



News Letter

MIAMI SKI CLUB INC. P.O. BOX 560943 PINECREST, FL 33256-0943

DECEMBER 2008

Happy Hours

December 5, 6-8 PM

Palm Grille Beach Place (New place!)

Drink specials and appetizers. Last Broward happy hour of the year, don't miss it!

17 S. Atlantic Blvd. (A1A)

Ft. Lauderdale (954) 525-5022

December 12, 6-8 PM

Sammy C's (Drink specials & appetizers)

3540 Main Highway

Coconut Grove, (305) 441-9737

Rock and Roll Band 8 PM

December 19, 6-8 PM

Holiday Cheer at Biltmore Lounge

1200 Anastasia Avenue

Coral Gables, (305) 445-1926

For maps, please log on to our website: miamiskiclub.com

Trip corner

It's looking like it will be a great ski season in the US. We have already received reports of major snow dumps. With the holiday season upon us, doesn't the thought of a ski vacation sound like a great way to forget the daily doldrums? Here are the great options at top ski resorts:

Call and see if we can squeeze you in!
(prices subject to change):

Jackson Hole, WY, Feb 21 to 28 **\$1,850**

Inn at Jackson Hole, includes breakfast

Adriana Dermirdjian: jacksonhole@miamiskiclub.net

(305) 532-1147

Breckenridge, CO, Jan 10 to 17 **\$1,555**

Beaver Run Resort, includes 6 hot breakfast

Bill Grieco: breckenridge@miamiskiclub.net

(305) 721-9154

Snowmass, CO Jan 17 to 24 **\$1,995**

Wildwood Lodge, includes hot breakfast

Maggie Zaitz: snowmass@miamiskiclub.net

(305) 807-1098

Bike ride

Sunday, December 14, 9:45 AM

Robbins Park, 4005 Hiatus Road, Davie

Want to get in some exercise to offset all that holiday cheer? Come and join us for a wonderful morning in the fresh air. The weather is perfect for a ride with your MSC friends! Our host will be long time ski club member, Betty Boffing. Meet at Robbins Park (when entering the park go left for free parking lot). 10 AM we start the two hour tour around Vista View Park and Tree Tops Park and back. The ride is mostly paved and fairly easy riding. Please bring a helmet and drink and we will all be ready to leave at 10 AM sharp. We drive to lunch at Tijuana Taxi on University Road after the ride. Please contact **Betty** at bboffing@aol.com or her cell phone: **(954) 881-0530** for further information.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Letter from the Prez...

Greetings!

Holiday Greetings, that is! I don't know about you, but to me it seems like the year has barely started, and all of a sudden here we are, getting ready to toast the demise of another twelve months! The good news is, our ski trips will be taking off in a matter of weeks, and personally, I am looking forward to a change of scenery. As much as I enjoy the winters down here, I still need an infusion of snow to make it really feel like winter!

Unfortunately, we will be taking out fewer skiers than ever before. As wonderful as our destinations are this year, it looks like the economy has gotten the better of us, as everyone seems to be scaling back and holding off on indulgences such as ski trips. As you have already read on these pages, this is an experience shared by all the other clubs in Florida and the Florida Ski Council itself. Even the larger clubs are cutting back dramatically and canceling trips. In some respects, we have been ahead of the curve by anticipating the economic downturn and planning on a smaller scale. But even at that rate, we still ended up having to cancel one of our ski trips (Park City). We are also fortunate enough to have a very dedicated team on the EC and the board, and together we have been coping with the situation as well as can possibly be expected. A big chunk of the burden fell on the VP of trips, who has been dedicating an incredible number of hours to burning up the phone lines with our vendors and the resorts, negotiating and re-negotiating every single aspect of our trips. But in the end, it is this kind of an effort and attention to detail that will make a difference in our bottom line, come the end of the fiscal year.

A major effort has been put into our membership events, such as the Snowballs and the pre-holiday party. We have had some awesome fun events, without breaking the bank. Our attendance at these events has been spectacular. The November pre-trip party and Bazaar Night brought in well over a hundred members and gave us something new and fun. And we fully intend to keep up this pace, with all the exciting and fun special events, happy hours and Dine-a-rounds (which we sometimes take for granted), as well as more innovative happenings to keep your interest. I am confident that we can manage the financial aspect of the Club, but ultimately, the most important ingredient to our success is you. We need your participation, we need your enthusiasm, and we need your ideas and help. We are always open to fresh approaches and people to implement change and forward momentum. We sincerely hope to see more of you, to hear your feedback and to see you getting more involved with this vibrant organization of ours in the upcoming year.

