



FRESH TRACKS

January 2008

The Newsletter of the Orange County Ski & Snowboard Club

*Happy New Year to All!
Let's look forward to a great Ski Season in 2008*

President's Message

Stella Plunkett

Good things come to those who wait!

Finally we have snow! Although some of us may have thought it would never come, Mammoth finally got enough snow to open up the whole mountain. I was up just before Christmas and had a few fantastic bluebird days. We were there for the opening of Cloud Nine the new six pack high speed chair. It's really comfortable and speedy and will help open up the mountain.

Ski Dazzle and our website have brought us several new members. Be sure to greet them and extend a hearty welcome to our new members: (Jane can you add the four names here).

Our Holiday Party was so much fun. We had a terrific turnout and everyone looked wonderful in their festive attire. As always, we enjoyed some great food and friendship. Our gift exchange was fun and funny.

Be sure to sign up for our Mammoth trips as early as possible so we can make the appropriate reservations. We always want to accommodate as many members as possible but we do need to release condos if they are not full to avoid being charged. That's why it is so important to reserve early. Also, If you plan on being in Mammoth but not staying with the club and you would like to join us for dinner Saturday night, please check with Joan first. This reservation needs to be made in advance as well and be sure to give Joan \$10 per person.

Hope to see you at our next meeting at the El Torito Grill January 2nd. The meeting starts at 7:30 so come early to order food.

Stella

Fresh Tracks...January 2008

General Meetings

We continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month in January, February, March and April. Remember our new location:

**El Torito Grill
1801 E. Katella Avenue
Anaheim, CA 92805
714-937-1248**

Meetings start at 7:30 PM, but come early – they have delicious food and beverages.

General Meeting Programs

Barbara A. Scobie

**January 16th Jennifer Hink, CHP
February 6th Mindy Clark, Snow Summit**

The above guest speakers are scheduled for our next couple meetings. In past years, the CHP presentation has always been very informative and interactive, so I encourage everyone to attend.

I'm sure Mindy has a lot of valuable information about Snow Summit and perhaps a few lift tickets for our "Opportunity Drawing".

In addition, we are having new members and interested potential members coming to our meetings, so please participate and welcome them to our club.

Mammoth Trips

**Joan Beck
Mammoth Trips Leader**

Listed below is our Mammoth Trips Schedule for the coming season. Please mark your calendars and signup early to ensure you have a spot on the trips that you want to attend.

- January- 11,12,13
- February- 22, 23, 24
- March- 14,15,16 (**Race Weekend**)
- April- 4,5,6 (**FWRA Championships**)
- April- 25,26,27 (Club Appreciation Weekend)

If you are coming up to ski, but are not staying with the Club and want to come to dinner, please ask Joan **IN ADVANCE**. It takes time and planning to prepare these group dinners and a last minute decision to attend isn't polite or considerate of other members.

See the attached flyer for additional information

**REI Sponsors Free Clinic
January 23, 2008
7:00 PM**

This clinic will cover the basic waxing, and simple adjustment techniques to give you quick care the day you head to the slopes. REI has been servicing ski equipment for decades and all techs are highly trained to help you with your gear!

Fresh Tracks...January 2008

Location: Santa Ana REI Store
1411 Village Way
McFadden Place
Santa Ana, CA 92705
Contact: Customer Service (714) 543-4142
Cost: FREE
Registration Required? NO
Please call store to confirm date and time.

Ski Dazzle Los Angeles 2007

**Barbara Scobie
Program Chairperson**

Participating in this year's Ski Dazzle was a lot of work, but totally worth the effort!! I'm very proud to report that out of all the ski clubs in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, there were only TWO clubs represented – AND WE WERE ONE OF THEM!! Thanks again to those who took time out of their busy schedules to set-up the booth - Janice Schafer and Steven Breitbart, work the booth - Tom Greene, Bea Autry, Vicki Kechekian, Anita Johnson and myself, working the booth and taking down all the stuff – Stella Plunkett and Joe Reid.

