

## Skiing 2020-2021 With the Covid -19 Virus

By **Mike Hadvavny**, GCSC Secretary, October 2020



There are still plenty of options available for skiing this winter even with Covid -19 Virus worries. I was fortunate to grow up in Ski Country and in later years working for my Uncle Sam, had access to numerous ski areas and clubs, allowing skiing other countries and numerous resorts. Although I am avoiding the big trips, I have not given up on skiing this coming season.

Because few have signed up with the Steamboat Springs Ski Camp and the Telluride Crescent Ski Council Mega Trip, there are still several options to ski safely. Lea Givens and Bob Watts are looking at hitting a few off-the-beaten-path slopes in Washington (Steven's Pass, which Eileen and I skied around 2005,) and Mission Ridge (near the Bavarian style architecture town of Leavenworth). Because excellent powder skiing usually does not happen on snow free days, they are packing tire chains in their suitcase. Off the beaten path travel in the far north finds less than ideal road surfaces. Plus several states require snow tires with 3/8" minimum tread or tire chains on some of the passes.

Speaking of Steamboat, as I started to draft this, a Steamboat friend just texted "a picture of a new arrival." I wasn't sure if it meant the new horse they rescued, or the fresh snow falling on the horse's coat. It was both. Out of curiosity, I asked about the opening date at Steamboat and the reply was around "Thanksgiving, the normal opening date." So, our GCSC skiers should have a good time this year.

I am considering skiing a few mid-week days at Winter Place, West Virginia (mainly due to its location on I-77). You can reach Winter Place in roughly the same time as Beech and Sugar in North Carolina, and the lift lines are considerably shorter. Having once lived a little over an hour's drive away, we discovered the only good time to ski on week-ends was after 3:00 pm Sundays. With the Florida busses departing then, there were very few skiing.

The second location is Holiday Valley Western New York (close to I-84), out of nostalgia. My brother and I used to try to get the price per run under \$.40 as teenagers. You cannot do that these days, unless you ski at some slope with free or extreme deep discounted lift tickets for those over 65 or 70! Even at Mt Hood Meadows Oregon two years ago with \$17 lift tickets for military, you could not come close to that \$.40 price per run, unless you were over 75. Unfortunately, that day had white out skiing and skiing by braille is extremely tiring.

Those who missed the Pizza Party hosted by Pamela and Bill Marsh on October 17th sure missed a good event. A lot of new members were there.

Next month I want to address Ski Improvement and firm up a rumor about a \$5 lift pass on a day in December.