



SPRING IS HERE!!!

Gray Wolf Ski Club

April 2024
Volume 40 Issue 2



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This year's ski season is now over. While the snow was below average, there was plenty of skiing to be had, and the season ended with a couple of nice snowfalls. And, thanks to our friendly members who show newbies around the mountain. Some nice testimonials are included below.

The luncheons this year were, for the most part, well attended. It certainly helps when we have good weather. And while Tutu Tuesday was poorly attended, the end of season tailgate party at the 4x4 lot was a huge success. Our apologies to those that missed out on the brats. We had 71 bratwurst and that was not enough!

This season, Bill Krakow turned 80 and made the trek up Alberta Peak to mark the occasion! And Will James turned 95 and is still skiing! Both of them are an inspiration for the rest of us.

As summer approaches, we have several events coming up. First will be our second annual Highway 160 trash pickup. This year it's scheduled for June 10, weather permitting, so mark your calendars. With a large turnout, it's not a lot of work. Brats, and socializing afterward will be provided as in the past.

Next, our annual Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 11th at the PLPOA Clubhouse. President, Programs Director, and Membership Coordinator are up for election. In particular, Cynthia Riski, our Membership Director, and Lassie Olin, our Programs Director, have been in their positions for 14 years. Both are stepping down and we need someone to fill these positions. So please step up and join the Board. It's a great way to meet others. We will have a meeting to discuss these positions with those interested. Location, time and date TBD. Elections will again be held online in order to assure a quorum. Please see below for more information.

Take care and have a wonderful summer!

Chris Johnson

Will James' 95th Birthday Bash!!!



95 on March 13, 2024...and still skiing...here's to you, Will James!! That is an accomplishment we all admire and that some may hope to achieve in the future. A birthday celebration for Will was held at happy hour on March 12, at The Den. It was attended by approximately 60 club members, friends, and family. Stories were told, a digital collection of photos was shared, a slideshow commemorating Will's 80th birthday hike to Alberta Peak was shown and birthday cake was enjoyed.

Fifteen years ago, on March 13, 2009, when Will turned the sprightly age of 80, he decided to celebrate in an extraordinary way...and what he accomplished would become a Gray Wolf Ski Club tradition: hiking to and skiing down Alberta Peak at age 80, with fellow Gray Wolves joining in the experience. Since then 13 other members, in their 80+ year, have realized that lofty goal and have a nameplate on the trophy in Base Camp.



- 2009 Will James
- 2011 Ozzie Wells and Wayne Odom
- 2013 Dell Peckham
- 2016 Dave Bryan
- 2017 Eve Wells, Klaus Neubert, Bruce Trenk, John Wade, Arthur Hurley
- 2021 Ron Chacey and Lynn Warner
- 2022 Dalas Weisz
- 2024 Bill Krakow




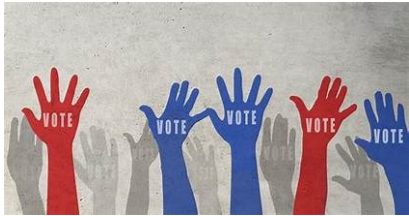
Shortly after Will's hike, a few club members discussed the idea of having a trophy made to display in Base Camp with Will's name on it. The plan was to add names to it, in the years following, of those like-minded 80+ year old club members who would complete the Gray Wolf Alberta Peak Hike and Ski. Poppy Borland ordered the trophy and name plate for Will. She continues to provide the name plates. Buck Gamache made the wooden base and attached the trophy, while Mary Gamache contributed the photo of Alberta Peak.



So Gray Wolves; keep skiing, stay active, and some year you, too, may see



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| April | May | June |
|--|--|--|
| <p><i>April 15</i> Membership Renewal Opens (due by 8/15) Board Nominations Open</p>  | <p><i>Nominations for Board Members Due by May 31!!</i></p>  | <p><i>HIGHWAY CLEANUP JUNE 10</i></p>  <p><i>BOARD MEMBER VOTING JUNE 1-15TH</i></p>  <p><i>JUNE 1-PHOTOS DUE FOR THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY</i></p> |
| <p>Happy Hour Tuesdays 3 - ? Pagosa Bar</p> | <p>Happy Hour Tuesdays 3 - ? TBD</p> | <p>Happy Hour Tuesdays 3 - ? TBD</p> |

Roadside cleanup Monday, June 10

Join us on June 10th for roadside adopt a highway cleanup.

We will meet at Tractor Supply parking lot at 10 am. Cleanup will be along at 2-mile section of Highway 160. Vests, bags will be provided.

Brats and chips will be provided afterward. BYOB



Annual Meeting July 11

And the Big 40th Celebration!!

Save the Date! Potluck on July 11th

4:30 appetizers, 5:00 supper

PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Avenue

Brisket, Chicken, beer and wine provided!



