



ESC apades



51st Season, Issue No. 2

Newsletter of the Elmhurst Ski Club

March 2008

PREZ SEZ:

Last January at Snowmass it was one of the best trips we've had in a long time. Snow conditions, condo locations, short lift lines, a short walk or bus ride to the lifts, almost ski-in condos, sunny and in the 30s most of the trip, 2 days of powder, and the company of a great group of people. We did have a couple of snags with lift tickets and luggage but Bobbie persisted with the Snowmass reps and let it be known we were the customer. And Lois went out to scalp the extra tickets and the money funded our pizza party. The only down sides were (1) this is the first time I've fallen on both NASTAR courses, and (2) our out-of-town skiers weren't able to join us. Thanks to Jackie for setting the trip up and to Bobbie for making it run smoothly.

	2007	ESC BOARD	2008
President -	Ray Lucas		(847) 487-2371
Vice President -	Rick Burke		(847) 299-1325
Treasurer -	Bob Savini		(815) 254-2303
Membership -	Christy Burke		(847) 299-1325
Trip Chair -	Jackie Homa		(815) 344-7788
Secretary -	Debbie Clegg		(630) 530-1107
Social Chair -	Lee Wirth		(630) 985-5923
Ski Meister -	Betty Ashworth		(847) 288-1129
X-Country -	Walt Zelenka		(630) 510-9028
Newsletter -	Larry Homa		(815) 344-7788
Webmaster -	Lester Hampton		(630) 916-4703

Don't forget elections. Anyone interested in running for an office, these are the ones that will be open: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social, Ski Meister, and Newsletter. Don't be shy. I know many of you would do a great job. So let us hear from you.

The new officers will be announced at the year-end banquet so get out your calendar. The banquet will be held April 19th at Bailey's Restaurant & Bar, 330 East Ogden Ave., Westmont, IL, 630-655-0440. Mark your calendar now. There may also be trophies awarded.

The Board has already met and decided on summer activities. So look elsewhere in this newsletter to see what is planned. Again, get out your calendars and mark the events down. There seem to be so many activities during the summer but make room for ESC and get the dates on your calendar now!

RAY LUCAS, President

PS – Hi to Mariam and Arlin.

KUDOS:

Special thanks to Betty Ashworth, Christy Burke, Debbie Clegg, Bobbie Davis, Lester Hampton, Jackie Homa, Ray Lucas, Lee Wirth, and Walt Zelenka for contributing articles for this issue of the ESC Newsletter.

Visit our website at: "elmhurstskiclub.com"

ATTENTION: ATTENTION: ATTENTION:

The April 1, 2008 ESC meeting will be at the Elmhurst Public House, 683 W. St. Charles Road, Elmhurst, IL 630-834-8989. The Good Times Pub & Club GT is **closed**.

Reminder:

Don't forget to check out our Website at www.elmhurstskiclub.com. Stefanie and Brian have done a magnificent job in revamping the site and keeping it up to date. See the latest pictures from our latest trips and social events.

SOCIAL STUFF:

Bike Ride on May 21, 2007

The turnout on May 21, 2007 was 38 people split between Elmhurst Ski Club, Four Winds Ski Club and the Nomads Ski Club. Trip leaders, Rick and Christy Burke, arrived early and the other 36 came in around the announced start time of 11:00 AM. The weather was, well, dreary and 44 degrees! It did warm up to 56 that day but most of our riders never took off their jackets, sweaters, hats and helmets! Some even begged for more. Jerry from the Nomads had the bike pump and it was well used. About 25 of the crew headed out at 11:30 AM with Christy Burke staying behind to watch the cars and shelter.

