

The Flakey News

Publication of the Fox Valley Snowdrifters

March, 2022



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Snowdrifters!

It's been a great ski season so far. Despite a few injuries, we have had some incredible trips this year to Ogden, Utah; Zermatt, Switzerland and Banff, Canada. And it's not just skiers enjoying the snow. We have many folks that have been hiking, dogsledding, and sightseeing among other activities. Plus, we have a couple more trips coming up to Sun Valley, Idaho and Ski Brule in the U.P. It's pretty amazing to think of all the wonderful things the club provides in addition to ski trips — dinners, bike outings, hikes and, don't forget, the parties.

Those things don't happen without a lot of dedicated folks working behind and in front of the scenes. From our social chair to our trip leaders and our officers and board, these are the folks that make the good times possible. Now, it's your turn to help make the magic happen. I don't want to sound like a broken record, but your Club needs you. We need someone or two someones to step up and take on the role of social chair. Please, if you are at all looking to give back to the Club, talk to Maureen Joy about the role or see one of our board members to volunteer to be our social chair.

There are other ways to help out too. We always need trip leaders and assistant trip leaders. We seem to have many of the same folks putting in their time year after year to make our trips so successful. When we start our trip search for next year (very soon), I would genuinely like to see some of you volunteer for the first time to be a trip leader or assistant trip leader. It would be so great to see some new faces with fresh ideas. The more of us that get involved in the planning and the doing, the better our Club will be.

Greg Olson

President

"La Fhelle Padraig sona daoibh!"



Membership

New Members:
Khanuja Gulshan
York Chan

It is with deep sadness that we share with you the passing of fellow Snowdrifter, Eric McEachern. Eric McEachern passed away unexpectedly at his home on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. Eric is the son of Joan McEachern. Like Joan, he was an accomplished skier. Our deepest condolences to the entire McEachern family. Eric's obituary can be found at:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kendallcountynow/name/eric-mceachern-obituary?id=32697974>

The Treasurer's "two cents . . ."

Hi fellow Snowdrifters!

Regular membership dues will be \$30 for next year which starts May 1st. If you'd like to score a discount – pay your dues before May 1st and take a \$5 deduction! Regular dues are \$30 beginning May 1st. Reminders will be sent out around April 1st. Be sure to take advantage of the discount by entering the code EARLYBIRD when you pay online by April 30th. If you'd like to pay by check, take advantage of the discount by paying at the April meeting or mailing your check on or before April 30th to:

Snowdrifters Ski Club
Attention Membership
PO Box 697
Batavia, IL 60510

Many members have trip credit. If you would like to use your trip credit for membership dues, please send an email to me at peggycourser@comcast.net. Please email before May 1st to take advantage of the early bird discount.

Thank you and happy skiing!

Peggy Courser

S😊CIAL

We are looking for someone to be the new Social Chair Person. This is a fun position where you can delegate social activities during the year to other Snowdrifters. Activities include Trip Kick Off Party, End of Year Party, Golf Scramble, Bike Ride, etc. Please let Maureen Joy or Greg Olson know if you are interested.

Zermatt & Majorca Trip Report

January 21 - February 2, 2022

First of all, I want to thank our assistant Trip Leaders, Kandy Klein and Peggy Schmidt, for all the help they provided us while in Zermatt and Majorca - it was very much appreciated. Also, thanks to the great group of Snowdrifters that made the trip a winner in spite of all the trials and tribulations that we all went through with preparing entry and COVID forms.



Zermatt – Jewel of the Swiss Alps. Home of the Matterhorn - that ruggedly beautiful mountain that was our majestic backdrop. It was showing its distinguished peak from just about anywhere you were in and around town. Thirty-nine jovial Snowdrifters arrived at O'Hare Airport Saturday afternoon (1/21/22) for the transatlantic flight to Frankfurt with a connection to Milan and a coach ride to Tasch. The only way to get to Zermatt is via a train from Tasch and it only took around 15 minutes. Notably absent and very disappointed were Joe Hopp and Maureen Joy who tested positive and were unable to join us on the trip. We all missed their company throughout the trip.

After a full exhausting day of travel, we arrived in Zermatt and called our hotel to pick up our luggage and took the short 5–7-minute walk from the train station to our Hotel Perren. The hotel rooms were nice, exceptionally clean and comfortable. Our stay included daily breakfast and dinner with lots to eat at breakfast including scrambled/boiled eggs and choice of one meat - either sausage or bacon depending on the day, a large array of cheeses, cold meats, fruit, breads, juice, cereals, pastries, etc. The 4 course evening meals were exceedingly gastronomic, not heavy at all, and comprising of an interesting starter, a soup course, fancy main course and an innovative dessert.