Come by at 2:30 to help the Board members set up, and afterward to help clean up!!! The annual meeting announces the newly-elected Board members, upcoming events, and this year: the 40th Anniversary of the Gray Wolves!! Fun events planned!

Potluck Breakdown, based on your last name:

A-F— Desserts

G-N—Appetizers

O-Z—Sides/salad

Deadline to RSVP is June 30th

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Club will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Gray Wolf Ski Club! I will be sending out a Special Edition Newsletter to commemorate and we need your help! If you have any photos of your times skiing Wolf Creek from the past, please forward so I can put together a slide show at the Annual Meeting. I will need them by the 1st of June.



You may scan, or take a picture of your photo and either email it to me, or forward it through a text message. My email is laura.vanoni@yahoo.com and my cell is 970.398.1794. Thanks, your Publications Editor!

MUY IMPORTANTE!!!! Board Elections this Summer!

The Club wants to thank four Board Members who have devoted countless time and energy toward making this Club SO Successful: Chris Johnson, who served as President for the last two years, Lassie Olin, who served as Social Director for the last 14 years, Cynthia Riski, who served as Membership Chair for the last 14 years, and Simon Fuger, who has served as Ski Area Liaison for the last 12 years. *MANY THANKS and It's been great to serve on the Board with you!!*

On that note, the Ski Club is accepting online nominations for the above open Board of Director positions of President and Social Director beginning April 15, and ending May 15. If you would like to serve, or would like to nominate someone, feel free to contact any of the Board Members to apply. Cynthia Riski, will initially assist the newly-elected Membership Coordinator until he/she is familiar with the position.

Positions are for two-year terms. The positions are elected by the Gray Wolf members. Nominations of current members may be made on the website.

Here is a job description of each position up for election this year:

President: The president presides over meetings of the board officers as well as meetings of the entire club. As a member of all standing committees, he/she helps to facilitate the actions of those committees.

Programs Director: The Program Chair is responsible for securing the venue for the Christmas Party, Annual Meeting, and the brats in August for the beginning of the ski season, as well as securing all paper products, cutlery, etc. for all functions. The position also secures the beer, wine, tea, water. In charge of setting up, decorations, and take-down and cleanup of all functions.

Membership Coordinator: The Membership Coordinator maintains Gray Wolf Ski Club membership list (new/renewal) and submits to Wolf Creek Ski area for club discounted season pass, maintains Gray Wolf ski club website, maintains Gray Wolf ski club email broadcast group list, sends email broadcast messages and responds to email queries from membership.

Accolades go out to the Gray Wolf members!

Occasionally, the members of the Board receive emails from other members, and other skiers on the slopes. We recently received two that need to be passed along:

"Lori (last name unknown) and I got on the first chair together and she was just so nice and helpful. She was also a great skier and skied my butt off!! I would like to thank Lori of the Gray Wolves Club for showing me around the mountain at Wolf Creek on Feb 28. It was my first time skiing there and she was so kind and helpful as I didn't know anything about the area. I am from Mississippi and just moved to Mosca, but if everyone is as nice as she was over there, I will definitely be back to ski again soon. Thanks Lori, you are a class act. Hope to run into you again."

"Greetings from Richmond, Virginia. This is John Parent. Shaun Gannon and I skied at Wolf Creek Feb. 18 - Feb 23 and met several Gray Wolf Ski Club members in the Base Camp. Mary Sue was our "point of contact" each morning. Your club is really something special - please don't ever take it for granted!!! We hope to spend another wonderful week with you next year!" John Parent, Gray Wolf Ski Member

Here's proof-positive that we truly are a great group of folks!



*Tutu Tuesday
March 26th*



South Fork Happy Hour

Things Going On

ZOO DAY 2024—WOOF! WOOF!



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR 2024

Gray Wolf Discounts and Amenities

The Gray Wolves, as of April, 2024, is 1,291 members strong! For your \$15 annual membership dues, in addition to discounted season pass rates for members 65+ and those members who meet the Wolf Creek Ski area grandfathered clause issued in August, 2023, we receive the following benefits:

- Three club scheduled lunch dates, the Club pays up to \$8 of the total lunch bill
- Discounts at local businesses—see website for listing. Members will receive a group email for access with a password for the discounts and membership list.
- Anyone over 50 is eligible to become a Gray Wolf!!!

Gray Wolf Officers 2023/2024

Contact Information

Mailing Address

Gray Wolf Ski Club

P. O. Box 2394

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Website: www.graywolfskiclub.com

President

Chris Johnson 713-562-0395

Vice President

Sheila Manzanares 719-464-6313

Secretary

Suzanne Hill 512-201-5042

Treasurer

Stacy Mergens 303-870-9998

Publications Editor

Laura Vanoni 970-398-1794

Program Chair

Lassie Olin 970-731-2927

Membership Coordinator

Cynthia Riski 817-938-8609

East Side Representative

Paul Midgley 970-731-3626