

THE FLAKEY NEWS

Publication of the Fox Valley Snowdrifters

February, 2024

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Fox Valley Snowdrifters

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Hello Snowdrifters,

Our first ski trip to Big Sky Montana from January 6th–12th was enjoyed by some 45+ Snowdrifters. This was a long-anticipated trip for the Club. Snow conditions and open terrain were not ideal due to a lower-than-normal snowpack but that was offset by the strong desires and skiers' spirits to just be out on the mountain and carving turns (and a few rocks). It was good to meet up with fellow Snowdrifters on the mountain and during our numerous meetups at the resort. This is what our ski trips are all about – skiing fun, new experiences, and enjoying with friends. Thanks to our Trip Leaders !!!

Our Val di Fassa/Sicily Italy trip will be underway with the publishing of this Newsletter. In February, we have a day trip to Chestnut Mountain on February 10th and the Winter Park trip leaving on February 24th. For those Snowdrifters attending these upcoming ski trips and our trips in March, get ready to have a great time.

During the 2023 ski season many resorts saw record snowfall. The start of the 2024 ski season has experienced below normal snowfall. Unfortunately, our weekend family trip to the Porcupine Mountains had to be cancelled due to a lack of sufficient snow. The long-term reliability of snow conditions may become more uncertain if we experience a warming climate. Based on a recent article I read in the Atlantic (*The Threshold at Which Snow Starts Irreversibly Disappearing*), one degree temperature increase can have a nonlinear impact on reduced yearly snow totals. This means once temperatures increase past a certain threshold, snow loss can change fast, i.e., a "snow loss cliff." Some areas of the Northeast have begun to experience this. And yet the US West is now currently receiving lots of snow with some resorts closing for avalanche mitigation. With snowfall uncertainty, some resorts are experimenting with "snow harvesting." Essentially, they stockpile snow and cover it with an insulating blanket/material to reduce snow evaporation and melting allowing them to reuse the snow during the season and/or into the next season. PRAY FOR SNOW!

We are starting to think about trips for the 2025 ski season and will begin the trip planning soon. Your input is welcome. Some ideas for 2024 summer meetup events are also coming forward. One idea is to attend the Crosstown Classic between the White Sox and Cubs. We would like to see one of our members volunteer to lead this event, with assistance from one of our past event leaders.

***Enjoy and stay safe for the 2024 Ski Season!
See photo on right. Thanks to "AI" I am already
enjoying the skiing in the Dolomites.***

John Walsh
President



Trip Coordinators' Corner:



We're off to a GREAT ski season! Our trip to Big Sky was a huge success through the efforts of the Trip Leaders and participants. We all are looking forward to the remaining ski trips this season. It is approaching that time of year when we are starting to evaluate trips for 2025. We will be looking into trips to Snowmass and other Western destinations, including Canada as well as Europe. Also, we are considering two trips that the Club has never done in the past - a Tour/Ski trip to New Zealand and Australia and a Ski/Tour trip to Japan. These trips are still in the initial planning stages; however, we plan to send out a survey to obtain your interest in them. A brief description of these two trips follows:

New Zealand, Australia and Cairns-SEPT 1st – 15th, 2024

This may be your once in a life time opportunity to see New Zealand and Australia. We are considering a September tour/ski trip to New Zealand and Australia including a 4-day ski experience in New Zealand. Trip will include 5 nights in New Zealand and 4 nights in Sydney and 5 nights in Cairns with many opportunities for tourism.

This is your chance to ski New Zealand, or take a Jet Boat ride, Bungee Jump, Lord of Rings tour, etc. Australia provides a tour of Sydney, Opera House, Rocks area, wine country or mountains. Cairns provides an opportunity to cruise, snorkel/scuba the GREAT BARRIER, and ride the Kuranda Train and see the rain forest.

Queenstown, a region of exceptional and diverse beauty, is a leading resort in the South Island, with inveterate world travelers regarding it as one of the premier scenic areas in the world. Backed by steep mountains, Queenstown lies in the curve of Lake Wakatipu at the head of its own small horse-shoe shaped bay. It is the South Island's principal resort, drawing visitors the year round with its lake and mountain scenery, exhilarating climate, changing seasons and wide range of excursion possibilities.

