

## SLO SKIERS, INC.

P.O. BOX 1047  
SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93406

### MEETINGS

1st Wednesday  
of the month  
at the  
SLO Elks Lodge  
222 Elks Lane, SLO

SOCIAL: 6:00pm  
MEETING: 7:00pm  
Board Meeting: 5:30pm

### JOIN US

Annual Dues: \$40  
sloskiers.org

## VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

This month's  
General  
Meeting has  
been  
**CANCELLED!**

Too many  
members,  
especially  
board  
members will  
be adventuring  
out of town.

Please plan to  
come for  
social hour at  
6:00p, enjoy  
the food and  
the company,  
and we will see  
you in May!



www.sloskiers.org

Official Newsletter of *The SLO Skiers Club, Inc.*  
A Ski, Sport and Social Club

**APRIL 2014**

## A Message From Our President...

Greetings from Big White Ski Resort! The snow is wonderful, the people are wonderful, the resort is beautiful! We have 55 very happy SLO Skiers up here in Canada. My biggest thank you of the month goes out to our amazing travel staff! **Lauren Nagle** has done another fantastic job of creating a memorable ski and beyond week. Her assistants, **Barbara Collins** and **Sharon Page** have been invaluable in helping with the planning, as well as the many activities on the trip.



President Fran Long

As always, our hiking poet, **Pete Sarafian**, gets a shout out for trying his best to keep us all in shape.

I would also like to welcome our new, incoming board members. Welcome, **Steve Thatcher**, our new vice president; **Stacey King**, our new newsletter director; and **Michael Krebsbach**, our new philanthropy chair. Many other board members have moved into fresh positions. With this nice balance of incoming, moving, and current board members, we are looking forward to another fun and successful year, led by a board that gets together as friends and works congenially to make SLO Skiers the best there is.

My final shout out is a huge thank you to **Teresa Rice** and **Kathleen O'Neill** for their hard work and dedication this past year. You will both be truly missed on the SLO Skiers board.

We are all set and ready to go for a full summer schedule and another set of SLO Skiers week long ski, and beyond, trips.

PHOTOS: Pre-Big White party  
and Big White Ski Trip.



# End of the Year Party!

Join the SLO Skiers for our gala end of the year celebration  
and pool party

Bring your bathing suit for the pool basketball rematch  
(changing rooms/showers available)

At our favorite Elks Lodge in SLO

BBQ main dish provided

Your first 2 drinks are on the club

Last name A-D bring an appetizer

E-P bring a salad or side

Q-Z bring an award winning dessert

Time: 2:00-6:00

Date: Sunday, May 3rd



Please RSVP on Meetup

<http://www.meetup.com/SLO-Skiers-Inc-A-Ski-Sports-and-Social-Club/>

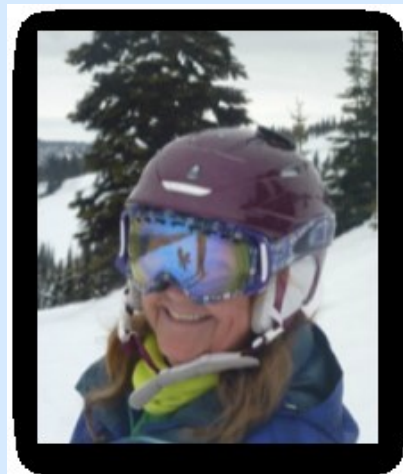
## Spotlight on Lauren Nagle

Congratulations to Lauren upon being selected as the February SLO Skier of the Month. With all the work Lauren does on our ski trips, beginning in May each year, and ending at the end of March, she could be SLO Skier of the Month any one of ten months of the year!

Lauren is a long-time member of the ski club. She originally joined sometime in the very early eighties, when she was just a child. After taking a break for about 10 years, Lauren came back just as active and involved in the SLO Skiers as she was before she left. As our trip director, she certainly has made a name for herself! We have all experienced her 'over the top creativity' with themes and contests galore. If you haven't experienced one of her amazing week long trips, you have really missed out.

Lauren has had two very varied careers. As a banker, she became a vice president, and only left that career because her bank closed the SLO branch and wanted her to move to LA. Smart girl, Lauren, it just wouldn't be like living on the central coast. Lauren's current career involves a general engineering construction company where she is the chief financial officer and part owner in the company.

