

President's Perspective

Ski season is getting closer and closer. The first club meeting of the season is now behind us. My first thought upon seeing the new Arrowhead facility was "this is too nice". Then I promptly christened the place by spilling my beer all over the head table. It was great to see so many new and returning members at the meeting!

In the mountains of Colorado on September 7, Linda and I witnessed the first snowfall of the season. It was only a couple of inches, and at 12,000 feet elevation, but it's a start. While we're waiting for the snow to fall here, I encourage you to participate in the activities we have scheduled during the fall months.

I recently finished reading a book on global climate change. Climate science is still very new, so there is a lot less known than there is unknown, but the knowledge base is expanding rapidly. There is agreement that the earth has undergone a warming trend in recent decades. However, not everyone agrees on the causes. Climate changes naturally over time, but most believe that humans have also contributed to global warming. There is even less agreement on the potential consequences. The common wisdom had been that climate changes gradually, but now evidence is mounting that climate changes much more abruptly than once believed. Also, a period of gradual warming can precede sudden cooling. The science behind this is that warming triggers melting of the ice caps. The salt water in the north thus becomes diluted or less dense, which can shut down the warm water "conveyor belt" that is the Gulf Stream.

There are so many unknowns. However, what we can all agree upon is that we've recently had a lot of bad snow years. So, when our thoughts turn to skiing, we naturally wonder whether "this will be the year", or whether we will have to endure yet another winter of marginal ski conditions. In this light, I recently asked a friend whether we will have good conditions for the upcoming season. Her response smacked of common sense and guaranteed perfect conditions: **"You will have fabulous conditions if you decide that whatever you get is fabulous!"**

The club turns 25 this month! We are planning a special program for the November meeting to commemorate the occasion. Stay tuned for details.

Larry