

# 2015 Mt Snow

## Ab Normal

There are “normal” ski trips and there are Ab(e)Normal ski trips...

Almost everything about the 2015 SJSC 3 day Superbowl Mt Snow trip was that, ABeNORMAL!!

47 people boarded the bus at Ramblewood on Friday, January 30, 2015...But, where were the trip leaders? Jean and Jeff Hayfield had moved from south Jersey to the

Poconos 5 months earlier and did not ride the bus to Mt Snow...instead, they drove up leaving Sven Hansen in charge of the masses...The bus arrived at the Grand Summit at the early hour of 10:30pm. Jeff boarded, greeted, and gave last minute check-in and lift ticket instructions.

Geri B and Ed K drove up from north Jersey and Ray D was already in VT and met us there...So, 52 of us made it to VT!



Saturday morning arrived and it was frigid! Wind chills were -28°F...We enjoyed a hearty breakfast buffet or a trip to the deli (our choice, included in trip) before heading out...The Grand Summit is a ski in / ski out hotel and this was a necessity with the extreme cold...throughout the day many of our group could be seen lounging inside around the fireplaces in full ski garb before heading out for another run...One of the best features of the GS was the ski check...It was super easy to walk out the door and pickup your skis or to take one run, check the skis and go inside to warm up!

The high winds kept most of the ski lifts closed...This created long cold lift lines and frequent long cold lift stoppages...Some of the group used the Mt Snow 100% snow guarantee to trade in their lift ticket for another day :)

The Grand Summit features a couple big outdoor hotubs, a heated outdoor pool, steamroom, sauna, exercise room, bar, deli, restaurant, many seating areas, etc...Our people explored every nook and cranny of the building...Most everybody ate in the hotel restaurant that evening...

Sunday was again cold but winds had died down enough to allow lifts to the top including the 6 person bubble...What a treat!! Temps went up to 22° and the sun arrived! Snow conditions were excellent!!

That evening we enjoyed a great SuperBowl party and game. The buffet was plentiful and the game entertaining...John T did a good job running the football pool...Most of the crowd was disappointed though with the late turnovers and outcome of the game :(

As is the case this season, every Monday brings a blizzard...16-18" was expected! So, we had a blizzard and of course the temps were VERY low...Can you say Pow-Dah? As the day went on every trail of the mountain was covered with fluffly VT powdah!! Some of our group said it was the best they had ever seen in the East...Others were overmatched...

The heavy snow brought problems though...Predicted to not slow down till around 6pm...Predicted to rain an inch of ice south of us on all of our route options...Our Starr bus could not get up the hill to our hotel as we explored options to get "to the bus"...After hours of phone calls and conversations it was decided to keep the bus overnight until Tuesday...So, we now had a four day ski trip...

We were all able to keep our own hotel rooms for the same group rate...some people bunked with others to save some \$...Geri and Ed, who had driven up, decided to try to beat the storm and left early Monday morning...Ron Y had a real problem as he was scheduled to fly to Vegas on Tuesday...His roommate Ray D graciously offered to drive Ron to NJ...they left early on Tuesday...many thanks to Ray :)

Since we were spending the night Jeff polled the group to see how many would want to ski on Tuesday morning...38 people said yes and enjoyed perfect conditions...Sunny, windy and 9° as 30+ slopes had been groomed leaving over 50 slopes with 18" or more of natural and wind blown powder...Tree skiing was possible everywhere...The non-skiing members of the group had run out of legs for a 4<sup>th</sup> day or even worse, had to plug in their laptops and go to "work" (:

The hotel was very accommodating throughout our stay...There were a couple other groups that also spent the extra night...unfortunately the restaurant was not prepared for such a large hostage group on a blizzard Monday night...Some of our group tried to go "to town" but the shuttle never arrived...those that did get out found everybody shut down, again because of the blizzard...

