

STEAMBOAT, by Edmond McGee & Sarah Granbery

All forty long-trip participants arrived bright and early at IAH for the flight to Hayden. **Steve Slade** arrived early, 2 ½ hours to be exact. Some of those who had never flown into Hayden were shocked to see the really tiny airport. A lady with the bus line approached the group to tell us that there were two buses waiting outside, one that would make a grocery and liquor stop and the other that would only make a grocery stop. The party people on the trip, namely ATC, **Edmond McGee**, **Scott Merryman**, and **Kimber Kane** were sure to get on that grocery and liquor stop bus! The ride was quite short to get to Storm Meadows Clubs. **Thomas** and **Marilyn Mullner** decided to drive to Steamboat from Houston. We all unpacked

and met that night in the condo of **Sandra McCunis** for a wine and cheese social. **Frank Adams** was gracious enough to pick up the wine and food for the party on his way to Steamboat. The cookies were first to go before the cheese. Ski lift tickets were passed out with the help of **Anne Marchetti**.

Sunday was the first day for the long-trip to get on the mountain. It was a bit tricky skiing out of the condos. There were three options: ski down, attempt to ski down, or take the bus to the gondola. Some decided to take the complimentary mountain tours. **Meynard Nussbaum** and **Ric Ploeger** were spotted taking the blue runs. **Robert Clements** and **Bruce Lowther** took off on their own tour of the blue runs that

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Steamboat had to offer. Later in the week, Bruce found himself skiing with **Brigitte Florschutz**. There was a good turn-out at the Thunderhead Food Court that day for lunch. After the first day of skiing, some chose to go to the après ski and others chose to relax before attending the TSC Welcome Reception at the top of the Gondola. **Billy Kidd**, Olympic gold medalist, made an appearance. The appetizers were wonderful: sushi, chicken skewers, and eggrolls to name a few.

Monday was an "open ski day" with lunch at Rendezvous Saddle food court. **Steve Ying** had come back with an eventful story that day. He basically went off a cliff and got stuck in the snow, where he found himself asking some young snowboarders for help. That help never came. He had to shovel himself out. **Ron and Roberta Rabin, Janet McKenzie and Merlyn Harger** skied the blue cruisers together. **Susan Blome** had a massage therapist come to her condo to loosen up her sore ski legs. Meanwhile, **Milt Kramer** found himself shopping the entire day. **Chuck Pena, Scott Merryman, Kimber Kane and Edmond McGee** went to a concert that evening featuring "The Austin Jugg Band" and **John and Cindy McGowan** was seen later that night at the Tugboat, an old quaint little bar in Ski Time Square.

Tuesday was great, giving the long-trip the option to ski with **Billy Kidd** that morning. **Morris Covin, Frank Adams,**



Steve Ying, and Edmond McGee skied the blacks, double blacks and the back bowl the entire week. **Chris Gilbert** joined in on the run down Rolex. He quickly found out that blacks and double blacks were

not his cup of tea yet. After getting beat-up on the slopes, the long-trip group headed for the Bear River Bar & Grill to join the short-trip group for their first happy hour together. All twelve of the short-trip participants, led by ATC **Sarah Granbery**, arrived in Steamboat without a hitch.

The Gougers, an Austin band, were the happy hour entertainment as part of SkiJam. The short-trip enjoyed the music and a few cocktails before heading back to their condos for a chili dinner. **Nancy DuFrane** graciously volunteered to cook chili for their small group and invited them to the condo she shared with **Ash Moza, Jerry Cumby, and Les Hajdo**. Everyone got into the party mood by bringing nachos and salad. Condo mates, **Peggy Schillinger and Laura Nowicki**, threw together a delicious cake while **Chaille and Tom Hutcheson** made gluten free corn bread for the group. Of course, there was plenty of wine flowing for their thirsty souls!

Wednesday morning was the first day of skiing for the short-trip. It was 10 degrees that morning but that did not deter too many of the hearty Texans. **Carol Viktorin and Mark Chambers** began their mission of finding the ski-in/ski-out trails to/from Storm Meadows at Christie Base. Their usual

map reader, **Bobby Viktorin**, was on his couch with a stomach bug. That evening was the SCSC group dinner at Steamboat Smokehouse in the historic downtown district. Texas style barbeque brisket, chicken, ribs and all the



fixings were served in a private room with a bar. **Sandra McCunis** gave each participant two drinks tickets, however, about 20 people chose to use a ticket for one of the Smokehouse's delectable desserts served in beer mugs. Among the 51 people that attended were **Hartley Chelin, Cathy Phillips, Art McKnight, June Griffiths, Mark Ehrlich, Marty Kaminsky, Bob Rexford, Barb Ehrlich and Kevin Hill**. It was unfortunate that **Stan Smith** and his son, **Greg Smith**, had to leave the trip early.

Thursday morning, **Edmond McGee** made a kolache breakfast for his condo mates **Al Smith, Mike and Gin Knebel**, along with **Sandra McCunis, Merlyn Harger, Janet McKenzie, Frank Adams, and Morris Covin**. **Donna Piazza** was invited as well but she chose sleeping after being worn out from a date the prior night. The Nastar Races were later that morning and **Craig Campbell** was our Race Director. After skiing, some folks gathered for a quick happy hour before they went to catch the bus to the Strawberry Park Hot Springs just outside Steamboat. A group of 20 bathing beauties led by **Anne Marchetti** braved the dark and cold night in Colorado to enjoy the steamy hot springs.

Friday was a beautiful day for skiing. That particular day there was a happy hour at Bear River Run Grille with live music followed by the TSC dinner at the top of the gondola. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful ride up the mountain just after dusk where we were greeted by a Boy Scout troop who helped us with our coats. We climbed the stairs to the Thunderhead Powder banquet room for a great dinner and dance with all the ski clubs from around Texas. We had another delicious barbeque dinner and then enjoyed the musical talents of a local country western band.

The long trip sadly departed Saturday morning after a wonderful week in Steamboat as the short trip enjoyed another day of shopping, skiing and snowshoeing.

