

Report on SKIBACS Sun Peaks trip (January 2024)

By Robbi Alberts (Trip Leader)

Just got back from another fantastic trip to Sun Peaks Resort, north of Kamloops, BC. Our timing was perfect – the week between the total freeze...and the Pineapple express! Forty-eight skiers participated. Our bus left Boeing Everett parking lot Sunday morning, Jan 21 at 8:30 AM. After needing a little maneuvering for the bus to make it through the border crossing (with piles of snow that hadn't been removed), and a stop at the duty free and Kamloops grocery store, we arrived at Sun Peaks about 4 PM. We returned to our favorite hotel, the *Sun Peaks Grand*. It is ski-in, ski-out, right at the base of the lifts and in the middle of the pedestrian-only village full of wonderful restaurants, bars and shops. Their hot tubs and swimming pool are at the base of the ski area. They have free check just inside the door to the slopes.

Snow conditions were great, with a little new snow almost every day. We skied Monday through Friday, so there were no crowds. Visibility was in and out at the top during the week, but the sun made an appearance on Friday so many headed up Crystal Chair to the peak. Some took "snow host" tours, and others got to ski with Nancy Greene! Some favorite runs: Crystal Bowl, groomed black diamonds (a different one each day), Cariboo, Spillway, Pink Flamingos, Five-Mile (top to bottom), Runaway Lane, OSV, Cahilty, Lone Fir, Three Bears, The Sticks, Still Smokin', I'Dunno, Shiner, Mid-Life Crisis & more.

Other favorite memories of the week: Powdered sugar trees (Bob) ... Being first on Crystal Chair (Claire) ... Skiing from Juniper Ridge into deep powder (Erich) ... Winning at Cribbage with my partner Patti (Richard) ... First time at Capone's Restaurant; delicious (Carol) ... Sunlight breaking thru top of the world (TJ) ... Full week of friends & fun (Brian) ... Lots of nice turns (Peter) ... Watching gal ski under her girlfriend's legs (Bill) ... Straight-lining with Ricardo (Ken) ... Skiing in sunshine on Burfield's Hwy 22A trail (Ricardo) ... Skiing groomed black diamond/Cariboo (Frank) ... Meeting up with different people to ski with during course of the week (Ginny) ... Unexpectedly running into friends (pink ribbons) and skiing together (Becky) ... Teaming up with Richard & winning at Cribbage (Patti) ... Skiing Morrisey in the sunshine; running across skier wearing 1st helmet I designed at K2 (Annette) ... Finally seeing the top of the mountain the last day (Dick) ... (Quote of the week): As he stopped to say hi to the table of guys at the Steak House, heard the waiter say "Come on, Bruce, the girls are waiting" (Greg) ... Seeing the Kangaroo and Koala Bear skiing on *Australia Day* (Michael) ... All the adventures with my Dad, even the lazy times in the hotel (Sean) ... Bill talked me, Ricardo & TJ into skiing "Back in Time", requiring a 23 minute ride up Burfield Chair (Eldee) ... Enjoyed the diversity in our Social via People Bingo (Micheline) ... Talking with Patti until 1 AM (Julia) ... My first time, very organized (Janet) ... Pizza at Mantles (Mel) ... Nice little village (Ellen) ... Watching Patti lose her "shxx" at cribbage (Angela) ... Getting to meet everyone, and seeing ones we met last year (Ron) ... Everything magically worked; not cold like last week nor raining like the coming week, and my new knee worked!! (Larry) ... When the sun came out and we could see our way down (Peter T / Brita) ... Adding another Santa to my collection (Barb) ... Being with and laughing with old and new ski friends (Bruce) ... Being with everyone, hoping to get the group together again (Sparky).

