

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew

by Emilio Trampuz

Here is the story of an interesting couple with a great idea. **John and Jewel Andrew** decided to spend their retirement years skiing all of North America. After all, what better way to spend your retirement than finally visiting all those places you've been hearing about, and many more you've never even heard about!

After making the decision to embark on this adventure, they first had to compile a list of all the ski areas in both the United States and Canada. They were very thorough in their search, finding relatively sizeable but almost completely unknown ski areas that don't even appear on their States (or Canadian Provinces) ski maps!

For example, look up the official Idaho ski areas web site, <http://www.skiidaho.us/resorts> and you will not find the **Blizzard** ski area listed there. And yet, the ski area exists, offers 700' vertical, there are YouTube videos filmed there, and John and Jewel have found it, skied it, and checked it on their list. Hint: Blizzard ski area is located about 18 miles west of Arco, Idaho, within sight of the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

Similarly, you have probably never heard of **Manning Provincial Park, B.C.** (1,417' vertical), or **Hemlock Resort, B.C.**, (1,200' vertical), even though they are both within an easy drive from Vancouver, B.C. And yet they are on John and Jewel's list.

All totaled, the list they assembled contains 747 ski areas, but 63 of them (mainly small ones) have closed, which leaves 684 ski areas in North America.

So far, John and Jewel have skied 524 of them.

We found out about this couple quite by accident, when our club President, Kurt Krueger met John Andrew at the Red Tail Lodge in Beaver Creek, Colorado, in 2006. He immediately sensed that this would make a great story we could publish in our newsletter. So, he connected John and Jewel with Emilio. We corresponded

for a while, and then finally met at the White Pass ski area last winter (March 2013).

John and Jewel Andrew live in Renton, Washington. John is now 82 (in 2013) and Jewel a bit younger, and they are both slim, active, and in good shape.

Their adventures on skis for the past 17 years (since retirement) are inspiring, entertaining, instructive, and a good example for all of us. Stay tuned for more stories about them in upcoming months.

And remember that you too can embark on a similar adventure. If all of North America sounds like too much, set yourself a more modest goal. How about taking on the **Northwest Ski Challenge**, which is simply to ski at least 7 Northwest ski areas in a single winter season. You can even win a prize for accomplishing that!

For a more ambitious goal, notice that there are 153 ski areas listed in the Western part of North America (including British Columbia and Alberta). You can see them all listed at: www.mthigh.org/SkiAreas.htm. How about skiing all of those in your lifetime?

It's a wonderful world. Go ski it!



Emilio Trampuz with Jewel and John Andrew



Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



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This is part of a series of articles that first appeared in the Mountain High Snowsport Club's newsletter, "Lift Lines", Between October 2013 and October 2014, about the adventures of **John and Jewel Andrew** who had decided to spend their retirement years skiing all of North America.

Note also that an introductory article about Skiing North America appeared in the 2013/2014 issue of the **NW Skiers' Directory**.

Keeping a list

This is a major challenge. New ski areas open from time to time - such as Tamarack (Idaho) and Revelstoke (B.C.), while other ski areas close. Some smaller ski areas don't even appear on any lists.

So, it's hard to come up with a definitive list and a specific total number. All totaled, the list John and Jewel have assembled contains 747 ski areas, but 63 of them (mainly small ones) have closed or are private, which leaves 684 ski areas in North America (Canada + U.S.).

So far, John and Jewel have skied **519** of them.

Interestingly, the November 2013 issue of Ski Magazine states on page 18 that there are currently **477** ski areas in the United States. This means that John and Jewel have already visited way more ski areas than the total existing in the U.S.

John says: *Jewel and I had done only 25 ski areas before we retired (17 years ago). I think that skiing all of them is possible only in retirement, because of the distances and time spent travelling.*

I started by buying the "White Book of Ski Areas" and "The Peak Ski Guide and Travel Planner." The two books were about 95% in agreement. When I began travelling, I found a good many ski areas had closed that were listed in the two books. However, I found other ski areas that were not listed by them. That's when I began to make my own list. For instance, neither book listed the private ski

areas. I have found 17. Most of them will allow a person to ski. I also found resorts like Blizzard that don't make it to anyone's list.

I used to think that the only way to get a complete listing might be to check with the lift inspectors in each state or province because they inspect installations. Then I was told that in some places the inspections are done locally or not at all, Quebec being an example. That's when I realized that there's almost no way to get a perfect list of all the ski areas in North America. The last 5%, the little ones, will always be elusive.

Incidentally, when I find a ski area that's closed permanently, I'll climb it, take a run, and check it off my list. Most of these are under 600 feet. If people are around, I'll ask permission.



One thing that's almost constant is the total advertised vertical is just under 700,000 feet. It doesn't matter if you take out the closed areas or leave them in. If you divide that number by 5,280, you get about 130 miles. Thus, if you stacked all the ski areas on top of one another, you'd have a mountain 130 miles high. Of course, we all ski much more than one run. With our rule of thumb, "one day per thousand feet of vertical," we get lots of runs at the big ski areas on multiple days, probably millions of vertical feet and hundreds of vertical miles, we don't keep track.

