

HISTORY: 70s & 80s, OUR CLUB BLOSSOMS

This article about our Club's history is presented as we celebrate its 75th year.

The financially strapped and organizationally overwhelmed SCWDC of the early 1970s could never have foreseen the events by the end of the decade. We would be in a position to purchase our own townhouse, and we would be awarded the AAA Most Outstanding Ski Club by the US Ski Association.

The various Presidents and Board of Directors worked hard to achieve the necessary changes due to the increases in membership and activities. For years, the BOD had been running the Club's programs. But in 1977, a conversation between Ethics (now Policy) Committee chair Rod Hall and former President John Newdorp revealed that the Club's founders intended that the BOD keep the 'big picture' in mind. And so, the BOD restructured. Program chairpersons would now report directly to the President, and also become more like independent shop managers. During this decade, the Club formalized operations by hiring a full-time administrative assistant, standardizing trip contracts and paperwork, producing a policy manual, and creating an Activity Leader Evaluation Committee to assign overnight ski trip leaders.

Most members were unconcerned with policy and procedure, but they did notice the abundance of activities. Ski trips became more numerous as more ski areas evolved into full-fledged resorts. In 1987-8, a huge season for trips, there were 18 Western/European trips, 46 overnight Eastern trips, and 25 one-day trips scheduled. Our volunteer Ski School offered instruction on Friday nights at Charnita (now Ski Liberty), later switched

to daytime on weekends at various local areas. Indoor tennis parties and tennis weekends began, and spurred this sport into huge popularity. Several existing programs expanded nicely such as hiking (with Saturday Strolls introduced), sailing, volleyball, and cultural.

We moved into the new townhouse on Lee Highway in 1980. Gone were the days of a rented second-story apartment where the doorbell consisted of a beer can tied to a string. Now, the Club was the proud owner of a three-story townhouse with a mimeograph machine, a Xerox, an IBM typewriter, and a fountain that shot water up unsuspecting noses.

By the Club's 50th anniversary in 1986, the townhouse had its first computer, video equipment, and a second copier. Around this time, over 100 volunteers did extensive research and probed their own memories to produce the 50th Anniversary History Book, a splendid 215-page hard bound volume with 250 photographs and a letter from President Reagan.

The Club grew from 3000 members at the start of the 1970s to 7054 members in 1989. In these two decades, the Club evolved extraordinarily while maintaining the vitality of its early years and its consistent emphasis on skiing.

The above was largely derived from the SCWDC 50th Anniversary History Book