



ALTITUDES

MAY 21, 2009

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Letter from the President Charles (Chuck) R. Myrick

Hello Esprit:

I would like to thank Kevin Wiley for preparing the ballots and for handling the election last week. The following members were elected on May 12, 2009 to serve for the next two years:

President	Charles R. (Chuck) Myrick
Vice President	—open
Treasurer	Christal Howard-Wiggins
Financial Secretary	-open
Recording Secretary	Ebony Hood
Parliamentarian	Pat Byrd
Trip Coordinator	Yonna Fields
Member-at-Large	Don Fenderson

The Parliamentarian will install our newly officers during our June 9, 2009 General Body meeting. I want to thank all of our members that came and voted on May 12. I am especially grateful to have been elected to serve as president of Esprit for a second term. Thank you.

During the next two months I will be telephoning some of you to peak your interest in filling some of the open Executive Board positions. In addition to filling the open E Board position, we will also be looking for volunteers to chair some of our standing committees.

Meeting & Event Dates

June 2, 2009 Executive Board meeting 6:30PM-8: 30PM.

June 9,2009 General Body meeting 6:30PM-8: 30PM.

June 26-28, 2009 "Taste of Chicago" Trip to Chicago, IL

July 2009 No meetings in July.

Approved Minutes from the March 3, 2009 General Body Meeting

**Esprit "The Ultimate" Ski & Sports Club
General Body Meeting
Shaker Heights Library
Tuesday March 3, 2009
7:30pm-8:30pm
Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.
2. Pat Byrd led the group in prayer.
3. There were no visitors present.
4. Committee Reports

(A) Financial Report

(1) February 28, 2009-The CD total was not mentioned on the report. Chuck advised the group of the current balance \$11,500.96 with a 2008 earnings of \$421.70. Don Anderson motioned to accept report. Thomas Wiggins 2nd the motion, report was accept by the group.

(B) Minutes were read over by the members. Don Fenderson motioned to accept the minutes and they were passed without opposition from the group.

(C) Trip Reports

(1) Seven Springs, Chuck Myrick read the report in Kevin Wiley's absence. There were 36 people total including 16 children with 5 boarders and 1 ski/boarder. It was a great time had by all.

(2) 2010 NBS Summit- In the absence of Yonna Fields, Chuck advised that the dates will be February 20-27, 2010, hosted by: Winter Park

Plan to spend between \$1,500-\$1,800 for the week with a condo. More info. to follow.

(D) Membership- In the absence of Paul Logan, Chuck advised that there will be a roster given out at the next membership mtg. Christal advised that member's birthdays haven't been acknowledged because of outdated membership info.

5. Fundraisers

(A) MLK-Weekend, Christal Wiggins- The trip dates are Jan 23-24, 2010 to Holiday Valley and Seneca Casino. Two days of skiing, gambling and shopping. It will be very cost effective to secure room rates early. Please sign up! (See flyer for details.)

(B) Taste of Chicago, Don Fenderson- The trip dates are Jun 26-28, 2009. It's suggested to plan your personal ventures for this trip early. About 20 people are signed up and seats still need to be sold! All monies are due by the May mtg. A detailed trip itinerary will follow.

(See flyer for details.) *Additional info. for participating in the Race to Taste 5k on Sun. 6-28-09 was provided by Ebony Hood (See flyer for details)

6. President's Report

(A) Meeting Date Changes- April 7th, 2009 E-board mtg. @ 6:30, General body mtg. @ 7:30 (Happy Birthday Peggy!) We will return to regular mtg. format in May, E-board mtg. 5-5 and General body mtg. 5-12.

(B) May Election- The chairs of V.P., financial secretary and member @ large are open. Nominations will be taken from the floor for all officer positions and committee chairs. Currently, the runners are: Chuck Myrick-President, Pat Byrd-Parliamentarian, Christal Wiggins-Treasurer and Ebony Hood-Secretary.

(C) Event/Trip Planning- The date of the meeting will be 5-5. Due to rising cost we may choose more local overnight outings. Please keep in mind that Peggy will always head Peek-n-Peak and Christal will always head the MLK-Weekend. While bringing your ideas for even please include estimated cost and return for the venture. The club is not looking to front costly unsecured ventures. Ticket sales have become weak but we may gain support from non-skiing travelers.

7. Old Business

(A) There are still hats available in 2 different sizes. Please see Chuck for purchases.