On the first night at dinner, Tim Briggs had a surprise keepsake for Frank - a bamboo toilet plunger for all the s--t he went through in administering the trip. That brought a good laugh from everyone. At Peggy's request one night, we had a traditional Swiss Fondue for dinner which was a treat! There was also a cozy hotel bar and an après ski



bar in the courtyard which we all enjoyed, although the drinks were a little pricey. The hotel had a pleasant spa that some of us used on occasion.

Zermatt is full of mad electric vehicles buzzing around and in a particularly crazy fashion at the beginning and end of the skiing day. I think the drivers like to get within an inch of any nearby pedestrians as they whizz by. The free buses are also electric and there was usually one after a 5-minute wait at any of the stops. Zermatt is very pleasant indeed - reasonable size with lots going on. If you want a Rolex or \$1,200 ski jacket, then this is the place for you! For the chocolate lovers in the group, the chocolate shops had the most wonderful, different types of candy. A

section of Zermatt had a lovely narrow street bounded by 16th and 17th timber buildings. All in all, a very nice place to wander through after a day of skiing.

We used Flexrent for ski hire. The equipment was top notch, very friendly people and had an added bonus of being able to leave our skis and boots in the shop overnight. Therefore, only a short walk to the bus stop or Sunnegga lift from the shop. Some of us also took advantage of the ski room at the hotel to store their gear. The resort was not as easy to navigate around and it can take a long time to actually start



skiing in the morning if you are heading high. However, the lifts were generally quick and we encountered minimal queues. For ski lifts/resort layout, there are three distinct areas – Sunnegga/Rothorn, Riffelberg/Gornergrat and Schwarzsee/Matterhorn Glacier. The Sunnegga funicular was few minutes walk from our hotel and was never busy. This is a quick ascent up to 2,288m. From there it is a quick chair up to Blauherd at 2,571m and then up again on a cable car to Rothorn at 3,103m. No real queueing required at any of these. In addition, there are 3 or 4 lifts down into the valley either side of the main lifts. Also, there was a cable car up to Hohtalli at



3,286m which was the main access point to some runs. The Riffelberg/Gornergrat area could be accessed via a chair and a bubble from the Sunnegga side or via the train. The train is a very pleasant way to get up the mountain although it is about 40 minutes to get to the top at 3,089m. There are 5 or 6 drop off points on the way. The train also offered non-skiers a means to get to see wonderful vistas and eat or drink near or at the top of the ski areas. Schwarzsee/Matterhorn is the third main area and accessed by what must be one of the longest gondola bubbles anywhere in the world.

The bubble goes from town level up to 2,929m although there are two stations where you can get on or off. From the top of the bubble, the main cable car up to the glacier at 3,883m can be accessed. From here it is possible to ski down into Cervinia. Even though it did not snow the week we were there, the snow conditions were reasonably consistent and the coverage was plenty for most areas. Most of the skiing is above the tree line and I imagine in bad weather it can be very cold and windy.



On our first day of skiing, we had an unfortunate accident. Michelle Etherton took a fall and fractured her ankle. The injury resulted in two surgeries and a nine day stay in the hospital. To cheer Michelle up, we had a nightly performance with the Snowflakes (girls) and the Snowballs (boys) singing (although a little pitchy) their original (and plagiarized) song lyrics. Dan Danziel was the MC and video

recorder assisted by Peggy, Kandy and Chris. *Check out the Snowdrifters Facebook page to see the Grammy worthy performances!* I am sure that with all the great entertainment we provided to Michelle nightly, it was an incentive for her to get well as fast as she could so she could join the Snowflakes and not hear the Snowballs.



On the mountain, food and drinks were expensive just like everywhere else in Zermatt. All of the food we sampled was very tasty and there were plenty of mountain restaurants so quite easy to plan stops. The views from some of the restaurants are spectacular. Some of us travelled over to Italy from Zermatt and skied all the way down to Cervina which required a surcharge to the lift ticket. On one of the last days of skiing, Bob Muzzarelli took a fall and injured his calf and had to be evacuated off the mountain. The injury slowed down Bob for a few days but he was back to himself in Majorca.



Prior to our trip to Majorca, we had to take a rapid COVID test and we all were happy to receive negative results. After an early morning departure from our hotel on Saturday with breakfast bags in hand, we took the 6:30 a.m. train from Zermatt to Tasch and a bus ride to Zurich for our flight to Majorca. We had to say goodbye to Sandy Etherton since he was going to the hospital to keep Michelle company. We planned to meet both Michelle and Sandy on our return flight home from Zurich.



