

The Blizzard



Huntington Beach Ski Club

March Madness

The Blizzard

- Your stories, reports, photos and articles are welcome
- Be Safe. Ski Safe
- Just 3 more trips this Season ?!

Where would you rather be?

Ok now. Seriously. Where would you rather be? When the phone rings on Thursday morning, and you're sitting at your desk, slogging away at work and it's a call from your Ski Club cam padres—who are already half way to snow paradise.... You're delighted to hear their excitement. Their energy. Their eager anticipation. But seriously—How do you really feel? For those of us who couldn't get the time off work or have mega family commitments or happen to be in a cast or on crutches.... Maybe we feel a little bummed? And why not!!! It's the best ski season in years! It's March Madness! The cold, miserable March rain in So Cal means amazing snow in Mammoth. And every HBSC trip is an adventure—a time to ski, board, dance, celebrate and enjoy great company with an amazingly diversified group of fantastically warm,

fun and friendly HBSC members. It's a mini retreat, an escape, a break... a great time to recharge your batteries and simply breathe in, exhale and ENJOY the majestic mountains, the cold air, blue skies, the white snow, the sun on your face.... as you sit snuggly with 3 friends on a quad lift to heavenly runs.

There's nothing quite like it. So if you're sitting at your desk, take heart. It's not too late to enjoy a few more trips this ski season and start planning your summer fun with HBSC.



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HBSC February 2011 Trip Recaps

Ask and ye shall receive....at least in February! Superbowl Trip Feb 4-7 was a great success, even if your team didn't win and, thanks to Bob, left no one hungry! The Feb 24-27 trip greeted, challenged and delighted us with an amazing storm—raging winds, furious flurries, icy cold lifts, fresh tracks, and magnificently deep powder. A little delayed gratification—with several closed runs on Thursday and Friday—turned into incredible satisfaction by the weekend. For those of us otherwise inclined — cross country skiing, snow shoeing, cozy Canyon Lodge bar, mop dummies and a little recreational shopping sufficed. For night-

life, Rafters provided great live music as we took over the dance floor with flare (try that on crutches!). We also enjoyed an incredible slide presentation on scuba diving and Little Caymen Island (population 50?!) by our very own marine biologist Marty Golden a little titillating change of scenery for all our divers! And Vince finally found his car and dug it out of the snow bank. What could be better? How about a little "speed dating" on the lifts for all the Singles in February? It's catching on at other resorts. Maybe next year Mammoth? Chair 12 perhaps? March 10-13 Trip: Repeat! More snow. Cold. Fun. Perfect Sunday!



Betsy's Blog



HBSC Board Elections

April 5th

at the Monthly Club Meeting

Is it your turn to get involved?
Be on the Board? Volunteer your talent?
Nominations and Volunteers Welcome



President Betsy's Blog is Back

Well.....I am back! Dick Thiel had to resign and take some time off for his family.

So here I am with the latest news from our club:

We have had 6 trips so far. The snow has been fabulous. The advanced powder hounds loved the snowy February 23rd trip. It snowed Thursday evening Friday and Saturday and stopped in time for a sunny day of skiing before driving back home.

Our Super Bowl Trip has always been the most popular and largest trip each year. (This year we had 29 people.) That was until the snow started falling! Our last trip on March 10th, "March Madness" we had 30 people on the trip. For Vicki....that's a lot of pancakes!! In the evenings the music/dancing location of choice has been Rafters. And for two good reasons: Live band... and you can walk to and from there from Horizons 4.

OK Readers Digest Version:

December wow that's early and lots of snow, crazy dancing in condos, Ooops what the heck happened to Penny?? January: tropical Mammoth where is the snow fall and cold air that is usually here? Dancing with photos to prove it at Rafters. February: sing along with Robert, football, snow, watch Marty's presentation on Little Cayman Islands....more snow and wind....and watch Vince dig out his car. What's that? Where's Dick? ...Betsy's back.... March: packed powder, sunny skies, helmet cameras, which result in (condo)home movies. Evenings were spent dancing at Rafters for the more energetic. Couch potatoes stayed home and watched videos.

Tree Well & Deep Snow. Safety you need to Know.

Deep powder and ungroomed trails can be exhilarating for skiers and snowboarders but also pose inherent risks. One often fatal but preventable risk? **Tree Well or Deep Snow Immersion Accident**—falling head-down into deep unconsolidated snow and becoming trapped. The more the person struggles, the more immobilized they become. Without immediate rescue, suffocation can occur quickly. Deaths from these accidents are called NARSID or Non-Avalanche Related Snow Immersion Death. Odds of surviving are low, especially when going alone or without ski partners in sight. Even with partners, an unwitnessed fall can be fatal. Most accidents occur during or just after big snowfalls. The amount of newly deposited snow is more important than the depth of snowpack. **Ungroomed areas hold greatest risk.** Trees play an important role in the risks. A **Tree Well** is a hole or deep depression that forms around the base of a tree. Fir trees in particular can have very large, deep tree wells form under low hanging branches that are hidden from view. Hazardous tree wells are generally found in ungroomed areas, and even small trees can have deep wells. The risk is completely avoidable. **For your safety—Assume ALL trees have a hazardous tree well.**

Tree Well & Deep Snow Accidents are Preventable. HOW?

