

February General Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

New Berlin Banquet Center • 16000 W. Cleveland Ave.
(Meeting rooms on east side of building)

6 pm: Doors open and check-in at Welcome Area begins

6:30 pm: Socializing & event sign-ups

7 pm: General Meeting

7:30 pm: Dancing to the music of American Graffiti

Guests welcome – \$10 admission

Sign up in advance

- ◆ To help us plan, please register for the meeting online (an event announcement will be sent via email)

- or -

- ◆ Contact Membership Director **Jan Breitbach** at (414) 732-9749 or Jan.Breitbach@gmail.com.

Reminders

- ◆ Wear your Vagabond name tag.
- ◆ Parking is available on both the east and west sides of the building.
- ◆ If you have renewed your membership online, you may update your name tag at this meeting.

Dinner plans?

- ◆ For a meal beforehand, we suggest the New Berlin Ale House (on the west side of the building).
- ◆ No food or beverages may be carried into the meeting rooms.

THIS MONTH'S MUSIC



Vagabond Ski & Social Club Inc.
VagabondSkiClub.com

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**A Message From
 the Board**

To all of our Vagabond members, we say
“HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY” month.

Last month, you experienced our new meeting arrangement. We have received a few responses but would like to hear more from our members. These changes are a “work in process.” Please, if you have any comments or suggestions, let one of our board members know.



Occasionally, someone will ask, “Who picks the bands for our dances?” The bands, all of which are local, are chosen based on past performances as well as suggestions from our Vagabond members. We now have seven top-quality bands that we will rotate monthly to ensure that our members have a wide variety of listening and dancing experiences. As usual, suggestions and comments are always encouraged.

Happy Valentine's Day!

We Couldn't Do It Without You
Featured Volunteers



Dan Heidemann – Dan is the coordinator for scheduling Sunday hikes (and leader for many of them). He also has been a leader on many bike rides, including out-of-town bike trips.



John Podsedly – John is co-captain of the ski race team, co-leader of two Western ski trips, organizer of Zany Bowling and editor of this newsletter.



Jean Dueling – Jean has organized both Sporting and Social events, in addition to helping with Membership. She has been a walk leader and a hike leader and has set up luncheons, trips and tours. She also coordinates the annual Door County Get-Away.



Susan Klopatek – Susan helped with food service for many, many tennis parties. She also continues to process credit card payments at our General Meetings and has done so for several years.



From the Vice President
Linda Horn

Vagabond Ski & Social Club's Spectacular 15-Day Enchanting Paris, Rhone River & Southern France

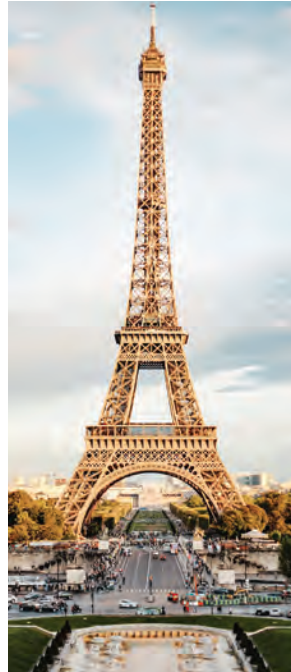
Oct. 4-19

\$5,994

Be part of this phenomenal Vagabond trip to Paris, Southern France and Rhone Riverboat Cruise on the "Luxurious AMA Waterways River Vessel" (Gold Award for Best River Cruise Line - Travvy Awards 2022) with a maximum of 168 passengers. All Staterooms are Fixed Window or, French Balcony. We will visit the exciting cities of Paris, then Nice, followed by a 7-Night Cruise to the most Famous Vineyards - Wine Spots - in France.

ITINERARY

- Lv: by Bus MKE to O'Hare – AA - Non-Stop to Paris.
- **Paris** – 4 nights @ Hyatt Regency Paris E'toile.
- LV: Paris by Flight to Nice.
- **Nice** - 3 nights @ 4 or 5 Star Hotel.
- LV: **Port of Arles, France by Riverboat – AMACello** – for 7 nights to: (1) Arles, (2) Avignon, (3) Valence,
- (4) Lyon – Quai Claude Bernard, (5) Macon, (6) Tournus, (7) Chalon-Sur-Saone
- LV: Port of Chalon-Sur-Saone by Bus to Paris Airport – AA Flight Non-Stop to O'Hare



INCLUDES

- **AIR** - O'Hare Nonstop to Paris + Return to O'Hare Non-stop from Paris at end of boat trip & Paris to Nice flight.
- **BUS** - To & from O'Hare & from Airports/Hotels/Cruise.
- **SEVEN nights, Luxurious River Cruise** - Fixed Window Stateroom (incl in price), French Balcony Stateroom +\$592pp*) **ALL GOURMET Cruise meals with wine/beer/soft drinks, internet, bicycles, amenities, shore excursion at each port.**
- **Hotel Nights at 4- and 5-star hotels & locations with breakfast) 4 nights in Paris and 3 nights in Nice.**

- **TOURS** - Sightseeing - City Panorama Tours - Paris & Nice
- **PARTIES** - as usual, lots of Nightly Parties, extra dinners and surprises.

