

# The Liftline

## Starting the Ski Season (and New Year!) Right

*Report by Barb Pirie*—The New Year's Ski Trip to Michigan started off absolutely ON TIME. The bus was loaded with skiers, food, equipment, etc. and we left Wild Country parking lot at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. A 8-1/2 hour trip with some games (including the ever-popular Horse Race from the Haydel's), eating and drinking, and lots of conversations saw us arriving again ON TIME in the town of Pellston, Michigan. We drove through town looking for our hotel and finally found the Holiday Inn Express about 4 miles north of the town right across the road from the airport (we were less than 20 miles south of Mackinaw).

After getting our room assignments and unloading the bus, we discovered that we were slightly misled – there were no restaurants or shops within walking distance except at the airport. The manager recommended the Douglas Lake Lodge which was about 4 miles away so about half of us boarded the bus for a ride through the countryside (the others decided to order pizza or walk across the highway to the airport where we were scheduled to have our New Year's Eve banquet). (continued on p.2)

## Chilly Chili Cookoff

Knock the recent frigid temps on their butt!

Feb. 16, 2008, 6 p.m.

Randy and Judy Haydel's

2001 Trout Valley Dr.

Champaign, IL 61822

352-7254

Categories for competition will be:

- Most Flavorful Traditional Chili
- Chili Verde (No tomatoes)
- Non-traditional Chili (Vegetarian, wild game, etc).

This is a BYOB party and if you do not wish to enter a chili, you may supply a dessert, cheese, crackers, or any other good things that would go along with the chili. See you all there!



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**FIRST FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR**

Seven Saints

6 E. Taylor Street

Downtown Champaign

Feb 1st, 6PM

## In Fondest Memory....

Ski Club member Tim Hogan passed in early January, 2008. His funeral was January 14th. For those of us who could not attend, or who did not know Tim and his generosity, Terry Walker shares an anecdote of his memories of Tim. Page 4.



The Douglas Lake Lodge was extremely nice but was closing that night for the season so the menu was limited and they ran out of a number of items that some of us would have like to have had for dinner (they were out of soup and limited salads). It is probably an extremely nice place to visit according to the advertisements – a screened porch facing a lake, fishing areas — but not at 8:00 pm on their last evening.

Sunday morning, after a continental breakfast, we loaded the bus for a 15 minute ride to Nubs Nob Ski Resort. Temperatures were in the low 30's with a smattering of snow. A very good base and the entire mountain open led to a great day of skiing. After returning to the hotel, we celebrated with a wine and cheese party at "Party Room Central" (Barb Pirie & Jerri Wilkerson's suite). Most of the adults crashed about 10:00 p.m.

Monday morning started off basically the same with an equally long bus ride (15 minutes or so) up to Boyne Highlands. Temperatures were similar, still lightly snowing, and another great day of skiing. However, we did have a mishap. Kyle Jannusch took a "header" and managed to dislocate his shoulder and pull some muscles. The ski patrol brought him down the mountain but recommended he be taken to the local hospital for further treatment. He returned to us in time for dinner with his arm in a sling and no further boarding for the remainder of the trip. (This is the second year that I have led this trip and the second time that Kyle has been injured).

Left: New members Jim & Maggie McGuire, Jerri Wilkerson. Below: Todd Mowry, Eileen Coleman, Gayle Jannusch

Dinner Monday evening started out with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Village Inn Restaurant located at the airport. The crackers and spreads were absolutely fantastic. We were seated at 7 pm with our places already set with a mixed greens salad, and then we were invited to help ourselves to a buffet that included broiled whitefish, prime rib, chicken breast marsala, shrimp fettuccini alfredo, twice-baked potatoes, sautéed fresh vegetables and homemade rolls and butter. If you were still hungry, a dessert buffet was available. A champagne toast was offered and the majority headed back to the hotel.

