



Piccadilly Ski Club

January 2024

www.piccadillyskiclub.com

Est 1972



Next Meetings:

Thurs, Jan 4, 7pm

Thurs, Jan 18, 7pm

Miller's Ale House | 455 Butterfield Rd | Lombard

Email: ComeSkiWithUs@piccadillyskiclub.com

President's Message:

Happy New Year everyone!

As temperatures finally starts to dip down, our trip season is heating up! I'm dreaming of beautiful green forests, fluffy white pow on long runs, and most of all, good times with amazing PSC friends.

It seems like we only just got back from gorgeous sunny Punta Cana, but our first ski trip is just a few days away. This is a great schedule and I am totally stoked for it. A big shout out and heartfelt thank you to Julian, Jackie, and the ski committee for their time and hard work to make this happen. As you well know by now, that first trip is to Panorama, followed by our Mystery trip, then Brule, Beaver Creek, Banff CMSC week, and finally Snowbird.

Now is a great time to start looking over that ski gear, get those boards checked & waxed, and perhaps scout for a mid-season deal at one of the local ski shops(?). Personally, I hate to shop...except for ski stuff!

So, here's wishing everyone a great ski season and a great 2024! See you on the slopes, and remember: Don't follow Paul. x-)

Sincerely,
POTBSCE – President of the Best Ski-Club Ever!

---Paul F---



Where in the World is Piccadilly?

As you travel to near and far places, bring along PSC logo gear and take a photo of you with that swag (neck wallet, jacket, facemask, business card, pin, bandana, shirt, coat, vest, backpack, koozie, etc.) Be sure to show the PSC logo in the photo, and you of course, along with your travel location as your backdrop, and email it to me, Dawn, at rockaroche3@gmail.com subject line: Where in the world... It does NOT have to be across the world, but it would be fun if it was, and hopefully somewhere identifiable. Or, we'll have fun guessing.



Left: Piccadilly Business Card sent Season's Greetings from Sugarbush Vermont, with Joseph Seifts!

Right: Piccadilly Business Card was eating gourmet McD and "lovin it" in Dunedin, New Zealand with the Sandis! Want fries with that?



Left: Piccadilly Goggle Soc crushed the black diamonds at Vail. Sean S. could only hope to keep up!

Right: PSC Ski Hat donated food to Catholic Charities. PSC newbie Mary Pat O. pushed the cart!



Left: Piccadilly Business Card kept in shape by hiking the swallow cliff stairs with Johnny O, Kevin C, and Janice B.

Right: PSC Business Card went south of the border to Cabo San Lucas with Grant and Ednith.



Left: PSC Goggle Soc celebrated early December turns with Terry T., Pauline M. and Mary K. in Steamboat Springs, CO

Take Piccadilly on your next adventure!

Social Media



Ahhh yes, we all remember a simpler time without cell phones glued to our palm. But they're here to stay and Social Media is a part of it all. Did you know Piccadilly is on Facebook, MeetUp and Instagram? Why? We are working hard to promote our club to attract and keep new members. Using Social Media is a way of reaching and introducing our club to a new demographic. This will help ensure the vitality of Piccadilly and keep it growing into the future!

How can you help?

- You can "Like" our Facebook posts, and share them.
- You can "Follow" us on Instagram and "Like" our posts.
- You can sign up for MeetUp and use it to RSVP for events and meetings.

Create Your MeetUp Account - People need to RSVP to events on MeetUp and so it's very important to be a PSC MeetUp member. Your information is kept private, just post your facial picture so we can associate the member with an event. We use this convenient tool to communicate with you for our events, like where to gather, last-minute event changes, or weather alerts. Please help our Event Hosts reach you for notification and help them know who to look for so we can sit together! We also use MeetUp to give a headcount to Miller's, so they can assign proper staffing, and finally, we can attract more MeetUp members, which translates to new Piccadilly memberships to keep our club thriving. www.MeetUp.com As you can see, there are many good reasons to create your account today! If you need help, see one of your board members. - **Thanks, Pam**



Follow us on Instagram - Please go to your Instagram account, search for Piccadilly Ski Club and "follow" us. That's all you have to do. Then PSC will follow you back. It's another way of promoting our club, attracting new members and keeping our club thriving.

"Like us on Facebook" Help Piccadilly reach more potential members!