I hope to have more information in the future from the following vendors: Ski Banff, Squaw Valley, Snow Summit, Mammoth Snowsports School, Sierra Ski & Rafting Tours, Big Bear Mountain Resorts, National Ski Patrol, Convict Lake Resort, H&H Jobbing Company, ExpressJet, SKI SK8, Brian Head Resort, Snow Valley, and Mt. Baldy! WOW – what a successful event!!

Thanks again and “Kudos” to Orange County Ski Club!!



Bea Autry, Tom Greene, Barbara Scobie

Racing

**Anne Barneson
Racing Chairperson**

Race Results December 9, 2007

Our first race of the 2007-2008 season was originally scheduled to be run on Saturday, December 8, 2007. However, due to the conditions (soft, new snow!), it was postponed until the next day.

On Sunday, Mammoth's Race Department set a course for us on Fascination. It was what they call a "Three-Quarter" start, meaning that the first gate was about twenty-five yards below the top of the run. The snow was smooth, there was no ice, and the ruts were big and friendly.

Seventeen First-Time racers, including five from the Orange County Ski Club, turned out for the race. Actually, "first time" is a misnomer; it only means that these people have not had a finish in the League's system with a handicap time in the last two years. Judging from the results, we have some "closet" racers in our club!

Fresh Tracks...January 2008

The list below shows which class our racers were placed in as a result of their times on Sunday, December 9:

Racer	Seeded Class	Points
Freeman, Yvonne	9 Vet F	1
Gilbert, Diana	10 Vet F	1
Merrell, Elisa	7 Vet F	1
Reybroek, Randi	9 Vet F	1

OCSC's other racer, Anne Barneson, placed third in the 10 Vet F class and earned four points for the club.

Our Next Race

The next Rokka League race is a Slalom, scheduled for Sunday, January 6, 2008. Sign-ups will be in Roma's Room on the third floor of the Main Lodge on Friday, January 4, from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, and Saturday, January 5, from 7:30 to 8:30 AM. You may also enter the Ullr League Slalom scheduled on Saturday, January 5, as an "Open" racer to help you qualify for the Finals in April. Orange County Ski Club will pay for both races.

Remember, you need three finishes with official handicap times in order to qualify for Finals!



Fast Women!

Anne, Yvonne, Elisa, Randi and Diana

2007-08 Mammoth Race Schedule

1/5/2008	Ullr 2 slalom (1 run)
1/6/2008	Rokka 2 slalom (1 run)
2/2/2008	Rokka 3 GS
2/3/2008	Ullr 3 GS
3/15/2008	Rokka 4 GS/Socalcs
3/16/2008	Rokka 5 slalom/Socalcs
4/5/2008	FWRA Championships GS at Mammoth
4/6/2008	FWRA Championships slalom at Mammoth

Membership

Steven Breitbart
Membership Chairperson

Christmas at Big Bear

All I wanted to do was to test a particular set of skis before breaking the bank and buying them. Yes, I know it was Christmas day, but the mountain was going to be open. But if you don't celebrate the holiday or you have no family nearby to open presents with, why not go skiing?

I called several ski rental shops near Big Bear and the only one that had the Volkl AC40 skis I wanted to try out was going to be closed. So, I found a pair of last years model, the AC4 at Sport Chalet locally and was able to pick them up on December 24th and return them on December 26th. Why buy skis now, you may ask? Because the AC4 has been selling out by January the last two years.

Getting there very early in the morning took two hours to get there, but five hours to get back. The directions available on bearmountain.com are not too good once you are up in the area. I supposed it is easier when you can just follow the car in front of you, which is what happens most days. The last 30 miles or so on Highway 18 are all on curvy mountain roads. It was

Fresh Tracks...January 2008

this area, from Big Bear Lake to the next town of Arrowbear that was at a near standstill on the way back. I never found out what the cause of the delay was, but it took three hours to get out of the mountains.

