

## MAMMOTH 2019

For 31 years the 49er Ski Club has scheduled one or more trips a year to ski at Mammoth. But this year, because of the Ikon pass and the record snow, we set a new attendance record. On Sunday fifty-one intrepid 49ers, prospective members and guests descended on Mammoth for the annual trip.

Along the way many 49ers stopped at a favorite lunch stop, Topaz Lodge, for great food and views of beautiful Topaz Lake. Most all the 49ers stayed at the updated Quality Inn (QI), as we have for many years, but a few stayed at a ski in/out lodge on the mountain. Sunday night we gathered at tiddlies to introduce 49ers, prospective members, guests, and gobble down snacks.

Monday dawned with poor visibility on the mountain. Most stayed low on the mountain, while a few brave souls signed up for the free mountain tour in the morning. About 30 folks stopped for lunch at our favorite watering hole – McCoy Lodge. Conditions brightened up after lunch with clear blue sky and little wind. Fueled up, we dispersed all over the mountain to shred the spectacular snow. Several folks met to ski the Mombo Combo run for Blue Run Bob. Exhilarated, but tired after skiing hard all day, several of us soaked our sore muscles in the indoor/outdoor hot tub at the Quality Inn. Monday night we took our age-based pictures grouped in decades (90s -1, 80s – 6, 70s - 23, 60s – 13 and Bionic-7). Afterwards, folks dispersed to local restaurants and returned back to the lodge to hit the sack and dream about fresh tracks.

Woke up Tuesday to a beautiful day on the mountain. After gulping down the hot breakfast at QI, we hit the slopes about 8:30 am as the lifts opened. We skied hard in the morning taking runs off of chairs 8, 16, 22 and the Broadway express. Dave Abbott (Abbot boy) led a small group off-piste. Just before lunch several of us took a run off the Cloud 9 chair called Ricochet. Despite the excellent conditions we found the one run on the mountain that was very steep and windblown on the top right down to the hard pack. As most of us struggled to hold an edge to side slip down the slope, we were passed by a member straight lining the run doing a rendition of the flying funky chicken at speeds in excess of 60 mph. We all gathered at the bottom of the run and concluded once is enough, and thanked our fortunes no one was hurt. A storm blew in about 2 pm and many of us retired a little early to soak our sore muscles in the hot tub before heading to Giovanni's for the traditional group pizza night.

Because of the large group this year, the pizza start time was moved earlier to 5 PM. Forty-seven 49ers shoe-horned in to a section of the room at Giovanni's. The staff was prepared for us and the salad, sodas and pizza showed up like clockwork. Despite the close conditions, we all had a great time and agreed the food was excellent with a mix of meat, barbecued chicken and vegetarian pizza.

Just when we thought conditions couldn't get any better, Wednesday dawned with a fresh dusting of powder, fresh tracks galore and a clear blue sky. We dispersed all over the mountain in the morning as the lifts opened and skied hard all day long. At tiddlies in the evening we honored two of our most inspirational members on the trip: Bill Anthony and Ellen Ferguson.

In the past most of the 49ers departed on Thursday morning to head for home. Stoked this year because of the exceptional snow conditions and clear blue sky, nearly half the group stayed Thursday morning to ski out the last bit of their legs on the mountain. Stopping around noon to get lunch and head for home we were reminded of the line from a Carly Simon song, "Makes me feel sad for the rest."

This was a truly an epic trip and we can't wait to return to Mammoth next year. In fact, 20 rooms have been reserved for the second week of March in 2020 at the same rate we paid this year. Hope to see you all next year.

MikenRox