

After expanding this popular trip to an amazing 80 people, we set out on Saturday morning, February 26. An army of excited SCSCers filtered into Bush Intercontinental. Continental did a great job checking in our group. Lou Kleinman, was so excited to go that he left his boarding pass in the e-machine. Luckily, the TC was able to locate him before this security breach shut down the airport. The only loose end was not realizing some excited participants had arrived prior to the TC and ATC and were already at the gate. Janet McKenzie and Frank Adams were the last to arrive much to the relief of their buddy, Morris Covin, who was incredulous that these hard-core skiers might miss the trip to Vail. Charlene Fleming got the award for "traveled the farthest to join us" by coming from her job in Russia. Even the jet-lagged Charlene did better than Steve Jaeger who obviously needed a few more hours sleep. As a joke, the trip leaders gave him a nametag with two green smiling faces and a misspelled name. He didn't even notice!

Once in Denver, we were met by Leslie Adams and Steve Ellsberry from San Jose, California who were joining buddies Greg Conary and Theresa Tanchak on the trip. Once the group was organized we took off for a planned stop at Applejacks to fill up with adult beverages, some groceries, and eat lunch. Applejacks had just barely enough adult beverages for our thirsty group. Business was so good that in appreciation, Applejacks donated three free cases of wine for our evening wine and cheese welcome party. Why were the buses having such a hard time climbing out of Denver on I-70? Perhaps it was those adult beverages. Upon our arrival in Vail, we were joined by our land participants. Nora and Mike Montgomery, Judy Corke and Ray Garrett came from Denver where Mike is now working. Helmut and Martha Zenger and their buddies the Schidlowskis came from Colorado Springs where the Zengers now reside. Ski bum, Keith Kirkman, who had leisurely driven from Houston, also joined us. An added bonus, Stacey and JR Ronczy dropped in from Denver. Excited conversation flowed along with the wine. A loud bell had to be used to get the group's attention to listen to a welcome speech from Mary Lou, our representative from Vail Resorts. Mary Lou told our excited group about a wide variety of events happening in Vail including "telemarking" lessons. Tina Williams misunderstood and thought she said "telemarketing." OK, get those phone banks ready!

The trip leaders discovered very soon that they had lost control. Who

was sleeping with whom? It took to about the middle of the week to find out where some people had relocated. Condo 1423 had no one left that was originally assigned to it. Where did they go? Perhaps, they heard of a sight to behold over in the next condo: Kurt Schidlowski doing morning push-ups in his birthday suit (really).

Seriously, there were no complaints about the lodging. This was good since TC, Kathy Young, didn't discover until Sunday morning that the phone in her condo was not plugged into the wall. What a good excuse to avoid any whining!

Sunday, our first day to ski, began with many of the group taking advantage of the free mountain tour at Vail. They got to cut the lift lines and cruise all over the mountain.

Tuesday night, a 60's and 70's theme party was held in honor of SCSC's 40th anniversary. It was a hit with many of the skiers digging deep into their closets for retro outfits. The era was well represented, however, Mike Dawson was heard to lament that no one wore any hot pants or mini skirts. We did see tie-dyes, long hair, peace symbols, the works, including Hari Krishna, Michael Makris, resplendent in the bed sheets from his condo. We were joined by some of the era's celebrities: Jack Sartin as Jimmy Buffett, and Dennis Stockton as John Denver. Both Davis Tucker and Robert Todd wore what appeared to be a vintage t-shirts apparently salvaged from their deepest past. Bob Horan wore a classic polyester shirt that was so ugly he inspired a group song: "BAH, BAH, BAH, Bob Horan."

Awards were given for best costume. The finalist for the men's best costume were Michael Makris, Dennis Pechal, Bill Hughes, Bob Horan, Jack Sartin, and Ray Garrett. The finalist for the women's costume were Heidi Hughes, Billie Nowak, Anne Marchetti, Martha Zenger, and Judy Corke. The Hughes family took home the top honor in both categories. An award was also given to the longest standing SCSC member present. This went to Dale Allbritton who evidently was born a SCSC member. Runner up was Jimmy St. Clair who has been around so long he couldn't remember when he joined. We also welcomed eight new members who joined the club to go on our trip: Mark Clarke, Michael Makris, Anne Marchetti, Dennis Pechal, Carlene McDevitt, Michael Blum, Judy Corke

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Big Boys and their toys



Peace Love & Snow

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and Ray Garrett.

