



# TAHOE YACHT CLUB

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2001

# BLOCK & TACKLE

From Vice Commodore Brad Hill, Membership Chair

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Sue Stout, *Design/Production*  
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## TAHOE YACHT CLUB

Founded 1925

MEMBER

PACIFIC INTER-CLUB YACHT ASSOCIATION

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Tahoe City, California

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## WINTER HOURS

CLOSED TUESDAYS and WEDNESDAYS

CLUBHOUSE Open

Thursday thru Monday - 10 am to 8 pm

Bar Service from 12 noon

Office Hours -10 am to 6 pm

Sierra Vista Clubhouse Food Service

Lunch 12 noon to 3 pm; Dinner from 5 pm

## Join us in Membership recruitment

Welcome to 2001 and welcome to another two months of Tahoe Yacht Club's growing calendar of winter activities. In April's mail, you'll find your copy of the BLOCK & TACKLE "Members Magazine" with the full year-to-come calendar of many, many more! Whether you are a sailor, power boater or socializer, you could make it a career attending TYC events. My advice is to pick and choose early which activities you want to attend and mark them on your calendar. You know how fast summer comes and goes.

Our 2001 membership renewals have progressed exceptionally well. January 1 was the due-and-payable date and if you haven't re-upped but intend to do so, please arrange to renew your membership now! (*Deadline for inclusion in the Club's 2001 Membership Roster is February 10.*) If you intend to resign, which we will greatly regret, please notify the Club office of your decision so we can both move on.

Each year there are a number of members who do resign for various reasons; the number one reason being a move away from the Tahoe scene. Each year there are also a number of new members who come aboard taking the places of those who have resigned and so our Club roster has been at almost the same number for five or six years.

With this said, may I now impose on you a request to think about new member promotion and recruitment. Your Board of Directors held the dues increase to 8 percent this year with the caveat that the membership shall grow. We do not have a cap on membership, we have never had a cap on membership, and there is no probability of one. The Board would, in fact, like to invite more interested, good applicants to become participating members. A fine yacht club such as ours needs dues-paying

members to enable it to continue to offer a full roster of exceptional activities and services.

The Board is also in unanimous agreement not to offer discounted initiation fees as a new member enticement but, instead, to ask help from



Vice Commodore Brad Hill thanks "Souper Saturday" speaker Miki Dohemann, Director of Development for the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, for her January 20th presentation. (See story page 5)

its most valuable resource and that is the current TYC membership — all of us.

On behalf of your Board and the Membership committee, it is my honor to request and encourage all of you to survey your friends and neighbors here at the Lake and elsewhere to consider application to Tahoe Yacht Club, an exceptional private club offering competition, camaraderie, and social interaction.

Now please join me in welcoming our most recent new members listed below who were elected unanimously at the December 31, 2000 Board of Directors business meeting

## Welcome TYC's NEWEST Members as of December 31, 2000

### Regular MEMBERSHIP

Jim Bell  
Kenneth & Jeannine Paganini  
Andreas Papaliolios  
Marvin & Jean (Barnett) Pepper

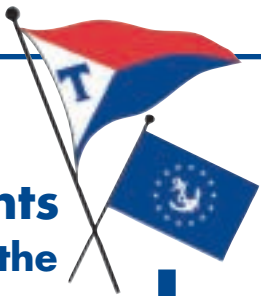
### RESIDENCE

Tahoe City, CA  
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### SPONSOR/SECONDER

Bill Briner/Les Bartlett  
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Ron & Denise Kirby/Doug & Nancy Ball

# Comments from the Commodore



Happy New Year from Susanne and me, the Tahoe Yacht Club staff and Directors! The year 2001 was rung in early at TYC by more than 100 members, guests and children. The event — held at the unorthodox hours of 3 to 7 p.m. on New Year's eve — proved to be a great success. For those of us who can't get used to wearing a necktie at Lake Tahoe, we were happy to have the affair "casual." For those of us who had family here during the Holidays, it was great to get home early and bring in the new year around the fire with family and friends. And, of course, the best part of the evening was to be able to visit and party with good Tahoe Yacht Club friends. The band was great (the Lewminators), the food was great (D'lish), and the entertainment was great (Brad and Sandi Hill's "Best of Mahogany Magic!")

