



Message from the President

# Tired of Hitting the Slopes Alone?

Keith L. Fanta

Years ago I found myself in a unique situation where I loved to ski, but none of my friends were skiers. I managed to get out to the slopes, but being alone I knew I was missing something. Skiing isn't a team sport, but I could see that it had an important social aspect.

Then I discovered my first ski club (in the days before boarding became popular, they were known only as ski clubs).

Suddenly, I not only had friends who were enthusiastic skiers, they were skiers of all abilities. As a low intermediate, I could spend some time working to keep up with the advanced skiers and then take some runs with others that shared my ability. Après ski was no longer an individual event either, and dinner was also shared with friends. It was like skiing was reinvented.

Those runs with the advanced skiers paid off, too. My ability improved, in part because keeping up with my friends was an incentive to improve. Soon I could spend the entire day with the advanced group, though mixing with everyone in the club on all of the slopes has been the most fun.

So, now the big question. Are you hitting the slopes alone? Would being part of a group of people that loves skiing and boarding as much as you make the sport even more fun? Maybe it's time for you to look into one of our ski and snowboard clubs.

We have over 70 clubs across the Midwest, and they're detailed in the back of this magazine, as well as on our website. Our clubs have their own personalities, and many of our clubs have a profile in this magazine. Some clubs also maintain a presence on various social networking sites, and these links are available in their club profiles on our website. We try to be as helpful as we can in helping you to choose a ski and snowboard club.

Our clubs also offer a benefit to couples and families who hit the slopes together but are a bit strained due to their being at different abilities. Suddenly these couples can spend part of the day together and another part with friends at their same ability. No worries of abandonment, no concerns that you're holding your significant other back or pushing them too hard. You both have time to enjoy the slopes with others of your ability, knowing when you meet up afterwards you'll both have had a great day.

So if your fun on the slopes has gotten a little flat (pardon the pun), maybe you should look into a club. Use this magazine and our website to start looking for a club and get ready for the sport to become even more fun.

I look forward to seeing you on the slopes, hopefully with one of our clubs.

Keith L. Fanta *President*  
Chicago Metropolitan Ski Council

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