

# Steamboat I

by J.R. Ronczy and Carol Cain

## The SCSC 2001 "No whining – No Injuries Tour to Steamboat Springs

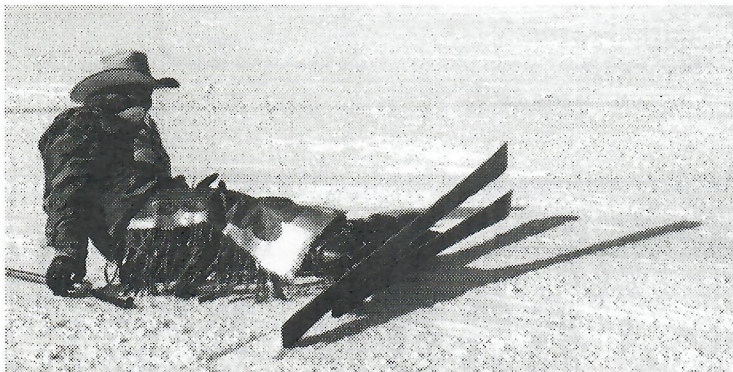
It was a lively group that we found in Terminal-C when we arrived at 5:00AM on Saturday morning for our 7:00 AM departure to Denver. It must have been the constant reports of fresh powder, with a big dump forecast for the weekend that got our intrepid SCSCers out of bed that morning. As we gathered up and checked-in at the Continental counter, the baggage Nazi's determined that our coolers exceeded the 70-lb



weight limit. **JR**, **TC** and **Carol**, **ATC** scrambled to off-load the offending beers and beverages to make weight, and a special thanks to **Sue Salvage** and **Debbie Warren**, and others who gallantly stepped forward to carry the offending beverages in their own packs. (**Howard**-how much skiing did you think you were going to get in without your boots?) As our 6:30 boarding approached, I was making plans to leave a few tickets at the counter when **Vickie Faulkner**, **Linda Licarione**, and **Janet Pickell** burst into the terminal in the nick of time. Upon our arrival at Denver, we loaded onto the bus while countless hands squeezed an enormous volume of luggage under the bus. You would have thought we were moving to Steamboat, not vacationing. Entertained by Warren Miller's "Fifty" and "Snowriders", satiated by lunch and beverages, it was a quiet group that rode through increasing snow flurries to Steamboat Springs. Upon our arrival at Timber Run Condo's, the staff got us situated while a few rooming SNAFU's were worked out. Special thanks to **Beth Wilhelm** at Steamboat Resorts for the wine, cheese, and veggie plates for our welcome party. I know a few people cancelled their dinner plans after that spread. Due to heavy snow, the Hayden airport had closed for several hours. Rumor is that after gloating about his direct flight for several weeks, **Phillip Vice** wasn't greeted with much sympathy by his condomates when he finally arrived at 9:00PM.

Sunday was officially declared a powder day as the line to the Silver Bullet Gondola snaked out around the square over half-an-hour before the lifts were scheduled to open. After two seasons of thin coverage, the whole group enjoyed the day as the powderhounds scoured the mountain in search of hidden stashes. (**JR**-have you figured out where you were Sunday morning?) As if a day in powder wasn't enough, a feast awaited us at the sumptuous Steamboat Grand for the TSC welcome party. We were greeted by the legendary **Billy Kidd** and **Banana George**. Banana is a bit of a Steamboat legend – having given up skiing at age 75 - to take up snowboarding. Later that evening, **Jack Sartin**, (at wife **Rena's** urging), serenaded the group with a country classic that could have passed for Johnny Cash. Awesome!

On Monday, **Steve Amy** and **Ty Smith** were seen dragging their knuckles on the bunny slope as they took snowboarding lessons. Kudo's to **Bruce Lowther** for some of the sickest skiing (literally) on the trip, and thanks to **Steve Barney** for getting Bruce back healthy and in one piece. Bruce was looking paler than the snow when I saw him.



