

SNOWMASS 2019 TRIP REPORT by LINDA KUPER, Trip Coordinator

SNOWMASS 2019 was a true winter wonderland with plentiful snow (over a foot of fresh powder) and several sunshiny days. The joy of rising in the morning to have a hearty breakfast and then ski out your door is hard to beat. Snowmass was a great host to our 36 skiers from H town, Dallas, Austin, North Carolina, California and Argentina. We arrived at the condos on Saturday afternoon with the staff at Top of the Village (TOV) waiting to bring all our luggage and groceries to our rooms. We were joined by Craig Moffatt who had been skiing in Aspen since Tuesday. TOV hosted a welcome party with wine and cheese that evening. Chris Urbanczyk and Stan Kuper had a scary close encounter during our 1st night. I don't know that I could present this in writing as well as they can explain in person. Ask them to relay the story!!

Sunday was a beautiful day and most of the group hit the slopes to enjoy some of the fresh snow from last week's showers. Stan put out SCSC flag markers along Dawber run so everyone would know where to turn for the condos. On our second day, Irene Kenny got injured (her first injury in all her years of skiing). She was fitted with a knee brace and instructed to stay put for the rest of the week!! Bummer so early in the trip. (Since returning home, she has learned that surgery is in the near future – Hope you will return to skiing next year with us—Great Lady!!)



Irene Kenny at the BBQ dinner

We tried a new Snowmass location (The Ranger Station) after skiing on Monday -- new bar with many local IPA's and other interesting beers. Small but quaint and those that participated had a great time. Nothing like a cold beer right off the slopes! We even had our own



Friends relaxing with a beer after skiing - Daniel Cioffi and Carlos



Three Amigos Carlos Noriega (our Astronaut), Daniel Cioffi, & Carlos Gonzalez enjoying happy hour

3 amigos with cute hats (Carlos Gonzalez, Daniel Cioffi and Carlos Noriega). Jim Hodges and his lovely wife, Marina, were joined by Jim's daughter and son in law, who were shadowing the trip.

Tuesday was a great day on the slopes followed by our group dinner. Our wonderful ATC Dana Wardell arranged with Hickory House in Aspen to deliver a fantastic BBQ dinner,

complete with ribs and chicken and all the sides. We supplied beer and wine and reserved the party room at TOV so everyone could gather and enjoy dinner. It was very nice to not have to drive anywhere and have plenty of space to mingle and get to know each other better.



Group Dinner—Halcyon Learned, Sandra Stolnacke, Larry Hord, Irene Kenny & Jane Adams



Chaille Hutcheson and Scott Bradshaw



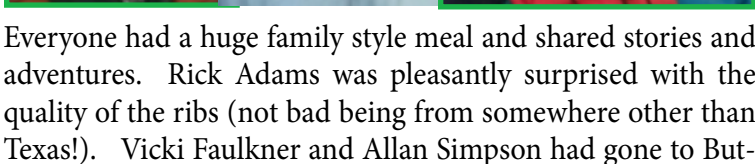
BBQ buffet dinner at lodge (L to R - Lynn Greenberg, Lynn Bodfish, Cathy Boyer, and Carlos Noriega)



Paul Stolnacke, Chaille Hutcheson and Craig Moffatt at group dinner



Craig Moffatt and Scott Bradshaw



Sandra Stolnacke, Marina Wang and Jim Hodges at group dinner

Everyone had a huge family style meal and shared stories and adventures. Rick Adams was pleasantly surprised with the quality of the ribs (not bad being from somewhere other than Texas!). Vicki Faulkner and Allan Simpson had gone to But-

termilk and told us about the extensive set up there in preparation for the X Games which start on next Friday.

Overnight we had an accumulation of 9" of new snow and more snow falling on Wednesday morning. The powder hounds were out early (Chris, Leslie Cashio and Andy Cashio). Most of the ladies decided that this was a great opportunity to visit Aspen and spread some of the wealth around. Cathy Boyer, Lynn Bodfish, Lynn Greenberg, Mary Beth Cihal, Rene Reed, and Christiane Hille enjoyed a nice lunch in town at Little Nell's.