On January 20, the Club featured another in our ongoing "Souper Saturday" speaker's bureau series. Miki Dohemann from the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society entertained and informed a good sized audience with the history of George Whittell and his Thunderbird Lodge. Whittell's property, once encompassing thousands of acres and miles of coast line on the Nevada shore of Lake Tahoe, held one of the most beautiful and mysterious estates on the Lake. Tales of secret passages, elephants and lions on the property, late night card games mixed with wine, women and song, and the famous *Thunderbird*, the estate's yacht, made for a most lively subject and informative evening. Thank you, Miki, and the TLPS, for a wonderful evening. Watch your mail for details about our next fascinating TYC "Souper Saturday" speaker's night on March 31.

Our biggest snowfall to date was back in November followed by lesser storms more recently. There's still enough snow for good skiing up high and, we hope, more to come for TYC's five remaining Penguin Days.

An interesting aside about our beautiful TYC Clubhouse: The timbers used to build the original buildings (yes, there were two) came from snow sheds built by the Southern Pacific Railroad in the Sierras. It seems the heat and fire from the steam engines were causing the old wooden snow sheds to catch fire. Entrepreneur Bill Bliss purchased the timbers used for the sheds to build his lumber mill and associated buildings at Glenbrook. When the timber industry started to lag, the ever-ingenious Bliss relocated his narrow-gauge railroad from his lumber endeavor in Glenbrook to traverse



*Susanne and Paul Walker welcomed more than 100 party-goers to the Club on New Year's Eve.*

the 13 miles from the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks in Truckee to his hotel (Tahoe Tavern) in Tahoe City. Timbers from his old train shed at the lumber mill were also moved to the present location of our Yacht Club to build maintenance buildings for his new railroad.

If you look closely at the construction in our Clubhouse, you will see huge old timbers with the old notching, mortise and pegs, some even with soot remains imbedded. Mr. Bliss was certainly ahead of his time with his own railroad that brought guests to

his own Tahoe Tavern Hotel to ride and enjoy his own steam ship, the *SS Tahoe*, on our incredible Lake.

Next up on the Club's social calendar is a Valentine Dance with buffet supper on Saturday, Feb. 17. Be sure to make this event an important part of your Valentine/Presidents' Day weekend. Hospitality hosts Diane and Brad Shore and the committee are planning a fun-filled evening with Yacht Club friends. Susanne and I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, enjoy the New Year and make a resolution to visit your Yacht Club soon and often.

*Paul Walker*



*Kathryn Gregory helps herself from the D'lish buffet*



*(Left to right) Mary and Jeff Meston and Michele and Dean Moser enjoyed supper at a fireside table.*

*(Below) There was pizza for the younger set and bags of take-home New Year's party favors for all the Gerald Silverberg crew.*



From Philip Ballantyne,  
Wooden Boat Week Chairman

## New Auction during Wooden Boat Week

The Wooden Boat Week Committee has proposed an exciting new event — an auction to be held at this year's opening night reception at the West Shore Café on Thursday, August 9. The Committee would like to invite the membership to donate items for the auction.

Typical items might include classic boat memorabilia, vintage boating literature, nautical art, products and services from local merchants, hosted boat rides, cruises and visits to members' vacation homes. The success of this event will depend on the participation of our own members. The more interesting items we have to offer, the more fun we will have raising funds to support our community.

If you have something you would like to contribute, please contact Foundation Coordinator Kelli Gintel at the Clubhouse, (530) 581-4700.

Coming in March: Look for your Wooden Boat Week invitation in the mail and start planning for all the great events, August 9-16, 2001.

