

The Official Publication of the Fall Line Ski Club

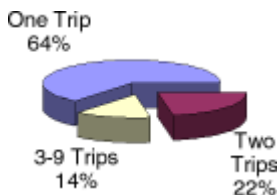
in this issue:

- 2 Ted tells what's up in the club in his monthly column. Who's who in the club? Take a look at the list of *Officers and Board Members*.
- 3 Read about December's *Snowbird* trip, which opens this month, as well as our huge (74 people can go) *Italy/Venice/Munich* trip.
- 4 Don't want to spend New Year's Eve eating canned food with the local survivalist society? Check out our *New Year's trip to Lake Placid!* After that, do *Vail* the right way—with FLSC, natch.
- 5 Find out more about Bob and Sandy Homan's travels in the continuation of *Greetings from Silverton*.
- 6 Think you know a lot about beer? In *Fall Line People*, Harry Gould interviews Valley Forge Brewing Company brew-master Jeff Carter.
- 7 Better get a tall stack of vacation request forms—the new *Winter Trip Schedule* is here and you'll want to go on all of them!
- 8 Hiking, biking, rafting, softball—you name it, we got it. Check out our action-packed summer activities calendar!
- 9 It's the rules: You now have to be a member to sign-up on a trip. Renew now, while membership is only \$20!

fall line fact:

One-trip wonders:

Of the 351 people who signed up for trips last season, 64% went on only one trip. Let's all try to get out more this year!



Greetings from Silverton, Colorado

by Bob and Sandy Homan (The Drifters)

I'm looking out at the snow on the mountains that surround us as I type this "postcard." It was snowing and sleeting as we pulled the trailer through the mountain passes around Purgatory. We were actually headed for Ouray to put down roots for a few days when we stopped in Silverton for a break, and ended up falling in love with the town. It's a VERY small town—about 5 blocks wide and 12 blocks long—with a population of about 1,000 in the summer and about 450 in the winter. The elevation is 9,300+ feet and many of the surrounding roads are still closed because of the snow.

"We were told that everyone had a good hunting season this year and so there was enough meat to share."

Silverton is nestled in the San Juan Mountains in a shallow, narrow valley which it shares with the Rio de Las Animas Perdidas (River of Lost Souls), or Animas River for short. What a place! We feel like we have gone back in time, or stepped into a set for the television show Northern Exposure. Bob and I have had to pack away our shorts and t-shirts and pull out the turtle-necks, polar fleece, and boots again. This morning before daylight he headed for an old, abandoned gold mine with camera equipment. Right now, I have a pot of elk stew on the stove. Yes, I said ELK stew. The meat was a gift from one of the "permanent" residents here. We were told that everyone had a good hunting season this year and so there was enough meat to share. We were also told that the only crop that is hearty enough to thrive at this altitude is rhubarb, so for dessert we are having strawberry rhubarb pie, baked by Mad Mamma who runs—what else—Mad Mamma's Pies.

"We have also gotten to know the owner of the local saloon and restaurant, which appears to be the only establishment that is open after 5:00 p.m."

Silverton is the terminus of the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, a steam train that brings tourists in for brief visits two or three times per day. The predominant source of income here seems to be from the tourist trade. With its wooden sidewalks and old western storefronts, the town makes the most of its mining and old west heritage.

We've become friendly with the local silversmith who is making Bob a watch using his own unique combination of Navajo and southwestern styling. We have also gotten to know the owner of the local saloon and restaurant, which appears to be the only establishment that is open after 5:00 p.m. The town also thrives on its reputation as the gateway to four-wheel drive country and several businesses offer jeep tours of the old mining roads and ghost towns in the area. Since we have 4-wheel drive, we have been exploring on our own, with a little direction from the locals. It is beautiful country and Bob is ready to buy property and make this a permanent residence. I, being more practical and less impulsive, am concerned that 200+ inches of snow during a six-month long winter might be just a little too much. We keep hearing about the terrible winters like when they had a 23-day

Continued on page 5

Ted's Topics

by Ted Sommers, President

Well, it's July, and while most of you are thinking about summer, we on the board and on the Winter Trip Committee have been thinking about skiing. For the last year we have been working on putting together the upcoming season's trips and finally, it's all come together. You can see the results of our Winter Trip Committee's hard work in the 1999-2000 Winter Trip Schedule on page 7.

