

2019 Sun Peaks BC Canada 3M Ski Club Trip Report – “Dodging the Polar Vortex”

January 27 – February 2, 2019

Luck was with us on this trip! It was a cold and early start off to Sun Peaks. The temperature at 3:45 am measured -10 F. Little did we know it was going to get much colder in Minneapolis. We departed just before the temps plummeted into record breaking below zero temperatures closing schools, businesses, ski areas and even the post office! All trip participants were at check in well before the recommended 4:45am making checking in a breeze. Most people spent the time between check in and boarding at the gate, others went for a walk up and down the concourse. Many of us had to do a double take when we saw Jeff sporting a Grizzly Adams beard, Jeff is that really you? Before the boarding process, the 3M Ski Club got a shout out from the gate staff.

After arriving in Kelowna, we picked up our luggage (all was there, nothing was lost or delayed) we were met by Ross, Angela and Glenn who had arrived in Kelowna a day before. Thanks to them, we were provided with snacks and beverages for the bus ride.

At the Crystal Forest Condos we were met by a highly organized group of resort employees who helped unloading and distributing all luggage to the condos.

For our opening night reception at the Cahilty Hotel, Nancy Greene was so kind to join us and share her story as an Olympian gold medalist and the history of the Sun Peaks community and mountain resort! It was fun to listen to her stories and her analogy on why Sun Peaks schools should have 4 longer school days vs 5 shorter days...so the kids can ski on Friday! Sun Peaks Fun Fact: The school is located on the ski hill so, they take the lift to school and ski down after school. How awesome is it, to be a kid in Sun Peaks?

We started off on Monday morning and by noon a few voices were heard saying “It’s like skiing in Minnesota, just bigger and longer” which sadly wasn’t too far from the truth. The winter so far had been below average, and the area had not seen fresh snow in the past two weeks. Though there was enough snow to have all runs open and lifts operating. Most people took the opportunity to explore the ski area with different skilled mountain hosts.

Karen had conveniently positioned herself to ride up the lift with a hot snowboard instructor. The desired conversation between the two did not happen as Ross jumped in between them. She held it together all the way to the top of the mountain until ... “Seriously Ross???” ... and giving him the mitten. After skiing for a half day, Sue’s lift ticket tore off, luckily, she kept the receipt ... in her condo, so she had to walk back to retrieve it. Moral of the story... Keep Your Receipt with You!

That night, we had a FUN Happy Hour hosted by Ross, Angela, Ben B., Ben G. and Perry! We had lots of great food, wine, beer, laughs and ski talk. The happy “hour” lasted until the early morning hours.

On Tuesday, about 20 of us took the opportunity to ski with Nancy Greene. Due to the large interest to ski with Nancy, the 3M Ski Club group was quickly dismissed, only to be invited to a private tour at later that day.

After the first two days without any new snow, we had our first “powder day” and skiers enjoyed the almost 2” (and yes, 2” is stretching it) of fresh snow on the slopes. For the remainder of the week, Jason and Stubbs were required to re-learn running a condo household as Felix ditched them for an open room in Carolyn’s condo. There he got to enjoy a fully loaded refrigerator... let me rephrase this... the entire club got to enjoy a fully loaded refrigerator as the food was distributed to other condos and what’s left was allocated to the garbage night. Thanks Rachel and Garrett!

Our group dinner at the Steakhouse was amazing! Kudos to Ben B. for putting it all together! The service, the dinner and the wine were all outstanding! The group picture after the dinner is reflective of all the fun we had! Big smiles and hugs by all! (except Mike B. who is in the witness protection program so can’t be in the pictures - KIDDING!) He was smiling though...we saw it! Herb rated very special with picture taken featuring him and all the women. The night was young and not to be over yet. Karen, Lorrie and the Franey’s hosted a late-night happy hours...yes, more than one hour, in their

condo which was lot of fun too! We had fun with a sign that was appropriate for snowboarders not so much for skiers it read "Snowboarders Proudly Annoying Skiers"

Soo much fun, that Shelly and Joanne came back to ask for directions back to their condo. All condos had back doors, and front doors, some on different levels and it got really confusing after a long day of skiing and having fun.

Our rookie Chris reached a milestone as he skied down his first ever green run after his only 3rd day on skis. He made it all the way down the 5 Mile run, into the village where he and Joanne celebrated with a beer. After a happy hour at Masa's Bar in the Village, a group of 7 (Mari, Shelly, Sue, Mark & Laura and Ross & Angela), took the lift up for a fondue dinner on the mountain. After a delightful meal, Ski resort employees equipped with torches, guided the participants down the freshly groomed 5 Mile Run.

Other lucky ones were invited to the Franey's condo for an outstanding spaghetti dinner with great appetizers, beer wine and dessert.

Our last day of skiing was a treat. We got to enjoy another powder day with new snow, but foggy at the top. To Mari, Shelly and Sue going up the Crystal Lift felt like approaching the pearly gates of heaven.

We started off our garbage night with way too much food, almost not enough beer and wine. 😊

The trips two Rookies competed during our Hockey night in Canada – 5 Goal Shootout that was held in the condo's courtyard. While altering the rules with every shot at the goal, Chris scored an impressive two and Perry scored three to take the win. In order to balance the increasing difficulty, a little aiming fluid was required. The Halftime show consisted of two Canadian retrievers showing up and stealing the puck. Everyone helped to chase the dogs and after a short break, the puck was repossessed to continue the game. Back in the warming hut, we celebrated both rookies by presenting them with a personal trophy. Chris ended up on injury reserve due to a cold, so Joanne received a Sun Peaks beer mug and Perry the Sun Peaks coffee cup. The party went on until the early morning hours.

Having so much fun on and off the slopes, made it hard to leave. To Ben's German excitement, everyone was out bright and early to load the bus and we departed approx. 7 minutes and 35 seconds early, giving us just enough time for our ride to the airport. After checking in, two of our group were picked out for "random" special security check. Interesting that both were redheads. What's up with that Canada?

While waiting for our flight to arrive, the weather forecast for Sun Peaks predicted a drop of temperature to -0 degrees for the following week, while in Minneapolis the temperatures were set to reach +39 for our arrival! Whew! Dodged it again!

What a great trip! Great location and a great group of people! Thanks to all who let us invade their condo for all the group gatherings and fun.

Your trip leaders - Sue & Ben