### ★★★★BELLS★★★★

We are saddened to report the death of **John F. "Jack" Phelan, Jr.**, on December 9, 2000, following a lengthy illness. Jack was known and respected by many TYC members for his professionalism working on boat engines as well as his skills in restoring wooden boats. He is survived by his wife, Judy of Squaw Valley; sister Rachel Hall; sons Jim (TYC member and manager of the Tahoe City Marina) and John Phelan, both of Tahoe City; and two grandchildren.

## Clubhouse Note:

Weekend dates are filling quickly for spring and summer weddings at the Clubhouse. If you or someone you know is considering holding their rehearsal dinner, wedding or reception at the Club, please get in touch with Erin Morse soon. We have also successfully hosted several business meetings recently and would appreciate your considering the Club for your next function.



**TYC'S PENGUIN SKI DAYS\*** seven in all, are proving inviting times for more and more members. Gathered at the Clubhouse after the first ski day at Squaw Valley are (*kneeling, left to right*) Fritz Briner, John Towmey, Carol Atkinson, Ryan and Stacy Conner, Penguin Day host Bernie Atkinson and guest Wes Schemmel and Eric Conner. (*Standing*) Staff Commodore Bill Briner, Margaret Twomey, Jane Murdock, Allan Ramsey, Joan Upton, (unidentified), Rufus Jeffris and Hank Upton. (Photo: Jim Gregory)

From General Manager Marshall Lewis

## Member Hosts key to success of Club events

For some reason, Super Bowl always seems to signal the depths of winter. The end of football season leaves a weekend and Monday night void to be filled by other winter activities. Luckily, TYC members have a wealth of social functions from which to choose including holiday parties, "Souper Saturday" speaker nights, Penguin Ski Days, and a recently organized ice skating outing at The Resort at Squaw Creek. The key to the success of each event is a member host who has taken the time to get things organized and publicized, made a bunch of phone calls, and generally guide us through unfamiliar territory. We staff members deeply appreciate this commitment to the Club and the effort to more fully utilize the Clubhouse. There are still opportunities to get involved. How about a full moon snowshoe/cross-country ski tour or a cross-country ski day at one of our local resorts? Anyone interested in being the leader?

Short winter days also bring a longing for those sunny summer days on Tahoe and all the fun we'll enjoy together. As I've noted in previous columns, we have a lot of functions planned for sailors and wooden boat enthusiasts but could easily expand our power boat activities. Families, especially, need more reasons to enjoy the Club. Does anyone like the idea of a series of weekday or weekend picnics at some designated spot on the Lake or perhaps a TYC camp-out with the kids?

Another youth-oriented possibility is a weekly waterski/wakeboard day on which parents could drop their kids off at the Club for a day of boating, beaching and fun with

other members' kids. We would need a few committed parents with boats to transport the group to a beach, give them lots of pull time, organize beach activities and be responsible



(Center) Julie and Marshall Lewis with new TYC members Marvin Pepper and Jean Barnett. at the Club's holiday tree-trimming party.

for safety. Maybe we can even revitalize the Waterski/Wakeboard Carnival with a brand-new crop of young competitors in an end-of-season extravaganza.

All of the above have one thing in common: each needs a TYC member volunteer to make it successful. Consider giving a little of your time to Tahoe Yacht Club this winter or summer to help with one of the already-scheduled events or in the creation of a new one. You'll find tremendous satisfaction in doing even a little bit to ensure the Club is energetic and relevant to all our valued members.

**\* PENGUIN SKI DAYS NOTE:** If you have any last-minute questions regarding weather, meeting times or places, call the TYC Penguin Phone at (530) 581-4700, ext 4, after 7:00 a.m. for the latest updates.