(Continued from page 2)

(B) The Sign-up Party will be held earlier this year on a Saturday in Oct. with food and socializing.

8. New Business The club may sponsor Ebony Hood and her mother for the Chicago 5k in an effort to promote the club. A decision will be made after the cost has been verified.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. Motioned by Ray Craig and 2nd by Peggy Vauss.

In attendance:

Don Fenderson

Paula McGhee

Sheila Craig

Ray Craig

Christal Wiggins

Thomas Wiggins

Anita Curry

Sandra V. Foster

Charles Myrick

Pat Byrd

Dot Anderson

Peggy Vauss

Ebony Hood

(Continued from page 1)

August 4, 2009 Executive Board meeting 6:30PM: -8:30PM.

September 1, 2009 Executive Board meeting 6:30PM-8: 30 PM.

September 8, 2009 General Body Meeting 6:30PM-8: 30 PM.

All meetings are held at the Shaker Heights Library

My warmest regards,

Charles R. (Chuck) Myrick

ESPRIT

THE ULTIMATE SKI AND SPORTS CLUB
PRESENTS ANOTHER FANTASTIC TRIP TO THE
WORLD'S LARGEST FOOD FESTIVAL

A CHICAGO

trip with choices of sightseeing, theater, shopping, fine dining, etc.

JUNE 26- JUNE 28, 2009



The \$359.00 includes a deluxe 55 passenger Great Day Tours roundtrip coach with refreshments en route, double occupancy accommodations in Chicago at The 4 Star **Hyatt Hotel (Barack Obama stayed here on the night of his acceptance speech)** with breakfast, and... hanging out with fun people. There is also the possibility of a quick shopping stop at the 200+ stores **Auburn Hills Mall Outlet** just outside Detroit!

First deposit of \$100.00 is due now or at the next Esprit meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the Lee Road Shaker Heights Public Library. The **final payment** will be due at the **May 12, 2009 Esprit meeting at 6:30** at the Shaker Heights Public library.



**FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. THE BUS FILLED UP
IN TWO WEEKS ON OUR LAST TRIP!!!!!!**

Departure: Friday June 26 at 6 a.m. from Great Day Lines
375 Trecworth Blvd. Broadview Heights 44147
Phone Number: 440- 526-5350

Directions: From Cleveland: 77 South to Broadview Heights; Route 82 West Exit. Take the right hand lane 1/8 of a mile. Turn right at the first light. Great Day Lines is behind Tallyho Hotel. Return: Sunday June 28 at 11:00 p.m.

For more information, please call...

Don Fenderson-
Home: 216-371-7021
Cell: 216-402-3240



THIS IS A FUNDRAISER FOR ESPRIT





ASPEN / SNOWMASS

Colorado

February 6 – February 12, 2010 (Sat. – Fri.)

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **ROUND-TRIP AIR** Cleveland or Akron-Canton to Denver
- **ROUND-TRIP BUS TRANSFERS**
- **6 - NIGHTS LODGING AT THE GANT**
4 people in a 2 bedroom / 2 bath condo
- **4 DAYS OF LIFT TICKETS**
Optional 5-day skiing available, add \$49.00 to price below
- **PRE-TRIP "ORIENTATION"**
- **WELCOME RECEPTION**
- **PARTY AT RESORT**
- **PUB CRAWL**

TOTAL PACKAGE COST: \$1159.00 PER PERSON (*)

LAND ONLY COST: \$829.00 PER PERSON ()**

PAYMENTS: \$259.00 DEPOSIT DUE NOW with Trip Agreement

TOTAL PACKAGE	LAND ONLY
\$259.00 with Trip Agreement	\$259.00 with Trip Agreement
\$300.00 due October 20, 2009	\$300.00 due October 20, 2009
\$300.00 due November 20, 2009	\$300.00 due December 16, 2009
\$300.00 due December 16, 2009	

- (*) Price does not include any additional airport or fuel surcharges, which may be imposed by the airlines at the time of the trip departure or change to currency rate.
 (*) Price does not include an Associate non-refundable membership fee charged to non-CMSC club members. See Trip Agreement for details.
 (*) Extra airline baggage charges not included.
 (*) Air on United might change to Southwest
 (*) ASPEN AIR AVAILABLE AT HIGHER RATE
 (**) Please contact coordinator before going after your own air for transfer times.

