

TURTLE GAZETTE



SLO Skiers Newsletter

August 2016

Mark Your Calendars!

August

Wednesday 8/3

General meeting, 6–7 p.m. social hour, 7–8:30 p.m. meeting at the Elks Lodge, 222 Elks Lane, SLO
(Note the location change; sign-ups for Whistler ski week begin!)

Friday 8/5

Bike ride in Avila, 9:30 a.m. at the Bob Jones trailhead, Ontario Road parking lot

Sunday 8/14

Wine down, 4 p.m. at Jana Favalora's home, 1025 Walnut Street, SLO

Wednesday 8/24

Morro Bay BBQ, 5:30 p.m. at Tidelands Park

August hike TBA

September

Wednesday 9/7

General meeting, 6–7 p.m. social hour, 7–8:30 p.m. meeting at the Elks Lodge, 222 Elks Lane, SLO

Friday 9/9

Bike ride in Avila, 9:30 a.m. at the Bob Jones trailhead, Ontario Road parking lot

Sunday 9/11

Wine down, 4 p.m. at Sharon and Hal Rosewall's home

Wednesday 9/14

Sportfishing, 6 a.m. at Virg's Landing, 1169 Market Avenue, Morro Bay

Monday 9/26

Celebrate Marvin Gross' hike up Half Dome, 8–10 p.m. at Yosemite National Park (exact location TBA)

September hike TBA

October

Saturday 10/29

Turtle Auction, time TBA at SLO Grange Hall, 2880 Broad Street, SLO

November

Saturday 11/12

Pray for Snow Dinner Dance, 5:30 p.m. at the Madonna Inn, 100 Madonna Road, SLO

December

Friday 12/9

Christmas Party, time TBA at SLO Grange Hall, 2880 Broad Street, SLO

February

Saturday–Sunday 2/11–19

Ski week at Whistler, British Columbia

March

Tuesday–Tuesday 3/14–21

Ski week at Whitefish, Montana

It's that time of year—don't forget to pay your annual dues and donate to the Turtle Auction!



SLO Skiers, Inc.

A Ski, Sport and Social Club
www.sloskiers.org

PO Box 1047
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

General meetings the first Wednesday of the month (6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. meeting)

Inside this month's Gazette:

Upcoming events:

August wine down, Morro Bay

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Upcoming Event Details

August Wine Down



Sunday, August 14th, 4 p.m., Jana Favalora's home
(1025 Walnut Street, SLO; please park on Walnut Street)

Bring something to share (appetizer, salad, casserole, dessert), something to drink (water, soda, beer, wine), a chair and a light jacket.

Morro Bay BBQ

Wednesday, August 24th, 5:30 p.m., Tidelands Park
(300 Embarcadero, Morro Bay)

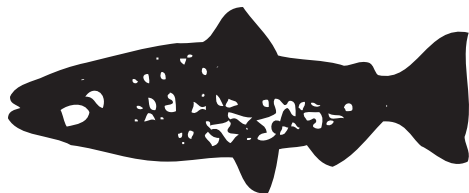
Bring something to cook, your favorite beverage and a food dish to share. The Club will provide fire, BBQ utensils, cups, paper plates, napkins and tableware. Bring a coat just in case of foggy weather. Arrive as early as 5 p.m. to help set up, the fire will be ready by 5:30 p.m.

Hosted by Irene and John Smith ((805) 464-8132 or malolos@sbcglobal.net)



Sportfishing

Wednesday, September 14, 6 a.m. at Virg's Landing, Morro Bay (boat returns at 1 p.m.)
Cost: \$70 to reserve your spot



All right SLO Skiers, get ready for a second summer deep sea fishing extravaganza hosted by your captain, Hal Rosewall! \$100 reward for the person who catches the LARGEST FISH! Rental poles are available for \$13 and a set-up is \$7. Deadline to reserve your spot is August 15. Contact Hal Rosewall with questions at (805) 235-5416; checks can be mailed to Hal at 8550 Corriente, Atascadero, CA 93422.

Please bring: boots or shoes with tread; waterproof jacket; pants that can get wet; hat and sunscreen; food and (non-alcoholic) drinks; you can leave a cooler with ice in your car for taking your fish home.

This year we are going to try something different.

