

SKI SCOOPS

APRIL 2020

President's Message

The day skiing died, March 14, 2020. Well not quite but for this ski season it did. The season ended as abruptly as falling down or tripping on a snow snake. How did we get in this position? Trust me I would rather be picking my sore ass off the snow than trying to figure where this virus is going to lead us in our future daily lives.

While a group of York Ski clubbers were skiing and touring breweries in New England the rumblings were growing about the virus. The week we returned, the owner of Catamount and Berkshire East closed his resorts on Wednesday March 11th. A few other eastern resorts closed on that Friday thinking they would reopen in 2 weeks. But Saturday March 14th the hammer dropped. Without warning Bob Katz CEO of Vail Resorts closed all Vail Properties as of midnight, this happened early afternoon mountain time. I was at Ski Roundtop at 5:30 pm had heard nothing about the closing. When I arrived home at 7:15 pm, another instructor texted me the news. I jumped back into the truck to travel back to pick up my ski gear for my upcoming ski trips out west and back to New England. How surprised was I to learn that was my last day skiing for the season! Not as surprised as the skiers who just arrived at the resorts they had planned to ski on Sunday and for the next week. At 7:00 pm the Governor of Colorado closed all ski resorts for minimum of 8 days while they researched this virus and the cause and effect it was having in these ski towns. Most states and countries closed within days of that weekend. A few family owned resorts stayed open for a week or 2 more until the powers that be shut them down. Small ski town USA did not want some ski bum transporting the virus into their little hamlets of safety.

So where do we go from here? Board members are discussing and changing things as needed much like we all are in our daily lives. This time of year is big in making trip destination decisions for our west trips. Where, when, and how much will be decided when real numbers are presented. We canceled our March monthly meeting, along with April's. Carla booked the Stone Grille & Tap House for Tuesday May 19th for a club meeting at 6:30 pm, Governor-permitting. When we know, you will know what's happening and when.

What's happening at Ski Roundtop? Nothing! A few ladies are finishing up some closing details and payroll chores. These same people have been terminated per purchase by Vail resorts. They knew this just after purchase was announced. No maintenance or any other type of work is being done since March 15th. Security has got their eyes open and making their rounds. Computers systems are not being converted at the present time. Summer camps and other activities are on a major hold. Trying times ahead for staff to come back to leading into a season 6 months away!

Sales note, season pass season is upon us! To buy or not buy. Pass drop dead dates are being pushed into summer now with the way the virus is dictating things. Also. we should try to support the Stone Grille & Tap House by buying gift cards to be used at next year's meetings. They really need the cash infusion now to get them through this problem.

Please keep Craig Miller in your thoughts and prayers. I spoke to Craig this afternoon Wednesday, April 15th. He just finished up his second session of chemo for lymphoma cancer. He has 6 more monthly sessions. He is weak, wobbly, tired and everything else that goes with the chemo from 2 days earlier. I asked him how we should contact him. No phone calls please! He might be sleeping, if he can. So, email him and he will respond back. I told him to call if he or wife Kelley needed any help. He also wanted to thank everyone for our support during his shop days and the end of season sale.

Kirk

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Next Board Meeting:

May 19, 2020

Club Website:

Yorkskiclub.org

May 2020 Membership Meeting

May 19, 2020

The next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at The Stone Grille & Tap House located at 204 St. Charles Way, York, PA.

Happy Hour is from 4-6 pm with discounted beverages and appetizers. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. Food will be on your own. We hope to see you at the meeting and please bring a friend or family member to participate with the club.

The board meeting will be held after the membership meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 19, 2020: YSC Membership meeting: Stone Grille & Tap House, 204 St. Charles Way, York, Pa

January 2021: YSC Trip to Belleayre Ski Resort, Pine Hill, NY.

1/30– 2/6/21: EPSC trip to Steamboat, Colorado (Details at www.Easternpaskicouncil.org)

2/27- 3/6/21: YSC trip to Red Mountain, White Water, & Schweitzer

February- March 2021: YSC Trip to Canaan Valley, W.V.

