

Who will be our board candidates in the May elections? We cannot exist without leadership.

Several positions will be open, and we need
qualified people to step up and support the club.
Contact any board member now.

So many of us have participated in at least one of the many events the Vagabond Ski and Social Club has offered this year:

- * Monthly general meetings with live music and fun.
- * Hikes, bike rides, walks, tennis, pickleball, golf, bowling, skiing.
- * A theatrical production, Over the Hump, supper club dinner, picnic, fish fry.
- * A ski trip, or winter getaway, or domestic or foreign trip.

THANK YOU VAGABOND CLUB FOR A GOOD YEAR!

Your board feels that the only way to sustain the club and move forward is to have everyone be a participant in **helping. This will be the norm in 2026.** There are so many easy ways to support your club:

- * Attend the monthly general meetings.
- * Help out at the Welcome Table to greet guests for an hour.

- * Assist an event leader with set up, phone calls or distribution of information.
- * Be a leader on a hike or a walk, etc. Be creative with a new event.
- * Lastly, come forward to use your strengths and support the club. **We need qualified people to step up and support the club.**

Specifically, here is what your club needs:

Do you enjoy tennis or pickleball? Your club needs a Racquet Sports director.

Do you attend the monthly meetings? Your club needs a Meetings director.

Do you enjoy biking, hiking or walks? Your club needs a Sporting Activities director.

Do you have ideas on how to promote the club? Your club needs a Public Relations director

Do you sign up for theater events, fish fries and dinners? Your club needs a Social Activities director.

Our next meeting: Feb. 4,
with Music Bingo and cash prizes, New Berlin Banquet Center, 16000 W. Cleveland Ave. Dancing to follow.

OFFICERS

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From the
President
Mary Beth Braun

Happy New Year, Vagabond members!

Here we are with a new start in 2026, new excitement, and many, many new opportunities in our lives. Our club offers indoor and outdoor activities even in cold weather this January – keep reading the *Life*.

Let's make 2026 a new opportunity for you and the club. I would like all of you to be aware of events and happenings in your community that would be or could be fun to offer the whole group, be it sporting or theatrical. Present a new idea for an activity. Is there a concert or play happening at the Sunset Playhouse? Oconomowoc Arts Center? Waukesha Players? Many other venues have programs. Please contact Social Director Denise Kremel or Sporting Activities Director Mary Beth Braun in a timely manner to suggest an event.

The next Festival Symphony concert is scheduled for Jan. 24. Ski Racing is scheduled to begin in January.

Thank you to those who have planned hikes, games and Over the Hump for January, our ski trips in January and February, and our getaway to Punta Cana in February.

Our directors and event leaders have been moving us forward, and we need to keep on moving! We encourage our members to step up and get involved. Show us your talents and strengths; give us your ideas and come to the meetings. We will need a new Social Activities director and a Racquet Sports director.

From all the board members and staff who keep everything working, we wish everyone the very best in the New Year! We wish you happiness, good health and successful opportunities. We will see you Feb. 4, at the next general meeting.

Mary Beth



On the bluffs along Lake Michigan at Lion's Den Gorge.
See the January hike schedule on Page 4.

Our Vagabond Travelers' Top Choice for 2026

Vagabond Ski & Social Club's 15-Day Spectacular!

Magnificent Sicily and vibrant Malta
plus, a riverboat cruise on the majestic Danube

PRICE TBA

Registration opens Feb. 2

Departure will be in early September, for best weather.
Look for details in the February issue of the *Vagabond Life*.



The informational party will be scheduled shortly after the sign-up date. Details and sign-up instructions will be in the February *Life*.

Trip opens **Feb. 2 by U.S. Mail**. Be part of this phenomenal Vagabond Trip to Sicily, Malta and up the Danube River aboard a **Luxurious AMA Waterways River Ship Vessel**. All staterooms are French Balcony with Step-Out Balcony or fixed-window. The Danube is known for its historic and evocative cities, exceptional food and wine, and heavenly sailing waters. Our riverboat will visit Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Weissenkirchen, Ybbs, Grein, Linz (Salzburg), Passau, Vilshofen.

Our land portion takes us to the magical world of Sicily, an island with unique geography, rich history, vibrant culture and complex character. Malta is known for its stunning architecture, clear waters, diverse culture and unique blend of prehistoric, medieval and modern sites.