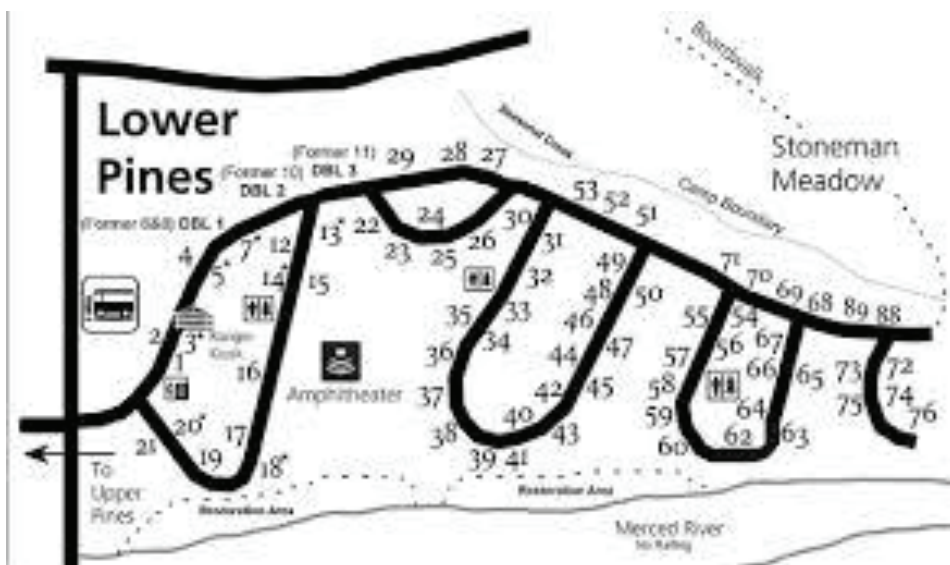
A group camp trip to Yosemite. Sunday, September 25th.

Each of you have different ideas of what you works for your camping trip. I, personally, take my RV. Some of you prefer, housekeeping tents. For the non campers in the group there are hotel options available. To be sure each of you gets what makes you happy you can make your own reservations. Take some time to look over the Yosemite Park website . There are specific restrictions due to the popularity of the park.

How to make your reservations: ON THE WEB, GO TO: RECREATION.GOV, **MAY 15TH 7 AM**
LOWER PINES CAMPGROUND, CALIFORNIA, CHECK AVAILABILITY, LOOP: LP
Remember to adjust your clock accurately, start the reservation process and be ready to “Book These Dates” the moment the on-sale begins at 7 AM.

Yosemite National Park differs from most of the campsites on Recreation.gov because the park releases a block of reservations monthly. Yosemite's reservable campsites are available up to five months in advance on the 15th of each month. The FIRST DATE you can book reservations for September 25th is on **May 15th at 7:00 AM**. I suggest you go to the site prior to May 15th and have several site options available. The map below is for the suggested campground. It is near Curry Village (now called Half Dome Village). It has both tent and RV spaces ranging in length from 24 feet to 40 feet. Those of you who don't like tent camping have options. There are a few hotel rooms in Half Dome Village. They are small wood cabins with a bathroom called Yosemite Cabins or Stoneman Cottage rooms with private baths. The same website contains heated and non-heated 4 man tents. On the luxury side, the Ahwahnee (now known as the **Majestic Yosemite Hotel**) is nearby. <http://www.travelyosemite.com/lodging/the-majestic-yosemite-hotel/>The hotel is rated 4 diamonds. The room price reflects the location and grandeur of the property. Another hotel option is **Yosemite Valley Lodge**. <http://www.travelyosemite.com/lodging/yosemite-valley-lodge/>. This hotel is less expensive but farther away from the group campsites.

The following siites are specifically for rv's: # 47 (27'),# 50 (40') ,#51 (27'), #52 (27')m #64 (27'), #71(27'),#DBL1 (35'), #DBL2 (35'), #DBL3 (35'). The DBL sites can have up to 12 people/site. The other sites accommodate 6 people.