Sydney, the capital of New South Wales was founded in 1788 and is Australia's oldest city. Sydney sits astride Port Jackson, one of the most beautiful deepwater harbors in the world. With a population of just over 4 million, Sydney is also Australia's largest city. The city boasts famous landmarks such as the Harbor Bridge and the Sydney Opera House, as well as a fine array of restaurants, theatres, shopping complexes and some of Australia's best surfing beaches.

Cairns is the capital of Tropical North Queensland - where the rainforest meets the reef, Cairns is the gateway to the tropical wilderness rainforest and spectacular Great Barrier Reef. Set between the stunning twin backdrops of the mountain ranges and a sparkling Coral Sea, Cairns has the sophistication of resorts, restaurants, entertainment, and boutique shopping all within a lush tropical setting.

We are planning for a group size around 26 with an estimated cost, including some tours, at \$3,500 plus air. We are waiting for airline costs.

Hotels include stays at NOVOTEL Lakefront hotel in Queenstown NZ, Australia, Sydney lodging is at RYDGES hotel and at Cairns HOTEL CRYSTAL BROOKE RILEY.

JAPAN SKI TRIP – January/February 2025

We are currently working with the Sanctuary Ski Club to put together a ski trip to Japan for 24 people in late January, 2025 or Mid-February, 2025. We are currently collecting bids. Right now, the approximate cost looks to be around \$5,000, unfortunately we cannot predict airfare cost and they are suggesting it may go down. The proposals are for seven nights at Hilton Niseko/5-day skiing at Niseko United (on Ikon pass) and a one day of skiing Rusutsu with transportation. There would be three nights in Tokyo prior to heading up to ski. Airfare is roundtrip from O'Hare to Tokyo and roundtrip Tokyo to Sapporo with transportation, all with Nippon Airways. We will be doing a Club survey soon to see who is interested in going to make sure we have enough people to make the trip go.

Niseko, is located approximately two hours from Sapporo by car, Niseko is the go-to place for many skiers and snowboarders across the country and the world. There are many ski resorts throughout Niseko, as well as some of the finest powder snow in the world.

Niseko started to develop following the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo, with state-of-the-art ski lifts, gondolas, restaurants, and lodges built in the 1980s. However, Niseko really started to boom during the early 2000s and in 2013, won the World Ski Award for Best Ski Resort in Japan for the first time and then again in 2014, 2015 and in 2016. It quickly became popular with people worldwide as they wanted to get a piece of the powder action. Now, many internationals live in Niseko, with the majority being Australian. You can find many ski and snowboard instructors, rental shops, and guides to help you with your stay in Niseko, making it one of the most user-friendly ski resorts, no matter your level, in the country. There are four main ski resorts in Niseko: Annupuri, Hanazono, Hirafu, and Niseko Village. All have easy access to the slopes as well as plenty of luxury hotels, condominiums, and lodges.

John & Frank





“This is how we survive the harsh winters: *We go outside, we dress accordingly, and we try to make the winter special: In some way or another we appreciate (some even worship) the winter powder. We embrace it in an if-you-can’t-beat-it-join-it-kind of way.”* (from *Norrone Magazine, Deep Pleasures*)

So what is the meaning of Après Ski?

Answer on the last page.

The Snowdrifters continue to volunteer at the Northern Illinois Food Bank. There is a core group, however, it is expanding. Come out and join us as we give back our time to our communities. Not only do we work for 3 hours but we have a lot of fun doing it.

**NEIGHBORS.
EMPOWERED.**

4 WAYS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AT HOME

Consumer food waste is a worldwide challenge, but a few habits and changes at home can make a huge difference!

1. COMPOST YOUR LEFTOVERS

Composting speeds up the decomposition process by providing an ideal environment for microorganisms to do their work. They turn your food scraps into compost, a nutrient-rich substance which can nourish houseplants and gardens.

2. USE MEAT BONES OR VEGETABLE SCRAPS TO MAKE A BROTH

If you have leftover chicken, beef or pork bones, try making a broth! Bone broth is used in various cultures around the world as a medicinal food. It has many health benefits including supporting digestive health. It's also a common base for many soups and sauces. This works great with vegetable scraps, too!

3. FREEZE FOOD TO MAKE IT LAST LONGER

Don't let your leftovers go to waste! Freeze them to prevent spoiling. This works great for soups, sauces, seafood, fruit, meat and even milk.


