

Telluride, CO Feb. 9 to Feb. 16, 2013

By Betty Donellan, TC

38 SCSC'rs went on this trip with 17 of us on a full package stranded in Dallas until American Airlines "Angel Bonnie" got us on a flight to Colorado Springs (Gunnison closed the airport with no flights available), then bused us up to the Mountain Lodge at Telluride. AA was fabulous to work with and I fully support giving them future business as they went all out for us as I worked with them directly to get us there. While a bit tired from getting in late, most skied to a beautiful day Sunday. After a fun TSC welcome party, we had a mountain tour arranged for SCSC on Monday (several other club members also waited until then). While Ann



Lupton, Claire Learned and Connor Wright took lessons, 8 of us (**Betty/Bob Donellan, Mary Jones, Terri Barnes, Bill Yolz, Shari Clark, Ron Rambin, Leslie Hajdo**) had a private race clinic on Wednesday. Enjoying the mountain were **Roberta Rambin, Andrea Wray, Jane and Rick Adams, Ben and Karen Freestone, Lori Gilliland, Christine March, Sue Muenks, Shaun Wright, Claire Learned and Julie Rothermund** (a non-skier who enjoyed Telluride). Wednesday night brought a pizza pmiy at the Mountain Lodge who also pulled out all the stops to ensure we had a nice event and venue. We had raffles and played a trivia game with a runoff between **Leslie Hajdo** and **John Stratemeier** with 3 right out of 10! Tells you how difficult the trivia was but we all now know the size of the largest snowflake ever recorded. Thursday, Valentine's Day, was race day with **Dick Brooks** leading the racers with a silver, and **Ross Baker, Shari Clark, Diane Baker, Betty Donellan, Leslie Hajdo, Christine Augustine, Ron Rambin, and Michael Rothermund** getting bronze medals. Kudos to **Alicen Swift** who had a great run and we're so proud of your courage! We had 20 racers show up and took home **FIRST PLACE!!!** Additional points were added by **Bob Donellan, Peggy Schillinger, Dana/Gayle Dale, John Rice, Caryne Prater, Bob Wray, and Bill Volz**. **Kayleen Kill** and **Kenny Prater** unfortunately found the snow snakes. **Marsha Lutz** was diligently working in the office ensuring all the times were recorded (Ross, too). Individual races brought Silver medals to **Betty Donellan, Christine Augustine and Leslie Hajdo**. Good job, everyone!

The day had started out cold and snowy, but the sun came out and was gorgeous. An Après Ski party was held on the mountain from 2-4pm with dysfunctional valentines cards read, while skiers enjoyed free beer and a potato bar. Unfortunately, **Bob Donellan** was taken off the mountain, then helicoptered to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction to undergo immediate life threatening emergency surgery for an ascending aortic dissecting aneurysm. This, after he raced that day. Two weeks later, he was sent home. However, this group of skiers came together when needed, with **Gayle, Diane, Dana, Marsha** and **Ann** packing up Betty and Bob's stuff, and **Shari** and **Dana** accompanying Betty on the long 3 hour shuttle to the hospital in Grand Junction and waited for Bob to come out of surgery. Kudos are also in order for Telluride Express who arranged a special shuttle for us. Several of the group went to the New Sheridan Chop House for the Valentine's dinner which was prearranged. Bob made it through with flying colors based on the best cardiologist ever, Sara Periera, and everything and everyone being at the right place at the right time, with lots of prayers and a miracle. Friday saw Shari and Dana head back to Telluride to join the group for the farewell dinner, with some continuing on to the Sheridan bar. Everyone made it home ok and thanks to all for the support you showed. Post trip at Betty and Bob's-Ski you there. Best group of people ever and it would be an honor to join any of you skiing in the future.

Telluride, CO