This season we've got more trips than ever, and bigger trips too. This year we're going to some new places too, like Lake Placid, Big Mountain, and Fernie, British Colombia.

What really amazes me is how we managed to put together such a great New Year's trip! If you looked into putting such a trip together, you'd find that it's almost impossible. See Kathie's Lake Placid article on the next page to find out more.

Based on the incredible demand for our European trips we've experienced over the years, this season we'll be able to take up to 74 people on our Val Gardena trip. Because of the sheer number of signups we expect, please review the Sign-up Rules article on the next page. Last year things got, um, a bit ugly and we don't want a repeat of that!

There were just too many people competing for only 42 spots.

One big change this year is that you must be a member to sign up on a trip. Last year, it was only required that you be a member when the trip actually left, but many people managed to fall through the cracks. While this may not seem like a big deal, it is to a little agency you may have heard of—the IRS. If we open our trips to non-members, then we're acting as a travel agent, which is not considered tax-exempt. This policy change is a result of a recent board decision and is now in the club's by-laws.

OK, enough about winter. It's summer! Take a look at all our summer activities on page 8. We've got a whole bunch of things you can do! Hiking, camping, rafting... you name it.

And don't forget to take time out of your busy schedule to stop by a general meeting or two and catch-up with everyone. At the last two meetings, we had some entertainment: Cara and Steve gave a spellbinding performance. Will they come out next time? Come and see.

TED

Membership Information

Fall Line Ski Club membership begins May 1 and ends April 30. Membership applications for renewals and new membership are accepted any time in the year. The membership fee is \$20 until September 11 and \$25 afterwards. Members have the privilege of attending all Fall Line Ski Club activities during the summer season as well as next ski season. Membership applications may be obtained at any Fall Line Ski Club general membership meeting, on the last page of most newsletters or through the mail by contacting:

Robyn Taddei
9109 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19115-2801
215-969-4736
E-mail: robyn@fallline.org

The membership application should be completed in a legible manner to ensure the proper forwarding of all club correspondence. Any member not receiving the newsletter should stop at the membership table during a General Meeting.

Changes in address or any corrections should be reported so you may remain informed of all Fall Line events and activities.

Officers and Board Members

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President
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Treasurer-Elect
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Snowbird I

by Ann Marsteller

Utah powder is everything they say it is and more! And this year, we get to ski it a week later, which means we'll have even more of it!

Due to popular demand, we'll again be staying at **The Lodge at Snowbird**, a luxury hotel at the base of Snowbird, with a relaxing lounge, restaurant, outdoor pool and hot tub right at the hotel.

From the lodge, it is a short walk over to the Snowbird tram, or to one of the chairlifts. Snowbird has lots of challenging terrain, with some really long cruisers from the top for the less adventurous. However, powder is what defines Snowbird. You come here for the steep and deep, no other reason. *[I happen to know that some 'liners do go on trips with other goals, but I won't name names unless substantial bribes are presented—Ed.]*

The country's fastest tram takes seven minutes to the top of 3000 vertical feet of top-to-bottom skiing, with snow-stuffed bowls, chutes, couloirs, and of course, the Cirque. There are shops, stores, and the bus to Alta (a 5 minute ride) outside our hotel. We also get to make the short journey to Solitude, with its long cruisers, trees, and no people but ourselves.

