



A letter from Dick Marx, Skiwi President:

It's been another great year for the Skiwis. There have been ski trips to Blue Mountain Ontario, Park City Utah, and Morzine France, weekend ski trips up north, and many social events.

We've added a new Skiwi Meetup, and as of this writing it has 442 members. I'd like to encourage our new Meetup members to come out for some activities. We are first and foremost a ski club, with several fun trips every winter. They are a good way to ski with people of your ability and enjoy the extracurricular activities that make ski trips fun. With so many new, and mostly younger, Meetup members, if there is a desire for more local and up North events (shorter and less expensive), come to a monthly meeting and talk to John Mascarello, our Ski Committee Chairman. We're open to new ideas that will broaden our membership, and help more people have fun skiing and social experiences. If you haven't participated in a Skiwi event yet, try us out! Bring your friends; we want to grow our group to include even more great active people!

We had too many events this summer and winter to include them all in the newsletter. Yes, I know we should have more newsletters.

Here are some more of the fun events we have had recently, that didn't make this newsletter:



We had Euchre in November and January with the GM ski club.

We had 5 bike ride meet ups and 2 concert meet ups.

Jenny hosted a night of dancing at the Rochester Brewery.

A fantastic Christmas dinner dance.

Go Wild at the Zoo Christmas light festival.

Mystery Haunted House.

Each month we have had a Steak Out – first Saturday of the month. Great event which supports the charities of the Warren VFW Hall.

Tavern Night each month at a different watering hole around town.

We are a busy group!

I hope to see you soon at a Skiwi event!

Dick Marx



Sun Peek-A-Boo, British Columbia – March 4 – 11, 2017

An unusually small group of Skiwi's (in number, not in height), ventured out to Sun Peaks, British Columbia the week of March 4-11, 2017. A typical trip usually has around 32 people but this trip only had 22 participants. This was not due to lack of want, but rather lack of air seats – darn small planes into Toronto! The trip sold out early and had a lot of people interested if any spots were to be added or if anyone would drop out.



While there were a couple of people who had to drop, it turns out those who remained made a great choice because we happened to pick a week of “epic” snow! The resort had experienced a bit of a dry spell in regard to snow for a few weeks before the trip, but the snow started coming the day before we arrived and we were soon to find it would not stop until we left! (update: The snow kept coming all spring season!)

The flight out was typical with no problems and smooth sailing. We arrived in Kelowna and met our bus, then headed out for a nice scenic 3-hour bus ride to Sun Peaks. As we made our way through Kamloops -- the last real town before the resort -- we were a little concerned that the surrounding landscape did not have much snow. About a half hour from the resort we began seeing fresh snow on the trees in the forest which was a good sign.

We arrived, unloaded, checked-in and then went down for an orientation with Canadian Olympian, Nancy Greene. It was nice hearing Nancy speak and she commented that we had just missed an epic day of skiing with 6” of fresh powder and blue skies. Not to worry though as we soon found out.

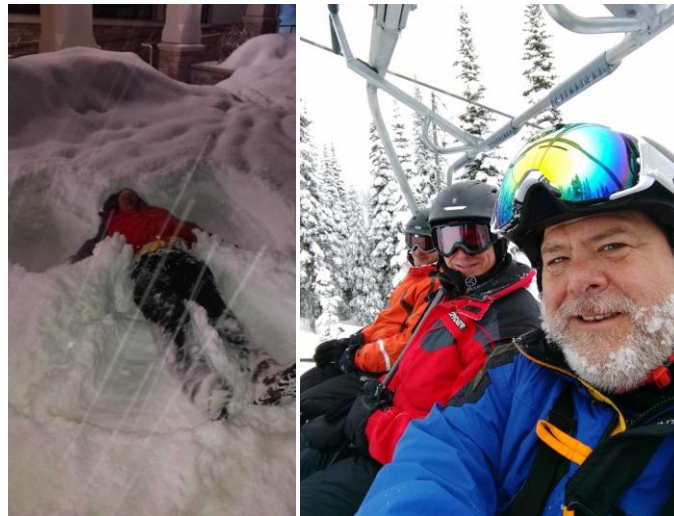


Sunday morning, most everyone on the trip met the ski hosts at 9am for a tour of the mountain and to get some tips about the resort. It was already snowing and had been for a while. A large group of us were in the ‘advanced’ group and headed right into some black diamond runs. As we made our way around the mountain with our host Thomas and his Father Doug, the snow kept coming down! A few of us crashed a bit on the tour, Mike G. met a tree! After the tour, some stopped for lunch. I headed back to the hotel to swap out my eye gear -- had worn the wrong gear for a snowy day, so I had to put on the goggles!