It was the first time I ever got to park in the lot near the mountain, the first time I ever got a seat in the cafeteria and the first time trail maps were hard to find. About half of the mountain was open. The mountain was not too crowded, like Mammoth on a Friday, so it was possible to ski every open run several times in a day. About 80% of the people there were snowboarders and most runs have some freestyle type terrain, but they are all easy enough to ski around. I never did find out what a "jib" is. The snow was a bit choppy in the morning and very hard all over, but thankfully, not quite ice. Still, you couldn't even stand you poles up in the snow. The snow conditions were adequate, and it was a typical California bright sunny, windy day. Apparently, it was too much for some people, since I heard an ambulance drive up to the base lodge three times during the day. I also saw someone getting an arm splint on the mountain courtesy of the Ski Patrol.

They were making snow all day long, all over, using extremely loud snow making units. If the weather stays cold they will have a nice layer of hard pack all over the mountain by New Year's Day in a week or so. One small word of warning, some of the safety railings on the older lifts are very short; they hit me in the helmet as I lowered them down, so tall people without helmets need to be careful.

All in all, a good day skiing, a bad day driving. I would like to thank the Big Bear Mountain resort for opening on Christmas and hope all of you had a Merry Christmas wherever you happened to be.

Social Events

Lou Burgoyne
Social Chairperson

The Orange County Ski Club throws several large parties for the club membership, and this year is no exception. The **Pray for Snow** party and auction was a smashing success. Everyone that attended the **Holiday** party had a great time. I'm sure the **Season Ending** soiree will be a great time too.

During the Club trips to Mammoth, Joan Beck will be putting together the dinner where everyone gets together to talk about the great skiing of the day. Be sure to thank her during the next trip.

I have been looking for some recreational things to do as a club. I am looking into **dancing lessons** and a **roller skating** outing. I am also looking for ideas, so if you have one, let me know at soc@ocskiclub.com

Member Birthdays

Congratulations to the following members celebrating birthdays in January.

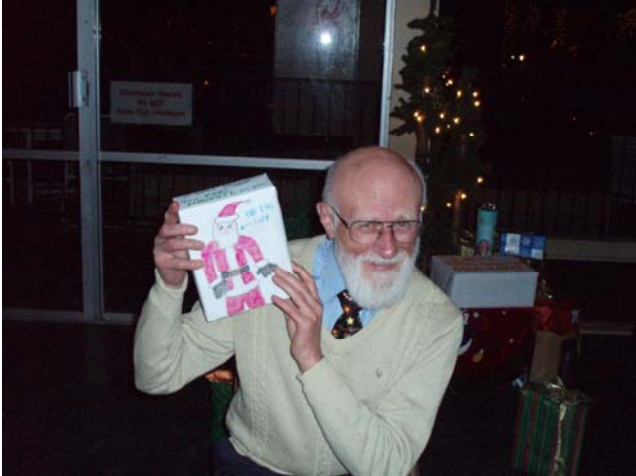
Happy Birthday to all

- David Simkin Jan 18
- Alan Ernstoff Jan 24
- Vicki Kechekian Jan 25
- Joe Reid Jan 29

Fresh Tracks...January 2008

2007 Holiday Party

As you can see from the pictures, a good time was had by all....



**Tire Chain Alternatives
& Accessories**

Steven Breitbart

My Mom knows I ski, so when a November 2007 Reader's Digest article mentioned a new alternative to tire chains, she sent it to me. The article was called "33 Great Ideas From Around the World" by Maryanne Murray Buechner. Some of us are OK with putting on chains, some are not and some of us are always looking for the latest "better mousetrap." While I am describing what I have learned after a bit of research, I have not tried any of these items personally.

The chain alternative is called AutoSock and is from Norway. It is a fabric cover that goes over the tire. Contact them at (888) 288-6063 or <http://autosock.us> (no "www"). Being fabric, I would expect the AutoSock would not be as durable as chains or cables. Their FAQ says to take them off the tires as soon as you get onto regular pavement.