December 1, 2000  
**Reuben's Wine Tasting**



A great time was had by nearly three dozen members and guests who came to sip and savor fine wines with Alexander Valley Vineyards' David Gast, right, and TYC bar supervisor Reuben Dawkins, left. (Photo: Terry Gast)

**Alexander Valley Vineyards**  
 8644 Hwy. 128, Healdsburg, Calif.  
[www.avvwine.com](http://www.avvwine.com)



Mom Nancy and Tyler Fidler (above) enjoyed the potluck appetizers by the fire.



Santa arrived in cowboy boots but Ryan Conner and Rennie Fidler didn't seem to notice.



December 16, 2000  
**Tree-trimming Party**

Kevin Mullen (in cap) poses with parents Jim and Lynn and Hospitality hostess Joyce Dreschler as they sample the special martinis of the night.

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Where is the Thunderbird Lodge? Who owns it? Is it open to the public? And what does Mingo, the elephant, have in common with the *Thunderbird*? Here are the answers from Miki Dohemann, Director of Development for the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society, who spoke to an large, enthusiastic crowd at TYC's second "Souper Saturday."

## The Mystery of The Thunderbird Lodge

Thank you from the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society for your keen interest and support of our unique project. For those who have boated by the estate on the east shore of Lake Tahoe but missed the Club's January "Souper Saturday," here are answers to some of our most often asked questions.



The Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society is an independent, not-for-profit agency that is now the sole owner and operator of the Thunderbird Lodge, previously known as the Whittell Estate, between Sand Harbor and Glenbrook. The society is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of this unique historical site which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 27, 2000. In addition, the society's mission is to share this treasure with the public through conferencing, events, docent-led tours, and educational as well as environmental programs.

The original property, totaling nearly 40,000 acres surrounding the estate, was purchased during the Great Depression by George Whittell, Jr., a wealthy and eccentric member of a prominent San Francisco family. At one time, Whittell controlled 27 miles equaling one third of Lake Tahoe's shoreline, from Crystal Bay to Zephyr Cove. Ultimately, 5,300 acres of Whittell's holdings became Lake Tahoe State Park.

Built in 1936, the estate includes numerous buildings, structures and landscape features, many (including the main house which Whittell named The Thunderbird Lodge) designed by Nevada's preeminent architect, Frederic DeLongchamps. A number of the buildings can be entered via narrow passageways leading from the 500 ft. long tunnel which connects the main house to the boat-house where Whittell kept his most famous

boat which many of you know well. Designed by John Hacker, the *Thunderbird* was built for Whittell at a cost of \$87,500 and shipped by rail from Michigan to the Lake in July, 1940, remaining in Whittell's possession until 1962.

In addition to his collection of wooden boats, air-planes, and classic automobiles, Whittell also kept a variety of exotic animals at the estate ranging from Bill, the lion, to Mingo, the elephant. What may seem an odd-looking three-car garage is actually a three-stall "elephant house" built for Mingo and two other pachyderms that Whittell had flown to Tahoe for "summer camp." A story is told that Mingo lies at the bottom of Lake Tahoe, victim of an accident on one of those sea plane trips; fact is, she lived a long life and was buried on Whittell's Woodside, Calif., estate.

Numerous other legends surround the estate and Whittell's activities at Tahoe including tales of colorful parties involving show-girls, plentiful liquor, and high-stakes gambling in the "card house."

Following Whittell's death in 1969, the property was purchased by New York mutual fund tycoon Jack Dreyfus as an investment. In 1997, Dreyfus sold the 140 acres that included the grounds and improvements of the Whittell Estate to the Del Webb Holding Corporation which subsequently transferred the property to the Forest Service in exchange for federal land in southern Nevada.

In 1999, the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society was formed for the purpose of preserving the Whittell Estate, six acres comprising the buildings and landscape features. The society has now embarked on a major capital campaign to raise the funds necessary to preserve this site into perpetuity. The opportunities are rich for participation in this unique project. We appreciate any donations or volunteers to assist our efforts in supporting this exciting and beautiful Lake Tahoe treasure.