4. UNDERSTAND "BEST BY" DATES

According to the USDA, there are no uniform or universally accepted descriptions used on food labels in the U.S. Many shelf-stable foods are fine to consume after the date printed on the packaging.

"Best if Used By/Before" date indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. "Sell-By" date tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. "Use-By" date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. "Freeze-By" date indicates when a product should be frozen to maintain peak quality.

None of these dates indicate safety around consumption of food, with the exception of dates on infant formula.

To learn more, visit:
solvehungertoday.org/4-ways-to-reduce-food-waste-at-home/



Japanese Cucumber Salad

from *The Diabetes Cookbook: 300 Recipes for Healthy Living*,
by Lara Rondinelli-Hamilton and Jennifer Bucko Lamplough,
published by American Diabetes Association, 2018

Serve this salad as a vegetable side dish with grilled fish or chicken and a side of brown rice.

Ingredients:

- 1 medium cucumber
- 1 Tbs rice vinegar
- 1 Tbs extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp honey or packet of artificial sweetener
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 Tbs sesame seeds, toasted

1. Peel the cucumber to leave alternating green stripes. Slice the cucumber in half lengthwise and scrape the seeds out with a spoon.
2. Using a mandoline, food processor or knife, slice the cucumber into very thin slices.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk together the vinegar, olive oil, honey or artificial sweetener, and salt.
4. Toss the cucumbers and sesame seeds in the dressing and serve.

Chef Jen's Tip:

You can find a reasonably priced handheld slicer (also called a mandoline) in any kitchen supply store. Using one will make preparing this salad really easy and make the texture consistent.

1 C serving: 80 calories

SOCIAL

Snowdrifters Social Happenings

**PARTY
TIME!**

I am working on plans for the End of the Year 2024 party. Mark your calendars to save the (tentative) date:

Tuesday, May 21, 2024



You should have received an email about the Northern Illinois Food Bank Fight Hunger 5K run/Walk.

I hope you will consider registering for this event. NIFB has a great day planned! With your registration you will receive a complimentary beer or non-alcoholic option from our friends at [Revolution Brewing](#) and a \$2 voucher to be used at one of the Food Trucks. More information can be found at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/OakBrook/FightHunger?raceRefCode=jBMfTBLN>

I hope to see you there!

Maureen Joy

Social



54th ANNUAL
SWEDISH DAYS RIDE

FOX VALLEY BICYCLE & SKI CLUB • FVBSC.ORG

The Fox Valley Bicycle & Ski Club's
premier recreational bike tour featuring
quiet, scenic, paved roads through rural
Kane, Kendall and DeKalb counties.

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2024

Harter Middle School, Sugar Grove, IL

Featuring 12 • 28 • 51 • 73 • 103 • 133 mile routes
(or mix & match loops to create your own distance)

Fully supported with SAG and indoor rest stop

www.fvbsc.org



SUPPORTING:



project **mobility**
Changing lives one bike at a time

easterseals
DuPage & Fox Valley

Swedish Days Ride 2024

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Sign up early for the best prices!

FEB 1-MAR 31

- \$25 for single rider
- \$40 for couples/family*

APR 1-MAY 31

- \$45 for single rider
- \$60 for couples/family*

JUN 1-JUL 5

- \$55 for single rider
- \$70 for couples/family*

JUL 6-JUL 7

- \$65 for single rider
- \$80 for couples/family*

**Family consists of up to two adults and children under 16*

See you on July 7th!

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members to welcome to the Club:

Margaret Shipitalo
Dennis Ventura

Cathleen Downs McDonald

Membership



Big Sky Resort is the beating heart of the mountain. The resort boasts 5,850 acres of skiable terrain and 4,359 vertical drop spanning four different mountains. Sounds great, doesn't it? Well, when we arrived only 111 of the 317 total runs were open. We learned that "rocks are snow too" which was posted at one of the on-mountain restaurants. We did find rocks lurking under the light snow cover that Stan coined "Endangered Rock Turtles" (we all know Stan has a quick wit and a way with words) by the end of the trip the bottoms of our skis or boards looked like someone had taken a pick axe to them. However, we did wake up to 6" to 8" of new snow on Tuesday and another 3" on Wednesday but those rocks were still lurking out there but the skiing was greatly improved. Slowly new runs were opened and you could find some great pow to be shredded. The general consensus was we could have used more snow but we all seemed to enjoy the runs that were available. Many hope to return to Big Sky when more of the mountain is open so we can do all of the runs on the Ski the Sky Challenge.



