

## 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

## SUMMER BIKE RIDE SCHEDULE

First Friday of  
the Month

### UPCOMING RIDES:

**May 8th**

**Bob Jones  
Pathway  
10am**

**May 30th**

**South County  
Wine & Dine**  
(more info to come  
on Meetup)

**June 5th**

**Bob Jones  
Pathway**



www.sloskiers.org

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

MAY 2014

## A Message From Our President...

Hmmm...It is difficult to write a president's message when one has been off enjoying skiing (with many other SLO Skiers), rather than heading home to run a meeting and socialize with even more friendly SLO Skiers.

I sounds like those who were in the county enjoyed a nice social hour gathering at the Elks on the first Wednesday of April prior to the 'no meeting'. I think we all look forward to the social hour as much, or more, than we look forward to the meeting.



President Fran Long

A big 'hat's off' to **Carol and Spence Thatcher** for an amazing wine down in April. It's good your home and patio are big because you had at least half the ski club there! It was so evident that everyone wanted a social gathering, and you provided the perfect venue. Food, wine, people, hosts, and the view were all wonderful.

It was good to see that our injured, **Steve Thatcher** and **Sherry Shahan**, survived the trip home from Big White and were able to join in the fun at the wine down.

As your returning president, with another amazing ski club board of directors, I am looking forward to the coming year. Our (your board's) plan is to make the coming year as good, or better, than last year, for all of you. We look forward to listening to your ideas and helping you make them a reality.

We've already had some wonderful SLO Skiers step up and volunteer to take the lead with many of our upcoming activities, but we still have a ways to go. Consider your time and talents, then come to the meeting and let **Thom Page** or **Steve Thatcher** know how you would like to help out. Many volunteers make everyone's job a small job.

And my final thought...

### CONGRATULATIONS, SHARON PAGE, OUR SLO SKIER OF THE YEAR!

Sharon stepped up big time, taking care of our finances throughout our vast array of activities, but that's her job. She also volunteered to help with absolutely every event SLO Skiers sponsored over the course of the year. Sharon, you were indeed an invaluable volunteer.



## April Showers Brought Coon Creek Hike Flowers

Well, the flowers weren't quite the best.  
But the ones still left from the rest,  
All were quite vernal; life springs eternal,  
And gave us cause for more zest.

Most of the walk was quite lush.  
Green, and birds that would not hush.  
They kept up a chatter, but it did not matter.  
The beauty could make one blush.

We even saw a ten inch fish.  
Hey guys, I'll bet you wish,  
Steel head were legal; you'd run like a beagle,  
And soon have one hooked for your dish.



From left to right- Tara Edwall, Carla Friddle, Pete Sarafian, Lisa Hall, Scottie & Bill Morris.

Photo by Tom & Sharon Page



They made it to  
the end of the  
trail!

Back row (L to R):  
Tara Edwall  
Thom Page  
Bill Morris

Sitting on log (L to R):  
Carla Friddle,  
Sharon Page,  
Scottie Morris,

Photo by Pete Sarafian

## Next Scheduled Hike—Saturday, May 16th

Pete Sarafian and Laura Hyde have scheduled the next hike to take place at the Avila Bay Estates. At the May 6th SLO Skiers meeting Laura offered to lead the way on the numerous trails that are located within the Estates. She said there are over 15 miles of trails! Be prepared for a great workout and don't forget to bring plenty of water and a light jacket. Sometimes it can be a bit chilly on the coast. Meet at the south end of the Home Depot parking lot at 9:00am to carpool.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



# **SLO SKIERS TURTLE AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2015**

SOUTH BAY COMMUNITY CENTER  
2180 PALISADES DRIVE  
LOS OSOS, CALIFORNIA

**WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS AND  
COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS!**

**YOUR DONATIONS MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL EVENT  
AND THE MONEY RAISED HELPS OFFSET THE COST OF  
YOUR SKI TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
THOM OR SHARON PAGE**



## Stranded in Russia (Part 2) by SLO Skier, Helen Jacobsen

We last left you with Helen tearing her luggage apart in the living room of the young Russian guide Elsa and her family who took her in for the night. Her passport had to be in her luggage somewhere.....

The mother was preparing breakfast and insisted I have some shell macaroni with sugar sprinkled on it (Dr. Atkins would be in shock). I ate a small portion as not to hurt her feelings. Then I went back to checking, shaking, and examining every article, in every nook and cranny in the luggage I had. A little over an hour had gone by and the Mom came back in and offered me pancakes as a snack. I tried tactfully to decline but she insisted.