After skiing, the usual routine is to hit the hot tub and enjoy some adult beverages. Some of us did that, but found out the small outdoor tub can get pretty crowded with the first wave of tubers, so an alternate plan of hitting the Cahilty Creek Bar for happy hour before the hot tub soon became the order of the day. The bar had a “\$5.55” special menu each night, the wings and the pulled pork tostada stacks seemed to be the best



value for the money, but everything on the menu was delicious. The other big tip was that it is better to buy a pitcher -- or "jug" as they call it -- because for the price of 3 beers you end up getting one free! (maybe even two, if you pour it that way!) John M. provided music at the hot tub when we did go down there, so it was very festive.



Monday was a mostly sunny day with some fresh snow and tons of fun! The "Velocity Challenge & FIS Speed Ski World Cup" ski event was being held the week we were there, so we got to watch a bunch of cone headed skiers zoom down the "Headwall" at break neck speed! While this course is not the fastest on the circuit, it is known as one of the most difficult where skiers reach top speeds of 175kph/108mph in just 8 seconds!

Tuesday was another day with some fresh snow and mostly sunny skies in the morning, but as the day progressed the clouds moved in and it started snowing again. The snow just kept coming all week long and the skiing was terrific! Wednesday morning provided another fresh powder day; we woke up to a foot of new snow! By lunch time, my knees were screaming for a break, but luckily I did not break them, only felt like they were broken! I hobbled back to the lodge and missed out on more great skiing that afternoon, but I was first in line for Happy Hour and it was all good! Unfortunately, my knees did not cooperate, and Thursday I had to sit the day out.

Walking around the village is something you can do in a very short period, especially if you do not shop a lot! Take out lunch at the lodge and a few cold beers in the room were enjoyed while I anxiously waited for everyone to get back from skiing and tell me what a great day I missed. Oh, did I mention there was more fresh snow for everyone on Thursday too! And yes, I did miss another great day of skiing.

The group was hoping to get in on the fondue dinner held on top of the mountain Thursday nights, but it was already sold out when we arrived! (if you plan to visit and do



this, make your reservations before you get out there!) An alternate plan was devised for the group to have dinner at Voyageur's Bistro, a cool place that featured local and wild game entrées. The prices were up a bit, but for \$15 the bison burger was a great value and all the food was quite good. The 5-Forty Café had some decent wraps, Masa's in the day lodge had great chili, and Powder Hounds featured some delicious German cuisine, the schnitzel was delitzel!

The snow on Thursday continued throughout the night and provided another fresh powder day for our last day of skiing on Friday. The only problem Friday was the low hanging clouds that covered some of the peaks. Skiing on Mt. Morrisey that morning was wonderful; the blue runs were wide open and crowd free . . . well, so were the black runs, but I was trying to stay off the blacks to give my knees a break. I skied with a bunch of the guys that morning and the group could easily split up to break off onto a black run or continue on the blue run, all meeting back at the bottom of the Morrisey Express lift. As we approached lunchtime, I was coerced into taking a black run to the bottom; they told me it was all fluffy and easy. Sure it was!

It was, however, the steep angles on the black run that began to take their toll on my knees as we cut through the village and back up the Sunburst Express lift to Mt. Tod. When we got to the top, it was decided we should head up the Crystal lift and over to the West Bowl T-bar since we had not skied that area yet. This proved to be a mistake because the low clouds entirely engulfed that part of the mountain and you could barely see 10 feet in front of you! Blind skiers would have skied our pants off! After missing the T-bar and having to shuffle back uphill to board, we cautiously made our way back down only to arrive back at the loading zone for the T-bar!



From here we decided to ski back down to the lunch hut, but because of the thick clouds we missed the turn and had to go back up Crystal to get to lunch! Sitting around eating and drinking for a half hour really does a number on the knees when they are already shot. I went back to the lodge after lunch while the rest of the gang skied right to the end of the day, as they had been doing all week.