PSC Favorite Ski Stories & Pics

THE HISTORY OF NASTAR

Faster! Faster! Until the Thrill of Speed Overcomes the Fear of Death

When was the last time you entered a ski race? A long time ago when most of PSC were just beginners and intermediate skiers, the **NASTAR** race was a highlight of our ski weekend. It was a lot of fun to challenge each other and cheer for everyone as they charge down the hill. It is actually a really good way to measure and improve your skiing skills as well. We felt like we were going like a bat out of hell and then we saw the video.

In 1968, NASTAR was developed by SKI Magazine editor John Fry because he was also the editor of GOLF magazine and he wanted to create a handicap system similar to Golf. Racers are scored by earning a handicap that represents their ability. The handicap provides participants with a tangible number, or handicap, that is the percentage they are behind the time of the National Standard or the National Pacesetter. The U.S. Ski Team's fastest racers set the Par Time for NASTAR. The Par Time or National Standard is the Zero Handicap that all participants compete against. If you get a 30 hcp then you are 30% slower than Mickaela Shiffrin or Lindsey Vonn.



The medals are awarded based on your handicap, age, and gender. Many of the guys racing when I started were in their 30s or 40s. I would beat their time, but they would get a better medal. Thus, the term **OLD GOLD** was created by PSC.

NASTAR stands for **N**ational **S**Tandard **R**ace and is the largest public grassroots ski racing program in the world, and now boasts more than 100,000 races at over 100 resorts around the country. Today, NASTAR is owned and operated by Outside Inc. The program went through several national sponsors, the latest being a few Beer companies and Nature Valley.

NASTAR has been thru ALOT of changes over the years. They added Platinum to the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals. They also sliced the age groups so thin that you can't calculate your handicap on your push button calculator watch like I did. There must be an APP for that now. Ski Racing was the end of skiing for a few Piccadillians. Brian, Roy, and Manette had spectacular crashes, but most of us thrived and enjoyed the thrill.



Send us your stories. ☺ Cheers, Larry Himmelblau – Historian

Social at-a-Glance (Details below in the newsletter)

Do you have suggestions for future events, or want to host one? Contact John at jfosullivan56@att.net

- **Thur, 1/4**– 7pm - General Mtg, RSVP on MeetUp for Headcount
- **Sat, 1/6** – 4:30pm - Wine Tasting at Sable Creek Winery, Plainfield. Must RSVP & pre-pay
- **Thur, 1/11** – 10:30am - Pop Up Hike, Little Red School House, Willow Springs.
- **Thur, 1/18** – 7pm - General Mtg, RSVP on MeetUp for Headcount
- **Sat, 1/27** –10am Sharp! Starved Rock Winter Hike. Must Pre-Pay, and RSVP on MeetUp

- **Thur, 2/1**– 7pm - General Mtg, RSVP on MeetUp for Headcount
- **Thur, 2/15**– 7pm - General Mtg, RSVP on MeetUp for Headcount . Valentine’s Trivia!
- **Sun, 2/18**, 2-4pm - Bubble House Happy Hour
- **Thurs, 2/29**– 10:30am - Leap Day Hike, Herrick Lake. Save the Date



Watch for these Winter Pop-Up Events:

- Show & Go Hikers – We have 3-4 hiking events coming to you this winter!
- Snowshoeing/XCountry Skiing – get on the email list to be alerted, now.



Share Piccadilly with your friends and keep our club growing strong! Grab some more business cards for the wallet or purse at the next meeting. Carry them with you, and hand them out to prospective members.... An easy way to invite a friend to check us out!

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Tip: Explore the “Cancel for any reason” version of trip insurance, to see if that’s the best fit for you, but be advised you will need to purchase that version very shortly after your first trip payment.

Here are helpful links from the CMSC website for your convenience. (PSC does **not** endorse any insurance carrier)

<http://www.csatravelpro.com/WINTERSPORTTOUR>

<http://www.travelprotectors.com>

<https://www.allianztravelinsurance.com>



Trip Updates -

Trips, Trips, Trips!