She came back with thin delicious pancakes that had cottage cheese in them. I loved it. After three of these culinary delights, I couldn't remember who Dr. Atkins was. Again back to the suitcase and more talking to myself on where the missing passport could possibly be. A few minutes later the guide's cell phone rang. A smile came over her face. She said someone had called the hotel. The hotel had put their information in my passport when they took it, upon arrival in Russia. The guy that called had my passport. She said the desk clerk had to talk him into bringing the passport to the hotel. He apparently was on the other side of St. Petersburg, she had to convince him to come all the way across town.

I was ecstatic. I put my suitcase explosion back together, called a cab, thanked my hosts profusely (she was still trying to feed me as I went out the door), and wrestled the four bags down the three flight of stairs. Elsa and her father helped me stuff them in a cab and we headed off to the hotel. As we wove through the bumper to bumper traffic, you could tell any car in Russia was a treasure. Most were very old, and even those barely hanging together were still in use. The cabs were really beat to shreds, barely running and looking like something out of a destruction derby.

We arrived at the hotel and lugged the bags back inside. (At this hotel there were no bell boys). I went straight to the desk. "Is he here yet?" She said "No". I asked her "Exactly what did he say." He said he had found the passport on the other end of town (we had been over there the evening before for a Russian Cultural Show). He said it was a lot of trouble to bring it all the way back to the hotel. But she pleaded with him and told him that I was stuck and how very important it was. She asked for his name and number and he refused to give it to her. The lady at the desk said he would want a reward and I should be prepared because all the money and the credit cards would be gone. I had very little money left in the Bra Bank, but I would give everything I had to get the passport. He grudgingly agreed. This was about 1:30pm. I sat and waited. I paced. I asked again what he said, I didn't want to miss any detail. Then it was 3pm, 4pm. No passport. No man. I was losing hope again!

Five pm and still nothing! Then a little after 5pm, the guide taps me on the shoulder. There stands a nice looking young Russian man in an expensive suit, who spoke very broken English. In his hand was my passport – not only my passport, but all of my money and credit cards that were in the same pouch, and nothing was missing.



Now I was hopping and jumping around. I started hugging the young man. I got my money out and offered him a reward. He refused. I was flabbergasted. He is now chatting with my guide. She translates to me. He has asked if you need a ride to the airport. I was stunned, but of course I do. If we could leave now, I could barely catch the next flight to Frankfurt, Germany. I would then be able to catch up with my group.

We walked outside the hotel and there sits a brand new BMW! I stand in disbelief as he loads my luggage. Then he reaches in his car and pulls out this bouquet of flowers. In his broken English, he says, "It's Woman's Day in Russia, every woman must have flowers." I am now in shock. I took photos to prove this really happened. I asked the guide to translate for me, and I thanked him repeatedly. We laughed as I got into the BMW and off we went to the airport. We made light conversation with the language barrier and he asked me many things about the American press. He obviously saw my press credentials that were with my passport pouch. He seemed interested in seeing to it I had good memories of Russia. He dropped me off, helped me with the burdensome luggage, and amid the thanks and hugs, sent me on my way.

Now my passport was securely attached to my body. My bags were checked, and I was finally on my way to Frankfurt. I had to pinch myself to believe it. The people I dealt with in Russia were great, but I was very glad to be out of the country. The Russian airport had few computers to work with, and the marginal efficiency or lack of technology made it difficult to change flights. (Their government must have spent all of their money on outer space and the arms race.)

Good bye to Russia, hello to clean high-tech Frankfurt Germany. At the airport, I could now get a wealth of information on how to continue on with my adventure. I realized the trek to catch up with the rest of my group had just begun.



Will Helen catch up with her group? Stay tuned.....



## Training With Fran Long

Are you having trouble navigating thru the SLO Skiers Meetup webpage? Do you know how to update your profile? Do you want to print a copy of a picture that has been posted? Well, now's the time to learn some of the tricks on working with Meet-up. Fran has scheduled a training session for anyone needing a little help. She'll show you how to navigate thru the various functions of Meetup and how to view all the great information being posted about the SLO Skiers Club. The first session of training will take place at the SLO Elk's Lodge on **Wednesday, May 20 from 6-7pm**. Bring a laptop and plenty of questions. It's going to be a fun, low-key event and there might be a glass of wine or two involved!

## Big White Race Results!

Racing among the club members is always fun. Even though it's a race just taking your time and completing the course makes everyone a winner. Ok...don't kid yourself!! This is serious stuff! Everyone wants to be a winner. Well, you got 'em here! Those incredible, athletic, competitive juices always flow at the start gate. Then, it's all downhill for the tiger in us all..... WINNING!!!