Until next month, happy holidays and all the best in the New Year!

George Ondricek, president@miamiskiclub.net

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Volunteers wanted

And that means **YOU!** If you have any ideas, activities you enjoy or events you'd like to host through the Club, please bring them to the attention of **Pam Epstein**. Pam can be reached at **(305) 772-1500** or **SocialEvents@miamiskiclub.net**. We welcome members to offer up ideas and to host events (i.e., Dine-a-rounds, theater nights, rollerblading outings... just to name a few). Please don't be shy. Remember, your participation is what makes this Club great! We look forward to hearing from you.

Florida ski council

It seems that the economy has affected all FSC clubs as each reported scaling back or canceling several of their ski trips. The resort reps reported a significant impact as well, with numbers down in comparison to prior years. Many of the resorts have responded by being more flexible with cancellation policies and reductions in group size.

The 2009 season FSC trips include Snowmass in January, Whistler, Canada in February, Cortina, Italy, and Japan in March, a Spring Break trip in March and Summer Camp in July to Breckenridge. The revised projected attendees for these trips are lower than first projected, with Whistler, Japan, and Breck seeing the biggest declines.

The 2010 season FSC destinations selected were Telluride, CO in January, Taos, NM for February, Big Sky, MT for Spring Break, and Three Valleys, France in March 2010. The Miami Ski Club has confirmed Telluride and is looking into participating in the remaining trips. To read Cindy Sandmaier's complete FSC report, go to miamiskiclub.com.

Empire tour

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE TOUR

June 4 - 18, 2009, \$7,895

(land only \$6,512; single supplement \$2,827)

June 18 - 21, 2009 Czech Republic extension, \$1,260 (single supplement \$744)

Our Old World dream trip just opened up at the November pre-holiday party, and we are already at more than half of our maximum capacity of the trip! This fabulous journey will have you staying at some of the most charming places, cruising down the Danube in total luxury, and visiting places you have only been dreaming of. This is a very intimate trip, which will gain us access to places not visited by most tourists (or many locals, for that matter). We are arranging private tours of castles, crypts, chateaus and monasteries, that will not only show you the highlights, but will also take you behind the scenes to give you a flavor of what these places are really about. The cost includes air, all ground transportation, five star hotels, the cruise and just about all your meals, not to mention all the tours!

To get more details on this incredible trip, please go to our web site, miamiskiclub.com and see the full trip sheet, watch slide shows and download all the necessary forms. To sign up, or to get more information, please contact the trip leader, **George Ondricek** at empiretour@miamiskiclub.net or give him a call at (305) 234-7344.

Above board

Last month, we issued the State of the Miami Ski Club. For those of you who read it, you know that the Club had a tough last year. So, how are we doing so far this year and what has the new EC and board done thus far? Well, we've made significant strides with changes in approach. As you noticed, we have scaled back the number of trips offered in anticipation of a weak economy. Through aggressive negotiations with vendors and realistic projections, we are anticipating a small overall gain on our trips, which is a huge improve over last year.

While maintaining upscale events, we have sought ways to defray costs. The most recent example was our November Night Bazaar/pre-holiday party. We had wine sponsors and collected table rents from the vendors. So far, this attention to detail has us square on target with our 08/09 budget. And for the future, we are looking at interesting weekend get-aways, such as another Keys weekend and a Bahamas get away. As you can see, we are getting back on track. Stay tuned for next year's events!



NOW OPEN!

GET READY FOR YOUR SKI OR SNOWBOARDING VACATION ON THE LONGEST SKI SLOPE IN THE WORLD

IT DOESN'T STOP TILL YOU DO!!!!

USE YOUR BOOTS OR OURS, BUT WE SUPPLY THE SKIS AND SNOWBOARDS

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY FOR PRICES AND TO RESERVE YOUR DECK TIME





Return service requested
TIME DATED MATERIAL

Miami Ski Club, Inc.

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	1	2	3	4	5 6 pm PALM GRILLE BEACH PLACE Ft. Lauderdale	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 6 pm SAMMY C's Coconut Grove	13
14 9:45 am BIKE RIDE Davie	15 <i>Board meeting</i>	16	17	18	19 6 pm BILTMORE LOUNGE Coral Gables	20
21 <i>Hanukkah</i>	22 <i>Hanukkah</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31	December 2008		