

# G M Ski Travel & Social Club

April 2011

WEBSITE: [www.gmskiclub.org](http://www.gmskiclub.org)

GM Club Founded 1957

Volume LV, ISSUE IV

## What's New?'

### **Pub & Grub – Chelli's Chile**

Friday, Apr 8, 2011

41240 Hayes Road

Clinton Twp., MI

Time 6.30 pm RSVP Requested

Contact: Al Sleeman 586-596-5276

[allan.sleeman@ameritech.net](mailto:allan.sleeman@ameritech.net)

## GENERAL MEETING

Thursday April 14, 2011, 6:30pm

Shield's Pizza Restaurant

1476 W. Maple Rd. (Just West of Crooks) Troy, MI 48064

## Restaurant of the Month

Friday, Apr 22, 2011

Joe Bologna 2135 17 Mile Sterling Heights,  
MI 48310

Time 6.30 PM COST: Your Tab: RSVP Requested

Contact:

April  
Happy  
Birthday

Patti-Rae Given	4/01
Patty Westcott	4/04
Barbara DeLuca	4/08
Nancy O'Brien	4/15
Gary Ward	4/16
Jan Burrows	4/18
Michelle Pawl-Gierak	4/19
Cindy Cappelle	4/22
Harvey (Butch) Jones	4/22
Diane Reaser	4/26
Sandy Riddell	4/26
Cindy Hollister	4/28

## ELECTIONS:

*Ballot inside*

*Mark your selection for the candidate and office listed.*

*Bring to the General Meeting*

*Check in with the election committee member and deposit you ballot.*

*If you cannot attend please email your ballot selections to:*

*Brian DeLeo*

[Zirton1@aol.com](mailto:Zirton1@aol.com)

*No later than the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.*

## Grace Center of Hope

When: Wednesday, Apr 27, 2011

Where: 35 E Huron St, Pontiac, MI 48342

Participation of 4-10 people are needed.

Time: Arrive by 4:30 pm and we should be done by 6:30-7:00 pm.

Contact: Susan Walker [swneko@aol.com](mailto:swneko@aol.com) 248-660-5329

Or Patricia Tourney [bonzaibunny@comcast.net](mailto:bonzaibunny@comcast.net) 313-418-4351

## From the President

Thank you. As I get ready to leave office I would like to thank the membership for their support and comments along the way these past years. We have seen growth in our tenure and more enthusiasm by all the members of the club. I have seen events grow with great participation. I have enjoyed being part of all this. My aim has always been to encourage participation and to enjoy friendships and the meeting of new people.

I have always put the members first. This is your club and I believe that you the members have the right to participate in every event. There should never be a cap on having fun and the enjoyment of being with others that seek the same. We as a Board have a set of guidelines to help us manage what we do, but we should never lose sight that what we do is for the members. We don't always agree and we must be flexible to most situations. We aren't tyrants and we must listen to what the members want. They are the reason that we exist. Without members we have no club. Make them happy; give them choices of events, places to go and sights to see. If we do this we will continue to grow.

I would like to thank my Board for all their service and effort over the past few years. I know that we always didn't agree and that is to be expected when you put a group of individuals together. But together we have accomplished a lot. I have my style of leadership and others theirs, until you have sat in the chair you cannot appreciate what goes on and what you have to do. Again let me state that the members always come first.

I would like to pass on to the new Board these thought and insights and never lose track of what is really important. The Members!

Thanks again, Les Skrzycki President G M Ski Club

1.

### *GM Ski and Travel Club Board of Directors*

President: Les Skrzycki 248-236-0837  
Vice President: Brian De Leo 248-626-6192  
Treasurer: Alan Toomey 248-391-5180  
Secretary: Carolyn Fiscelli 586-215-9181  
Activities: Darrell Ahlberg 586-899-8203  
Hospitality: Gregg Ronan 586-219-7669  
Membership: Vacant  
MDSC Rep: Debbie Cooke 248-689-7167  
Newsletter: Vacant  
Publicity: Vacant  
Ski Trips: Dave Duvali 586-754-8151  
Sports and Ski Instruction: Stan Sawicki 586-808-3406  
Webmaster: Kathy O'Driscoll 248-666-9057

Treasurer's

Report:

**\$17,405.22**

Alan Toomey  
Treasurer



## GMSC: Responsible and Caring about the Community

At the activities planning meetings late last year, several individuals came up with ideas for getting the GM Ski Club more involved with the community in which we live. Thus was born a lineup of community service activities to which I'm proud to say, our club members have responded to richly.