### Congratulations to the Racing Legends of Big White!

#### UNDER 40 AGE GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> place - Sharon Smith

*Sharon had the fastest time on themountain! The SLO Skiers TIGERESS!*

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Melanie Thatcher

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Kara Edwall

#### OVER 40 YEARS YOUNG

*DAMN FAST WOMEN!*

1<sup>st</sup> place - Tracy Thatcher

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Fran Long

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Lauren Nagle

*REALLY FAST WOMEN!*

1<sup>st</sup> place - Helen Jacobsen

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Jen O'Reilly

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Barbara Collins

*GONNA BE FAST...REALLY SOON!*

1<sup>st</sup> place - Kathy Steele

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Stefanie Francis

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Donna Webb

#### OVER 40 YEARS YOUNG

*DAMN FAST MEN!*

1<sup>st</sup> place - Steve Thatcher

*(OBVIOUSLY pre wipe-out. Sorry Steve!)*

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Ken Waage

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Rick Eiben

*REALLY FAST MEN!*

1<sup>st</sup> place - Norm Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Bruce Henshaw

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Steve Balog

*GONNA BE FAST...REALLY SOON!*

1<sup>st</sup> place - Allan Margulieux

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Mike Long

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Larry Guittard

Everyone had a blast and we hope to see more competitors on the next ski trip. Until next winter keep movin'.....

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## Kudos to Big White

Great skiing and great fun. The Canadians and Australians who work there were very helpful in all areas of accommodations and service. After two people from our group (Steve and Sherry) were injured on the slopes, the doctor in the emergency room on at the resort told us that we had filled our quota and that no more injuries would be allowed. The snow was great, but could have been better. The workers at the resort were the best! The parties that were planned were exceptional and really made the trip fun.



## More of Big White



## **Past Year's Philanthropy Accomplishments** by Kathleen O'Neil

You are truly a generous club; and due in large part to such a successful auction, together we have contributed a great deal to our community since my annual report of April 1, 2014. Here are some of the highlights:

- ♦ \$550 donation to the SkiDUCK organization, to purchase ski and snowboard equipment for disabled children, plus lessons at Lake Tahoe.
- ♦ \$1,000 donation in addition to 300 lbs of food, baby wipes, and 250 lbs of disposable diapers to the SLO County Food Bank Coalition.
- ♦ Donated 85 lbs of toiletries to the SLO Homeless Shelter.
- ♦ Volunteering for AmpSurf which teaches disabled amputee veterans to learn how to surf at Pismo Beach.
- ♦ We supported the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge in donating toys for children at Christmas, books and sweatshirts for hospitalized veterans, and eyeglasses for persons who can't afford to buy glasses. In addition, we gave the Elks Lodge \$1,200 to support their following causes: crippled children, national and local scholarships, and veterans.
- ♦ Recognition by the Far West Ski Association for being the first place charity winner to Parkinson's research. We received a check for \$300 for our efforts.
- ♦ We supported the Central Coast Follies with our attendance, which donates their proceeds to Parkinson's research.
- ♦ Ten members supported the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) with their attendance at CASA's annual fundraiser, for a contribution of \$360.
- ♦ Our "Sunshine" function, created two years ago, still continues to support members who are ill, injured, and/or hospitalized in addition to showing our respect to families of deceased.

As I bid adieu as your Philanthropy Chair for the past two years, I am pleased to pass the baton onto Michael Krebsbach's capable hands. I am grateful for your support and generosity and I hope you will continue contributing locally, globally, and to ski/snowboard charities. In addition, the following are other causes that have been suggested but not yet funded and are worth your consideration in future years:

Alzheimer's and dementia research:

Malaria eradication through purchase of mosquito nets,

SLO Women's Shelter

Achievement House

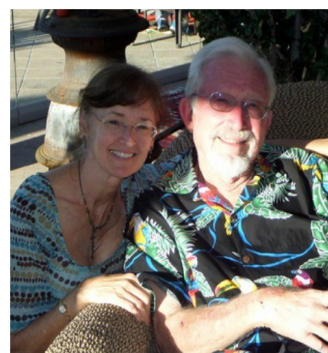
Environmental causes related to climate change

Donation of eyeglasses to the Lions Club



## Wine Down With The Thatchers

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to Spence and Carol Thatcher for hosting yet another great Wine Down event and their lovely home. A good time was had by all...even Steve who spent most of his night socializing on the couch! Everyone toasted to his speedy recovery. Cheers!







## Board of Directors & Officers 2015-2016

Your Board is here for you. If you have any questions, suggestions on activities, want to be more involved, contact any of the following Directors or Officer. Remember, the SLO Skiers & Social Club is YOU!

### DIRECTORS & OFFICERS:

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



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the SLO Skiers year after year!

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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 or send her a message on Meet-up!