

NEWSLETTER

SKI and TRAVEL

FEBRUARY 2010

WEBSITE: www.gmskiclub.org

GM CLUB: FOUNDED 1957

VOLUME LIV, ISSUE II

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 6:30 pm

Shield's Pizza Restaurant

1476 W. Maple Rd. (Just West of Crooks) Troy, 48084.

Club commemorates Valentine's Day!

Dress as a cupid, or yourself, and be loved by all.

6:30 p.m. No admission charge.



Pub & Grub night

February 9 Tuesday Bailey's Sports Grille

1965 W. Maple Rd. in Troy. 48084

Take your choice of 36 draft beers.



6:30 pm.

Contact Debbie: 248-689-7167 or email, Sunsetcar@aol.com

Meet 'n Ski

February 17 Wednesday.

Join us for an evening of fun and skiing at **Mt. Brighton**. Lift tickets are \$30, \$26 for seniors, but GMSC members get a \$5 club reimbursement!

3-10 p.m., weather permitting.

Please RSVP one day in advance. Contact Dave: 586-754-8151, or email <u>daveduvali@wowway.com</u>

GM SKI and TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Address: ____Zip:___ City:___ Phone: (day)_____(Evening)____ Date of Birth _____ Email address □New Membership-\$30 □Renewal-\$25 **□**Married Couple-\$40 In consideration for me being able to join the GM Ski and Travel Club, I agree to abide by the GM SKI and TRAVEL Club's by-Laws and constitution. Membership runs October 1 through September 30. Date: How did you hear about the GM Ski and Travel Club? ☐ Friend ☐ Newspaper ☐ Racing ☐ Event (list) Skiina Interest: **Skiing Ability:** I'd like to help: ☐ Downhill ☐ Beginner ☐ Ski Trips ☐ Racing ☐ Intermediate ☐ Publicity ☐ Advanced ☐ X-country ☐ Meetings ☐ Snowboard ☐ Activities ☐ Other (list) Referral: I am a new member and was referred to the GM Ski and Travel Club by: Referring Members Name: Payment made by: Cash Check Check # I like the club so much I wish to make an additional contribution of \$_

TO IOIN: Please send completed application above along with check (payable to "GM Ski Club") to:

GM Ski and Travel Club 40377 Kraft Dr.

Sterling Heights, MI 48310

Or bring the completed application with you to our General Meeting. Membership runs Oct. through Sept. Mail changes of address to the above.

You don't have to work for General Motors to belong to the GM Ski and Travel Club!

GM Ski and Travel Club Board of Directors

President: Les Skrzycki 248-

693-1794

Vice President: Brian De Leo

248-626-6192

Treasurer: Alan Toomey

248-391-5180

Secretary: Darrell Ahlberg, 586-

899-8203

Activities: Brian De Leo

248-626-6192

Hospitality: Greg Ronan 586-

219-7669

Membership: Darrell Ahlberg,

586-899-8203

MDSC Rep: Debbie Cooke

248-689-7167

Newsletter: Michael Bourke

586-776-7685

Publicity: (Position is open)

Ski Trips: Dave Duvali

586-754-8151

Webmaster: Kathy O'Driscoll

248-666-9057.

The board meets once a month, the week after the General Meeting

Treasurer's Report:

\$8405³⁹

Alan Toomey Treasurer



February Birthdays

Doug Bailiff Walt Kearsley 16 Evelyn Douglas 27



Thinking about tomorrow...

Up-coming Full Moon Sail Saturday, June 26

Sunset at 9:13, moonrise at 9:35

The moon has already made its commitment...

WANTED **Game Night Planners**

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you may have noticed an announcement for a GMSC Game Night Party.

We are looking to form a small committee from the membership to plan this party. We're looking for your ideas for a variety of games to feature which will foster meeting and mingling with other members.

If interested, please contact

Darrell Ahlberg—Dahlberg7@comcast.net

Editor's Notes

Submissions to this newsletter will be accepted in any visual, but not oral, form. Electronic transmissions are preferred.

The deadline is 5:00 p.m. sharp on the 20th of the preceding month.