I entered the locker room, leaned my skis against the wall and took off some of my other gear, then locked my skis up and headed to the room for a shower so I could be ready for happy hour. I went back to the locker room only to find my skis were missing! I went to the front desk to report this and they asked if I was skiing on rented green Atomic skis, “yes!” I said, “Oh, you need to speak to the manager” they said!

I was so worn out and my knees were hurting so much that when I went to lock up my skis there was another similar pair of skis sitting there unlocked that I mistakenly locked up! The owner of those skis came down to grab his skis and board his bus ride, only to find his skis locked and mine sitting there. Management had to cut my lock off to get him on his way and I had to pay the \$25 fee for the ‘free’ lock. There was a sign in the room saying not to leave gear unattended, so as far as I’m concerned it was his fault! The guy at the front desk checking us out the next morning waived the fee for me so it made my knees feel a little better.

A couple tips if you visit Sun Peaks: first off, Cahilty Lodge has an excellent location, easy ski-in/ski-out and about the middle of the village, so central to everything. Don’t miss the chance to meet Nancy Greene if presented, very interesting lady. Only hit the West Bowl T-Bar if you have to, i.e. fresh powder and lots of sunshine, but since it is all blue runs over there, you may as well enjoy all the rest of the terrain on a day like that. (I hate T-bars!) Burfield lift takes all of the 22 minutes they tell you it takes to go up. Do it once and decide for yourself, but most anything it takes you to is also accessible via the Crystal chair, except the top area. Be ready to pay a lot for beer; hope that you get a good exchange rate to lessen the blow. If powder is predicted, rent some fat skis and go nuts! Remember to book the fondue dinner in advance of your trip if you want to get in on it. They do dinner on the mountain at the top of Sunburst Express lift, then you ski down after dinner!

Everyone’s skis were detained at customs, or something like that because when we got back to Detroit our skis were still in British Columbia! Consider renting your skis and avoid this! We had a small group, but we all had a great time at Sun Peaks. I would definitely visit this resort again and probably duplicate the trip almost exactly, especially when the weekly snowfall is measured in feet!



Boat and Bike Ride – July 22, 2017

On July 22nd Tony and Sue hosted a Boat ride on Lake St Clair, Bike Ride, and Barbeque all in one event! The weather was a little challenging, but as you can see from the photos, a great time was had by all. Thanks Sue and Tony!





Walloon Bike Ride – October, 2017

In October we travelled north to beautiful Petoskey and Harbor Springs for two bike rides. The group included about 25 hardy riders, some staying at Dick Marx's cottage on Walloon Lake, and the others at various locations nearby.

On Saturday we took an unexpectedly strenuous ride along the west arm of Walloon Lake. We encountered a couple of grueling hills that tested us all, but no one died. The views of the lake and magnificent cottages were awesome. The ride began and ended at two Walloon area wineries, which dulled the pain of the hills a little bit. All in all, it was a fun ride on a gorgeous northern Michigan day.

That evening, everyone gathered at Dick's house for an excellent meal, followed by a campfire. A great ending!

On Sunday, we travelled the Little Traverse Wheelway from Petoskey to Harbor Springs. The trail follows the Little Traverse Bay shoreline almost the whole way, with continuous breathtaking views. In Harbor Springs we rode the waterfront in front of magnificent turn of the century homes. Lunch at the iconic Stafford's Pier restaurant



right on the water in Harbor Springs was enjoyed by all before the return trip. Few of us could pass up a stop at Kilwin's in Petoskey for ice cream on the way back.

It was great weather, good friends and food, and spectacular scenery. A great weekend!

Meadow Brook Holiday Walk and Lunch – Nov. 26, 2017

The golden age of the holidays was aglow at The Great Estate of Meadow Brook. There were 28 of us who enjoyed lunch and toured the 110-room Tudor-revival style mansion filled with historic and holiday treasures.

We saw the grand rooms decorated in different styles throughout the mansion. From the large tree by the fire place in the living room to the upside down tree in the game room, we experienced the sights and splendor of Christmas.

Our tour included a walk down the wintry path to the Knole Cottage and Danny's cabin, both on the grounds. The daughter's cottage was decorated in miniature style to match the house. Danny's cabin was a man cave any teenage boy would love.