February– March 2022: YSC Trip to Salt Lake City, Utah

Please send any event information to be posted on the calendar to tom.cree@comcast.net



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YSC 2020-2021 Membership

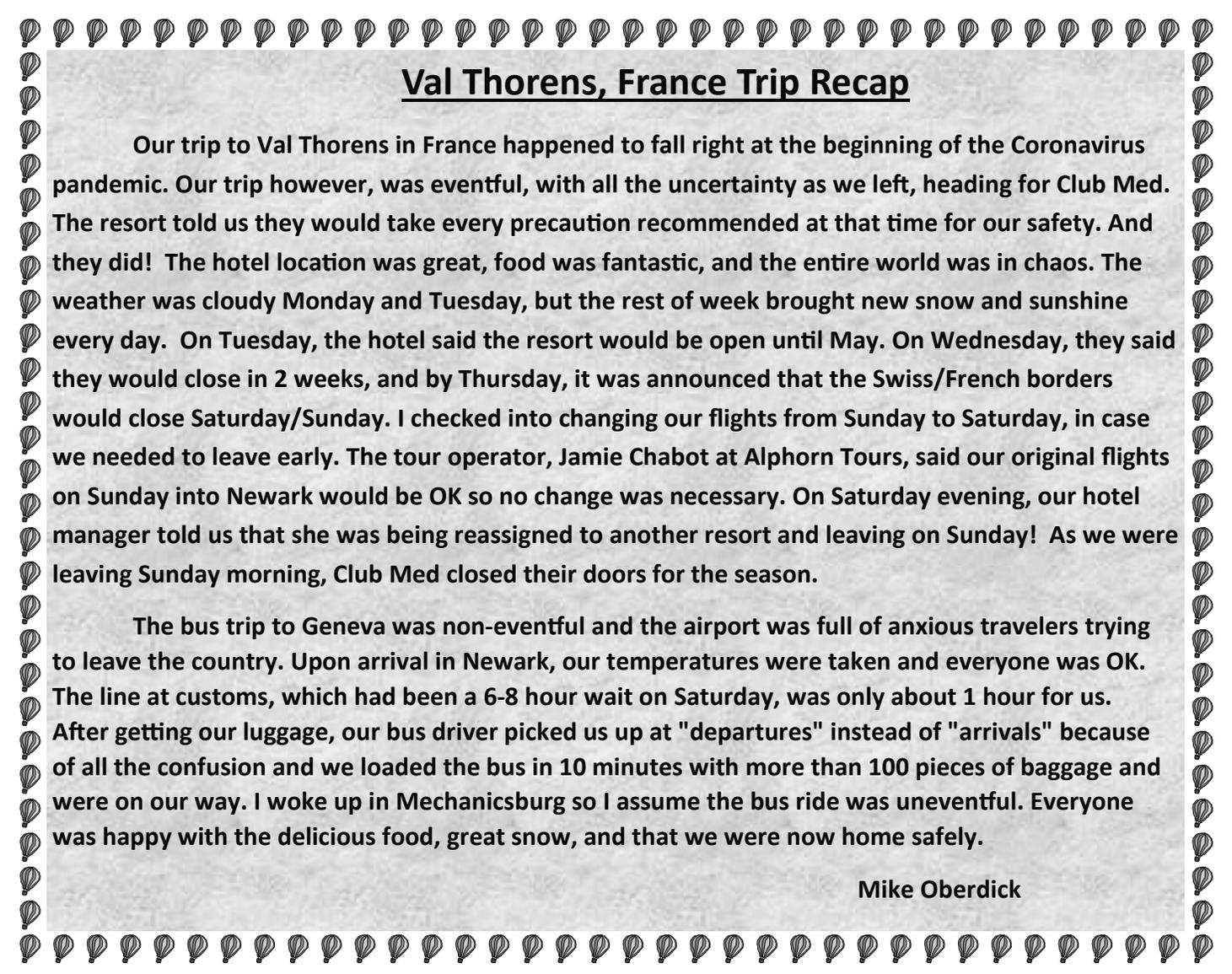
As we head into our new club year many of us are living the quarantine life, dreaming about being back on the slopes. It has been one month since my last ski day and anxiously looking forward to next season.

In preparation for the next ski season, please complete the membership form then mail it to me by July 31, 2020 to take advantage of the discount. The form is available at the YSC web site (www.yorkskiclub.org) and was emailed with the newsletter.

Membership cards will be issued after the EPSC stickers are available.