On the last Wednesday of every month, we now visit the Grace Center Of Hope in Pontiac and help them serve dinner to residents who live there. We've found out that these people are not so different from ourselves. They are just people who've had a bad turn in life and now need some guidance for re-acclimation into society. Nobody is accepted there unless they commit to a one year program of schooling, counseling and job training. The Center is funded entirely by private donations and volunteer efforts from people like us. And they boast an exceptionally high success rate. Our participation has grown every month and we hope this trend continues.

Also this quarter, twelve GMSC members visited channel 56 studios in Wixom and manned the phones for their pledge drive. Our commitment was for six hours which seemed like it would be a long time. But in reality, time just seemed to fly by. The people of Channel 56 were gracious, friendly, and best of all, appreciative. And the people phoning in donations seemed equally as grateful that volunteers like us would give our time to help them keep their favorite TV station on the air.

Lastly, a whopping 21 GMSC members participated in repacking food at Gleaners Food Bank in Warren. Like the Channel 56 folks, the people at Gleaners were also very gracious and appreciative. They spent the first hour or so filling us in on what Gleaners does to help the community and, then before putting us to work, giving us a tour of the facility. It is truly amazing to see the operation and to ponder how much food they efficiently distribute to various organization in our community. And it just feels good to know the you've helped in some small way to make it all happen.

But it isn't all work. What would an outing of any sort be without play. One of the best feelings is the camaraderie we seem to develop in doing these kinds of activities. Every one of these was followed up by a stop off somewhere for food, beverage, and cheer. So as 2011 marches on, please plan to make time for future community service events. Most importantly, if you have an idea for something like this, let us know so we can get it on the calendar and begin promoting it.

Cheers  
Darrell Ahlberg

### What time of year is it? Is it April Already?

Reflecting back on the first quarter of 2011, two things come to mind. First, it's unbelievable how fast the first three months have gone by and second, it's unbelievable how much action and excitement has yet to come.

Although we are a mere three months into the year, we've done a lot of things. We've visited the tops of mountains and we dove the depths of the ocean. We've done a day long sledding, a weekend of cross country skiing, day long ski outings. And did we party? We had a euchre party, a superbowl party, and a wine tasting party. We've had lunch with Bach at the DIA, experimented with new games like Curling and Whirlyball. And we've given back to our community in a big way. We've had three visits to the Grace Center Of Hope, done an evening at Detroit Public Television, and spent a morning helping out at Gleaners Food Distribution Center. All along we've had recurring Restaurant Of The Month and Pub & Grub outings, including a night at Boogie Fever. We've kept in shape with Sunday Wallyball and stayed in touch by following it up with lunch at Tipsy's. And let's not forget our regular Sunday morning breakfasts. All this and more in a mere three months' time.

Yes, the GMSC has a vibrant activities program. The really cool thing is that the program is diverse enough that we don't have the same "core" group attending every event. I've attended most of the events and I've noticed different types of events are attended by different people. Hence, we're managing to find something for everyone.

All of this is made possible because people like you are stepping up with an idea and an offer to lead it. It all started with the Activities Planning meetings we held late last year and it has grown from there. This speaks volumes about to you, the membership. You not only participate and help to make the events successful. But you are also willing to make things happen. This is where the diversity and richness of our club comes from.

So if you have an idea of any sort, let's hear about it. It can be anything from a simple suggestion for Restaurant of The Month or Pub & Grub, to something more complex like leading a weekend outing. It can be athletic, cultural, community oriented, or anything else. If it's something you're interested in, chances are somebody else is interested in it too.

Bear in mind, an event doesn't have to be attended by large numbers of people in order to be considered successful. Sometimes the richest experiences and the greatest chances of forming new friends take place from events with the smallest of turnouts. So if you have an idea, don't hold back. Let's talk about it and get it on the calendar. You'll likely be turning somebody on to an experience they never would have gotten otherwise.