You too can embark on a similar adventure. If all of North America sounds like too much, set yourself a more modest goal. How about taking on the [Northwest Ski Challenge](#) to ski at least 7 Northwest ski areas in a single winter season. You can win a prize for that!

For a more ambitious goal, notice that there are 161 ski areas listed in the Western part of North America (including British Columbia and Alberta). You can see them all listed at: www.mthigh.org/SkiAreas.htm. How about skiing all of those in your lifetime?

On our web site, you can find a modified form of John and Jewel's spreadsheet with 3 added columns. One shows that Emilio has skied 103 ski areas. You might not beat John & Jewel, but surely you can beat Emilio! The other two columns are for Persons A and B. Make those your own and start entering a "1" for every ski area visited. See: www.mthigh.org/Documents/North-American-Ski-Areas-2013-09-15.xls

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Some of us like the variety of terrain and scenery that can only be experienced by visiting different ski areas. The only problem is: not enough time to travel! But, as many of us approach retirement, time will not be an issue any more. And what better way to spend our retirement years than skiing all of North America! That's what **John and Jewel Andrew** decided to do when they retired about 17 years ago. In those 17 years, their count of places skied has gone from just 25 to 524.

What is a ski area?

How should we define what a ski resort is? John, says: "Any place with a fixed lift device that is willing to sell a ticket." Anything from a golf course to a mega-resort.

"North American ski areas come in all sizes. The tallest is **Revelstoke** in central British Columbia with 5,620 vertical feet. Shortest is the **Sawkill Family Ski Center** near Kingston, NY with 70 vertical feet. Mean average vertical in North America is 948.4 vertical. Resorts near the mean average include **Dartmouth Skiway** in New Hampshire with 968, **Clearwater B. C.** with 950, and **Kelly Canyon** in Idaho with 938. The median resort in North America is **New Winterplace** in West Virginia with 603 feet of vertical. Median is at the middle of the pack. This told Jewel and I that we would find 350 resorts with more than 603 feet and 350 resorts with less. With such a huge difference between resorts, we obviously had to allocate our skiing time in some sensible way. That's when we developed our rule of thumb: **one day per 1000 feet.**"

"As a rule of thumb, we try to spend one day of skiing per 1,000 feet of vertical. We allocate three days to ski a western

resort with 3,000 feet of vertical, such as **Mammoth** in California. We allocate two ski days at eastern operations with 2,000+ feet, such as **Stowe** in Vermont. Resorts advertising 1,000 feet get one day on our schedule. Ski hills with 500 feet can be done two per day. Gravel pits, garbage dumps, and golf courses take about 30 minutes. We might do up to 3 of those in a day if they are clustered near big cities and offer night skiing."

"Big resorts are easy to ski on a schedule. They are reliably open, and all signs point to them. Smaller part-time and weekend ski areas sprinkled across vast distances bounded by Alaska, Yukon, Manitoba, Quebec, Labrador, Newfoundland, New York, Alabama, Arizona, and California, are the ones that complicate our quest. Because of this, we allocated 25 retirement years and about 1,000 days of skiing to accomplish our goal. As of the summer of 2013, we are about two thirds complete."

"Jewel and I are not trying to better anyone's record, or set a record. We are doing this purely for our own challenge and satisfaction. Besides, there are no rules and no referee and no scorekeepers. If someone tells me they've skied 700 ski areas in North America, I'd say, "Wonderful."

It's a challenge to keep track of all the ski areas over many years, since some ski areas change names.

"**Wolf Mountain** (near Eden, Utah) was called **Nordic Valley** when I skied it about 14 years ago. Twenty years ago Utah had a different **Wolf Mountain** ski area next door to **Park City** and **Deer Valley**. I was looking forward to skiing at the former **Wolf Mountain** because their logo was a really neat silhouette of a howling wolf's head on patches and pins. By the time I skied there, the name had changed to **The Canyons.**"

There are a few tiny ski hills not yet added to the list, spread out across the vast plains of Alberta and Colorado. John wants to check them out before adding them.

A challenge for all

You too can embark on a similar adventure. Start with a more modest goal, such as the [Northwest Ski Challenge](#) to ski at least 7 Northwest ski areas in a single winter season.

Or, how about visiting all 12 ski areas that are part of the Powder Alliance? See: www.powderalliance.com

For a more ambitious lifetime goal, try to ski the 161 western ski areas listed at: www.mthigh.org/SkiAreas.htm.

Use a modified form of John and Jewel's spreadsheet with 3 added columns. One shows that Emilio has skied 99 ski areas. The other two columns are for Persons A and B. Make those your own and start entering a "1" for every ski area visited. See: www.mthigh.org/Documents/North-American-Ski-Areas-2013-09-15.xls



John & Jewel
at Sky Valley
Georgia

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Infinite Variety



During their travels, often a whole month on the road, John and Jewel Andrew have experienced an infinite variety of ski areas, from big to the super small. John says:

“Traveling to all 700 resorts is an adventure. We average nearly 20,000 miles of winter driving each year. Longest single trip was from Seattle to Newfoundland covering 13,000 miles in two sub-zero months, skiing at 45 resorts in 16 states and provinces, including **White Hills**, the easternmost resort in North America, near St. Johns, Newfoundland.”