QUESTIONS?...CONTACT LAUREN AT mlnskier@gmail.com

2017 Trip Update: Whistler and Whitefish

February 11th–19th: Whistler. Space is limited. We will be flying via Air Canada out of LAX on Saturday, February 11th. This year if you don't fly with the group you will be responsible for securing your own transfers from the airport to the resort. Our chartered bus from Vancouver to the resort (about two hours) will be filled by people with our air seats. We were only able to secure 46 air seats. On the way to Vancouver we will enjoy a welcome dinner. You will arrive at Hotel Listel around 8:30 p.m. Hotel Listel is a 3-star boutique hotel. It is conveniently located right in the Whistler Village. It is a short walk to the two major lifts to both Whistler and Blackcomb Mountain, as well as the market and liquor store. The rooms have free wi-fi, daily housekeeping, mini fridge, coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, free local calls and LCD 37" TV. Included in your package is a daily continental breakfast.

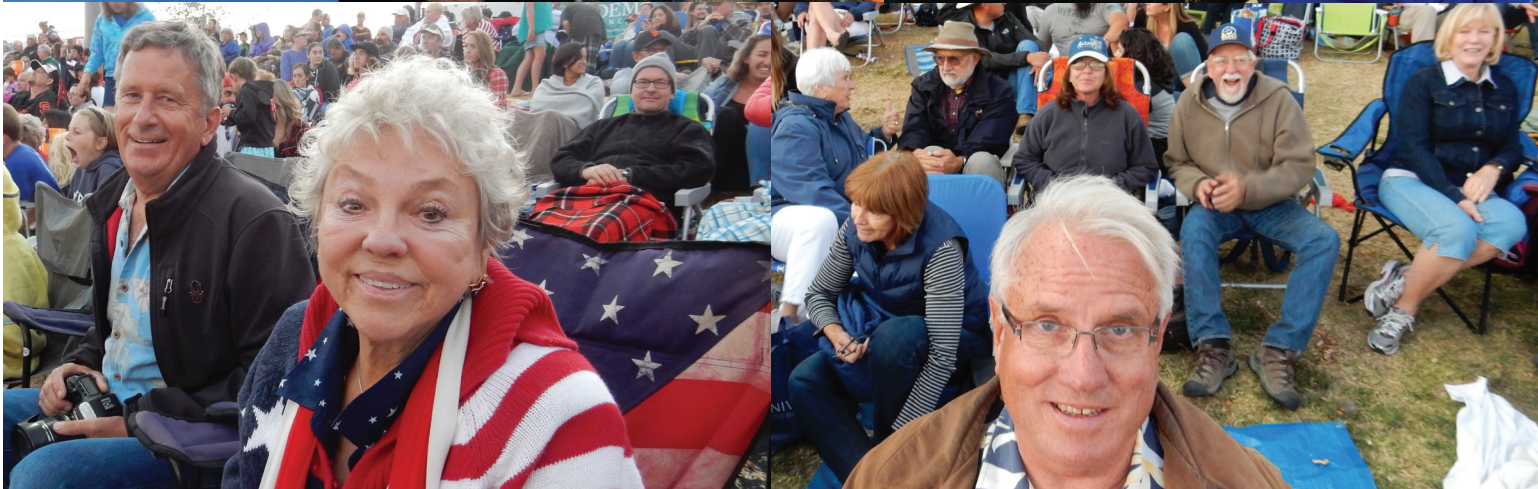
You will enjoy 5 days of skiing at two of the top-rated ski mountains in North America. Non-skiers can enjoy several unique options. I am still awaiting a few more details for the total package pricing. It will be under \$1,625. As an added attraction on Saturday the 18th of February we will be transferred from Whistler Village to the beautiful town of Vancouver. Here you will check in for the night at the Hotel Listel, located at the Marina. You will have several hours to tour the town of Vancouver on your own. That evening we will board a ship for a farewell dinner/dance cruise around the Vancouver harbor. The boat can accommodate up to 90 people. If you have friends or relatives nearby, we can arrange for them to join us on the ship for dinner and dancing. Watch Meetup for the package pricing. If you aren't on Meetup, contact Lauren at mlnskier@gmail.com (the second letter is a lowercase 'l', not a 1) so she can email you the details.