Endangered Rock Turtles

We arrived at the Huntley Lodge between 4 and 4:30 PM (we had 4 large 12 person vans that picked 42 of us up at the airport). The reception party started promptly at 4:30 until 6 pm. It was at this event



the we "let the cat out of the bag" and introduced band members of the Snowdrifter Big Sky Band (This is BS). On the bass was "PB but no Jelly" who kept the budget and the lift rhythm. On tambourine was Tambourine who added the sprinkle to the parties and the Yellowstone adventure. And on the drums was the Drummer Boy who had to keep the pulse going. Unbeknownst to the Snowdrifters during the planning months leading up the Big Sky Trip, the BS Band had formed and had fun writing new tunes for the Snowdrifters BS trip so that we had an entire album of activities,



Look what I got!!

adventures and admission to the lifts. After the welcome reception many of us attended the Big Sky's 25th anniversary band concert at Montana Jacks dancing to music of The Tiny Band. The younger bucks were hammering Coor's Light at the ScissorBills Saloon until 1 AM. The first night is always a fun party night!

The following night there was an impromptu party in Frank's room where Snowdrifters shuffled in and out throughout the evening - so much for an early night.



Let me think about that???

Even Tim and Courtney Ozanne, who had moved to Bozeman three years ago, showed up. How cool is that!

The Huntley Lodge is a ski in-ski out lodge with very comfortable rooms including a full buffet breakfast. The lodge has a centrally located meeting space with a three-story stone fireplace. You always could find Snowdrifters there playing games or cards or just visiting while the fire crackled and you could feel the warmth in the air. One night a group played Euchre until 2 AM! Another night Jill brought her Wizard Card game. Four of us played and Lyla encouraged Drummer Boy to play without any fear and she inspired us to a victory.



One thing that really stood out was the number of females on this domestic ski trip. These feisty females have developed into a very close-knit group. Many skied and others hiked to the many attractions in and round the Big Sky Resort. At the end of the trip they had called themselves the Snowboarding, Hiking, Skiing Sisters or as PB but no Jelly had code named them **Sassy Sisters of the Snowdrifters!** Two of the ring leaders, Marie and Heather, were coined the energizer bunnies. They led groups all over the mountain exploring all areas to ski. Very few could keep up with them!

On Monday, Kevin, Stan, Paddy, Larry, John, Peggy, Joe and JD ventured to the Lone Peak Tram that travels to the top of Lone Mountain, providing challenging and dynamic terrain, a stunning viewpoint, and a spectacular ride. Once there some of us hadn't entered our credit card information correctly into the Big Sky system. (Let's see you try entering data on your phone when it is in the high teens and windy.) Well this was a long process and once finished Joe was so excited, he almost forgot to take off his skis before entering the loading platform.



Oh boy -- this is steep --
look at all those rocks

Now that would have been funny. Once making the short ride to the top we were greeted with a blistering cold wind. We then had to walk through a field of rocks to the starting platform. A couple of tight switch backs and then we found ourselves facing a steep and rocky chute that you had to make a fast turn and try to not ski on the rocks. This was a challenge. We all made it down one way or another and in one piece. For some of us once was enough. For Paddy, Kevin, Stan, Larry and John they had to do it a few more times.

TambourinE lead a group of 14 Snowdrifters who left the Huntley lodge at 6 AM for their Yellowstone side trip. They were treated to a daylong sightseeing adventure highlighted by the Old Faithful Geyser, Lower Geyser Basin and Firehole Canyon. Also there were lots of wildlife sightings in the prairies and valleys of our first National Park established in March 1, 1872.



Heather, Chuck, Eileen, Larry, Anne, Maureen, Dan,
Frank, Carlos, Sheri, Jeanne, & JD

Our group dinner was held on Wednesday night at Montana Jacks which is a short walk from the Huntley Lodge. We were seated in tables of eight. There was lots of lively conversation and we were treated with good food including two free drinks.



