

TCSC Snowplow Newsletter: April 2023

From: Triple Cities Ski Club (info@triplecityesskiclub.com)

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TCSC Snowplow



April 2023

From the President



Skiing Loon Mtn. during the New Hampshire ski trip, March 19-24, 2023.

The calendar may say spring, but there has been some great skiing this March. Our members went cross country skiing and snowshoeing in the Tug Hill area at Osceola, had some great conditions in New Hampshire and Maine, and made up for the cancelled Mammoth, CA, trip at Windham and Belleayre as well as locally at Elk and Greek Peak, where wonderful snow conditions prevailed. As I write, there are some areas still open in the Northeast and in the West. If there is skiing to be had, TCSCers will be there!

DATE CHANGE: Please note that our General Membership meetings for April and May will be held on the first Wednesdays per a request by the American Legion. Be sure to join us on **Wednesday, April 5**, and **Wednesday, May 3**. These are the last two meetings until September. Remember to check our website and the calendar for events throughout spring and summer. See what's already been scheduled in this newsletter as well.

Happy Spring!

Ingrid Jordak
President

Buy Your Ikon and Epic Passes through the Club

TCSC in conjunction with Sports America is selling Ikon and Epic passes to club members. Buying through the club enters you in a drawing for a free pass if sales goals are met. Go to the links below for more details or directly to the purchase sites for each pass. You also can access the links from the TCSC website home page in the News column. Club trips for 2023-24 will most likely be to Ikon resorts. More about trips can be found in this newsletter.

[Details](#)

[Ikon Pass](#)

[Epic Pass](#)

The following comparison of various season passes is a summary of an article by Samantha Berman from March 20, 2023, in SKI Magazine.

Which Multi-pass Works Best for You?

Ikon Pass

The **Ikon Pass** gets you unlimited skiing with no blackout dates at 15 resorts and up to 7 days at 39 destinations. With the **Ikon Base Pass** there are blackout-restrictions at some resorts, unlimited skiing at 14 resorts, plus up to five days at another 33. Nestled between the two is the **Ikon Base Plus Pass**, which adds access to Aspen Snowmass, Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, Deer Valley, Alta, Snowbasin, and new for next season, Taos Ski Valley.

Price comparisons when first-time buyers purchase through TCSC/SA vs. from Ikon online. Renewals are the same price from both TCSC/SA and Ikon.

Ikon Pass

TCSC/SA price - \$1069
Ikon online price - \$1159

Ikon Base Pass

TCSC/SA price - \$789
Ikon online price - \$829

Ikon Base Pass Plus

TCSC/SA price- \$1049
Ikon online price - \$1049

The biggest news is that Taos is moving off of the Ikon Base and will only be available on the full Ikon Pass and the Ikon Base Plus. The resort will also no longer be requiring reservations next season. On the other hand, Deer Valley will start requiring reservations.

Star Players: Big Sky, Jackson Hole, Aspen Snowmass, Snowbird, Revelstoke, Taos Ski Valley

Friends and Family Tickets: Ikon Pass holders get 10 friends and family discount lift tickets (25 percent off window rate), while Ikon Base pass holders get eight.

Kids' Pass Discount with Adult Purchase:

Get \$100 off a child (5-12) pass when you buy an adult Ikon, Ikon Base, or Ikon Base Plus. Good for up to two kids' passes for a total discount of \$200.

Pay Over Time: You put zero down and split payment over 3, 6, 9, or 12 months with Ikon's payment plan. Available for a limited time, so act fast.

First Tracks: Get on the slopes an hour before the masses at select resorts once a month from January through March.

Outside+ Membership and Retail Discounts: New for 2023-'24, Ikon Pass holders receive a complimentary one-year Outside+ membership plus discounts at The North Face and Smith Optics.

Resort Discounts: Get 15 percent off food and beverages, retail, and services at 15 resorts.

Epic Pass

The original mega pass offers skiing at 37 North American resorts plus 10 ski areas in Japan, 3 in Australia, and 26 partner resorts in the Alps. The full Epic Pass offers unlimited skiing with no blackout dates at 41 ski areas, while the Epic Local features unlimited, blackout-free skiing at 29 resorts, unlimited blackout-restricted access at 8 five ski areas, and 10 blackout-restricted days (combined) at its marquee destinations of Vail, Beaver Creek, and Whistler Blackcomb. Epic Pass also offers over a dozen regional passes and a suite of day pass products ranging from one- to seven-day options.

Star Players: Vail Mountain, Telluride, Whistler Blackcomb, Stowe, Park City

Resort Discounts: All pass holders get 20 percent off lodging, dining, lessons, and more at Vail Resorts locations in North America.

Skiing Deals: Use your 20-percent discount on guided cat skiing in Keystone and heliskiing in Whistler Blackcomb.

Which Season Pass Offer the Best Perks?

Ikon Pass. Both passes have some pretty nice perks with the best of them

month pass. Both passes have some pretty nice perks, with the best of them being the discounted Buddy and Friends and Family tickets. Epic's offer expires at a not-yet-announced date this spring. Ikon doesn't take away its F&F tickets, but its renewal discount will disappear.

Overall, we give a slight edge to Ikon in the perks categories thanks to First Tracks, the child pass discount, and spring access. Especially if you don't have a current season pass and want to make some spring turns, Ikon suddenly looks pretty attractive.

