

**H.O.C.**  
**ALL ABOUT DAY TRIPS 2019 - 2020**

**Introduction**

Optimistically, our 2019/2020 season opens on Dec 8 and runs to March 21. To the extent possible there is a balance in the number of trips to the various ski/snowshoe destinations. However, there are many factors to work around including: venue availability; weather and snow conditions; appropriate venues for lessons; holidays; our club's extended trips. For example, at the beginning of the season when we hold most of our lessons and clinics, we choose venues that offer teaching grids. Historically some venues have less snow, so we don't book these until a bit later in the season. Late season trips are scheduled on Saturdays only, as the trails become degraded by Sunday and the snow is often too thin for re-grooming.

**Registration and Payment**

The Ski/Snowshoe Schedule for the entire season will be posted on our website in early November. It can be found on the 'Schedules' page and individual trips are posted on the Events Calendar. The Events Calendar is where you go to register for trips and lessons.

**Registration Opens** at the beginning of the previous month. For example, you can start registering for December trips at the beginning of November. You can start registering for January trips at the beginning of December, and so on.

**Registration Closing:** If you are registering for a Saturday trip, registration closes at midnight on the Thursday. If you are registering for a Sunday trip, registration closes at midnight on Friday.

**Wait List:** If a trip fills during the registration period, you have the option to join the wait list. Your name will be placed in a queue and you will be notified by email if a spot comes open.

**Bus fare payments** must accompany online registration. There is an early bird fare of \$25 for those registering a week or more in advance of the trip. After that you must pay the regular fare of \$27.50. Once registration and payment are complete you will receive a confirmation by e-mail.

**There are no stand-bys and bus fares cannot be collected on the bus.** You must pre-register to go on the trip. Guests must pre-register, pre-pay and submit the waiver.

**Trail fees** (different from bus fees), must be paid in cash and are collected on the bus. Trail fees vary depending on the venue and the trail fee amounts can be found on the Ski/Snowshoe Schedule. Please try to have the exact amount of cash for trail fees. Cheques will not be accepted. **Once again, bus fares are paid online when you register, and trail fees are collected on the bus.**

**Cancellations:**

If you cancel a day trip please contact our manager Bonnie, by phone or e-mail: 905 634-2012 [info@haltonoutdoorclub.ca](mailto:info@haltonoutdoorclub.ca) There is no option for self cancellation on-line. The deadline for cancelling a day trip in order to receive a refund is midnight on the Wednesday prior to the trip. Cancellation deadlines for Ski Better Clinics and Skate Clinics are the same as for day trips. Cancellation for Level 1 Lessons is different and can be found in the document "All About Lessons".

**If the Club cancels a trip you will be refunded.** Monitor the website (Bonnie's Bulletins), closely for updates on the trip status and do a final check before leaving your house in the morning. We will not call you if a trip is cancelled.

**We have a request:** Please do not second-guess the weather and cancel because of the forecast. Here's why: If members cancel because they see poor conditions at home, then our trip numbers may drop to a point where we must cancel because we have too few on the bus. This results in cancelling trips when conditions turned out to be fine, simply because people backed out early. Our club has a good track record of doing its homework and making the right decisions. Trust us!

**Destination changes:**

We recognize that many people choose trips based on the published destination, so we change as seldom as possible. However, our priorities are safety and skiing in optimal conditions. If weather, snow conditions or driving conditions dictate, we may go to a different destination. Again, check the website (Bonnie's Bulletins) or the club's recorded phone message for

updates and do a final check before leaving home. Always bring extra cash in case we must re-route to a more expensive destination.

### **Departure Information:**

**Burlington and Oakville:** The bus departs from Burlington at 8:00 a.m. sharp. We do not wait for stragglers and ask that you be at the bus no later than 7:45 to get equipment loaded and everyone settled on board for a prompt departure. Those waiting in Oakville are standing out in the cold anticipating our arrival timely at 8:15. The bus leaves Oakville at 8:15.

**Departures from resorts:** The departure time is 3:30 pm. Please be back at the bus 10 minutes ahead of departure.

### **Directions to pick-up points:**

**Burlington:** The bus departs from Mainway Arena at 4015 Mainway. From the QEW take Walker's Line North. The arena is on the North East corner of Walker's Line and Mainway. Turn right onto Mainway to enter the lot and please park in the far North East corner of the lot, furthest away from the arena building.

**Oakville:** From the QEW take Trafalgar Rd. South. Turn right onto the South Service Rd. Follow it around and park at the very back of the lot behind Hiker's Haven Europe Bound at 166 South Service Rd. E. Do not park in the lot along the side of Europe Bound. Park only behind the store. Carry your skis over the divider into the No Frills lot where you will see other skiers.

### **Lessons, Clinics, Events**

All ski lessons and clinics take place in conjunction with regular day trips. The levels and skills being taught are detailed on the Ski Schedule and they are also on the Events Calendar on the website. You must pre-register and pre-pay for all lessons and clinics. You cannot register on the bus. Please read the document "All About Ski Lessons" for more details.

**Level 1 Ski Lessons:** Level 1 Lessons are for new or inexperienced skiers. Lessons take place over a full day and cover all the basics. There is a Level 1 Lesson Follow Up offered a few weeks after the lesson.

**Ski Better Clinics:** These are half-day clinics designed to help skiers work on specific skills and improve skiing efficiency. They are primarily for Level 2 and Level 3 skiers. We also offer a Level 1 Refresher Lesson later in the season. If unsure of your level, you may check the Ski Proficiencies document on the website.

**Skate Ski Clinics:** These half day clinics are designed for beginner skate skiers. Specific Skate ski equipment is required.

**Pre-season Dryland Training:** Barry Carrique, a former club instructor, offers pre-season training for skiers and snowshoers. All training sessions are free and take place outside at Olympic Park in West Hamilton. You can train at your own pace with guidance from Barry. If you wish to participate please e-mail Barry at [barry.carrique@sympatico.ca](mailto:barry.carrique@sympatico.ca)

**Guided skiing:** If you are a new member or tentative about skiing alone, you might like to find someone to ski with. Each day trip has a 'bus captain', also called a trip leader. On the bus, trip leaders will ask if anyone would like to ski with a buddy. At this time the trip leader will try to join you up with someone else. If preferred, skiing on your own is also an option. If you would like to lead skiers on any of the day trips, please let the trip leader know.

**Guided snowshoeing:** If you are a new member or tentative about snowshoeing alone, you might like to find someone to snowshoe with. Each day trip has a 'bus captain', also called a trip leader. On the bus, trip leaders will ask if anyone would like to snowshoe with a buddy. At this time the trip leader will try to join you up with someone else. Snowshoeing on your own is also an option. If you would like to lead a group of snowshoers on any of the day trips, please let the trip leader know.

**Chilifest:** This is our annual lunchtime party. Chili and all the fixings will be ready as you come off the trails in need of mid-day refreshment. Tickets for the chili lunch are purchased on the bus that day. Chilifest may also include some other fun activities