

# The Flakey News

## Publication of the Fox Valley Snowdrifters

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Grüezi Snowdrifters!

We've just returned from our European trip. Despite the COVID testing and country-specific paper chase challenges, the trip was a success. Although, we did have an injury and a positive COVID test. I'll let the trip report give you all the details. However, I do want to note a few things that this trip really highlighted about our Club:

1. We should have a trip leader hall of fame. Frank, Kandy, and Peggy S., did a fantastic job of getting us information about required paperwork, arranging tours, figuring out the COVID testing for each country and generally making everything a lot easier than if we had to do this on our own.
2. Snowdrifters will restore your faith in the kindness of others – time and time again. A lot of good people helping each other and having fun together.
3. Snowflakes and Snowballs (hmm... who started that?) are pretty darn good at lifting spirits and easing pain. We have some genuinely talented lyricists and singers in the group. (~~A few of us~~, okay me, could use some voice lessons, though.)
4. Hay Soup – yes, I said Hay Soup – is very tasty!

We still have several trips to go. Next up is Banff, followed by Brule and then Sun Valley. Tom Devries and I will be getting more Banff info out to folks next week. It's been a very snowy winter at Sunshine and Lake Louise and I'm looking forward to more Snowdrifters camaraderie and skiing.

On another note, Maureen Joy has done an excellent job as our Social Chair for the last two years. During her tenure, we've enjoyed several memorable parties, been treated to a few new venues, and experienced some great outdoor activities. Now Maureen is ready to pass the torch. So, if you've been thinking about how you can contribute to the Club, here's your opportunity.

*Greg Olson*

*President*

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

**SOCIAL**



## 117th Norge Annual Winter Ski Jump Tournament

January 30, 2022

Submitted by: John Walsh

Ten Snowdrifters attended the Sunday US Cup & International 5-Hills Competition on the K70 Ski Jump Hill. The weather was a mix of sun and clouds with afternoon highs in the upper 20's. An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 spectators attended the Norge Ski Club this weekend to experience the 117th edition of the competition. The mood was festive as usual including the sounds of alphorns, cow bells, and the wearing of Viking hats while sipping on hot drinks, brews, and a Bloody Mary with enough toppings for a small lunch. We started with some tailgating in the parking lot and then secured a spot right next to the jumping hill to watch the competition. There were ski clubs represented from Norge, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, and Utah. Several of the competitors jumped over 70+ meters!



Founded in 1905, Norge is the oldest ski club in the U.S. The 150-foot ski jump rises high above the Fox River and offers year-round training facilities and competition venue for world-class athletes. Norge is sending (3) jumpers to the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

This will continue to be a fun annual winter event for the Snowdrifters Ski Club.

# OGDEN, UTAH



On Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 38 Snowdrifters arrived in Ogden, Utah for a fun filled 5 day ski trip. The trip didn't have the best start since we all had to see a United agent to get checked in. I stayed back to be sure everyone had their ticket, however, to my surprise I did not have a ticket!! Like WHAT?! Are you kidding me?? There was total confusion. Luckily I had the Winters Ski air specialist who was able to find out the problem and issue a ticket. Once I had my ticket, I had to sprint to get to the terminal but my backpack was pulled off the conveyor at security for inspection taking even more time. The flight was delayed so I did make the flight but as a final kick in the \_\_s, I had the last row in the aircraft next the washroom. Then another kick in the you know what – the Le Bus company changed drivers and I didn't have the driver's phone number to let the driver know we were ready for pickup. Well, we all made it safely to Home2 Suites and on time.

After arriving at the Home2 Suites and, at least for me, a couple shots of Johnny Walker, everyone had some time to settle in or rent skis. The suites were large and very comfortable. At 5:30 PM we all met at the Union



Grill for the Snowdrifter Welcome Party that Marie Bryl had set-up. Since both guest speakers had a family member that was ill, we had to do a ZOOM call with Sara Wayman, Powder Mountain Group Sales Manager, who provided Powder Mountain info and set up mountain tours in addition to answering questions. We all enjoyed dinner followed by announcements. 10 first time Snowdrifters were introduced – that's right - 10 new members on the trip!

Saturday started with a hot buffet breakfast in the Home2 Suites breakfast area where we had time to discuss the ski day ahead. Most of us met for the 8:30 AM Special Snowdrifter UTA Bus that was a nonstop bus to Powder Mountain. Once we arrived there were Powder Mountain hosts that had us split up into 3 groups for mountain tours that lasted until lunch time.