Stay healthy,

Terry Holtzinger



Val Thorens, France Trip Recap

Our trip to Val Thorens in France happened to fall right at the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic. Our trip however, was eventful, with all the uncertainty as we left, heading for Club Med. The resort told us they would take every precaution recommended at that time for our safety. And they did! The hotel location was great, food was fantastic, and the entire world was in chaos. The weather was cloudy Monday and Tuesday, but the rest of week brought new snow and sunshine every day. On Tuesday, the hotel said the resort would be open until May. On Wednesday, they said they would close in 2 weeks, and by Thursday, it was announced that the Swiss/French borders would close Saturday/Sunday. I checked into changing our flights from Sunday to Saturday, in case we needed to leave early. The tour operator, Jamie Chabot at Alphorn Tours, said our original flights on Sunday into Newark would be OK so no change was necessary. On Saturday evening, our hotel manager told us that she was being reassigned to another resort and leaving on Sunday! As we were leaving Sunday morning, Club Med closed their doors for the season.

The bus trip to Geneva was non-eventful and the airport was full of anxious travelers trying to leave the country. Upon arrival in Newark, our temperatures were taken and everyone was OK. The line at customs, which had been a 6-8 hour wait on Saturday, was only about 1 hour for us. After getting our luggage, our bus driver picked us up at "departures" instead of "arrivals" because of all the confusion and we loaded the bus in 10 minutes with more than 100 pieces of baggage and were on our way. I woke up in Mechanicsburg so I assume the bus ride was uneventful. Everyone was happy with the delicious food, great snow, and that we were now home safely.

Mike Oberdick

Vermont Small Ski Area/ Small Brewery Trip Recap

On Friday February 28th we hit the road early to Catamount, our first ski area destination. It sits on the border of Massachusetts and New York just southeast of Albany. Conditions were not bad considering we had recently gone through a few “freeze/thaw” cycles in prior days.

It’s always exciting skiing an area for the first time and Catamount did not disappoint. It is really a hidden gem. We would later find out every ski area on this trip shared a similar quality.

After skiing each day, I had a pretty extensive microbrewery schedule as we had at least 20-25 breweries to visit in our 9 day excursion. Of course, the very first scheduled brewery was to be edited. Thanks to some inside information from Joe Coleman, we started off making a side trip to Old Klaverack Brewery which was listed in Food and Wine Magazine’s top ten breweries. After an interesting ride through backwoods eastern NY we stumbled upon the brewery. Of all places, it was located up someone’s driveway and in their barn beside the house. I’m pretty sure everyone was very impressed with the quality of the beer as well as the personality of the locals. It was a great way to start off our adventure.

Our second brewery of the day was Chatham Brewing where we enjoyed a few more beers and a nice dinner. Afterwards, most everyone headed on to our lodging for the night. A few of us stopped enroute at a pub in Troy NY before retiring.

The next day started at Gore Mtn with most of the mountain open and phenomenal skiing with some freshies to be found. From there we headed on to VT and visited Hired Hand, Frost and Fiddlehead breweries. Frost Brewery turned out to be one of our favorites of the week. Our home for the next four nights would be in the Burlington area.

Smugglers Notch was our ski destination of the day on Sunday. We found the area to be a bit crowded as they were holding an extreme skiing event. We were able to bypass the longer lift lines by skiing a different part of the mountain. Venturing into the trees allowed us to find some great conditions waiting.

Our breweries for the day included 1st Republic, Four Quarters, Zero Gravity and Foam breweries. Four Quarters turned out to be our favorite of the day and in the top five for the week. I think we were starting to influence Patrick Carney at Four Quarters because he mentioned he liked one of their hoppy beers. While there, we met a guy and his dog at the bar that happened to be out for a walk to escape a crying newborn at home. He completely endorsed our agenda and asked if he could join us. After some serious thought, he decided it would be in his best interest to head home to family.

Monday morning we found ourselves at Bolton Valley ski area. Kathy Coleman decided that after 20-25 years of not skiing, she would give it a try again. She did extremely well and can proudly say she didn’t fall once. Turns out it’s just like riding a bike. Her husband Joe even bought her new equipment at Uller’s after the trip.