Thank for making the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011 so successful. And remember the year is just getting started. Check out the calendar on the website for the rich line up of events we have coming and plan your year accordingly. Cheers!! Darrell

## Election Ballot 2011

<b>President</b>	<b>Darrell Ahlberg</b>			
<b>Write IN</b>				
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bill Given</b>			
	<b>Carolyn Fiscelli</b>			
<b>Write IN</b>				
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Alan Toomey</b>			
<b>Write In</b>				
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Leslie Musser</b>			
<b>Write IN</b>				

### Election Committee

Debbie Cooke [Sunsetcar@aol.com](mailto:Sunsetcar@aol.com) 248-689-7167

Christy Gonzalez  
[Gonzalez22442003@yahoo.com](mailto:Gonzalez22442003@yahoo.com)  
586-651-2753

Brian DeLeo  
[Zirton1@aol.com](mailto:Zirton1@aol.com)  
248-626-6192



## Cozumel TRIP REPORT by Alan Toomey

We made it there and we made it back! Feb 12-19 we had a total of 31 people travel to Cozumel with the GMSC on our sold out trip. We enjoyed the company of 3 more who made special travel arrangements. With so many people there that we knew, it was easy to find someone to hang with or find a group in which to embark on excursions.

The group was large and travelled in waves with various departure times. Mildred T. and Patty S. had the earliest departure from Ohio of 5:30am. Many had 6:00 am departures. We had 3 large groups totaling 26 people. It was fun knowing you were going to find fellow travelers at the airport. Sometimes the connecting flight joined individuals into the larger group of travelers. Two main arrival times were noon and 2:00pm. Karen H. had to miss her flight from Detroit due to unforeseen circumstances, but we were glad (Matt C. especially) to see her arrive the following day.

We were greeted upon our arrival at Cozumel with heavy rains and damp windy weather. It was a relatively small inconvenience since it wasn't freezing or snowing. Off with the travel fleece and the zip off pant legs. Catching a cab at the airport was easy. There are plenty of cabs moving all around the island that are eager to take passengers. My flight companions easily found our group of 10 a van and we loaded up. Off to the Fiesta Americana we went our home for the week.

Our all-inclusive resort was located about 15 minutes out of town by cab. Check in was easy. We stayed in the secluded Tropical Casitas behind the resort tower. It was brought to my attention during the resort check-in that some of the rooming arrangements were not as anticipated. Some of the rooms had king beds when they were to be doubles, and vice versa. The resort was quick to accommodate. Some travelers were ok with the rooms despite the mix up and stayed where they were. Otherwise the resort made quick rearrangements. All the rooms in the Casitas were very spacious and nice. The bathrooms were amazing with huge "spa" tubs and shower combination. Our rooms came with a mini fridge fully stocked every day with beer, pop and water, all included. Check in was at 3pm. No problem if you had to wait for your room. You're on the island, check your bags with the concierge and have an "included" drink and bite to eat.

After the bags were taken into the room and a brief settle in period, the INCLUSIVE portion of the trip began. Lunch was being served and drinks were available. The lunch was buffet, as all the meals would be. The staff was attentive in providing drinks, as they would be all week. We sat under the pavilion looking out at the wind and rain. There was wonderment as to if this was going to continue into the next days. No worries, at the moment. Have food, drinks, and friends to sit back and enjoy after a long travel day.

Every day after the first kept getting better and better. For the last couple of days of our stay we had perfect temperatures and plenty of blue skies. The Ocean became calm on our side of the island, a beautiful sight.

The resort had large windows of opportunity to have breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The menu varied day to day, except for breakfast when you had the usual good variety. There were days I wasn't particularly impressed with the entre' but found myself thoroughly loading up on other offerings of things that I really liked. Overall I think most of us were satisfied with the food. A nice "included" special beverage was always available to end the meal. The end of one meal is the beginning of another. So I'm not actually sure if I was ending the meal with a drink, or just starting early before the next meal.