Trip includes: Air, sea & land transportation, panoramic bus tours in Sicily and Malta, 6/7 nights in 5-Star hotels, double-occupancy with breakfast. AMA Riverboat includes 7 nights, all meals, daily tours, bicycles, and other amenities you would expect on a luxury riverboat cruise. Medical, Air-Evac, baggage and trip-delay-only insurance. Many extras are in the planning states: parties, dinners, etc.

Trip does not include: Port taxes, possible but not expected, minimal ship and/or air fuel surcharges, cruise optional tours at stops, meals not indicated above and tips. Fluctuations in exchange rates are possible since items are being paid for in foreign currency.

Medical, Air-Evac, Baggage & Trip Delay Insurance Included

This trip is expected to fill quickly once it opens Feb. 2. To save your place, make sure your initial check -- \$100 for fixed window or \$125 for French & Outside Balcony -- is payable to Vagabond Ski and Social Club and is postmarked no sooner than Feb. 2. Send your check, along with two address labels and a trip coupon indicating your cabin preference, to:

Bob Spindell
1626 N. Prospect Ave.
No. 2210
Milwaukee, WI 53202

(Subsequent payments for the trip may be made by credit card if desired, but the initial "hold my spot" check must be sent by U.S. Mail.)

Any questions, please call Trip Leader **Bob Spindell**, (414) 276-6331.





Sporting Activities
Mary Beth Braun

"Dos and Don'ts" for Winter Hiking Let's be prepared

- Dress in layers
- Prevent heat loss from your head -- wear a hat
- Hike in a group for safety
- Stay hydrated
- Bring high-protein snacks
- Don't forget sun protection and good sunglasses

Gear to consider:

- Knee-high gaiters
- Waterproof boots
- Hiking poles
- Crampons (traction device for shoes that improves stability on snow and ice)
- Stay out of cross-country ski tracks!



Lion's Den Gorge

Sunday Hikes

Hike for the Fun – or Just for the Health – of It!

Contact the leader of the hike experience you wish to enjoy. We don't want to leave anyone behind! Also, in case of severe weather, please contact the hike leader. (Usually, the hike goes on as planned.)

We welcome volunteers to lead hikes in future months. Please call or text **Robert Patzwald** at (414) 791-8775 to have your questions answered. Scheduled hikes without leaders will be canceled.

Meet at 1:30 p.m., hike from 1:45 to 3:45

Jan. 4 – Lapham Peak State Park: Take I-94 west to Hwy. C, then turn left to park entrance. Meet at the middle parking lot, which is called Homestead Hollow: type "Homestead Hollow, Delafield WI" on Google Maps. From the entrance, go up the main road 0.7 of a mile; the parking lot is on the left. This is where we usually stop for bathrooms. Starting from

this point significantly reduces the number of hills for the hike. We will hike about 3 miles, from 1:45 to 3:45 p.m., then head to Revere's Wells Street Tavern, 505 Wells St., in Delafield, for food and drinks. Hike leader: **Betty Riley**, (262) 888-9978.

Jan. 11 – Pike Lake State Park:

Take I-41 north to Hwy 60, then go west 3 miles to the park entrance on the left (Kettle Moraine Drive), then south into the park to the beach parking lot. An entrance fee is required -- day or yearly pass. Hilly, moderate hike. Wear proper hiking shoes. If there is snow or ice, add Yaktrax or spikes to your shoes. Consider using poles for added stability. Meet at 1:30 p.m., hike from 1:45 to 3:45. Afterward, go to the Mineshaft restaurant, 22 N. Main St., in Hartford, for food and drink. Hike Leader: **Gary Kovach**, (414) 712-3897.

Jan 18 – Lake Park to UWM Campus: Meet at Lake Park Bistro, 3133 E. Newberry Blvd., Milwaukee. We will hike from there to Downer Woods and return to Lake Park (4+ miles). Meet afterward at Cafe Hollander, 2608 N. Downer Ave. Hike Leaders **Jay and Terese Zinn**, (414) 708-1663.