NOT INCLUDED

- **TRAVEL INSURANCE** - Cancellation **FOR** Reason & Trip Interruption - **NOT included but - REQUIRED** by Vagabond Board of Directors – only \$421 - Cancel for Any Reason - **Extra Cost**, check with Bob.
- Single Supplement, when available, additional charge provided upon request.
- Some optional ports of call tours, additional city / outside of area tours & possible entry fees to some attractions.
- Tips & Meals not indicated above. & possible exchange rate increases, airline supplemental fuel charges.
*Taxes, port charges (\$210), fees.

Trip Opened Jan. 3 - Contact Trip Leader **Bob Spindell**, (414) 276-6331, with any questions.





Sporting
Activities
Mary Beth Braun

Sunday Hikes

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

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

We welcome volunteers to lead hikes in future months. Contact **Dan Heidemann** at danmark@gmail.com or (414) 416-1678 if you know you can be a leader. Hikes without leaders will be canceled.

Feb. 5 – Havenwoods State Forest: 6141 N. Hopkins St., Milwaukee. Meet in the parking lot. Hike from 1:45 to 3:45 p.m., approximately 5 miles. Trails of mulch, gravel, grass, pavement, mostly level with some gentle hills. Wear proper hiking shoes. Ground may be frozen or muddy. No open bathrooms. From Good Hope Road, go south on 43rd Street (Sherman Blvd.), then right onto Douglas Ave. From W. Silver Spring Drive, go north on Sherman Blvd., then left on Douglas. Food and refreshments after hike at the Brick Pub & Grill, 6343 N. Green Bay Road in Glendale. Hike Leader is **Gary Kovach**, (414) 712-3897.

Feb. 12 – Milwaukee Lakefront Hike: Meet in McKinley Park's parking lot (1750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive). We will walk south to a point near the Summerfest grounds and the Lakefront State Park and return to our starting point. Afterward, refreshments at Colectivo Coffee (across the street at 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive). Hike Leader is **Jim Stephens**, (262) 694-2115.



Hiking at Bong Recreational Area

Feb. 19 – Lapham Peak State Park: Take I-94 west to Hwy. C, then turn left to park entrance. Meet in first parking lot that is past the ranger's check-in booth (entrance fee required) and turn right to that parking lot. Hike from 1:45 to 3:45, then head to Revere's Wells Street Tavern at 505 Wells St in Delafield for chili and drinks. **Hike Leader needed!**

Feb. 26 – Fox River County Park: Meet at 2711 Portage Circle Waukesha 53189, park on street in condo complex. Hike from 1:45 to 3:45 pm. Afterward, for those who wish, food and beverages at Michael's Italian Restaurant 1400 S. Grand Ave., Waukesha. Hike Leader is **Dan Heidemann**, (414) 416-1678.

Midweek Walks returning soon . . .

Our one-hour walks on Wednesday mornings will not be planned events in January and February. We encourage everyone to get out and walk whenever possible -- whether it's at the gym, the Y, or outside whenever the weather is feasible, not just Wednesday. Come Spring, we will be on Thursday mornings for our planned Vagabond midweek walks, and also have an optional lunch stop afterward at the discretion of the leader. There will be no change of day or time for our monthly Happy Hour Walks on Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m.

As always, we will be **looking for volunteers to lead on Thursday mornings (11 a.m. to noon) and Wednesday afternoons.**

Zany Bowling – Event Leader Volunteer

We would like to continue the tradition of having a night of Zany Bowling for the Vagabonds, but we have no volunteer to be the event leader! If you are interested and capable to plan this event, please contact **Mary Beth** at (262) 443-7291 or mbbraun4@wi.rr.com.

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Golf Season is coming . . . Prepare . . . PRACTICE

Our choice this year for the Friday Golf League is Sunny Slope Golf Course, 4285 S. Sunny Slope Road, New Berlin, which has an indoor facility to help you prepare.

With everything in life, practice makes for better performance, and that's true for golf 🏌️ Let's get ready for a great golf season by *practicing at the range* before the season starts, by utilizing the *golf simulators* at Sunny Slope Golf course, which are available daily, and for *enrolling in golf lessons* at Sunny Slope Golf Course or another course or driving range.