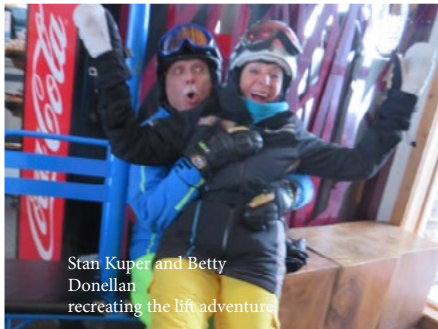
BBQ dinner in their plaid shirts (Allan Simpson and Vicki Faulkner) at group dinner



Girls lunch at Little Nell's (from L to R - Cathy Boyer, Lynn Greenberg, Lynn Bodfish, Mary Beth Cihal, Mary Beth Cihal, Rene Reed and Christiane Hille)

Aspen has so many wonderful quaint shops to explore so Halcyon Learned and Irene Kenny decided to check them out. I was surprised that we had so many people who had never been to Aspen (we had a lot of experienced skiers here). The town is full of shops, museums, bars and interesting characters wandering around town. It's such an international collection of people that you hear many languages as you explore the area.

Thursday had most of us back on the slopes enjoying the fresh snow and spending time with our friends. There were several moments of sheer bliss when Rene Reed and Betty Donellan tried to share the same seat on a lift!!



Stan Kuper and Betty Donellan recreating the lift adventure

Seems there's only room for one in each seat...imagine that! Also that day, Rene and Chaille Hutcheson along with Paul Stolnacke attempted to see if the 3 of them could join Scott

Bradshaw, Betty and Stan on a 4 person chair. You need to remember that these are all very experienced skiers!! What a rookie move...the laughter that followed was contagious... Only wish that I could have been there to see this disaster!! With my history of getting hurt on trips, even I know that you can't put 6 on a 4 seat chair!! I think that they all need to receive a calculator for their next b-day gift....

Again our fantastic ATC Dana hosted a special happy hour at TOV party room where she and her condo mates (Linda Licarione, Kathryn Bellis and Cheryl Bac) prepared street tacos using the leftover BBQ from Tuesday's dinner. The theme of the party was "Tie One On" - each person wore a necktie and had a story about their tie. We learned many things about our companions.

For example:



Jim Hodges (Envelopes Tie), Leslie Cashio and Kurt Schidlowski (U.S. Citizen ceremony Tie)



Listening to stories about our various ties at the "Tie One On" party

1. Kurt Schidlowski wore the tie that he had worn when he became a US citizen.
2. Christiane Hille wore a tie that was her grandmother's and she had used it to sew jewelry into it when she came to the US many years ago.
3. Jim Hodges had a tie with envelopes which were marked "Return to Sender" in a tribute to Elvis. It had been a tie he wore at work to add some levity to the office.
4. Lynn Greenburg had a Jerry Garcia autographed tie that she had worn to the Grateful Dead concert.
5. Jane Adams wore her Dad's Army tie from WWII but

had to wear her Grandmother's hat from the WAC's. Jane's head is larger than her Dad's. What a family history of service to our country!

6. Carlos Noriega had on a tie with a picture of a Space Shuttle. We learned that he was a Mission Specialist on a Shuttle flight. SCSC officially has an Astronaut as a member!! Congratulations.

7. Allan Simpson told us about a college encounter with a young lady while wearing his tie – not sure we could believe him but Sandra Stalnacke thought it was an interesting tale which showed the comic nature of our good friend Allan.

8. Last but not least, well maybe it was the least, Chris Urbanczyk made a tie from a pine tree branch he found out on the slopes. His story about how this was acquired without being caught is pretty funny so have him give you the details. He won the Most Creative Tie Award.



Chris Urbanczyk "Most Creative Tie"

This was a great party idea resurrected by Dana from some of our prior trips in the 1970's and 1980's. We really had some

fun times in the earlier years....anybody remember the long john parties we had?

Friday was our last ski day and it was a fun day at a wonderful mountain. The next morning was set for an early departure with bags out at 5:30am (the disadvantage of having to drive all the way back to Denver). The land only people slept in because they had flights from Aspen later in the day. They missed all the fun early in the morning when the bus got stuck in the parking lot trying to leave for the airport. We had a lot of sleepy and cold people trying to assist the "bus driver" (that's what his title was but most of us don't think he qualified for the title) maneuver the bus onto the road so we could leave for Denver. After about an hour, we finally made it onto the road so we could back down the mountain to the mall area and turn the bus in the correct direction for the remainder of the trip. Just what we all needed before having our morning coffee!!!

The flight home was on time and there were no problems getting through TSA in Denver even with the government shutdown (not part of the original trip plan). We had a fun trip with a fantastic group of people. Thanks to all of you for joining Dana and I on a great week in Snowmass.



L to R – Carlos Gonzalez, Christiane Hille, Lynn Bodfish, Daniel Cioffi, and Cathy Boyer



Leslie and Andy Cashio hitting the slopes early.



ATC Dana Wardell enjoying lunch at the Ranger Station in Snowmass Village



Rick & Jane Adams - lunch on the mountain



Rene Reed – enjoying wine???



Kathryn Bellis and Cheryl Bac at lunch break