

## **Silver Star Tour February 28 to March 4**

On February 28, 2016, sixty-one participants gathered at Silver Star for four days of awesome skiing. People came from 8 different communities in Alberta. Sandy and Stacey came from communities in British Columbia. David came from Australia and Warwick came from New Zealand via Pittsburg. Some of us had come by bus. Some had driven. Some came by plane. We all shared a love of skiing.

At our Pasta Buffet Welcoming Party at the Town Hall we had a chance to meet one another and to learn about Silver Star. An animated young representative from the resort, Tanis, described the resort and encouraged us to take advantage of all the facilities at Silver Star – including their ski-in, ski-out bowling alley! Mountain Hosts Elaine and Warner Gruenwald joined us for dinner and invited us to take part in the Mountain Hosts' tour on Monday morning. They also provided advice and tours for those interested in cross-country skiing for part of the time. We all returned to our rooms excited about the next four days.

The manager of the Vance Creek/Chilcoot Hotels hosted us at a get-together as the lifts closed on Monday. We enjoyed sharing adventures and made plans for the rest of the week. We also enjoyed meeting the office staff as they served us wine and goodies. Thanks to Russell and his friendly, accommodating staff.

Our evenings were filled with potlucks and trying out the eateries of Silver Star. On Wednesday evening we met at the Town Hall again for a delicious buffet. People lingered after the meal to share ski stories with their old and new friends.

This year the skiing conditions were even better than we have usually experienced at Silver Star. Monday gave us a little powder over soft conditions and a little sun. On Tuesday it snowed all day and we enjoyed just the right amount of powder for experienced legs. With few skiers on the hill, we enjoyed untracked powder for most of the day. Wednesday was cloudy but the snow was great. Thursday was sunny and warm.

The bus trip to Silver Star was the longest trip of the year: 10 hours of driving with 2 to 2½ hours spread over 3 breaks plus a stop for groceries on the way there and 3 breaks on the way back. Friendly fellow passengers, a usually jovial bus driver, and good road conditions made the ride pleasant. The excitement of the bus ride was pushing the bus out of a hole after the bus became stuck in the hotel parking lot!

Tour Hosts Art and Kathy Robinson thank all of the participants for their cooperation and fellowship. A special thanks go to those who helped with loading and unloading the bus (and to Archie for directing the loading and unloading), and to those who pushed the bus out! Art and Kathy say it is easy to be a host when the guests are all so nice!