Something many people don't know about Lauren...she has five children. They are quite nice, but three of them are quite spoiled and have never left home. Her five children have 20 legs between them. She is the ultimate animal lover, taking in any animal that would otherwise go unwanted. In addition to her own five, she regularly babysits for others. Thank you, Lauren, for all you do for the ski club!



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## Summer Bike Ride Schedule

Yes, it is time to start getting in shape for those long, hard days of skiing by routinely riding your bicycle. Join the SLO Skiers bike group for another superb series of summer bike rides.

Let's get the season started with a "First Friday Bike Ride". Meet at the head of the Bob Jones Trail at 10:00 AM. No one is in charge. Just meet and enjoy the ride.



Look for a full schedule coming soon on Meetup and posted in next month's newsletter. We are looking for someone to head the bike ride program. If interested, see Fran. I have many ride routes available, will help you with flyers, and coach you in any way you request.

Just a reminder...helmets are required on all SLO Skier Bike Rides.



## Stranded in Russia by SLO Skier, Helen Jacobsen

The adventure began at the airport. Our ski group had been on a guided tour in St. Petersburg Russia for a few days and we were getting ready to leave for Austria. I frantically searched through my bags and papers. My clothes were flying everywhere. I could not find my passport. The last call was made for boarding and the group had no choice but to leave me there alone. The group leaders were in tears, but neither photos of my passport nor anything else I had to prove my identity, would convince them to let me board. As I watched them leave, a blanket of anxiety came over me. The passport pouch that was missing had my credit cards and most of my cash. I had a little bit of money in the Bra Bank, thank God.



The guide we had for four days stayed with me while I tried to think of what to do. First, I called the hotel to see if I had left it in the room. No luck. Then, I tried the American Consulate. The English speaking young man who answered the phone did not seem to understand the grave nature of my dilemma. He informed me that it was Saturday and that Monday was a holiday, Women's Day. He wasn't even going to address it until Tuesday. Even with a picture of my passport, it would take two days to get a new one. In the meantime my Russian Visa had run out. Even if I could get a new passport issued, I would probably have to be sent straight home to the USA because by then the visa expired. I would not be able to join up with my ski group. I thought perhaps I needed to define

So now I turned to our young guide Elsa, and with a look of desperation on my face, I asked if I could please go home with her. She explained that they had two rooms. Not two bedrooms, but two rooms period. Her whole family of four lived in those two rooms. I convinced her that a blanket on the floor was fine with me, even in the Russian winter at 19 degrees. She called her folks and they generously took me in.

We entered a small entry way with a tiny bathroom to the right and a kitchen on the left that was equally small. The stove, sink and table were all touching. The mother was tall and lanky, as was the father. The living room had a TV, with a coat hanger antenna and an old PC which was a remarkable luxury for Russia. Elsa slept on the couch in the living room area. The other end of the living room had curtains dividing it where her parents had their bed. The curtains at one end of the living room were all the privacy they had. This was a fabulous learning experience for me. I got to see how a successful working class Russian family lived. This is what upper middle class is like in Russia.



Her father was an electrical engineer while her mom worked in a factory. The other sister was a chemical engineer, and then there was our guide. This is a success story in Russia. They have their own apartment (state owned).

After the introductions, I went into the living room to continue to tear my luggage apart piece by piece in my desperate search. My passport had to be there somewhere.....

Will Helen find her passport? Stay tuned.....

## Girls Night In at the Casa Sydney Ristorante

On Friday, February 6, six lucky SLO Skier ladies enjoyed a fabulous Italian dinner at the Casa Sydney Ristorante. You're probably thinking, "I've never heard of that restaurant. Where is it?" For those of you that attended the SLO Skiers Turtle Auction last year you'll probably remember a Live Auction item called "Girls Night In." The package included a 7-course Italian dinner with wine pairing and an evening of fun! This package was offered by Stacey King at her home and it was a "Ladies Only" affair. The only request was that they came to the dinner wearing comfortable clothes. It was decided that everyone would come in their pajamas! Several hours of dining included Bruchetta, Minestra con verdure e pasta, Pasta alla Carbonara, Salmone Mediterraneo o halibut, Insalata Caprese, Formaggi and Fresh Fruit (anyone know Italian?), Budino di Arborio con ciliegie e mandorle, all with different Italian wines, and then the meal ended with some home made Limoncello. Once dinner was over most of the ladies stayed the night and watched a movie until they were all falling asleep. So much for going out that evening and causing any trouble! The next morning Linda Kinney and the girls made an awesome waffle breakfast made from starter dough that came from another Live Auction breakfast from Carol and Spence Thatcher! Needless to say, a good time was had by all! A huge "Thank You" goes out to Caryn Maddalena who helped Stacey in the kitchen...she was a great Sioux Chef!!



