

Blue Mountain by John Kennedy

The day started off sunny as 25 people gathered for the 7:00 AM bus ride to Palmerton, PA. For some, this one- day trip was a warm-up for bigger and steeper things. For others, it would be their only chance this season to experience the joy of skiing. Good thing we dialed up a great day.

With temps in the high 30's and clouds building up, we made the most of Blue's thousand foot vertical. The lift lines were short or non-existent, the snow had a soft, mashed potato-like consistency, and the mountain was pretty much ours. All the trails at Blue are pretty much the same width; the only difference is the pitch. Some are quite steep and one has some real fun switchbacks (hint: it's not the trail called Switchback). I was skiing with John V., Janice L., Nona O., Julie M., and Barry S. who were enjoying trails like Paradise and Main Street. John V. and myself headed down Blue's double-black diamond run called Challenge. A few people tried the bump run on a trail called Nightmare. And no one got hurt on the trip. We welcomed some people who were either new or who have not been around for a while: Ken W., Lamonda A., Jim K., Joe L., Hal H., and Harlan W. It was also great to see a "long-timer" (like me) on the slopes again: Joe D., you know who you are. Hope you and Linda had a great time. We hope to see you at more Fall Line events.

Most people headed to the Trail's End Bar in the Valley Lodge to grab a quick drink before our 4:00 PM departure which occurred just as the rain started falling. Our bus driver, Scott, had us in the D&Q parking lot by 6:20 after avoiding a horrendous traffic jam on the Schuylkill.

Thank you all for joining us at Blue and I hope everyone had a great time. BTW, if someone is missing a Stephen King paperback, I have it. It was left on the bus.