The ride to the gardens was only a little bit cold and drizzly but not all the time. Unfortunately the clouds never did move on their way so the gardens were not as glowing as in past years where we had bright sunshine. Roughly 1:30 PM various members of the group rolled back in. They were greeted by a special guest, Victor Starykowicz, who had arrived in the meantime. Bill Dennis of the Four Winds got the first grill going and it was hot and ready for a whole lot of brats and dogs. Tom Long from Four Winds and Nomads, got the other grill going at just the right time for the second group. Everyone was gathering there not just for food but for warmth. The sharing table was a big hit. We had fruit salad, potato and pasta salad (2 kinds) cake, deviled eggs, cookies even homemade ones and pretty much any kind of mustard you might want. This sharing thing really works!

At about 4:00 PM the clean up began and the packing up. We vacated the grove at about 5:00 PM leaving it super clean.

Thanks for coming out everyone!
Christy

Chili Party 2007

The chili party at the Wirth's was well attended in October. We had over 20 people, and had a wonderful party. There was plenty of food and enough desserts to enjoy. Of course, we had our annual Chili contest to see who made the best chili this year. There were seven chilies in this year competition. After much tasting, most of us had a hard time deciding who to vote for

because all of them were very delicious. This year we had co-champion winners with Bobbie and Betty winning the top spot. Congratulations on making a very good chili that all enjoyed eating. Thanks again for all who brought food to the party. This is what made the party a success. It was good to see all of you, and to get together as a club.

Lee Wirth

Christmas Party 2007

The ESC Christmas party was again held at Stefanie Hampton's home. We again had a very nice meal with ham, vegetables, salads, many side dishes, and desserts. There were many appetizers to nibble on before the main meal. We had a good turn out, and everyone had a good time renewing our friendships. After the meal, we participated in our annual grab bag gift exchange. Wow, did we have some really good white elephants to bring back next year to the Christmas Party. Thanks again for all who brought food, and special thanks to Stefanie to allowed us to mess up her house. Your house was nicely decorated. Missed decorating your tree this year. You were on the ball!

Lee Wirth

X-Country Outing 2008

On Feb. 16 we met at Moraine Hills State Park and had real nice snow conditions and some very good x-country skiing. We had a pretty good turnout. Six skiers, Christy Burke, Lowell and Bobbie Davis, Betty Ashworth, Dennis Burke and myself.

Following skiing we went over to Larry and Jackie Homa's house, which is very close to the ski area. We had a real nice time there, which included some good food and conversation. Thanks a lot to Larry and Jackie for inviting us to their home.

Until next time, Safe Skiing, Your X-Country Leader,

Walt Zelenka.

P.S. Thanks also to Stefanie Hampton for coming out to the Homa's.

Spring Banquet 2008

The ESC Spring Banquet is scheduled for April 19 at Bailey's on 330 East Ogden Avenue, Westmont, IL 60559. Telephone # 630-655-0440. The dinner will be at 7PM. and the cost will be \$25.00 per person. You can choose from fish, chicken or a steak. Served with the dinner will be cup of soup or dinner salad, rolls and butter, beverage (hot or cold) and vanilla ice cream or Sherbet. We have the room for three hours, and we can meet for drinks at 6PM.

Hope to see you there. Make RSVP and a check made out to Elmhurst Ski Club to Jackie by April 12.

PS: This was the same place we were at 2 years ago on Ogden Ave

COMMENTS ON ESC WESTERN TRIP TO SNOWMASS - 2008

I always love seeing Pat and Karen from Index, Washington. Which, by the way we may want to look at skiing out by them some time.

Snow was phenomenal, a few new inches every other day on the mountain. Weather was the coldest I have experienced in a long time. Sunny but that arctic wind would get you at times. However, I am not complaining, we had a terrific week at Snowmass. I loved the area. It was convenient with the free shuttles wherever we needed to go. Everyone was really nice, if you were lucky to find someone who knew something. I am always amazed how lackadaisical some of the folks living in these ski areas can be. Oh well, that is why we do our own thing for the most part. I don't want to spoil anyone's day with the bad times of the trip because it is over now and we worked it all out. I will admit this trip presented me with the most challenges of any trip I can remember. Makes you wonder why one would ever volunteer to be a trip leader. I realize how much everyone appreciates a good time and I don't mind being the bad guy every now and then to turn the bad into something worth our while. We did have a fantastic week in Snowmass. The accommodations were a little smaller than we are used to but they worked out just fine. We could still fit 20 Elmer's in a condo, so that was a plus! If I was any wider, I don't think me and my suitcase would have fit down the stairs – it sure was tight!