This is not going to be the usual article about how great our trips – you already know that they are! However, we feel that you need to know what is going on behind the scenes. By now you should be aware that the weekend Brule trip has been changed to a drive-up from a bus trip. We are aware

that people enjoy the camaraderie on the bus, and the fact that you don't need to drive yourself– especially when drinks are served on the bus – but the cost of the bus has gotten way out of hand. The bus companies raised the prices when the gas prices were high, and they have not lowered their prices now that gas costs have come down. Other things also factor into the bus cost – the bus driver pay and insurance (paid by the bus company) – I'm sure that there other costs factored in as well. The bus cost is a fixed cost, if there is 1 person on the bus or 46. The point is – we really need to fill a bus (30 or more people) in order to make it even *somewhat* affordable on a per person basis, and we simply didn't have anywhere near the number of people to cover the cost of the bus. **We also need more people on the Mystery Trip for the same reason.**



Now let's talk about the Out West trips – last year we filled all of our trips pretty easily, this year we are having a lot of trouble filling Panorama and Snowbird. When we plan the trips for the upcoming season, the trip committee and the Board go by past experience, Trip Survey results, and what bids we receive, then we make our best guess as to what will sell. When we announced the trip slate, everyone said how great it was, but then the signups didn't reflect that. We are managing to make Panorama go, but we **really need 2 more people** on Snowbird, or the club will face a significant financial penalty.

In addition, lift prices are going up with no end in sight. For examples : Lift tickets at Cascade Mountain are \$95 on weekends and \$84 Monday thru Thursday and for some Out West prices, see black box.



The Storm Skiing Journal & Podcast
@StormSkiJournal

Peak 23/24 lift ticket prices at American ski areas:

\$299: Park City, Vail, Beaver Creek
\$289: Deer Valley
\$279: Palisades Tahoe, Steamboat, Breck
\$269: Northstar, Keystone
\$259: Heavenly, Mammoth, Copper
\$255: Jackson
\$249: Big Sky
\$244: Snowmass, Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk
\$229: Powder Mountain
\$225: Mt. Bachelor, Telluride
\$220: Winter Park
\$219: Stowe

We have been sending out surveys, but we need direct feedback now, in order to determine how we should plan next season – and that planning is already in progress.

So we are asking for your honest input, please think about the following questions and send your feedback to both Jackie & Julian at : jackied718@comcast.net and julianf@att.net

1. Are you doing fewer ski trips now than in the previous few seasons?
2. Are the non-ski trips factoring into your answer to the previous question?
3. Should we continue to offer 2 non-ski trips or just the Winter Warmup in December?
4. Should we offer more than 2 non-ski trips?
5. Should we continue to offer one 4-5 day ski trip?
6. Should we continue to offer 3 week-long ski trips – this includes Chicago Week?
7. Should we drop the bus on the weekend Midwest trip (knowing that we need 30+ signups)?
8. Should we just go with drive-up Midwest trips, possibly including mid-week trips?



Thank you for your time in reading this, and in giving us honest feedback.

- **Julian and Jackie**

Trip Payments Due this month*

1/4/24

Banff

\$Balance



1/18/24

Snowbird

\$Balance

* Please turn in your checks promptly, during meetings at Miller's, or mail to P.O. Box 207, Downers Grove, IL 60515. All checks are made out to Piccadilly Ski Club; please note in the memo section which trip to apply payment.

Thank you. - **Julian & Jackie**

Trips at-a-Glance


Trip Name	Trip Dates	Pricing	Status	Contact Info
Panorama	1/11 - 1/16/24	\$1500	Closed	Paul Fuka ebcdicffff@att.net
Mystery One Day Trip	1/20/24	\$155*	Open	Cheryl Skurkis bcskiies@aol.com
Ski Brule	2/2 - 2/4/24 New: Drive Up	\$320 New Price	Closed	Donna Prenta donnamprenta@gmail.com
Beaver Creek	2/10 - 2/17/24	\$1670 + EPIC Day Pass	Open	Sandi Siakel ssssiakel@gmail.com
CMSC Banff	2/24 - 3/2/24	\$2335	Open	Terry Turlek turlekt@gmail.com
Snowbird	3/16 - 3/23/24	\$2400	Open	Mike Roche mikeroche417@gmail.com
*Keeping the One-Day trip at the Early Bird pricing! This is a bargain.				



BALANCE IS KEY TO BRAIN & SKI MOBILITY

- Are you truly ready for the slopes?
- Is your New Years resolution to try YOGA?