We ended our tour with shopping in the gift shops to take home a decoration to commemorate a wonderful day!



Skiwis take on Blue Mountain - January 19-21, 2018

Was it 2018 or 1985? You couldn't tell by the way the people were dressed on the bus. The 80's era was in FULL BLOOM with big hair, tutus and colors galore! Good thing leg warmers are back in style! The bus was a rockin' with 80's music (thank you Jim, Mike and Chrystal for the tunes) and aisle ways included dancers!

Despite our getups, the Canada border patrol let us cross. Once into Canada, we played a game to get acquainted while we ate great food and enjoyed the refreshments supplied.

We arrived at the hotel in plenty of time to check in and enjoy happy hour in Mike and Mona's room (thank you for hosting!), continuing to enjoy the food and beverages supplied!

The group explored the Village after happy hour, finding fun places to eat and listen to great entertainment. Many of the group continued the fun at our hotel enjoying the band at Jozo's until late into the night.

Saturday was a day FULL of great skiing. Mother Nature was kind to our group as the temps were in the 30's. Thanks to Connie, we enjoyed lunch together as a group in a very busy restaurant at the South Lodge. After skiing, we calmed our aching bones with



liquid refreshments and fun with games at Mike and Mona's room -- then off to the hot tubs!

Later the group scattered for dinner, but met up later back at Jozo's for a very, very fun night of dancing (Thank you Dan for the heads up on the great venue).

Sunday was another fun day of skiing as the temperatures were warming. We left in time to see the fog start and the great melt begin.

The 80's theme continued as we watched movies from the 80's for the trip back. And did we say we had food? No one went hungry or thirsty as we continued to eat and drink the items supplied.

After a successful crossing at the border we finished our wonderful weekend with a Mardi Gras party featuring funny prizes for unusual and fun ski experiences!

Special shout-outs to John Mascarello for setting up the packages; to Mona Goatley for collecting the deposits and communicating with participants. Mike Goatley- thanks for assisting with the beverages and hosting happy hours in your room. And a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this trip such great fun!

Julie



Park City Ski Trip – February 2018

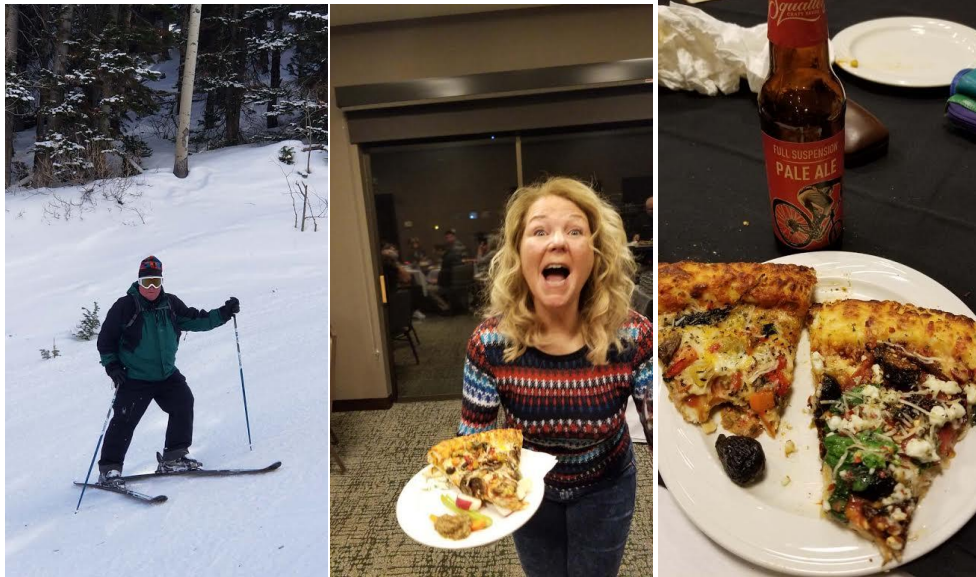
We had a great trip to Park City Utah in February with a large group of 48 skiers. There were 3 ski areas available to us: Park City Mountain, The Canyons, and Deer Valley. Many of us took advantage of all three. We had beautiful weather almost every day, with lots of sun and moderate temperatures. Of course that meant no new snow. Oh well! The runs that were open were in good shape, and being a Midwestern skier, there was plenty for me to ski.