March 14th–21st: Whitefish, Montana. This is a Tuesday to Tuesday trip. We did this to save money on both the lodging and airfare. At the moment, our air seats are out of San Jose to Seattle and then on to Kalispell, Montana. From there it is a short transfer to the town of Whitefish. The mountain is a short shuttle from town. I am still whittling away the pricing. I am fairly confident we will be staying on the mountain in 2 bedroom/2 bath or 3 bedroom/3 bath condos. Included in your package will be the usual fun parties. You will have 5 days of lift tickets to explore the mountain. One of the really fun parts of skiing at this resort is the quaint town. It truly is a small mountain community with fun stores and restaurants. For the non-skier, there is Glacier National Park located nearby. The park in winter isn't crowded. The scenery is incredible. We are looking into a day tour of the park, perhaps on snowmobiles. Stay tuned for details. We won't start collecting deposits for this trip until September. Email Lauren if you have questions.



**Don't forget—Whistler sign-ups
begin at the August general meeting!**

It was a great evening to enjoy a baseball game and fireworks on July 3rd! Club members were able to see the Blues baseball team win against the Menlo Park Legends at a packed stadium in SLO. There was BBQ from the Ribline restaurant, refreshments of beer, wine and soda, and a fantastic display of fireworks!



Thank you, Spence and Carol Thatcher, for an early evening wine down. From the back deck of their home, guests had a view of sunset over the Pacific Ocean. Carol made a delicious salmon stew while Spence labored over a wonderful smoked ham. Members brought scrumptious appetizers, salads and desserts. Everyone enjoyed the evening with good conversation and laughter!



About a dozen die-hard SLO Skiers, who maybe were too “thrifty” to buy a ticket to the county fair, got together at Templeton Park for food, talk, music and drink. A good time was had by all...Thank you Diane Mandala and Lee Ybaben for hosting and setting up for this great event!



Summer Bike Rides

It is the perfect weather to take a ride on the Bob Jones Trail in Avila Beach. The weather is cool in the morning and the waves are crashing on the beach on the way to Avila Pier. It's not too difficult and good morning workout with beautiful views.

The next ride will be on Friday, August 5th. Meet at the Bob Jones trailhead parking lot on Ontario Road at 9:30 a.m., or at 10:45 a.m. for brunch at Hula Grill in Avila. Contact Steve Balog at (805) 540-4913 or Julie Page at (805) 443-6000.

Pictured from left to right: Laura Hyde, Pam Stanley, Teresa Rice, Barb Collins and Ed Peltzman



Important Reminders



Pay your \$40 annual membership dues NOW, in order to be included in the membership directory that will be handed out at the November meeting. The directory (a prototype has already been created!) will only include those with 2016–2017 paid membership; the deadline for inclusion in the directory is the close of the September 7th meeting.



Have you donated an auction item for the Turtle Auction yet? If not, this is a great time to contact Pam Stanley (pam@pamstanley.net) to let the auction committee know what you will be donating. The success of the auction relies on the amazing donations from club members, and in turn the funds raised help defray costs for our philanthropy work, club events and ski trips!



By previous agreement, SLO Skiers and Santa Barbara Ski Club members can participate in the other club's events, activities and trips at member prices. You can find out more about the Santa Barbara Ski Club by visiting their website, www.SBSki.org, which lists trips, a calendar, contacts, etc.; they also have an open Meetup group.

Is your garden overflowing with fresh fruits and veggies?

Bring them to the next general meeting! If you would like to donate your bountiful fresh garden vegetables or fruits, bring them to the meeting and they will be auctioned to the members as a donation to the club. This is a nice way to donate items for the good of the club and makes it easier for some lucky member to have fresh produce.

June Hike

Coon Creek Group
Quite a Troop

Hikers numbering fourteen,
Explored nature, quite keen.
We went up the creek,
Whether artist or geek,
Enjoying things pretty and green.

It turned out a near-perfect day,
We chatted and chirped on our way.
The day was quite sunny,
The creek was still runny,
Just south of our own Morro Bay.



From left to right in the front row are Fran Long, Kathleen Cronin, Myra Wapner, Marvin Gross, Julie Page, Steve Balog, Pete Sarafian and Peter Jacobsen; in the back row are Paul and Barbara Collins, Lauren Nagle, Teri Winston and her son Andrew Harmer, and Fabien Van Greelen (an exchange student from Sweden staying with Julie and Steve). Photo by Fran Long.

Far West Travel Update

Far West Dive Trip 2016—SPOTS STILL OPEN!

