

Trip Report Big Sky 2018

Wednesday January 31

The A320 backed away from the gate with 20 of the original 23 in their seats. Shirley and Pat got off 5 minutes before the door closed due to a family emergency. Karen H was at home with a bad case of stomach flu. We arrived in Bozeman on time and soon we were grocery shopping at Albertsons, while Garrett ate a huge sub sandwich. 45 minutes later we were back on the road and soon we were at Big Sky. We unloaded the bus at the Summit hotel where a fleet of black Suburban's appeared and took us up to our condos. Dick L. who had driven up from Copper met his condo mates at M4 after enjoying a beverage at Moonlight Lodge. At 6:00 pm Josh from Big Sky resort showed up at Condo B5 with pizzas and beverages for everyone. We had rookie initiation for Paul T. Dick L. Peter H. and Sam L. We had them talk about their skiing experience and why they chose the Big Sky trip. By 8:00 everyone had returned to their condos with all their questions answered by Josh and their appetites satisfied to prepare for the first day of skiing.

Thursday February 1

We woke to a light dusting of 1 to 2 inches of fresh snow. The lifts open at 9 and almost everyone was out at that time, I won't mention that Garrett was supposed to pick up Gary at 8:45 and didn't come out until about 9:30. Needless to say Gary didn't wait. Rumer has it that Garrett was talking to his girlfriend. Garrett, just bring her next time!!! Mike and Sally headed to the top of Lone Peak their first run, braving the high winds they dropped down into Liberty bowl and ripped up the runs like seasoned veterans. Felix L, Sam L, Ben B, and Chris S stayed in the shadow of Moonlight doing some pow tree skiing. They later met up with Laura and Mark P and skied Double and Single Jack runs. Others were seen doing laps on some of Moonlights famed blue cruisers.

Friday February 2

We woke to a light dusting of 2 inches of snow. The groundhog did not see his shadow this morning so it was the first day of spring at Big Sky. The temperature warmed up over the first day and the skiing in the afternoon on the Big Sky side was spring like in the afternoon after the sun had come out. Paul T and Rick H went over to the Spanish Peaks area which is the old Yellowstone Club to look at 10,000 sq ft houses. Jonas was seen getting on the Lone Tree quad while muttering " I can't stand groomed runs". Karen H had recovered from the flu and arrived in Big Sky on the 3:00pm stagecoach from Bozeman. After skiing it was back to Condo B5 for a little HH with cheese and crackers, pork sliders and assorted beverages.

Saturday February 3

We woke to a light dusting of 2 inches of snow. 13 hardy souls were up before dawn and were picked up at the condos for a day trip into Yellowstone. Steve S. signed on to take Shirley's spot so we had a full vehicle. Rich P. who was battling a sinus issue and hadn't skied yet made the trip despite not being

100%. Sally was worried about the windows fogging up but that wasn't an issue. Dick T was spotted taking pictures of bison and elk using a camera that uses something called film. Gary H was seen taking pictures of Rick H petting a buffalo. The group traveled 69 miles in the park on a snow coach with skis in front and tracks on the rear drive axle. The group made many stops along the way to view mud pots, geysers, wildlife, rivers and Garrett eating a huge sandwich. At noon we were dropped off at Old Faithful where the visitor center was open (the government wasn't shut down that day) where we could watch some short movies and wait for Old Faithful to erupt. It was scheduled to go off at 12:37 and at 12:36 it began its show. After leaving upper geyser basin we made our way back West Yellowstone where a van and a Suburban were waiting to take us back to Moonlight.

Sunday February 4

We woke to a light dusting of 2 inches of snow. This day we actually saw other people on the mountain. We even had a couple minute wait at the bottom of Six Shooter in the afternoon. We skied and we skied all day long. Dick L. Glen C. Herb B. and Ken G. were spotted on the Six Shooter. At 4:30 everyone returned to condo B5 and we turned on a sporting event being held in downtown Minneapolis. We enjoyed cheese, crackers and meatballs left over from the pretrip. After the pretrip the leftover meatballs were hermetically sealed, frozen and transported to Big Sky in my ski bag along with an assortment of pork tenderloins, ham, turkey sausage and chicken jerky. Thank you Delta!!!. At 5:15 the spinach salads and pizzas arrived. Everyone who ate their salad thought it was good and the pizza was also delicious. It's amazing what a day on the slopes can do for the appetite. After halftime people started filtering out but the 10 or so that stayed for the entire game were on the edges of their seats right up to the end.

Monday February 5

We woke to a light dusting of 3 to 4 inches. Our last day, let's make the most of it. It's Monday in Montana in the middle of nowhere. It took 3 runs before we saw a total of a dozen other skiers. Steve S. Garrett M. Felix L., Gary, Mike and Sally skied the south face. Steve didn't show at the bottom. Felix was concerned so he had the ski patrol do a sweep of the glade. Turned out Steve was safe and sound back at his condo. After skiing we descended on condo J3 where we had leftovers that everyone brought. We had enough left over food to feed 3/4 of Zimbabwe and Garrett.

Tuesday February 6

We woke to another light dusting. I had told everyone to have their bags out at 8:30 and that we would load the bus at 10:00. At 9:30 the bags were still there and we hadn't seen a black Suburban. My phone was ringing constantly. Did they forget about us was the question. Relax I said, things are going to start happening fast. And they did, by 10:15 we were all loaded and were backing away from the Summit Hotel. We arrived at the airport in plenty of time to catch our flight back to Minneapolis. No injuries on this trip and that's a good thing.

Rick Heine and Felix Lin Trip Leaders