Alta, with its pristine snow, limited number of skiers, inexpensive lift tickets, no liftlines, and—best of all for me—NO snow-boarders, is the ultimate ski experience. *[This is Ann's opinion; the club welcomes all types of snow riders—Ed.]* It has terrain for all levels of skiers, powder up to your knees and more, lovely mountain restaurants, and beautiful scenery to boot. What more can one ask for? Oh, yes and 500 inches of snow per year, the most in North America! Last year, they received **600 inches!**

So there you have it in a nutshell. For the early sign up price of \$779 (\$809 after August 3rd 1999), you get:

- * Five nights double-occupancy accommodation at the Lodge at Snowbird.
- * Round-trip flight Phila. to Salt Lake City via United.
- * Round-trip motorcoach from airport to lodge.
- * 4 day lift ticket: 2 days Alta, 1 day Snowbird, 1 day Solitude.
- * Round-trip motorcoach from Snowbird to Solitude.
- * Complimentary Wine and Cheese Party
- * All applicable taxes

Due to heavy cancellation penalties imposed by the airlines and hotel, we may be forced to cancel spots that are not filled by these dates. **DON'T** hesitate this year. For more information contact Kathie Read at 609-694-5328.

Val Gardena

by Kathie Read

Thanks to lots of planning and thousands of dollars of deposit money, we'll be able to take 74 lucky Fall Liners to Val Gardena, Italy this year. Sign-up will start with the August 3rd meeting, and to keep things sane this will be the only trip opening on that night.

All 74 people will be skiing Val Gardena, Italy with one day in Cortina, Italy included. At the end of the week, 48 people will be traveling to Venice, Italy, while the other 26 will go to Munich, Germany for a Saturday night before flying to Philadelphia on Sunday. The sign-ups for this trip will be on a first come, first choice basis. Please see my article on sign-up procedures below.

A detailed article on all the particulars of this trip will be published in the August newsletter. In the meantime, if you have any questions please call one of the trip leaders: Ann Marsteller 609-772-9414 or Pat Maguire 609-772-1120.

Signup Rules

by Kathie Read

The first of the winter trips for the 1999-2000 season will open at the general meeting on July 20, 1999. To ensure a fair and efficient sign-up process, the rules for this year are as follows:

You must be a member of FLSC to sign-up for a trip. If you are not a member, be prepared to purchase your membership on the night you sign-up for a trip. You must be a member of FLSC by the end the general meeting on the night you sign-up. If you are not a member by the end of the meeting, you will be put on the waiting list until such time as you become a member.

You may sign-up only yourself and one other member for a trip. If you are not participating in the trip you may sign up 2 members. See paragraph on membership requirements. This paragraph will apply to anyone signing up other people who cannot attend in person.

The doors to the Garden Room will not open until 6:00 pm. Inside the meeting room deli style numbers will be available for each trip that is opening that night. You must stay in the room until your number is called and you sign up for your designated trip. The bar will be open and we will make every attempt to have the trip leaders available to take sign-ups earlier than 8:30 pm.

If have any questions, or need further clarification please contact Kathie Read at (daytime) 609-795-0882 or (night) 609-694-5328 or e-mail kgreen@bellatlantic.net.

Lake Placid

by Kathie Read

Host of the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games. Lake Placid is a place where miracles happen. In February of 1980, the attention of the world was keenly focused on this quaint village nestled in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains.

Reaching for the heavens, parting the clouds, in Wilmington, New York is legendary Whiteface Mountain—the only mountain in the East to have ever hosted the Winter

“Whiteface has the East’s biggest [3,216 ft.] vertical drop...and also some of the East’s most interesting intermediate terrain.”

—SKIING Magazine.

Games. Descending from the magnificent rock slides at its summit, a network of 65 exhilarating trails ranges in difficulty from the long and lazy to the steep and narrow. Whiteface offers state-of-the-art grooming, a renowned ski school and an expanded snowmaking operation.