Best of the Rest

The remaining multi-passes—Indy Pass, Mountain Collective, Powder Alliance, and Power Pass—don't offer nearly as many perks as Epic and Ikon, but Indy and Mountain Collective have a few worth mentioning:

Indy Pass

- 25 percent discount on tickets for additional days beyond what the pass gets you
- Payment plan
- Lodging discounts
- Two trail passes per person at Indy Pass Nordic resorts
- Japan travel deals through Japan Ski Tours

Mountain Collective

- No blackout dates
- 50 percent discount on tickets for additional days beyond what the pass gets you

Power Pass

- Kids 12 under ski free, with no blackouts, at all nine mountains
- spring skiing with 2023-'24 pass purchase
- payment plan
- three blackout-free days to partner mountains

Note: Please visit each pass's website to verify information before making any purchases.

Trip Survey Report

Thanks to the 74 members who responded to the trip survey last month. Here is a summary of the results with the top five destinations in each category.

Western Destinations:

1. Alta/Snowbird
2. Jackson Hole
3. Sun Valley
4. a 3-way tie between Taos, Winter Park and Deer Valley

Eastern Destinations:

1. Mt. Tremblant (We are planning a trip for next year.)
2. Sugarbush
3. Killington/Pico
4. Sunday River
5. Stratton

Day Trips:

1. Windham
2. Belleayre
3. Holiday Valley
4. Bristol
5. Hunter

Preferred Transportation: Bus

Preferred Lodging: Hotel

Mammoth Update: Brenda is making plans to rebook the cancelled Mammoth trip for 2024. Those who registered for this year will get booking priority before the trip is opened to the rest of the club.

Looking Ahead

TCSC members continue to be active in the off-ski season. Check the website under [Upcoming Events](#) and the [Calendar](#) to see what's planned. Also, check your email frequently for the event announcements. If you'd like to plan an activity yourself or with someone, contact [Eileen Hanrahan](#), activity director, for assistance. There are Event Forms at the [Forms](#) page under [About Us](#) where

you can fill in the details of the activity before submitting it to Eileen.

Here's What's Coming Up -- For Now

Tuesday, April 4: GPAS is holding its annual fundraiser at Cortese Restaurant from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from a GPAS volunteer, Greek Peak Ski Patrol member or at the door. [More details](#) and sign up.

Wednesday, April 5: TCSC General Membership Meeting from 7-8:30 p.m.
Note the date change! Guest speaker will be Anthony Folk of Chenango Point Cycles. He will talk about E-bikes and the new local rail trail. [More details](#) and sign up.

Sunday, May 7: Adopt-A-Highway clean up from 7:45-9:30 a.m., followed by breakfast courtesy of the club. TCSC has been maintaining our section of Route 17 for almost 3 decades. Let's keep up the good work! We need at least 12 volunteers to form 2-3 person teams that can cover both sides of the highway as well as the median. Rain date is May 21. [More details](#) and sign up.

Saturday, June 17: Save the Date for our Picnic and Hickories Park in Owego. It's always a fun time. More details to come!

October 7-10: ADK Weekend at Raquette Lake. Bike, hike, climb, paddle, visit interesting sites, take a train or boat ride, shop, or just relax in the beauty that is fall in the Adirondacks. Sign ups begin April 24. [More details.](#)

In the works: Looking into a Last Run Bash and an axe throwing party.

March Skiing Highlights



Top of the hill at Greek Peak.



Bill Mead tackling the steeps in NH.

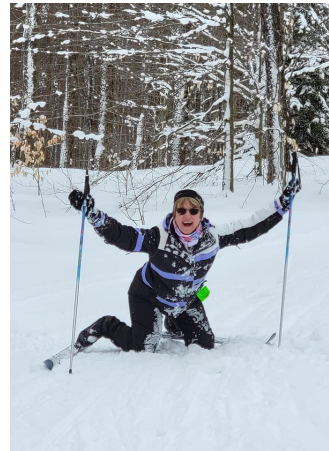
Cross country skiers enjoy Osceola



Tree hugger Wayne



On the trail with Lorraine, Wayne, Bert



Oops! How do I get up?



Carol leading group on the trails at Osceola.



There's plenty of room in the hot tub at Tailwater.



Carol H., Barry H., Donna C., Pete N., Walt B., and Brenda N. found snow and wind at Belleayre. Riding the gondola was a plus.



Windham was perfect for Susanna S., Marcie R., Ingrid J., and Mike R.



Bill M., Mike R., and Kevin W. had great snow in NH.

NH Trip Delivers Bluebird Days, Open Trails

The late March club ski trip to New Hampshire was a great time for seven members. We had three fantastic bluebird days. A daily cycle of temperatures well below freezing overnight and upper 30's, low 40s daytime made for excellent spring skiing. Nonexistent crowds meant no lines and good skiing conditions lasting into mid day. The last day was a bit damp, but the high-speed eight pack with a bubble/heated seats and the gondola kept us dry three fourths of the time. That was enough to get a couple hours skiing in before we called it a day.

The group used a combination of IKON, EPIC, Indy passes and senior bargain lift ticket prices to ski Loon, Sunday River, Wildcat, Waterville Valley, Oak Mountain and Bretton Woods. We repeated our group dining experience from last year at the Woodstock Inn Brewery and had a great meal.

by Mike Reitnauer



Above: View from the top with Mike R. on the NH trip. Right: Catching Kevin W. and Tim H. before their run.



NH trip skiers Marge, Tim, Kevin, Bill, Mike, and John.



***Happy
Spring!***

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