



AS THE BLUE LIGHT FLASHES—A JACKSON HOLE SLOPE OPERA

This is your "Requirer" reporter on location with the cast of the Emmy winning Jackson Hole Slope Opera "As the Blue Light Flashes"—Requiring minds wanted to know....

There will be drama, excitement, fun....tragedy....

The drama started before the group's flight left the airport. What could have happened to **Maureen Irwin**—had she forgotten? —the only phone number is going to a fax machine...(oh no)...thankfully she arrived just in time.

The story continues as the group arrives to "spring like" weather in Jackson Hole—The snow is melting....melting. We had already lost participants to broken bones & medical emergencies—what else could befall the merry group next—little did they know....as the village bus "With the blue light flashing" would take the group to and from 37 different stories...in the snowy village...

At the Welcome Mixer that night the group finally got to meet the participants who flew the longest distance to join the trip **Charles Medlin & Philip Taft** from Minnesota. **Fred Kahrs**-aka "Road Warrior" —drove from Colorado to join the group.

Later that night, billowing smoke in Condo #7 began setting off the fire alarms. The first fire was started by **Ann Rogers** and **Kelly Reynolds**—without opening the damper. **Alex Bunsch** and **Charlene Fleming** came dashing out of their bedrooms in PJs to find out what was the strange racket. Alex ran downstairs to open the damper, while Charlene fanned the alarm. And how was **Mike Fleming** and **Charles Elliott** sleeping through all the smoke & commotion? The fire was certainly an "ice breaker" for getting to know each other!

This reporter discovered that there were some unusual & interesting skiing techniques among the group. **Charles Allen**-aka "Scratch" was seen sliding down "Thunder Run" hanging on by his fingertips. **Bill Bomberger**-aka "Thumper" makes this thumping sound as he comes to a mogul trough—stops and falls over. **Gary Davis**-aka "Butt Man"—hit a tough patch on the "No Name" run and was seen skidding down on his back with his skis

crossed over his chest. **Steven Teoh**-aka "Tumbledore" gets down the moguls faster by tumbling. (He took an all day lesson to learn how to ski the bumps and at the end of the day, the instructor told him to give it up!)

There were also some scary moments. **Beverly Roberts** Memorial Gorge so named because after sliding across a catwalk, Beverly slid into a 30-40 foot deep gully. Thankfully she was not hurt and was rescued by her faithful husband, **Charlie Roberts** and **Craig Moffat**. **Charles Elliott** was not quite so lucky, on a foggy day while skiing he hit something and went flying, fell and broke his hip—thankfully he is doing fine now.

There were also the daredevils in the group. "Bumpin'" **Bob DeBell** led many a skier down any run with a bump. He even led a group trip down through a boulder garden—it was known as the "Secret Slope". **Nancy Schultz**-aka "Dances with Boulders" was always part of every group and did a good job of keeping up with Bob. Bob and **Sue DeWitt**-aka "Pumpkin" (to match her outfit-not her skiing) decided to get a "birds eye view" of the resort by parasailing from the top of the mountain.

There were also number of multi-talented people on the trip. **Cheryl May**, tough negotiator (she got a store to give a group buying helmets a 10% discount), skis, snow blades, snowboards—what's next? **Walter May** a/k/a "Wild Walter", after a snowmobile trip, the Mays strongly considered buying motorcycles. "Condo queen" (ask Cheryl), and piano virtuoso - after eating in a restaurant, Walter performed a wonderful piano concert for the patrons.

The favorite Apre Ski hangout was the Mangy Moose. Numerous members of the group were spotted on many occasions. **Nelson Turner**-aka "Tough Guy" was spotted the first day standing in the Moose, fixing his own dislocated elbow (after a fall on an icy slope) while waiting for a ride to the hospital. He was again spotted later in the week "shaking a tale feather" cast and all....and he skied the last day! **Chip Stokes**-aka "Trooper" had dislocated his shoulder, but was always on the go with the group...to the hospital to visit Charles, to dinner and definitely

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to the Moose. Rumor has it that **Darlene Hirasaki** really missed the Moose dancing when she, husband **George Hirasaki** & Fred Kahrs on the last night went instead to a *gourmet* dinner cooked by a friend of George's now living in JH. **Sue Bohnert** was also seen mixing her antibiotics with some "funky pink drink" at the Moose—is that why she was seeing "real" wooden moose on the way to the airport?

Even the trip to and from the Moose could be full of unexpected hazards. On the last night out, returning from the Mangy, a group including **Sandra Brockhausen** boarded the "Blue Light Special" with the favorite driver, Russell, at the helm. After a few drop offs the bus picked up two "very happy" drunks. Sandy was seated in the first row of seats facing the door when one of the happy drunks noticed her lynx fur coated body and proceeded to run straight for her. He grabbed her and buried his head in her coat saying "Wow this is a great coat, lady!" Sandy finally managed to get the young man off her "chest" while she kept expecting her husband, **Edward Brockhausen**, who was seated across from her, to come to her rescue—which he did not! In fact he was not concerned at all until the young happy drunk turned his eye towards him!

The parties did not always start or stay at the Moose—sometimes they started at a restaurant. Just ask **Dave Stotz**-aka "Sake Bomber" (Just ask him what it is like to try "snow cycling" the day after a number of sake bombs!). He, **Barry Norman** and **Maria Isabel** dined on sushi and introduced Dave to sake bombs...not wanting the evening to end, they crashed the annual JH Ski Patrol party and enjoyed the local hospitality. In exchange, Maria showed them that *Texans can dance*—by winning the dance contest—but since she wasn't a local, she didn't get the keep the prize!

And then there was fine dining "with the animals" in a pizza place that had come highly recommended...just ask Craig Moffatt, **Michele Collins**, **Dan Taft**, **Judy Katany**, Charlie and Beverly Roberts. Lousy pizza, but the balloon artist was wonderful. Craig was transformed into a longhorn steer—Charlie received moose antlers. Judy our—fearless TC—without whose diligent efforts this production would not have been possible—received a Tiara. (After all she planned a ski trip and a wedding in less than 6 months!)

By the way this reporter would like to know how **Gary Werner** and **Bob Tripp** avoided being "caught" in any kind of compromising situation—no blackmail opportunities at all! We did learn that Gary knows his beers & ales—just ask him about "Fat Tire". *Thanks for a great trip!*