Jan 25 – Loews Lake Unit - Kettle Moraine State Forest: Weather permitting, we will meet in the parking lot on Hwy. K just north of HY Q in Monches. From there, we will caravan north on Hwy. K and Emerald DR to the parking lot on Emerald DR at the Loews Lake Unit. The driveway and parking lot should be plowed out, but the trails may be uneven and icy under the snow. Therefore, it is recommended that all hikers use some type of cleats, spikes or Yaktrax along with a sharp-pointed trekking pole or poles. We will hike about two hours and travel 3 miles. Afterward, food and drink will be at Ox and Cats, W302N95 County Hwy. E, Hartland. Hike leader: **Erv Bukin**, land: (414) 461-3770 or cell: (414) 412-6028.



Hardy hikers on an 8-degree day at Scout Lake

Weekly one-hour walks

Our Thursday-morning walks are suspended for the winter. They will resume in the spring.

Bowling

Our monthly bowling league needs substitutes. If you are willing to bowl just once a month, please sign up online. You pay \$12 on the days you bowl.

League secretary is **Dee Holstein-Pizur**, (262) 227-6322.



Ski Activities Sally Borchardt



Vagabonds preparing for Big Sky in January and Snowmass in February.



Ski trips

Our first Vagabond ski trip of the season is in January at Big Sky, Montana. In February, we head out to another club favorite, Aspen/Snowmass.

Of course, our local ski areas are close at hand for a special day on the slopes, and also for watching our ski racers.



Visiting a Vail monument.

We are already looking into 2027 with some different areas that we have not been to in many years. We will send out questionnaires to club members soon. Some destinations to be considered could include upper Michigan. Suggestions are always welcomed! Stay tuned!

Ski racing

The Vagabond Ski Team begins the race season Sunday, Jan. 4, at Sunburst. Spectators are encouraged to come out and watch the team in action, along with a trophy presentation after the race. Several people have joined our club after experiencing a race day.

Metropolitan Milwaukee Ski Council Senior Racing has 14 races scheduled over seven dates this winter. About 40 skiers compete in one of four non-gender classes based on skill level. The Vagabonds will again compete against three other teams.

We always have room on the team for new racers of any age or ability. Every year, skiers as young as 21 join the club to compete on the race team.

Contact **Al Lemke** at aklemke2993@gmail.com or call (414) 688-2938 or visit MMSCSR.com

MMSC Senior Race Schedule

Jan. 4 – Sunburst
Jan. 10 – Sunburst
Jan. 17 – Sunburst
Jan. 24 – Holy Hill
Jan. 31 – Holy Hill
Feb. 7 – Sunburst
Feb. 15 – Sunburst



Practices: 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Sunburst

Fee for no proper ID

Starting Feb. 1, travelers who arrive at the airport without a Real ID or passport will have to pay \$45 to clear security. The fee is tied to a "modernized alternative identity verification system" called TSA Confirm.ID, for travelers who don't have valid identification.

If your ID has a star in the upper right corner, it qualifies as a Real ID.

Travel show

Our regional ski club, the Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council, will be at the Travel & Adventure Show on Feb. 21 and 22 at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Ill.

Travel experts and celebrities will be there to help you find, personalize and book your next vacation.

For admission discounts, go to eventspass.com/event/2026chicagotas?pc=CMSCVIP or eventspass.com/event/2026chicagotas?pc=CMSC26.

For best results, get involved

Since its inception, our club has been run by its member volunteers, and that continues today. Here is why you should volunteer:

- Are you a newer member? What better way to meet others than to lead an event. Do you have an idea for an outing you think others would enjoy? Contact a board member for guidance on how you can learn to run a Vagabond event.
- Are you a member who has enjoyed what the club offers? Maybe it's time for you to step up and volunteer to help organize some of your favorite activities: hikes, bike rides, walks, supper clubs, fish fries, theatre, golf, tennis, pickleball, trips ...
- Learning modern technology keeps the brain young. By running club events, you will have the opportunity to stretch your mind and become skilled at the club management software (Wild Apricot).
- It will make you feel good! Volunteering is a way to give back to the club, and that is guaranteed to keep the club moving forward and to make you happy inside.

Every member has something to offer. So, if you haven't taken your turn yet, think about how you can contribute to the Vagabond Ski and Social Club.

