

Mammoth, California  
February 11 – 17, 2023

We had 12 travelers from the Jacksonville Ski Club attend the Florida Ski Council trip to Mammoth, California. The agenda was packed and everyone was excited for the “Mammoth bucket list” ski trip.

Our flight departed Jacksonville just before 8:00am ET with a short layover in Denver. We arrived in Bishop, California on time at 12:40pm PT. The jet was smaller and several bags had to be checked at the gate. The landing into Bishop was very scenic, but took several minutes giving us the feeling of hovering/floating in air while not moving. Once we landed, we picked up our gate, checked bags from a cart on the tarmac and waited for our luggage to be passed through the outdoor receptacle. The wait was not bad as we were surrounded by mountains – specifically the White Mountain range behind the runway.

Once all bags were collected, we piled into a 14 person transit van with ski gear transported in a separate van. We stopped at the Bishop Von’s Safeway to purchase snacks and liquor for the week. The next hour was spent driving to Mammoth Mountain Inn through the most scenic mountain ranges. The driver of the transit vehicle provided several points of interest – the most interesting was the area of Mammoth Lakes was not part of the Sierra Nevada range, but a caldera where the volcano that formed the Mammoth mountains collapsed

The check in at the Mammoth Mountain Inn was slightly hectic, but within 2 hours of arriving, everyone had their room keys, lift tickets, FSC badges, drink tickets and rental equipment. At 5:00pm, everyone met in the bar for a Happy Hour where one drink was provided by FSC and a second provided by JSC. During HH luggage arrived in the rooms and travelers separated for dinner.

The entire week the weather was perfect with one day providing fresh powder which brought white outs. Every other day the sun was out, the temperature was crisp with the runs holding their groomed surface throughout the day! Just perfect ski conditions!!

Sunday morning presented the opportunity for a mountain tour with one of the Mammoth guides. 8 Travelers took advantage of the tour and traveled across the mountain and back. All who participated enjoyed and were thankful for the tour. A second HH was provided for the travelers, compliments of Troy and Michelle, but few attended give it was Super Bowl Sunday.

Monday Troy and Michelle attended the First Tracks at Juniper Springs followed by a Team Leader breakfast to cover updates/changes to the agenda. Troy and Michelle skied across the mountain and met the group at the base gondola then traveled to the summit for a group shot. A few did not attend due to the altitude, ski lesson, or off doing their thing. The group returned to McCoy station where we shared lunch. Monday night the group attended the FSC welcome event at the Rock ‘n’ Bowl in the village. All had a fabulous time bowling or rooting for our club members.

Tuesday morning the snow flurries and wind delayed the lifts opening, the scheduled poker run was postponed. Mid-morning the weather cleared for a few hours and several of us were able to get in a few runs before the snow descended causing another white out. Tuesday evening, our group traveled to the Village for a pub crawl. Thanks to Steve Bratcher who provided venue recommendations, the group had a lot of fun. We started in the underground bar at the Clock Tower where we had an entire section to ourselves. We then traveled across the street to the Village and Shelter Distilling where we enjoyed our second libation. Everyone separated for dinner with some going to the Smokeyard BBQ and Chop Shop, some visiting Lakanuki and some returning to the hotel. Everyone picked what they wanted to do which is the benefit of the Mammoth Mountain Inn providing an “on demand” shuttle from 5:00pm – 9:30pm.

Wednesday 5 of our group chose to visit June Mountain with the other FSC clubs. The lifts were delayed several hours, but once they opened, the group that stayed had a fabulous time. They enjoyed skiing the black runs and appreciated the views from the top of June Mountain.

Thursday, our last day, was off to a start with the poker run that was delayed from Tuesday. Not many participated but those that did were challenged with skiing runs not previously skied. We did not win the highest or lowest hand, but enjoyed the challenge. Thursday evening, the gondola was reserved by FSC which took us to the dinner/dance event at McCoy Station. DJ, drinks, Italian meal was a nice close to the week. A few of our group dressed for the “Ice Age” theme, most did not, but had a wonderful time dancing! When we descended the gondola into pitch black, it was somewhat spooky, but once the gondola dipped over the edge, the resort lights could be seen providing a memorable experience.

Friday the group check out of the Mammoth Mountain Inn and headed for Bishop. The trip home was un-eventful and all arrived safely in Jacksonville with all luggage accounted for.

The Mammoth Mountain Inn was the original structure built in the 1960’s and held a quaintness the new resorts did not. It was located 1,000 feet above the Mammoth Village and provided THE best ski in/ski out conditions. Mammoth Mountain overall provided wide, beautiful runs across the mountain with many, many runs steps from our front door. Definitely should be on everyone’s bucket list to ski!