

# VAIL

## February, 2014

**V**ail February was the second trip to Vail by the club during the 2013-2014 ski season. We arrived Vail on Feb 22 with a total of 41 participants (including one shadow).

Frank Adams, Keith Kirkman, Derek Shoobridge and LaDaune Ashley drove to Vail and easily arrived at the condo before the main group. .

On the way from the airport we made our usual Applejacks and grocery store stop. There was some question about the need to order a trailer to hook on the back of the bus, when Keith Koteras and Maria Mendez arrived at the bus with about 4 grocery carts of food. So much for buying light. They did say they were buying for 4 condos!

After the bus trip from the airport, our welcome pizza party was well received. It is amazing what great pizza, salad, wine and beer can do to get us ready for a trip. The TC and ATC condos were filled to capacity. Jim Hodges passed out the lift tickets and EpixMix cards. It is always good when the lift ticket distribution is done and we're ready for the slopes.

It was now time to prepare for skiing.

Weather conditions from Sunday to Thursday were typically a mixture of sunshine and occasional

clouds with temperature in the mid 20's deg F.

There were several large groups from the club skiing together plus several smaller groups. Ron Rambin led a group that included Roberta Rambin, Nancy DuFrane, Jana Rosenbaum, Marti Turner and Morris Colvin. They were joined by sometime ski buddies Tami Kawasugi, Arlen Isham, Maria Mendez, Keith Koteras, Leyla Ozkardesh & Dave Stotz (when on a ski bicycle). Ron's bright green ski pants were definitely easy to find on the mountain. Ron rewarded his ski crew one night after dinner by treating his 'family' to sorbet in Vail Village. Arlen Isham started the week leading a group including Maria Mendez, Keith Koteras, Nancy DuFrane, Jana Rosenbaum, Marina Wang, Rita Cardenas, Leyla Ozkardesh, Marti Turner, Roberta Rambin & Lara Isterzing that wanted to ski Bwana, Simba, Born Free and other cruisers. Arlen Isham wore his bright red tasseled hat borrowed from his son for a couple days before switching to a helmet, so he could be seen easily and found on the mountain. Lara Isterzing stayed with Arlen's group for a while then split off to do more greens.

Keith Kirkman (aka Trail Boss) led the group of regulars Jim Hodges, Barry Caspar, Ross & Diane

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Baker, Beverly Roberts, Dennis & Melinda Hughes, Frank Adams, Dave Stotz, Nelson Turner, Juel Hill, and Janine & Craig Belling. Others that joined at times were Morris Covin, Steve Ying, Davis Tucker, Derek Shoobridge, Charley Roberts and Arlen Isham. Elana & Nigel Taylor were on the mountain someplace skiing at their own pace. They were our Australian connection and it is reported they were able to understand the Colorado version of English. Charlie Roberts spent much of his ski vacation at the SureFoot Boot Shop but did make an occasional guest appearance with the Big Dogs.

Beverly Roberts had the unusual experience of having her ski boot break. She was on her way to happy hour when the boot failure occurred. She was going to ski down on one ski, but discretion to take a ride with a handsome ski patrol man was a better choice.

When Jim Hodges got separated from the Big Dog group, some of the group he was skiing were worried. Steve Ying was the least worried. Evidently Steve knows that in Colorado you are not really missing until 24 hours has elapsed.

Nelson Turner was teased about how his water broke while skiing with the Big Dogs- fortunately it

was just his H2O bottle!

Margaret McCord, Rita Cardenas and Jo Barrie had the good fortune to have a Vail Mountain host join them while skiing and give them a free ski lesson. Diane Stotz did not ski but spent a few days on snow shoes, one day snowmobiling and one morning snow-biking with Dave Stotz. When Diane had finished with the snow bike, instead of joining the club participants at mid-Vail for lunch she instead had lunch with six ski instructors! I think we can all agree it is difficult to get to mid Vail if you are not one of the Trail Bosses!

Wednesday morning eleven of the group went snowmobiling near Minturn with Nova Guides. Maria Mendez road with Keith Koteras. Jana Rosenbaum, Diane & David Stotz, Leslie Ward, Tami Kawasugi, Rita Cardenas, Leyla Ozkardesh, and Arlen Isham all drove their own snow mobile. The group were picked up at 8:30 and spent over two hours snowmobiling up the trailhead road to Half Moon Trailhead, which is the starting point to summit Mt. of the Holy Cross. The round trip was about 25 miles and our top speed was over 43 MPH. It made great fun bouncing over bumps and occasionally lifting up the front skis as we made turns at

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speed. Fortunately, none of us went off trail or ran into a tree. We had great views of the Vail back bowls. We stopped at a wilderness hut to have drinks before heading back. At an additional stop the group made snow angels, rolled snowballs down a hill to see how far they would go, and had a snow ball fight throwing snow balls at the guides.