Here's just one of their many trips, in John's own words.

To Alabama and Back

31 ski areas in 30 days

The 31 ski areas we did on our trip to Alabama are pretty representative of what it's like to ski North America. On almost every trip the resorts range from several thousand feet of vertical to barely over a hundred. You find all kinds of weather: rain, snow, slush, mud, powder, ice. Temperatures from sunny and warm to 30 below on the same trip, sometimes on the same day top to bottom. When you're on a ski trip you live more like a long-distance truck driver than a destination skier. Satisfaction comes when you find places like Cloudmont (Alabama) and Blizzard (Idaho) - on the same trip.

Our goal was to ski the only ski area in Alabama, a place called Cloudmont. On this trip, we had company.

Jewel and I had taken Paul and Carol Morford on a ski trip to Los Angeles and back the year before in our crew

cab pickup. Paul bought a new suburban and said he would provide the transportation the next year. I called Cloudmont. They said they had snow and thought it might last at least a week. We quickly put my Thule ski capsule on Paul's suburban and decided to start driving the next day.

I told Paul, “Be careful about overhead clearance.”

He showed up the next morning to load our skis. Looking embarrassed, he said, “I just squashed your ski capsule. It's torn. I'll buy you a new one. Let's delay the trip a day.”

“No way,” I said, “There's snow in Alabama. We've got to get on the road. I have a roll of duct tape.”

We weatherproofed the capsule with duct tape and loaded skis. We were hoping to ski at **Lookout Pass** that day, but we got there just as it was closing. Thus, no ski pictures on day 1.

Note: The duct-taped capsule did fine. At the end of the season, I made permanent repairs with fiberglass. The capsule is as good as new.

Day 2. Discovery Basin, near Anaconda, Montana.

Our first ski stop on our trip from Seattle to Alabama was **Discovery Basin**. The back bowl, with 11 double diamond runs, was closed. The front was drenched in freezing rain. One run down its 1,200 vertical feet of icy, crusty crud caused us to shake off the ice and get on the road to Red Lodge, Montana, hoping for good snow.

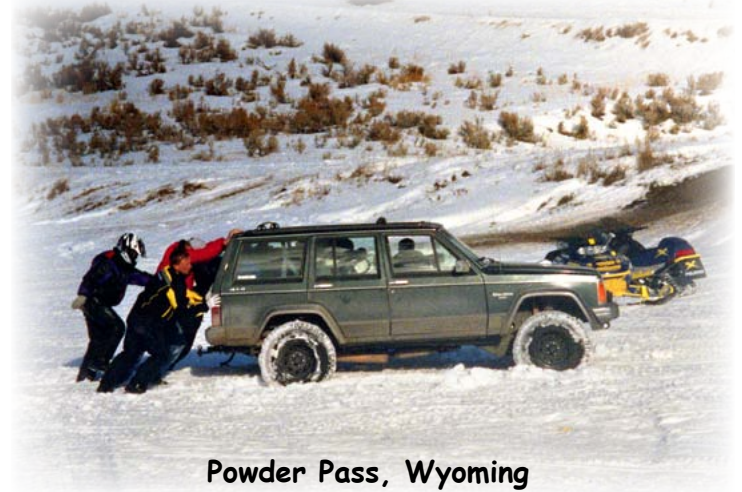
Day 3. Powder Pass, Big Horn Mountains, Wyoming, Elevation 9,666 ft.

We helped a man stuck in the snow on a small lake. He had no shovel. I always carry a stout steel shovel along with my skis in the ski capsule. Paul and I shovelled in front of the rig for 200 feet. Two snowmobilers helped us finish the job.



Discovery Basin, Montana

Carol Morford, Jewel Andrew, Paul Morford



Powder Pass, Wyoming

Helping out a stranded motorist

Day 4. Terry Peak, Black Hills, South Dakota.

We finally find limited skiing at Terry Peak (1,056 vertical). Paul and Carol have seen good skiing there and are disappointed at the lack of snow and limited runs. So far, our attempt to ski to Alabama is not going well.



Jewel Andrew
Terry Peak, S.D.

Day 5. Sundown Resort, Dubuque, Iowa.

We found a run almost named after us and couldn't resist letting Carol take our picture. Night skiing allowed us to log a ski area after driving 500 miles.



John & Jewel Andrew
Sundown, Iowa

Day 6. Galena, Illinois.

When Jewel and Carol saw this beautifully preserved and restored town from the 1850s, they went shopping and told John and Paul to go skiing.



Jewel Andrew
Galena, IL.

Day 6. Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena, Illinois.

