

## HSC Sun Valley Idaho Trip Report

Trip Leader: Anne Webb

Jan. 27 – Feb. 3, 2018



This was yet another a spectacular trip with Harford Ski Club! The week provided plenty of blue sky skiing, fairly warm temperatures, lots of smiling faces, no major storms and no injuries or emergencies! Snow conditions were not good in the West so far this year, but Sun Valley turned out to be a great choice thanks to the expansive snow making capabilities. We ran into several folks who drove to Sun Valley from other resorts who had very little skiing available. Although we did see several brown slopes and others with more grass and trees than white, we still found plenty of challenging skiing with good cover. We left with a greater appreciation for manmade snow. And most of us want to go back to ski all the terrain we missed this time around. Read on for some insights and many tales of our fantastic week!

### Flights

We flew with Southwest with connections in Las Vegas going out and Denver coming back. Overall we had no delays or incidents other than 1 lost bag. It was delivered at 3 AM Sunday morning, I'm sure with mixed reactions! We lucked out coming back as we found out that the group check-in at Southwest cannot be accomplished with a Smart Phone! We were able to contact Southwest by phone to do our check-in, but well after the 24 hour pre-check start. Turned out there were 90 empty seats on the plane, so some of us had a whole row to ourselves flying home from Denver.

### Lodging

We stayed in 2 bedroom, 2 bath condos in Christophe and Bridgepoint complexes. The condos were very clean, spacious and well equipped. Everyone was very happy with their units. They were advertised as being within 200 yards walking distance to lifts, but none of us attempted this in ski boots! Instead we used the free shuttles, which the Red line picked up in front of the Christophe building every 30 minutes. Some of us also made use of the Silver line which ran every 15 minutes and pickup was 1 block from the Christophe.

### The main event: Baldy Mountain

Despite only having 85 out of 120 runs open during our stay we all found plenty to ski and keep things interesting. One thing everyone noticed is how blue the green runs were! There were not really any

beginners skiing on Baldy. Some of our favorite runs were the green runs at Seattle Ridge: Gretchen's Gold, Christin's Silver and Muffy's Medals. There we found half groomed and half moguled runs. It took us some time to finally find the little Adventure trail called Red Headed Woodpecker. So despite conditions we did get in some tree skiing! And taking Christmas Ridge to get over to Seattle was adventurous in that each day someone took a spill at the top and slid down the best part of the run. Thanks to myself, Sandy and Kelly for taking our turns so the rest of the group was spared! After skiing those runs while enjoying the late morning sunshine we had lunch at the Seattle Lodge several days. On our last glorious day, with sunshine and temps in the low 40s, we ate outside and some of us were entertained by the foursome of Pat, Sandy, Kelly and Lee doing Karaoke and dancing to 'My Girl'.



After lunch we normally took the Mayday lift to get the warm, sunny breathtaking view from 9150 feet at the top of Baldy and descend down Sigi's, Katlyn's or Lefty Bowls. Despite the low base amounts the bowls had plenty of good cover to enjoy the bowl skiing, to me the main reason for skiing out West. We even found some fresh untracked spots thanks to some overnight winds.



The Limelight trail was one of the long black runs that we enjoyed later in the week, along with Picabo's Street. And who can forget the fun last run of the day down Mid River Run, with the natural halfpipe-like terrain.

### [Ketchum and Sun Valley Lodge](#)

Many of us walked to Ketchum and back several times during the week. It was a mostly flat 10-15 minute walk, and the shuttle service was used as well. Ketchum had a fair amount of shops and some took the opportunity to buy some new equipment or whole new ski outfits! Many folks took advantage of shopping on their day off from skiing as most shops closed by 5 PM. There were many scrumptious restaurants to choose from in Ketchum including Rico's, where we had our group dinner, the Pioneer Inn and the Sawtooth Club. Trout and Idaho baked potatoes were available almost anywhere and were locally supplied and absolutely melted in your mouth. Several of us brought home some fresh Idaho potatoes, and I can testify that those at home couldn't believe the difference in the taste! Everyone enjoyed the authentic Italian food at the group dinner at Rico's! A fun time was had by all.



The Shuttle service was also available to Sun Valley lodge. It was definitely worth the trip over to check out the infamous lodge with the few of the outdoor ice skating rink and the many pictures of the rich and famous who had visited over the 80+ years Sun Valley has operated. Lucille Ball, Marilyn Monroe, Katherine Hepburn, Ernest Hemingway, JFK and family, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Silvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, and even Warren Miller were on display to name just a few. Some ventured a little further from town to the Ketchum Cemetery to visit the grave of Ernest Hemingway.



Sandy, Kelly, Anne, Joe and Gary took a day trip thru Galena Pass over to the huge town of Stanley, with population of 63. We surmised that someone had a baby since John was there a few years back and the population was 62. On the way out of town we saw the highlight of the day – 5 majestic Elk nestled in on the hill next to the road, and then the coyote who was coming down for an afternoon drink at the stream.



Steve and Diane Landry took an epic side trip to Yellowstone Park. They drove 4.5 hours each way from Sun Valley and did 2-day snow coach tours of the Park. Diane proclaimed the trip as the 'Best Birthday Ever'.

### Let the fun times roll

No ski trip is without the fun stories that will be forever embedded in our memories! The trip started out very exciting for Anne who was stunned to find one of her suitcases missing just 15 minutes after arriving at the airport! And Dianne was so worried for poor Anne that she suddenly realized she was babysitting Anne's suitcase! All I can say is I kept an eye on Diane and my carryon suitcase during our layover at Las Vegas and my grocery cart at the grocery stop!

Then there was Pat who lived up to her legendary stunt of getting her leg brace on just right over her long johns and got her boots all fastened up perfectly, only to relax after the struggle and realize she failed to put on her ski pants first. Personally I think she should try skiing that way once; she might like it. Can't knock it until you try, right?

Pat, Lee, Kelly, Joe, Sandy and John ran into a woman at an Apres ski bar, who evidently wasn't in a typical Apres ski mood, and proceeded to 'shush' them! Can you imagine? Although there were around 100 people in there the woman seemed to think that Pat and Lee were making all the noise! Kudos to the employee who told them to stay as long as they liked, make as much noise as they wanted and to laugh as loudly as they wanted.

John had a shock when he realized his evil twin was skiing with us and not only had the same taste in rental skis but also the same boot size as himself. Luckily he took off the evil twin's skis and put on his own rental skis before we swished away from the lodge.

On Wednesday morning we went straight down Roundhouse Slope and onto Olympic and somehow found ourselves in Vermont! At least the ice seemed very familiar to all of us. And shortly thereafter Ernie thought he was still in Vermont but realized it was just that he had left the barn door open.

Bobby didn't miss a beat at our group dinner, when the waitress came around asking what everyone had ordered for their entrée and immediately replied "the filet". Of course that was not one of our choices.

And of course there was the bachelorette party that took place at the Bridgepoint hot tub. Might have had something to do with the Super moon and the lunar eclipse that occurred during the week. But I'll respect the unwritten rule of what happens in Ketchum stays in Ketchum. If you really want the details you'll have to ask Steve.

Until next time.....

