

Snowbird is the Word (Surfin'Bird)

(By The Snowbird Committee: Lori Gilliland, Christine March, Bruce Lowther and Candace TenBrink, with editing by Cindy Moore)

B-bird's the word oh well-a bird, bird, bird

On Wednesday March 16th, 35 of us headed off to Utah to experience The Greatest Snow on Earth! Bird IS the Word! SNOWBIRD that is!

TC Cindy Moore & SCSC Race Director Bruce Lowther, arrived to Snowbird 5 days before the rest of the SCSC gang, to put the final touches on this awesome TSC trip, and get in a few extra ski days.

Snowbird committee girls, Lori Gilliland & Christine March rounded up 28 SCSCers for the flight from Houston to Salt Lake City. The flight went super smooth. After arriving at SLC, we grabbed our luggage & jumped aboard our bus for a nice 40 minute drive up scenic Little Cottonwood Canyon to Snowbird. We barely had the time to drink a large bottle of Fiji Water before we were unloading the bus.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by Cindy, who handed out our lift tickets, fun packets of credentials, and lip balm. The real go-getters, Davis Tucker & Chris Urbanczyk, grabbed their lift tickets, used the revolving door, and hit the slopes immediately, not to waste a moment of skiing.

The Cliff Lodge was beautifully built of solid concrete and rich natural wood and marble. Every wall was covered with beautiful and exotic carpets. SCSC was treated to a club welcome party with delicious pizza at Snowbird Center, then for the adults it was on to the Tram Club for drinks and dancing with other TSC clubs. Very few of the adults were missing from the Tram Club. Evan Howell and his grown kids, Shana and Evan, Jr, partied with us. Chaille Hutchison, and her son Tal, came by later for a nightcap with us. Gin Knebel was one of the few missing, giving her daughter Cassandra Rodriguez a well deserved night out. Peggy Schillinger was photographing the events with her usual finesse!

Space City had 4 racers for the TSC club races and they ALL brought home medals; Robert Rowley and Larry Edmondson silver, Bruce Lowther bronze and Candace Tenbrink, with her blazing speed, brought the club 25 points. Even though we only had 4 racers, we brought in more points than Lone Star's 9 racers and thus placed 3rd in Division I. Space City participants averaged more points per racer (40) than any other club. The top two clubs won by sheer number of participants.



In the individual races, Candace won an award for the fastest woman in her age group, while Bruce was 2nd in his age group. Amazingly, the entire TSC club race processed 81 racers in 45 minutes. This allowed most skiers 2 hrs of skiing before their race time, an average of about 12 minutes waiting their turn, 30 to 40 seconds of racing, and then to lunch, or back to skiing. During the rest of the day you have to keep reminding yourself that you are not trying to beat that person to your left back to the lift.

Kids on the trip to Snowbird had a fabulous time also. While the Curry trip-lets (Kaley, Neo, and Trinity) were too fast and furious to be seen by the mortal skiers; the kids just learning to ski and carve rocked the ski school. Ava Gami moved up 1 level a day, to end as solid green/blue while also learning how to pelt her instructor with class 1 snowballs. Rookies Trace and Evelyn Rodriguez, moved up from the magic of the carpet belt to their first full-fledged hill with a chair lift! They also loved the games, Leprechaun drinks, and decked out shamrock hats at the kids party.

One of the best side notes of traveling with kids on a club trip is the camaraderie the kids felt, sharing their achievements and on-snow antics with each other at dinner. Strangers before arrival, they all left with a badge of courage, many wonderful ski stories, and new friends. When Ava was asked about her trip, she described it as "Awesome!" Straight from the mouth of a 5 year old.

The ski dogs (Ash Moza, Davis Tucker, Robert Rowley, Chris Urbanczyk, and Larry Edmondson) tore up the advanced terrain and the daily blanket of powder. Tony and Carolyn Curry were so busy they finally picked up their SCSC neck wallets from Cindy on the day we left!

The TSC awards party on Friday had great, plated food, so we all got plenty. There was a fun DJ, and dancing until 11:00 p.m., and we saw Los Amigos members shake their tails.

Snowbird has this tunnel cut through the center of the mountain with a connection to Alta through a tunnel conveyer belt, allowing access to two snow covered resorts. Saturday was like a weird dream, traveling through a tunnel with light on the other end, where you end up in a groovy snowy wonderland. Christine had always heard that in whiteout conditions you cannot tell where you are, and can easily get lost. They never said you could end up in Russia (AKA Alta). This tall leggy Russian blonde named Minka (Deb Cini) and a group of other equally hot Russian ladies, Lucinka, (Cindy), Slovinka, (Sandy Fowler) Ekaterina, (Lori). Christinka (Christine) and Sven/Boris.(Karl Jauhiainen), were participants in the Alta "Russian" blue skifest! That same day Sylvia Wetuski was seen braving the Alta greens with her new found ski skills.

Meanwhile, Abi Gami, Ann Dorn and Cassandra beat the beginner hill and headed for the mountain Saturday morning. The word of the day was "Out of the Way! The lesson of the day was, "gravity is your friend, don't fight it."

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Jose Arajuo was seen following Candace and Bruce off to ski Saturday morning. He was found in the bar that afternoon, muttering something about "crazy people", and "near death experiences. Ann Dorn learned a valuable lesson — don't ski mad, or you might forget to turn — as she skied off a green trail into a ditch. If it hadn't been for a friendly pine tree motioning Chris to look over here, he wouldn't have found her (but it is still all his fault). Christine learned powder and long, skinny skis do not mix. Go fat and have tons of fun. -The unbelievable fact was that we were skiing at spring break without crowds and with fresh powder each day!

On the bus ride home we saw Stuart and Dawn Allen from the first time since we arrived. Cindy thought they were having a romantic 2nd honeymoon or something. She found out that poor Stuart had been struck down by altitude sickness the whole trip and Dawn swore she would never take him on another ski trip!

Christine and Lori stuck around 2 extra days and new member Jo Barrie also stayed a few extra days so she could spend some time with her Mom over in Salt Lake City.