Don't delay. Call to schedule lessons or reserve a time slot for the simulators. For Sunny Slope Golf, contact **Matt** at (414) 305-2333. See you on the links!

Visit us on Facebook
@Vagabond Ski & Social Club

You can also post pictures from club events.



Planning for 2024?

As announced at the January general meeting, your club needs a member to volunteer as ski activities director. Directors serve a two-year term. Without someone willing to step up, your club will not be able to continue ski trips. This is a position that requires substantial time and commitment.

Duties include writing articles for the monthly newsletter; attending monthly board and general meetings; researching ski locations, lodging and transportation options as well as pricing out the trips and developing a budget for each trip. A working knowledge of Excel helps with this. The director develops marketing materials for each trip (knowledge of Word is a plus) and needs to be proficient (or willing to learn) the club management tool (Wild Apricot). Wild Apricot is required to set up trips online and to communicate directly to those interested in skiing.

If someone doesn't volunteer to run for election by May, the club will cut back (or eliminate) ski trips.

Additionally, the club needs trip leaders to run individual trips. Trip leaders need to know (or be willing to learn) Wild Apricot. Trip leaders keep track of registrants and their payments, communicate details about the trip, completing airline registers, researching and setting up social events during the trip and ensuring that the budget is met. Additionally, the trip leader is the liaison for bus transportation, lodging and anything else on the actual trip.

The club has reserved Snowmass for February 2024, and we do have a volunteer (**Joyce Szulc**) who will run that trip. However, she will not be performing the duties related to the Ski Activities Director after the 2023 season is over. If you are interested, please contact Joyce to learn more.



Wine and cheese (and Aperol Spritz) in the trip leaders' Crested Butte condo.

Ski Safety Tips

There is nothing like downhill skiing: beautiful views, exhilarating runs and great camaraderie. However, no one wants to get injured. Most skiers are aware and follow good safety precautions, but it is always wise to review the basics in ski safety. In the United States, the Skier Responsibility Code addresses common-sense safety concerns, including the following:

1. Always stay in control and be able to stop or avoid other people or objects.
2. People ahead of you have the right of way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.
3. You must not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible from above.
4. Whenever starting downhill or merging into a trail, look uphill and yield to others.
5. Always use devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
6. Observe all posted signs and warnings. Keep off closed trails and out of closed areas.
7. Prior to using any lift, you must have the knowledge and ability to load, ride and unload safely.

-- from the *Adrenaline Junkie*

Ski racing

Vagabond skiers have won five of the six Class 1 races this season, led by **Eric VanWormer**, who was the fastest on the course in three of them. **Zach Bluvstein** won the first two Class 1 races. Other Vagabonds who have placed first twice this year are: **Mark Regal** and **Kurt Sandstrom** in Class 3, **Pete Cannon** and **Chris Wills** in Class 4, and **Jennifer Wampole** and **John Podsedly** in Class 6.

All Metropolitan Milwaukee Ski Council Senior Racing clubs practice from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays at Little Switzerland and Fridays at Sunburst. We are always looking for more men and women to join us. Vagabond co-captains **Al Lemke** and **John Podsedly** have recruited more than 30 racers for the team this season. Come and cheer on your club, which finished No. 1 overall in the four-team MMSCSR league last year.

For more information, call Al at (414) 688-2938, email JohnPodsedly@gmail.com or visit MMSCSR.com.

MMSC Senior Race Schedule

- Feb. 4 – Holy Hill
- Feb. 12 – Sunburst
- Feb. 18 – Sunburst, CMSC race
- Feb. 19 – Sunburst

Practices: Wednesday nights at Little Switzerland,
Friday nights at Sunburst.



Racquet Sports
Linda Horn

Tennis Party

Saturday, Jan. 28

The Jan. 28 tennis party is filled, but there may be cancellations. Contact **Diane Schmitt** at (414) 690-4689 or dschmitt04301952@gmail.com to see if there are any spots available.

Indoor Tennis & Pickleball Party

Saturday, March 25

More fun TENNIS – and PICKLEBALL, too!

Location: Elite Brookfield Tennis Club
13825 W. Burleigh Road

Time: 4 p.m. – Check in
4:30 p.m. – Tennis, pickleball begin



6 p.m. – Pot Luck and Social Time

Bottled water is provided. Alcoholic beverages must be purchased at the tennis club. You may bring your own soda or buy it there.

