

Park City turned out to be...well a very unusual trip. Some of the group had police escorts while others had so much fun at a party that they didn't even realize they left articles of clothing behind. One had a dog bobbing in water in the fridge, and another's limp pole was useless at Snowbird (yes, Snowbird was an experience). One member of our group was injured on the slopes, but when we went to check up on her prognosis, she had left to go shopping and get a massage. (Hmm, was the injury an excuse to get away from our group?) Now that I have your attention, how about some details?

We arrived in Park City on a beautiful afternoon in February. The staff at the Three Kings Condos was very helpful, delivering our gear, groceries and refreshments to each condo which were very nice and the views were amazing....ask Brook McClain or Mary Ellen Arbuckle about the view from their patio. At least they had entertaining visitors to make up for this bizarre view.

Thanks to Park City's "FREE" Day of Arrival Lift ticket, several of our more avid skiers, including Lee Ann Matura, Jane Kidd and Michael Edwards, got in an extra afternoon on the slopes, followed by night skiing for only \$18. Others in the group took a more leisurely route and ventured into town, after watching the Dog Sled races right outside the condos. And, of course, after watching Lila Davis and Irma Rosendahl get picked up by the police. Yes, we couldn't believe it either. This is such a friendly town that the police drove them into town for dinner, since the shuttles were delayed due to the dog sled races.



PARK CITY - Snow Buddies

Sunday was a great day to ski...and a great day for a Super Bowl Party. Jeannine and Pat, with the help of several roommates prepared a chili supper for the whole crew for half-time. While some weren't too happy with the winner of the game, five lucky players were very happy with the outcome of the Super Bowl Squares game coordinated by Bobby and Carol Viktorin. Congratulations to: Paul Anderson, Sarah Granbery, Carol Viktorin, Steven Slade and Sam Cornelius. It was such great party that Mary Ellen Arbuckle left her hat and gloves behind and couldn't figure out why she was cold-until the next day.

We were lucky enough to have snow on Sunday evening and Monday - about a foot of fresh powder. For many of us, it was the first time to experience powder skiing. For those of us that visited Deer Valley on Sunday, it was unusual to find the "ultimate ski resort" renown for its groomed runs, without any groomed runs by the time Mother Nature was through dumping snow overnight. And of course, this is where our concerns over Luz Marquez' injury were somewhat misplaced when we learned she had left the clinic to get a massage and do some shopping. She was really taken with Deer Valley, and her ski instructor.

Tuesday, most of our group traveled to Snowbird for a real treat - more powder! What a great place to ski. Oh yes, the limp pole award goes to

Brook McClain whose ski pole looked more like a bent straw - not very useful but worth quite a few laughs. Special thanks to our bus driver who was willing to make a grocery store stop on the return trip. I just can't say enough about the friendly Park City residents.

Wednesday was our infamous race day. And our group was very privileged to have a Gold Medal winner in our midst. Please congratulate Paul Anderson for his performance on the course. Special thanks to all of our racers for taking on this hill - Paul Anderson, Sam and Sandra Cornelius, Mark Chambers, Steven Slade, Leland Joe, Pat Piech and Jeff Kovacs. Sam and Sandra raced against each other, and well, Sandra won. Sam wasn't too obvious about his disappointment, but we did start worrying if counseling might be needed.

No one can believe what a "walking trail map" Keith Adams is and a great guy to have along on the slopes. Never a wrong turn, right Keith? Of course, we did have a super group of hard core skiers who never passed on a double black. Watching Les Allison ski down the hill on his butt was hilarious and ceremoniously awarded the longest butt run award. Of course, I think I won the best multi-point crash and burn award. When I do something, I really do it right...or is it wrong?

On Thursday, we got together for a wonderful meal at the Grub Steak Restaurant, although Seena Simon and Sonia Davis almost missed it! Too much après ski?! The food was great, service was really attentive and the whole staff was accommodating of our big group. It was a bit confusing though since NASA was there on the same night. Space City on one end of the restaurant and NASA on the other. The Texans took over Park City that night.

Friday was our last ski day. With no organized plans for the day, everyone seemed to scatter. Luz was hooked on Deer Valley. Tucker Davis and others went back to Snowbird or Alta. Some of us finally took the trip to The Canyons. Nice skiing but ultimately mixed reviews. "Too much walking...not enough skiing", was heard from the group. But it was beautiful and once again more friendly people were met in the pub. You just can't beat free drinks just for letting people sit at your table. Oh yes, after days of tense negotiations, Leland Joe finally gave up and donated his remaining vodka to our final evening get together. The group enjoyed celebratory martinis - complete with blue cheese hand-stuffed olives donated by Brook McClain. We dug around in the snow to finish off the rest of the beer and wine supplies. All stumbled home eventually.

On Saturday, we awoke to a cloudy, drizzly day. If you have to leave such a beautiful, fun-filled resort with such an amazing variety of slopes to ski on, it might as well be on a dreary day. Thanks to all our participants on the Park City trip, especially my understanding condo mates who endured constant guests and parties in our humble abode. What a great hot tub!

All in all, we had a great trip with a great group of really fun people...with many unusual stories!