

The Ski Boonie

Columbia Ski Club Newsletter July 2026

ASPEN / SNOWMASS Dec 13 – 17, 2026

Save the dates: These are the dates this year for this annual trip that originated in 2005 and still has had a good report over the years. This is the 22nd time that we'll be there at Aspen Square. I've got this one set up for the dates noted above to Aspen Square once again. I made the standard rooming request, and guess what: no increase on the cost for this season!! It will be the same price for the five night stay with a 3 day lift ticket included, as it was last year. And that was \$1170, with the three installments of \$390 starting in Sept. If not skiing, or don't need the 3-day lift ticket, it's a \$950 cost. We already get lodging at a much-below-the-norm pricing. Rental info on ski equipment is at Four Mountain Sports, just to the west of our condo hotel. Note that there will be a code needed for this group rental of equipment. For Saturday night, Dec 12th, we'll have the similar room reservations at Starlight Lodge on the north side of Glenwood Springs, for those interested, and this night is *not* included in the trip pricing. I will need a notice if you're planning on staying at this lodge to get the reservations in. It's a Saturday night Hot Springs time or tour the town of Glenwood Springs' night spots. Captain Ron, trip captain one more time, as long as I don't get tired of doing this planning thing. 573-881-8861

To see the condos, go to <https://www.aspensquarehotel.com> and preview the rooms, heated pool, a workout room (as if this is even needed), hot tubs & courtyard. These condos are a mere 64 steps to the gondola from our units! A group dinner is in the plans for the final nite there and it's usually a "clean out the refridge" night – and somewhat included in the cost. On the other 2 nights, we'll likely have some group dinner arrangements, with at least a trip to the Hickory House BBQ joint on the main hwy coming into Aspen. First evening of Sunday, Dec 13th will likely be a pizza party to get acquainted again.

NIANGUA RIVER SUMMER FLOAT Mon-Tues, July 20 & 21, 2026

And yes! It's back yet again for a two-day Mon & Tues float of the Niangua River, to the west of Lebanon, MO. This is a 2-day float trip handled by Topeka Ski Club with an extended invitation to join them, starting with a Sunday evening campout (July 19). The standard 2 day float comes out of Bennett Springs State Park on Monday morning July 20, and we'll float back to our usual campsites at Maggard's Corkery Campground. The current plan is for primitive camping in a group setting on Sunday and Monday nights, and electric hook-ups are available. First day float is back to the campground, with the second day for floating away to a pick up spot. July 20 & 21 are the planned floating dates, with a bus ride back to the camp site on the 2nd day, a Tuesday, and usually by 1 or 2pm. Camping is also available at the State Park or make arrangements at the area's Sand Springs Motel, or the State Park even has cabins available. Call me and I'll get your spot in the campgrounds w/Topeka's planning dept. There's usually around a dozen folks taking part in this enjoyable, easy float on one of Missouri's best float steams.

The Topeka folks will be bugging me to find out just how many may join in from Columbia Ski Club, so if you are thinking about this, please respond to me asap.
Ron Lueck 573-881-8861 rlueck@socket.net

FSA 2027 @ STEAMOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO Jan 23 - 29

The current plan for next January's FSA ski event is to visit Steamboat again for a week-long trip. This place looks to be the only ski area that's willing to deal with the 9 FSA clubs. Cost will be a bit on the steep than our standard 4 day ski trip. The dates are the last week of January, from a the 23rd to the 29th, 2027, and the other clubs have much more planned than we do. Lodging at Steamboat deals only with week long bookings, and has become a longer trip - hence, a more expensive than that of our previous 4-day trips. Each club has to make their own lodging plans. If you're interested in going, there's a note from Penny Morgan of Topeka Ski Club regarding combining with that club. Plan to be a \$1500 to \$1900 total trip cost. This trip has 4 to 5 deadlines to meet with deposit and full payment commitments. When info becomes available, you are urged to see just what their trips are costing and how much is included in their pricings. Just check their various websites, most of which can be viewed thru out own website of <http://columbiajeffcityskiandboard.org/> by clicking on "links". Here's a hint: most of their trips are not announced just yet. Look at KC Ski Club's offering that is available.

Now, the correspondence from Penny from June:

I am putting together the **Topeka Steamboat 2027** trip and booking one condo at the moment that would hold 8 people. I know I may have enough interest for that.

Jared Beam & another person from Topeka Ski Club are putting together a Feb/March trip to Granby Co to ski there and people can go over to Winter Park. Do you think that any of your Folks from Missouri would be interested?

It is a drive out (no one has looked at bus costs at this point in time) I will find the dates in my notes.

Let me know if there's interest here and I can convey that to Penny with Topeka Ski Club.
Ron Lueck – aka "Captain Ron"