Powder Mountain is a privately owned laid back type of a ski resort that only allows 1,500 skiers a day. The Mountain ambassadors and lifties were all very friendly and wanted to be sure we enjoyed our day on the mountain. There is no snow making equipment at Powder. There are only two lodges on the mountain but lots, and I mean a lot, of terrain to ski. The groomed runs were just the right pitch and on the ungroomed runs you could find lots of untracked powder to make fresh tracks. The glades are thinned regularly so that there is plenty to room to ski between the trees.



On Sunday, when getting off the bus, one of the mountain ambassadors handed me the "Photo Scavenger Hunt." The team comprised of Kathleen and Aisling McGrath, John Asare, Brett and Braeden Boor, Greg Bohmann, and Joe Hopp Jr. captured the crown and were given Powder Mountain schwag. At the top of the lift there was something for everyone and many Snowdrifters could be found at Mary's Bowl. Hippy Hill glade run was a favorite and The Send It was a fabulous bowl that had fresh snow that sparkled in the sun's reflection. And then there was the super cool Magic Bus!! There is a bus that is hidden in a grove of pine trees that was once used as a hunting

camp. You had to hike a short distance up a path and then ski down on the other side of the mountain through some open glades to the Magic Bus! Only three of us were fortunate enough to have Patrick, who is a local guide, take us there or you would have been hard pressed to find it. If we ever go back to Powder, this would be a great place for an on-the- mountain party! Snowdrifter, Gary Granberg, who drove all the way from Batavia to join us, (not really - he was in the area skiing so he came and joined us), and two others took a snow cat ride to the top for fresh powder runs.

We skied Powder on Saturday and Sunday so that we would not have the weekend crowds at Snow Basin. On those days UTA provided a special nonstop bus for us to return to Ogden. Unfortunately, or in some Snowdrifters' opinion, fortunately, on Sunday the bus broke down. Since it would be 45 minutes before a second bus would arrive, the Snowdrifters took over the Powder Keg bar for free pitchers of beer and live music until the replacement bus arrived.



Sunday after skiing we walked to the Roosters Brewing Company for a 7:30 PM pizza party. This event had six past presidents in attendance: Frank Hodowal, Pam Murray, Chuck Salisbury, Leo Ahasic, John Gamble and yours truly. We also had John Walsh who is a president-in-training (PIN) and hopefully many, many more future presidents.



On Monday, a non-stop special bus picked us up promptly at 8:30 AM to take us to Snow Basin. When arriving at Snow Basin differences were very apparent between the two very unique mountain resorts. Snowbasin is a very modern resort that was renovated for the 2020 Olympic Games women's and men's downhill events that were held there. It was a cold morning and the snow was crusty and hard packed. Around 10 AM it did start to soften and made for a good day. The Strawberry Gondola unloaded skiers at 9,265' at Strawberry Peak. The Elk Ridge Run was a Snowdrifter favorite that offered a

long groomer – just what Mark Nicholson ordered. York, a Powder Mountain Ambassador, just so happened to run into a group of Snowdrifters and led them all around the mountain. They finished their tour at the John Paul Lodge.

Tuesday – the same routine, however, we assembled by the moose statue for a group picture before everyone wandered off. This was a bluebird day. On this day most made it to the top of the John Paul lift and some had taken the gondola to the very top. This is where the Men's and Women's Olympic downhill runs start. Aeko led Kevin and Stan down Grizzly's first descent. I continued with them on the rest of the Grizzly/Wildflower run which was amazing – the steep pitch on a high banked downhill run. Everyone experienced a great day of skiing. John Asare, Kathleen and Aisling McGrath went back to Powder since they enjoyed that soooo much. After unloading the UTA bus, I forgot that in the morning I had brought the banner and thought I'd misplaced it. Well, here we go again, a radical female stole the banner and hid it in her room. All the while I was calling UTA to see if someone found our Snowdrifter banner. I was concerned that past president, John Gamble, would be very upset if I lost his banner. After seeing that I was going "out of my mind" trying to find that banner, the female operative, aka PC, confessed to stealing banner once again.



We held a final farewell party in the hotel's meeting area. Tacos were delivered and people brought any extra food and/or drink. There was a group that Ubered to the



Shooting Star Saloon which is the oldest continuous saloon west of the Mississippi. This group was led by Greg Bohmann, John Asare, Joe Jr, Brett Boor, John Gamble, John Walsh and Kathleen McGrath. This saloon is in the middle of nowhere and there was a slight problem in that no



Uber driver wanted to come pick them back up. Finally at 8:30 PM they found someone to give them all a lift in one car!!! The farewell party lasted until the Hotel Manager told a group of diehards it was time to be quiet.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Marie Bryl for all of her efforts. This was Marie's first time being an assistant trip leader and she did an outstanding job. Marie set up all of the group dinners, made all the bus arrangements and much more. Thank you Marie!!