Tuesday morning, after the continental breakfast, we checked out of the hotel and loaded the bus for trip to Boyne Mountain (an hour or so south of Pellston). We got a bit of a side trip on the way as Mark (bus driver) made a wrong turn and so we had to backtrack about 15 or 20 minutes). We finally arrived at our destination and found conditions very similar to the previous two days. After about 5 hours of skiing, we again loaded onto the bus and started the l-o-n-g journey home. Our bus had some difficulties with the drivers' side defrost and Mark drove most of the way home with less than a 6 inch x 10 inch window to see the road. We also discovered that the further south we traveled, the colder it got and, by the time we got home at 11:45 pm, the temperature outside was 1 degree We did not waste a lot of time unloading the bus or loading our vehicles. A very quick farewell and everyone headed home.

It was a great trip and I wish to thank all who participated. (More pix on page 7)

Christmas Memories Photos courtesy of Greg Smith

*Thank You*

To Greg & Vicki Smith for hosting our holiday party in their fabulous home!

**Above:** Santa shows his appreciation to party organizer Jennifer Thomas. **Right:** Two imposter Santas crash the party. **Below:** Who needs the Sears Portrait studio? The Dahman's wrap up their Christmas card photo shoot.



## Remembering Tim Hogan By Terry Walker

As many of us skiers already know, Tim was a great guy and would give you the shirt off his back. Which reminds me of one night at a Blackjack Ski area bar, when I danced and drank a little too long. Finally, I put on my coat and walked up the ski hill headed for our condo, where Barbie was waiting. I had told her I was just going out for a walk.

Three hours later she found me in a snow bank next to the ski run, up to my waist in snow, with a Bud held high and dry. She got me out of the snow and brought me back to our warm condo. I took off my coat and noticed how big it was. I thought, "My wife must really love me because she put all of this great ski stuff in the pockets". While standing in my underwear, the wet clothes drying, there's a knock on the door.

Barbie answered it, and laughing loudly yelled to me, "Hey Terry, Tim is here to see you!" Sure enough, there stood Tim in a coat that was way too small for a big fellow like Tim. He said, "I told you, that you could have the shirt off my back, not my coat." HE WILL BE MISSED.

## Curl Up with a Good Story By Judy Haydel

Surprisingly enough, the Waltham Curling club has been in existence since 1884. We were met by some of the club members for an exciting introduction into the world of dead rocks, skips, houses, buttons and hoglines. Getting used to walking (sometimes trotting) on the ice was a little tricky. Since that wasn't too bad, we were then introduced to sliders on our shoes to make us slide farther. For those of you not familiar with the game of curling, it's a little like bocci ball or horseshoes. There is a center point (called the button) that you are trying to get your stone closer to than your opponent. Not only do you have to be closest, but the stone also has to be in the house (circles around the button). There are all the foul lines that play important roles in the game (hog and hack lines).

Curling has been nicknamed, "chess on ice" due to the complex nature of stone placement. Needless to say, our "chess on ice" was more like tiddly winks. Stone placement was always well intentioned but usually just plain luck. A few devices helped to make the game more enjoyable for our team. There were grippers for the sweeper's shoes and stone poles for those of us with bad knees and backs. (continued on page 9)

L to R: Geoff Mowry, Cynthia Swanson, Linda Bauer, Chris Haydel, Todd and Kimmie Mowry, Judy and Randy Haydel, and Sue Ellen and Bill Curry (our photo journalist)

## Full Steam(boat) Ahead! By Greg Crawford

The trip started with everyone early and ready to go skiing. We toasted the anticipation of “Champagne Powder” and sunshine with a Mimosa or orange juice and munched on Danish as we motored to Chicago. Upon arrival at Steamboat, 53 inches of fresh snow greeted us. This was on top of 10 feet or more deposited since Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. The views were fabulous with snow everywhere.

Our first day on the slopes was overcast and visibility was tough, but the next two days were more than perfect with fresh snow, sun and 27-28 degree temps. The rest of the days were cold,

but we braved the elements and enjoyed the slopes or other activities.

