

Big Mountain: February 24 - March 3, 2001

by Jeff Eastham



Big Mountain Montana was the place in March 2001! This group of anxious skiers became good friends and enjoyed many wonderful times in Whitefish, Montana.

Off to a slow start, Delta Airlines greeted the group with regrets,

no airplane! No matter, we got a free trip to Salt Lake City where we visited the Mormon Temple, shopped and drank beer at one of the great breweries in town.

Although we arrived 24 hours late, a most hospitable group greeted us. Some skied on Sunday, but many spent the day shopping and setting up ski equipment.

The week brought a few snow showers and some great sun. Big Mountain, well known for its wide cruisers, gave us many

days of spring skiing.

Meanwhile, at the ranch, Ellen conjured up several wonderful events. A great country dinner with sleigh rides, a day in Glacier Park, and many dinners through the week were enjoyed by all.

For the grand finale, Ellen and Jeff gave a last day party. Ellen wrote a poem describing much of the week and all had a wonderful evening.

Thanks to everyone who joined us! *continued on page 9*



Big Mountain *(continued)*

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BIG MOUNTAIN FUN

A delay in flight, March 24 the departure date
To sightsee in Salt Lake City was the group's fate.
Mechanical problems in two airplanes the same day
A night in Holiday Inn, the pilots' fault all say.
Sunday a Kalispell arrival on a Delta plane
It was a bad sign to see the sprinkling of rain.
Some ventured to rent skies, others to the slope
In search of great snow for skiing, they hope.
SUSAN shops, and plans a group dinner the first night
JOHN joined the DREAM gang, and skied without fright.
On Monday all anxious to ski, a great day in all
Except for low clouds some blame for their fall.
Fearless leader JEFF, joined with ELLEN, ROSS and BILL
Four Musketeers ski bumps on a black diamond hill.
All for one, one for all, the motto of the clan
All loved skiing chair #7, it was the promised land.
Most- improved skiers are AL and MARY, too
To ski with the gang, on the slopes of blue.
GLENDA and PAWEL, a cute twosome as can be
STEVE, from Canada, skied with TERESA and LEIGH.
Leaving Wednes. for adventure, the "Glacier-Seeking Clan"
Ten bodies packed in a large passenger van.
Thoughts of mountains to photograph, and many a scenic view
With pilot RON, and co-pilots JUDY, JIM, and SUE.
A stop at Snow Slip Inn, a unique place to go
At the Continental Divide, a trio made yellow snow.
Essex Railroad at Izaak Walton Inn, a historical sight
Munching on hors d'ouerves, a lunch so very light.
LORI dressed in leather, recommends a B-52,
A coffee with sweet liqueur, MIRANDA tries one too.
Florescent HARVEY, a fixture on the first stool
BRETT drinks his Cognac, others have Moose Drool.
Some had Dos Amigos "grass clippings" dips
Meals with appetizers, queso and chips.
Brick oven pizza, steaks, chicken and soup
Truby's, Tupelo Grill, and many eateries for the group.
A sleigh ride with horses, a flutter of snow
SUSAN and a lasso, put on a great show.
Cowboy Larry and Sourdough with a Southern drawl
Eating BBQ and singing, we really had a ball.
Hell Roaring Saloon was the lunch place to meet
To have a good chat, drink beer, and warm up your feet.
PARK with headphones, skied listening to a tune
Some complained of aches, but the end arrived too soon.
Thoughts of great times, a group photo on Saturday
Fond memories of George's Gorge, to ski, fall, and play.
Grouse Mountain Inn, with hot tub, fireplace, and bar
Big Mountain, Montana, from Texas a land so far.

*Dedicated to a great group of people! With fond memories,
Ellen Eastham*