Upon, our arrival in Majorca's airport, we were checked for our Spain health entry forms and proof of vaccinations and were welcomed by the island's warm sunny weather. While in Majorca, we stayed at the Puro Hotel in the center of old town Parma. The hotel greeted us with unlimited bubbly Cava and orange juice which we all indulged in the hotel's courtyard. The Puro hotel is something unique,

all the rooms are different and it supplies an oasis of tranquility in the middle of old town Parma. Our daily breakfast was served on a wooden board with jam, ham, cereals, eggs (fried eggs, omelet, scrambled eggs), fruits, different kinds of cheese and warm bread and croissants. While in Majorca, Kandy arranged for the group to take a guided bus tour of the northern part of the island. The trip passed through the spectacular Tramuntana mountain range, with almond trees in bloom and oranges ready to be picked. We were given a bit of time to explore in La Calobra and Port de Soller and the most gorgeous village, Valldemosa. While in Valldemosa, we stopped at a café to have "taza de chocolate caliente" a real hot chocolate drink served with a sweet bun. Divine!



For the rest of the time in Majorca, some of us took advantage of the "Hop On - Hop Off" bus tour of Parma sights. Many of us also visited the massive Santa Maria cathedral, a Gothic landmark begun in the 13th century and the hilltop Bellver Castle, a medieval fortress with a distinctive circular shape. As far as for dinner, we enjoyed the Spanish food, especially the tapas and the welcome relief to our pocketbook for drinks compared to Switzerland.



On Tuesday, we had to leave the beautiful island of Majorca for our one-night stay in Barcelona. On arrival, we were informed that Chris Salisbury had a positive COVID test and had to be quarantined at the hotel. (Chris escaped the hotel some 5 days later and made it to home). Some in the group Ubered it to see the **La Sagrada Familia** which is one of Gaudí's most famous works in Barcelona. It's

a giant Basilica that has been under construction since 1882 and it's not expected to be completed for some time yet. Others enjoyed their "last supper" in Spain with conversations and drinks reminiscing about the great times we had over the last 11 days in Zermatt and Majorca.

Unfortunately, we had to leave the sunny weather of Spain for our flight home and we were happy to see Michelle and Sandy waiting for us in Zurich for our flight back to Chicago. Arriving in Chicago, it was time to say goodbye to our out-of-town travelers, Tim and Peggy, Tom and Denise, Marie and Curt, and Diane and Stuart. At the baggage claim, we encountered a little luggage snafu - someone took Leo Ahasic's bag by mistake and he had to fill out a lost luggage claim (2nd time for Leo losing a bag) which delayed us. Our bus for our ride to the fairground was waiting for us and when we arrived there, we found our cars loaded with snow that took some effort and time to clean off.

Our Zermatt and Majorca trip will be remembered for a long time! I would like to thank all of you who made this trip a success, and once again for all the help provided by **Kandy and Peggy**. I hope everyone enjoyed the trip, and we can arrange another European ski holiday in 2023. Finally, we all wish Michelle a speedy recovery.



Frank



Photo taken by Tim O'Brien.
Note the trees and stone building that provide interest with the Matterhorn in the distance.



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

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

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.

An online waiver must be completed here:

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

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, 630.846.9647

Assistant: John Gamble John@johngamble.net, 630.761.9550



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

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
Bob Hoffman: bobski48@comcast.net

RECIPE

Kate's Turkey Meatloaf

I know first-hand this is really, really good!

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. of extra lean ground turkey meat
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons of Italian Seasoning
- 1 jar of Raos Marinara Sauce
- 1 package of shredded low moisture mozzarella cheese
- ½ - ¾ cup of Italian Seasoned Breadcrumbs
- ½ cup of sliced black olives

Combine turkey, egg, Italian Seasoning, ½ jar of Raos Marinara Sauce (save the other ½), breadcrumbs and olives in a large mixing bowl. If the mixture seems too soft, add more breadcrumbs. The mixture should not be too wet or too thick. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Take ½ of the meat mixture and press it onto the parchment paper into an oval shape (about ¼ inch in thickness). Pour the mozzarella cheese into the center of the oval. Leave space around the edge in order to seal the meat later on. Take the remainder of the meat mixture and place it onto the mozzarella. Press the meat into an oval (about ¼ inch thick) and seal the edges of the top oval and bottom oval. The mozzarella cheese should not be visible. Pour the remainder of the marinara sauce over the meatloaf and spread with a back of a spoon. Bake in the oven uncovered for 1 hour at 375 degrees. Makes about 4 servings.

Bon appetit!

Snowdrifters' Calendar

03/10/22 - Ski Brule ski trip

03/15/22 - Board and General Meeting

03/20/22 - Sun Valley ski trip

[Fox Valley Snowdrifters](#)
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[Batavia, IL 60510](#)