

Greater Charleston Ski Club – Celebrating 50 Years!!

In January 2021 the Greater Charleston Ski Club is celebrating its 50th year anniversary.

THE FIRST 25 YEARS: We thought it would be fitting to post the remarks made at the Club's anniversary celebration held 25 years ago in January 1996. This event took place at 40 East Bay Street, the location of the Omar Shrine Temple at that time and adjacent the Charleston Yacht Club. We had a pre-dinner cocktail hour and a prime rib buffet for **\$17.00** per person (!).

So, let's return to January 1996 for an overview of the club's first 25 years and the remarks prepared and delivered by Sharilyn Setterlund and Anne Robichaux:

Sharilyn:

First I'd like to introduce a group of people who 25 years ago had no idea the Greater Charleston Ski Club would now be celebrating its 25th anniversary. This group consists of 7 original members who have been members of the Club for the entire 25 years:

Steve Baumrind

George Douglass

Meyer Lipman

Frances and Bill McLean

Anne Kabler Robichaux

Sharilyn Cone Setterlund

I'm sure there are others here tonight who were among the original members, and we have missed you during the past 25 years. Please stand and be recognized.

A bit of history from the first GCSC Newsletter states: "During January 1971 Alan Rubin wondered about the possibility of organizing Charlestonians interested in skiing. He talked with friends, advertised a bit, and rented a room in one of the downtown hotels. When the night of January 20, 1971 arrived so did 95 enthusiastic skiers and would-be skiers. This group elected a Board of Directors to organize the club.

Just two weeks later 34 skiers departed from Charleston by bus headed for Sugar Mountain in the Boone, NC area. Pleasantly warm weather and good skiing made this first ski trip a tremendous success.

After the trip the Board of Directors elected (by a not-too-democratic system) a slate of temporary officers to serve the Club during its infancy. They were:

Chairman – Steve Baumrind

Vice Chairman – Len Heere

Secretary – Dave Braddon

Treasurer – Alan Rubin

Correspondence – Barbara Buffington

Anne:

The Club was chartered, and the members, numbering 152, elected their first slate of officers in November 1971. Since that time the membership has grown to a high of 486 individuals in 1989-90 with a current membership of 320 and an average of 314 per year.

The Club was formed for skiers and we have taken over 1800 on more than 40 bus trips to ski areas in NC, Virginia, and West Virginia. The first out west trip was in March 1973 to Crested Butte, CO, for just \$274 per person which included air fare, ground transportation, slope-side condos, and lift tickets for a week. Since then approximately a total 1400 members have gone on 36 trips to 24 different ski areas in 5 western states enjoying over 8200 ski days. Areas skied include:

Crested Butte, Park City, Park West, Keystone, Aspen, Buttermilk, Grand Targee, Kirkwood, North Star, Vail, Alta, Breckenridge, Steamboat, Snowmass, Ajax, Winter Park, Squaw Valley, Beaver Creek, Deer Valley, Copper Mountain, Arapahoe Basin, Aspen Highlands, Jackson Hole, Heavenly, Alpine Meadows.

Internationally over 140 members skied 12 areas on 13 trips to 6 different countries totaling around 840 ski days. Areas include:

Banff, Mont Tremblant, Courmayeur, Chamonix, Lake Louise, Cortina, Cervinia, St. Anton, Whistler, Kitzbuhel, Zermatt, Lech.

Add in the car caravan and bus trips to New England and we have exceeded 3500 skiers.

In Jackson Hole in 1981 Peggy Franklin won an award for skiing 100,000 vertical feet. She also earned the name "Snow Mole" when she fell in a mogul field and slid under George Douglass's skis. And, George, known for his form in ski school was called the "Mad Bomber." He got down low, tackled any slope with a flying wedge and made his turns with a growl. Also, (he was known for) his ability to go from a mogul field to a catwalk with a double binding release. Bobby Compton had the No. 1 Tush in Vail.

Sharilyn:

We participated in the Crescent Race Series from its beginnings and even on a challenge race against the Columbia Ski Club team as well as being invited to participate twice in the Southern Star Classic Races. We've had many who have won NASTAR Medals over the years.

We had lunch with Olympic Gold Medalist Jean Claude Killy when he introduced his line of ski clothing in Charleston in 1978.