I ski above the Mississippi River on Chestnut's 475 feet of vertical. Two of its west-facing runs were icy and challenging. After we skied everything once, we decided to rescue our credit cards from the girls who were shopping in Galena and get on the road to Indiana.



John Andrew
Chestnut Mountain, IL

A challenge for all

You too can embark on a similar adventure. Try a modest goal of any 7 ski areas in the [Northwest Ski Challenge](#).

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And we still haven't reached Alabama.

Stay tuned for the next part of the journey, including Cloudmont, Alabama, Sky Valley, Georgia, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, Apalachian Mt., North Carolina, Sugar Mt., N.C., Winterplace and Wintergreen., Virginia, Canaan Valley, W.V., and many more, ... and ending with: Winter Park (CO), Steamboat (CO), Jackson Hole (WY), and Sun Valley (ID).

Quite and adventure! To be continued

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Part 5: Skiing Alabama by Emilio Trampuz

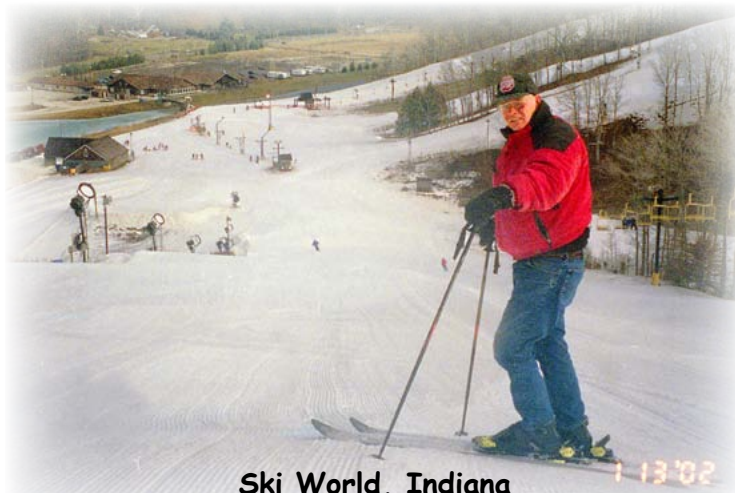


In their quest to ski all the downhill ski areas in North America, John and Jewel Andrew have done many long road trips. Here is part 2 of just one of these, skiing their way from the State of Washington to Alabama and back.

To Alabama and Back - part 2 31 ski areas in 30 days

Paul and Carol Morford accompanied us on this trip. The pictures included here were all taken with point-and-shoot cameras using roll film developed at places along the way. We scanned the negatives to produce these digital copies.

Day 7. Ski World, Nashville, Indiana. We stayed in Bloomington, Ind. Jewel and Carol, having exhausted themselves shopping in Galena, decided to sleep in while Paul and I drove 20 miles east to Ski World (350 ft. vertical) Within a few minutes we'd skied every run. We joined the girls for breakfast and got on the road to Paoli Peaks.



Ski World, Indiana

Paul Morford on 350 feet of vertical.

Day 7. Paoli Peaks Ski Resort, Paoli, Indiana. We spent the early afternoon skiing Paoli Peaks' 350 ft. of vertical. I was relieved to log two ski areas in a day. We found Paoli Peaks to be as well run as big resorts out west.

Jewel had fun skiing the tunnel at Paoli Peaks. We had to cut short Jewel's fun and get on the road. After driving south through Louisville, Nashville, and almost to Chattanooga, we rented rooms late at night in a cheap motel. Jewel and Carol were not happy. I was happy because we were within striking distance of Alabama skiing.



Paoli Peaks, Indiana

Carol & Paul Morford, Jewel Andrew



Paoli Peaks, Indiana

Jewel Andrew skiing through the tunnel

Day 8. Cloudmont Ski Resort, Mentone, Alabama. After 2,800 miles across North America, Paul's suburban is covered with a continent of winter grime. Our race with the weather is won. Alabama's ski slopes are open. Jewel is still not happy about the cheap Tennessee motel.



Cloudmont, Alabama

Jewel Andrew, Paul Morford, Carol Morford.

Day 8. Cloudmont Ski Resort, Mentone, Alabama. Jewel takes pictures of the three of us skiing Alabama. Not many other people around. 150' vertical just for us!

Stay tuned for the next part of the journey, including Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho.

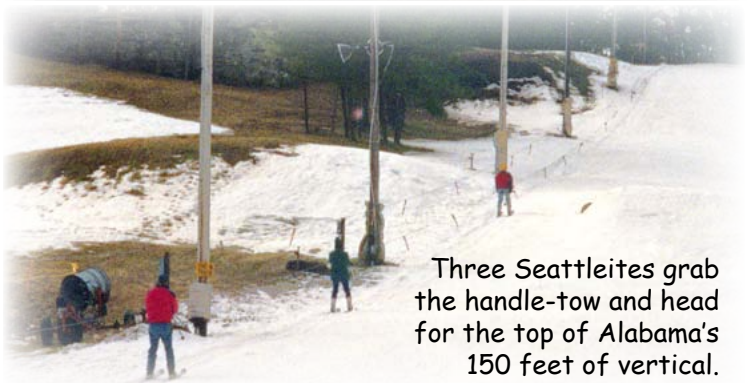


John Andrew at the day lodge, Cloudmont, Alabama



John Andrew: Alabama slopes beckon!

