

# 50+ Ski Club

**P.O. BOX 774 WESTBURY, NY 11590**

**March, 2019**

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Chris Ruona

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## **NEXT MEETING**

**Thursday, March 21st, 8:00 PM**

**SYOSSET – WOODBURY COMMUNITY CENTER**

**On entering park, turn right at stop sign and follow the road to the end.**

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**ALMOST TIME TO PUT THE SKIS AWAY**

**HAPPY HOUR**

**Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 4 to 7PM. Black Forest Brew Haus 2015 New Highway, Farmingdale NY 11735. Tel. 631-391-9500.**

**CAPE COD BIKE TRIP** By Al Berlingieri: May 12<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>. In the past we stayed at America's Best Value Inn on Main St. in Hyannis. Phone # is 866-327-9416. All are welcome. Let me know if you are coming. E mail [berli@aol.com](mailto:berli@aol.com). Phone 631-266-1857.

**Midweek Skiing** by Gary Schorr: It's been a wonderful year for snow at our upstate areas. We've enjoyed good snow and pleasant temperatures. If you can get away midweek and are not on my email list, write to me at [gss12@optonline.net](mailto:gss12@optonline.net). We meet in Christopher Morley Park in time to leave at 6:30 AM and carpool.

**Upcoming trip to the British Isles:** Lois has 10 cabins reserved for a **Windstar** cruise from London to Ireland and Scotland. She must have names within the next 5 days to hold the space. This trip will be for 10 days starting in mid September. If you are interested, call Lois ASAP for more information.

Her numbers are: 518-945-2667 or 516-383-5027.

**Skiing notes from Whitefish Mt.** by Barry Fahrar.

After a long day of travel, car, plane, train ( the Denver terminal express ), plane, & van, I finally arrived at the Kandahar hotel at Whitefish Mountain Resort. The place was rustic but well kept, it reminded me a bit like the lodge at Mount Snow before it slipped into seediness, this lodge was well kept.

I didn't bring my skis so after I pulled the boots out of my bag, I walked about 10 minutes up to the small village at the base of the #1 & #2 lifts and rented a pair of wider all mountain skis.

The lodge was actually bifurcated, it had East & West sides, we were scattered on both sides with a roomy lounge in the middle. Large

couches and comfy chairs faced a stone fireplace which was constantly stoked by the staff, a small bar ( 8 chairs and 2 tables ) with grub, adjoined the lounge.

Breakfast was in a little nook with 5 tables, bagels, cereal, cold cuts, yogurt, hard boiled eggs, & fruit. Minimal but adequate.

To get to the ski trails I had to walk down a somewhat icy driveway ( there was a rail ) cross over the access road, and walk the length of a parking lot of about 300 feet. This brought me to a spur trail leading to the base lodge and the short lift up to the village chairs.

Because our first day was on a Sunday during MLK weekend lines going to the top of the mountain were painfully long. The mountain was two sided and on the front side lift #2 went about halfway up. The runs off of this lift were wide and 80% groomed. Probably 1000 feet of vertical drop. Most of our group took a mountain tour which usually begins at the top. However with the crowds at lift #1, our ambassador first took us around the lower portion. We finally decided to brave a 15 minute wait and got to the top and over to the backside, lots of fun in a more rugged setting, all the while on blue and green trails. This mountain has extreme skiing, and very obviously extreme skiers, with cliffs, trees, and treed bowls. Something I and all of our group did not participate in.

Monday most of the group took lessons and mine was with 4 others all day. It was the only day with sun and blue skies. Our instructor gave us all some helpful advice and took us to his favorite parts of the mountain, he even showed us where we could duck into the trees and pop right back out again.

Twelve blind mice, see how they ski, they all stumbled after the fog set in, you could never see such a sight in your life, twelve blind mice.

On Tuesday, when a group of us finally got to the top, we were totally enveloped in a dense fog. As a sailor I have encountered fogs but only once before as a skier. I must say it was disorienting. I really had trouble knowing where the trail ended and the fog began. I was able to spot a mountain ambassador, Charlie, and after telling him of our reluctance to attempt to ski down alone, Charlie took all 12 of us blind mice down slowly and patiently. He explained where we needed to turn and waited every couple of hundred feet for all of us mice to compress. He will never read this but he has my admiration.

After that day we learned how to tell the severity of the fog by counting the number of chairs that were visible on our way up. We learned that once we got lower on the back side, the fog was not a problem. I took the morning mountain tour 3 times. It was a great way to learn the mountain and ski the Ambassador's favorite trails.

Returning to the lodge was easy. A spur trail led directly to the lodge. We put the skis in the ski room and the boots in a heated room next door.

The lack of an elevator made climbing up 2 floors on my side of the inn to change into my bathing suit, going down to the lobby, and climbing up 2 floors on the other side to get to the hot tub was a bit of a schlep. I needed a soak after that.

On three of the nights our dinners were literally on the mountain; which required walking up past the village and a short bit uphill to the Hellroaring restaurant. A typical mountainside place with lots of skiing pictures and memorabilia. I only enjoyed 1 of those pre ordered meals, but the beer was reasonable and cold.

On the whole I felt the skiing was quite good and we were fortunate to have 6-8 inches of snow on Tuesday. The new snow brought new

challenges as I don't often get to ski in such a bonanza. I was glad I had a more Western ski in the real snow. Skiing in silence was also very joyous. Our group has a camaraderie that makes everyone feel at ease and we skied, ate, soaked, traveled, and schmoozed together.

Overall I enjoyed my experience at whitefish, it is a small out of the way venue with wide runs and something for every level of skier. It drew large crowds on the weekend holiday, and the one snow day we had, schools were closed. There was only one lift to the top, and fog is an expected phenomenon. I also missed a real village close by, with stores to shop in and different restaurants to eat at.

I would probably not want to run back to Whitefish, but would be looking forward to other ski experiences. Probably somewhere with a more direct flight to cut down the travel time.