Betty, thank you very much for hosting the Nastar race. If I remember correctly we had 11 racers out of the 20 Elmer's on this trip. That is better than 50%, so go Elmer's. Ray was the master of none but at least he didn't give up. What a trooper. Betty will give us more on the Nastar standings in her response.

We had a beautiful day on Thursday, Jan. 24th for our Elmer's picnic. The sun was shining and the weather was finally warm enough to sit out in the sun and enjoy a burger and all the trimmings with the club. After the picnic the Elmer's made a Human Solemn (spelling) tribute to Bob Nordstrom along the Village Express. This event always brings tears to our eyes as we all miss Bob very much on our trips. We all remember like it was yesterday at Sun Peaks, when Bob made his last run with the club and we will never forget that experience. Bob, thank you for all you have taught me over the years. I am sure we have many Elmer's that would agree. You are definitely an asset to our club. We do hope to see you again very soon.

Elmer's missed the Florida group. Everyone would have loved Snowmass. Terrain was easy to maneuver and accessible to everything via the shuttle. The only thing you wouldn't miss is the price of food. We all ate in the condo a lot!

We had several falls during the week. Thankfully, everyone pulled through the falls ok, with the exception of Terry. He just didn't want to take the chance of hurting his leg anymore. So I hope he is feeling better each day. Apparently, he may have torn his leg muscle while skiing with me, Fred and Brian on Mikey's Gulch. It apparently wasn't groomed to our satisfaction and he ended up taking a tumble. Terry was a trooper and made it down the rest of the way till I could get to an emergency phone to have him brought down. Sorry guys, the run started out nice but worsened the further down we went. We still manage to all get down safely.

We ended the week with a pizza / condo clean out party and talked about our week. Some experienced the X Games and some of us just watched them on TV. Either way you were able to see the games at Buttermilk. We had some good times so everyone had a lot to say. Stefanie shared a game with us so the Elmer's completed it on Friday evening as Betty, Lowell and Bobbie needed to see if they are genius's or not. Well not, but close!!!! We had fun doing it, thanks Stefanie for sharing and oh yeah for getting us in trouble at the same time on the plane. He He.

Again, this trip was an experience for all of us. I am proud the way we all presented ourselves and I would do it again for ESC.

Bobbie Davis - Snowmass Trip Leader

The trip to Snowmass, Colorado was a good adventure for the Elmhurst Ski Club. Snowmass had received an incredible amount of snow the week before the Elmers arrived. There was plenty of snow on all the trails and, for the most part, it was like skiing on velvet. The weather was good through the week, with Mother Nature providing fresh snow several times for our enjoyment.

Eleven Elmers participated in the Nastar race on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. The race course looked long and deceptively easy (we later found out that this was an inaccurate assumption). Six of the eleven racers brought home a medal. The top man was Bob Engel, the top woman was Karen Sample. I myself did not have a good race and came home empty-handed. Our infamous president, Ray Lucas, had the worst race day of his life, falling and not finishing either race. Very un-characteristic of Ray. Those snow snakes were busy playing that day! Thanks again to all those who participated and made it a fun event. Medals were passed out at the on-hill barbecue the next day. The barbecue was excellent with tons of food. Good job to the resort and to Bobbie for organizing such a feast!

Five of us Elmers (Karen, Pat, Stefanie, Brian, and myself), took a side trip on Thursday evening and went to Buttermilk to watch the X-Games. What an incredible experience! We were able to squeeze into the mass of people at the very bottom of the half-pipe aerial jumping run. As the amount of people increased, we were pushed further to the front and center, close enough to shake hands with the racers and may have even been seen on television. It was amazing to see how high the skiers got above the rim of the half-pipe and view in awe the spins, twists, and flips.