Make checks Payable to CMSC send
Art Pokopac
3956 Troon Dr.
Uniontown, Oh 44685

For information contact either:

Art Pokopac
330-699-4933
pokieman@aol.com

Bill Fry
330-875-6564
welcomeaboard@earthlink.net

If possible, please include your e-mail address
More information will be sent upon receipt of deposit

CLEVELAND METRO SKI COUNCIL, INC. TRIP AND TOUR AGREEMENT

- A. DEPOSIT:** The initial deposit for Aspen trip: \$250.00 per person.
- B. IDENTIFICATION:** Each person **MUST HAVE AN UP-TO-DATE PASSPORT OR PICTURE ID** for presentation at the airport for check-in. No refunds will be made to any passengers whose participation is affected due to failure to possess proper identification.
- C. CANCELLATION AND/OR CHARGES:** Cleveland Metro Ski Council, Inc. (CMSC) reserves the right to withdraw the tour, to refuse to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time, or make changes in the published itinerary whenever in their sole judgment conditions warrant prior to departure time. CMSC may add supplemental cost such as but not limited to fuel surcharges, taxes, and currency exchange rate and airport departure charges to the price of this trip.
- D. RESPONSIBILITY:** CMSC is acting as agent for the applicant and shall not be liable for any loss of or damage to baggage or property, for any loss, injury, personal injury, death, accident, delay, inconvenience, or any other loss during, or occasioned by applicant's participation or lack of participation, in any trip or tour. Trip participants will ski or snowboard at their own risk.
- E. REFUNDS:** A full refund will be made to applicant if the trip is canceled by CMSC except and unless where such cancellation is necessitated or caused, either wholly or in part, by applicant's cancellation or failure to make timely payments. Failure to make timely payments, at trip chairperson's discretion, may be deemed cancellation.
- 1) Where applicant "cancels" at any time and where the trip or tour departs with 100% capacity ("filled") applicant SHALL be entitled to a full refund less a \$ 25.00 service charge and any costs incurred by CMSC because of the cancellation.
 - 2) Where applicant "cancels" ninety (90) days or more prior to departure, and where the trip or tour departs with less than 100% capacity ("Unfilled"), and where applicant provides and secures an eligible individual who completes applicant's Trip or Tour Agreement ("Replacement"), then applicant SHALL be entitled to a full refund, less a \$25.00 service charge and any cost incurred by CMSC because of the cancellation and change.
 - 3) Where applicant "cancels" less than 90 days prior to departure, and where the trip or tour departs "unfilled", and where applicant has not provided and secured a "replacement", then applicant will FORFEIT INITIAL DEPOSIT (SEE TRIP), be charged a \$25.00 service fee, and ANY AMOUNTS EXPENDED, PAID, or INCURRED BY CMSC AS A RESULT OF THE "CANCELLATION" INCLUDING UNUSED AIRFARE.
 - 4) **LODGING, LIFTS, OR OPTIONS.** Regardless of when reservations are made, a passenger may cancel only by mail, sent to the trip chairperson's address listed on trip. Applicant shall be liable to CMSC for any monies expended or paid by CMSC over and above payments made by applicant to CMSC.
- F. OTHER:** For non-CMSC club members, an Associate non-refundable membership fee is \$25.00 single, \$35.00 family. Any trip or tour and this Agreement are subject to CAB rules and regulations.

(PRINT YOUR COMPLETE LEGAL NAME – IT MUST BE THE SAME AS ON YOUR PASSPORT OR DRIVER'S LICENSE – ATTACH A COPY)

Check one trip: Aspen /Snowmass, Feb 6-Feb 12,2010 CMSC Air Own Air

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ - _____ • Work Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Club Name _____ Year Joined _____

Date of Birth _____

Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____ • Male _____ Female _____ • Single _____ Married _____

Rooming Preference (w/whom) _____

In Case of Emergency, contact (please fill out):

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Deposits will be accepted until trip is full. When trip is full, your name and deposit will be held on a waiting list until there is an opening.

Final payment is due as stated on the trip flyer. If balance is not received by this date, the people on the waiting list will be given priority. The trip chairperson will not call to remind you that your balance is due. It is your responsibility! Your deposit will be automatically forfeited!

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (Make checks payable to Cleveland Metro Ski Council, Inc.)

I do hereby accept the foregoing terms of this agreement.

