new order applies to **(1) all air passengers** — including U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents — **aged 2 years and older. (2)** It also applies [regardless of the length of time spent](#) outside of the United States.

[Acceptable documentation](#) of recovery from COVID-19 includes both a [positive viral test](#) result within 3 months of travel (or the time- period specified in current CDC guidance) **AND** a [letter](#) from a healthcare provider **OR** public health official stating that the passenger is cleared to end isolation. Passengers

who have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to delay their travel until they meet the criteria to end isolation; learn more [here](#).

If you need more information visit this [FAQ](#) page at [CDC](#)." Trip Advisor also has posted [links](#) to countries located in: North America/Caribbean, Europe, Asia, Middle East, South America, Africa, and Oceania that provides current travel guidance and number of cases for each country.

D. [Airlines](#): I thought it might be helpful to repeat this article as travel plans continue to be formulated and you need to know if you're traveling via Airlines for the upcoming Ski Season or other personal travel here are links to some of the airlines website specifically regarding what you can expect insofar as how they're handling "social distancing:" [Alaska](#), [American](#), [Delta](#), [Frontier](#), [jetBlue](#), [Southwest](#) & [United](#). You might want to check out the website "[The Points Guy](#)" who has a lot more information about each airline - aircraft cleaning, face masks, passenger

loads and other measures. Austin Skiers does not endorse nor has verified the information they provide. We encourage you, which I'm sure you're doing, to also check out the particular airline you're flying, which may have more up-to-date information.

* For the sake of the readers I've created a [PDF reference file](#) you can download including clickable links of the above travel information.

Convalescent Plasma:

For those of you that have recovered from **COVID-19** or know someone who has and developed the antibodies from the virus, please consider donating your **convalescent plasma** through "[We Are Blood](#)," which is the local blood bank for the Travis County Medical Society. They are in **desperate** need for donations! They have an [online form](#) you can submit your information to see if you qualify. If so, the total amount of time at their facility will take you 1-1/2 to 2 hours. They recently announced as of **October 28, 2021** they will be providing **COVID-19 Antibody Testing** for any **donation**. **Reservations** are mandatory! Your donation can literally **save a life!**

We look forward to providing another **GREAT** year, albeit very different due to COVID-19, of **ski** trips, special activities and other social opportunities for you and your family to enjoy!

[Click here to renew your membership.](#)

Follow us on: [Instagram](#)

Like us at on: [Facebook](#)





Gary Armstrong, VP Communications: Communications@austinskiers.org

Executive Committee - Austin Skiers

G.D. "Tim" Atkinson - President

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Tere Mayne- VP Trip Planning

Lara Pavanelli- VP Programs

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Steve Knouse- Treasurer

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Jackie Bayly - Director