As Skiing Magazine’s #1 Resort in North America for Off-Hill Activities, it is conceivable to have a perfect winter vacation in Lake Placid without ever once stepping into a pair of downhill skis. Die-hard Fall Liners may cringe at this thought, but the possibilities are amazing for the non-skier. To list but a few: snowshoeing, cross country skiing, bobsled rides, dog sled rides, ice climbing, ice fishing, ice hockey, ice skating, luge rocket rides, sleigh rides, snowmobiling, toboggan and tube rides.

“Its relatively unspoiled nature is what makes skiing at Whiteface a thrilling, singular experience.”

—SKI Magazine

This year, ring in the millennium with FLSC! We’ve put together an incredible three-day trip to this acclaimed resort. Accommodations will be at the Ramada Inn overlooking the sparkling waters of Mirror Lake.

The trip includes: daily breakfast, New Year’s Eve Mardi Gras party, two day lift ticket, and of course beer, wine and soda on the bus. The party features live bands, a lavish extensive New Orleans style buffet that will be available throughout the evening. Mardi Gras masks and party favors, noise makers and a complementary glass of champagne at midnight round out the package.

You can be a part of this three-day gala New Year’s celebration for only \$569 (per person/double occupancy). The trip will be at the July 20, 1999 general meeting. For further information, please contact the trip leader, Beverly Neal at 609-561-5623.

Vail

by Nina Hodoruk

It’s Vail.

That’s it. Nothing else need be said. What ELSE could you need to know? What MORE could we possibly say to entice you to sign up for a trip? It’s Vail. Period.

We don’t even need to say what state or province it’s in, like we do with other trips; the name says it all!

Ok, ok. For you of little faith—or you the uninitiated, what do you think of:

- * 4,644 acres of skiable terrain: 2,734 of them in THE BACK BOWLS
- * 5 out of 6 day lift ticket valid for Vail and Beaver Creek
- * Prime penthouse lodging at the Mountain Haus, centrally located in Vail village on the creek at the Covered Bridge
- * Walking distance to lifts (150 yds), restaurants, nightlife, shopping
- * 3 bedroom/3 bath condos complete with daily maid service, fully equipped kitchens, fireplaces, private balconies, VCRs and sound systems (TVs located in every bedroom too, if you’re antisocial)
- * Outdoor heated pool, indoor & outdoor whirlpools, exercise room, saunas/steam showers
- * Complimentary continental breakfast daily
- * Non-stop flights on United between Philadelphia and Denver
- * Roundtrip motorcoach transportation between Denver and Vail

Yes, it’s true. Forty-two lucky skiers will be schussing in the playground of the Gods, experiencing all this for the fabulously low price of \$1285 for the week of January 29-February 5, 2000. Will you be one of them?

WHAT?!... You’re not sure? Come on. Get your priorities in order. It’s VAIL!

This trip opens at the July 20th meeting and will most likely be a quick sell-out.

Questions? Call Nina Hodoruk at 609-858-5968.

The Fall Line Calendars are Ready!

See you and other Fall Liner’s at play in the new full-color club calendars! Only \$10 starting at the next meeting!

Greetings From Silverton

Continued from page 1

blizzard that left 24 feet of snow. We can't even fathom how we would deal with such a winter, but the adventurer in us is anxious to try it.

We've been to so many exciting places since we wrote last. We had a brief encounter with the border patrol near Las Cruces where Shannon decided the drug-sniffing dog, a Doberman about 10 times his size, was invading his turf. We stayed at Holbrook, Arizona while exploring the Petrified Forest, the Painted Desert, and more of old Route 66. Like Don Henley in the Eagles' song, we were "standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona".

"It was wild to see the McDonald's in town, which was a red, earthy-colored pueblo-style building with an unobtrusive plaque containing, not golden, but small, turquoise green arches."