On Wednesday, while many of the group went skiing on fresh snow that had fallen the night before, seven intrepid adventurers decided instead to go on a snowmobile tour. Participants included Bob and Mary Simpson, Ray Davis, Mike Dawson, Arlen Isham, Rick and Jane Adams. Most of the group had been on a snowmobile at one time or another, but the fact that Jane had never ridden one did not stop the group from letting her join them. After a brief discussion of operating instructions, safety tips and a review of hand signals they would be using, they took off over the open ground toward the mountains nearby. The guide had wisely encouraged the less experienced to ride in the back of the line. It was soon evident why. On more than one occasion Jane came upon the group at rest, waiting for her to catch up.

When they came to an open field, the "kids" were finally allowed to "let them run". Of course, in between the times they got themselves stuck in snowbanks or in snowwells near trees. A search party had to go looking for Arlen Isham who buried the front of his snowmobile when he tried to run over a stump. Mike Dawson came a bit too close to a tree, but the guide was able to kick out the dent Mike created. Ask Bob Simpson how he got stuck in a snowdrift. Iron man, Arlen Isham caught so much air, the guide said that it just had to hurt when he landed.

Meanwhile back on the mountain, while skiing with Cheryl Crockett, Chris Manges, Sandy Fowler, and some others, Steve Jaeger made an unfortunate remark to Cheryl who was leading them around. He was frustrated with a customer who was calling from Houston and remarked that the customer was a typical cheerleader type: cute but stupid. Cheryl said "Hey I was a cheerleader!". Steve spent the rest of the day killing himself following Cheryl and the others on 10 miles of catwalks which are torture for a snowboarder. She swears it was a coincidence!

Poor Steve let himself in for more torture when he asked a companion on the lift how he felt about snowboarders. He said, "I think they are wonderful". Steve said, "Really?" He said, "Yes, in fact they should have their own mountain". Kevin Foster thought this was pretty funny

Extreme skier, Mike Willis, completely "zoned out" a huge wooden "Warning Danger Cliff" sign, attached to a permanent access gate, and roped off on both sides. Having skied through the gate and finding himself on the precipice, he resorted to the predictable solution and tried to go around the 10' jump, lost a ski, broke a binding and slid down the mountain 30'. Not to be out done, wild Bill Prater threw himself off the same cliff in a remarkable display of camaraderie. All this happened under lift #4. The people going overhead on the lift egged them on to "Go for it!" Not a bad adventure for their first day and they actually walked away albeit some without skis.

When Tor Lileng's companion on the lift chair asked him if he was ready to lower the safety bar. Tor told him, "The bars don't open until 11AM!" No secret as to his priorities! His female counterpart was Laura Kinney who was never missing from a single happy hour all week.

Melinda Hughes is such a celebrity skier that she uses an alias. Wasn't her name "Maybelline?"

Tough guys, Chris Manges and Michael Rothermund, both had boot-



Perfect day in Vail

fitting problems but neither let this stop them. They skied like fiends and used the ill-fitting boots as an excuse to soak in the hot tub.

Jeri Wilson had the pleasure of skiing with her brother, Lee Wilson and his family who live in Denver. She skied the whole mountain from Blue Sky to Game Bowl. By the end of the day she was exhausted from skiing the entire resort, but not one fall! Way to represent us, Jeri!

Was our group going to the dogs? A group of mutts were spotted skiing behind the Big Dog, Keith Kirkman, most of the week since Keith knows Vail like the back of his paw. The pack included a couple of Mad Dogs, Bob DeBell and Bill Prater, who often decided the dogs were lazy and not hitting enough bumps. Some Bad Dogs, Gary Davis, Jim Hodges, Frank Adams and Charlie Roberts followed Keith down anything he would throw their way. A few Smart Dogs Nancy Schultz, Beverly Roberts, and Dennis Newell sometimes found a more civilized route to the bottom to meet the pack at the lifts. Only Wild dogs could keep up with Arlen Isham, Bob Wray, the Schidlowskis, the Zengers, and the Allbrittons. Lone dog, Alex Bunsch was always ahead of the pack. Clever pups, David Edwards and Dennis Stockton, cruised the blues with a pack of women including Carlene McDevitt, Billie Nowak, Kay McKeough, and, of course, the alpha female, Kathy Young.

On Thursday evening, a group dinner party was held at Lancelot's in Vail Village. The entire gang drank champagne and dined on a sumptuous dinner, but not before Dennis Stockton made an announcement.

He and TC, Kathy Young, had decided to get married! The group, including the couple that had a hand in the matchmaking, Skip and Nancy Lang, gleefully toasted the happy couple. Ky Griffin, was so elated that he ate two deserts in celebration.

It was a wonderful trip: great weather, fantastic group, so much fun and laughter. Speaking of fun, if you were on the trip and we didn't mention your name here then you were probably having more fun than the law allows and didn't want to tell us exactly what you did in Vail. Our lips are sealed.