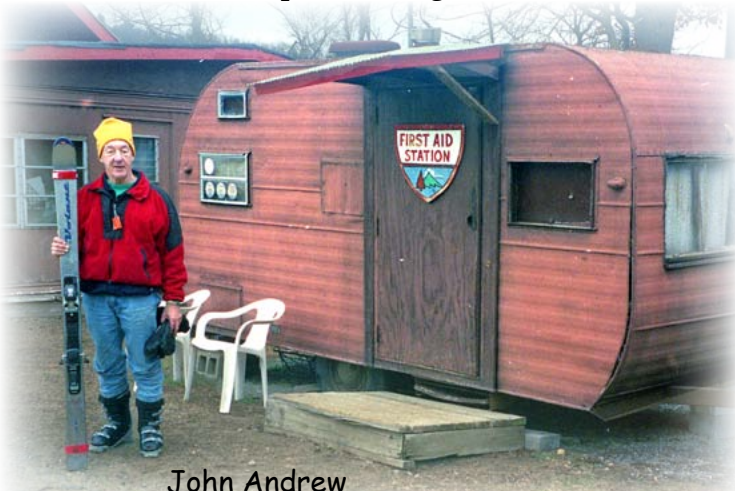
After several runs we ate lunch in the upper lodge (not shown), which was quite nice. We met the owners, who run a year around dude ranch. We listened to their tragic ski story. Their son was killed on the slopes while tending the snow guns just before their grand opening in 1970. They opened on schedule in his honor. We left Cloudmont with great respect for a family that has put Alabama on the map as a skiing state.



Three Seattleites grab the handle-tow and head for the top of Alabama's 150 feet of vertical.



Carol & Paul Morford skiing Cloudmont, AL



John Andrew
First Aid Station, Cloudmont, AL

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Emilio's comment: I spent the winter of 1985/86 working in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and I took the opportunity to ski Cloudmont, Alabama. I never thought I would meet anyone else who had been there.

I had less snow than shown in these pictures. There were two islands of snow, one above the other, connected with a narrow strip. I took my skis off and used them as a shovel to push some snow and widen the strip. The ski area manager saw me and gave me a free lift ticket for a future visit. Unfortunately, I never used it.

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Skiing the South



In their quest to ski all the downhill ski areas in North America, John and Jewel Andrew have done many long road trips. Here, in John's own words, is part 3 of a trip from the State of Washington to Alabama and back, accompanied by Paul and Carol Morford.

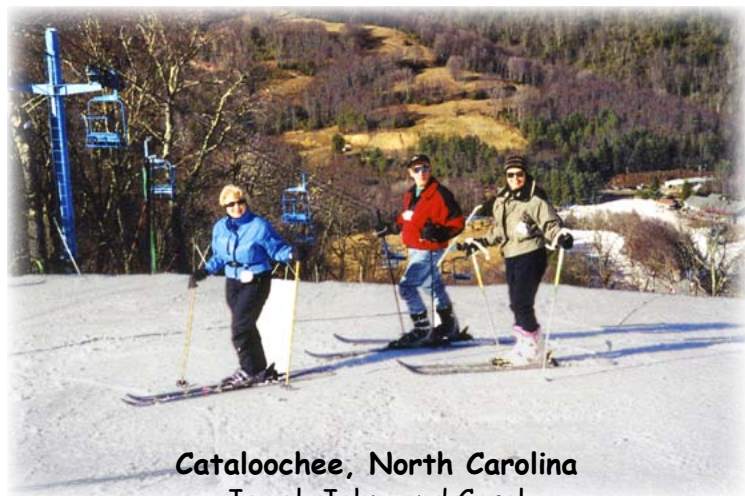
Day 9. Sky Valley Resort, Sky Valley, Georgia. The slopes were closed on Monday. We asked if we could walk to the top and ski the 250 feet of vertical, which is on the golf course. When the club manger saw the girls, he insisted on operating the chair lift for women who had come 2,900 miles to ski at Georgia's only ski resort.



Sky Valley, Georgia

John & Jewel Andrew at the only ski area in Georgia.

Day 9. Cataloochee Ski Area, Maggie Valley, North Carolina. After 3,000 miles of driving, everyone was happy to be on a real mountain again. Cataloochee's 740 feet of vertical seemed like twice that.



Cataloochee, North Carolina
Jewel, John, and Carol



**Cataloochee,
North Carolina**

Jewel was happy to find snow and some real vertical

Day 9. Ski Ober Gatlinburg, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. By evening, we ended up in Gatlinburg, a tourist city that we found amazing. Hundreds of hotels and businesses line the streets. A tram took us to an entertainment center high above the city.