If yes, check out this 18-minute video to begin your journey.

[Click here](#) Passcode  required - Passcode: 6Ajz^=hR

Extended viewing deadline! This recording is now available until 1/31/24 *Ski Meister, Donna Prenta*



Social Details

For questions on social events, contact John O'Sullivan at jfosullivan56@att.net



Next 2 Meetings: January 4 & January 18

Wine Tasting, Sable Creek Winery, Sat., 1/6/24, 5pm



Come join us at Sable Creek Winery in Plainfield, IL on Saturday, January 6th for a wine tasting. Taste 6 different wines, along with an explanation of the wines and the winery. In addition, charcuterie trays will be available. As a bonus, stay for live music after, from 6:30p- 9:30p. There is a 30-person limit. The cost is \$30 pp. All bottles purchased will receive a 10% discount. There is a small food menu

to choose from if you like (at your cost).



RSVP: Please contact Laura Schuurman to reserve a spot. You can Zelle the \$30 (to 815-919-2538) or pay by check/cash at one of the Piccadilly meetings. The last option is mail me the check: 24627 Kingston St. Plainfield, IL 60544. Sable Creek has asked for payment in advance, so I'd like to have the funds before the event along with the head count.

Date: Saturday January 6th. Doors open at 4:30 - event/winetasting starts at 5PM.

Location: 14912 S. Eastern Ave. #103, Plainfield, IL 60544

Optional After Party / More Wine Tasting: Laura and John's house. We will provide lasagna and salad. Please let me know if you will join. Please bring your favorite beverage to share.

Website: www.sablecreekwinery.com Laura Schuurman, schuurmanlaura860@gmail.com

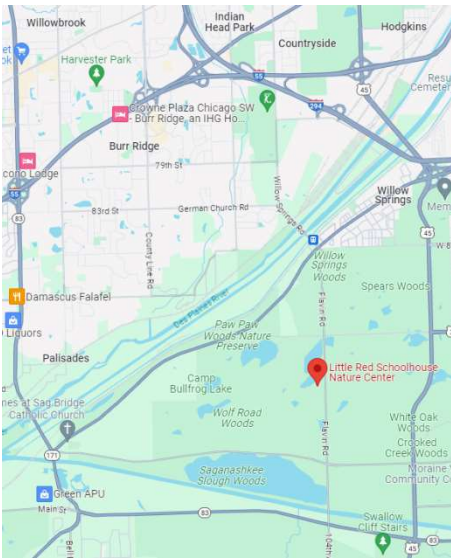


First Winter Pop Up Hike, Little Red School House, Thurs., 1/11, 10:30am

Start at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, 9800 Willow Springs Rd., in Willow Springs. We will meet at the Nature Center and see what there is inside. When we have our fill, we will venture out to the Black Oak Trail and see nature outdoors. The trail length is 1.3 miles, plus in and around the nature center. The Irish Legend Pub is nearby in

Willow Springs for those up for a lunch break after our hike. **Since this is weather dependent, please sign up on meetup where you can receive updated information as the date nears.**

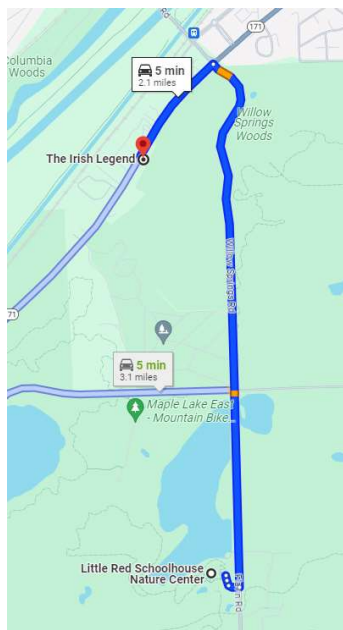
Remember to bring those binoculars, you never know what you may see. Hope to see many of you there. Your hike leader - **Janice.**



←Start Location: Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, Meet just inside the main entrance to the Nature Center. There are also nice restrooms, if you need.



←Area map: For Little Red Schoolhouse and surrounding trails.



←Lunch Location: The Irish Legend Pub, 8933 Archer Ave, Willow Springs.