We also fell in love with Sedona, Arizona and spent about two weeks there, hiking, exploring the old jeep roads, and looking for our vortex (you'd have to ask someone who has been there about a vortex). Sedona is a uniquely magical, mystical place with very unusual lighting and coloring. The sunsets are magnificent and the contrasting red rocks and green trees are strikingly beautiful. This town is unlike any other I've visited in that it has a building code that restricts the color and style of all structures. The buildings are all a stucco or pueblo style and are limited to any combination of the four natural colors that are in the surrounding rocks and mountains. It was wild to see the McDonald's in town, which was a red, earthy-colored pueblo-style building with an unobtrusive plaque containing, not golden, but small, turquoise green arches.

One of the highlights of our visit to Sedona was during a climbing trip on Cathedral Rock. Cathedral Rock is a beautiful, red- and sandstone-colored formation where many go to pray or meditate or peacefully commune with nature. Signs at the beginning of trails ask you to respect the privacy of those who have come to meditate. After reaching the summit and beginning our descent, we began to hear an unusual, yet pleasant tone that reverberated and echoed among the rock walls. It was a deep, aboriginal sounding music, which Bob discovered emanating from one of the hoodoos protruding from the top. A Native-American had wedged himself, an oddly-shaped drum, and a flute-like instrument into the long, narrow crevice. This music added tremendously to the mystical nature of the area, believed by many to be sacred land.

We next headed for the Grand Canyon where we spent four days exploring, hiking, and, of course, taking pictures.

On our last day, we hiked down into the canyon on the Grandview Trail. On the return half, I stopped, collapsing on a pile of rocks near the edge of a steep cliff. Bob thought it would be a beautiful place for a picture of the two of us. To entertain himself while I rested, he proceeded to arrange backpacks near the edge behind me and to build a makeshift tripod out of rocks. He next set the timer and jumped into the picture behind me, knocking his open backpack over the cliff.

After much cussing and gnashing of teeth, he and a helpful passerby headed down the trail looking for a way into the steep ravine that was now strewn with business cards, Chap-Stick, sunscreen, candy, water bottles, camera filters, and—about 100 feet below—the blue backpack. They soon gave up, deciding there was no easy way into the ravine. Bob quickly remembered he had a telephoto lens, a set of binoculars, and his favorite jacket in the pack. A little while later, he remembered that the pack contained several rolls of undeveloped film from the last few days. Bob suddenly headed UP the trail, mumbling about how there had to be another way into the ravine and he would be back in a few minutes.

Find out what happens to Bob in next month's issue!

Club Meetings

General Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Garden Room of the Day's Inn, Route 73 and Fellowship Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ. Meetings are from 8:30 until 11:00 pm for trip sign-ups, announcements, information and socializing. Please bring a friend, for newcomers are always welcome.

Board Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesday each month, where the club's formal business is discussed and enacted. Members are welcome to attend. If you have something you would like to discuss, just ask any board member and it will be put on the next meetings agenda. Meetings are held from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, and locations rotate amongst board members' houses, so ask any board member for the next meeting location.

Winter Trip Committee Meetings are conducted by Kathie Read Lizotte, board member and Winter Trip Committee Chairperson, and occur monthly throughout the entire year. October begins the process for the following season. Please see Kathie if you are interested in attending or participating.

For more info, call the FLSC Hotline at: 609-931-4462

Fall Line People

by Harry Gould

Jeff Carter stirring up a brew-haha in Blue Bell



You're a Fall Liner so, naturally, you think you know a thing or two about beer.

Then one day, you find yourself in a conversation with our old pal **Jeff Carter**, that onetime Fall Line fixture who went away to "beer school" in California awhile back. "Wanna hear a neat story about Indian pale ales?" Jeff begins, and right away you realize you're talking to a bona-fide Beer Authority.

"It's actually kinda neat," Jeff continues on, boyish enthusiasm fully intact. "The Indian pale ale began back when England used to have colonies in places like India around the 1700s. They had to transport the beer all the way to India across the hot desert. They figured out that high-alcohol beers were less likely to become infected with bacteria over the length of the trip so they gave their beer a slightly higher alcohol content. A classic IPA is about 8 percent alcohol. Normal is about 5 to 6 percent."