On Monday night we held our annual **Social** with lots of food, and played "**People Bingo**" with some amazing 'little known facts'. Door prizes were handed out: Wine (Bailey Bonaci, Sean Dory, Joanne Hopper, Bill Jandl, Ellen Medley, Angela Nishi, Grace Ostrom & Ricardo Peralta) ... Chocolate (Julia Anderson, Annette Dong, Phyllis Kirk, Ken Medley, Ron Nishi & Bill Staab) ... Nuts (Melissa Storey & Patti Van Achte) ... skier ornaments (Barb Belton, Michael Dory, Lulu Figini & TJ Marchello).

On Wednesday night, we rented the **Tube Park** (with side-by-side winding chutes) and 35 showed up for a fun time! Afterward some met in the hotel lobby lounge for pizza or other takeout. On Friday, we met again in the lobby lounge to share leftovers or eat more takeout. Many new friendships were formed over the week.

On Saturday, Jan 27 (with several new inches of snow on the ground), we packed up the bus and headed home. We left the hotel at 9:30 AM and, with a brief lunch stop & border crossing, arrived in Everett ~4 PM. We had a few sore fingers and ankles, a bumped head, and one separated shoulder, but nothing that won't heal in a short time. Overall, this was one of our best trips yet – and most say they are planning to return next season! (Don't wait too long to sign-up!)



Group Social



Robbi on Morrisey



End of ski day, Sunset



Group ready for first tracks (follow the pink ribbons!)



Fun ski gear



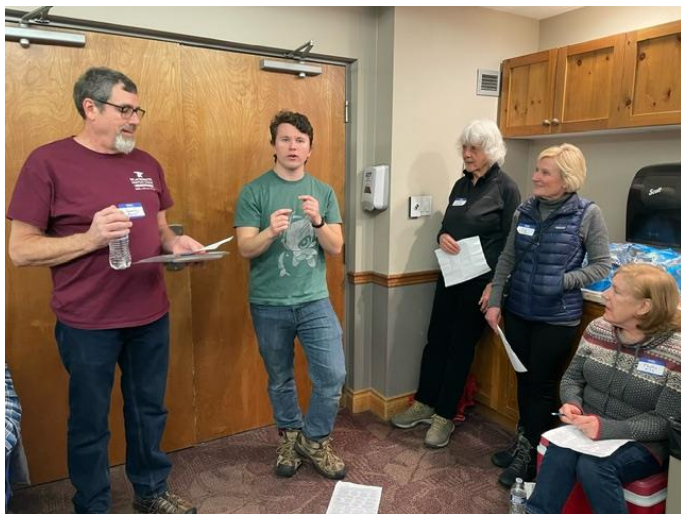
Greg, Peter W & Eldee tubing ... a thrilling ride!



