

Mt. Bachelor, Oregon, February 23 to March 2, 2013

By Ellen Eastham, TC

Oregon is not a state that most people ever ski. There are a few ski resorts in Oregon, but Mt. Bachelor is the most well-known, which is a massive volcanic mountain. It has a unique image of a lone Mountain of 9000' elevation, hence the name Bachelor! The "Cone" is a 7000' cinder cone on the northern flank, 715' vertical, and has skiing 360° from the top. Because the ski area has 55% advanced/expert runs, it attracts more advanced skiers. Several of the clear-sky weather days, the chair lift opened to the top, and you could see **Mike and Charlene Fleming** skiing on super snow! **Nelson and Marti Turner** and most of the skiers that made it to the summit gave a consensus that it was a spectacular view from the top! The mountains surround-



ing Mt. Bachelor are the Three Sisters volcanic peaks each exceeding 10,000' elevation, were named Faith, Hope and Charity by early settlers, and now commonly known as North Sister, Middle Sister, and South Sister. Did you know there is often skiing through the summer at Mt. Bachelor and now the end of April the mountain is still open!

We have many reasons that we all belong to Space City Ski Club. We want to ski (or travel), we don't have to research where to ski and where to stay, yet we sign up for a unique resort destination, check another state or location off our list, and meet new ski and travel friends. SCSC Members that signed up for the Mt. Bachelor trip were looking for a unique ski opportunity, **Kate Barry** wanted a get-away to a new location as a non-skier, she and **Angela Stagg** signed up to meet new ski friends, **Steve Ying** wanted to return because he skied at Mt. Bachelor several years ago and remembers how outstanding the Mountain Ambassadors were (guides on the mountain), **Beverly Roberts** signed up along with many of the "Big Dogs" to follow **Keith Kirkman** to a resort for great skiing. TC **Ellen Eastham** and ATC **Tom Danowski** had both skied many years with SCSC, never in Oregon, and never together, even though they have dated 7 years! So ski trips are a first for many reasons that result in new friendships. **Dennis Hughes**, prior SCSC TC for Mt. Bachelor in 2010, and his wife who is current President, **Melinda Hughes**, decided to return to superb accommodations at Sunriver Resort. The recently opened Aquatic & Recreation Center included indoor and outdoor pools, fitness center and hot tub. **Bruce Fleming** had a great workout in the weight room and visiting the new \$20MM facilities!



February is the low season for Sunriver Resort because summer months are for fishing, golf, and travel time for families that book the resort solid. With fewer guests, we had prompt shuttle service anywhere we needed to go at the huge resort and superior hospitality. Also staying at Sun- river were participants with the California LA Ski Council and Connecticut Snow Snakes. SCSC had various mixers with them at Sunriver, such as the Welcome Party Saturday evening soon after arrival, when we were introduced to Ann Cook, who is the rep from Mt. Bachelor, and her fun side-kick, Carol Mergenthaler. We joined the other ski clubs Monday evening for Salsa Dance Lessons

and a Mexican Dinner at the beautiful rustic historic Great Hall at Sunriver. Built in 1944, it is the only remaining structure of the original Camp Abbot Army Base. The food was not Tex-Mex, but there was a nice table set up with a sombrero and colorful decorations on the buffet. **Dennis and Melinda Hughes**, **Jim Hodges** and **Mariana Wang** showed everyone how to dance as they have been taking Salsa Dance lessons in Texas. There were 14 others from SCSC that attended, along with the two other ski clubs. The group followed the professional instructor, Victoria Tolan, and her partner in their dance steps.

Mt. Bachelor—Continued

Sunday was a perfect blue-sky day, with new snow from the day prior, and the SCSC group was loving Mt. Bachelor! After the first ski day was over, SCSC joined 5 other ski clubs for après ski party with Connecticut Snow Snakes, 3M Ski Club of Minneapolis, MN, Buck Ridge Ski Club in Pennsylvania, IBEX from Illinois, and SCSC. Ann Cook, Mt. Bachelor rep, could be seen strolling the crowd, serving pizza and adult beverages, while she met and spoke with everyone. That evening, SCSC had a club party at the condo of TC, ATC, **Mitch Gaspard** and **Craig Campbell**. Early in the week, it was a great time to get to know everyone. Many stayed around late just to consume adult beverages and tell ski stories!

Four SCSC'ers took advantage of a beautiful day on Tues. Feb. 26, to join all the other ski clubs on Wanderlust Tours to snowshoe Crater Lake National Park. **Mitch Gaspard**, **Kate Barry**, **Frank Stanley**, and **Ellen Eastham** knew there was no guarantee the weather would be clear enough to see the lake, but that particular day it was! A guided tour by 2 naturalist guides told the group about the lake, forest, ecology, wildlife, and volcanoes. The highlight of the trip was the spectacular view of Crater Lake, the shimmering body of emerald blue water that fills the six-mile-wide caldera of Mount Mazama at 7100' elevation. The tour was well-worth the long drive to explore the unique area.