All in all a very good trip. Thanks again to Bobbie and Jackie for all your hard work to make the trip a success! Hope to see everyone again next year.

Betty

One of the highlights of the trip came when we were coming down a run and we took a break on the hill. Our President Ray gave Rod a wonderful x-rated ski lesson on his standing position when he is skiing. I will not go into anymore details, but it was a belly laughing experience for all who heard his description. We will leave the rest for your imagination or ask Ray.

Lee Wirth - Social Chair Person

Exceptional snow conditions
Exceptional weather
Exceptional food
Exceptional "Elmer's"
Exceptional skiing
So what else is new? ***Lester***

CMSC Alpine Racing 2007-2008

We had 3 Elmer's participate for the year, Jon, Debbie and Carley Clegg. Races for Carley were a little different this year, because she's 12 years old, she competes with the adults! She deliberated during the summer and decided that C Women was the class that best suited her speed. SkiBrule in Brule, MI was the first test to see if she selected the right class. The snow conditions were great! She came away with a 3rd and a 2nd place. Jon finished the weekend with two 1st places getting two strikes for the weekend. Getting strikes is how you get moved from one class to the next. Wilmot in January you'd think would be cold and windy right? Well it can be, but not this year! Our next 2 weekends were scheduled for Wilmot, we were only able to race January 5th and 6th and the snow conditions that weekend was marginal. So much so, that by the next weekend grass was showing at Wilmot. We had to cancel the January 12th and 13th races. The races were rescheduled, the slalom race was rescheduled for January 26th and the giant slalom was doubled up with the February 10th race at Wilmot. Weather is always so great in the Midwest! Midseason took us to Marquette, MI for Super Bowl weekend, again great snow conditions! Then back to Wilmot for the next 2 weekends. On the February 24th race, Viking held a Demo Day on the hill. Viking had approximately 10 ski/snowboard representatives there for anyone who wanted to try the new line of ski's or snowboards. All you had to do was register in the lodge and get a wristband, oh, and by the way, they also gave you a half price lift ticket for that day at Wilmot! Not a bad deal! That same weekend we hosted our Annual Chili Party! We had enough chili to feed the racers both days plus some of the rep's from the demo days! No more chili for me for a while! We ended the race season at Schuss/Shanty Creek in combination with CMSC's Winter Carnival. Carley got to see what Carnival was all about! We participated in both days races plus whatever carnival events we could!

It's easy to race, some people are afraid. But they really shouldn't be. The program is set for age and ability levels and the cost is one of the most reasonable I've found in the area. Preseason cost of \$100 for 7 weekend, 14 races! (the Master's program is almost \$200!). You can even register online using PayPal! If your at all interested go to www.skicmsc_racing.com and look at the pictures, we do have fun!

On April 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the Elmhurst Pizza Palace will be the End of the Year awards Party. It's free for the racers, \$10 for guest. Carley will get a 2nd Place trophy in C Women, Jon will receive 2nd Place in Vet. C Men and Debbie, well just like the Cubs, maybe next year!

Hope to see you on the slopes
Debbie Clegg

REMINDER:

Don't forget to complete the attached "Trip Survey Form" and return to Jackie Homa as indicated. Also, visit the Elmhurst Ski Club website at www.elmhurstskiclub.com to see the latest ESC News and photos from recent Club activities.

