

Big Sky, Montana 2020

Saturday, January 18th – Saturday, January 25th

Trip Leader: Marty Snipes; Assistant: Karen Clarke

Our January trip to Big Sky had all 48 of our travelers looking forward to skiing at one of the top-rated mountains in the country. Big Sky is one of our clubs' favorite ski destinations and the reports were calling for great snow and great conditions for the week. We flew from Jacksonville to Denver and Denver to Bozeman, Montana on United Airlines.

After guests checked-in at either the Huntly Lodge or the Village Suites, we had two priorities to take care of. First, we had to rent our skis and equipment and then attend our welcome reception. The ski rental shop, Lone Mountain Sport located in the Arrowhead Mall was convenient and very accommodating to club members. The welcome reception was held in the Cheyenne Room located within the Huntley Lodge. Wine and several cheese, crackers and fruits platters were provided by Big Sky Resort and pizza and beer were provided as part of the trip. Our resort rep, Josh Pelczar gave a great presentation for the resort and answered all our questions regarding skiing, mountain terrain, restaurants etc.

Sunday began the week with club members joining each other for breakfast at the amazing breakfast buffet within the Huntley Lodge. It was a beautiful sunny day with beautifully groomed runs making for a wonderful first day on the slopes. Sunday afternoon there was a happy hour planned at the new Westward Social located in the Exchange (formerly the Mountain Mall).

Monday began again with breakfast at the Huntly. A large group ventured over to Madison Base for another great day of skiing. That evening we had a fun happy hour at Montana Jacks located in the Exchange.

Tuesday was a rest day for many. Several attended a snow mobile excursion to Yellowstone National Park, while others ventured out dogsledding.

On Wednesday morning it started to snow making for great conditions in the afternoon. Happy hour was at the Westward Social.

Thursday and Friday we had more great skiing and happy hours throughout the base area. Big Sky has recently investment \$13M into renovations which included renovating the two story Mountain Mall which reopened as "the Exchange". A new modern food hall know call the "Vista" is located on the second flood and includes fire places and six different food stations, as well as a full bar. Many took advantage of this convenience as well as enjoyed the new fireplaces/heaters located on an outside deck.

Friday we were out early getting the last bit of skiing in before we had to go home!

The ski conditions at Big Sky were nearly perfect the entire week. We had great snow and fresh powder several days.

The Huntley Lodge breakfast buffet is by far one of the best. The rooms at the Huntley Lodge are standard hotel type rooms with the suites at the Village Suites being efficiency type rooms with a Murphy bed, pull out sleeper, fireplace and small kitchen area. Several lodging at the Village Suites upgraded to slope side which provided not only an amazing view of Lone Peak, but a slope side patio which made it possible to ski in and ski out.

Big Sky is truly an amazing mountain loved by so many!