Après ski on Monday was a skillfully planned afternoon and evening. We visited Prohibition Pig in Waterbury for some tacos and beer. This brewery was on the grounds of the original Alchemist brewery and served an excellent mix of legendary VT brewers. After a few beers, we visited Ben and Jerry’s for a tour but found we were short on time so we just enjoyed the ice cream. Next on the busy agenda for the day was the almighty beer god, the Alchemist, for a tour of the brewery. Actually, the tour cost \$10 each and the general consensus was it was probably the best \$10 ever spent. Included in the tour, we received a complimentary glass and all the beer we could drink. To say the least, we tried to drink all of the beer. (continued on next page)

Vermont Small Ski Area/ Small Brewery Trip Recap continued

At this point in the day, we should have called it quits, but no, we pushed on. We had reservations at the Von Trapp Family Lodge for an authentic German dinner for 13 people. Amazing food along with amazing beer and amazing company! Good times had by all!

Tuesday morning came around much too quickly but we had an agenda to follow. Mad River Glen was our destination. We ventured out to explore the terrain and before long found ourselves in the moguls and trees. Great day of skiing as the temperatures rose quickly into the 40's and 50's with plenty of sunshine.

Lawson's Finest Liquids was our first brewery of the day. Moving on, we headed to back to Waterbury and the Blackback Pub. Their beer selection was legendary VT styled quality as was their grub. A quick stop at our hotel to pack allowed us time later for some wood fired pizza and a Grateful Dead cover band in Burlington.

Wednesday found us headed to Burke Mtn to find their lifts operating were limited to only the beginner area due to wind. Kirk and Marilyn decided to stay and ski while Chip and Scott headed to Sunday River to make use of their free lift tickets. So as not to waste a day with no skiing for the rest of us, we salvaged the day by heading to Suicide Six. Suicide Six offers some challenging skiing with their limited 600' vertical. Afterwards, we visited Longtrail Brewing for a few pints and some food. We then moved onto Rutland to our new hotel.

On Thursday we had a few people in our group heading home but not before breakfast at the legendary Sugar and Spice. Mike and Deb March selected Magic Mtn for their last day of the week. Pico Mtn was our ski destination for the day and it turned out to be another awesome day. Temps were in the 30's and sunny with amazing grooming and all round conditions. We skied hard and worked up a wicked appetite for beer. Foley Bros brewery was our first choice of the day for some sampling. While there we talked with some locals and found our next destination nearby at Red Clover Ale in Brandon VT. From there we visited the Vermont Tap-house serving many top quality VT beers found only within the proximity.

We packed up and moved out on Friday morning headed for Magic Mtn. As the day started out crunchy, we thought we were in for a very firm and fast day without any off piste. Sadly, as the day wore on it looked as though groomers were our only safe choice. But things seemed to soften and we did get a small taste of their excellence terrain which happens to be very old school VT.

As our smaller group of skiers moved on to Bennington VT, we found a very nice microbrewery called Harvest Brewing for a few great beers. Madison Brewing Co was our last pub stop for the evening and the week. We all enjoyed dinner and few more quality beers.

Our final ski area destination of the trip on Saturday was Berkshire East in Massachusetts and it was a really enjoyable mountain!

I have to say that in all my years skiing, I'm sorry to say I have been very close minded about skiing outside of VT when traveling to New England. As I mentioned earlier, each of these mountains that we skied are truly hidden gems. I can't wait to head back to ski them again and explore the region for more of these smaller ski areas. They offer some great quality skiing and each have unique personalities. For those that have interest, I have plans to head back for future exploration. Come join me next time!

Shawn McEachern

REMINDERS

- Dues for the Ski Club membership can be paid now for the 2020-2021 membership year. Club membership year runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. You must be a club member to attend any York Ski Club trips. Please see the attached membership application for details.
- If you have a current York Ski Club Membership, you are automatically enrolled in the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council and can attend any other EPSC Club trips without having to join those clubs. This includes lengthy vacations and one-day trips. See the EPSC website for details
- Photos from ski trips have been posted on the club's Facebook page. You don't need to have a Facebook account to view the page, just visit <https://www.facebook.com/yorkskiclub/>. If you have any photos that you would like to include in these on-line albums, please send them to Be-ka Schardt at Beka4628@gmail.com and include the trip destination and year.

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