

On Saturday, January 24th, twenty-six adventurers, being led by TC **Ladye Freitag** and ATC **Leslie Caldwell**, journeyed to the quaint ski village of Sun Peaks in Canada. The journey began mid-morning, with all 28 adventurers gathering at IAH for the flight to Vancouver. Once we landed in Vancouver, we got our bags and checked through customs. We then boarded our bus for Sun Peaks. Pre-chosen catered lunches were passed out and gobbled up by all. Because it was going to be a long bus ride, movies had been planned, but due to technical difficulty, only one of the TVs was working. So, everyone made the best of it and started to get to know each other.

As we got closer to the mountains, the snow was falling around us. It was breathtaking how beautiful it was. Finally, after a full day of traveling, we arrived at Nancy Green's Cahilty Lodge. This is where we called home for the next week.

The next morning at the Continental breakfast in the TC's suite, lift tickets were handed out and skiing partners were paired up. It was pretty nippy, -18 degrees Celsius or around 0 degrees Fahrenheit. (Thanks to **Bob Simpson** for making a chart to convert Celsius to Fahrenheit.) The die-hard skiers layered and masked up for that first trip down the mountain. **Debbie McDonald** decided to take the first day easy and had a massage at the Sun Peaks Lodge Day Spa. **Pat Reinhardt** tried to follow the Big Boys (**Keith Kirkman**, **Bob Knupp**, **Don Macken**, and **Bruce Baird**), but kept falling down. But because he kept getting back up and going, Pat became known as the "Energizer Skier" - he keeps going and going and going.

**Jack Sartin** was nicknamed "Mr. Potato Head" with fake ears because how can anyone ski with just a cap on in -18 degrees Celsius weather? His ears had to be zipped into his head. Sunday night, there was a big reception held for all the guests at Sun Peaks with Nancy Greene, Canada's famous woman skier, leading the festivities.



On Monday, January 26th **Samantha Davidson** and **Cindy Moore** started out the day with lessons. **Melanie Raney**, a new member, likes to ski with the very short skis. This gave her an advantage of being able to control her skis and skiing down slopes that would be more difficult with longer skis. Melanie must have made a hit with **Keith Kirkman** and **Bob Knupp**, as they let her ski with them in the afternoon. That evening, we enjoyed a wine reception with Nancy Green and her husband, Al. Nancy was Canada's top ski racer through the 1960s, winning gold and silver medals at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics and overall World Cup titles in 1967 and 1968. Her total of 13 World Cup victories is still a Canadian record. She won 17 Canadian Championship titles in all. This was also a great "Kodak Moment" as many of us had our pictures taken with Nancy. Nancy graciously autographed her custom picture postcards depicting her skiing. Bob and **Mary Simpson** were our "Restaurant Critics." They sampled the cuisine from several establishments and reported back if they were good or not.

Tuesday, January 27th was Breakfast Taco morning. TC **Ladye Freitag**, **Janet McKenzie**, **Melanie Raney**, **Rena Sartin** and **Jackie Walne** were the Breakfast Taco Chefs. We were busy running around, cooking, filling, rolling and wrapping the various kinds of tacos. This was quite a task as the kitchen was very small. Because of all the hustle and bustle, it became a bit warm with all the commotion. **Janet McKenzie** thought it would be a good idea to cool the place down, so she opened the door to the suite. With the warmth of the cooking spilling out into the hallway, it didn't take long before the Smoke Alarm went off. Needless to say, no one missed the Breakfast Tacos that morning. With full stomachs, many headed out for another day of great skiing. Several of our skiers elected to ski with Al, Nancy Greene's husband, and Nancy on the mountain. **Melanie Morin** skied with Nancy a lot of days. **Mike Downs** tried to "kiss a tree," but ended up with a "hickey" on his face.

That evening was Casino Night, which was held at the main lodge at the base of the mountain. Each player was given \$2,500 (fake, of course) to play at the various stations. The Blackjack table was the most popular. At around 8:00 p.m. prizes were purchased by the highest "Bidder" with the money that was won. A number of our skiers attended this fun-filled event. Don and **Leslie Caldwell**, along with **Todd Larson**, opted for a quiet evening in the luxurious Delta Hotel bar/restaurant. At the Delta, this trio saw many gamblers returning from a night of excitement and prizes. **Samantha Davidson** and **Melanie Raney** were spotted getting free beer at Bottoms Bar and Grill.