Thank you again for your eager interest in our exciting project. We hope to open for public docent-led tours this summer and would love to see you then. In the meanwhile, keep up to date on all of our happenings at the Thunderbird Lodge by visiting our website at <http://www.thunderbirdlodge.org>, sending e-mail questions to [info@thunderbirdlodge.org](mailto:info@thunderbirdlodge.org) or phoning (775) 832-8750.

January 20, 2001

### Souper Saturday Speaker's Night

*In the audience of nearly 60, (left to right) new member Andreias Papaliolios, J.C. Krise, and Andreias' friend, Mitzie.*



*Jack and Shirley Heisey, Bob and Elinor Bush enjoy a bottle of wine before the chili and sandwich "souper" buffet.*



*The chocolate chip cookies were the hit of the night for the youngest members of the Cunha crew: (clockwise from top) Carol and Paul Cunha, daughter Kathryn and son Robbie; David Johnson and his mom, Mary McCall.*

## Contributions to RBOC benefit you

When you're looking over your annual TYC dues statement, you will no doubt notice and possibly question the line item at the bottom "Recreational Boaters of Calif." for a suggested \$20.00. The RBOC is a political action committee made up of representatives from the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association (PICYA) in northern California and from its sister organization in southern California. Frankly, the RBOC is the first line of defense against your boating tax dollars being spent wrongly and on frivolous laws being enacted in your boating world.



Compared to most yacht clubs in California, TYC is a bit of a newcomer in supporting RBOC but we have stepped up to the plate and tried to do our part. Last year, Tahoe Yacht Club members contributed more than \$2,600 to RBOC. Whatever the total is this spring, we will present it at a monthly PICYA meeting, as is the custom. Our Board will also supplement our members contributions with a small additional check.

If you have already mailed your 2001 dues, please consider sending another for \$20.00 or more earmarked for RBOC. Although this contribution is not tax-deductible, it's an easy way to help make your voice heard to preserve our boating pleasure.

## An Invitation to PICYA Meetings

As your PICYA representative, I plan to attend as many of the Association's monthly dinner (6:30-9:30 p.m.) meetings as possible, but I can always use some help in representing TYC. Some of the host yacht clubs are a distance during stormy nights. And while I've been your representative happily over the past five years, it may be coming to a time for a fresh delegate to PICYA.

**The PICYA Delegates meeting schedule for the next several months: Feb. 5 - San Francisco YC; March 5 - Presidio YC; April 2 - Berkeley YC; May 7-Oyster Point YC.** If you would be interested in joining me at any of these meetings or standing in as our TYC representative, please give me a call at (925) 673-9210 or leave word with TYC General Manager Marshall Lewis at (530) 581-4700.

## New California Boater Education Measure in effect January 1

RBOC is applauding California Governor Gray Davis for his signature of AB 2045, legislation the organization has sponsored to enhance the state's boater education laws. The most significant provision of AB 2045 (which took effect on January 1, 2001) is the new requirement that operators of boats and personal watercraft will have to complete and pass a state-approved boater education course if they are convicted of a moving violation.

"This is more appropriate and more reasonable than previous proposals that have sought to establish a mandate that all boaters — regardless of their experience or skill — pass an education course and carry a license or certificate," noted RBOC President Bill Lewis..

AB 2045 also requires that the state Department of Boating and Waterways establish a boating education course, specifically for operators of personal watercraft, to improve their boating knowledge and skills. Pursuant to the provisions of the bill, the department will make this new course available on its Internet website for personal watercraft operators to take on a voluntary basis.