Visit us on Facebook
@ Vagabond Ski & Social Club



International
Travel
Linda Horn

Winter Getaway

Punta Cana • Feb. 5-12

Have fun in the sun with other Vagabonds from Feb. 5-12 at Secrets Royal Beach Resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. This adults-only, all-inclusive resort offers unlimited dining, 12 restaurants, drinks, wi-fi, nightly entertainment, tennis courts, water aerobics infinity pool, swim-up bar, long beach, and access to Dreams next door.



We were there in 2024 and enjoyed it so much that we are returning. Great food, entertainment, basically an excellent property.

This package includes round-trip, nonstop flights between Milwaukee and Punta Cana, along with the shuttle to and from the resort.

Join the waitlist online or call **Sue** at (414) 421-6248.



Membership
Jan Breitbach

WELCOME NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS

See the online directory at VagabondSkiClub.com
for an up-to-date list of current members.

Keith & Sally Kamperschroer

We are looking for friendly and smiling faces to assist at the Welcome Desk on meeting nights. Assistance is also needed with membership renewal.

Email JanBreitbach@gmail.com or call (414) 732-9749.



Social Activities
Denise Kremel

Fish Fry • Jan. 9

Cliffords Supper Club, Hales Corners

Our next fish fry will be Friday, Jan. 9, at Cliffords Supper Club, 10418 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corners.

This all-you-can-eat fish fry is \$27, including tax and tip.

Meet at the bar at 4:30 p.m., dine at 5 (new time this month).

Call **Nancy Drolshagen** at (414) 491-3147 with questions.

For reservations, go to VagabondSkiClub.com. We are limited to 25 people, so kindly call to cancel if you are unable to attend!

Over the Hump • Jan. 21

Open Flame, Hales Corners

Our next Over the Hump get-together will be Wednesday, **Jan. 21**, at Open Flame Restaurant, 5081 S. 108th St., Hales Corners.

Just show up between 4 and 7 p.m.

Call **Nancy Drolshagen** at (414) 491-3147 with questions..

Sheepshead

6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13 and 27

New Berlin Ale House

We play Sheepshead from **6-9 p.m.** on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at New Berlin Ale House. The next games are **Jan. 13** and **27**. Non-members, members and all levels of play are welcome.

Fee: at least one food/beverage order (plus tip) plus \$1 per person; bring more money, and you may win or lose.

Questions: **Jae Hartnell**, (608) 712-7440.



Scrabble

1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 and 20

New Berlin Ale House



We play Scrabble on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1-4 p.m. at New Berlin Ale House. The fee is \$1 per person for the server tip along with a purchase of one beverage, either alcoholic or non-alcoholic. Food is also available for purchase.

This month's games are **Jan. 6** and **20**. Non-members are welcome.

Call **Lynn Kozlowski** at (414) 539-8114.

Festival City Symphony • 2 p.m. Jan. 24

Bradley Symphony Center



The Vagabonds have a long tradition of promoting the Festival City Symphony to our members. Hear classical music on Saturday afternoons at the Bradley Symphony Center, 212 W.

Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee.

Order tickets online at FestivalCitySymphony.org.

The suggested donation for seniors is \$8.

Saturday Classics concerts begin at 2 p.m., preceded by "Unlocking the Score," an onstage presentation at 1:30.

Schedule

Jan. 24 – Mendelssohn's Discovery

March 7 – Pictures at an Exhibition

April 18 – Faith, Persistence and Celebration



Over 65 Years of Fun and Friendships

Vagabond Ski & Social Club Membership
7809 W. Mount Vernon Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53213



Facebook Help Wanted

Help us find new members through
Facebook: Click Like on the Vagabond
Ski and Social Club page. To post pictures
from club events, send them to
jszulc@wi.rr.com.

Stay Informed

For up-to-date information on club events
and activities, including news and photos,
visit VagabondSkiClub.com.

DATED MATERIAL
Deliver December 27

FUTURE EVENTS		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb. 4	General meeting	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Feb. 5	Punta Cana							
Feb. 7	Snowmass							
Feb. 21	Travel show							
March 7	Symphony	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
April 8	Mt. Bachelor	Ski race Big Sky trip Hike		Scrabble			Cliffords	
April 18	Symphony							
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Hike		Sheepshead			Bowling	
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Hike		Scrabble	Open Flame			Symphony
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Hike		Sheepshead				