The lucky ladies of the Girls Night In package were: Stefanie Francis, Carolayne Holly, Linda Tarbell-Messer, Diane Mandala, Linda Kinney and Donna Etter.

## Jokes Heard On The Slopes....Hal?

- Q: What's the difference between a government bond and a snowboard bum?  
 A: Government bonds will eventually mature and make money
- Q: How many Extreme Skiers does it take to change a light-bulb?  
 A: Twenty, one to make the actual turns, and then 19 to point up and say "I could have done that".
- Q: How many ski patrollers does it take to screw in a light-bulb?  
 A: Just one, they simply hold it up and let the world revolve around them.



## March Scene, Really Green

A trio of hikers went out,  
Reservoir Canyon, no doubt.  
The nice waterfall,  
The green hills and all,  
Enough to write home about.

The creek babbled nicely along,  
And birds each chimed in with a song.  
A really nice day,  
To go forth and play,  
Around here you cannot go wrong.



L to R: Barbara and Paul Collins and Pete Sarafian  
enjoying the views above Reservoir Canyon.

Photo credit: A nice hiker in SLO

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## Philanthropy Supports Ski Ducks

At a recent meeting of the SLO Skiers and Social Club the membership issued a check for \$550 to Ski Ducks, a charitable organization based in Lake Tahoe which purchases ski and snowboard equipment for disabled children and teaches them to ski and snowboard.

Making the presentation are, from left to right, Club Philanthropy Chairperson Kathleen O'Neill and Club President Fran Long. For more information about the various philanthropic projects please go to SLO Skiers and Social Club website at [sloskiers.org](http://sloskiers.org)



“THANK YOU” to all of the SLO Skiers who help support many charitable causes.



## Hello From Val d'Iserre

Ralph and Caroline Gibson were the lucky SLO Skiers who joined the Far West Ski Association international Trip to **Val d'Iserre**. The trip came with a pre-trip to Paris , March 10-14, the main trip was March 14-21, and a post-trip to Provence and the French Riviera was March 21-28, 2015. There were 5 options for this trip: a) Paris & Val d'Iserre; b) Val d'Iserre Ski Week; c) Paris , Val d'Iserre and Provence/French Riviera; d) Val d'Iserre and Provence/French Riviera. While on their trip Ralph sent us a beautiful picture from the slopes of Val d'Iserre and said, "Wish all you avid skiers were here to party down."



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## Far West Mississippi River Cruise

**June 19 - 23, 2015** with an additional two days - June 23-24, 2015 in **New Orleans**

This trip will be a 3-night roundtrip "Southern Culture" paddleboat cruise aboard the American Queen from New Orleans. There will be stops at the famous Oak Alley Plantation, and Baton Rouge , LA. Trip includes all meals, wine/beer with dinner, soft drinks, water, and coffee. Also included is 1 night at a local hotel before the cruise. It also includes transfers to the ship, steam-boat-style entertainment, daily lectures, and a Welcome Party.

June 23-24th will be at the New Orleans Hotel Bienville House. New Orleans tour options include airboat/swamp tours and ghost/paranormal tours. See the Far West website for further information.

## Happy Campers (or in this case skiers, in Big White, Canada!

So what's so great about Big White Canada? EVERYTHING! Touted as Canada's "Favourite Family Resort," Big White offers something for everyone. Did you know that it was named in MSN Travel's Top 10 Best Ski Resorts for People Who Don't Ski? That's why this resort was so perfect for a week-long trip. As you know, we are the SLO Skiers **AND** Social Club! There was plenty of activities for both the skiers and non-skiers thanks to our Trip Director Extraordinaire, Lauren Nagle and our "non-skier Activity Guru", Sharon Page. Both of these ladies did a fabulous job to make sure everyone had a great time, wonderful week of skiing, and fun filled events. For those of you that didn't go, you missed out!

