

We knew we were in for a frigid weekend in NY as we boarded the bus in freezing temperatures Friday afternoon. Although several cars skidded around the snow covered parking lot, everyone made it on time and raring to go!

Bobby pulled our Coach out at 5:00 sharp, and before too long the drinks were flowing, newcomers like Laurie C were being welcomed, and trip leader Carolyn S passed out moonshine cherries and homemade chocolate chip cookies. Newcomers Lewan D and Lori K also shared their delicious treats with the bus. Bill C shared his expert advice on boot fittings and the importance of ski maintenance. After a brief rest stop on the Thruway, we arrived at Lake George around 10:00. Plenty of time for most of us to visit the hotel tavern for drinks before bed. We were joined by Andrew S, who drove up on his own Friday morning and shared stories of a cold and windy day on the slopes.

We enjoyed a beautiful view of Lake George at breakfast and even spotted some ice fishermen on the lake. Despite temperatures well below zero, not to mention even lower wind chills, the early morning crew including Sharon B, George R, Chip S, Jason T, Robert A, Liam H boarded the hotel shuttle to the mountain at 7:45. Someone was so excited to hit the slopes that he left his cell phone at the hotel! Susan E, on the other hand, was deterred by the weather forecast and decided to sit the day out in the comfort of the warm hotel. Andrew S made the same decision, having experienced the bitter slopes on Friday.

When our Coach departed at 9:00 that morning, we knew that the weather conditions might impact the availability of lifts and trails. We arrived to learn that only 1 lift and 13 trails were open and wind chills at the top of the gondola were -70. This news didn't deter most of the group who made the best of the situation and ended up having a great day, especially after the gondola opened around noon. Unfortunately, rumors of a heated gondola proved inaccurate.

Carolyn S, Mike R, Phil S, Julie S, Robert H and Joanne H weren't as brave. They decided to accept the \$39.99 vouchers offered by Gore and boarded the Coach for a ride straight back to the hotel. Once there, they joined Mark G and Andrew S in the hot tub. Some made plans for a return trip to use those Gore vouchers 2 weeks later. After hearing that Killington closed for the day due to arctic temperatures and high winds, the group in the hot tub believed they had made the right decision.

When the skiers and snowboarders returned to the hotel, many also relaxed in the hot tub before heading out to dinner, including Ralph P and Nancy P. They shared stories of a fun-filled day on the mountain. Gary S, Brian S and Steve C chose not to explore beyond the hotel parking lot and visited The Village Blacksmith for dinner. Several groups ventured beyond the Fort William Henry for dinner and entertainment. The Adirondack Brew Pub and the Tap Room offered upscale pub food and a variety of beer. After dinner Jarret K and Mike Z checked out the band at King Neptune's, but they opted for an Uber home instead of the short walk in the bitter cold.

Although the early bus Sunday was slightly delayed and the heat hadn't quite kicked in, the early morning crew was optimistic to explore even more of the mountain. As we waited for the second bus Sunday morning, Ted R found some interesting events in the local newsletter: Puppy Parades, Ice Sculptures, and even Outhouses races. The racing team of 5 included 2 to push, 2 to pull, and 1 to sit on the "throne". Can you picture it?

Sunday proved to be a balmy 1 degree as we pulled into Gore. The entire mountain was open and a great time was had by all. Laura C, Barbara P, and Diane H brushed up their skills with lessons, while TJ M, Pat M and Jarret K were spotted warming up with lunch at the bar.

As they returned to the hotel, several people made time for the hot tub, including Carolyn S, Jeanine C, Sharon B, and George R. As our meals arrived, several people including Jeff S, Paul P, Bill C, Jim R, and Pat B warmed up near the fireplace and prepared for the trip home. Rishi G was spotted near the fire with his leftover pizza. After our group photo in the lobby, we were back on the bus for the ride home. Several people tracked the score of the Saints – Vikings playoff game while Rocky got us into the Philly underdog spirit. Next stop – Killington for Superbowl Sunday. Go Eagles!!!