**Carol Morford &
Jewel Andrew
Gatlinburg, Tennessee**

We prepare to ride a chair lift that takes us to the top of the mountain. Night skiing (600 ft. vertical) allowed us to log a third ski area that day, each one in a different state: Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.



Gatlinburg, Tennessee
John and Paul get ready for night skiing.

Day 10. Wolf Laurel Ski Area, Mars Hill, North Carolina. We spent the day visiting sights in Asheville, NC, including The Broadmoor. Night skiing at Wolf Laurel (700 ft. vertical) allowed us to log another ski area.



Night skiing at Wolf Laurel, North Carolina

Day 11. Ski Beech, Beech Mountain, North Carolina. We found excellent skiing on Beech Mountain (830 ft. vertical).



Jewel at Beech Mt., North Carolina

Day 12. Appalachian Ski Mountain, Blowing Rock, North Carolina. We skied quick morning runs in the rain at Appalachian Ski Mountain (365 ft. vertical) and begin driving to West Virginia.



John Andrew at Appalachian Ski Mt., North Carolina

Day 11. Sugar Mountain Resort, Banner Elk, North Carolina. We skied all afternoon at Sugar Mountain (1,200 ft. vertical).



Carol, Jewel, and John at Sugar Mt., NC

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North America's median vertical is 603 feet, and that is at **New Winterplace** in West Virginia, where we enjoyed skiing on a pleasant January afternoon. Median vertical means that half the resorts have more than 603 feet and half have less. Nevertheless, huge ski operations work well on 600 feet. The **Boyne** ski areas in Michigan are loaded with luxury condos, hotels and beautiful lodges. Their lifts absolutely line the 600-foot ridges for what seems like miles, making up in horizontal for the typical vertically stacked lifts on taller mountains.

Stay tuned for the next part of the journey, including Virginia, West Virginia, Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho.

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Skiing the South - continued -



In their quest to ski all the downhill ski areas in North America, John and Jewel Andrew have done many long road trips. Here, in John's own words, is part 4 of a trip from the State of Washington to Alabama and back, accompanied by Paul and Carol Morford. After skiing Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina, they are now heading north.

Day 12. Winterplace Ski Resort, Flat Top, West Virginia. According to my statistics, Winterplace, with its 603 ft of vertical, is the median ski resort in North America. Some 350 resorts have more vertical and 350 resorts have less. Paul and I enjoyed late afternoon runs on the median ski slopes of North America.



John Andrew & Paul Morford at Winterplace, W.V.

Day 13, Wintergreen Resort, Wintergreen, Virginia. A foot of powder came down overnight. More is falling. Finally, our all-mountain powder skis show their stuff on Wintergreen's 1,000 feet of vertical.



Wintergreen, Virginia

Unidentified Virginia skier, John Andrew.

Day 14. Bryce Resort, Bryce, Virginia. Luck of the lift line paired me on a chair with a boy, six years old. He looked up at me and said, "Sir, are you into penguin jokes?" "I Haven't heard any lately," I replied. "Well, this guy was speeding down the highway with three penguins in the back seat". I learned something on Bryce's 500 feet of vertical: Virginia kids say Sir; they tell clean jokes, and they're pretty good skiers.



Bryce Resort,
Virginia

John Andrew, chuckling at the penguin joke.

Day 14. Massanutten Ski Resort, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Powder from the day before was skied out. Nevertheless, we enjoyed excellent skiing on Massanutten's 1,110 feet of vertical.



John Andrew &
Carol Morford

Massanutten
Virginia

Day 15. The Homestead Ski Area, Hot Springs, Virginia. We explore history. Apparently, George Washington and almost every president up to Lincoln partook of the healing waters at Homestead. We paid \$50 each for lift tickets on a ski run (700 ft. vertical), which was basically a single run down a beginners' slope. Upon leaving, I deemed Homestead to be the most overpriced, anti-public ski area of the 282 I had visited to that point.

Homestead, Virginia



Jewel and Carol

Day 16. Silver Creek ski area, Snowshoe, West Virginia. We rent nice rooms at the Silver Creek Lodge and take morning runs on the slopes of Silver Creek (700 ft. vertical).



Jewel Andrew
Silver Creek, W.V.

Day 17. Timberline Ski Resort, Davis, West Virginia. We ski at Timberline (1,000 ft. vertical). Snow was melting. The warming trend continued.



Paul Morford, John Andrew at Timberline, W.V.

Day 17. Wisp ski area, McHenry, Maryland. Snow was melting, rain was threatening. We had time for several quick runs on Wisp's 603 feet of vertical. That night we drove in drenching rain toward Gettysburg to begin our invasion of Pennsylvania. The next morning, General Mud closed the ski areas, stopping our invasion as effectively as Meade stopped Grant 149 years before.



John Andrew above
Deep Creek Lake,
Wisp, W.V.