Wednesday night the TC and ATC hosted a group lasagna dinner in their condos. It got a little rowdy particularly with lots of pictures with a scarf that was reported to have aphrodisiac qualities. Arlen passed out stickers that said, 'Vail 2014, to turn is to admit defeat'.

Thursday morning Dennis Hughes arranged a mogul lesson for himself, Derek Shoobridge, Juel Hill, Melinda Hughes, and Arlen Isham. Their instructor gave them 3 things to focus on. The one that seemed to fit everyone was to begin your next turn as soon as you crossed the fall line.

Friday was a POWDER DAY! Vail reported about 5 inches of snow overnight but there were areas in the bowls with much more snow than reported. There was a delay getting everyone up the mountain due to a large crowd wanting to be first to ski the powder and the Born Free Express chair lift breaking

down soon after the lifts opened. That created a long line at the Eagle Bahn Gondola lift. Fortunately none of the SCSC group was stuck on the broken chair lift.

The group had one last party on Friday night in the TC and ATC condos to try and finish off everyone's leftover food and drinks. There as a lot of beer leftover but fortunately Derek Shoobridge & LaDaune Ashley agreed to drive it back to Houston for the post trip party. Thanks to the TC and ATC condo mates Juel Hill, Tami Kawasugi, Marina Wang and Marti & Nelson Turner for assisting with all the parties and cleanup.

Our bus pickup for the trip back to Denver airport was planned for 5:30 AM Saturday morning. The bus arrived on time and was loaded and ready to go by 6 AM but by that time it was snowing heavily. We managed to get over Vail pass just before Colorado DOT closed Vail pass. We had another close call on the uphill approach to Eisenhower tunnel. The bus slowed to a standstill due to the snow packed road. . Shortly after we passed through the Eisenhower tunnel the Colorado DOT closed the tunnel approaches. The road conditions were bad all the way to Denver but we managed to arrive about one

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hour before our flight. As soon as the bus stopped, everyone contributed to getting the bus unloaded in a record time so we could get checked in for our flight (which of course was delayed).

Derek Shoobridge & LaDaune Ashley left the condo soon after the bus left and got over Vail Pass before it was closed. Keith Kirkman and Nelson Turner ended up staying in Vail to ski a half day before beginning their journey to several southern Colorado ski resorts. Frank Adams drove back to his home in Loveland, CO

Skier Awards, Friday night – No Duplicate awards, some were nominated for more than one award.

The awards were small US flags, various pin on buttons such as 'No Whining', 'No Pain', 'Aged to Perfection', and ski warming packs.

Best Snow Angel - Jana Rosenbaum (Also most desirable bachelorette)  
No Turns - Nancy DuFrane (Also most willing to buy snowmobile) (Most boot try-ons)  
Most Fashionable Outfit - Dennis Hughes (ski outfit)  
Yard Sale - Beverly Roberts  
Working on the trip - Steve Ying (Skied the whole mountain and no one saw him)  
Most Vertical Feet - Craig Belling (177,000)  
Broken Equipment - Davis Tucker (Also nominated for loudest snorer)  
Most Groceries- Keith Koteras  
Best house shoes- Rita Cardenas  
Best Singer- Charlie Roberts  
Most Desirable Bachelor- Barry Casper  
Most Happy Hours - Melinda Hughes  
First Fall- Marti Turner (Fell in Baggage Claim at

Denver airport)

Most Hot tub visits- Frank Adams  
Best newlywed- Maria Mendez (Also most groceries)  
No Falls- Roberta Rambin  
Best Après hat- Diane Stotz (Also last out of the liquor store)  
Last on the bus at Applejacks – Marina Wang  
Best Mountain ski bike- David Stotz (Also nominated for loudest snorer)  
Best dining guide- Margaret McCord  
Best Condo mates- Juel Hill (Also persistent) & Tami Kawasugi (Tami nominated for best photographer)  
Best person on trip to care for injury – Nelson Turner  
Best ski Boss- Keith Kirkman  
Trail Boss # 2- Ron Rambin  
Most Persistent- Janine Belling  
Most Sleepless- Leslie Ward 'What time did she get to bed?'  
Most Wine- Leyla Ozkardesh  
Most time since skied- Nigel Taylor  
Most Australian who did not win award - Elana Taylor  
Quietest- Chuck Britton  
Pathfinder (MIA)- Jim Hodges  
Hit on Mountain by skier- Arlen Isham  
Worked on term paper- Diane Baker  
Most club trips this season – Ross Baker  
First time skied 5 days in a row - Jo Barrie  
Best male earring- Derek Shoobridge  
Best alpha male of the Sisterhood of Vail – Morris Colvin (Also best photographer)

Being at Vail! - LaDaune Ashley

## **Arlen Isham and Jim Hodges**

*ATC and TC, Vail*

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