Michael Bourke 16724 Collinson Eastpointe, MI 48021

Home: 586-776-7685 E-mail: gmskiclub@yahoo.com

May 21-23, 2010





- Lodging at the Tara Lodge www.hockinghills.com/taralodge/
 - Limited to first 20 people
- Saturday Morning 3 hour Zip Lining Tour www.hockinghills.canopytours.com www.hockinghills.com/parks.html
 - 10 Zips
 - · 3 Rope Bridges

Zip through the treetops on a network of cables and adventure sky bridges suspended high above the forest floor, overlooking a cave, rock cliffs, the Hocking River, and other nature flora

- · Other activities such as Canoing/Kayaking
- Costs:

Area Parks and Natural Wonders

- Old Man's Cave
- · Ash Cave
- · Cedar Falls
- · Conkles Hollow
- · Cantwell Cliffs
- · Rock House
- Rock Bridge
- · Clear Creek
- · More





Welcome New Members And The Ultimate Value

In the past month, the GM Ski Club has added ten new members. We would like to extend our warmest welcome to each of you and our hope you will find the club and all its members the friendliest, liveliest group on the planet.

There are many ways new members are attracted to the club. There is the internet; there is the MDSC, the tri-folds being left at area restaurants and sport shops. But far and away the most important source of new membership is from you, our existing membership. We're gratified that, as members you find enough value in the club to tell your friends about it. As an expression of the club's appreciation to you, our policy is to award you a year of free membership for every three new members you recruit.

Thus far, in the 2009-2010 membership year, the following people have referred the associated members to the club .

Each of these has recommended one person and has only two to go. How about you?? We would dearly love to award you an Ultimate Value Award before the year is out. If you know of someone looking for great activities and socialization, why not let them know about your club and invite them to any of our meetings and socials?

Think of it. You have an opportunity to turn a friend or loved one on to a great value and in turn receive that value yourself, free of charge. Now that, my friends, is the "Ultimate Value."

Once again, on behalf of all the GM Ski Club members and board, welcome to the club.

Darrell Ahlberg Membership Chairman

New Members

New Member		Member	Referred By
	Matthew	Walker	Susan Walker
	Susan	Walker	
	Beth	Woods	
	Mark	Waldman	Patricia Lloyd
	Ken	Colden	
	Nancy	Prall	
	David	Norkus	Kathy O'Driscoll
	Michelle	P. Gierak	Suzanne Vivian
	Carolyn	Fiscelli	Michelle P. Gierak
	Bill	Tory	Dale Goolsby

Referred		
Marie	Weiner	
Mary	Bogush	
Barbara	Hartley	
Karen	Halik	
Hugh	Thomas	
Doug	Bailiff	
Norm	Kangas	
David	Norkus	
Richard	Leidheiser	
Ray	Jones	
Carolyn	Fiscelli	
David	Littleton	
Mark	Waldman	
Robert	Dugan	
Scott	Schovon	
Matthew	Walker	
Michelle	Pawl-Gierak	
Barbara	Worley	
Bill	Tory	
	Marie Mary Barbara Karen Hugh Doug Norm David Richard Ray Carolyn David Mark Robert Scott Matthew Michelle Barbara	











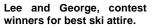














General Meeting January 14th

Standing Room Only







March 20, 2010 Wine Tasting Party



For the third consecutive year, in what has become a spring tradition, you are cordially invited to a very special wine tasting event on the evening of March 20, 2010. This will be a self-run

event. We would ask everyone to bring a bottle of wine which you think is an interesting brand/flavor/vintage to share with other people. When your

turn comes, you can tell the group a little about it; and we'll uncork it and pass it around.

The club will be providing a cheese/cracker/fruit platter as well as miscellaneous sundry items, party favors, and pizza. The cost is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Also, if you would like to bring a dish to share, it would be much appreciated. All money collected will be used to pay for party extras.

Mingling opportunities: In addition to a great opportunity to learn about and enjoy great company and great conversation, while learning about great wines, wine-tasting parties are also great mingling opportunities for making new friends.

If you are interested, please mail a check payable to the GM Ski Club to the address below.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. I'd like to know:

What: Wine Tasting Party

Where: Darrell Ahlberg's house, 40377 Kraft Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48310

Let me know if you need directions.

When: Saturday March 20. 7:00 - ???