We've had Ski Fairs, Ski Swaps, Ski Fashion shows, participated in the Ski Slope Expresses and Beach Band Bash. Besides ski events and meetings all over the Charleston area, we have had over 500 activities for members including:

Wine Tastings
Baseball/softball

Trip to Disney World
Car Rallies

Happy Hours (150)
Snow Balls (17)

Tennis	Beach Parties (25)	St. Patrick's Day trips to Savannah (8)
Sailing	Lake Parties/Picnics (12)	White Water Raft Trips (8)
Volleyball	Luau's (7)	Raft Float Trips (18)
Bowling	Wine & Cheeses (25)	Trips to the Carolina Cup & Charleston Cup (13)
Bicycling	Dry Land Ski Schools (19)	Fish Fries (5)
Kayaking	Casino Nights (8)	
Trips to Roan Mtn (fall colors - 2)	Oyster Roasts (14)	

We have consumed more than 420 bushels of oysters, 15,000 hot dogs, 200 kegs of beer, 750 liters of wine and untold slices of pizza, platters of spaghetti, and bottles of liquor.

In 1987 we adopted the name "Ski-ters." Over 800 Ski-ters have joined thousands of Crescent members for over 40 conventions at Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head.

Approximately 600 have floated down the Edisto and Chattahoochee Rivers or gone white water rafting in NC, SC, and West Virginia.

We have cruised the Charleston Harbor, the Bahamas, the Caribbean and to No Where. Cruising to No Where Tom Wylie lost the beer drinking contest to a female and Bob Mendenhall was our entry in the Bearded Beauties Nightgown Contest.

Anne:

Now I would like to introduce those who have led the Club as Presidents and will ask that those present please stand:

Steve Baumrind, Chairman of the Board (first and only)
 Len Heere, First elected President
 Sharilyn Cone Setterlund
 Meyer Lipmann
 Roy Hume
 Sylvia Braddon Galloway
 Art Chambers
 Skip Summers

Mac Morris
 Bill Bradley
 Linda Snowden-Peninger
 Chuck Setterlund
 Ed Williams
 Tim Coyle
 Cecil Rourk
 Joyce Schultz

Please remain standing; now we would like to recognize those present who have served on the Board as another officer or a committee chair. Any who have served on a committee. Now anyone who has led a trip. Now those who have organized and led a non-ski trip or special activity. Any who have helped greet folks at the door. Any who have hosted a meeting or event at their home. All those who have helped set up and clean up at a meeting. Any who have brought food to an event. Anyone who has gone on a ski trip. Anyone who has participated in any of the club events during the last 25 years.... That's terrific. Let's give ourselves a standing ovation and here's to 25 more years!

THE LAST 25 YEARS - From 1996 - 2021:

Over the most recent 25 years we have seen our membership numbers drop, and the number of events held during the year have lessened. We used to have monthly meetings with a planned program, as well as happy hours at various establishments in the greater Charleston area. Before the pandemic, we were doing well to have a monthly happy hour in addition to two or three special events during the year. And while our numbers are fewer than in the earlier years, we continue to enjoy our gatherings, our trips, our friendships and the camaraderie that comes from shared interests.

As we celebrate our 50th year our collective memories are dimmer, and our history unrecorded. Please let us know if we have missed you in the list below as well as missed any trips taken with our club or with Crescent.

We have a membership base of 75 although the numbers for the past 25 years have ranged from 80 to almost 200. We ceased publication of our newsletter, The Ski-Rapper, after the last issue in July 2013. (The collection of the print newsletter from the early years was donated to the Charleston County Public Library and is housed in the South Carolina Room at the main library on Calhoun Street). For many years we created and submitted annual scrapbooks to Crescent and won several awards for them. But that, too, eventually ceased. We also cut our membership dues by half and due to the current pandemic and inability to offer the usual number of gatherings we determined that paid members in 2020 would get 2021 as well – two years for the price of one!

Club Presidents since 1996:

Cecil Rourk	Linda Schultz	Russell Jewell
Steve Young	Joy Mims	Chuck Setterlund
Julie Tillman	Danny Matthews	Dave Benson
Dave Walden	Tim Burke	Meta Frasch
David Howe	Angus McLean	Bobby Compton

Only three of our ‘founding’ members have been members continuously since 1971: George Douglass, Anne Robichaux and Sharilyn Setterlund. But we have long time members who have contributed a great deal to the continuance and operation of the club.



George Douglass



Anne Robichaux



Sharilyn Setterlund

Club trips (including Crescent trips with GCSC member participation) to places not already mentioned:

Big Sky, Park City, Deer Valley, Park City West, Canyons, Taos, Tahoe, Snowshoe, Gray Rocks, Mt. Tremblant, Banff, Sunday River, Winter Place, Sun Valley, Lake Louise, Alyeska, Whistler/Blackcomb, Durango, Mammoth, Champéry (CH), White Fish, Hawksnest, Killington, Beech, Appalachian.

But members have traveled far and wide to other resorts not included here either on their own or with family members and/or friends.

And like any clubs we are only as strong as member participation allows us to be. Thank you to those of you who have served on the board over the years and others who have contributed countless hours to the operation and continuance of the Club. Here's to blue skies and snowy trails in the years to come!



Len Heere, Virginia Chambers, Grace Thorne, Sharilyn Setterlund