Signature of Applicant (If Applicant is under 21, have parent or guardian sign) _____

Send agreement and check to respective trip leader of the trip that you have chosen. Addresses are located in individual trip advertisement displayed elsewhere.

Rev 4-15-09



Black Travelers Join the Club

African Americans Looking for Great Adventures -- And a Sense of Family -- Find Both in Organized Groups

By Gary Lee

Washington Post Staff Writer
 Sunday, September 3, 2006; Page P01

Before buying plane tickets, booking hotels or checking out guidebooks, many African Americans are turning to a source close to home to inspire their travel planning: each other.

More precisely, they are seeking out travel clubs run by and for blacks. After a post-9/11 falloff, organizations and gatherings promoting travel opportunities for blacks are reporting increased interest.

When the Black Boaters Summit, a gathering of black sailing fans, first convened in 1998 in the British Virgin Islands, it drew all of eight attendees in one boat. For the eighth summit, which returned to the BVI in August, 115 participants in 14 yachts attended. When Los Angeles-based 4 Seasons West, a ski club with more than 1,000 African American members, planned its winter carnival in January, officials hoped for 400 travelers; 800 skiers showed up for the Lake Tahoe event. The National Association of Black Scuba Divers, started 15 years ago by District scuba aficionado Jose Jones, has mushroomed to include 50 clubs across the country.

ones, a seventy-something retired professor of marine science at the University of the District of Columbia, explained the clubs' appeal. "When you are black and venture somewhere exotic, there is always a deeper feeling of accomplishment," he said. "And the experience is all the richer when you share it with folks that come from a similar background. You can't help but have an incredible feeling of euphoria for how far you had to come to get to that point."

Like their white-run counterparts, the mission of black travel groups is to provide travel counsel, assistance and camaraderie for their members. For a modest fee, they typically organize social mixers, orientation sessions, sports and adventure training, in addition to featuring two to six trips a year.

The excursions the clubs offer are far more affordable than those organized by individual travelers. For its annual ski summit scheduled for February 2007 in Steamboat Springs, Colo., the National Brotherhood of Skiers is offering its members rooms for \$199 a night, discounted from \$375. Lift tickets are \$45 a day, reduced from the \$75 a day for a five-day pass that individual travelers would pay.

For a 12-day diving trip to Malaysia and Borneo earlier this summer, members of the National Association of Black Scuba divers paid the bargain rate of \$2,600 for round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, excursions and dives. "Because we are well-established and have been doing this for a long time, we are usually able to offer rates of a third or more less than what other travelers would pay," said Jones.

Although bound by the spirit of racial solidarity and wanderlust, the groups' focuses vary widely. Some are for the general interest traveler, those seeking to explore destinations rather than indulge hobbies. But most specialize in a sport or activity: sailing, motorcycling, tennis or other avocations.

In size, social makeup and structure, the clubs also run the gamut. Sankofa Odyssey, a District-based club that has organized sailing trips to such exotic destinations as the Greek Islands and the Grenadines, is at the haute end of the spectrum. The Denver-based James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club, at the more earthy end, takes small groups hiking or backpacking through the Rockies and other points west. (For more examples and contact information, see sidebar.)

Unsurprisingly, many of the clubs grew out of segregation or incidents of discrimination. Many black club organizers reported being shunned when they approached predominantly white travel groups and so opted to create their own organizations. The story of sailing enthusiast Robert Jordan is typical. After taking boating lessons in North Carolina, he tried to join a couple of mostly white boating clubs there. "They didn't exactly greet me warmly," he recalls. Five years ago, the 41-year-old Maryland business entrepreneur and some friends started Sankofa Odyssey. Its 28 members are all people of color.

"It's true that many of our clubs were started because we were not welcomed on many ski slopes," said Rose Thomas Pickrum, president of the National Brotherhood of Skiers (NBS), an umbrella group of 77 black ski clubs across the country. "But now most of those slopes actively court us because we spend money."

Washington and its suburbs, home to one of the most affluent concentrations of blacks in the country by the U.S. Census Bureau's account, are a stronghold for black travel groups. D.C.-based Black Ski Inc., with more than 1,500 members, bills itself as the largest gathering of skiers of color in the United States. Besides skiing, the group also sponsors outings to local and out-of-town cultural events. Underwater Adventure Seekers, the scuba club also started by Jones in D.C. in 1959, has grown from a handful of friends to more than 100 members. It has become a model for other black dive groups around the country. More than a dozen black motorbike associations are based in the Washington area.

