

Silver Star Trip Report December 7-10, 2017

I will start by saying thank you to all that helped getting us to Silver Star. What a fantastic club and group of people! Special thanks to Richard Migicovsky for leading this one!

I had been to Silver Star 4 or 5 years ago to do Super Camp and loved the quaint little village. This trip was the perfect opportunity to introduce Silver Star to my much better half, Dawn. Time for a quick de-stress before Christmas.

We all settled in for a mostly uneventful ride to Silver Star until we hit the pea soup on the connector. Evidently this is common but a first for me. Jag successfully navigated us through and we arrived at Silver Star right on schedule. 1AM was lights out for Dawn and me ... way past our normal bed time.

The next day we took full advantage of the ski-in, ski-out capability of the village, Thanks for the offer but we did not get back on the bus until Sunday.

Our modern-day weather forecasting had forewarned us we would have favorable conditions however seeing is believing and we were not let down. Clear skies and just below zero temperatures kept the snow fresh. That had obviously been the situation for a while as there was no crustiness to be found. Can you tell we ski the coast too much?



Our new ski buddies and roomies, Joanne and Brenda and Joanne's neighbor Steve opted to ski with a ski host Friday and we tagged along. What a terrific offering this is for those unacquainted. Our host was considerate of our early season fitness and paced us out to Alder Point and back to the Captik cabin where we parted ways. Lunch in the cabin introduced us to new and old friends.

After lunch I noted how different the trails seemed with the sun so low. Before long we were starting to feel the effects of the previous long day and not wanting to blow up on the first day we meandered back to the village via Coming Round the Mountain and Paradise trails.

We arrived at the Bugaboo café around 2PM to Joni Mitchell's Evergreen "I wish I had a river to skate away on..." on the PA. The entire scene was just too perfect. A quick treat at Bugaboos and off to the hot tub. What a nap before the potluck? Don't mind if I do.

You gotta love Skier's potlucks and happy hours, crammed into a small room with food, drink and an after-ski glow. Everyone is all grins and happy to share a tale or two.

Friday night was the big show in town. Santa, a craft fair, an amazing fire show that was much more than juggling, the big tree lighting count down and a fabulous fireworks show. The village was busy but still had that small town feel.



Saturday Dawn and I started out with Joanne, Anthea and Leslie. [Here](#) is an interactive map of the area with elevations and trail names from our route. As you can tell we cheated and started with a lift ride. On the way up I couldn't help think about what if my ski falls off? It can be interesting to start with a lift ride; yes there was some mumbling about "I'm on the wrong pair of skis for all this downhill" and a couple of pauses for folks to add a layer.

As we once more opted to head out towards Alder Point we stopped in the Captik cabin quickly to start the fire as we knew we would appreciate it on our way back. There are gorgeous little cabins at both Silver Star and Sovereign. As the area was experiencing an inversion the views were spectacular, clear skies above a fog bank with islands of land and mountains popping up through.

After a brief stop at Captik we headed off to Black Prince cabin for lunch. Along the way we experienced our first of several Chinook like breezes, very interesting when combined with the long shadows of the season.

Black Prince cabin, a BC Parks cabin was a little more substantial and included a loft. A great spot for us to lunch and warm up. More friendly banter with friends old and new.

With visions of the hot tub we headed down Black Prince and Carl Wylie to the Gold Mountain Parkway. We did pause briefly to watch a few of the young racers scoot along. We connected with a few club members along the way all sharing the same blissful smiles. The Gold Mountain Parkway boasts extended panoramic views and has a few stinker hills to climb.

The village was definitely busier when we arrived at our now traditional 2PM. There was a line up out the door when we arrived at the Bugaboo, no problem for us we now knew our way around. The real problem was that Anthea had told us about this concoction they served starting with hot apple cider, then an apple brandy and topped off with whipped cream, all served separately so you can get creative. Dawn and I had been dreaming of this since Anthea had revelled the day before. In line we were told they had run out of brandy, Wa,Wa,Wa. Oh well, the mulled wine is pretty good too.

Attendance at Saturday night's happy hour was somewhat diminished but still substantial. More smiling faces some showing a little colour. The village was a lot quieter than Friday night.



Sunday morning was time to put your thinking hat on. How much skiing, what to put on the bus and where to get on the bus? Being the well-seasoned group we are all went smoothly.

Our 2 groups from Friday and Saturday combined and we opted for the guided tour of Silver Star's lower trails. This was super fun again sharing similar vistas to those on the Gold Mountain Pkwy. There was a nice variety of trails more in the open. Our group split with the more ambitious arriving back at the village around noon.



Experienced Skiers were all packed and organized basking in the sun smiling and sharing stories while others scurried around with last minute organizing.

But there is always one or two that step on to the bus at the very last minute calm and collected....

The take home for me is ... Silver Star / Sovereign Lake are fantastic venues with a wealth of terrain to explore; another fantastic area to share good times with your fellow Vancouver Skiers.