First, a very special "Thank You" goes out to Allan and Lori Marguileux for hosting the fabulous Pre-Trip Party with a tasty bar-b-que. Second, another big "Thank You" to Barbara Collins who took on the difficult task of herding the group on and off the bus to and from San Francisco. Even with all of the herding and lugging of equipment the direct flight from San Francisco to Kelowna was perfect!

The snow wasn't the light Canadian powder we were expecting. HOWEVER there was snow. Everyone had a great tour of the mountain. The following day we enjoyed ski lessons by top notch instructors. Mid week some of us went into Kelowna and tasted fine Okanagan wines. The overall message from the 54 happy campers on the Big White trip was:

***" We loved Big White and want to come back!!"***

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## Congratulations to the Contest Winners at Big White

### **SEXY SOCK CONTEST**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Bruce Henshaw  
2<sup>nd</sup> place – Helen Jacobsen

### **SILLY SOCK CONTEST**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Melanie Thatcher  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - Vince Kirkuff

### **DRY T-SHIRT CONTEST**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Kara Edwall  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - Don Phares

### **FUNNY T-SHIRT CONTEST**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Pete Sarafian  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - Spence Thatcher

### **APPETIZER CONTEST**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Bruce Henshaw  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - Mike Long  
3<sup>rd</sup> place - Lloyd Kenny

### **DESSERT CONTEST**

1<sup>st</sup> place - Sharon Page  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - Jen O'Reilly (Thatcher)  
3<sup>rd</sup> place - Lori Marguileux

### **RACE RESULTS:**

Drum roll please.....

Race results will be announced in the May issue of the Gazette.





## A Job Well Done

Lauren planned all kinds of great contests. Kathy entered the Easter Hat Contest with her hat full of fruit and her Carmen Miranda get up. She showed up a day late, but made a memorable entrance. The parties were well attended and lots & lots of fun. And the resort and the snow were AWESOME!! Thanks to all the planning and hard work and from our wonderful trip captains.



## **Board of Directors & Officers 2014-2015**

As Fran mentioned in her President's Message we have a new Board! The new Board members were voted in at the March 4 General Membership meeting. For those who have recently joined the club, there are several positions on the Board. Some are voted in and others are appointed.



Here's everyone who makes up the SLO Skiers Board as we look forward to another great year of fun!

### **DIRECTORS & OFFICERS:**

- ♦ **President** - Fran Long—[president@sloskiers.org](mailto:president@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Vice President** - Steve Thatcher—[vicepresident@sloskiers.org](mailto:vicepresident@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Secretary** - Ralph Gibson—[secretary@sloskiers.org](mailto:secretary@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Treasurer** - Sharon Page
- ♦ **Finance Director** - Thom Page—[finance@sloskiers.org](mailto:finance@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Newsletter Director** - Stacey King—[newsletter@sloskiers.org](mailto:newsletter@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Trip Director** (Week Long) - Lauren Nagle—[trips@sloskiers.org](mailto:trips@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Weekend Trip Director**— Fran Long—[president@sloskiers.org](mailto:president@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Membership Chair** - Peter Jacobsen—[photo@sloskiers.org](mailto:photo@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Ways & Means Chair** - Diane Mandala & Barbara Collins—[ways@sloskiers.org](mailto:ways@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Meet-up Coordinators** (Website) - Jana Favalara & Fran Long—[webmaster@sloskiers.org](mailto:webmaster@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Schedule Coordinator** - Fran Long—[president@sloskiers.org](mailto:president@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Philanthropy Chair** - Michael Krebsbach—[philanthropy@sloskiers.org](mailto:philanthropy@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Club Photographer** Helen Jacobsen—[photo@sloskiers.org](mailto:photo@sloskiers.org)
- ♦ **Past President** - John Smith
- ♦ **Publicity Chairperson** - Pete Sarafian—[publicity@sloskiers.org](mailto:publicity@sloskiers.org)

**Thanks to our Sponsors who support the SLO Skiers year after year!**

*Skiing, Snowboarding,  
Backpacking, Climbing & Travel*



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Do you have something newsworthy to share with the SLO Skiers? Contact Newsletter Editor, Stacey King and she'll help you get it published. Send her an email to [newsletter@sloskiers.org](mailto:newsletter@sloskiers.org) or send her a message on Meet-up!