

## Steamboat Springs Jan 21-28, 2012 by Derek Shoobridge—TC

Trip got off to a good start when 21 Ski Club members assembled at IAH starting at 9:00 on Saturday morning, an unusually relaxed starting time. Plane left and arrived in Hayden more or less on time, we all got on the bus and after the usual grocery store stop, we arrived at the Grand Hotel in Steamboat around 4:00 in the afternoon.

Wow! what a place, the accommodation was liked by all, nothing is ever perfect for everyone but the condos within the hotel were huge, some of them you could hold a dance in the living room, all were well appointed, my only comment is the bedrooms could have had more drawer space but there was PLENTY of room on the floor so who cares especially when all the amenities of a first class hotel were available to us. Andy, one of our Condo Mates had kindly offered to use a rollaway as the hotel said they had insufficient single beds, was pleasantly surprised when our Condo featured double beds.



We all assembled, now joined by Keith and Frank who had driven by car from Houston and Colorado respectively, for a welcome reception in "The Cabin" with refreshments put on by the Grand. Damien Medlin, Derek's main contact, gave us a little welcome speech and answered questions. A slight hiccup when the Hotel could not find our lift tickets but eventually they arrived, were distributed and we split up to explore, eat dinner and prepare for our first day of skiing.

Some tidbits, high lights and memories of our 6 days, in no particular order:

- Considering Steamboat only had 1" of snow on Jan 1, conditions were good, not perfect but good enough for us all to enjoy skiing at our own paces. The main runs had adequate coverage and were well groomed. The "Top Dogs" found plenty of snow and bumps at the top of the Mountain.
- Weather conditions were mixed throughout, some days we had sunshine, snow and whiteout all at the same on different levels of the mountain, kept us on our toes.
- Anonymous Personal opinions: Worst run on the mountain "Yoo Hoo" - hard to get to, then flat, flat, flat. Best run was "Tomahawk" - even in the fog, with high winds and powder, you have no fear.
- While sitting next to each other on the plane, Halcyon Learned and Robyn Morgan, both decided to take lessons at the very beginning. It was not until two days later at the Pizza Night, when they were recounting the various incidents that happened in their lessons that they realized that they were both in the same group. What a difference parkas, helmets and goggles make to our appearance.
- I am told that Anne Thomas lost her "Tree Virginity" when she successfully skied the trees.
- The Pizza and left over parties in Room 605 were enjoyed by all. Thank you Anne for your delicious cooked food as you cleared out your condo's fridge of homemade Pesto Pasta, Penne Pasta with meat sauce and deviled eggs. All yummy and much appreciated. Ann surprised Andy & Roger at the airport with a gift of pickle relish. You had to be there to appreciate this. We had failed to provide same for her preparation of her deviled eggs for our Group party.
- Our group were not just Powder Hounds, we had two PHDs in the ALL Ladies Condo- guess which two.
- After Carmen Mikhail's fall, Leslie Ward accompanied her to the Emergency room and we are told that they had some great laughs together. Unfortunately they will not tell us what they were laughing about, oh well if they were laughing about me they were not laughing at any one else and endorphins always help the healing process.
- Leslie's new favorite hot drinks - marshmallow flavored Vodka and Chocolate Butterscotch Schnapps (got to try those)
- A favorite "Charlieism" (Charlie Roberts) = "If you want to drink with the Big Dogs, you have to ski with them" (Derek got a bye on this due to his healing ankle injury). "Northern Colorado Big Dog Clubhouse" and Happy Hour favorite was Tugboat Bar and Grill, \$10 pitchers and \$3 wines, a group of us attended regularly including Beverley who made sure that Charlie was aware of February 14!



## Steamboat Springs Pics





## Steamboat Springs (Continued)

- Best purchase of the trip - boot binder closing tool \$7.50 at Christy Sports (wish I had known about that)
- Roger ended up out of bounds while finishing the day with Paul Stolnacke and LaDaune Ashley. No one knows how but fortunately somebody saw him and helped him out. We all hope to be skiing as well as Roger when we reach his maturity.
- After much debate, Leslie, Louella, Carmen and Halcyon made a side trip to "Strawberry Park Hot Springs". They all had a great time and Louella was even brave enough to get in one of the ice cold streams.
- Leslie and Roger were stuck on the Gondola when it broke down. As the wind blew their cabin around, their "Gondola Mate", a Scottish woman sitting next to Roger, grabbed his leg in fright. Roger's response "I'll be your security blanket any day". Leslie professed to be a green run only skier. Soon she was doing well on the blue runs. But very explicit with her "Oh Shit" screams when she at times fell
- Halcyon, Anne and Louella all decided to take a break from skiing on the last day and tried snow shoes. They really enjoyed a nature guided trek to Fish Creek Falls.
- Frank Adams entertained members and strangers nightly in the Hot Tub - but how we don't know.
- Janet McKenzie went home with new skis. Several other members demoed but I do not know of any other major purchases
- Rodney Rocha and Robyn Morgan, our newest rejoining members, Rodney & Robyn were a delightful addition to SCSC. Robyn, we hope to see you at the top of the mountain on your next trip. They both showed Colorado and Florida Skiers how to really C&W dance at the Art Depot in downtown Steamboat. We hope they enjoyed themselves on this trip and will take more club trips in the future
- We had two birthdays on the trip, Susan Blome and Janet McKenzie. Susan was also celebrating her early retirement.
- Group dinner was at the "Ore House". Our private room was well attended in spite of a full restaurant. Though all the group was not overly impressed, most would go there again.
- And the rest of the group, Davis as usual did his own thing on the slopes and then usually joined us for Happy Hour and evening functions. Bob Rexford was also a loner on the slopes but enjoyed the "apres" ski company. We hope he will also join us for future trips. Keith, as one of the "Big Dogs", always seemed to find good snow. His philosophy was visibility did not matter as long as you were close to the trees you could see. His helpful comments at Happy Hour were always appreciated.

As the trip came to an end, Keith and Jim went on by car to ski in Utah and Frank drove back home to Loveland, unfortunately they left too early to be included in the group photo. The rest of us had an uneventful bus ride to the airport. We had the usual "zoo" checking in at Hayden and then an early departure and smooth flight into Houston. On a closing note, we all wish a speedy recovery to both Lynda Myer and Carmen Mikhail. Lynda was so active and helpful in the planning stages of our trip but had a major accident in Vail prior to our trip so was unable to join us. She was replaced by Carmen who had a bad fall on the slopes and had to be brought down by snowmobile.



It was a super group of people. I thank you all for making it a really fun trip and a special word to my unofficial ATC, LaDaune, who in addition to helping me, kept me sane when things were not going well. We all had a great time and I look forward to skiing with y'all in the future.

PS On a final note, a comment from Roger which I think is worth adding: to SCSC Members past - It was a joy seeing Lotty Gaurschi traveling & skiing with the Over The Hill Gang. And former SCSC President Stacey Ronszy driving from Denver to wish Susan Blome a happy birthday. It was sad seeing many of our former Members departing for Aspen with their former SCSC friends rather than skiing with us. All of you, please rejoin SCSC. That group also returned at the same time as we did."