Becky, Sam & Ginny on 3 Bears run



Tubers waiting to shove off



TJ explaining his bell-ringing "little known fact" at social



Ginny, Becky & Mel skiing w/Robbi on Exhibition



Dinner at Powder Hounds



Sunshine & icicles from Sunburst Lodge



Lake Limerick skiers, with new sign



View from hotel room, pool



Morrissey Chairlift



Night of arrival, dinner at Morrissey's, watching the football game

People Bingo – SKIBACS Sun Peaks 2024

I met the 9 th Marquis de Piro.	I started a new hobby – sailing!	I love open water swimming.	I can juggle.
I didn't strap on any skis until I was 26 years old.	I competed in the freestyle frisbee world championships.	I served a 5-year apprenticeship as a Tool and Dye maker.	I was alone and quarantined in Amman for 10 days with COVID.
I'm the proud grandpa of my namesake (& he'll continue the Batman legacy)	I have never broken a bone. <i>[Here's hoping it's still true by the end of our trip!]</i>	I made stained glass from sand, soda ash, limestone and coloring metals.	I learned to ski on Mt. Bachelor – and still get lost in resorts that aren't nice round cones.
During a hiking trip, using poles, I glissaded down a long steep slope of ash to reach the base of Mt Etna.	I learned to ski on the "mountains" in southeast Michigan.	After working for 36 years at my current job (not Boeing!) & 10 years at a place before that, I am finally retired and looking forward to a new chapter of life!	I learned how to downhill ski on mile-long skinny skis with leather-strap bindings. And I wore hunting boots with the skis.
I have 86 Santas (not counting several more that are tree decorations)	I was the Colorado State Champion in Judo in the junior's division (under 16 years old).	I was 4 th runner-up in Miss Washington Teen beauty pageant.	I took a month off work and traveled to Tanzania to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.
I was once bombed by a WWII B-17 Bomber.	I was on stage in a casino showroom with comedian Don Rickles.	I was stuck in my car for two days during a snow storm.	I faced off with a baboon for possession of a pineapple.
I play bass in a funk/soul cover band.	I had a Hole-in-One in 2017.	I'm eagerly awaiting my third Hole-in-One.	I've visited over 60 countries.
We almost got washed out of Petra, Jordan, in March 2023.	I rode a camel for the first time in 2023.	The first place I ever skied was Sun Valley, when I was 5 years old.	I climbed to the top of the Great Wall of China (Badaling section).
I was the Gold medal winner for the State of Delaware in 25-yd Freestyle swim (8 & under) in 1966. Then placed 7th in the Nation in Senior Olympics in 100-yard Freestyle (60-64 year olds) in 2019.	I snuck into Pete's Poop Deck (Seattle's original Jazz Club) to celebrate my high-school graduation.	I have the most niche hobby of anyone going on this trip. I do traditional English change ringing, where I ring church bells (not unlike the Hunchback of Notre Dame). This bell-ringing is not so much musical in nature as it is mathematical.	
Some years ago, after my father retired from the US air Force, he flew for a small charter jet service (& on occasion would have celebrities on board like Charleton Heston, and Bob Hope).	I rode my bicycle to Portland 7½ times 'til I found there were easier ways to get to Portland. <i>[Who wants to go to Portland these days anyhow?]</i>	I learned to telemark ski 35 years ago, and (in spite of Robbi urging me to switch to alpine) I kept telemarking until 2 years ago on this Sun Peaks trip.	I went to 8 different schools in 3 different States from Kindergarten until high-school graduation.
I rode around the Daytona Speedway with Richard Petty's grandson. We were speeding along over 175 miles per hour. His grandson is very cute.	I had the opportunity to Spy Rig (Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction) out of a CH 53 Helicopter when I was stationed with the US Marine Corps.	In Singapore, I visited the "bird-singing café" where locals gather & hang hundreds of song-birds in cages.	While I didn't graduate from high school, I did graduate near the top of my engineering class from the university that won the Cotton Bowl this year.
For many years, I was the event coordinator for the Boeing Management Association's (now named Boeing Leadership Network) annual "Night on the Slopes" at Snoqualmie Summit West.	I backpacked from White Pass to Chinook Pass a few years ago. My husband was supposed to pick me up at Tipsoo Lake at 4 pm, but drove to the upper parking lot instead. He eventually picked me up 3 hours later.	Between the ages of 10 and 14, I sold fireworks out of the basement of my home prior to the 4th. Business was taking off before Mom shut it down for fear of the situation becoming a booming success.	In 2019, when I had to renew my expired passport, my request was DENIED! Apparently, I have been spelling my first name wrong <i>all my life!</i> It was really strange as I have had passports for many, many years and even had a high Government security clearance -- ALL with the "misspelled" first name!
<p>There was a time when I numbered dozens of people suffering with Hansen's Disease (leprosy) as friends I saw almost daily! <i>I was Superintendent of the NHPark which is what Kalaupapa is now, preserved if you will. There are now only 2 or 3 patients still alive. I was there from '87 to 1994. It was made a NHP in 1980 because the patients knew that when they were gone, if it wasn't protected it would likely become a super resort, and their tragic story would get lost. If you went back now it would pretty much look as it did in the 70s, but the old hospital burned to the ground in 1990, and only a few patients remain. It is a fascinating place.</i></p>			