Wed. some of the SCSC group rode to Bend with the LA Ski Council President, Norbert, and his wife, and enjoyed an afternoon wine-tasting. Bend has population of 78,000, spread out in the flat land, and not in the mountains, and is 15 miles from Sunriver Resort. **Judy Schiro** and **Ron Hayes** were joined by **Kate Barry** when they rented a car one day to explore Bend, and the surrounding scenic area.



Wed. evening the SCSC group had a planned night out in Bend, the "Ale Trail Pub Crawl". Microbrews, pubs, and handcrafted beers are renowned in Central Oregon, and there are so many restaurants in town. Beer tasting was plentiful, especially the 6-beer sample tray that one could try at the Deschutes Brewery. **Bruce Fleming** said "Oregon beer is even better than Oregon snow!" **Susan** and **Frank Stanley** are so glad to be back from living in Europe, and skiing in the U.S.A. They celebrated at the State Line Brew Pub by sampling just about every beer they had! We are glad they are back, too, as the Stanley's have been long-time SCSC members and joined us for the ski trip.

James and **Nancy Townsend** explored the area around Mt. Bachelor mountain on cross country skies. James preferred cross country, but

Nancy also joined her downhill ski buddies several days. Sunriver Village Mall with so many stores was close by to explore, purchase souvenirs, bargains, groceries, and only minimal people shopping because of low-season. **Craig Campbell** skied hard all day, then worked at his computer in the condo day & night. His condo-mates hope he set up some great business meetings because he did not get a full vacation away from work! It was fascinating learning about **Derek Shoobridge's** English background. He and **LaDaune Ashley** taught condo mates **Paul** and **Sandra Stolnacke** how to play cribbage the way they did in pubs in England. Everyone enjoyed the huge hot tub, perfect for large groups, to relax the aching muscles after skiing, and unwind before the evening gatherings.

Keith Kirkman led the "big dogs" daily all around Mt. Bachelor, skiing such runs as Expert Devil's Backbone, and Snapshot Alley. **Marti** and **Nelson Turner** loved the several beautiful sunny ski days, but also had to endure the terrible rainy, slushy, sleety, blizzardy days when the clouds descended over the mountain creating low visibility. Some of the big dogs that skied with **Keith** and the group were **Juel Hill**, **Ed Freiter**, **Ross Baker**, and **Davis Tucker**. He always had a pack with him, whether it was sunny or snowing! The Mountain Ambassadors were in abundance and volunteered to take any size group skiing and show their favorite runs. **Steve Ying** said, "I shot off a ledge and ended up getting my ski stuck and hanging upside down from the top of a tree. I must not have learned my lesson because it happened again two days later."



Mt. Bachelor—Continued

Friday was the final day of skiing, the weather was picture perfect. **Mitch Gaspard, Kate Barry, Tom Danowski, and Ellen Eastham** went dog-sledding with the Oregon Trail of Dreams. 2 sleds were pulled by 9 dogs each, some of the dogs had been in one or more Iditarods. The group heard about the owner's daughter, who has a visual handicap and is a 3-time competitor in the Iditarod. All the ski clubs met at Pine Marten Lodge, mid-mountain, for a lasagna luncheon. A rescue dog and its owner made a special appearance during lunch, followed by group picture with blue skies creating a picturesque background. The group left, but a few stayed to take additional photos, when **Ellen** was asked to take a video at that location by a man, who ended up proposing while it was being filmed! At the end of the ski day **Paul and Sandra Stalnacke**, many SCSC members, and those from the other clubs had an afternoon at the Snowblast Tubing Park, an 800' tubing ride. What a fun way to end the ski week!

Friday evening SCSC had their last evening club party. Secret Bachelor Buddies were announced one-by-one presenting a present to their Buddy. **Bruce Fleming** gave Mike Fleming a French bottle of wine, since his ancestors were from France. Then by surprise, **Mike Fleming** had Bruce for a Secret Buddy (no relation) and gave him a "Fleming Coat of Arms." Since **Mitch Gaspard** was such a "spiffy dresser," **Steve Ying** presented him "squirrel underpants" because it was the only clothing item he could find with the budget for the gift at the ski shop! This received much laughter from the group at the humorous gift. Thoughtful and funny gifts were awarded, but most of all it was sharing of memories of how we got to know each other on the trip. SCSC members ski many trips to many world-wide destinations. However each trip results in a common bond for the group and the memories they shared.



