

## Tour Report for Marmot ski Improvement Jan 24 - Jan 28, 2016

For this fun tour your tour hosts were Gaye Carter, and Alan Burkin, with Ian Kupchemko and JoAnn grand as Tour coordinators.

Attendees arranged for their own car pool to travel Sunday on mostly dry roads and all arrived without incident. There were ninety-seven (97) persons renewing friendships with sometimes, not so quite, animated conversations, about ski plans for the next three or four days over a sumptuous buffet reception which was served by Matthew Cushing and his restaurant staff of the Best Western Jasper Inn & Suites, our accommodation for the past few years.

Monday brought overcast skies, skiing on hard packed, but very acceptable groomed runs with temps of -6 C. The trees provided softer turns for some and the first day of lessons came with achy muscles. Ours is a very social club and many inter-room pot lucks and dinners took place both Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Snow on Tuesday afternoon brought more smiles and increased activity on the hill with -1 C air temps. I did hear "awesome" a few times.

Wednesday, our busiest day. If you did not partake in the "Tranquilizer Fun" ski race, some could be found drinking tea and eating cute little cakes and sandwiches put on by the Village of Jasper, and Ski Marmot in the Caribou Lounge. But wait, the race organized by Robbie Steen, was an event to behold. Marmot ski staff laid out a slalom course with timers. Twenty-five (25) "creative costumed" fun racers had put in many hours to perfect their creations to dazzle each other and observers. Creativity was at its maximum, facial hair had been grown, colours galore, full body suits with associated footwear. Top hats of 2 1/2 feet tall and back strapped Canadian flags proved challenging for the ski lift. Dressing in the Caribou Lounge, going up the ski lift and skiing the course brought many smiles, laughs and jocularities amongst all. We seniors know how to have fun, proving life gets better as you find out how to enjoy it.

Wednesday, continued with the 103 RMSSClub members having a very tasty and well presented chicken, salmon or steak supper, prepared by Chef Tim and his busy kitchen crew of the Best Western. A

grand prize of a week-end stay for just being there was given out with special costume mentions and many nice gifts for costumed racers. Anytime our seniors get together there are volumes of ideas, thoughts, well wishes, and just general good feelings shared.

For those that stayed to ski Thursday it was "over the hill" in conditions. We happily adapted to the overcast conditions, cause, the snow she was a-falling!!!! Couldn't see the "knob" and the wind was too blustery at the "Canadian" top! Eagle and the trees became very busy. Some stayed overnight to take maximum benefit. Thursday was our official return home afternoon, on again, mostly dry and clear roads.

As hosts we are very glad there where no injuries. We did hear of some bruises and sore body parts, some where relieved with the hot tub or something called wine, scotch or other elixir!

Thank you all for attending, having fun, smiling, and just generally making it a pleasant experience for Gaye and myself.

Until the next trip, Louise, have fun, keep moving, stay well and enjoy life.

## **The Costume Fun Ski Race**

**by Robbie Steen**

The Race was a big success again this year and all the participants had a lot of fun and many laughs. Many are already planning costumes for next year.

There were generous donations of race prizes from the following:

In Jasper: - The Jasper Inn

- Astoria Hotel

In Edmonton: - Sundance Ski Shop

- Pacesetters Ski Shop

- Totem Sports Shop

- United Cycle

- Edge Control

- Redbike

- Source for Sports

- Element Sport

- Marmot Basin

In addition, a number of club members donated race prizes anonymously.

The Top Prizes went to: - Al Burkin for Best Costume

- Gaye Carter for Fastest Woman (also in a great costume)

- Lorne Woynavowich for Fastest man

Cheers!

Alan (Al) Burkin,

Gaye Carter.