Visit our website at: "www.elmhurstskiclub.com"

CMSC Alpine Racing 2007-2008

We had 3 Elmer's participate for the year, Jon, Debbie and Carley Clegg. Races for Carley were a little different this year, because she's 12 years old, she competes with the adults! She deliberated during the summer and decided that C Women was the class that best suited her speed. SkiBrule in Brule, MI was the first test to see if she selected the right class. The snow conditions were great! She came away with a 3rd and a 2nd place. Jon finished the weekend with two 1st places getting two strikes for the weekend. Getting strikes is how you get moved from one class to the next. Wilmot in January you'd think would be cold and windy right? Well it can be, but not this year! Our next 2 weekends were scheduled for Wilmot, we were only able to race January 5th and 6th and the snow conditions that weekend was marginal. So much so, that by the next weekend grass was showing at Wilmot. We had to cancel the January 12th and 13th races. The races were rescheduled, the slalom race was rescheduled for January 26th and the giant slalom was doubled up with the February 10th race at Wilmot. Weather is always so great in the Midwest! Midseason took us to Marquette, MI for Super Bowl weekend, again great snow conditions! Then back to Wilmot for the next 2 weekends. On the February 24th race, Viking held a Demo Day on the hill. Viking had approximately 10 ski/snowboard representatives there for anyone who wanted to try the new line of ski's or snowboards. All you had to do was register in the lodge and get a wristband, oh, and by the way, they also gave you a half price lift ticket for that day at Wilmot! Not a bad deal! That same weekend we hosted our Annual Chili Party! We had enough chili to feed the racers both days plus some of the rep's from the demo days! No more chili for me for a while! We ended the race season at Schuss/Shanty Creek in combination with CMSC's Winter Carnival. Carley got to see what Carnival was all about! We participated in both days races plus whatever carnival events we could!

It's easy to race, some people are afraid. But they really shouldn't be. The program is set for age and ability levels and the cost is one of the most reasonable I've found in the area. Preseason cost of \$100 for 7 weekend, 14 races! (the Master's program is almost \$200!). You can even register online using PayPal! If your at all interested go to www.skicmsc_racing.com and look at the pictures, we do have fun!

On April 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the Elmhurst Pizza Palace will be the End of the Year awards Party. It's free for the racers, \$10 for guest. Carley will get a 2nd Place trophy in C Women, Jon will receive 2nd Place in Vet. C Men and Debbie, well just like the Cubs, maybe next year!

Hope to see you on the slopes
Debbie Clegg

REMINDER:

Don't forget to complete the attached "Trip Survey Form" and return to Jackie Homa as indicated. Also visit the Elmhurst Ski Club website at www.elmhurstskiclub.com to see the latest ESC News and photos from recent Club activities.

Visit our website at: "www.elmhurstskiclub.com"

ELMHURST SKI CLUB

2008 – 2009 TRIP SURVEY

Please take a minute to fill this survey out with the info as accurately as possible. We do use these surveys as a guideline for our next season's ski trips.

Please return survey by either, e-mail (jackiehoma@comcast.net), or mail. **Jackie Homa, 107 S. Emerald Dr., McHenry, IL 60051**

The more that are returned the better we can plan our next season.
Thank you.

DAY TRIPS

Area

Please indicate where 1st choice:
2nd choice:
3rd choice:

Examples of areas:

Cascade Mtn., Portage, WI	Alpine Valley, WI	Grand Geneva, WI
Devils Head, WI	Sundown, Dubuque, IA	Chestnut Mtn., Galena, IL
Granite Peak (Rib Mtn) Wausau, WI		

WEEKEND TRIPS

It has been many years since ESC has had a bus trip, be honest would you attend? **Yes** or **No**.

Would you pay over \$275 for the weekend? **Yes** or **No**.

We have been doing **drive-up** trips to Midwest areas, listed below are some suggested areas. **Choose 3 areas' you would be interested in for the drive-up.** Also next to the area put a **B** if you would be interested in having this area as a bus trip.

Boyne Mtn., MI	Indianhead, MI	Whitecap, MI	Mt. LaCrosse, WI
Boyne Highlands, MI	Blackjack, MI	Pine Mtn., MI	Lutzen, MN
Nubs Nob, MI	Powderhorn, MI	Ski Brule, MI	Schuss Mtn., MI
Sugarloaf, MI	Caberfae, MI	Marquette, MI	Devils Head, WI
Cascade, WI	Granite Peaks, WI	Norway Mtn., MI	

Now do you want to stay at these areas which you've chosen or "in town"? **Yes** or **No**.

