

The December Vail trip has been a tradition in the Space City Ski Club for many years. Back in the 1990s a Space City member named Chuck Radliff ran renegade December Vail ski trips for about 10 years. They tended to be very cheap, and sometimes stayed at lodging locations that were far from the mountain. When Chuck stopped running a December Vail trip, Judy Schiro started being the TC for this trip for the SCSC, and she continued for about 10 years. By the time that Judy decided to discontinue running the trip, the group had settled on staying at the Lion Square Lodge each year, opting for convenience rather than budget. Bob Olson and Jim Jeans ran the trip for two years, but in 2016 no one stepped up to run the trip. Again a small renegade group (16 people) decided to go to continue the tradition.

For 2017, SCSC decided that they should run the trip again, and I stepped up to run it. Twenty participants made it to the Denver airport on Saturday, Dec. 9th to begin our trip. Unfortunately, Southwest decided to leave Joan Waddill's skis in Houston. Fortunately, they made it to Vail on Saturday night. We got on the bus for the trip to Vail, making the perfunctory food and adult beverage stop at King Sooper and Applejack's.

Saturday night featured our welcome party. Pizza, salad, beer & wine were enjoyed by all. The next morning brought our first day of skiing. Unfortunately the snow gods had not been kind to us, as only two runs were open on the mountain. It turns out that November 2017 was the driest November that Colorado had ever seen. However we made the best of it, and skied as much as we could. The Big Dogs were out early, with Keith Kirkman in the lead, followed by Ross Baker, George Hirasaki, Barry Caspar and Kasia Rezmer. The Puppy Dogs were led by Ron Rambin, and included Janet McKenzie, Darlene Hirasaki, Francis Ackart, Susan Stanley, Craig Campbell, Joan Waddill & Debbie Moser. We all met for lunch at the only place open on the mountain,



View From Our Condo

Eagle's Nest, and we had après ski at El Sabor.

Skiing on Monday was no different than Sunday. We lunched again at Eagle's Nest, and we après skied at Garfunkel's. On Tuesday due to very intensive snow making, Vail was able to open two more runs. We had our optional trip dinner on Tuesday night at The Left Bank, a very nice French restaurant in Vail Village. Barry Caspar was kind enough to once again organize this dinner. We were joined at the dinner by Larry Edmondson and his spouse, and Tami Kawasaki. Also Lili Rubin joined us on the trip on Tuesday night.

On Wednesday we got to ski four more runs on the Mid Vail part of the mountain. Also the Mid Vail cafeteria opened up, and that's where we had lunch. We après skied at the Chop House and listened to Phil Long entertain the crowd. Kasia Rezmer ran out of one dollar bills trying to get free



Cheers with Phil Long



Kasia Takes Her FireBall Medicine!

shots from Phil!

The Avanti lift opened on Thursday morning, giving us two more runs to ski. That night Janet McKenzie organized another group dinner at the Chop House, and 12 people attended.



Dinner at the Chop House

Friday was our last day of skiing, and we had 7 lifts open and twenty runs. After skiing Lion Square Lodge held a wine and cheese party in the lobby, and after that we had a leftover party in the TC's condo. Joan Waddill, Debbie Moser, Frances Ackart

and Darlene Hirasaki did a great job getting all the leftovers prepared. About 12 people showed up for the dinner.



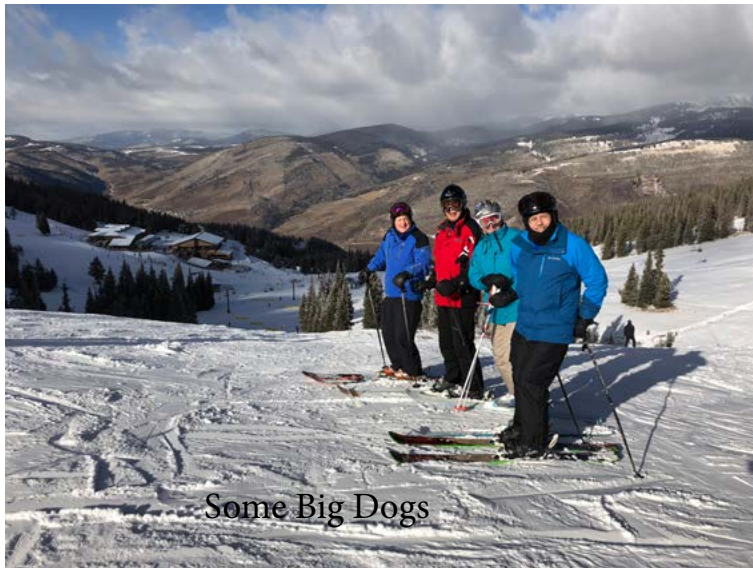
Susan Stanley supervising the leftover dinner preparation.

On Saturday morning, it was time to leave Vail. We piled into our two CME vans and headed back to Denver. The United passengers headed to the United Club, and when the Southwest passengers discovered that their plane was delayed they made it to the United Club as well.



Covered Bridge and Gore Creek

It turned out to be a good trip, and hopefully we'll do it again next year, with Kasia Rezmer running the trip. She's already put her Vail trail map in the freezer, so we're guaranteed to have more snow than this trip!



Some Big Dogs



Debbie Shoots her \$1 bill for the Bucket



Plan to attend the Texas Ski Council Bidfest April 20 to April 23 in San Antonio, Texas.