1. **Avoid Deep Snow & Tree Areas.** Stay on groomed trails. Be aware of the edges of groomed trails—there may be deep powder. Avoid the lure of untracked powder through the trees, especially after deep snowfalls. However, if you choose to ski in ungroomed, deep snow areas with trees....
2. **Keep your partner in sight.** Stay in visual contact so any fall is witnessed. Stay close enough to either pull or dig out if a fall occurs. **DO NOT LEAVE TO GET HELP.** There's **NO TIME.** You are the help. Your quick actions to pull or dig out your partner out may be their best hope for survival. Attempt to uncover their head first, check there's no snow in their mouth and that they can breathe.
3. **Ski and Ride Defensively.** To reduce risk of tree well or deep snow accident a) Choose areas of widely spaced trees b) Skiers—Remove pole straps before skiing slopes with ungroomed powder. Attached straps can hinder efforts to escape c) Avoid looking at the trees as you ski. Your body usually goes towards where you're looking—so look at the areas in between d) If sliding towards a tree well or deep bank—grab branches, hug the tree or roll to get your feet below you. Do everything possible to avoid going head-down into snow e) Carry a transceiver, shovel, probe and whistle
4. **Fight to Survive.** Know what to do if you go down. **Stay Calm.** This can conserve air and extend survival time. **Resist the urge to struggle violently.** Struggling can cause further sinking and immobilization. **Make a breathing space around your face.** Hollow out the snow to give space for air, then carefully move your body in a rocking motion. *Your actions are critical to survival until rescue.*

Source/ For more information: www.treewelldeepsnowsafety.com

HBSC News and Knews

Summer's Coming

For HBSC, it's not just about the snow and skiing and boarding (almost, but not quite). Yes—there's almost 600" of snowpack on Mammoth, and yes the season may run well into June but yes we are a year-round club. As the extended snow season winds down, we turn our attention to sand, surf, sun and upcoming summer fun. Apart from the monthly local social — with a little change-up to Hennessey's in March for the Irish in us— the HBSC summer event calendar is filling up....and no ski boots required. May 21 *tentative*: Western BBQ ranch style at Ron's (cowboy boots). July tbd: Mammoth Jazz Festival and Hike (hiking boots) June 24-26: "River Bash 2011", hosted by Wailers Ski Club (water skis). Sept 17: End of Summer Beach Party (flip flops). Oct 5-7: Catalina Jazz Festival (sandals) Oct 13-16: Water ski Weekend (water skis & dance shoes too!)

The Blizzard Bazaar

Everyone loves good deals and HBSC is no exception, so here's a deal or two for you.

Mammoth Eateries: Fireside Grill—10% off for HBSC. Grumpy's Sports Bar—ask Scott.

MVP Mammoth Pass: \$659. On sale April 1st. Open to new Members this year! And.... Pass Cash is now \$25 Bonus for every \$100 purchased! (The # of MVP Passes is limited, so don't wait til it's too late)

Snow Gear: Ski and Snowboard Outlet . 2 Locations—San Gabriel (9035 Huntington Dr, zip 91775) and Costa Mesa (1901 Harbor @ 19th, zip 92627). Just check out Besty's new jacket!

The Dummy Restoration Project ?!

Who knew that great friends on long drives over 6 years could've hatched such a scheme and produced such a random act of restoration. HBSC, Say hello to the Dummy Restoration Project! Years in the planning, and one weekend for completion... our very own Betsy Pedley, Chris St Marie, and their unwitting accomplice Chris Heiberg, brought new life, fashion, and beauty to 2 dilapidated, weathered and worn Mr & Mrs window dummies in an even more dilapidated shack. You can admire the final results on your next drive up to Mammoth , as you pass the old mining shacks along CA14 near Hwy 395. (note: clothes shopping and burlap involved!) Inspired? Got an idea? Who knows what random act will be next!



HBSC Trip Dates

March 24—27

April 14—17

May 12 – 15

and more.....?!



Far West Ski Association Member? Who Me?

Yes You! As an HBSC member you are automatically an FWSA member. FWSA is a non-profit, volunteer organization with emphasis on skier safety, ski travel, ski area development, communications, club programs. As a member, you can attend the **79th Annual Convention & Snowsports Leadership Academy June 9 –11, 2011** hosted by Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs at Palm Pacific Hotels in Industry Hills. Look forward to Exhibits, Travel Expo, Lectures, Golf Tournament, Dinner Dance, tours. It's local, informative, fun, great networking,and did someone mention Pub Crawls and Pool Parties?! For more info, visit www.fwsa.org

As a HBSC ski club member, you can also sign up for the FWSA 2012 Ski Trip to Jackson Hole, January 28—February 4 2012. Payment schedule, with initial deposit due now.

2011 FWSA CONVENTION
Industry Hills, CA



Los Angeles Council of Ski Clubs



Huntington Beach Ski Club

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The Blizzard

Surf, Sand & Palms meet

Snow, Slopes and Pines

Yes. Surf City has it's very own Ski Club. Huntington Beach Ski Club. A club for active singles and couples who like to do a variety of activities including skiing, snowboarding, whitewater rafting, water skiing, camping, hiking, biking, live music, dancing, dinner shows and much more.

We love the Sand and the Surf. We love the snow. Our trips, activities and events are fun, well-organized, affordable—and we welcome new members.

We are the **Huntington Beach Ski Club**



Where To Find us and How to Join? www.hbskiclub.com and www.meetup.com/Huntington-Beach-Ski-Club-Meet-Up/

Other favorite Sites: www.mammothmountain.com www.orangecouncil.org ... and Mammoth Mountain of course!