Why: Good times, good friends, and good wine.

How: You make it a good party.

Cost: \$5.00—GM Ski Club Members, \$10.00—non-members

Bottle of wine which offers something special you'd like to share

with the group.

Contact: Darrell Ahlberg. Dahlberg7@comcast.net (586)899-8203

I think this will be a great time and I hope you will be able to make it.

Darrell Ahlberg

Announcing GMSC Members Only Game Night Party—Saturday April 17



Mark your calendars and save Saturday, April 17th aside for a very special night. We'll be having a party for GMSC members and their invited guests. Our club has had such explosive growth over the past two years, setting aside one night for us all to play together and become acquainted just seems like the thing to do.

So we'll have a party featuring a variety of games. There will be board games, card games, stand up games and a few surprises—all designed for a night of great fun.

As a member, you are welcome to invite a guest or two of your choice but it certainly is not required.

Other than being asked to bring a dish to share, there will be no charge for this event. However, RSVP is requested so we will know how many to expect.

Exact details on this party are still being formulated and announcements will be made as plans unfold. But for now, mark your calendars and plan on joining your fellow GMSC Members for a great night of fellowship and fun. This will be a great party for everybody. Hey, have we ever let you down?

-Darrell Ahlberg

GMSC Turns 96 Who Will Be 100?

No, we're not talking age. We're talking GMSC membership numbers. With the nine new members signed last month, membership now stands at 96. You, along with your fellow GMSC members, have been part of one of the most explosive club growths in recent memory. We hope you continue to find value in your membership.

We are planning to cross the **"century"** mark with a special celebration at the general meeting following the registration of that elusive 100th member. All attendees will be provided a special treat and the 100th member and his/her referring GMSC member will be specially honored. We request the honor of your presence when this occasion occurs. This will be more than just a celebration for lucky number 100, but it will be a celebration for everyone who has been a part of this club during this time of growth. Moreover, it will be a special tribute to those who have stuck with the club during the lean years.

So who will these special honorees be? I'm thinking it will be you and your friend. We will find out soon. Remember, even if you and your referred member turn out to be-either number 99 or 101, you will still be winners. You, as a referring member, will be on your way to receiving Free Membership award (awarded to anyone referring three members). Your friend will benefit from being a member of the most active and dynamic club on the planet, and you will celebrate this momentous occasion together with your fellow GMSC members. It's a win-win for everybody.

Watch for future announcements. When the 100th person signs up, we'll announce it by sending flares and fireworks into the sky. And for those who miss this celestial extravaganza, we'll also be sending out e-mails. HOLY MOLY!

We look forward to you joining your club members in this extraordinary celebration. The only question left will be what we do for an encore when we reach number 150? Or Number 200? These numbers may not be too far into the future. We should start planning for it now.

-Darrell Ahlberg

Board Member Elections

The April General Meeting is Election Night for our club. The four positions members will vote on are:

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

In addition to these four elected positions, there are several appointed positions on the board. One of the duties of the president is to appoint people to fill these positions.

As members, you are highly encouraged to get involved with the governance of the club either by running for any of the above elected positions, or seeking an appointed position.

Anyone who has been a member for at least a year is eligible to run. To nominate either yourself or someone else, contact any of the following members of the nominating committee.

Debbie Cooke
sunsetcar@aol.com
Greg Ronan
riverdanceiii@yahoo.com
Michael Bourke
excelsiormb@hotmail.com

Once nominations are in, the nominating committee will publish the names of all nominees. Please plan

on attending the April meeting and

Tips on affordable luxury hotels

There are many people who think that luxury hotels are only reserved for the very rich. Although there are some hotels that are really expensive there are also some other hotels that are available at some much more affordable cost. You only need to know where to search. In order to help you learn more on this I have written this short article on finding luxury hotels when on a budget.

If you are okay with some form of uncertainty then you can have a look at the last minute deals that are available on the internet. This will allow you to benefit from some of the unsold hotel rooms that are usually available at a heavily discounted price. If you are the kind of people that can get moving quickly with minimal planning then you can as well benefit from such kind of hotel bookings.

