

Trip Report - Vail

Vail Delivers Early Season Snow ... Again

By Bob Olsen and Friends

Taking a chance on early season snow at Vail paid off very well for thirty SCSC skiers again the second week of December 2014. A bonus of 40 degree sunny weather and no lift lines, on top of the Front and Back Bowls being open, made for an especially enjoyable week. Keith Kirkman and Big Dogs: Barry Casper, Ross Baker, Nelson Turner, Scott Petersen, Dave Stotz and George Hirasaki skied the Black Runs and Back Bowls. Ron Rambin acted as experienced mountain guide on the Blue cruising runs with Tom Hogle, Bob Olsen, Darlene Hirasaki, Marilyn Swanson, Sue Stanley and Craig Campbell in tow.



It was also good to see the regulars back again. Brothers Tom and Kent Huzzy make the December trip into an annual family reunion. The venerable Jim Edwards and expert skier Bruce Lowther were back again to make sure Vail continued excellent snow

management. We welcomed Sam and Sandra Cornelius and their regular ski buddy Lee Joe to our group and hope they will return in the future. That leaves Sue Stanley, Hyo Tan Knebel, Marty Baker and Chris Bryan, all of whom left their spouses behind, to get in ski shape early for their succeeding Space City Ski Club trips this season. Fully a dozen of our skiers were also scheduled to go to Beaver Creek in January with the Club!



Sandra and Sam Cornelius enjoy a break



Lunch Break for the Big (Hot) Dogs

The usual good food from Blue Moose Pizza, Moe's BBQ, Montauk Seafood and the new optional dinner selection of The Left Bank provided gourmet specialties to keep our

tummies full. Food selections at the mountain restaurants: Eagles Nest, Mid-Vail and Two Elk continues to be varied and well prepared ... often to order. Garfunkel's provided the best après ski environment although the entertainment seemed to be missing this year.

Sleeping arrangements at the Lion Square Lodge proved to be luxurious. Regular roommates Andy Smith and Ash Moza shared a large luxury room complete with balcony, view and full bath along with healthy breakfasts before full days on the slopes. They also got to act as welcoming hosts of our Club welcoming party. Janet McKenzie got to share a luxury condo with regular suite mate Marilyn Swanson and regular early skier Joan Waddill. The lodging budget worked well and everyone reported getting good nights of sleep at the luxury slope side Lion Square Lodge.

Bob Fried had to cut the trip short and Olsen took a high speed ride down the mountain courtesy of the superb Vail Ski Patrol. Thanks a bunch!



Tom Hogle made a fashion hit at chic Vail
... he bought a helmet later.

It was interesting to note that our group consisted in 14 marrieds (fully half our group) travelling without their spouses! Two couples: Darlene and George Hirasaki, and Sam and Sandra Cornelius, had their choice of condo master suites. That's a hint for best suite selection next year! These folks and the single supplement travelers made it possible to fill most of the king size beds.

Thanks also to Craig Campbell, Ross Baker, Barry Caspar, Dave Stotz, and Nelson Turner for their above and beyond help in organizing events and assisting in making the Trip a big success. The Early Season Trip to Vail has become a tradition because of reliable snow, reliable lodging, reliable transportation, reliable good food and a reliable group of great to ski with SCSC Adventurers.



Newly renovated section of the ski-in ski-out Lion Square Lodge