Days 18 & 19. This is us, on our retreat, somewhere in the flat land of Kansas. Rain had poured all night at a log-cabin-style motel near Gettysburg. Paul and Carol got a new unit where scalding water had been accidentally piped to the toilet. Carol could handle it, but Paul couldn't. About 5 AM he asked to use ours. We held a council of war and planned our retreat from Gettysburg. Instead of Richmond, it would be Winter Park, Steamboat, Jackson Hole, and Sun Valley.



Day 16. Snowshoe Mountain, Snowshoe, West Virginia. We spend the afternoon skiing Snowshoe (1,500 ft. vertical). Snowshoe is a destination resort. We found the amenities and terrain comparable to many of the big resorts out west.



John Andrew
Carol Morford
Jewel Andrew.
Snowshoe Mt., W.V.

Day 17. Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia. A warming trend begins. We shed our coats at Canaan Valley (850 ft. vertical).



Paul Morford, John Andrew.
Canaan Valley, W.V.

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Homeward bound



Here is part 5 of a 30 day trip involving 31 ski areas. Just one of many trips undertaken by John and Jewel Andrew in their quest to ski all of North America. They started from the State of Washington and headed for Alabama, accompanied by Paul and Carol Morford. After skiing Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, they are now heading back west.

Days 20-21. Winter Park, Colorado Two days drive from Gettysburg, PA, we enjoyed Winter Park's varied and ample terrain (3,060 ft vertical).

We go to the top of Parsenn Bowl (el. 12,060 ft.), above Mary Jane Center. It was windswept and icy. We swapped right for left skis, ensuring sharp edges. (We label our skis R and L and ski that way most of the time. The inside edges get beat up but the outside edges remain sharp until we need them.)



Jewel Andrew & Carol Morford at Winter Park, CO



Winter Park, Colorado Carol and Paul Morford.

Day 22. Steamboat, Colorado. We arrive at Steamboat (3,600 ft. vertical). Jewel and I have skied it many times. We show Paul and Carol our favorite runs.



Steamboat, Colorado: Paul, Jewel, Carol

Days 23-34. Steamboat, Colorado. We got a dump of powder overnight, our first powder since skiing Wintergreen in Virginia ten days before. We ski Steamboat two more days, finding unskied powder in the glades and shadows.



Steamboat, Colorado: John Andrew in powder

Day 25. White Pine ski area, Pinedale, Wyoming.

Nighttime temperature plummets to 30°F below zero at the motel. The girls refuse to ski. Paul and I show up at the ski lodge. I put on my deep-winter gear, including the flapping butt warmer. A cold sun ups the temperature to 25 below. One run down White Pine's 1,000 feet of vertical calls for a cup of coffee. Three more runs, three more cups of coffee, and we're on our way to Jackson Hole.

White Pine, WY



Day 26. Jackson Hole, Jackson, Wyoming.

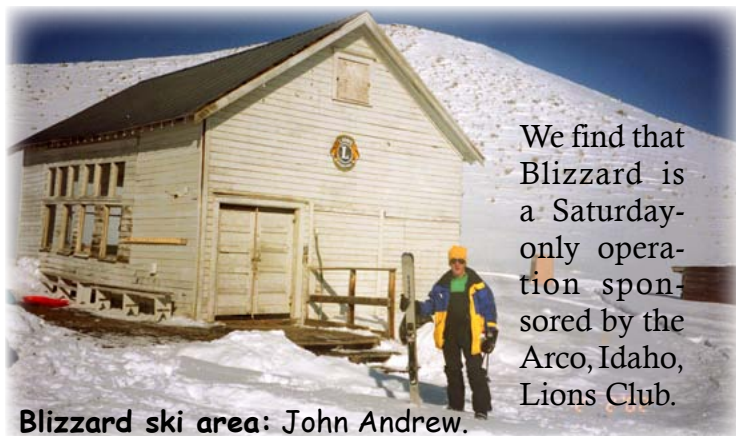
We take the tram to Corbett's Cabin (10,450 ft.) We avoid jumping into Corbett's Couloir and instead take the East Ridge Traverse and ski Jackson's 4,139 feet of vertical. After two more top-to-bottom runs, we quit early and get on the road to Sun Valley. As we pass Craters of the Moon, I see a distant ski lift on the north horizon, illuminated by the setting sun.



Jackson Hole:
Paul, Carol, and Jewel

Day 27. Blizzard Ski Area, Craters of The Moon, Idaho. We stayed overnight in Sun Valley. Paul and Carol skied with their daughter, Janet Hoffman. Jewel and I drive back to Craters of the Moon to check out the ghostly apparition I saw the evening before.

Blizzard ski area: Jewel Andrew.



Blizzard ski area: John Andrew.