I will recommend you to make use of the net for all your reservations needs. Given that most hotels favor this kind of booking processes as it costs less, chances are that you will have better deals. Normally there are rebates and

other vouchers that are promptly available for reservations made on the net. You can also utilize a hotel review internet site (there is a horde of them on the net) so as to compare among the best hotel deals. Those that read French can check out this article on romantic luxury hotels (Voyages luxe) and package holidays in order to discover more on this.

casting your vote.

It is also important to note that your choice of hotels can also influence on your budget. For instance there are some 4-stars hotels that offer some really good services-sometimes even better than 5-stars hotels. Normally they have renounced their ratings just because of monetary concerns. Choosing such a hotel can be rather interesting for you. Once you have tasted the joy of a luxury hotel you will never want to come back to your usual hotel. All in all the service is just amazing and the staff itself quite charming. They all contribute to make your stay as comfortable as possible. You will not regret it.

Wine + Music + Holiday Cheer = Christmas Karaoke

If you're looking for an evening of fun, music, and dancing, and all mixed with zany frolic, you need look no further than your friendly neighborhood karaoke party. At least that's how it is for GMSC people.

On the evening of Friday, December 18, some 40 GMSC Members and friends gathered for a Christmas karaoke bash at Darrell Ahlberg's house.

The idea came about on whim. Some friends decided to replace annual Christmas karaoke in a bar and have in a friendly atmosphere at someone's house.

And what a dynamic night it turned out to be. There were some great singers who both mesmerized and charged up the crowd. Before long, this party started taking on a life of its own.

Darrell opened the night with the Buck Owens Classic country rocker, Santa Looked A Lot Like Daddy. After his little jump and shout, the real talent began to take over. Next thing you knew, there were sing alongs and dancing. The karaoke started about 7:30 and went until after midnight non-stop.

Being a private party, the atmosphere was very comfortable. People you'd always dreamed of seeing do such a thing, not only got up and actually sang, they did so in grand fashion. This caused notable shock on the faces of those who, heretofore, thought they knew these people well. Jan Burrows surprised everybody with a very sultry "Santa Baby". And the list just kept going on. Who'd have thunk it could ever happen??

Just about when you we beginning to think it couldn't get and better, the crowd went wild when the big man from the North Pole showed up with his bride in tow. That's right, Santa Clause, himself, in the persona of Rick Kuhn, brought the house down. Yep, the man in Red and White most of us only dream we'll one day meet showed up with his lovely bride, Barb right behind him backing up her man. Everyone was wanting to sit on his lap, express their wishes and spread some Christmas cheer.. Even the men. This not only brought on great uproarity, but also immediately put every male at the party under suspicion. Including the big man himself, who seemed to be having the time of his life.

There was a surprising wealth of talent in attendance who entertained not only with several old standards, such as Jingle Bells, White Christmas, Blue Christmas, Rudolph, Snoopy vs. Red Barron and many others. There these numbers also inspired impromptu sing-alongs, back up singers, and dancing. Although Christmas was the theme, singers were free to sing songs of any genre. Notable performances were Jim Walsh rousing the crowd with Soul Man, Dave Norkus bringing us his patented high stepping New York New York and Jenny Dietrich teamed up for a great version of "My Boyfriend's Back". And there were ever so many others.

Make no mistake, these were all brilliant performances. But none brought the house down like Michelle Pawl-Gerrick's rendition of Cabaret. This singular outstanding Mary Zalewski performance brought everyone into standing ovation for several minutes. The shocked look on her face from such an enthusiastic response was priceless.

Closing this article would not be appropriate before mentioning that a karaoke event such as this one could not possibly be successful without a wide variety of music to choose from. So special thanks are owed to Michelle Pawl-Gerrick and Karen Johnson-Arel for bringing their vast private collections of karaoke music for everyone to choose from and enjoy. On behalf of all party attendees, thank you for your invaluable contribution.

In sum, a good time was had by all in attendance. Indeed, some previously put off by the concept of karaoke were surprised at just how much fun karaoke can be. So a follow up next year is very likely. If you missed it this year, we hope to see you next year.