Far West is going to Fiji September 24–October 1, 2016. We will be at the amazing Beqa Lagoon Resort, and the 2nd week, October 1–October 8 at Paradise Taveuni Resort. Register for either week or stay for both weeks. The land and dive package for Beqa Lagoon Resort is \$1916 (double occupancy), and round-trip air from Los Angeles into Nadi, Fiji is \$1,578 per person. The land and dive package for Paradise Taveuni Resort is \$2,171 (double occupancy). There is a significant discount for non-divers! Enjoy two beautiful resorts, experience Fijian culture and entertainment, create new memories with new and old friends, and much more! For more information, contact Randy Lew, your Dive Trip Leader at fwsa13randy@telis.org.

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



Far West International Trip 2017

The international ski trip for 2017 will be to Austria and Hungary. Ski week is set for March 12–19 in St. Anton, with an extension trip from March 19–26, to Vienna and Budapest. The extension trip is also being offered as a stand alone trip for those interested. Participants will be staying in one hotel for the week in St. Anton, the Schwarzer Adler Hotel, and will be getting one lift pass which allows skiing in five areas. You'll experience a welcome/orientation, a mid-week day tour, mid-week après party and a farewell party. There are 24 people signed up for the trip thus far. If you want to add your name to this growing list of participants, contact Debbie Stewart at FWSAintltrlv@prodigy.net.

News You Can Use

Brexit Effect On American Travelers

If a trip to the U.K. is in your future plans, you may want to take advantage of some of the crazy prices that are being offered up now, since Britain's exit from the EU. Cash in on cheaper-than-normal flights. If you've already booked a flight, book as many other parts of your trip as possible now. Hotel rooms, activities, car rentals, and anything else you can book ahead of your travel dates will save you money. Consider adding an additional destination now that you'll be saving on your main flight. Be prepared for crowds, though. With so many people outside the U.K. looking to pick up a good deal, the number of travelers will surely increase. However, with Brexit, many Brits are likely to be vacationing close to home, too, so keep that in mind.

Ski Visits Increase in 2016

"El Nino" is being credited for a 50% increase in skier visits to Western North America this season. The snowpack figures were back up to "average" after the four previous drought years, and skier visits in the southwest region of California, Nevada and Arizona were up by 53.1% over the previous year. The Pacific Northwest saw an increase of 141.5%, while New England states actually took a dramatic downturn. It pays to live in the West—at least it did this past season!

President's Message



Hello SLO Skiers,

July was a great summer month of wonderful social events and physical activities. We all appreciate those club members who volunteer their time to make each event a memorable occasion.

The club would like to thank Spence and Carol Thatcher for hosting the July wine down at their Arroyo Grande home. Club members enjoyed wine while chatting and viewing a lovely sunset over ocean. The weather was warm, sunny and perfect for the Concert in the Park in Templeton, hosted by Diane Mandala and Lee Ybaben. Each member brought a dish to share, enjoyed the music and danced to Bear Market Riot. Our hike of the month, guided by Pete Sarafian, was a tour of Coon Creek in Montana de Oro State Park. The cool coastal

temperatures and ocean breeze complemented the heat generated as members hiked east following the valley. On Friday, July 15th, five members enjoyed a summer bicycle ride along the Bob Jones Trail and enjoyed a wonderful brunch at Hula Grill. Please note that the Bob Jones Trail bicycle ride is on the 1st Friday of every month.

August will bring another change to our monthly meeting date and location. The SLO Skiers will now meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month at the Elks Lodge, located at 222 Elks Lane in San Luis Obispo. Members are invited to purchase drinks at the Elks Lodge bar, as well as food at the bingo game night room (please remember not to disturb bingo participants when entering the bingo area to purchase food!). After purchasing food, SLO Skiers will be given a number to bring to their respective table in the bar area where ordered food will be brought to your location. Tips are always appreciated for food and drink by the Elks Lodge volunteers.

A huge thanks to Kara Edwall for producing our monthly newsletters, The Turtle Gazette. Her professional expertise is very appreciated and keeps members informed. I appreciate her dedication and due diligence in providing all members' additions to the publication.

Respectfully,

Barbara Collins

Thank you to our ongoing supporters!

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Questions or suggestions about the newsletter? Have something you would like considered for inclusion? Email Kara at kkedwall@gmail.com!

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