**Cozumel and diving.** All divers included, we had 14 on the trip. Congratulations to Craig P., Les S., Darrell A., and Steven A., in joining the ranks of newly certified divers. It had been a long period of time since diving for some, but it's just like riding a bike. Protect those ears though. Equalizing the pressure as you go deeper takes practice. We all came back whole so that's a good thing. Just a few scraps, stings, and talking louder for some.

Those diving were to first make their way to the Dive Shop after we arrived to check in and pick a gear locker. The dive shop folks were helpful and friendly. After the first day of our casual check-in, you can appreciate their patience when witnessing the carnage that goes on most of the other dive days. There is something about divers that turns a normal situation into chaos. Some of it is the loads of gear you're trying to manage, but I think some of it is the added cranial pressure from the tight wetsuit shutting down all higher level cognitive abilities. Just a theory of mine. It's our sport and thanks to all the professional support from the operators that keep us from forgetting our **BUTTS** on the dock. PS: Literally, BUTTS, is not a dive acronym, as far as you know.

If you don't know about Cozumel, diving there is what you call "drift diving". The boat never anchors is the meaning of that term. The boat goes to a dive site and you get dropped off over the site. Cozumel has a current and can be rather strong at times. It is difficult to swim against it and gain very much ground. So you go with it and "drift" past the undersea world. My particular take on drift diving is that you cover a lot of ground but it's difficult to stop and look at the little creatures. With a group like ours, you have some who stick their heads under every rock to see what's there and others who just take the high road. And as usual, not everyone sees the same thing. My notables were some big nurse sharks and close-up encounters with turtles. Everyone found their way back to the boat. If you think that's a miracle, it was really the responsibility of the boat to find us. No one was run over, so it was a good thing.

We had enough divers registered with our group to have our own boat each day. What this means is that we had plenty of space on the boat to get comfortable and no obnoxious strangers amongst us. Everyone knowing each other makes it so you know just how



obnoxious you can be before really annoying anyone. That's a good thing. Having been on what I call a "cattle boat", this is indeed a pleasure. Thanks to all the divers that made Cozumel diving, not my favorite dive location, a real pleasurable and memorable time. Thanks to Beth B., Beth K., Bob M., Craig P., Diane R., Darrell A., Fun N., Les S., Lindsey R., Phil R., Steven A., Tom R., and Todd (NDGuy\*).

\*NDGuy is Naked Diver Guy (Todd) who dives without a wetsuit or even a t-shirt. Although not naked, appears to be compared to the rest of us.

Several excursions were made while on the island. I'm aware of excursions going to the mainland to visit the ruins, diving with the dolphins, feeding the manatees, going on the snorkel/party boat, renting Jeeps to drive about the island, and just going to downtown for power shopping. Our last day was a Jeep excursion with Diane R., Fun N., John Z., Todd L., Bob M., Beth K., John M. and Shelly S. to travel the island. We ran into like minded Patty & John W. and Kathy & Tom R. doing the same. There was plenty to do if you did some investigation with all the local flyers at hand. But, you know, I think some people just enjoyed the BIG excursion of being there, pool side, warm & sunny, reading a book, looking at people, and keeping the drink glass full of "Miami Vice", "Dirty Monkey", "Mudslide", "Pina Coladas", various fruit daiquiris, and the usual beer and wine. It's hard to remember everything that kept my glass full!

It's been a long time since I've been on a week-long distant trip with the club. I appreciate the opportunity I had to organize the trip and make it happen. The destination seemed to strike a chord with many. The coldest part of season is a good time to take a break and get beamed by a *real* tropical sun. This trip has reminded me that when a bunch of club members decide we're going away to have fun, we really mean it!

I hope everybody is busy organizing their pictures. The plan is to have a picture/reminiscing party in the near future. We are probably over the hump as far as dastardly Michigan winter weather goes (finger crossed), but don't forget your trip too soon. The rest of us on the trip still want to hear your story and see your pictures. Fellow participants keep your ears open for news concerning this event and make every effort to attend.

