

50+ Ski Club

P.O. BOX 774 WESTBURY, NY 11590

March, 2017

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NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 16th, 8:00 PM

SYOSSET – WOODBURY COMMUNITY CENTER

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



Happy Hour by Gary Schorr: About 25 of us gathered at Bertucci's in Melville for Happy Hour on February 24th. We enjoyed pizza and chicken wings courtesy of the club. Drinks were at reduced Happy Hour prices and all enjoyed pleasant conversation with renewed acquaintances. Let's do it again soon.

Trips and Events

For trip info call Lois at 518-945-2667 or Eleanor at 516-938-7078

New Trip: “ Treasures of Southern Spain and Morocco”. This is an 8 day trip aboard a beautiful Windstar Motor Sailboat. Fly into Barcelona and return from Lisbon. Cruise has been discounted 14% to \$2599.00 pp including port and local taxes. Deposit of \$400.00 needed to hold cabin. Space is limited. Call Lois if interested.

TRIP CANCELATION INSURANCE STRONGLY RECOMMEND

Mt. Snow, Vt. by Neal Pisanti: We carpoled to Mt. Snow on Sunday morning and somewhere along the line it started to snow. By the time we got to the lodge, it was an all-out blizzard with winds that blew everything sideways. But happily, we knew we would be skiing in real snow.

On Monday morning it was still snowing like mad and the wind was still blowing. What to do? Spend the day by the fire; or brave the weather? We made up our minds by 10:30 and off to the mountain we went. The skiing was excellent as long as you were not a corduroy worshiper. We had plenty of groomed, corduroy snow for the rest of the week.

The only minor glitch to the week was the condition of the Lodge. It could use some love. On the brighter side, the food was quite acceptable as usual and we thank Anne, Kathy, Amy, Barry, Julie and Al for hosting Happy Hours.

Mid Week Skiing by Gary Schorr: Who but we skiers look forward to a continuation of cold snowy weather? Just when it seemed like the ski season might be coming to a close, we got a cold snap. Some of our local upstate areas are still blowing snow-unusual for March. We've enjoyed excellent conditions on our trips to Hunter, Windham, Belleayre, and Catamount. As long as there's good snow upstate, we'll continue to meet early in the morning and head upstate. If you would like to join us, e mail me at gss12@optonline.net.

Steamboat Springs, Colorado by Richard Golden:

Steamboat Springs is Ski Town USA. But there is much more in Steamboat Springs besides skiing. Dog sledding, sleigh riding, snow mobiling, snow shoeing, defensive riding on snow and ice, fly fishing and hot air ballooning, are just a few of the activities offered at Steamboat Springs.

One of the more unique activities at Steamboat Springs is a visit to the hot springs at Strawberry Park. The early settlers discovered the hot springs and were struck by the sound of hot steam escaping from the rocks that made a sound of "choo - choo" reminding them of the steamboats plying the Mississippi River. Thus the derivation of the town name.

The pools at Strawberry Park are fed by the hot springs coming out of the ground at about 140 degrees Fahrenheit and cooled down by a mountain stream. The result is a pleasant 104 to 107 degree temperature depending upon the pool you select. At the far end of Strawberry Park is a pool that is fed only by the mountain stream. Jim, Bob and Barry were among the more hardy souls to brave the chilling 40 degree plunge in the cold pool. The rest of our group, Julie, Sharon, Candy, Bill and Richard were content to stay in the hot pools.

One of the locals described Strawberry Park as "magical". As we sat in the warm, soothing hot spring water surrounded by falling snow, it was nothing but magical. After skiing about five hours that day with temperature in the single digits and lower after calculating the wind chill factor compounded by the fast runs, sitting in the hot spring water was a welcome relief.

Changing in and out of bathing suits at Strawberry Park was a challenge. There were two choices. Option one was to change in the "changing cabin", with one room for men and the other room for women. However, the walk to the pools was much longer than the second option which was a unisex changing area in a stone structure. Enough said... except, what happens at Strawberry Park, stays in Strawberry Park.

Steven, Candy and Richard elected to get off the mountain a few hours earlier on the fifth and final day of skiing to explore the area on horseback. At about 1 p.m. Perk from the "Triangle 3 Ranch" picked us up at the Hotel. We drove about 45 minutes to the horse ranch in the small "town" of Clarke. On the way we saw herds of cattle feeding on hay provided by the ranchers. Alongside the cattle were elk who shared the

hay with the cattle. Perk explained to us that the ranchers get a subsidy for feeding the elk during the winter months. It is a variation of the theme, "if you can't beat them . . . join them." The elk population presents a challenge in the region. The government wants to support conservation efforts to protect the elk and at the same time the government recognizes that the elk are literally eating the profits of the ranchers. Perk explained that another option available to the local ranchers is to have the government pay for 10 foot fences to keep the elk out of the areas where the cattle are fed.

Perk also gave us a tutorial on different methods of breeding cattle. Youngsters in this area learn at an early age more about the "facts of life" and modern reproductive technology than their counterparts in urban communities.

The 45 minute ride to and from the ranch was entertaining and very informative. We learned a lot about the area around Steamboat Springs, the people, and animals both wild and domestic.

When we arrived at the "Triangle 3 Ranch" we met Perk's father, Ray. An elderly gentleman with an elk skin long coat he made himself and a beaver shawl with a rugged cowboy hat. Ray was the living, breathing mountain man from the days of the first settlers to this region.

We were each introduced to our horses: Olaf, Body and Annie. The horses had thick coats of hair. We learned that if they were in a barn they would not develop their thick coats. Therefore, regardless of how much it snowed and how cold it got, the horses remained outdoors.

We rode for about an hour and a half through pristine aspen trees and open fields. Although we did not see any wild life we saw plenty of tracks left by elk, coyote and ermine. The fresh snow was reflecting and refracting light making it sparkle as though the snow was sprinkled with tiny emeralds and diamonds. Although the temperature was about 5 degrees Fahrenheit, the sun was shining brightly and the heat from our horses trudging through the snow kept us more than comfortable. At the end of the ride we were invited into a Yurt for hot cocoa and cookies. A great way to end a very unique experience.