Tuesday afternoon brought the famous Cowboy Downhill to Steamboat, and several SCSCers to watch. Rodeo cowboys battled (literally) head-to-head down a slalom course, roping a horse and saddling a woman (or was it supposed to be the other way around?). Was that **Cathy Phillips**, **Carol Hudson**, and **Leyla Ozkardesh** we saw loitering around the finish line checking out the chaps? That evening we took the Gondola up to the Thunderhead Lodge for the TSC Go West party. Special thanks to **Kim Page** and **Dennis Deavenport** for representing SCSC in the indoor rodeo events of roping, barrel racing, and scramble (a.k.a. blind bean feeding).

Sunrise on Wednesday found **Bob Wray**, **Christine March**, **Randy Hall**, **Dennis Deavenport**, and **JR** off to the Routt National Forest with Blue Sky adventures for a day of Snowcat skiing. Wednesday afternoon found **Howard Schoenike** in a place he didn't want to be. After skiing the afternoon with **Joe Cannata**, the pair decided to head in, when, after missing the turn to

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Broadway, Howard found himself alone on Rolex – arguably one of the toughest black diamond runs on the mountain. When asked by **Chris Urbanczyk**, “What made you go down Rolex?”, Howard sagely replied “Stupidity!”. As the sun set, **Carol Cain** led **David Launerey**, **Tom and Marylin Mullner**, **Don and Sandy Parker**, **Jimmy and Linda Walker**, and **Ray Naudain and Diane Jamail** on a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the Yampa Valley. Although it was a cold evening, the group enjoyed dinner in a large tent and the music and camaraderie that followed.

Thursday morning brought the NASTAR races at the Bashor Race area. Congrats to Silver medallists **Kayleen Kill** and **Diane Jamail**, bronze medallists **Janet McKenzie** and **Ann McIntyre**, and challengers **Linda Licaione**, **Elyse Turla**, **Vicki Faulkner**, **Susan Blome**, and **Janet Pickell** – in the women’s division. Kudo’s to gold medallist **Harry Gaston**, silver medallists **Dennis Deavenport**, **Merlyn Harger**, **Ron Rambin**, and **Phillip Vice**; and bronze medallists **Tom Mullner**, **Morris Covin**, **Steve Barney**, **Ray Naudain**, **Jimmy Walker**, **Frank Adams**, and **David Launerey**. Hats off to challengers **JR** and **Bob Clements**. Special thanks also to **Phillip Nelson**. **Bruce Lowther**, **Harry Melnick**, **Chris Urbanczyk**, **Mike Choi**, **Kim Page**, and **Stacey Ronczy** for racing. **Dennis Deavenport** and **Phillip Vice** picked up silver medals in the individual races. **Kayleen Kill** and **Janet McKenzie** picked up a silver and bronze, respectively, in the women’s individual races. On Thursday evening the long trip and short trip joined forces at the Ore House for a party, and for some of us the best steak dinner in Steamboat, and an impromptu celebration of **Harry Gaston’s** birthday! I don’t want to say which one, but suffice it to say he skied free for the rest of the week. And who were the number one, two and three Ho’s on this trip, and who was their ho-boy? Inquiring minds want to know.

Friday brought blue-bird skies and empty slopes for the third straight day – and we suffered through it as best we could. That evening brought us to the TSC awards dinner at the Sheraton. While the dinner, dancing, and carrying-on was certainly fun, we left without a trophy.....again. But no matter, a good time was had by all.

Saturday morning found us loading on to busses, as the snow began to fall. As we headed up to Rabbit Ears pass, it was a bittersweet feeling as we were watching “No Mans Land”-(babes that rip), and “Some like it Hot” on the bus’s video screens. The stop in Silverthorne for lunch and the lobbying for a “quick” trip to the outlet mall, if that’s even possible, perked the group up, but the skiing was behind us. All returned safely, I think – has anyone seen **Morris Covin** and **Sheryl Falcon** since we left them at the airport?

Watch for the article on Steamboat II trip in your April issue. Steamboat was a great trip!!