

Vailnet - My name is Stotz, Dave Stotz. My partner is Long, Julia Long. We got the call on a Thursday, July 13th, 1995. It was a Mr. Smith. Merrel Smith (sounded like an alias to me). He said he was the VP of Trips for a ski club in Houston, the Space City Ski Club. He had a homicide to report. He said that the Telluride ski trip had been killed the previous night. It was too pricey for its own good. My partner and I got the assignment to investigate a new trip. Vail, Colorado. After two days of frenzied investigation, we reported that the price looked good, real good. We decided to trail this trip.

On Tuesday night, March 26th, 41 suspects (who we shall refer to as "The Vail Mob") arrived at IAH, including David Launarey, a last-minute replacement. My partner tailed a Ms. Sharon D'Orsie and the Faust Brothers straight into the Continental Presidents Club. They departed the club steeled for the long trip ahead. The suspects soon boarded a plane after receiving name tags with a star indicating their skiing ability. When a Ms. Becky Wolfe asked why her star was red, she was informed it was for being on the Olympic Shopping Team. Before the end of the trip, these stars were earned by Rhonda Moran, Beth Wood, Joan Henke, Judy Schiro, Vicky Cooke, and Diane Stotz. While on the plane the leader of "The Mob" was forced to use the Call Attendant button to ID Dorothy Menart, who was hiding in the front of the plane. Takemi Koike was awarded the Continental Air Sickness Medal by getting altitude sickness while still at IAH. After a grueling 3 hr. bus ride "The Mob" arrived at Evergreen Lodge in Vail at 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning. Very suspicious behavior. Two individuals, Vivion Key and Carolyn Moore, had already arrived from Memphis, Tennessee, via Amtrack. Vivion's luggage enjoyed the train ride so much it decided to stay on until Los Angeles. A Mr. Glenn Goode, alias "Shredder", had also joined "The Vail Mob" via Denver.

About 8:00 am on Wednesday morning lift tickets were handed out and rental skis were picked up at the sport shop in the basement of the Evergreen lodge. A Continental breakfast was available for any interested individuals. One of the suspects was almost arrested on the first day, as Jesse Moran attempted to flash the entire Vail mountain by breaking the zipper on his ski pants. He was reported to be wearing hot pink Speedos.



Matt Delong, Don Shreves, Charles Allen, George Salak, and Greg Deaton are willing to testify in court to the existence of the famous Vail "Panty Tree". However, they will not state whether they added to or subtracted from the tree.

Thursday morning was Ski Beaver Creek day. Many of the members of "The Mob" were spotted at this location. A Mr. Georges Condon reported a near-death experience by launching himself off a cliff. The lift operators reported obscenities being uttered from his landing spot. "The mob" gathered for a party at Garton's that night where beer and margaritas flowed. A crazy shirt contest was held, with Jeff Faust, Toni Rankin, and Dave Stotz winning by audience acclaim. Somehow Sharon D'Orsie slept through the party after receiving a massage. After skiing on Friday, back to back happy hours were held in the Evergreen sports bar (the Altitude Club) and the hotel hot tub.

Saturday was Nastar race day, and many of "The Mob" chose to participate. Two silver medals were won by Tim Malone and Dave Stotz, and five bronze medals, by Charles Allen, Georges Condon, Greg Deaton, Matt Delong, and David Launarey. Although Joan Henke didn't finish the race, her ear muffs did finish, which earned her a special participation award and style point. Jeri Hartman was seen with a metal detector on the race course looking for her lost white ski pole that she drove under the snow while dashing to the finish line. Bridget Dutt was observed eating her lunch without husband Tony Dutt as he was determined to earn a medal (to no avail).

On Saturday night several members of "The Mob" went to see Steve Meyer at The Club. This was the season-ending performance. George Faust appeared to be getting his head polished by a few attractive ladies. Ron Hayes and Judy Schiro compared The Club to a frat party without the class. Numerous photos were taken during the show, but had to be confiscated due to improprieties.

Many unanswered questions remain from this investigation...

Why can't Mike Wolfe get anyone to ski with him? Is he just too good? Would skiing with Gloria Ramirez have humbled him?

How did two (usually) excellent dancers like Jeri Hartman



Vail continued

and **John Safos** manage to collide on one of the more fierce green runs? How did **Beth Wood** manage to talk her husband into allowing her to make this "fantasy" trip and leave the two kids behind? How can **Helen Kealey** ski so well down a tough blue slope, and then do a somersault on the flats? Did she mean to land on her head? How could "Shredder" leave the mountain early for a job interview? Was **Diane Stotz** the only woman **Don Shreves** could catch up to? And did he have to run her over?

Was **Anne Hessman** ever seen in the Evergreen Lodge or did she spend most of her time in Eagle with her "John"? Why exactly did **Anita** and **Steve Kinney** skip town for the East Coast soon after this trip? Were they wanted by the law? How did **Freda Plemmons** and **Lori Matthews** become such good ski buddies? We may never know (or even want to know) the answers to these questions.

The return trip to Colorado Springs on Sunday morning took an unusual but scenic route through the mountains. One suspect, **Petra Luchesa**, somehow got locked into the bus bathroom. Did her husband, **Don White**, lock her in until she agreed to allow him to motorcycle instead of ski? **Diane Stotz** was heard to say that she always wanted to visit the city of Climax.

A post-trip party at the Moran's home was investigated. The organization of this party was difficult due to my partner not knowing her own home phone number. This party was attended by many of the suspects, with some very strange behavior observed. **John Safos** and **Don Shreves** sacrificed many pounds of crawfish in an attempt to get the spice recipe just right. **Georges Condon** was seen to launch himself from the hot tub after claiming to have been attacked by killer fire ants. Someone who looked identical to **Linda Erdman** was seen cleaning dishes, but her husband claims this is impossible.

The conclusion to this case is simple. The "Vail Mob" had a great time, and can't wait to get back to the mountains. Case Closed.

