

Trip Report - Mammoth

By Dave Stotz

It was early in the morning of January 31, 2015. Eleven brave souls had gathered at Bush Intercontinental Airport to embark on adventures on Mammoth Mountain.

Once we arrived, the staff at Juniper Springs Lodge was ready for us, handing out room keys and helping anyone with luggage who wanted help. Our TSC VP of Trips, **Sarah Granbery**, greeted us there. Swag bags were waiting for us in our rooms with cool stuff inside. Later that night we had a club welcome party with pizza and salad from Giovanni's, washed down with beer and wine. Mammoth had given us a giant map of the Mammoth ski area, and everyone talked about where they wanted to ski. Lift tickets were handed out, and we discussed the mountain tours, club races and the TSC tour to Bodie Ghost Town.

Sunday morning was our first ski day. At 10 a.m. the mountain provided guided mountain

Springs lodge. Those of us on the mountain tour had lunch at Eleven53 Café at the top of the mountain. The views were spectacular, and next to the café was a mini museum about Mammoth Mountain.



Woolly Mammoth & Diane Stotz

This was Super Bowl Sunday, and at the TSC Welcome Party at Mammoth Mountain Inn everyone was focused on the game. The mountain served pretty good food, and the beer was flowing. It was a pretty exciting game, except for the fact the wrong team

won. Woolly Mammoth, the mascot of Mammoth Mountain made an appearance.



Davis Tucker, Richard Arriaga, Lisa Wilson, Reneé Arriaga, Chef Freddie Pierrel, Marsha Lutz, Sarah Granbery, Marda Waters, Tracey Alley, Dave Stotz, Diane Stotz, & Stuart Traver.



Lisa Wilson, Stuart Traver, Dave Stotz, Marsha Lutz, & Marda Waters

Monday morning at 10 a.m. the mountain provided another mountain tour and two of our participants went on the tour. The group lunch was at Canyon Lodge, and **Marsha Lutz, Marda Waters, Lisa Wilson, Davis Tucker, Stuart Traver, Diane and Dave Stotz** all attended. Our après-ski was at the Talon Bar at Eagle Lodge. We had an optional group dinner at the Mammoth Rock Brasserie, which happens to be in the Mammoth Rock 'N' Bowl Bowling Alley. French chef **Freddie Pierrel** came out to our table to introduce himself. We ended up running into him at two more bars during the week. That was definitely the best food I've ever had at a bowling alley!

On Tuesday the group had a choice to either do a tour of June Lake Loop, Mono Lake and Bodie Ghost Town, or stay at Mammoth and ski. **Sarah Granbery, Marsha Lutz, Lisa Wilson, Marda Waters, Stuart Traver and Diane & David Stotz** all

went on the tour. Everyone else stayed in Mammoth and skied. If you stayed at Mammoth that day you had the opportunity to practice on the race course.

June Lake Loop was spectacular, and we even saw Silver Lake where a scene from the movie "Oblivion" with Tom Cruise was filmed.

Mono Lake was EERIE. It is an alkali, salty lake, with no outfall. It loses all of its water due to evaporation. The City of Los Angeles has been taking water from the streams that feed Mono Lake for years, so its volume has shrunk dramatically. In order to save the lake and the many bird species that live on an



From The Movie "Oblivion"



Photo by Diane Stotz



Tufa

island in the center of the lake, a court has ruled that Los Angeles must drastically cut down on the water that they take from the lake. The high level of alkalinity has caused limestone structures called "Tufa" to be formed under the water of the lake. As the lake has shrunk, the Tufa has become exposed.

Next was Bodie Ghost Town. We had a quick sandwich at the parking lot and then went on our guided tour of the town. Our tour guide was Terri Geissinger, who works for the Bodie Foundation. She actually lives in the ghost town, along with 4 park rangers. She gave us a fantastic tour of the old mining town, one of the only preserved mining



Sandy Morris (Flatlanders Ski Club), Sarah Granbery, Lisa Wilson, & Diane Stotz

towns in the world. Her whole life work is dedicated to researching all she can about the history of Bodie.

After returning from Bodie, several people chose to go to dinner at The Restaurant at Convict Lake. The lake was named after an incident on September 23, 1871, where a group of convicts escaped from prison in Carson City. They were recaptured at Convict Lake.

Wednesday was TSC Club Race Day. The race course was set up on the lower half of the Andy's Double Gold run. Seven Space City people signed up to race, and with a little cajoling all seven raced. We'll get to the

race results later. The group lunch was scheduled at Eleven53 Café, but it was closed so we had lunch at McCoy's instead.

The TSC Pub Crawl started at 6 pm, and all 13 of our group attended. We went to six different bars: Mammoth Brewing Company, Clocktower Cellar at the Alpenhof Lodge, Campo, Gomez Restaurant and Tequilera, Smokeyard BBQ, and Lakanuki. The club





Stuart Traver, Tracey Allely, Reneé Arriaga, & Richard Arriaga.

consensus seemed to be that Lakanuki was the most fun, but that might have been the adult beverages talking!

Back to skiing on Thursday, with a group lunch at the Yodler. This is a cool Swiss chalet that was purchased and dismantled in Switzerland and reassembled in Mammoth!



Marsha Lutz, Lisa Wilson, Stuart Traver, Diane Stotz, Dave Stotz, Marda Waters, Davis Tucker, & Shari Clark.



Sarah Granberry, Lisa Wilson Sandy Morris (Flatlanders Ski Club), Marsha Lutz, Marda Waters, Diane Stotz, Peggy and Jerry Montgomery (Capitol Ski)

Six people returned to Mammoth Brewing for dinner that night. Friday brought the last day of skiing for our group. A storm was moving in and the high winds shut down a lot of lifts during the day. Part of our group decided to take a snow cat tour. They did not have to pay extra for the beautiful scenery.

That night was the TSC Awards Dinner. The suspense mounted as the award categories began to be announced. Six of our seven skiers won medals! **Tracey Allely and Reneé Arriaga** won silver and bronze, and **Marco Coronado** won gold, all in their respective age groups.



Reneé Arriaga, Cinnamon Mitchell (Club St. Bernard), & Tracey Allely



Marco Coronado, & Marsha Lutz



Ronnie Slate (Lone Star), Fred LeVay (Lone Star), & Stuart Traver



David Hensley (Lone Star), Kevin Mazurkiewi (Austin), & Dave Stotz



Claire Coffey (Club St. Bernard),
Shari Clark, Joanna Wolf (Club St.

Shari Clark not only won gold for her age group, but also won fastest woman overall! And to top it off, Space City won first place in Division One. Thanks to all of our Space City racers!

Richard Arriaga was heard saying he is waiting to get his medals at the 1st Annual SCSC Foosball and Ping Pong Tournament!

Now that the fun was over, it was time to go home. The overnight storm had left a couple of inches of snow (of course, the day we leave!) so we needed to get an early start back to Reno. By 6:38 a.m. the bus was loaded and we were on the road.

All-in-all, it was a fantastic trip. I want to thank **Diane Stotz**



Reneé Arriaga, Tracey Allely, Dave Stotz, Shari Clark, Stuart Traver, Marco Coronado, & Richard Arriaga

for being a fantastic unofficial ATC, and **Tracey Allely** for getting her friends to join SCSC and come on the trip, which allowed us to make our numbers. We hope that they stay with the club and continue to ski with us. And a huge thanks to **Sarah Granbery** for doing a great job as TSC VP for the Mammoth trip.



Rainbow on Route 395 heading to Reno