

Mammoth 2022 Trip Article

The Texas Ski Council Final Showdown Trip for 2022 was to Mammoth Mountain in Mammoth Lakes California. The tour operator for this trip was Sports America. CLASC took a group of 6 participants on this trip. Two were CLASC members and the other four were reciprocity participants from the Texas Twisters Ski and Adventure Club of Lubbock. In all there were about 60 people on this TSC trip including folks from the Dallas Ski Club and the Austin Ski Club. We all had a fabulous time.



Mike and Terry Lippold had also been scheduled to go on the trip but they dropped off a couple weeks before departure because Mike was still having trouble with his shoulder. Mike had already done lots of work on this trip as the TSC Coordinator. Marlene Heinemann from the Dallas Ski Club volunteered to fill in for Mike on short notice.

The trip began March 5th. All participants had made their own flight arrangements. Five of the group arrived in Reno and David Jeter flew to Bishop CA. Craig and Marsha Holmes arrived in Reno in time to get on a TSC bus arranged for the Dallas Club. Dan Willett, Gayle Brown and Karl Grant made the scenic three hour drive to Mammoth in a rental minivan that Dan had arranged. David Jeter arranged a shuttle bus for the short 45 minute ride from the Bishop airport. We were all settled in to our Juniper Springs condos by about 7 PM. We were also there in time to pick up lift tickets, credential badges and other trip materials from the Sports America representatives.

The next day those needing rental equipment were able to easily pick that up at the condo. Then we were all able to get out on the mountain since the condo was essentially ski-in and ski out. After a great first day skiing, there was a TSC welcome reception arranged by the tour operator that included appetizers and a beverage.

On the night of the welcome party, we met a Mammoth staff member who was infamous for having survived the big avalanche at Alpine Meadows 40 years ago. The story of this event had just recently been captured in a full length documentary motion picture called "Buried". Coincidentally there was an event showing this film that was held during the week. Our entire group went to this event. Several of the people who were in the film plus the two director/producers were present and spoke and answered questions from the audience. This was a very memorable time.



Since we had a rental minivan, we were able to take the entire group of six out to eat, shop or whatever we needed to do for the entire trip. We decided to have our club dinner on the Monday. The restaurant was a terrific place that happened to be upstairs from a bowling alley. We also went out to eat as a group most of the rest of the week.

The skiing at Mammoth covers very large area. I used to ski this mountain many years ago when I lived in California. Thus I have often said that they don't call this place Mammoth for nothing. There were also very fine skiing conditions during our trip. Although there had not been much snowfall recently, there was still a great deal of cover on the slopes. Also, the conditions were great due to the terrific grooming done every night. Also, the temperatures during the day were mostly in the 30s and there was little wind. During the week we never ran out of new trails to try. There were lots of trails for skiers of any ability. The trails only got crowded on the weekend when many folks from the Los Angeles area come to ski. The altitude of this resort was reasonable. The condo was at about 8000 feet. The summit of the mountain was just over 11000 feet.



During the Mammoth trip there were no optional day excursions. One had been initially proposed to nearby June Mountain, but there was not enough interest to set this up. There was also no racing during this trip. The resort did not arrange for a NASTAR type course for this season and it would have been very expensive to set one up for the TSC.

At Mammoth there were several great places to stop for lunch during the ski day. We also found many places in Mammoth lakes to have a great dinner in the evening.

All in our group departed as scheduled on 12 March and safely made it to their home destinations.

Although there were some difficulties with the tour operator during the planning of this trip, once we arrived, this was a wonderful trip overall. We were fortunate that there was only one minor and no serious injuries in our group, and it appeared that everyone had a terrific time. I know I would definitely return to Mammoth.

Daniel Willett