In the next breath, Jeff is expounding on the virtues of peach wheats vs. strawberry wheats, stouts, lagers, pilsners, ales and porters. "I read a lot about beer whenever I get the chance."

That's because it's his livelihood now. Say hello to Jeffrey Carter — certified professional brewmaster.

After months of schooling in California and more than a year of interning for a Cherry Hill microbrewery, Jeff finally landed his dream job: chief brewer for the Valley Forge Brewing Co.'s newest microbrewery/restaurant in Blue Bell, PA. He landed this plum position around the end of March

The oatmeal stout, which Jeff is featuring at the moment, is a personal favorite. "It is a stout, on par with Guinness, but very smooth and very creamy..."

on the strength of his strong performance at Cherry Hill's Flying Fish microbrewery.

Jeff, a former Fall Line board member, is in charge of all brewing operations at the Blue Bell eatery. He manages the brewing process, decides what to manufacture, balances the ingredients and chooses what beers to put on the dinner menu. Ask him nicely and he'll even give you a tour of the facilities and tell you anything you want to know about making beer.

"It's what's known as a five-barrel system," Jeff says. "Since we produce what we consume in the restaurant, it's fairly small. Poor Henry's has 50 barrels but they distribute to the general population."

The restaurant, which just opened during the spring, is located on Rt. 202 (799 DeKalb Pike), just north of Rt. 73. Along with standard American-style cuisine, the menu offers four regular house beers brewed on the premises: Kings Gold Ale, Regiment Pale, Red Coat Ale and George's Porter. The brewmaster (remember, that's Jeff) also throws in a seasonal peach wheat ale, the Indian pale ale or an oatmeal stout, just to mix things up. There's also a full bar and a wine list.

The oatmeal stout, which Jeff is featuring at the moment, is a personal favorite. "It is a stout, on par with Guinness, but very smooth and very creamy. It has a slight bitter taste, but also slightly sweet."

Memo to all beer-loving Fall Liners: Jeff has spent the last two months brewing up batches of these and other specialty beers in preparation for the restaurant's public debut. There's lots of stuff on hand (hint, hint). "We brewed all that beer to get ready," he says. "Now I'm just waiting for people to drink it!"

So, yes, Jeff would love to see any Fall Liners willing to kick the Coors Lite habit for just one night. Has he seen anyone from the club yet? "Just my mother," he answered.

Another one bites the dust... Warm and heartfelt congratulations to Fall Line's **Pam Bigelow**, who will be marrying **Dennis O'Neill** of Medford, NJ, on August 15. The private ceremony at the Cathedral of the Woods in Medford Lakes will include family members and special friends.



Pam is a physical therapist in private practice and a professor of anatomy and kinestheseology at Atlantic Community College. Dennis is a customer information analyst for CDI Corp., a Philadelphia-based engineering contracting firm. Pam and Dennis met at the Kings Grant volleyball court and have been mountainbiking and kayaking together ever since.

After a biking and kayaking honeymoon in Hawaii, Kawai, Oahu and Maui, the Bigelow-O'Neills will become squires of the Medford Lakes log-cabin community.

And another one... This just in from **Rudy Cieri** and **Dawn Gawlinski**: "Dawn Gawlinski and Rudy Cieri are happy members of our ski club and were engaged on January 10, 1999. Dawn and Rudy, both accountants, are planning their wedding for April 15, 2000. (No extensions will be granted).

"Rudy joined the club in 1993; Dawn in 1998. Rudy is a regular on the early-season trip to Utah and is looking forward to a lifetime of ski trips with Dawn."

If you have news you'd like to share with other Fall Liners, contact Harry Gould at 215-922-0244 or email him at gouldh@phillynews.com. Space is limited and the appropriateness of any items received will be the sole discretion of the newsletter editors.