Another alternative is GoClaws, touted as being the "high-tech alternative to chains and cables." They appear to be similar to chains, but are made of polyurethane (plus other hardware) and provide three large areas of traction around each tire. Call them at (800) 420-1062 or check them out at www.flextrax.com.

If you have trouble installing or storing your chains, check out www.chainbuddy.com. The main product, Chain Buddy, is a tool for installing the chains. They have a video of how it works on the web site. I suspect it works well during the day, but may be a bit more difficult at night. They also sell a chain mat and a chain hangar.

You may ask, "Are these legal in California?" While I am not a lawyer, I am optimistic. California Vehicle Code, Section 605, does

not appear to define the type of device used for improving vehicle traction:

"Tire traction devices' are devices or mechanisms having a composition and design capable of improving vehicle traction, braking, and cornering ability upon snow or ice-covered surfaces. Tire traction devices shall be constructed and assembled to provide sufficient structural integrity and to prevent accidental detachment from vehicles. Tire traction devices shall, at the time of manufacture or final assembly, bear a permanent impression indicating the name, initials, or trademark of the assembling company or primary manufacturer, and the country in which the devices were manufactured or assembled in final form."

The California Department of Transportation, (Caltrans), "does not sell nor recommend specific brands of tire chains." They also state on their web site "It is best to check your vehicle manufacturer's specifications for use of tire chains/traction devices." Good advice. I expect I'll write a letter to Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol and try to get a clarification. I will let you know if I get a response.

Club Privacy Policy

The Club has the responsibility to insure members' personal information remains confidential and not available to unauthorized sources.

No member shall use member information (name, e-mail, phone, address, etc.) for distribution to other parties or for personal gain. This is not intended to inhibit communication between members.

Only board members who have a need to use lists are authorized to do so. (Examples – president, trip leaders, webmaster.)

Abuse of this policy can be grounds for termination of Club membership.

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2008 Schedule

Jan 2 General Club Meeting
El Torito Grill in Anaheim

Jan 9 Board Meeting
 Janice's House

Jan 10-12 Mammoth Trip

Jan 16 General Club Meeting

Jan 26 Big Mountain Trip

Feb 6 General Meeting

Feb 13 Board Meeting

Feb 20 General Meeting

Feb 22-24 Mammoth Trip



Monthly Mammoth Trips

Trip Dates:

January 11 – 13, 2008

February 22 – 24, 2008

March 14 – 16, 2008

April 4 – 6, 2008

April 25 – 27 (Club Appreciation), 2008

2-Day Trip for \$175. * 3-Day Trip for \$195.

Note: Members signing up for the 2-day trip must sign up at least one month before the trip. Just signing up for the 2-day weekend does not guarantee that you are on the trip. You will be confirmed on the trip provided there are four people to fill a two-bedroom condo. Money will be refunded to members who signed up for the 2-day trip, if we do not have enough people to fill the condo. Those who don't want to take a chance that a two-bedroom condo will be filled, should consider signing up for the three-day trip to ensure a spot on the trip.

- Included: Lodging at Mammoth Estates, Coffee for Breakfast, Saturday Dinner and non-alcoholic beverage.
- Excluded: Lift Tickets, Transportation, Incidentals, Other Meals

**Don't forget to sign up as soon as possible to secure your spot for these trips.
Condo space is limited so sign up now!**

Standard trip cancellation policy and trip rules and condo etiquette apply to all Mammoth trips. Trip signup form, trip cancellation policy form must be signed and money paid in full (including dues) before member is assured a spot on the trip. Lift tickets and transportation are not included, so ridesharing is encouraged. Travelers share the cost of the gas to keep the overall cost down. Vehicles used for the purpose of ridesharing must have proper insurance. Members may bring their own alcoholic beverages to the Saturday night dinner. However, the Club Board encourages everyone to drink responsibly.

For more information or to sign up, please contact:

Trip Leader, Joan Beck: Tel: 714-832-4779 or Cell at 714-371-9618

E-mail: juniortrips@ockiclub.com