Thanks to everybody. This article has spilled over. I know I haven't mentioned every one. My apologies. Maybe I'll see *your* Cozumel article in the next newsletter. (?) ..... Alan Toomey



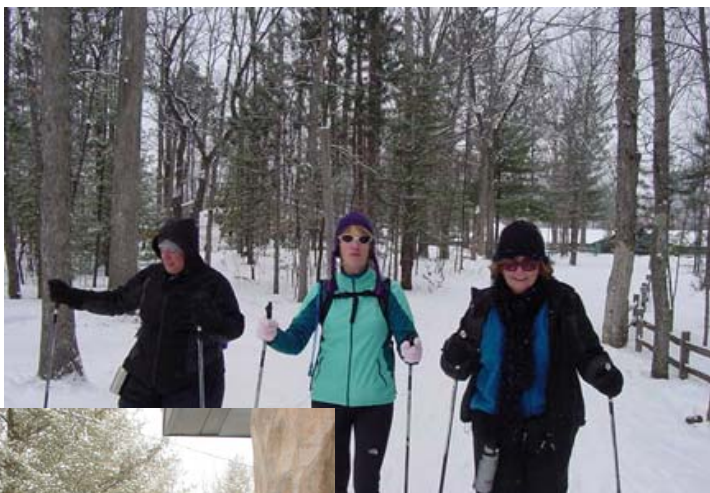


## Lake Ann Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Weekend

Many were a bit concerned about the snow levels for a cross country ski weekend considering the spring like weather that arrived the week before our trip to Lake Ann. But good old Michigan weather came through for us and dropped a few inches of snow on Friday night. Fifteen of us were there early enough to gather for dinner at Giovanni's Roadhouse, an Italian restaurant in Interlochen. Luckily for us, the local energizer Sara Cockrell stopped by before we left to share her extensive knowledge of the trail conditions in the area, helping us to determine our best ski options for the weekend.



A relaxing Friday night was followed the next morning by a wonderful continental breakfast – then we were ready for some outdoor fun. A few people chose to ski the Lake Ann Pathway, another two took to the slopes at Crystal Mountain for a day of downhill skiing, and the rest headed to the groomed Vasa trail near Traverse City. This group divided according to ability to ski somewhere in the range of 1 to 9 miles then returned to the Timber Ridge Lodge to eat a sack lunch by the fireplace. Later in the afternoon, we all met back at the resort lodges and prepared for the spectacular potluck. After eating all that great food and with the beautiful snow falling, an outside activity was in order so Barb Deluca invited everyone on a night hike to see the covered bridge. We ended the hike walking across a section of the frozen lake while the snow fell softly around us, reminding us of why we were there. As an added treat, in-house musicians entertained us that evening with their guitars and songs upon return.



On Sunday, a large group skied a scenic trail in the Lost Lake area skirting the edge of Lake Dubonnet (could not find Lost Lake, again – still lost) before making the drive home. The accommodations in the two lodges at the Sleeping Bear Resort were excellent but it was the people, of course, who made the trip a great one!









# DETROIT PUBLIC TELEVISION & THE GM SKI CLUB

## *Pledge night at the studio*

Monday, March 14, 2011 was our night at the Riley Broadcast Center in Wixom to tend the phone banks and take donations for PBS. Ten enthusiastic GMSC members offered their time and support through this effort. The list included Les Skrzycki, Darrell Ahlberg, Dave Duvali, Shannon Duke, Donna Hutchins, Carla Hicks, Darwin Tuttle, Deborah Ross, Cindy Hollister, and Brian De Leo. Perhaps you saw us on TV, or maybe you were one of those who called the station to pledge?

We arrived at the studio just before 6:00 PM where we had time to socialize, relax, and enjoy a dinner.

It has been a few years since we've done this, so time has brought changes to the process of taking pledges. Ditch the old phones, pencils and paper. It's now computer controlled through laptop PCs. Our training was brief, about 15 minutes, and we were soon on our way to the public connection.

It was a pleasant and social evening as much as a rewarding experience for us to help DPTV through this fundraiser which is a major source of revenue for PBS programming. DPTV appreciated the club's help.

Many thanks to all of you for a job well done! Let's do it again next year.

Brian De Leo





### Activity Report by Alan Toomey

On March 12<sup>th</sup> we played Whirlyball at the Groesbeck/15 Mile Rd. Location. If you haven't been keeping up with our events, this is the sport (?) where you ride in a bumper car called a Whirly Bug, two teams of five players competing, and try to use a scoop to throw a whiffle ball against a backboard target that looks like a basketball goal. We had 23 players total and mixed players every game so there were no fixed teams.