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# TYC CLUB CALENDAR — CLIP and SAVE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FEBRUARY 2001</b>				1	2 PENGUIN SKI DAY Northstar Meet 9:30 am at Pedro's or 12:30 pm at Summit Café for lunch Host: Doug Brown <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>	3
4	5 PICYA Delegates Meeting San Francisco YC 6:30-9:30 pm	6 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	7 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	8	9	10 PENGUIN SKI DAY Mount Rose Meet on deck at 9:30 am or 12:30 pm for lunch Host: Allan Ramsey <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>
11 PENGUIN DAY on ICE Meet at Clubhouse at 3 pm and car-pool to The Resort at Squaw Creek; skate 4:30 to 6:30 pm Host: Michael Babcock	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i> RESERVATIONS DUE FOR VALENTINE DANCE	13 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	15 ADVERTISING SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR MEMBERS MAGAZINE	16	17 Swing Your Sweetie at TYC's <b>VALENTINE'S DANCE</b> beginning at 6 pm Hosts: Diane and Brad Shore <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>
18 TYC Hospitality Committee Meeting 12 noon - Clubhouse New Volunteers Welcome!	19 <i>Presidents' Day</i> <i>Holiday Observed</i>	20 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	21 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	22 <i>Washington's B'day</i>	23	24 <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>
25	26	27 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	28 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> CLUBHOUSE CLOSED			
<b>MARCH 2001</b>				1	2 PENGUIN SKI DAY Alpine Meadows Meet on deck at 9:30 am or 12:30 pm at Chalet for lunch Host: John Twomey <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>	3
4	5 PICYA Delegates Meeting Presidio YC 6:30-9:30 pm	6 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	7 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	8	9	10 PENGUIN SKI DAY Alpine Meadows Meet on deck at 9:30 am or 12:30 pm at Chalet for lunch Host: John Twomey <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>
11	12	13 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	14 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	15 TYC MEMBERS MAGAZINE EDITORIAL and ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINE	16  Board Meeting March 17	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> <b>McPOTLUCK</b> at the Clubhouse 5:30-9 pm Hosts: Jack McKenna & Cindy Collinsworth <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>
18 TYC Hospitality Committee Meeting 12 noon - Clubhouse New Volunteers Welcome!	19	20 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	21 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	22	23	24 <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>
25	26	27 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	28 CLUBHOUSE CLOSED	29	30	31 <b>"Souper Saturday"</b> 5:30-9 pm Watch your mail for speaker and RSVP details! <b>COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR APPETIZERS - 4-6 PM</b>

# TAHOE YACHT CLUB

POST OFFICE BOX 7620

TAHOE CITY, CA 96145-7620



## What

does Mingo, the elephant, have in common with the "Thunderbird"?

**The Mystery of  
The Thunderbird Lodge...page 5**

### INSERT

#### More PENGUIN SKI DAYS

Get ready for McPotluck, March 17  
and Easter Egg Hunt, April 14



**LADY BUG RAFFLE:** Our "Lady Bug" is a one of a kind Art Doll sculpted, designed, painted and costumed by June Towill Brown in her Incline Village studio. The artists' porcelain and polymer clay dolls have been exhibited in gift and toy shows, galleries and design centers from New York to Los Angeles.



Come Swing Your Sweetie at TYC's

## VALENTINE DANCE

Saturday, Feb. 17th, at the Clubhouse  
beginning at 6 p.m.



Dance the night away with deejay Ty

Indulge yourself on a buffet of salads, meats  
and sweet treats

Photos with your Valentine and more!

Reservations please by Monday, Feb. 12  
\$25 per person



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TYC Hospitality Hosts: Brad and Diane Shore

## NEW TYC Penguin Day on ICE

SUNDAY, FEB. 11



TYC  
Hospitality  
Host:  
Michael  
Babcock

Meet at the Clubhouse at 3 p.m.  
for complimentary snacks and  
car-pool\* to The Resort at Squaw  
Creek for two hours of ice skating  
— 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

After skating, come on back  
to the Club for a warm fire, a  
steaming mug of hot chocolate or  
one of Reuben's great toddies.

The cost for two hours of skating including skate rental  
(pay at The Resort):

Adults, \$15; Children, 7-15, \$10; ages 6 and under, \$5  
(If you have your own ice skates, the cost is only \$5.)

\*Parking is \$1 for the first (validated) hour; \$5 per hour after