Please bring a dish to pass. Most food stores have a variety of

options available. A cheese tray & crackers, sausage tray and crackers, veggie tray, fruit tray, desserts and on and on are a few of the options available,

The Elite Club has a refrigerator and a very small microwave, but no stove/oven or other means to heat dishes or pans.



They do not have serving dishes or serving utensils, either. We have power strips and extension cords to plug in crock pots and other electronic warmers. Paper plates, napkins and plastic ware are provided.

Tennis and pickleball matches are arranged according to playing level. We will rotate partners and courts to add to the fun.



Social participants are also welcome.

Fees:

- Tennis: **\$25** for 90 minutes of tennis, tennis balls, bottled water and social time.
- Pickleball: **\$17** for 90 minutes of pickleball, pickleballs, bottled water and social time.
- Social only: **\$10**

Pay online (preferred), at a general meeting, or by check payable to VSSC and mailed to **Diane Schmitt**, 6031 N. Milwaukee River Pkwy, Glendale, WI 53209

Event coordinators: **Diane Schmitt**, (414) 690-4689, and **Connie Sandell**, (414) 712-3817.

COMING SOON

Mark your calendar: Another tennis party is planned for **April 22**, also at the **Elite Brookfield Tennis Club, 4-7:30 pm**. Look for more details in next month's *Life* newsletter.



Membership
Jan Breitbach

WELCOME NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS:

(Up-to-date information is available in the online directory.)

**Fran Davis • Dianne Diamond • Peggy Krueger
Maggie Luley • Karl Nennig • Becca Strohmenger**

The club is looking for friendly and smiling faces to assist at the Welcome Desk on meeting nights.

Call (414) 732-9749 or email Jan.Breitbach@gmail.com.



Social Activities
Denise Kremel

Scrabble



1-4 pm Tuesdays, Feb. 14 & 28
New Berlin Ale House

Scrabble is every other Tuesday from 1-4 p.m. at the New Berlin Ale House. Cost is **\$1 per person** for the server tip along with a purchase of one beverage, either alcoholic or non-alcoholic. Next games are

Feb. 14 & 28. Food is also available for purchase. Non-members are invited.

Contact **Lynn Kozlowski**, (414) 539-8114.

Game Night!

1-4 pm Tuesdays, Feb. 14 & 28
New Berlin Ale House

The next game nights at New Berlin Ale House will be **Feb. 14 & 28.** This is not just for Sheepshead and Dominoes.

Whatever game you come for, the rules are the same. Bring your game and a few friends. Non-members are encouraged to attend. All levels of play are welcome!

Everyone is responsible for ordering at least one item from the menu: a drink or something to eat, and include a tip. (The separate \$1 admission fee is not considered a tip.)

Contact **Jae Hartnell**, (608) 712-7440, for questions in general or for Sheepshead & Dominoes.



At the Vagabonds' ice-hockey outing to UW-Panther Arena in downtown Milwaukee to watch the Admirals play.

Festival City Symphony

2 pm Saturday, March 4
Bradley Symphony Center



The Vagabonds have a long tradition of promoting the Festival City Symphony to our members. This year, we will be making some changes. Order tickets online at FestivalCitySymphony.org, or get them on the day of the concert at the box office in the

Bradley Symphony Center, 212 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Tickets for seniors are \$8 per concert. If you have questions about attending the concert or obtaining tickets, call **Debra Habeck** at (262) 364-7710.

2 pm Saturday Classics concert schedule:

March 4 • **Grand Passions and Tales: The Music of Italy and France**

April 15 • **His Greatest Symphony: Music of the Ballet and Antonin Dvorák**



Have an Idea?

If you would like to do something this winter that doesn't involve participating in a sport, please share your ideas and help make it happen with your fellow Vagabonds. We can't do it without you! Contact **Denise** at (262) 524-1023.

Over 65 Years of Fun and Friendships

DATED MATERIAL
 Deliver by January 27

Vagabond Ski & Social Club Membership
 P. O. Box 26173
 Milwaukee, WI 53226

Facebook Help Wanted

Help us find new members through Facebook: Click Like on the Vagabond Ski & Social Club page. You can also post pictures from club events.

Stay Informed

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

FUTURE EVENTS	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March 4 Fest. City Symphony	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
March 4 Andorra				General mtg			Ski race
March 10 Bowling							
March 11 Park City							
March 25 Tennis/Pickleball	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
April 14 Bowling	Hike					Breckenridge Bahia Mita Bowling	
April 15 Fest. City Symphony							
April 22 Tennis/Pickleball							
May 12 Bowling	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Oct. 4 France	Ski race Hike		Scrabble Game night				Ski Race
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Ski race Hike			Board mtg			
	26	27	28	1	2	3	4
	Hike		Scrabble Game night				



February