Wednesday, January 28th - A BEAUTIFUL DAY! A

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## SUN PEAKS, CANADA (CONTINUED)

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gorgeous blue cloudless sky! Everyone was out enjoying the day. It was too beautiful to stay inside and it was also a great day for picture taking. Many people made it up to the top of Crystal lift to see the Snow Ghosts. These are trees wrapped with snow and ice, which formed amazing shapes. It was breath taking! The group dinner was Wednesday night in Macker's Bar and Grill, located in our lodge. Before the dinner began, everyone serenaded **Janet McKenzie** in a round of "Happy Birthday" as she was given a Cappuccino Truffle with a little birthday candle to celebrate her day! It was a delicious and leisurely dinner. Everyone was so full that there was only a handful of people who went to MacDaddy's nightclub afterwards.

Thursday, January 29th - As the week went by, fewer people would show up for the Continental breakfast. One person that came every day in her comfortable blue robe was **Yvonne Guy**. She always had a smile on her face and a cup of coffee in her hand. **Barbara** and **Mike Carr** were seen window-shopping and walking around the village. **Rena Sartin** and **Jackie Walne** were our two non-skiers. Daily they would workout in the Lodge's spa and then meet their husbands, **Jack Sartin** and **Tom Walne** at Baggs Sweets for lunch. Irene, the chief cook and bottle washer at Baggs Sweets, invited **Rena** and **Jack Sartin**, **Jackie** and **Tom Walne**, **Leslie** and **Don Caldwell**, and **Todd Larson** to sample the Haggis and bag pipe procession honoring The Baird (Robert Burns) at Baggs Sweets sister restaurant, Baggio's, that evening. The invitation was wholeheartedly accepted. **Keith Kirkman** and **Bob Knupp** were also seen honoring this Scottish tradition. **Mitch Gaspard**, **Pat Reinhardt**, **Don Macken**, **Mike Downs**, **Yvonne Guy**, and **Debbie McDonald** were a few of the people headed up to the top of the mountain for the Torchlight Dinner. Because it was cold and snowing and windy, several people elected not to participate. **Jessica Halter** and **John Wilkerson** enjoyed the food, but especially enjoyed the skiing down after the dinner - they love fresh powder.

Friday, January 30th - **Mike** and **Barbara Carr** had forgotten that we were staying in hotel rooms (TC had a suite) and had brought some cookie and muffin mixes. So Friday morning, **Mike Carr** put on his chef hat and made muffins with makeshift tin foil muffin cups. Earlier in the week, the chocolate chip cookie mix had been made, but no crumbs were left as evidence. **Jessica Halter** and **John Wilkerson** decided that they needed a "Day at the Spa." Both were very relaxed by the end of the evening. **Debbie McDonald** decided to go back to the Spa and this time she got "Stoned" (massage). As mentioned earlier, **Pat Reinhardt** would fall, roll, and pop back up on his skis. However, today Pat did a backward somersault and his tips of his skis got caught in the snow. This would have been a great "Kodak Moment," but **Janet McKenzie** was laughing so hard, she couldn't stay still long enough to take a picture. A special request by **Mitch Gaspard** encouraged a number of our skiers to venture out to the only Japanese restaurant in the area. After a half-mile trek through deep snow and a few detours, they arrived at their destination. The adventurous souls that joined Mitch were **Bruce Baird**, **Leslie** and **Don Caldwell**, **Todd Larson**, **Melanie Morin**, **Debbie McDonald**, **Yvonne Guy**, **Janet McKenzie**, and **Pat Reinhardt**. After a delicious dinner the trip back to the Lodge was made easier by following the groomed ski trails.

Saturday, January 31st - Unfortunately, it was time to go home. Everyone had an early wake-up call because we needed to be on the road at 6:00 a.m. Because it had been snowing the last several days, some of the roads had been closed. Luckily, they were opened by the time we reached the areas of the highway that had been closed. We made the airport in plenty of time to make it through Customs and grab a bite to eat before heading back to Houston.

Many of us wanted to keep Sun Peaks a SECRET because there were no lift lines and the Sun Peaks village and folks gave us a very warm reception! Leslie and I would like to thank each one of you for making this adventuresome trip with us!

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