Chuck, Frank, Michelle, Greg, Tom, Dave, Anne & Larry @ Montana Jacks



Cathy, Julie, Hank & Mike @ Umbrella Bar

For a lunch break or end of day drink, the Umbrella Bar was a popular place at the base for Snowdrifters to meetup. After lunch many Snowdrifters took the Ramcharger 8 lift to the top of Andesite Mountain where Big Sky's Signature Elk Ridge Run could be found. Most Snowdrifters had never ridden up a lift in such comfort. The Ramcharger 8 and Swift Current 6 were the Cadillac

of ski lifts – full back heated seats with foot rests and a blue-sky bubble to protect us from the elements. You could see why Big Sky took such a huge jump in rankings with the money Boyne has been pouring into this northern Rockies resort.

Many Snowdrifters hiked to the Ousel Falls Trail. This is a well trafficked hike to a waterfall. It is really cool in the winter when the water is frozen. There were other outside activities in the area as well such as Nordic skiing, ice skating, dog sledding, horseback riding and snowmobiling.



Maureen, Lyla, Eileen, Jill, Jeanne & Mary @ Ousel Falls Trail

The Big Sky had limited options for dining but Scissorbills became a favorite. Many Snowdrifters could be found at this cozy sports bar watching the Bear – Packer game on Sunday or the NCAA Championship game on Monday night.

During our stay some Snowdrifters had taken the free bus shuttle to the Big Sky village for shopping and/or dining. I had heard there was one group of Drifters that stayed out until 3 AM and shared pitchers of margaritas. Think about it

– 3 AM – better them than me. We do have a Club that likes to have fun together. As a matter of fact, a member of the Thunderbird Ski Club had asked why is it that the Snowdrifters have so many young people in the Club. Well I think the obvious reason is the fun ski trips plus other off-season activities that have attracted a younger membership plus more families are signing up for these trips. Go Snowdrifters!!



Daniel Boone?



Check out the size of that picture of margarita!!
Adam, John, Greg & John

Speaking of fun check this picture out of one our early ancestors! Joe's daughter, Quinn, thought he looked like Daniel Boone 😊.

On our last night we had a pot luck happy hour. What a feast! We took over a common area with a fireplace and seating near the rooms. Everyone shared their leftover snacks and drinks. Mo and John brought down a crockpot with sloppy joes – we had a full table of



Pot Luck

snacks and drinks. Dan Dalziel gave a tribute to our friend Mark Nicholson with a toast and prayer to start the evening. Later many group shotskies were raised. Let's see, - - - we had the BS Band plus the President group, Past presidents group, the tall guys, Boor and friends, The Hopps, The girls, the future president, and- - - hmmm am I missing any??? We were enjoying ourselves so much hotel security did mention that we should quiet down a bit and asked us to call it a night at 10:00 p.m.

On Friday, we were all singing the now famous "Travel Day Blues."

Chicago had little if any weather up until Friday morning, January 12th, when a blizzard came racing through the Midwest and closed O'Hare airport for a few hours. We were all concerned that we would even get home but by the luck of the Big Sky Band, our plane leaving Chicago made it to Bozeman. We were late but we all made it safe and sound on Friday night around 11:45 PM.

The Big Sky Band would like to thank all of our Groupies for supporting us and making the Big Sky trip a platinum record event!

Keep up the beat!!

Peggy, Eileen, & Joe



The Big Sky Band



All 44 Big Sky Snowdrifters!



Some pictures of our Big Sky Groupies

Mother Nature did NOT cooperate with our planned trip to the UP. The snow necessary for this

natural ski area on Lake Superior was too slow in arriving. It was with sadness and disappointment that we had to cancel, BUT we will work to reschedule this trip for the 2025 ski season.

Many thanks to those who registered for this trip. It would have been a blast...

See you at Porcupine Mountain in 2025.

John and Mo



Val Di Fassa, Italy and Sicily

JAN. 26th to FEB. 7th, 2024

"Ci vediamo dopo alligatores!"

AIR INFORMATION:

- Air: Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) /Delta
- KL 0612 26JAN ORD/AMS 16:55 - 7:35 (27JAN)
- KL 1653 27JAN AMS/VCE 09:45 - 11:30
- AZ 1723 03FEB LIN/CTA 12:55 - 14:30
- AZ 1736 07FEB CTA/FCO 07:00 - 8:25
- DL 0067 07FEB FCO/ATL 13:50 - 19:10
- DL 1423 07FEB ATL/ORD 21:30 - 22:34

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FAMILY & FRIENDS DAY TRIP

CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RESORT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10TH 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

SKI & SNOWBOARDING

ADULT LIFT TICKETS ONLY (7 AND OLDER): \$75

ADULT LIFT, RENTAL (SKI OR SNOWBOARD RENTAL): \$105 - INCLUDES A FREE GROUP LESSON!

