

Vail – December, 2008

by Judy Schiro, TC

Vail is beautiful. I believe this to be the best trip of the season. For those of you who missed it – maybe next year! Twenty-four long trip participants and 16 short trip participants left Houston on December 6, 2008 to ski and party and enjoy each other's company, and we did just that. Upon arriving at Vail, we had a couple of room confusions but quickly figured that out. Ski renters went to take care of the ski rentals. Then all of us found different places for dinner. Effie Rubenstein from Sportours was able to join us for a few days of skiing. She is such a delight!

We had one injury – **Betty Storms** took a fall on Monday, but she was such a trooper that she continued skiing before finally going to the clinic on Tuesday, only to find out that she had a dislocated thumb. **Pete Mathieu** took a Level 7 ski lesson on Sunday, on Monday he had boot trouble, but after

that he was a skiing maniac! **Mary Jo** and **Tony Loverdi** also had boot problems and spent quite a bit of time having those boots

worked on – comfortable boots are a necessary factor, as we all know. **Ross Baker, Keith Kirkman, Bob DeBell** and **Bob Olsen** were all seen looking for the black and double black runs. **Chuck Ratliff** made a deal with American Ski Exchange in Vail Village to demo skis for \$20/day. **Bruce Fleming** took advantage of that as did several others. **Shirley DeBell** didn't ski, but she shopped and shopped and shopped! **Tom Huzzey**



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talked **Alice Snider** into joining SCSC and going on this trip. She is a great addition to the club. Thank you Tom!

On Tuesday evening we had our Club dinner at Blu's in Vail Village. **Dale** and **Alice Allbritton** asked **Craig Campbell** how to go about getting on Craigslist. After dinner, **Tony Loverdi** and **David Gunn** were good sports practicing East Coast Swing dance lessons in their condo with music provided by **Nancy DuFrane's** iPod speakers. **Janet McKenzie** was seen skiing with **Michael Testa**, **Robertta** and **Ron Rambin**. **Pat Piech** and **Melinda Hughes** seemed to get out on the slopes later and later each day. Said something to the extent that they were on vacation and didn't care if they were the first ones on the slope each day! **Jim Edwards** hid from everyone and was seen only at lunch. He said he was skiing easy and didn't want to get in anyone's way – not that he could do that anyway. **Dale** and **Alice Allbritton** skied with **Roger Holzman** and **Carmen Mikhail** until Alice left on Wednesday. Then he was seen with the big dogs. **Jim Walker** and **Chuck Ratliff** skied with both the puppies and the big dogs. We appreciated them skiing with the puppies and giving us pointers in the hopes that we would improve. A snowboarder saved **Ron Hayes'** life. It seems that after taking photos on the mountain of our group that he forgot to retrieve his ski poles, only to realize after a few turns down the mountain he had forgotten them. We flagged down a snowboarder and he return them to us, saving me the trouble of killing Ron! **Anne Marchetti** skied with the group. **Barry Caspar** and **Larry Edmondson** skied with the big dogs. **Marie Henry** joined Ron, Larry Edmondson, Barry Caspar, Effie Rubenstein and myself for drinks after dinner. **Mary Jo** and **Tony Loverdi** purchased new boots and had to have them worked on.

On Wednesday morning before the short trip left **Mary Jo Loverdi**, **Nancy DuFrane**, **Ash Moza**, **Tom** and **Chaille Hutcheson** all tried to ski, but the mountain was all sleet/snow. When they came down their clothes, and goggles, were all covered in ice. – So, on Wednesday, both Houston and

Vail had something in common – sleet and snow. Who would have guessed that. Even though **Brenda Herman** lost everything due to Hurricane Ike, she managed to join our group and forget (momentarily) about starting over. **Frank** and **Ellen Donnelly** played it safe on Wednesday morning and shopped in Vail before leaving.

On Thursday we had an Englishman by way of Pennsylvania join our small ski group. He had a mix-up with his skis and had made plans to meet up with his 70+ group at lunch. But, he was having such a good time with us (actually Carmen – but what guy, no matter the age, doesn't want to be with Carmen?) that he stayed all day and through apres ski. He was such a wonderful treat. We looked for him the next day but I guess he decided to rejoin his own group.

Our long trip had our own problems with travel, too. It was snowing very hard when we left Vail (they were expecting snow for the next week of an average of 3-6 inches of snow a day). There were mechanical problems with the airplane leaving Houston coming to Denver so our flight was delayed a while. We suspect it was the lavatory as there was a very strong smell emanating from that area. But we all arrived home safely.

I hope all of the participants had a wonderful time. I know I did.