Starved Rock Hike/Eagle Watch Weekend/Lunch, Sat., 1/27, 10am Sharp

Join us for a 3-mile Winter hike through the St Peter Sandstone Formation and waterfalls of Starved Rock State Park. Our naturalist guide will lead the hike and share information about the area, history, the canyons, river and more. Depending on the conditions, we could see the beauty of the frozen waterfalls and ice over the river. Eagles are known to congregate at Plum Island along the Illinois River's open pockets of waters near the Starved Rock Lock and Dam, below Lovers Leap and Eagle Cliff Overlook. How great would it be if we observed an eagle swooping toward the water and clutching a fish! Bring your binoculars just in case.



We'll meet in the Main Lodge at 9:45am. The hike begins at 10 am sharp and should finish up around 1pm, at which time we will break for lunch and a brew. The hike fee is \$20 for the guide and includes: Starved Rock swag, some treats, and a coupon for coffee or hot cocoa from the café. Those interested can enjoy lunch and brew after the hike, whether it be in the Backdoor Lounge or the Lodge restaurant. We have reservations for 20, so come on out and enjoy the hike, or just the lunch.



Another fantastic option during this special weekend is the Eagle Watch event, "Birds of Prey" show. They will have wild birds of prey (45-minute show). Scheduled in the Great Hall West, adjacent to the lounge and restaurant. The live shows are scheduled at 10am, 1pm (during lunch) and 3pm. Make sure you are prepared for the hike and dress accordingly, good hiking shoes and layers.

If anybody wants to skip the hike and meet us for lunch, come on out! Please let me know if interested in lunch only and we'll see you there.

IMPORTANT - HOW TO RSVP - Secure your spot by calling the lodge (815-220-7386) and paying the \$20 fee. The group is reserved under Piccadilly Ski Club. Please email me so I know to expect you there (jfosullivan56@att.net). We can see about getting another guide if we get more than 20 hikers. Reservations are registered **only** when a payment is made. So, if you have signed up on meetup make sure your payment has been registered at the Starved Rock lodge phone number. Let me know by email when you have paid. The first paid responders and sign-ups for lunch will be on the list. Looking forward to seeing you on the trail! – **John O**

February Meeting - Valentine's Trivia!, Thur 2/15, 7pm

Pop some Prevegen and come prepared to show how smart you are with a spate of Trivia questions. Bone up on all things Valentine's, and you too could win a lovely prize.



Bubblehouse Brewery Happy Hour, Sun., 2/18, 2-4pm

This Brewery loves us and wants us back! We were previously received very graciously by our hosts and appreciate the service of the staff and layout of this Brewery. Lots of room to stretch out and a **huge** table we can lay out the snacks we bring. Don't be shy, bring your favorite snack or appetizer to share.



Let's try this again! Our very own member Larry H. did the discovery on this unique location and friendly place. Come and enjoy their Ales, Stouts, IPAs, fruity Ciders, and Seltzers. They do not have food on site, but we will be informed if they will have a food truck available as they find out. I will then share the info on an update on the meetup website. We love the option that it's **OK** to bring snacks along. This is a fantastic option to munch on our favorite finger foods as we mingle and solve world problems and more! Last time people brought all kinds of interesting appetizers and snacks. I will do a repeat, and bring my "Southwestern deviled eggs" to share.

Please sign up on meetup, so we can notify the brewery of our party size. We look forward to having another Great Turnout and having a fun time. . - **John O**

Bubblehouse Brewery, 2121 Ogden Av.,e Unit A, Lisle

Leap Day Winter Hike – Herrick Lake, Thurs 2/29, 10:30am

Whether you Leap thru the woods, or just hike it, come on out and stretch those legs at Herrick Lake. Meet at the North parking lot off Butterfield. Hike @2-3+ miles, then optional nearby lunch after. As with many outdoor activities, this will be weather dependent, so signing up on MeetUp will help us communicate with you on the day of etc. More deets to come, but mark those calendars. - **Dawn**



Annual Banquet, Sat., 4/20, 6:00pm



As our ski season is starting to get underway, it's time to start thinking about the Banquet. For 2024, the date is April 20, and it will be at Chuck's Chateau Orleans in Darien. We all deserve an evening of cocktails, dining, dancing, and fun, so let's all come out and have some good times together. Details on time, cost and dinner will be forthcoming. **Please be sure that your home address information is accurate to receive your invitation, which should be coming out after the first of the year.** So, get ready for an evening of fun. It's the highlight of our season. Hope to see you there. - **Sandy (aka the Veep)**

POP-UP WINTER EVENTS:

There will be some winter hiking this year, but handled a little differently. Look for updates as to upcoming hikes. So far 3-4 hikes are in the offing: Little Red Schoolhouse, Starved Rock, and Herrick Lake and possibly one more.



