

## Trip Report – Whitefish

By Leslie Ward with additions from Derek Shoobridge TC

**W**OW!! WHAT A TRIP

On Saturday Feb 21, 2015, 36 Space city skiers headed for Whitefish MT, They travelled by Plane and Car and...

We all finally made it to the beautiful mountains of Whitefish, Montana. Whitefish has an excellent grooming program which turned this trip into one of the best. We came to ski - so ski we did! We hit the slopes on Sunday morning, weather was great, temperature normal for a ski resort, snow on the runs was well groomed and it did not take long for us to get our legs back. The Mountain is super, beautiful long groomed runs, with plenty of high speed lifts to whisk you back up to the top. The topography with the lower elevations at this resort means trees from top to bottom so the scenery was spectacular.

Après Ski time on Sunday, we met at Hell Roaring Saloon prior to the welcome party. Chuck Pena, long time club member, just happened to be in Whitefish the same week and was at the saloon, as was Tammi Kawasugi who was taking a short trip.

The welcome party was held on Sunday to accommodate the entire group. Plenty of drinks and appetizers were provided by the resort. The resort staff welcomed us all and we were introduced to the guides and instructors

On Monday a group of ladies skied together. The Big Dogs Group was spotted

at the top of a lift and assessing the next run. This included Keith Kirkman, Bill Bomberger, Juel Hill, Charlie and Beverly Roberts, Melinda Hughes, Janet McKenzie, and Ann Rogers. Jim Hodges was spotted skiing with his daughter and met up with everyone at lunch.

Paul and Sandra Stolnacke arrived on Monday and got out on the slopes on Tuesday. They were squeezing in the Whitefish trip between Aspen and Breckenridge.

Tuesday night was the pizza party, drinks were in Andy's (ATC) Condo and pizza in Derek's (TC) Condo down the hall. What team work! Thanks to Don Ledford a club member who was in Whitefish at the same time with Marck Lencke an Officer in the Pensacola Ski Club. Mark had driven to Montana and made all the beer and food runs with Andy. Plenty of food - excellent Pizzas, beer and wine for all. Leslie Ward hosted the drink condo by directing participants to the beer and soda on the balcony. While out on the balcony, she heard Helene Robinson, past member of the club, calling up to her. She came up to the resort for the pizza party to

L to R: Leslie Ward, Mary Lee Heald (crazy hat), LaDaune Ashley, and Marilyn Swanson



The group pictured is waiting at the base for mountain tour in Fernie.  
L to R: Don Ledford, Mary Lee Heald, Bill Bomberger, Charlie Roberts, Andy Smith,  
Nelson Turner, Keith Kirkman, and Beverly Roberts.



see folks.

The next day was the day trip to Fernie Alpine Resort in British Columbia. Our fearless leader Andy Smith lead the group which included Keith Kirkman, Jim Hodges, Marti and Nelson Turner, Charlie and Beverly Roberts, Juel Hill, Frank Stanley, Bill Bomberger, Sandra and Sam Cornelius, Ed Freiter, Leeland "Lee" Joe, Mary Lee Heald, Don Ledford, and Leslie Ward. Once we arrived, many went on a mountain tour. Sandra, Sam, Mary Lee, Lee, and Leslie ended up in the more mellow tour group, since the rest of them were mostly from the Big Dog group. The view of the controlled avalanches was amazing.

After skiing awhile, Mary Lee decided to go into the town of Fernie. Frank Stanley had already gone into town as the only exclusively siteseer on this day trip. Mary Lee ended up hitch hiking both ways as that was the thing to do in Fernie. Lee, Sandra, and Sam went up to the Lost Boys restaurant and had lunch. Others were also there we took many pictures as the view was spectacular. After some shopping and beer we headed back to the bus and back to Whitefish. The group pictured is waiting at the base for mountain tour in Fernie.

The next day was Thursday and weather got a little colder. Many met for lunch at the Summit. Leslie Hajdo, Mary Jones, Theresa "Terri" Barnes, and Suzann were troopers and remained out on the mountain. Cynthia



Broom made a plea to all to go buy Ski Patrol t-shirts as they were raising money to raise funds to support a rescue dog which finds people lost in the snow. Melinda Hughes, Beverly Roberts, Leslie Ward, and many other people bought shirts to help the cause. That evening a group went to town to a restaurant called Tupelo Grill. Yes that is a town in Mississippi, and yes they had all kinds of Mississippi and New Orleans décor. Sharon Simandl coordinated this adventure and the meal was fabulous. Richard and Jane Adams, Stan Kuper, Bill Bomberger, Ed Freiter, and Juel Hill were spotted in the group.

Friday was our last day to ski and it was a nice day again. Some folks decided not to ski as their bodies told them “no more,” some folks skied hard the whole day to get in as many runs as possible. The traditional pot luck dinner was held on Friday night. The goal was to drink all the wine and beer but we just couldn’t do it. Keith Kirkman and

Don Ledford both drove the stash back to Houston.

WHAT A TRIP - the mountain people were gracious hosts, the restaurants and bars were full of friendly people, the scenery was spectacular, accommodations on the mountain were excellent, ski in ski out with no lift lines and...what a GREAT bunch of Space City Skiers to be with. Derek, Andy and LaDaune would like to thank all of you for making this a trip to remember and definitely put it on your list of resorts to re-visit.

On Saturday March 14, we had a wonderful post trip party at Derek and LaDaune’s. Crawfish, shrimp, cold cuts, beer, wine etc. were served and enjoyed by all. Boat rides were given to those interested in seeing a little of the Chocolate Bayou scenery. See picture below of the fun on the boat.

Thanks again to both Derek Shoobridge and Andy Smith for their time and effort putting this trip together.



L to R: Tammi Kawasugi, Stan Kuper, Sharon Simandl, Bill Bomberger, Larry (Marilyn’s husband), Marilyn Swanson, Janet McKenzie, Jo Barrie, and Keith Kirkman.