

# TELLURIDE 2020 TRIP REPORT

by Rene Reed, Trip Coordinator

The best part of the first day of our Telluride trip was the fact that we did not have to get up at the crack of dawn to catch a crack of dawn flight. Our flight left around noon, allowing most of our trip folks to get a leisurely start to the trip. We left on time and our flight was what you most want...uneventful!!

We disembarked in sunny, 50 degree weather in Montrose. Our awesome bus driver and guide, Lewis, was waiting just inside the door with a Space City sign and cookies. How often do you go to an airport with free cookies and a roaring fireplace. **Mary Beth Cihal** and **Dan LeMay** were inside the airport waiting for us.

A stop in Montrose to the City Market and Corks Liquor store was a comedy to behold. We were giving thirty minutes to do both stores. It was like watching a scavenger hunt as people looked for some easy and some hard to find items. We didn't quite make the 30 minute time period, but we weren't too far off!!

We were greeted at Bear Creek Lodge by several strong guys ready to whisk our luggage off to our rooms. They were able to get all the luggage out of the belly of the bus and into our condos within 30 minutes.

Everyone was in various states of starvation ....but we met up at 7pm for our welcome party. Telluride Resort provided wine, beer, cheese and information about the mountain. Lift tickets were handed out. Those who were able to grab a quick dinner prior stayed to enjoy wine and those starving quickly headed out to dinner before the restaurants closed. The Bear Creek Lodge was quick and efficient to zip everyone down to catch the Gondola or to walk around Mountain Village.

Sunday found some folks renting skis and some heading up to the slopes early to catch the good snow. Lunch at Gorrone Ranch had plenty of tempting offers for a wide variety of tastes.

A good group met up at Tomboy Tavern in Mountain Village for Happy Hour. **Mary Jones** and **Terry Barnes** were up at the bar and **Leasa** and **Robert Clements**, **Miranda Kelly** and **Mary Beth Cihal** scored a good table as everyone wandered in and wandered out.

We got some snow over night and everyone skiing seemed to be on the Mountain. Lunch at Big Billies was less crowded and easy in and easy out. Happy Hour was at The Cosmo and we found you must show up early to get a table. Everyone wants those \$5 Cosmos!! Seven of us were able to make the score.

Tuesday was spa day for a few guests and almost everyone turned up for Clean Comedy Central at the Bear Creek Lodge. Space City Ski Club provided wine, beer and lots of Pizza from Crazy Elk Pizza in Mountain Village. The shuttle driver was kind enough to wait while we paid and hauled out ten large pizzas. After everyone loosened up a little, **René Reed** kicked off the night with a very clean penguin joke...and suddenly (almost) no one was shy. We went around the room. **Sid Lacombe** opened for his wife **Brenda**. She entertained us with an almost standup routine!

Wednesday was another beautiful day with a temperatures in the

teens. We met up at Big Billies for lunch because it was large, uncrowded and easy to score a table. Our big Happy Hour turnout was at Allred's. And why not. The cocktails were awesome and the view even better. Pamplemousse and Spritz were the big hits of the night. **Gary Freeman** and **Lori Aubrect** rounded out our large group. **Candis & Charles Putnik**, **Pat & Dianna Jernigan** stayed for dinner. The hostess took them to a table to seat them. The table had a gorgeous view and everyone was excited...until another lady approached and said, "That is my table." Sadly, it was true and the hostess, with a red face, took everyone to the correct table...without the same great view. Rumor has it they enjoyed their meal very much anyway!! Allreds is amazing place and was enjoyed by **Elizabeth** and **Chuck Albright**, **Frank & Terri Lubrano**, **Mike & Janet Sher** and **Sid & Brenda Lacombe**.

If you stopped by **Charles** and **Elizabeth Albright's** condo, you could enjoy the three 1,000 piece puzzles they put together or watch rodeo videos with **Sid** and **Brenda Lacombe**. Did you know Sid was a professional bull rider?? **Frank & Terri Lubrano** and **Michael** and **Janet Sher** stopped in to check it all out! Terri and Janet also enjoyed a day of snow shoeing. Easy to do....but quite a work out!!

Thursday was a change of pace. Instead of lunch, blue skiers or better were to meet at Alpino Vino, the highest elevation fine dining restaurant in America. 11,996 feet. **Mary Jones**, **Terri Barnes**, **Mary Beth Cihal** held a table inside and were joined by **George & Rene Reed**. Outside, **Dianna Jernigan** and the **Putniks** enjoyed bluebird skies and good wine. Afterwards, MaryBeth took her first blue run of the trip all the way to the bottom, looking better and better with every turn!

Friday was a free day with no plans for lunch as everyone was scattered between town and the mountain. But **Gary Freeman**, **Charles Putnik**, **Charles Albright** and **Gordon Boulger**, **Keith Kirkman**, **Dan LeMay**, **Susan Stanley** were some that continued to leave their marks on the mountain. Gordon did some runs that many of us cringed at just looking at them, but his hard work was rewarded each night with a fabulous dinner out with his lovely wife, Lauri. **Cindy Reeves** finished up her first trip skiing in near twenty years by increasing her speed and challenging herself to complete more green runs everyday. She was so excited about her progress and it was contagious!! On Friday evening we met up for Leftover night. What a spread!!!! **Robert Clements** brought his world famous brisket (if its not, it should be), **Brenda Lacombe** brought a well presented and delicious salad. We had left over pizza, chili, macaroni and cheese, candy, washed down with beer and wine. It was a great night for laughter and camaraderie.

Saturday found us all meeting in the lobby for coffee while waiting on our bus. **Keith Kirkman** sipped with us before continuing on his winter odyssey to Purgatory for more skiing! Lucky man!

Everyone arrived safely home. A great part of the trip was that no one was injured. Close calls only. **Susan Stanley** narrowly missed being creamed by a speed demon. The demon kept on going with three Space City heroes chasing him down to tell him to get it under control! But seriously, no injuries or major illness is such a thankful thing! This was my first trip as a leader and I couldn't have asked for a nicer group of people!!