Christmas Karaoke Attendees Darrell Ahlberg Arel Mark Karen Johnson-Arel **Burrows** Jan Connie Casey Mary Jane Dawson Jenny Dietrich Julie DiMambro Christine **Downs** Jim Elek Carolyn Fiscelli Liz Fish Tom (Flip) **Flipiak** Dale Goolsby Linda Hollern Tina Howell Barb Kuhn Rick Kuhn Sherry Letavis Fred Meyers Valerie Miller Mike Murphy Dave **Norkus** Kathy O'Driscoll Michell Paul-Gerrick Bob Pichowski Judy Pichowski Pam Robson Jeff Rollins Grev Sergey Les Skrzycki Sleeman ΑI Jim Steigleman Bill Tory Jim Walsh Steve Whitty John Zalewski Zalewski

















Raparty Party







GM Ski Club Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe. Lake Ann, Ml. Feb 19 - 21, 2010

Calling All Cross Country Skiers and Snowshoers

You don't want to miss this classic trip to the Traverse City area. We'll be staying at the Sleeping Bear Resort Lodges.

Limited to the first 24 signups. This trip is selling out fast. Please do not hesitate if you're thinking about it.

Accommodations at the Bear's Den Lodge at the Sleeping Bear Resort.

- Two Houses, Eleven bedrooms, Five full baths
- Each house features Living Room, Full Kitchen, Dining Room, Rec Room

Plenty of area trails for cross-country ski and snow shoe

- The "venerable" Vasa trail within 20 minutes.
- Lake Ann Pathway right outside the house
- Many other area ski opportunities
- Downhill resorts nearby within 30 minutes: Crystal Mountain

Coincides with the Annual Lake Ann Winterfest

- Something in the village for those who don't do the all day ski thing
- Games, exhibitions, food, beer, and more

Cost: \$60 GMSC members (\$70 non-members) includes

- Two nights lodging
- Two continental breakfasts
- Two pack your own lunches.

Contact: Darrell Ahlberg.

Dahlberg7@comast.net

586-899-8203

















Not content with merely saying grace before eating, Patti also believes in hugging Grace before eating.









THREE NEW FACES

FOR GM SKI CLUB MEMBERSHIP!



REWARD

RECRUIT 3, AND GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP FREE!
(GM SKI CLUB GROWS BY THREE NEW MEMBERS WHO
DESIGNATE YOU AS THE REFERRING MEMBER AT SIGNUP)

Calendar of Events

Every Sun. Our "Breakfast Club" starts at 10:00 a.m. at Anton's Island Grill, Big Beaver Rd. (16 Mile Rd.) and Dequindre, NW corner. Phone: 248-619-0016. Just show up, and we'll make room for you. No RSVP needed.

Every Sun. Walleyball Time! Work off that Sunday breakfast and join us at Warren Racquet and Fitness Club, one block east of Van Dyke at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile Rd. 12.30 p.m. Everybody is invited, we play for kicks! Contact Michael: 586-776-7685



FEBRUARY

Baldwin Theater - Stagecrafters present the comedy play "The Full Monty." Based on the movie about a group of unemployed steel workers in Buffalo, this performance delivers a ton of laughs about their decision to shed their clothes for fun and profit. Dinner is 5:30 at Sangria Restaurant. Play starts at 8:00 pm. See flyer or contact Darrell: 586-899-8203, email: dahlberg7@comcast.net

9 Tue. Pub & Grub night at **Bailey's Sports Grille**, 1965 W. Maple Rd. in Troy. Take your choice of 36 draft beers. 6:30 pm. Contact Debbie: 248-689-7167 or email, <u>Sunsetcar@aol.com</u> *

11 Thurs. General Meeting - Shield's Pizza Restaurant, 1476 W. Maple Rd. (Just West of Crooks) Troy, 48084. Club commemorates Valentine's Day! Dress as a cupid, or yourself, and be loved by all.

17 Wed. Meet 'n Ski - Join us for an evening of fun and skiing at Mt. Brighton. Lift tickets are \$30, \$26 for seniors, but GMSC members get a \$5 club reimbursement. 3-10 p.m., weather permitting. Please RSVP one day in advance. Contact Dave: 586-754-8151, or email daveduvali@wowway.com

16 Tue. Board Meeting at Darrell's place, 6:30 p.m. Contact Darrell: 586-899-8203

19-21 WKND Lake Anne Winterfest Weekend ... Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, playing in the snow, and browsing through the town will set the stage for your enjoyment. Downhill skiing is also nearby. Located near Traverse City, an early sell-out is expected! See this newsletter for more details. Contact Darrell: 586-899-8203

MARCH

26 Fri.

11 Thurs. General Meeting - Shield's Pizza Restaurant, 1476 W. Maple Rd. (Just West of Crooks) Troy, 48084. 6:30 pm. Oh, St. Pat's Day is close enough! Wear your beads, green shoes, hats, shirts, or anything green to be seen or unseen, but "Go Green."