Snowshoeing/Cross Country Skiing—When The Snow Gods Smile



As in years past, Cheryl Skurkis will maintain a list of those who would like to be notified when conditions are conducive to snowshoeing or cross-country skiing.

Please email her at BCSKIIES@aol.com to be added to the list. Be sure to let her know if you have your own equipment or need to rent. 4 venues plan to open when there's enough snow. Details:

- **Blackwell Forest Preserve, Warrenville**, 630-933-7200: Need a 3" base and they will only rent snowshoes when Mt. Hoy (the sledding hill) is open, Saturdays and Sundays. Cost is \$10 for 2 hours or \$15 all day.
- **Fullersburg Woods, Hinsdale**, 630-850-8110: Need a 3" base to rent snowshoes. Cost is \$10 for 2 hours, \$15 all day.
- **Arrowhead Golf Course, Wheaton**, 630-653-5800: Need a 6" base and you must call to reserve cross country ski equipment in advance, \$25.
- **Camp Sagawau, Lemont**, 630-257-2045: Need a 4" base. Bathrooms are open; you must bring your own drinking water. Cross country ski rental is \$15/Senior rental price \$10



ALL THINGS CMSC

***CMSC General Meetings** - Typically held on 2nd Tuesday of each month at Sawa's Old Warsaw, 9200 W. Cermak Rd., Broadview, IL

CMSC SEEKING:

*CMSC is looking for an individual to serve on the Finance and Audit committee. Contact Kevin Conlon at kconz1@aol.com for information.

CMSC EVENT SCHEDULE

***Jan 13 – 14, 2024** - – Travel and Adventure Show at Donald E. Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont. CMSC has sent out a link to all ski clubs with info for a limited number of free tickets and discounted tickets.

Jan 26 – 27, 2024** - Norge January Ski Jump *Save the Date**** More info to follow.

Guy Larson at glarson164@gmail.com

***Jan 26 – Feb 7, 2024** - CMSC Europe – Zermatt Switzerland and Milan Italy. Trip packages starting at \$3,997.70 people are currently signed up from 19 clubs. Info is available on CMSC website at www.skicmsc.com or contact Steve Patzer at scpatzer@hotmail.com

***Feb 24 – March 2, 2024** - CMSC Chicago Week – Banff, Canada. 13 clubs with 210 people will be attending. See PSC trips.

***April 7 – April 12, 2024** – CMSC Spring Fling – Mammoth Mountain, CA. Trip packages starting at \$1,239/pp + air. Includes 5 nights lodging at Mammoth Mountain Inn, choice of QQ room, K room or 2br/2ba + loft condo lodging options (4/5ppl), 4-day lift ticket (IKON accepted), ground transportation and \$100 resort voucher. Optional side trip to June Mountain. Contact Kevin Conlon at kconz1@aol.com or 708-906-9517 for more info.

Sept 27 – 29, 2024** - Windy City Ski and Snowboard Show, Schaumburg Convention Center *Save the Dates**** More info to follow.

Jan 24 – Feb 1, 2025** CMSC Europe – Andermatt-Sedrun, Switzerland *Save the Dates**** More info to follow.

Feb 22 – March 1, 2025**- CMSC Chicago Week – Jackson Hole, WY *Save the Date****

For more information on CMSC, go to <https://www.skicmsc.com/>

Social Recaps, Ski Stories & Photo Gallery...

Holiday Concert – The holiday concert at Wentz Hall with the Naperville Choir and Piccadilly’s own chanteuse, Gail Nelson, was the perfect kick off to the season. Unique renditions of Christmas classics, along with the Pete Ellman jazz band made this swinging affair complete. A Great Idea, and can’t wait to experience it again next year.



