

Trip Report - Crested Butte

By Betty Donellan

We had a great group traveling to Crested Butte, CO for a week of gorgeous sunshine every day. Everyone made it on schedule without any delays to include those



driving. Saturday arrival had Jennie from CBR introduce us to all Crested Butte has to offer and pass out lesson vouchers. Ali and Fred got in almost last only to find their condo was full. So on to another to find a single guy sleeping in the king bed but all got worked out quickly. Front desk, oops and apologies. After some straight shots for Fred and wine for Ali, they got settled in without company in their bed. On Sunday, we had a Superbowl party and, being in Colorado, it was easy to cheer the Broncos on to victory. **Robyn, Betty** (twice) and **Arlen** (Mr. Big Bucks) won the pools. Monday most everyone signed up for the cheapest lessons you will ever get for a full day at \$51. **Ross** signed up as an expert and had a one on one taking



in the extremes of the Northface, etc. Others improved their skiing and still many others had one on one lessons for less than half the price of a group lesson. **Craig** was on a beer owing day as he skied into **Bob**, knocking him over as he appeared ready for his lesson? Craig, to whom was the other beer owed? Monday night our group gathered to decorate their umbrellas for the Mardi Gras parade and they were so cute.

Tuesday, after a full day of skiing, the group gathered to head to town to participate in the Crested Butte Mardi Gras parade. Betty hooked a tip in the slalom course the week before in Telluride so



had crutches and a boot. However another hotel offered a wheelchair which sounded like a great idea until we arrived at the parade to find it had a broken front wheel ! **Ali** got Betty a place to ride on the float which turned out to be the celebrity Flauschink float with the former and current Queens and Kings, including a King from 1979! Space City Ski Club followed behind the celebrity float, walking and throwing beads to the crowds gathered on the streets. While it was not a long parade, it was a great experience and how pleased and proud we were to see the numbers of people on the street to watch the parade. Too bad we ran out of beads before we saw the crowds. **Bob and Fred** proudly



carried the Space City Banner. Following behind the banner were **Lisa Milam, Shaun Wright and the lovely Ceci** totally decked out in costume, heels and no other warm clothes!, **Ali, Don Macken, Craig C., Rodney and Robyn, Rick and Jane, Davis Tucker, Ross and Arlen** totally lit up in costumes! In the midst of so much excitement, **Ross and Bob** forgot to bring gloves (in a ski area at night? Really?) How exciting and fun it was for our group to be in the parade and the locals were just as excited to see us participate as they were to be in it as well. The local newspaper took many photos of our group and of 6 published in the newspaper, we were in 2 of them! Dinner at Slogars after was just what we needed, joined by Cynthia and Oscar.

Wednesday night was group dinner and (the dreaded?) trivia night. **Ross, Lisa, Ceci and Fred** were the biggest winners & losers. Promise next time it won't be difficult. Daily cleaning great as well.

Thursday and Friday were warmer and the best snow days of all (so I am told). **Ross** clocked 60 mph

and **Arlen** at 55 mph on their phones. Slow down guys, we need you on the next trips! Friday we had potluck and while others packed, 8 of us made our way to a comedy show only to find the comedian had car problems in Denver. **Fred** had his own not getting his car started too. So we found the Princess Wine Bar, listened to entertainment and chatting with locals. The consensus is people in Crested Butte are so friendly, the town so cute, no lights, and quaint (no fast food here), and we're ready to return. Saturday had to say goodbye just before the craziest, zaniest and scariest event, **THE VERTICLE** where they ski the extreme in 7 hours. Group caught their flight and the rest of us had a beautiful drive back.

Lastly, accommodations were great at the slopes and easy walk to everywhere including bus to town.

