

Mt Bachelor: Winter Carnival

Jan 26th-Feb 2nd

This year the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council hosted the Winter Carnival in Bend Oregon. Several of the Ski clubs in the council joined the trip with a combined 280 participants. We shared our flights with the Penguin & North Penn Ski clubs!

We stopped to pick up our pre-ordered Box Lunches and then made a quick stop for adult beverages & snacks for the bus ride. Bob S had to chase after his case of beer as his shopping cart went flying through the parking lot! We travelled through a Reservation and had views of the Washington, Jefferson & the Three Sisters peaks in the Cascade mountain range.

SJSC stayed at the Riverhouse where the Deschutes river runs right through the property. A covered bridge crosses over the river. A log cabin on the property was the site where the John Wayne Movie "Rooster Cogburn" was filmed.

The hotel bar featured 18 local draft beers that new members Mark & George insisted on tasting every one! There was a billiards & a shuffle board table for our amusement.

After a long day of travel, we attended the Welcome Reception where the lift tickets were distributed and we learned about the mountain/town shuttles, optional excursions, & the many events scheduled for the Carnival. We enjoyed local beers/wines and a buffet that included Swedish meatballs, a charchurie board & risotto artichoke croquets!

Breakfast was served every morning before we boarded the bus to the mountain - Mt Bachelor. Mountain Ambassadors offered free tours of the mountain on our first day. Conditions were good until the last day when the visibility was challenging. Sunday thru Thurs we had sunny blue skies & no lift lines! The Summit lift took you to the top of the mountain for a long steep run down the mountain. The Sunrise area offered several cruiser runs for the less adventurous.

Throughout the week many members enjoyed Dog sled rides, snow-shoeing at Crater Lake National Park, Lava Cave tours, Local Pour Tours, Bonfires under the stars and Secret Bars!

Steve, Michelle, Suzanne & Roseann went to see the last remaining BLOCKBUSTER in the US.

Tony, Debbie, Beth, Terri, Jim, Frank, Stephanie, Suzanne, Joe M, Mary, Lana & Roy snow-shoed on the rim of Crater Lake National Park. Stephanie waited 6 years to see the magnificent views & get her National Park Passport stamped!

George, Lori, Mark & Lewan snow-shoed under the stars & enjoyed a bonfire and hot spiked beverages.

Karl skied with a smile in his signature vintage ski outfit all week.

Susan took a private ski lesson and tore up the Green trails!

TJ & Wayne represented the club on the Race Course.

Laura & Don decided to take a sunset dog sled ride.

Lori & Lewan shopped in the Old Mill section of town.

Gail & Gayle did it all! We had 7 non-skiers on this trip who enjoyed the mountain and the town of Bend.

Stuart & Lewan tried some cross-country skiing.

Mary hiked the trail by Mirror Pond and had a relaxing spa day!

Microbreweries & Dispensaries were everywhere! The restaurants were fabulous and affordable!

A group took a “Local Pour Tour” that include a stop at Oregon Spirit Distillery where, after a tour of the facilities, we tasted a Bourbon, a Gin & a Rum (BTW – sold @ TOTAL WINE). We had a lite dinner and went on to Humm Kombucha Taproom where we tasted several flavors of Kombucha (a lightly-effervescent drink made by combining sweet tea with bacteria and yeast). We also tasted Kombucha/Beer combinations! We then visited Silver Moon Microbrewery where we sampled some of their latest releases like Mango Daze, IPA97 & Snakebite.

Some of us bought Avalanche dog shirts to support the ski patrol.

We ended Monday with an Apres Ski Happy hour at the base of the West Village that included 2 beers or wine & PIZZA!

The main event of the week was the Volcanic Confluence party featuring fire dancers, Bill Keale – Hawaiian native famous for his song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World”, Hula dancers and buffet dinner. Two drink tickets were included. Susan, Stephanie, Michelle and Lana wore grass skirts & Bill, Joe M, Roy, Bob B and Stuart all wore hawaiin shirts. Bill won 3rd place for best dressed!

Oregon has Volcanoes 2nd only to Hawaii.

Tom, Joe D, Suzanne, Bob B, Wayne, Mary, Bill, Laura, Don & Terri spent a “Night @ the High Desert Museum” featuring the blue grass band Moon Mountain Ramblers – YEE HA!

On our last day, a Lasagna lunch was served on the mountain at the Pine Martin Lodge!

On the First Friday in the town of Bend, art galleries, boutiques & restaurant stay open late and offer beer/wine to their patrons! Street performers entertained passersby.

2019 Winter Carnival is in the books! Till next time . . .