Another trip in the books and what a trip it was. In the end people shared great experiences together, made new friends, exchanged phone numbers and to top it off - we had an accident free trip.

Cheers!

Marie and Joe



# Banff, Alberta - Canada - \$1,295

February 24 – March 1, 2022

SOLD OUT/WAIT LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

**TRIP COST:** The 5 day Banff trip cost is \$1,295 (w/o lift tickets –\$950).

## The trip includes:

- Air/ground transportation
- 5 nights Hotel lodging (2 per unit) with a hot and cold buffet breakfast
- 4-day Tri-Area (Big 3 mountains) lift Ticket.
- Trip Cost for Lift Tics: (3 of 4-Day - \$83, 4 Day SR -\$76, 3 of 4-Day SR - \$120)



Banff is home to the world's finest ski resorts; immerse yourself in breathtaking scenery and magical runs all within Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies. Located in the heart of Banff National Park are three of the world's finest ski resorts; Mt. Norquay, Lake Louise Ski Area and Sunshine Village. Banff skiing offers almost 8,000 acres of skiable terrain on one tri-area lift ticket, the seasoned skier or rider will experience plenty of chutes, bowls, steeps and terrain parks to explore, while beginners can get the same thrills on miles of green and blue runs.

While in Banff, we will be staying 5 nights at Caribou Lodge & Spa which a traditional mountain lodge style hotel with excellent facilities and a prime location. Your room key doubles up as a free roaming bus pass for trips around town. The ski shuttle to all the ski areas stops outside the hotel. A flat-screen TV, mini-fridge, and in-room safe are provided in each room. Also included is a daily hot and cold breakfast buffet.

## Canada Covid Rules:

You must be fully vaccinated to travel to Canada. There are some stringent [pre-entry testing and entry requirements](#) you must follow. Also, you must upload proof of vaccination to the [ArriveCAN website](#).

We will fly non-stop on United:

UA5774	24FEB	ORD/YYC	10:00AM	12:50PM
UA5877	01MAR	YYC/ORD	12:30PM	4:50PM

\* **NOTE:** All taxes that are currently in effect, including airline taxes are included in the price. Please note any additional airline tax or fuel surcharge imposed before our final ticketing is beyond our control and will require an adjustment in the final price. Any fuel surcharge imposed on our ground transfers is also beyond our control and will require an adjustment.

**Trip Leaders:** Greg Olson: [olsongregv@gmail.com](mailto:olsongregv@gmail.com)  
Tom DeVries: [tom.devries@comcast.net](mailto:tom.devries@comcast.net)



### **Ski Brule, Michigan**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022 - Sunday, March 13, 2022**

**Price: \$275\* Non-skier \$178**

**REMEMBER last year when you could not go to Whitecap because it was TOO LATE to open the second floor?  
Ski Brule is close to having the first floor booked.  
DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!**



**SIGN UP TODAY! <https://fvssc.wildapricot.org/page-1790668>**

Ski Brule, the #1 Midwest Ski Resort is located just over the Wisconsin / Michigan border. There are winter activities for everyone: ski, snowboard, terrain parks, tubing, acrobag, fat bike trails, cross country trails, snowshoe trails, sleigh rides, and more! The Pioneer Lodge Condos at Ski Brule are the perfect Michigan lodging option for group ski trips.

Trip includes:

- Shared condo lodging, great set up for families
- Friday, Saturday lift tickets including night skiing
- One-hour group ski lesson
- Free trail use passes for cross country skiing and snowshoeing. You must rent or provide your own equipment.
- Fat bike trails, inner tubing, and rentals are available.
- Barbecue dinner and sleigh ride Saturday night.
- No transportation is included. If you are willing to carpool please let Maureen or John know. We will share that info with the participants but will not facilitate the groupings.

An online waiver must be completed here:

<https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/61aa9a3ca7cb8/web/>



Pioneer Lodge Condos are located across the street from the Main Lodge and Ski Brule Mountain and the views are amazing!

The Pioneer Lodge Condos feature connecting rooms so guests have the option of enjoying both their privacy and group time. Guests at the Pioneer Lodge also have access to the two outside hot tubs (not available in 2020/2021). Pioneer Lodge Condos are a tradition in lodging while enjoying Michigan's number one rated family ski vacation.

