

Okemo Trip

Okemo was the leadoff trip for SJSC's 2019 ski season. After some Philly pretzels, our bus left Ramblewood on 1/4 almost on time. Stefanie W. gets a mention for being last to arrive, but no razzy since she wasn't late, just last.

We arrived at the Pointe Hotel early enough, about 11:30, to get the lay of the land a little. And still get a decent night's sleep. The hotel had our breakfast buffet open at 6:00, so we could get to the mountain early and take advantage of Okemo's 8:00 opening. Conditions at Okemo were fairly good for early January. Almost all of the trails were open. There were no moguls or powder, but plenty of Okemo's strong suit, cruising on rolling terrain.

Saturday night we went out for dinner in Ludlow. The group split up between Ludlow's choice of many fine eateries. On the return trip back to the hotel the bus was much more crowded than on the ride into town. Which tells me that most people are way ahead of me on using Uber and the like.

Sunday was more of the same but with a couple of twists. Jason T. was lining up a jump off a lip, when he tumbled and crumbled like Vinko Bogataj in the old Wide World of Sports Agony of Defeat clip. Unlike Vinko, Jason sprang up unhurt and continued skiing. He missed out on that jump though. Later on Chip S. led a group including Ralph and Nancy P. Amanda M. and others under a rope to poach some not quite powder in a closed glade. On the next run we did the same after waiting for some instructors who were hanging around the entrance, to clear out. It wasn't powder, and it wasn't that much of a run, but it was the best snow on the mountain.

To close our Okemo visit several of us went to Tom's Loft Tavern which fortunately had been built about twenty feet from where our bus was picking us up. George S. and John T. if I remember right, honored a fine tradition by buying the trip leader a beer there.

We were able to take off for the ride home about on time. No one came up with a way to get the Eagles game fed into the TV's on the bus, but there were many with tablets or big cellphones who were able to see at least some of the game. The Eagles victory over the da Bears made for a happy crowd in the group picture taken at the Modena rest stop on the NYST. Thanks to whoever gave me the idea to take the picture there. I apologize for not remembering who deserves the credit. We made it back to Ramblewood well before midnight. Walter H. and Nick C. had a flat tire, but they had AAA. Gary S. and Marian B. had some luggage forgetfulness, but they noticed before it became a big hassle.

Thanks to all for a fine trip!

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