Bryans's American Grill TRIVIA recap - The Piccadillians, on their virgin mission to organized Trivia, did not disappoint! The gang took the best ideas and provided the best answers to covet the 3rd place prize! (sorry we didn't win the 'Vette). We gathered at 5:30pm and set up our plan for victory. Bryan's staff set up the big table in the middle of the room (cozy little restaurant/bar) and gave us great service! Vanessa, our waitress, took care of us and was unbelievable the way she waited on us and got everybody's separate checks right without one mistake. LOL 😂.

We welcomed our 2 newest members to PSC (Mary Pat, and John) and they fit right in with the group as we laughed, ate, and worked our memory banks for answers to trivia. We had 11 people, and everybody contributed, although Paul and Mike were our most valuable players. Thanks to all for sharing their time and knowledge and making this a fantastic night. – **John O**



Punta Cana Dominican Republic - About 40 Piccadillians from the Chicago and Tampa areas gathered near the azure waters and pristine beaches of the Dominican Republic. It was great to reconnect with our Florida contingent – Sharon & Ron, Sherri & Dave and newbie Nancy who had first joined us on the cruise. Piccadilly has been to Punta Cana before, and this time was just as wonderful. We stayed at the Dreams Royal Beach Resort right at the tip of the island in an all-inclusive resort that was perfect for our gang. Every night you could eat at a different restaurant from Italian, seafood and burgers, to Japanese hibachi, and even the buffet was good. No waiting to get in! The weather was an ideal 85 degrees and sunny and breezy every day. There was only one day that was overcast in the afternoon and that's when we were treated to a waterspout!

They had a Piccadilly-sized bar near the entertainment stage where most of us gathered every day for happy hour after our excursions. Their drink menu was fun to explore. Top choices were the Adelita, Choco Banana and the Daiquiris. In typical Piccadilly fashion, there was a flurry of signing up for the side excursions. Some of the activities included swimming with the dolphins, snorkeling on the reefs, swimming with Stingrays and sharks, excursions into town for a cultural experience, and touring the sugar factory and chocolate shops. Bill even played golf one day – shooting a respectable 84 and met Pete Dye Jr, the golf course architect! The resort also provided some entertainment like Spanish lessons, yoga on the beach, dance



lessons, platform yoga, etc. Terry tried it all! Early risers, Nancy & Dawn, tried to gather some folks for the morning walk on the beach... only Carol and Janice made it up that early to join in.

Between our resort and Secrets, the sister resort next door, we had access to a casino sports bar, night club, and nightly

entertainment. Board game stations were set up all around too. Dean learned a new game with dominoes and kept beating everyone. Of course, there were karaoke nights, so Vicki and Bill performed several times as we watched, cheered and did the wave in their honor. There were plenty of opportunities to do the bachata and other Latin dances so Randy, Vita, Pam and Joy treated us to a mini show on the dance floor. On the flipside of fun, there were a few folks who ate something that didn't agree with them which sidelined them for a half day or so, and then there was the



Meilners.....George and Deb ended up designated as injured reserves. There's not enough room in the newsletter to explain just how much bubble wrap they needed. You'll have to ask them for details. By week's end there was much chatter about extending this trip, sadly the only logical extension might be to the Betty Ford clinic!

Newbies Gina & Alan got "pinned" Piccadilly style, complete with the "wiggle." We hear, however there might be another newbie overlooked....no worries, we WILL find you!

Trip Mama, Sue, ran a tight ship. We all got there safely and got back home on time. The only questions remain.... When can we go back, and who's gonna cook for us now!? Thank you, Sue & the Dominican, for another ridiculously fun ride.



Punta Cana Side Trip Recap from Terry T: Eight of us took the Bávaro Runners' cultural tour to the countryside of Dominican Republic. Passing through small towns in an open air bus, our guide Angel talked about the history of Hispañola (named by Christopher Columbus). Occupations and wars between Spain and France saw a slave rebellion in 1804 succeed and rename the island Haiti, the indigenous Taino name (Wikipedia). In 1844 a Spanish priest led army kicked the French Haitians out of the east and led to Dominican independence.



Main products then as now are tobacco, rum, coffee, chocolate; also coconut oil, bananas, and cattle. We learned the median Dominican wage is \$200 a month. Apartments in the Punta Cana resort area cost \$600 a month. Many resort workers live in Higüey, population 400,000 where apartments rent for \$400 a month. Our guide pointed out one large apartment complex built for workers' affordability. The workers reportedly receive good benefits such as health care, and have good working conditions. Resort shifts often consist of 5 hours on several hours off midday and then 5 hours on.



