

BEAVER CREEK 2020 TRIP REPORT

by Ann Dorn, Trip Coordinator

Thirty-seven Space City Ski Club members, two Austin Skiers (Michelle and John Marshall - friends of Diane & Ross Baker) and one shadow (Pat Piech) signed up for our club trip of January, 2020 to Beaver Creek, Colorado.

By now everybody knows that Ann Dorn and Gin Knebel start their trip with **Let's Get to Know our Fellow Skiers Gathering**. We had our Warm Up Party (Pre Trip Party) at Gin Knebel's House in Quail Valley, Missouri City on December 1, 2019. About 25 of us got together and enjoyed homemade food, wine and camaraderie. It was nice to meet our new members, Joyce Ferguson, who lives in Clear Lake and is a good friend of Marilyn Swanson, and Larry and Kary Burnham. Larry and Kary were previously members of the Beaumont ski club and drove from Beaumont to join us. It was also very nice to have Ron Rambin, who came to mingle with us, even though had to cancel his trip because of Roberta's surgery in January.

Beverly and Charles Roberts, Melinda and Denis Hughes, Barry Casper, David Trevitz, Carlos Noriega, Larry Thomson, Diane & Ross Baker, Kasia Rezmer, Keith Kirkman, Sam & Sandra Cornelli, Janet McKenzie, Jose Fernandez and Marilyn Swanson also came for our Pre trip party. Unfortunately, Joe Zurfley & Annie Truong and Jim Hodges & Marina Wang had to miss our party at the last minute.

28 of us met at the Southwest Terminal on January 25th early in the morning. Group Check In was a lot easier than previous years and we only had to show our Drivers' License to check in and get boarding passes - just like individual check in.

The rest joined us at the Denver airport to ride the charter bus to our destination. Barry Casper, Beverly & Charles Roberts, Janet McKenzie, Kasia Rezner and Susan Stanley

flew via United, John and Michelle Marshall flew from Austin, Dan Lemay flew from Tulsa Oklahoma and waited us almost 3 hours at the airport until we arrived in Denver. Bill Voltz flew the first flight from Charlotte, but arrived later than us and unfortunately, we had to leave him behind and he had to get his own transportation to Charter.

After stopping for grocery and beverage shopping at the famous King Sooper/Apple Jack Shopping Center, we arrived our condos at the Charter a little after 4 PM.

Even though we have stayed at the Charter several times, it is always confusing to figure out the building and condo numbers. A lot of us had a hard time finding our own condos, but it was a nice surprise that our condo mates had different room number and different entrance with plenty of privacy while we all shared same kitchen and living room.

There was a small club welcome Cheese & Wine/beer party downstairs at the Terrace room on the first night. When the contract says Cheese & Wine/beer reception, they literally meant that - Not even celery stalks with ranch dip or green & red grapes around cheese? Crackers and cheese disappeared before half of group showed up, but our amazing members enjoyed comradeship and looked forward to our skiing the next day.

While Gin was distributing lift tickets, Marilyn found that her name was not on the list and my heart almost stopped, since I thought I made a mistake. It appears she did not order the lift tickets and I thought she got her own Epic Pass after I didn't get any response from group emails. We tried to get discounted ticket prices, but no luck! FYI, a single day lift ticket at Beaver Creek is almost \$200 and not a lot cheaper for multiple days. No matter how much we thought we checked and prepared, there are always surprises!!! At the end, we solved the problem and I enjoyed skiing with Marilyn a couple days.

We started our first day skiing with a cloudy morning, but it changed to a beautiful sunny day and the rest of week was perfect for skiing except Wednesday.

Martin Baker, Jose Fernandez, Kurt Schidlowski and Gin Knebel went on a 4-hour mountain tour on Monday which they enjoyed a lot, and all were very impressed of Kurt's skiing. After all, he is only 80 plus years young with such a positive attitude and personality.

Sandra Cornelliuss was at Beaver Creek earlier and offered to find a good place for our group dinner, but she found out it was impossible to make reservation for a large group or it was too expensive. No success after many emails and

phone calls to several different restaurants, so we decided to have our club dinner at our own condo. Monday late afternoon, Gin and I took a bus to City Market Grocery store to prepare for the group dinner on Tuesday. I found the price was reasonable and had a great selection there. If I had known, I would not have rushed myself at King Sooper.

After dinner, Sandra Cornelliuss offered to give a tour of her 3 bedroom condo. Beverly and I were more than amazed and impressed with the Cornelliuss' penthouse. Sandra and Sam totally lucked out by asking me for 2 different condo mates. They got connected with Kary and Larry Burnham, and Sam and Carlos had a common military background and wanted be condo mates. If Sandra had shown us her presidential suit before our club dinner, we certainly would have had the party there instead of my small condo. During our dinner, we celebrated the birthdays of Janet McKenzie and Michelle Marshall who happened to share same birthday.

It was nice to have Pat Piech, even though she only stayed for 4 days and came as a shadow. Larry Thompson joined us 2 days after we arrived since he was recovering from his flu and he wanted to make sure he was ok to ski and be around people.

Wednesday was the most marginal ski day, and some of us who are not avid skiers decided to take a trip to Vail. Joyce, Marilyn and I took a bus to Vail and enjoyed lunch and walking around the village shopping center (Ice Sculptures were beautiful with great details). While we were at Vail, the mountain visibility looked really poor, and we were glad that we decided to take the day off for shopping and dining.

The Charter offered a reception at Black Diamond Bistro on Thursday, Jan. 30th after our skiing. We all enjoyed free happy hour drinks and appetizers.

One week passed before we knew it and time for us pack and return.

We all had a great fun and I'm very grateful that nobody got injured (although Annie Truong got really sick with flu at the end of trip)

We decided to have our post trip party sometime in the middle of March, because lots of trip members had planned more skiing or cruising trips. Stuart Traver and I decided to have a joint post party for Deer Valley and Beaver Creek since I was looking for venue to host the party and he didn't have that many people to attend. Our party date was set for March 20th and the Evite went out. Even though more than

20 people accepted, as time progressed, we were not sure whether it would be safe to have that many people together or if they would even come.

Who would have known the K Pop Concert that I went on Tuesday of March 10th at Rodeo was last day of Rodeo and that we would have to cancel our party 3 days before the scheduled date? I had already gone to Sam's club and purchased Wine, Beer, and pre-mixed Margaritas (Sam's sells pre-mixed margaritas with alcohol content and I thought it will be fun to serve), cheese, sausage, pasta and different pasta sauces thinking I will come back for meat, poultry and vegetables a day before our party. I admit that these groceries and beverages have saved me from grocery shopping while I am home and social distancing.

Things changed so dramatically right after our return from ski trip and I know we all are trying to adjust our new reality. So looking forward seeing all our ski club friends in person near future after this Coronavirus outbreak ends!