Every participant in a black club outing seems to return with a Black Travel Moment, a tale from a sojourn infused with ethnic pride.

For Pickrum, the moment came during NBS's 30th-anniversary summit, held in Canada's Whistler-Blackcomb range in 2003. "When I looked across the mountain and saw black skiers everywhere, I couldn't help but remember when it was tough for us to get on major slopes," said the 52-year-old Cincinnati banker. "Now they welcome us. The transformation has been moving to watch."

ones, a veteran of 6,000 dives, remembers a plunge he took a few years ago off the coast of Fiji. Deep into the waters off the island of Taveuni, sharks circled within a few yards, the coral was stunningly pristine and boldly colored sea life darted everywhere. As much as the underwater spectacle thrilled him, what sent shivers down his spine was the boatload of African American divers who greeted him above. "The camaraderie sealed that experience for me," he said.

Even though more options for blacks to join predominantly white groups have opened up, many still prefer black-run clubs. "When people have time for a getaway, they don't want to be careful about what they say or how they act or to have second thoughts about what someone else might say," explained Eileen Crawford, a District psychoanalyst and scuba fan who travels frequently with Deep Dreams Youth Program, a local dive group that introduces teens and young adults to scuba. "These kind of travel clubs allow them the freedom to feel like they are at home even when they are in a far-off place."

Another appeal of the clubs is the social activities they offer. Most of the local chapters hold cookouts, dances and other gatherings. The annual NBS summit, the premier event for black skiers, always includes a schedule of cocktail hours, live music and other entertainment. Most of the attendees at the Black Boaters Summit don't come for the sailing, according to Paul Mixon, the California travel agent who organizes the event, but for the music and dance. "Not many of us know how to sail," he said. "But we all know how to do the electric slide."

Many of the clubs also offer their members training, classes and a non-threatening environment to learn or develop their skills in an avocation or sport. Carlyn Cole is a good example. An African American who lives in the District, Cole didn't learn to swim or dive until she was in her forties. Now the 54-year-old is the president of Underwater Adventure Seekers and takes three to four diving trips a year, often to foreign destinations. "I don't think I would have had the confidence to learn those skills without the security of a group of like-minded people," she said.

Pickrum concurs. "If you're new to skiing, it's different learning it in a black group," she said. "You get a lot more nurturing."

Besides ethnic camaraderie and training in a supportive environment, the clubs make exploring different cultures easier and more affordable. Over the years, Underwater Adventure Seekers has taken excursions to an impressive list of destinations, including Egypt, Morocco, Fiji and Cuba. While independent travelers to such destinations have to hassle with plane and hotel reservations, the groups typically have organizers who work out the details.

(Continued from page 8)

Most black travel groups attract a more affluent sector of black professionals. The James P. Beckwourth Mountain Club, named after a 19th-century black trapper and mountain man, is an exception. Located in Denver, the club offers a wide range of outdoor adventures -- including day-long trail hikes, overnight raft floats, mountain climbing and camping excursions -- all at moderate prices. The club has a mentoring program that offers urban youth outings to national parks and wilderness areas free of charge.

"We try to give people opportunities to see the beauties of nature who otherwise might not have access to it," said Winston Walker, a spokesman. "We are aware that many folks can't pay much so we keep the prices as low as possible."

Over time, the clubs have become a powerful bonding experience for members from across the gamut of socioeconomic backgrounds. Many of the ski groups have a story of members who have met in a club gathering or excursion, dated and eventually married. Some of the early black scuba club organizers now have children -- and grandchildren -- who are club members.

The experience is infectious, according to NBS president Pickrum. "People find that once they get into the spirit of what we do it becomes a central focus of their lives."

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Washington

Members of Black Ski Inc., a travel group, gather after biking in Maryland. (© Black Ski Inc.)

Esprit "The Ultimate" Ski & Sports Club

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[http://www.espritsportsclub.com/
contactus.html](http://www.espritsportsclub.com/contactus.html)

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Happy Belated Birthday to -

Peggy Vauss

JUNE 2009

<i>S</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>S</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



If you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter or change your email address, please email the Editor at HowWig@sbcglobal.net .

Thank you.

2—Executive Board Meeting—6:30 pm — 7:30 pm

9—General Body Meeting—6:30 pm — 7:30 pm

26-28—Chicago Trip—FUNDRAISER