CHILDREN 6 AND YOUNGER LIFT TICKETS ONLY: \$20

LIFT TICKETS & RENTAL (SKI OR SNOWBOARD RENTAL): \$55

HELMETS: \$6

LESSONS: MUST BE 7 YEARS OLD TO BE IN THE GROUP LESSONS. THERE ARE CHILDREN'S LESSONS AVAILABLE ON WEEKENDS BUT THOSE ARE BOOKED SEPARATELY.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICES LISTED ABOVE

A PRIVATE ROOM TO HANGOUT, WARM UP & KEEP GEAR

LUNCH ALONG WITH SOFT DRINKS & WATER

SNACKS & TONS OF FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!!

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THIS FUN DAY, HOWEVER THEY MUST BE REGISTERED ON THE SNOWDRIFTERS WEBSITE AND COMPLETE THE LIABILITY FORMS

QUESTIONS: CONTACT MICHELLE ETHERTON AT CAREY_MICHELLE@LIVE.COM OR TEXT/CALL 630-777-8549

KATHLEEN MCGRATH AT KMQM207@GMAIL.COM OR TEXT/CALL 630-621-8364



REGISTRATION:

[HTTPS://FVSSC.WILDAPRICOT.ORG/](https://fvssc.wildapricot.org/)

CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RESORT & HOTEL
8700 W. CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN RD.
GALENA, IL 61036
[HTTPS://WWW.CHESTNUTMTN.COM/](https://www.chestnutmtn.com/)



Winter Park, CO on the Ski Train

Saturday, Feb. 24th, through
Friday, March 1st, 2024

Registration Closed

Per Person Prices:

Coach seat on Train, Air, and Lodging: \$1,195

2-person shared Roomette on Train, Air, Lodging: **SOLD OUT**

Land Only: \$870

Single Supplement at hotel \$484

3-day lift tickets \$255

4-day lift tickets \$340

These group rate lift ticket prices are below the senior rates!

And Winter Park is on the IKON Pass.

We are currently at capacity, and this near to departure, will only be able to bring someone in if someone else drops. We will issue a bulletin if this occurs.

The trip includes:

- Overnight sleeper train to Winter Park, return by air to Chicago
 - Amtrak Coach offers a fully reclining business-class size seat at a more affordable price, meals available for purchase in cafe car.
 - Return trip via Southwest Airlines WN 3315 01 MAR DEN/ORD 4:30P 8:00P
- Ground Transfers
- Five nights lodging at Vintage Hotel
- \$15 Food voucher per person

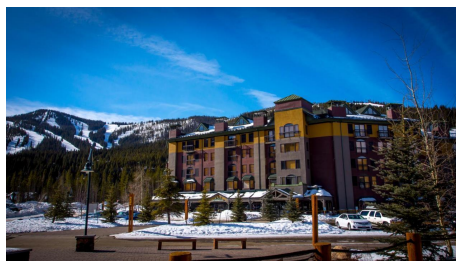
Winter Park Resort

Winter Park Resort is a year-round resort located about a ninety minute drive from Denver, CO. The mountain opened in 1940. The resort consists of three interconnected mountain peaks which share a common lift ticket. There is skiing for all abilities, from beginner to tree skiing and moguls, and it was voted “Best Ski Resort in North America” in 2018 and 2019. There are 23 lifts, and a skiable area of 3081 acres.

For nearly 70 years, a popular way for Denver residents to arrive was by the Ski Train, which arrives right at the resort’s base area. It stopped operating for a time in 2009, but it’s running again, re-started in 2017 as the Winter Park Express. For us non-Denver residents, we will board the “California Zephyr” in Naperville, which uses the same tracks as the Express out of Denver, and takes us right into Winter Park.

Lodging

The Vintage Hotel is located in the center of the Winter Park ski village. The ski resort is reached by a 5 minute ride on the free Village Cabriolet cable car. In the evenings guests can enjoy beverages at the Five Mountain Tavern, the hotel’s lounge bar. A ski storage service is provided daily and free Wi-Fi is provided in all common areas.



