

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS 2018

KATE MACDOUGALL TC & BERNIE CLINTON ATC

Forty Space City skiers joined over 150 from other Texas clubs for this year's TSC Traditional week in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Our group flew United nonstop into Hayden, just a short shuttle hop to our condos at The Wyndham Eagle Ridge Lodge. Even though Dec-Jan snowfall was well below average this year, Steamboat had the best conditions of all the Colorado resorts. It had snowed the week of our arrival, so the famous champagne powder could be found. We had above normal temperatures our whole week with sun, clear blue skies, and highs in the upper 30's. No new snow, in fact it snowed more in Houston this week than in the Rockies. Saturday night, our welcome pizza party was held in the TC's



View from Thunderhead Lodge, at the Top of the Gondola

condo. A game to search out and interview all the new members was won by Stuart Traver. The gift card may have been enough to buy one drink on the mountain. We had eight new members on this trip: John Eiswirth, Kelly Coleman, Mohammad Rafizadeh, Betsy Peterson, Rachele Russek, Paulette Bogert, Karol Hutson, and Carol Oeller. The pizza was complimented by fresh baked cookies courtesy of Anne Thomas and Larry Robinson, a stellar kitchen team.

New member, Mohammad Rafizadeh, skied the first day with Steamboat veterans Andy Smith and Morris Covin, then was led astray by condo mates Steve Ying and David Burrows. Kelly Coleman and John Eiswirth spent Day 1 on a snowmobile tour. Rachele Russek had two days of group lessons, day 2 ended up solo with the same instructor. She had a blast, and sported the black eye proudly to prove her initiation into the sport.

Mid week, a group of 12, including Paulette Bogert, Laurie Haischer, Irene Kenny and Linda Kuper went snow shoeing from the top of the Gondola, led by Steamboat ambassadors on National Forest trails, with lunch afterwards on the mountain.

Non-skiers also enjoyed horse riding and tubing, and Jeanne Marie Ying educated us in finding great shopping deals in the old town.



Snowshoers set out from the Top of the Gondola

Wednesday evening, a group of 19 took a shuttle to the famous Strawberry Park Hot Springs. The rustic pools, beautiful National Forest backdrop, and sunset were all a hit. Several of the group braved the cold pool plunge including Stuart Traver, who followed Betsy Peterson's lead.

Cowboy Downhill activities were a backdrop to our first two days. Live country music, an impressive Balloon Glow, and the



Strawberry Park Hot Springs.
Soaking at sunset

fun spectacle of watching rodeo cowboys and cowgirls racing down the Stampede run, with a nasty jump in the middle of the course. Robert and Leasa Clements enjoyed the Cowboy Downhill parties, and with Cindy McGowen, John McGowan, and Laurie Haischer, they won a cooler for the most empty Bud Light cans on their table. Way to support the sponsor. Another trip tradition is Robert Clements bringing his famous BBQ brisket with him from Houston. It arrived with a TSA sticker on it, so it was USDA approved, TSA inspected. There was plenty left to enjoy at the potluck party on Thursday night.

The TSC Welcome Party on Sunday night was in the Base Area, overlooking the Balloon Glow festivities. Appetizers were brought to our tables. Beth Slaughter filled hubby Jim's plate with his favorite beef wellingtons.

Friday was Race Day. Space City had 13 racers. Karol Hutson volunteered to be our race director, Marti Turner helped her out. Great job. Congratulations to our TSC medal winners, Kate MacDougall, Betsy Peterson, Marilyn Swanson, and John Eiswirth. Thanks also to Ross Baker, Steve Ying, Stuart Traver, Jim Slaughter, David Burrows, Marti and Nelson Turner, Anne Thomas, and Bernie Clinton, all contributing to our team results.



Statue of Billy Kidd with Balloon Glow



Space City Racers after medal winning runs

Friday night was a Hollywood themed dance party up the mountain at Thunderhead Lodge. Skiers coming down the slopes with torches were visible on our Gondola ride to the party. After the race awards, Steamboat ambassador and Olympian, Billy Kidd, gave the TSC group an entertaining and uplifting talk during dinner. Space City easily won the Group Costume Contest with Ron Rambin our very own "Harvey Weinstein" surrounded by Space City #MeToo girls and a few guys sporting their best little black skirts. Stan Kuper,



Space City wins the costume contest

Linda Kuper, Janet McKenzie, Susan Stanley, and Paul and Sandra Stoinacke all joined in the fun. Then the dancing began with Jim Hodges, Marina Wang, Chris Urbanczyk, Karol Hutson, and many more, tearing up the dance floor to a great live band. And nothing beats a night gondola ride down the mountain after a party.

The group's favorite runs to ski were off the Sunshine Express Lift: High Noon, Sundial, Tomahawk, and Quickdraw. The expert skiers enjoyed finding powder off Morningside Park. The view from Four Points Lodge made this the best lunch spot. Several of our group took advantage of skiing with Billy Kidd down Heavenly Daze.



Racing medal winner Betsy Peterson
skis with Billy Kidd.

A great trip. All left with fun memories of our group, and Steamboat Springs.