

I hope everyone enjoyed a great and relaxing holiday season. Things will start gearing up for the Springfield Ski Club Board now to prepare for the April Sign Up Party. We need to prepare for the upcoming elections of new officers and also offer our lineup of summer day trips.

Let's talk about the election first. We have several important positions which need to be filled. The one causing me the most concern is the VP for Winter Trips. Hope has done an incredible job and will be a very tough act to follow. She has put together a veteran trip committee many of whom have served on previous trip committees, as trip leaders and even VP for Winter Trips. Hope has more than earned her rest after this stint as VP. She has also agreed to put together some ski trip proposals for the new VP. Because of the shortened time frame between Sign Up Parties, the new VP will need to hit the ground running. Anyone who is interested, please call or email me as soon as possible. My most immediate priority is to identify a good candidate for this most important position.

Regarding the trips, we are considering offering another non-traditional touring trip. Our members returned in late November from the Costa Rica trip. I received many good reports about the vendor and the trip itself. We did have a few logistical issues with the vendor in running the Costa Rica trip, but since we now have a track record with them, we are able to bypass those hurdles. I would like to take this opportunity to gauge interest among our members for some other trips they offer. Since the dollar is still so weak against the Euro, we are looking at some other trips. Please email me if you are interested in any of the following trips: Grand Canyon, California Coast and Yosemite, Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone or Mexico's Copper Canyon. I can provide more information and will probably do so in an email from RoyceAnne to our email distribution list. The trip would most likely be scheduled for late September or early October. I have traveled some and have never been to any of these destinations except California and Yosemite, so I thought there might be some interest. Please let me know.

Finally, the last thing I wanted to mention was the early membership we will offer. Any "new" members who sign up at Trivia Night or anytime between then and the Sign Up Party will receive next year's membership beginning at the time they sign up. This could result in about three extra months membership. Let your friends know about this great offer. See you at Happy Hour!