Note: In some cases, unexpected expenses, taxes, or charges beyond our control may be incurred on a trip. In such cases, trip prices will be adjusted accordingly.

Trip insurance is recommended for this trip but is **NOT** part of the package price. Get more details on our web page: <https://fvssc.wildapricot.org>. To order you need to know that our carriers are Amtrak and United Airlines and the travel agent is Skigroup.net.

Full Balance due**For more information, please contact the trip leader:**

Michael Shimkus, 630-447-9529,
Hank Lobbes, 630-643-5597,

mqshimkus@gmail.com
hanklobbes@outlook.com

BIG WHITE, CANADA BC

March 7th – 12th, 2024



DON'T MISS A GREAT SKI IN/OUT RESORT. BIG WHITE WAS RECENTLY NAMED SIXTH BEST RESORT IN NORTH AMERICA AND SECOND IN CANADA AFTER WHISTLER BY Condé Nast Traveler®. THE TRIP WILL BE CLOSING SOON. THERE STILL MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET ONE ROOM FOR A COUPLE OR TWO SINGLES. (A SINGLE SUPPLEMENT WOULD BE \$434 OR \$2,224.)

Prices:	Air, Land, Adult, four-day skiing	\$1,825
	Air, Land, Senior (65+), four-day skiing	\$1,790
	Land, Adult, four day skiing	\$1,475
	Air, Land only	\$1,165

The trip includes:

- Round trip air from Chicago to Kelowna, BC
- Ground transportation to the resort with a grocery stop
- Five nights lodging at Inn at Big White (ski-to-/ski-from)
 - Superior Hotel Rooms (2Q)
 - Heated outdoor pool with indoor entry
 - Three outdoor hot tubs
 - Complimentary secure overnight storage for your skis
- Four-day Adult Lift Pass
- Club Party

[Big White](#) is Canada's largest totally ski-in/ski-out resort village, located one hour from the Kelowna International Airport, has everything you would expect from a world-class resort. Spectacular scenery of the Monashee Mountains, groomed and powder runs and a state-of-the-art lift system, the resort is blessed with ideal ski and snowboard conditions, receiving over 300 inches of dry powder snow annually! Big White is the third largest resort in British Columbia, after Whistler-Blackcomb and Sun Peaks.

Big White resort was recently named the fourth best ski resort in North America – second in Canada, after Whistler – by Condé Nast Traveler®. It also ranked 10th on The Times UK's 2022 Best Ski Resorts for beginners – the only mountain in North America recognized. There is a multitude of reasons for Big White's shining accolades, with terrain for every ability, consistent champagne-powder snow coverage.

The mountain summit is 2,319 m (7,608 ft) tall with a vertical drop of 777 m (2,549 ft), serviced by 16 lifts. The mountain receives 750 cm (300 in) of annual snowfall. It has 1,119 ha (2,765 acres) of overall skiable terrain.- With 15 ha (38 acres) of night skiing, Big White has western Canada's largest resort night skiing area. It has a central village classified as a designated place by Statistics Canada, which offers accommodations, eateries, bars, and shops. The village is 1,755 m (5,758 ft) above sea level.

LODGING: INN AT BIG WHITE. The Inn at Big White features ski-to, ski-from convenience, huge outdoor heated pool, outdoor hot tub, ski lockers, galley kitchen equipped with cookware and utensils, induction cooker, microwave, coffeemaker. Waking early for first tracks will be easy with complimentary in-room tea and coffee, though if you are a keen caffeine drinker, you are covered with 24-hour service, complimented by an inhouse front desk occupied 24/7. After all, you never know when you will need a refill on your complimentary caffeine supplies or to pick the brains of the staff for those secret spots on the mountain. As the sky shifts from day to night, take up your front row seats at Cantina Del Centro for après hour and watch the sky dance with cotton-candy colors. If Mexican food is not your vibe, stroll the 2 minutes into the village and delve into the variety of bars and restaurants.

Payment Schedule:

Balance due

FLIGHTS: Alaska Airlines

AS 587 07 MAR ORD-SEA 600A 846A
AS 2517 07 MAR SEA-YLW 1200N 112P
AS 2517 12 MAR YLW-SEA 225P 333P
AS 538 12 MAR SEA-ORD 600P 1159P

Note: In some cases, unexpected expenses, taxes, or charges beyond our control may be incurred on a trip. In such cases, trip prices will be adjusted accordingly. For this Canadian trip, a passport is required and your passport expiration must be more than 6 months after our return to the USA.