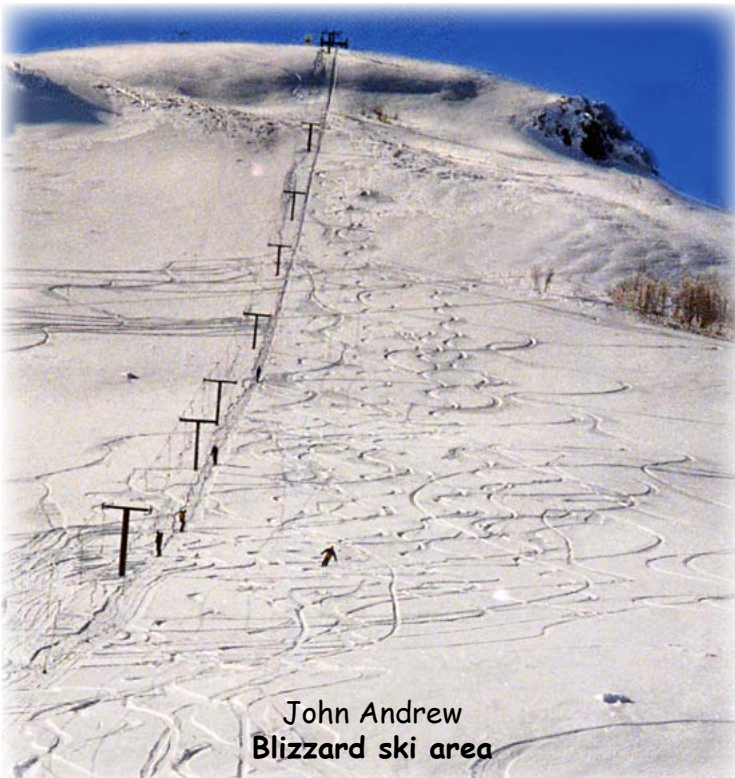
Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho. I buy my lift ticket and get in line with the kids from Arco, Idaho.



**Blizzard
ski area
Idaho.**

Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho. What a surreal place, about 4 miles north of the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and 18 miles from Arco. What a find! Blizzard is within driving range. Almost everyone has been to Sun Valley and Jackson Hole. No one knows about Blizzard. It's not shown on maps, yet nearly all dedicated Northwest skiers have been within a few miles of it

Jewel snapped a picture of me skiing in perfect form down Blizzard's ungroomed slopes.



**John Andrew
Blizzard ski area**

Skiing North America with John & Jewel Andrew



Alabama trip end



This is the last part of a 30 day trip involving 31 ski areas. Just one of many trips undertaken by John and Jewel Andrew in their quest to ski all of North America. They started from the State of Washington and headed for Alabama, accompanied by Paul and Carol Morford. After skiing Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Colorado and Wyoming, they are now in Idaho, heading back west.

Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho. This ski area was a big surprise west of the town of Arco (Idaho). It's open only on Saturdays and operated by a local ski club. I took the camera to the top, to record this surreal place.



The top crew at Blizzard ski area, Idaho

Blizzard's rocky peak was blown clear of snow. I removed my skis and scuffed my ski boots on sharp rocks to get this picture of the bull wheel and counterweight.



Blizzard ski area, Idaho

Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho. View of the lodge and parking lot down the lift line. No one knew or cared about the vertical. I conservatively list it as 600 vertical feet. If someone tells me it's 800 or 900, I'd buy that.



Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho. Platter lifts are easier to ride than T-Bars on steep slopes, because the pull is balanced. Blizzard's slope above this point is very steep.



Blizzard ski area, Idaho

Day 27. Blizzard ski area, Idaho. The south slope of Blizzard looks out on a surreal moonscape. The Craters of the Moon National Monument is the dark band on the mid horizon. US Highway 93 is the horizontal line. Blizzard approach road has a vehicle on it.



Blizzard ski area, Idaho

Day 27. Rotarun Ski Area, Hailey, Idaho.

On the way back to Sun Valley from Blizzard, we stopped in Hailey to ski Rotarun (600 ft. vertical).



John Andrew
Rotarun ski area, Idaho

Day 27. Rotarun Ski Area, Hailey, Idaho. At the top, I meet a ski patroller who retired from avalanche control at my home ski area, Alpental, near Seattle. He said he hasn't had to throw one stick of dynamite at Rotarun. He led the way, and we bombed Rotarun's 600 feet of vertical several times.



Rotarun ski area, Idaho: John Andrew.

Day 28. Soldier Mountain ski area, Fairfield, Idaho.

We stopped at Soldier Mountain (1,400 ft. vertical). We found an interesting mountain with open bowls on the front and shaded glades on the backside.



Soldier Mountain, Idaho: Jewel Andrew

Day 28. Soldier Mountain, Fairfield, Idaho. Our trip to ski Alabama has taken us through 21 states. We've skied at 31 ski resorts, 27 of which Jewel and I had not skied before. Two days later, we roll into Seattle, having spent 30 days and 7,000 miles on the road



Soldier Mountain
Carol Morford, Janet Hoffman (Paul and Carol's daughter), Jewel Andrew.

A challenge for all

You too can embark on a similar adventure. Or track your own lifetime progress in ski areas visited. Use a modified form of John and Jewel's spreadsheet with 3 added columns, for up to 3 more people. Use one of these columns to track your own progress by entering a "1" next to each ski area visited.

See: <http://www.mthigh.org/Documents/North-American-Ski-Areas-2014-5-25.xls>