12 Fri. Restaurant of the Month will be **Pasquale's Italian Restaurant**, 31555 Woodward Ave., in Royal Oak. 6:30 pm. Embrace Papa Giuseppe's tasty recipes where the food is still made by family members after four generations. Contact Brian: 248-626-6192, or email, <u>zirton1@aol.com</u> *

16 Tue. Board Meeting at Darrell's house, 6:30 p.m. Contact Darrell: 586-899-8203

20 Sat. Wine-Tasting Party, GMSC Style! - This is a unique and creative way to meet new folks and

share your favorite wines. Always popular and always fun! Members \$5 and a bottle of wine,

Guests \$10 and a bottle of wine. A dish to pass is greatly appreciated. See enclosed flyer.

Pub & Grub at Moose Winooski's, 38 S. Main St. in Clawson. 6:30 pm. Come for the fun & come for

the beer specials. Meet at 6:30 p.m. Contact Brian: 248-626-6192, or email, zirton1@aol.com *

APRIL

8 Thurs. General Meeting - Shield's Pizza Restaurant, 1476 W. Maple Rd. (West of Crooks) Troy, 48084.

13 Tue. Board Meeting at Darrell's house, 6:30 p.m. Contact Darrell: 586-899-8203

17 Sat. Member's Game-Party! - GMSC members, this one's for you! Invitations are for members only, but

you may bring a friend or date. Party will include card games, board games, air hockey, etc. No cost

tonight. RSVP only. Contact Darrell: 586-899-8203, email: dahlberg7@comcast.net

24 Sat. Bocce Ball/Restaurant of the Month - Palazzo di Bocce, 4291 S. Lapeer Rd. in Lake Orion. Details

coming soon.

ON THE HORIZON

Watch for "Meet 'n' Ski" nights! ... GMSC in 2010 will bring you much joy. Look forward to wine-tasting parties, restaurants, pubs, karaoke, euchre, bocce ball, wallyball, movies, theater plays, skiing, sailing, travel, friends, laughter, and many good times to come! ... And just for your pleasure, details are being worked out for ZIPLINING in May where you too can fly like superman! Watch your email for our up-to-the-minute E-Newsletter for last minute events and activities



"A ski and travel club... and a whole lot more"

February at a glance

Every Sun. Our "Breakfast Club" starts at 10:00 a.m. at Anton's Island Grill, 16 Mile Rd. and Dequindre,

Every Sun. Walleyball at Warren Racquet and Fitness, one block east of Van Dyke at 12 ½ Mile Rd. 12.30 p.m.

6 Sat Baldwin Theater – "The Full Monty." Dinner is 5:30 at Sangria Restaurant

9 Tue. Pub & Grub night at **Bailey's Sports Grille**, 1965 W. Maple Rd. in Troy. 6:30 pm.

11 Thur. General Meeting – **Shield's Pizza Restaurant,** 1476 W. Maple Rd. (West of Crooks) Troy, 48084. Club commemorates Valentine's Day! 6:30 pm.

17 Wed. Meet 'n Ski -at Mt. Brighton. 3-10 p.m.,

19-21 WKND Lake Anne Winterfest Weekend ... Contact Darrell: 586-899-8203

GM SKI and TRAVEL CLUB Website:

www.gmskiclub.org

(recent photos, upcoming events, membership applications, bylaws, forms, and fun music)

MDSC Website: www.mdscski.org

Deadline

The deadline for articles or pictures submitted for inclusion in this newsletter is 5 p.m. sharp on the 20th of the preceding month.

Late submissions will be held for the following issue or discarded.



First Class Mail

c/o Darrell Ahlberg 40377 Kraft Dr. Sterling Heights, MI 48310