Of note: Ask anybody on the trip and they will swear that there were "herds" of kids running up and down the halls at every hour of the day or night...Most of the youth left on Sunday, thankfully!

46 people boarded the bus at 2pm and left for NJ arriving a little after 8pm...They enjoyed a very normal return to NJ...

Many many thanks to bus leader Sven for running both ends of the trip...this was a huge help to Jean and I and saved us many more hours of driving!

Thanks also to Ed R for helping to "fix" a bag mixup when the bus returned to Mt Laurel ☺

We have created a Facebook album on the SJSC FB page...please post photos from the trip here: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.10153073818992792&type=1>  
Album is titled "Mt Snow 2015"

Jean and I want to thank you for contributing to a great trip! You were all very easy to deal with, pleasantly handled the ever changing conditions, and absorbed all the changes that took place with our schedule – and, you did it with a smile ☺

Maybe we will travel again sometime?  
Jeff and Jean Hayfield



Some random comments from our group:

We had so much fun. That Bob W was a real comedian Sunday!!!! Did you see the picture of Steve pushing him back to the room with his helmet on. It was probably my fault because I kept ordering bloody Mary's at Cuzzins.

In my humble opinion, anybody who had a problem with the hotel, staying an extra day or anything at all is an A-hole and should be banned from future trips!!! You took time away from your weekend to plan and re-plan everything, communicate any news with everybody and deal with the hotel and bus company. Everybody should be very thankful for the way everything turned out, I guess you can't please everybody.

Took a 2 hour snowmobile trip on 10+inches of fresh powder. Came back to an email that said we have to stay an extra day. We're heartbroken.....NOT!

High of 23. Big snow storm tonight and all day tomorrow

I LOVED that the hotel was friendly and warm and a place where while awake 3 to 4 hours a night, I could roam the lobby, sit by a fire to read and get hot water from the night desk clerk (with a smile and sympathy for my rotten condition).

Jeff H got up saw his shadow and called for 12 more inches of snow

...temp is up to 3 degrees...wind chill is -28...most of the group are waiting for it to warm up to the predicted high of 8 degrees :-))

It is burrtiful out!

Sissy's. Layers. I was out for 3 hours straight. I came in for water and stayed in. Took half an hour to undress. LOL seems like the wind would howl EVERY time I got near the top of a lift. Frigidity out there

Jeff and Jean, Thanks so much for all your hard work to make this vacation a great one!

Got my bag, Ed dropped it off at my work. What a guy!!

I LOVED the access to ski check and the mountain! (I was on the first floor, also great access to sauna/hot tub)

WORST EXPERIENCE: getting to and from the Hot tub on Saturday without getting frostbite!

My story is I actually got to ski with you (Jeff) and Jean for a run

I don't do well in powder and since my skis are in need on waxing didn't make it any easier. Coming down the run in front of the ski check I hit the powder fast and the ground even faster and hard! lol Head first into the ground. After walking down the rest 🤦 I noticed in my shadow my Go Pro was missing. Then after trudging back up the slope 🤦 I looked into the hole I created with my coconut and low and behold the Go Pro was buried in hole with a tiny piece sticking out so I could see it much to my luck.

Glad you decided to error on the safe side... We all made it home safely. Dave is extra glad that he got to ski a few extra hours on Tuesday! He said that was the best of all the days.

Thanks for another fantastic ski trip

Thanks for a great trip! We really appreciate your efforts on the excellent room rate and discounted lift tickets for Tuesday.

I am used to skiing but I took a snowboard lesson on Saturday and loved it. Ended up practicing all day with 4 other girls from New Jersey that were also in the class.

Best experience: Truly relaxing and not even thinking about all the stresses we have going on back at home.

We would have enjoyed the hot tub more if there were not kids allowed in there without parents and cannonballs(!)

We enjoyed the bus and everyone was super friendly, thanks for putting us in the back :)

It was nice to sit down and enjoy meals and conversations with some members we have not met before.