These are not all the areas out there. Please feel free to add any I've forgotten!

4 Day Western Trip

Would you attend? *Yes* or *No*. Stay at the area? *Yes* or *No*. Rental cars? *Yes* or *No*.
Would you prefer *Condo's* or *Hotel*? Remember for Condo's we try not to use the couch or roll-a-ways; however with our group sometimes it's unavoidable. One other solution would be to reduce the number of people in the condos. This however raises the per person cost. If condos were the option would you prefer the higher cost to insure bedding? *Yes* or *No*.

Listed below are some suggested areas. **Please indicate your top three choices.**

Crested Butte, CO	Taos, NM	Park City, UT	Jackson Hole, WY
Big Sky, MT	Copper Mtn, CO	Keystone, CO	Telluride, CO
Steamboat, CO	Winter Park, CO	Purgatory, CO	Breckenridge, CO
Killington, VT	Sugarbush, VT	Sunday River, Maine	Stowe, VT

WEEKLONG WESTERN TRIPS

For 2009 Chicago week will be in late March at Lake Tahoe, CA. Would you attend? *Yes* or *No*. Please note your choice. For other Western trips would you attend? Please indicate your choice. Stay at the area? *Yes* or *No* . Rental cars? *Yes* or *No*. Would you prefer *Condo's* or *Hotel*? Remember for Condo's we try not to use the couch or roll-a-ways; however with our group sometimes it's unavoidable. One other solution would be to reduce the number of people in the condos. This however raises the per person cost. If condos were the option would you prefer the higher cost to insure bedding? *Yes* or *No*.

Listed below are some suggested areas. **Please indicate your top three choices.**

Crested Butte, CO	Taos, NM	Salt Lake City, UT	Jackson Hole, WY
Big Sky, MT	Copper Mtn, CO	Keystone, CO	Telluride, CO
Steamboat, CO	Winter Park, CO	Purgatory, CO	Breckenridge, CO
Aspen, CO	Vail, CO	Mammoth, Ca	Sun Valley, ID
Banff, Canada	Lake Tahoe, CA	Big White, Canada	Sun Peaks, Canada
Mt. Hood, OR	Beaver Creek, CO	Grand Targhee, WY	Whistler, Canada

CMSC has trips to Europe in January every year; would you be interested in going? *Yes* or *No*.

Would you be interested in being a trip leader? *Yes* or *No*.

Would you be more inclined to be a trip leader if you were reimbursed someday? *Yes* or *No*.

We typically sign-up with a travel agent for the 4 day and weeklong western trips. The agents and the airlines are now asking for the air portion of the trip to be paid in full well before September. Would you be able to make this deposit in July? *Yes* or *No*.

Please feel free to add to any of this questionnaire. Your comments are read and used to make the next ski seasons ski locations!

SUBMITTED BY (OPTIONAL): _____

COMMENTS: _____

YOUR UPCOMING ESC 2008 SOCIAL EVENTS

June 7th

Miniature Golf Outing

Contact: Betty Ashworth 847-298-3992

July 4th

Bike Ride & Bar-B-Q & Fireworks

Contact: Stefanie Hampton 630-629-2818

July 19th

Kane County Cougars Baseball Game

Contact: Lee Wirth 630-985-5923

August 23rd

Picnic & Early Western Trip Sign-Up

Contact: Jackie Homa 815-344-7788

September 7th

Bike Ride & Bar-B-Q

Contact: Stefanie Hampton 630-629-2818

October 18th

Chili Party

Contact: Lee Wirth 630-985-5923

December 13th

Christmas Party

Contact: Stefanie Hampton 630-629-2818

More Details For All Events Will Be Provided Prior To The Event. Join The Fun. KEEP THIS CALENDAR!!!!!!!!!!