We stayed at the Doubletree in Park City. Rooms were nice, not large, but well set up. The included buffet breakfast was very nice. And every afternoon they produced free chocolate chip cookies at the front desk. As Rick said, there is no guilt on a ski trip!

Sunday at Park City Mountain started off gray and crowded, but we found a corner with some nice runs and short lift lines. Monday night we had a fantastic pizza party organized by Rick Kuhn back at our hotel. Very different pizza (and beer), and super good. Everybody hung around until they kicked us out 😊.



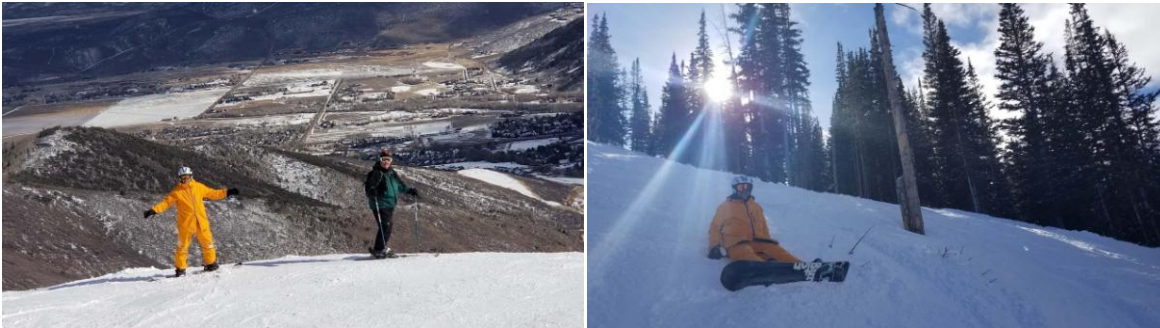
Tuesday my group headed to the Canyons, where we took a Mountain tour. Our conclusion was the Canyons is very big, and most of the peaks had very few runs open. And our guide liked to talk. We did find one area with several nice runs off the Orange Bubble chair, and spent the afternoon there. My brother Gary and I also discovered the Lookout Cabin at the top of one peak, with a deck out back with a FANTASTIC view! Best hot chocolate in Park City.



Wednesday we went over to Deer Valley, and again started with the Mountain Tour. In case you haven't figured it out, I think free mountain tours are a great way to get familiar with a ski area. Anyway, Deer Valley had almost everything open! Almost all the blue runs, and plenty of blacks to challenge us. And it seemed like they had half the area groomed every night. We had a ball, and ended up skiing there the last 3 days of the trip.



Of course every ski day ended with apres ski at the bottom of the mountain. A couple of times we closed the bar (it was a good thing we weren't driving). Watching the sun go down with a beverage in your hand is a great way to end a day of skiing.



Every night was a different eating experience. If you haven't been to Park City, it is an old silver mining town, meaning that some of the buildings have been there a long time. It has an actual downtown with lots of shops, restaurants, bars, and more. Farther out there are the usual shopping centers and malls, so we had plenty of dining choices.



Skiing, eating, and drinking with old and new friends; another great ski trip. If you haven't been on a Skiwi ski trip, you need to go. The ski committee (John Mascarello and Debby Roger) find us some super places, and you can't beat the prices they get.



Till next time!

Dick Marx

Garland's Nibbles and Nosh Weekend - February 23 – 25, 2018

The Garland Nibbles and Nosh weekend was a great success, despite the lack of snow for cross country skiing. Plan B was in place as we hiked, enjoying great food and drink on a three-mile trek over the beautiful golf course and into the woods.

Many of us took advantage of the weather and an adventurous guide to set off further to see an eagle's nest on the edge of the Garland property. We enjoyed the beautiful sights and sounds of northern Michigan as we hiked through the woods and gorgeous Garland property. Yes, it was 38 degrees and sunny and a great day for hike!

Speaking of nibbles and nosh – we definitely had more NOSH! We tried new beers and great drinks all day long as our generous host, Garland, showed us a fabulous weekend!

We ended the Saturday activities with games in the Antler Lounge and a hot tub visit before calling it a night. Sunday was a day of more food and activities. The Garland fitness center is awesome and some of us made use of it before another full breakfast. A group took another hike before ending the weekend with the drive home. All in all, a really great weekend!