

## **SOUTH JERSEY SKI CLUB PRESENTS WHISTLER MARCH 2-9, 2019**

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, a group of 12 led by Miles C. and a group of 39 led by Geri B. travelled to Whistler, British Columbia, Canada. Phil S. had a land-sea passport issue, but brilliant Jeanine C. came up with a plan for him to change his flight to Seattle and then rent a car to drive up to join sons Alex S. and Nick S. on a trip of a lifetime. Phil successfully met the challenge!

Both groups enjoyed a beautiful ride from Vancouver to Whistler on the Sea-to-Sky Highway. Bon vivants Rafael and Linda B. rented a car at the airport so that they could enjoy Vancouver at their leisure. Below is a picture taken by Miles (I-r Miles, Nancy A., Jan H., Steve N., Pete T., Lisa S., Matt G., Nancy P., Mark P., and TJ Mc.) on the Sea to Sky Highway to Whistler. Beautiful!



*1 Ten of the Whistler 12*

On our first evening, we had a Welcome Reception at Buffalo Bills in Whistler Village and then everyone exhaustedly turned in looking forward to a great day of skiing. And we were not disappointed. Every day of the trip was a beautiful day and the mountains were vast and challenging. In the very first runs, Jack M. and

Geri B. bonded over a blue trail that suddenly turned into a rocky cliff (a surprisingly frequent occurrence at Whistler/Blackcomb), while Janet M. and Joe B. wisely took the more manageable side of the trail. That evening John P. met up with his cousin Rich and friends, and Tony C., Peter T., Steve N., Nancy A., Jan H., Rich K., Marshall M., Mike G., Fred S., Jack and Janet M., Geri B., and many others met up at the Garibaldi Lift Company for happy hour and dancing. We had a great indoor view of the Fire and Ice Show in which people did ski/snowboard tricks through fiery rings thanks to a recommendation by happy hour trailblazers, Sandy and Lauren T.

Monday, a large group toured the Blackcomb Glacier: Mary D., Jen K., Laurie C., Barbara P., Cindy M., Gwen D., Jeanine C., Jack and Janet M., Joe B., Bob F., Geri B., Lauren and Sandy T., Marianne B., and many others climbed a 100-foot bootpack in 40 mph winds to get to the top of the Blackcomb Glacier only to learn that we next had to traverse a steep set of terraced snow steps. Can you negotiate snow/ice steps like a bumps run? No!

We learned how to traverse the snow steps *laterally* (thank you Barbara P. for being a beacon of courage before me) and after surviving that challenge, we skied to an ice cave posted "Do Not Enter" in which everyone was busily going in and

out. It was a beautiful, challenging, and fun life experience with great friends!



2 *The Blackcomb Ice Cave*

On Tuesday, a group of nine organized by Chip S. went heli skiing in Whistler: Bobby A., John S., Tammi M., John M., Joey T., John T., Steve W., George S., and Pam T. Those of us lucky enough to ski with Chip while he came off the DL really enjoyed it. All met up that evening for happy hour at Bearfoot Bistro and to watch our skilled colleagues' heli-ski highlights video.

On Wednesday, many took off to explore Whistler and shop while others continued to enjoy the fine weather in skiing. Bill M., Peter T., and Steve N. enjoyed skiing like kids in a candy store, only one with trees and powder. John P. and Tony C. once again confirmed their reputations as elite skiers on *any* mountain. Gary S. and Marianne B. went snowshoeing twice during the week. Lauren T. did an amazing bungee jump in a deep ravine within the mountains that is not to be missed.

Joe B. gave a private tour of the Blackcomb Glacier to fellow skiers John S., Ed G., John M., Steve W., George B., Chip S., Rich K., Marshall M., and Tammy M.



*3 Joe B. Leading Members of the A Team to the Blackcomb Glacier*

On Thursday, many enjoyed a Fresh Tracks Breakfast at the Roundhouse Lodge. We lined up early at the Whistler Gondola and then enjoyed a breakfast buffet. When the Ski Patrol gave the whistle, many people skied fresh tracks, while others simply enjoyed another cup of coffee. We spent the day skiing Whistler and Blackcomb, sometimes in brief, but fun, whiteout conditions. Joe B. gave Tracee B. and Diane A. a private tour of the Blackcomb Glacier. We then joined up for happy hour at Dubb Linn Gate Irish Pub and enjoyed listening to live Irish music.





4 *Dubb Linn Gate Irish Pub*

On Friday, many skied Whistler and Blackcomb for the last day, then both groups joined up at Dusty's for one final happy hour. Since there is nothing more fun than planning a ski trip while you are on one, the SJSC 2020 Ski Season trips were being avidly discussed and strategized during our apres ski happy hours and hot tub meetings.

On Saturday, we assembled early for a group picture and then had two blessedly uneventful but exhausting flights home through a big snowstorm. Everyone looks forward to having many more wonderful adventures with South Jersey Ski Club!

# SJSC Whistler, Canada



2019

Photography by Jack Mazzeo