

Viking Thursday Tour Report for 30th January 2020

Reserve Naturelle du Parc Regional de Val-David-Val-Morin

The two Vals.... always a popular choice with Viking ski pals, aka the Val-David/Val-Morin 60 km x-c network, although getting to the Chalet Far Hills reception centre can have its navigational challenges!

We had a turnout of 13 Vikings namely:

Andrea Patch Smith, Howard Bussey, Christine Bush, Daphne Armstrong, Kathy Walsh, Chris Neal, Jicheng Huang, Jan Brochocki, Richard L'Heureux, Frank Philpott, Gordon Cohen, Derek Wills & Don Heatherington

.....annoyingly just 2 short as, had we been a group of 15, we could have enjoyed a \$3 discount on our \$17 daily ski pass!



In blazing sun, no wind and around -10 Deg. C we set off westward bound, some 6 km, toward Chalet Anne-Piché, our traditional warm lunch stop-over. We followed a “difficulty” mix of trails: Sud-Ouest (No.5), Mont King (No.7), Dufresne (No.11), Maple Leaf (No.1) and 2 Vals (No.33)

At a key junction, the Maple Leaf (No.1) trail offers the group a routing choice: easy-peasy, or Gordon’s favorite....a rapid challenging switch-back descent. This split the group into “chickens” and “daredevils!” Let’s just say that chickens outnumbered the daredevils, and all met up to compare notes over lunch at the cozy and well-appointed Chalet Anne-Piché.

For our 5 km return, we opted for the easy 2-Vals (No. 33), admittedly in stark contrast to previous years where we had ventured on the more demanding northern routings like around Mont Césaire or the more remote and historic Gillespie trail.

All concluded with a final senior’s intelligence test, to get a hot chocolate out of the machine at the Chalet Far Hills reception center!

Photo Gallery



Outdoor information website!



Some 60 km of spaghetti trail network on offer!



Viking lunch invasion at Chalet Anne-Piché



Some "Joys of Winter Life" propaganda!



So.....which way now....Tour Leader?



Breath catching time, at one of MERRELL's sponsored trail side hut facilities



Evidence of a “snow artist” at work here!