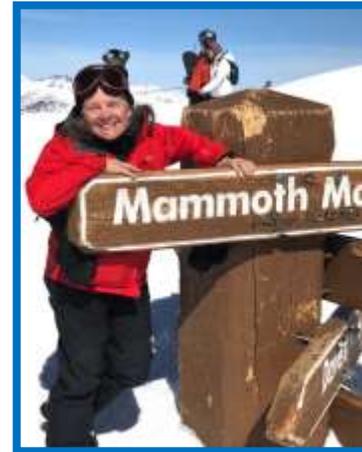


MAMMOTH TRIP REPORT

March 5 - 9, 2017

Twenty-nine intrepid 49ers and our two perennial guests, Jerry and Terri Perkins, braved an all-out blizzard traveling over the Sierra to our 29th annual gathering at Mammoth Mountain.



Because the gales continued into Monday, only five lifts opened, resulting in lift lines reminiscent of the Old Days before the installation of high-speed quads. We handled it with typical 49er good humor and enjoyed fine conditions on the lower-elevation runs.

Each following day, there was less wind and more sun. By Thursday, everyone ditched the sweaters and broke out their lightweight parkas. However, aside from the very bottoms of St. Anton's and the trees off chair 14, no mashed potatoes were sacrificed to cover the runs.



As always, the daily happy hours were filled with yummy treats and tales of the day's events from many different points of view, but everyone agreed conditions on the mountain were stellar. Runs that have been marginal to downright un-skiable the past few years were available and enjoyable.

A large contingent skied the “3 - 2 Mambo Combo” in honor of Blue Run Bob, and some fast women dedicated a run on the shoulder of Cornice Bowl to Carol Swan.



Pizza night was moved to Tuesday this year, and enjoyed full participation. Our newest member, Ann Link, completed her required five days of skiing while at Mammoth. Since we couldn't give Ann her name badge, Robert Musial surreptitiously taped her poles with green and orange day-glow duct tape and presented them to her during the pizza party, making at least her poles official.



Happily, there were no significant injuries (although there were three spectacular crashes involving skis buried perpendicularly up to the binding and/or unplanned summersaults), but at least two people returned home with very bad colds.



The roads were clear for the easy and gorgeous drive home on Thursday.

Thanks to Mike and RoxAnn for making all the arrangements again this year for the trip, but since they were skiing elsewhere, I got the thank-you gift of a bottle of wine and an ice pack for my knees for subbing for them once on site.

Submitted by Wendy Stevens