Trip insurance is recommended for this trip but is **NOT** part of the package price. Get more details on our web page: <https://fvssc.wildapricot.org>

For more information, please contact the trip leader:

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Mark Green:	marksandy@sbcglobal.net	630-564-1763





Olympic Extravaganza @ Lake Placid, New York

March 19th – 24th, 2024



COST:

Land, Air, Adult Lift: \$2,075

Land, Air, Senior Lift: \$1,909

Have you been contemplating joining the Lake Placid trip?

POSSIBLY THE TRIP OF THE YEAR!

Check out all the extras - "Just for Snowdrifters!!"

This trip will give us a wonderful look at the U.S. Olympic History of not one but two Winter Olympics.

We will be able to immerse ourselves in U.S. Olympic History, experience the quaint setting of upstate New York and participate in a variety of activities.

- [Ski and snowboard](#) on the slopes of Whiteface Mountain and in the expansive Adirondack backcountry.
- [Cross-country ski](#) or [snowshoe](#) the miles of scenic trails in and around the area.
- [Ice skate](#) on the historic Olympic Oval.
- [Ice climb](#) using crampons and ice axes or watch climbers from around the region scale the frozen rocks.
- Lake Placid is home to many shops, spas, restaurants for a day of browsing and pampering



Just for Snowdrifters:

- Tour of the 1980 Arena
- Group Curling and happy hour
- Free Shuttle to the ski jump
- Olympic Museum
- Luge or bobsled - TBD

A little Olympic history - READ THIS!!

Through the early 1900s Lake Placid drew increasing attention as a world-class destination for winter sports. Then in 1920 Lake Placid secured its first globally sanctioned event – the International Outdoor Speed Skating Championships. The success of this event put Lake Placid on the winter sports map.

The Lake Placid Club also built in 1920 the area's first ski jump, located at the current Intervales site. No one could have known at that time that simple 35-meter jump would eventually become all that the Olympic Jumping Complex is today, yet in hindsight the excitement of the first jumping competition could have been seen as a signal.



Not long thereafter, the community's leadership made the remarkable happen. With the region's reputation firmly established, Lake Placid made its bid for and was chosen to host the third ever Olympic Winter Games in 1932.

The three-tiered podium was first introduced at the 1932 Lake Placid Games, and the first gold medalist to take the podium was Lake Placid's own Jack Shea, born and raised in Lake Placid, he became a hometown hero when he won gold medals in the 500- and 1500-meter speed skating races in the 1932 Olympics. He is also the father of Jim Shea (Innsbruck 1964), and grandfather of Jim Shea Jr. (Salt Lake City 2002).

After Lake Placid wins the bid in 1974 to host the 1980 Winter Games, its sports legacy took another giant leap forward. Televised around the world, the 1980 Games gave us some of the most inspiring performances and unforgettable moments in the history of winter sports.

Not only is Lake Placid known as the location for the "Miracle on Ice" where the US Hockey team beat the Russian team but also the location of Eric Heiden winning US won gold in the 500m, 1000m, 1500m, 5000m, and 10,000m speed skating events, setting four Olympic records and one world record in the process. He became the first person to win all five speed skating events and the first of only three to win five gold medals in individual events at a single Games (Summer or Winter). To this day, Heiden remains the only athlete to win five gold medals at one Winter Games. <https://lakeplacidlegacysites.com/history/>

Questions?

Contact	John	johnhgamble@icloud.com
	Maureen	mojoy@comcast.net



Snowdrifters' Calendar

Jan. 26 th – Feb. 7 th	Val Di Fassa, Italy with side trip to Sicily
Feb. 10 th	Family & Friends Day Trip Chestnut Mountain Resort
Feb. 20 th	Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM General Meeting @ 7:30 PM At Old Towne Pub in Geneva
Feb. 24 – Mar 1 st	Winter Park Amtrac Trip <u>All Aboard©</u>
March 7 – 12 th	Big White Ski Trip
March 19 – 24 th	Lake Placid Ski Trip
March 19 th	Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM General Meeting @ 7:30 PM At Old Towne Pub in Geneva

Answer; According to Oxford English Dictionary; Social Activities and entertainment following a day's skiing. **My favorite time of day!!**

Fox Valley
Snowdrifters
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