Every condo unit includes FREE WIFI, Direct TV, daily maid service, telephone, microwave, coffee maker, cookware, linens (bedding/towels) and great views of the slopes. Located just a few steps from the lifts and all services, Pioneer Lodge is the most convenient lodging to access the best skiing in Michigan.

**Your Snowdrifters' club membership must be current when signing up for the trip.**

Trip Leaders: Maureen Joy [mojoy@comcast.net](mailto:mojoy@comcast.net), 630.846.9647

Assistant: John Gamble [John@johngamble.net](mailto:John@johngamble.net), 630.761.9550

\*If we have an odd number of singles the last single that signs up will be tripled up, with the last person to sign up getting the roll-away bed (unless someone wants to pay extra for a single room).



**March 20 – 25, 2022**  
**\$1,625 (w/o Lift Ticket \$1,325)**

**SOLD OUT/WAIT LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED**

*A Wait List has been established in case of cancellations or the possibility to add trip spots at a later date. If you are interested, contact John Walsh or Bob Hoffman to be added to the Wait List. The wait list is a first-come first-serve with gender considerations (e.g. we may only have one opening for a male or female depending on room assignments).*

Sun Valley is America's original destination resort, often voted the number one ski resort in the US. Sun Valley is situated across two mountains: Bald Mountain (very sunny slope that's nearly all downhill) and Dollar Mountain (628 feet of vertical on a treeless slope).

Sun Valley is serviced by a modern lift infrastructure and a well-designed trail system. The resort has terrain for all ability levels and has 2,154 skiable acres. The summit elevation is 9,150 feet with 3,400 feet of vertical drop. There are 121 trails serviced by 18 lifts along with 2 terrain parks, a Super Pipe and Jib Park.

We are staying at the newly remodeled [Sun Valley Inn](#) (hotel rooms). The Inn is now complete with its own steaming outdoor pool, fitness center, restaurants, lobby bar, and friendly staff.

**Lift Tickets:** The listed price includes a 4-day adult/senior lift ticket. With a multi-day tickets (three or more days) exchange one day of skiing for an in-resort credit for a variety of other activities. All activities and services are based on availability. Lift ticket must still be valid (not expired) to qualify for the Lift Ticket Exchange Program and exchange voucher must be presented at the time of the activity for reimbursement.

**Air:** We have booked a direct flight into Sun Valley's Friedman Memorial Airport which is a short 15 - 20 minute bus ride to the Sun Valley Village. The Sun Valley Inn will provide transfer to the resort and back.

**See October Flakey News for more details**

\* **NOTE:** All taxes that are currently in effect, including airline taxes are included in the price. Please note any additional airline tax or fuel surcharge imposed before our final ticketing is beyond our control and will require an adjustment in the final price. Any fuel surcharge imposed on our ground transfers is also beyond our control and will require an adjustment.

**Trip Leaders:** John Walsh: [jrxplor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrxplor@sbcglobal.net)  
Bob Hoffman: [bobski48@comcast.net](mailto:bobski48@comcast.net)

# RECIPE

## Luma Speck Hay Soup

(We had hay soup in Zermatt and found this recipe online. This one is from the Mirabeau Hotel in Zermatt and seems to be similar. There are several other recipes online. Try one and let us know how you like it.)

Recipe for 4 persons as a main dish and for 8 persons as an appetizer.

### **Ingredients:**

200 grams smoked Luma Speck (bacon)  
400 grams potatoes – medium starch, white  
50 grams onions  
100 grams hay  
1 liter vegetable broth  
100 ml white wine  
500 ml cream  
lemon juice, salt, pepper (to taste)  
Garnish minced herbs (the one we had was also garnished with local flowers)



### **Preparation:**

Dice the Speck into large cubes and slowly render down the fat in a pan without oil.

Dice the potatoes and onions into cubes and fry in the rendered fat. Deglaze with white wine and pour in the vegetable broth.

Add the hay and cook everything together over low heat until the potatoes are soft. Then remove as much of the hay and bacon from the soup as possible. Mix the rest well.

Add the cream and bring to a boil briefly. Adjust the flavor with salt, black pepper and lemon juice.



## MEMBERSHIP

We are happy to announce new name tags for all Club members. We have been distributing the name tags on all trips, and will also have them to distribute at the meetings. The name tags come with a clip or you can purchase an optional custom lanyard for \$5. We hope the new name tags will be used at all events and trips to help everyone to more easily remember our Club members.

## Snowdrifters' Calendar

02/14/22 - **Happy Valentine's Day**

02/15/22 - Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.  
General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Old Towne Pub

02/24/22 - Banff, Canada ski trip

03/10/22 - Ski Brule ski trip

03/20/22 - Sun Valley ski trip



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