Visit the ESC Website at “www.elmhurstskiclub.com”

American Airlines
Customer Relations
P.O. Box 619612 MD 2400
DFW Airport, TX 75261-9612

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of the memo is to recommend that American Airlines maintain their existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back the existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I represent Elmhurst Ski Club, which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. Said Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with 10's of millions of air travelers annually, that number represents a huge number of affected travelers.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snow sports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo, we are even more appreciative.

Best regards,

Delta Air Lines, Inc.
P.O. Box 20706
Atlanta, GA 30320-6001

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of the memo is to recommend that Delta Air Lines maintain their existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back the existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I represent Elmhurst Ski Club, which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. Said Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with 10's of millions of air travelers annually, that number represents a huge number of affected travelers.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snow sports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo, we are even more appreciative.

Best regards,

Customer Care
Continental Airlines, Inc.
900 Grand Plaza Drive NHCCR
Houston, TX 77067-4323

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of the memo is to recommend that Continental Airlines maintain their existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back the existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I represent Elmhurst Ski Club, which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. Said Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with 10's of millions of air travelers annually, that number represents a huge number of affected travelers.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snow sports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo, we are even more appreciative.

Best regards,

Customer Service
Northwest Airlines/KLM
7500 Airline Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55450-1101

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of the memo is to recommend that Northwest Airlines/KLM maintain their existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back the existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I represent Elmhurst Ski Club, which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. Said Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with 10's of millions of air travelers annually, that number represents a huge number of affected travelers.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snow sports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo, we are even more appreciative.

Best regards,

Southwest Airlines
P.O. Box 36647 - 1CR
Dallas, TX 75235-1647

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of the memo is to recommend that Southwest Airlines maintain their existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back the existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I represent Elmhurst Ski Club, which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. Said Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with 10's of millions of air travelers annually, that number represents a huge number of affected travelers.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snow sports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo, we are even more appreciative.

Best regards,

Daniel E. Cravens
Director, Investor Relations
US Airways
111 West Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, AZ 85281

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of the memo is to recommend that US Airways maintain their existing baggage policy and not follow the lead of United Airlines in cutting back the existing baggage allowance policy of two per person (a boot bag and ski bag being considered a set of one).

I represent Elmhurst Ski Club, which is a member of the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council. Said Council is a member of the National Ski Council Federation, an umbrella membership organization of 27 ski and snowboard councils across the United States representing 570 ski and snowboard clubs. These clubs in turn represent approximately 335,000 recreational winter sports enthusiasts. Ski clubs form principally because their members do not live near the destination resorts, and most utilize airline travel to get them to and from their choice of destination resort.

Due to the nature of our seasonal sport, we routinely check one suitcase, one ski or snowboard bag and one boot bag. To date, the major airlines have understood our needs and the baggage policies have allowed us to check our baggage at no extra charge.

In our collective opinion, United Airline's new policy sends an unsettling signal that the airline does not value the business of recreational skiers and snowboarders during a season that is traditionally not a peak vacation time for air travelers. More importantly, this outlook on baggage accompanying sports enthusiasts of all stripes who may find it necessary to travel with their equipment portends a marked erosion of respect for athletics and fitness in general. It is our intention to ensure we unite with other organized sporting groups in spreading the word to avoid United Airlines if at all possible.

The United Airlines press release identified only 25% of travelers check two bags, as though those travelers were insignificant. We feel quite the contrary. In the big scheme of things, with 10's of millions of air travelers annually, that number represents a huge number of affected travelers.

This spring, as our club and individual members start to make plans for the 2008-09 season, we will actively steer our air travel plans away from United Airlines and toward the other airlines that maintain the existing and traditional baggage policies regarding snow sports and sports in general.

In a day when airlines already suffer from traveler frustration for a number of maladies affecting the traveler's experience, further aggravating a quarter of the customer base seems ill advised, at best.

We appreciate your efforts at making the traveling experience a pleasant one and understand fully the pressures you must feel in continuing to provide a quality service at an economical price. If you have taken the time to read this memo, we are even more appreciative.

Best regards,