The Bavaro Runners, typical of the island's tourism industry, donate time and money (10% of costs) to build and maintain schools, provide uniforms, toys at Christmas. The resort sector had passed an ordinance limiting the height of buildings to 4 floors. Our hotel was two stories, keeping a low, subtle profile. Large developers lobbied for and got it overturned to build up to 22 floors in the Punta Cana/Bávaro area!

In 2023, a record 10 million tourists visited. That's roughly one tourist for every DR resident! Regardless of the push/pull of competing interests, I sensed optimism, pride, hope, and rising standards of living in those whom we met on our tours and at the resort. – **Terry**





Christmas Extravaganza meeting recap - What a way for Piccadilly to celebrate Christmas! The crowd showed up in record numbers for this meeting, we had about 90 people in attendance. Many an "old timer" was there! There was no holding back as the celebration had many facets to sort through. Candy and Christmas regalia were all over the people filled tables. We had Santa (some astute people thought he resembled Harry? Lol 😄.) The festivities started with our normal



business of the meeting, Paul in high spirits kicked it off. We were honored to have in attendance one of the original folks who started this great club over 50 yrs. ago when Piccadilly was just an idea. Frank Wittosch! He was the first Trip Chair, and the 2nd president of the club. He told some great stories of challenging ski trips from long ago (funny how things haven't changed that much). He was a delight and is now an honorary member of the club. Frank, we hope you come back to more meetings!



The meeting moved on to historic Christmas Trivia, testing the memories on questions like: What did Natalie Wood's little girl character want for Christmas in "Miracle on 34th Street". One person got all 10 questions right, a relative newbie, Lisa. Great job Lisa! Welcome. Then it got complicated with



4 very highly intelligent members getting 9 answers correct. This brought on more rounds of questions and more ties! Jackie saved us another run off by agreeing to the flipping of a coin to solve the runoff with Kevin for the coveted 2nd prize. We weren't done yet, now we had the "Ugly sweater contest"! 8 people were nominated from the floor and were in contention for the prizes. Voting was determined by applause and cheering from the crowd.



Susan just about won this volume decision almost by herself! An amazing amount of decibel power from such a tiny frame! Susan, you're awesome! First and 2nd prizes were given out to George, the big winner, with his fully furred abominable snowman on a ski board sweater (you had to laugh) Thanks George! Then came second place winner, a newly pinned member, Bob! Oh, BTW his pinning ritual was played out with the full audience cheering him on. Bob you survived! No, we weren't done yet. We were just picking up steam when we pulled the winning tickets out of the bucket for split the pot.



Vicki collected single handedly \$364 to benefit our winners and charity who might need a token of sharing on this night of Christmas celebration. Adaptive Adventures. Yep, Santa didn't let us down, he came in full garb and ringing his bells like music to our hungry childlike ears. (Sorry, that might have been a little too deep) He distributed the mountainous arrangements of gifts stacked up on the gift exchange table. It seems we borrowed a couple of Miller's display presents by mistake. One was opened with nothing in it! LOL 😄

The bartenders were great! Our regular bartender Meghan was wearing her wonderful smile as always. Thanks everybody for making this meeting a great way to enjoy new and old friends in a season of fun. - **John O**





Let's Hit the Slopes!

PSC 2023 – 2024 **Board & Appointed Positions**

President:	Paul Fuka
Vice President:	Sandy Liedtke
Secretary:	Nancy Goins
Treasurer:	John Schuurman
Trip Chair:	Julian Franklin
Asst. Trip Chair:	Jackie Dudek
Membrshp/Historian:	Larry Himmelblau
Social:	John O'Sullivan
Publicity:	Dawn Roche
Webmaster:	Pam Rockey
Sgt @ Arms/CMSC:	Kevin Conlon
Ski Meister:	Donna Prenta

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Viking
SKI SHOP, INC.

MeetUp at: <http://www.MeetUp.com/Piccadilly-Ski-Social-Club/>



Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com>



Email all articles and high-res photos for next newsletter to Dawn Roche.

Deadline: 20th of month prior
Rockaroch3@gmail.com

Also, email all high-resolution photos to Pam Rockey for our website at
prockey@sbcglobal.net



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