Thanks to everyone who helped me set up the table prior to our event. We had a mile long sub, some salad, munchies and pop to occupy the off court time. It was a busy time taking head count and drawing teams for the first game, but we got started on time.

There was some complexity keeping the play organized. Randomizing the players and color of Whirly Bug added to the excitement of play. After the first couple of games everyone got the hang of being aware of when to play and when to sit out. A few mishaps of forgetting to leave the court or being in the restroom when you belong on the court just kept us on our toes.

It was my assignment to manage the event and the play. It was a lot of fun. I did have the opportunity to play 1 game when we had a no-show (the restroom scenario) at the start of a period. I didn't know what carnage there was out there on the court. Apparently the first team was given the option of getting instruction and rules of play or to just start playing. In other words, we had been playing with no rules! Golly Gee Batman! I think every one of the half dozen rules was being ignored. This certainly made for some exciting play. It's a wonder anyone scored or didn't get a broken fingernail.

We managed to get 7 periods of play for our 2 hour time slot. This was very good. Everyone got on board with "time is money" and moved in and out quickly. I didn't hear of any injuries. Everyone seemed to come away with "let's do this again".

I don't know how this team did it, understanding now how much carnage there was, but there was a game that scored 4 goals in one time period. This is the team that won the Grand Prize. Congratulations to Laura B, Dean, Chris J., Ilona H., and Les S. for such good ~~play~~ luck. Enjoy the new trophy. (Shown in picture)

We retired to the Great Baraboo Brewing Company for some after play medication. This helped a lot with the after play muscle tension. Until next time.....dream of Whirly Bugs and don't let the whiffle ball bite.





# Beach & Boating Campout

## Ludington State Park

### SKI & TRAVEL CLUB

2.

**Swim,** *climb a dune, party on a pontoon boat or canoe/kayak, bike or hike on trails, tube down a lazy river... or just lay on the beach at the #1 rated state park in the Midwest.*

This weekend adventure includes

- Camping at the Pines Campground Friday & Saturday
- Group cook-out dinner Friday night
- Breakfast Saturday and Sunday
- Lunch Saturday
- Your choice of a pontoon boat party (Limited to 15 persons) or a canoe/kayak trip. (Saturday)

Optional Extended weekend: Aug. 25- Aug. 28

Includes these extras:

- Pizza Party Thursday night
- Breakfast and Lunch Friday

#### Fee for Members

Two-day camping: \$60 all-inclusive      Three-day camping: \$80

***A non-refundable \$20 deposit will hold your place.***

**Reserve early** by contacting Stu Saxalby at [stusaxalby@comcast.net](mailto:stusaxalby@comcast.net). We are limited to a total of 32 campers, including 12 for a three-night stay, beginning Thursday, Aug. 25 and 20 for a two-night stay, beginning Friday, Aug. 26.







## GM SKI and TRAVEL CLUB

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

### **April at a glance**

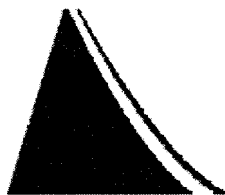
Every Sunday Our "Breakfast Club" starts at 10:00 a.m.  
At Anton's Island Grill, 16 Mile Rd. and Dequindre

Every Sunday Wallyball, 12:30 pm at Warren Racquetball  
4/08—Pub & Grub Chelli's Chile 41240 Hayes Rd. 6:30pm  
4/14-- Meeting: Shield's Pizza, Maple Rd. (west of Crooks) 6:30 PM  
4/19—Board Meeting  
4/22—Joe Bologna 2135 17 Mile Rd. 6:30pm  
4/27—Grace Center of Hope 35 E. Huron St. Pontiac 4:30

Website: [www.gmskiclub.org](http://www.gmskiclub.org)

(recent photos, upcoming events, membership applications,  
Bylaws, forms)

*MDSC Website:* [www.mdscski.org](http://www.mdscski.org)



Supporting member  
Of the U. S. ski and  
Snowboard Hall of Fame