Each day started around 8:30 or 9:00 on the slopes, continued with lunch on the mountain or at the base, moved to the hot tub after skiing, then onto the wine and cheese party and wrapped up with the restaurant or kitchen of choice. We found some great restaurants with the “Steamboat Yacht Club” winning best of class. The “Butcher Shop” came in a close second and pizza at “Slopeside Grill” was a big hit.

You might ask Maurice Bell about his afternoon with a fox. Maurice and Sue Ellen had close encounters with tree wells and learned to dig out. I’m told there were more than a few acrobatic moves on the hill that ended with “landings” that could have scored a 10. Some loved the slopes so much they kissed the snow. The only major mishap occurred on our next to last day, when Joyce Goggin fell and sustained an injury, was chauffeured to the hospital, given the star treatment and sent home. Later, it was decided a blue

## Steamboat Springs Trip Report, cont.

boot was a necessary addition to her wearing apparel. It did look stunning with the orange sweater she wore on the trip home and gained her forward seating and luggage service.

Some awards were presented at the last wine and cheese party. Steve Elkins received a bright ski cap for his fast paced skiing and positive attitude every day. Joan Sargent was presented a hat and gloves for being the snowshoe queen. Maurice Bell received a red light so he could show his position when stuck in deep snow. Joyce Goggin had trouble keeping track of her neck gator so received gator clips. Asa Ray was presented a Steamboat sheriff's star for being a star in ski school. Mark Jannusch spent a great deal of time demo-ing skis. He received a pair of skis on a pin, hopefully, the only ones he had to show Gayle when he got home. The group as a whole should have received an award for the amount of wine consumed. Would you believe approximately 40+ liters! That only counts the amount consumed at our wine and cheese parties. Wow!

Special thanks goes to the Finnertys, Griffins and Smiths. Finnertys were the engines behind the wine and cheese parties. The Griffins provided transportation to haul wine and the injured. Smiths donated cheese and medical backup.

The group did a lot of skiing, but managed to fit in other activities including: beer drinking, snowshoeing, bus riding, shopping, knitting, soaking in hot tubs and natural springs, learning about fossils, getting massages, visiting museums and art galleries, reading and marveling at the beauty of snow covered trees and slopes.

New Year's Eve Trip Report, cont.

Below: Trip Host Barb Pirie with Jerri Wilkerson. Far Below: The Jannusch clan.

## Curling Report, cont.

After lunch, provided by SKI and a few beers (for courage), teams were made up by mixing the clubs from Springfield, Bloomington, Peoria and Champaign into the required 4 man/woman teams. It's amazing how we all quickly developed loyalty to our teammates and played a challenging game against even our own club friends. The game was abbreviated by only playing 2 ends (like innings) so we would be able to play against most of the other teams by our 4 p.m. deadline time. Everyone had a great time and lived to tell about it.

After the games, we had reservations at the Curl Inn, just down the street (there was only one) for a surprisingly good meal with first round drinks compliments of SKI. It was a long day and quite a bit more tiring than any of us suspected. Although the course is only 45 yards long, when you are sweeping so vigorously to keep that stone moving, you can really work up a sweat. I think if you talk to anyone who went along, they will tell you it was a lot of fun and they would enjoy doing it again. So, next year, maybe we can get a Champaign outing together or do the same thing with SKI.

Here are some pics from the pick-up canoe trip that Chuck and Mike ran on Jan 6, 2008. Nine people went on the 10.25 mile paddle down the Salt Fork - it was a great time! The water was at a nice level and there were some fun standing waves to surf. There were also "icebergs ahead!!" - Mike and others were the ice jam breakers and got us through a blockage! We then hit a quarter mile of cold fog - very neat!! In addition to the usual sightings of great blue herons, kingfishers and hawks, we saw a coyote scramble up the bank. -Gwen Broeren

**CHAMPAIGN SKI CLUB  
PO BOX 3724**

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