

Sun Valley --By Marsha Lutz and Bari



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At the Boise airport, we met Leslie Adams and Steven Ellsbury, our California contingent and friends of Greg Conary and Theresa Tanchak, who sail together as well as ski . After a long da

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travel, we settled into our deluxe condos at the historic Sun Valley Lodge, established in 1937 first destination ski resort in North America. The scenery lived up to its touted image of beauty captured on many cameras, including Bruce Baird's and Steve Slade's spectacular slide show

On Sunday, Ron Hayes, Judy Schiro, Roger Holzman, Marsha, Jill Nanney, Allan Smith, and E Gomez were among those who participated in our mountain tour, after which everyone skied s powder. After our welcome party on Sunday evening, 16 theatre enthusiasts, including Diane & Vicki Faulkner, Linda Licarione, Dave and Winnie Pullin, Sharon Simandl, and Bill Bomberger, advantage of free admission to the musical "Forever Plaid."

Although Sun Valley is considered a tough mountain, the black diamonds were a piece of cake of our more seasoned skiers, Ed Freiter and Bob Gottlieb. One of our new members, Markus E showed his Austrian roots, joining in on the black diamonds.

From day one, Keith Kirkman enjoyed his role as trail boss. At one point he had 14 skiers, all " following him. The gang, that included Bomberger, Sharon, Melinda Hughes, Barb, Nancy Sch Frank Adams, Bob Wray, Bob Gottlieb, Jeff Kovacs, and Gary Davis, made an instant lift line v they skied, like a pack of dogs. Other Big Dogs, Bill Prater, Ed, Keith, Dennis Newell, and Jim had a very nature filled trip, skiing among the trees whenever possible. When some of the gan their burning thighs needed a break, they formed a smaller pack, named "porch puppies" by M

Our prima ballerinas, Bill Prater and Nancy both exhibited hidden talents in their demonstration pirouettes on skis. Robert Todd had a different take on aerial moves, as he was seen going air following a collision with another skier. Unfortunately, he hurt his shoulder and broke ribs, curt skiing for the week. Ron, Judy, Maria Mendez, and Diane got an advanced education, skiing L Lower College ski runs.

Sun Valley restaurants are well- known for their culinary offerings and our lunches on the moun fantastic (Lookout excluded!). On Tuesday, Dave Blacklock, Ky Griffin, and Mike Rothermund Christmas Bowl all morning, then joined the group, who climbed the 60+ stairs to the entrance Roundhouse, the original mountain restaurant. Menu selections included soup and quiche. No to be considered effeminate, philosopher Bob Wray declared, "Real men eat quiche and ski gr runs!" Rothermund enjoyed Roundhouse so much that he returned for lunch every day for the week.

Tuesday evening, a number of us went to Ketchum for dinner, feasting on local faire, such as l buffalo, and trout, then later met up with Mark Monroe, Leigh Howlett, and Markus to check ou action at Whisky Jacques. We're not sure who won the foosball championship between Dave & Markus.

Although local restaurants are excellent, several of our group flaunted their hidden gourmet ch Bomberger prepared a roast, Roger and Melinda cooked a spaghetti dinner with their own sec Frank made his Gretchen's Gold French toast, and Dave Pullin impressed Winnie and condo r Linda and Vicki, with homemade chicken soup and baked fresh apples. Winnie even packed h "Mr. Mom" apron for him to wear in the kitchen.

Several participants including Sheldon and Clara Tuffyas, Rothermund, the Stotz's ventured to Lodge's huge outdoor hot tub, also from the original 1937 construction. And why was it that Di wanted to spend so much time in the hot tub? I guess the sights were appealing.

Wednesday was a shopping day for the girls and guy: Nancy, Melinda, Maria, Sharon, Diane, Frank. Did Frank take the day off to see the galleries and sights of Ketchum or spend the afternoon with the women while the other guys skied? Some wondered if Mark Ehrlich purchased his buffalo hat but he brought it with him – glad to have the chance to wear it since it's not allowed around his

Several participants took advantage of the centralized laundry mat. Mary Simpson and Betty S returned with a strange pair of socks, only to find out they both had the same strange pair. They matched the oddities.

Sonja Davis enticed Carol Cain, to join her in cross country skiing on the golf course. After hearing much Carmen Mikhail enjoyed snow shoeing, Carol added that to her repertoire - downhill skiing, cross country skiing and snow shoeing all in one week!

Our sleigh ride to Trail Cabin Creek was great. The full moon shining on Mt. Baldy, enhanced the beauty of the snowcats grooming the ski runs. Our dinners were so big that many of us brought back, coined the phrase, "fox lunches," to toss to the foxes that followed the sleighs on the return ride.

On Thursday, 15 racers participated in Nastar races, led by race director, Bob Wray. Our fastest was Markus, followed closely by Dennis. Jill was the fastest woman on the slopes, with Mary V as second. Several door prizes were won at our group dinner that evening, including a backpack for Gary. Mary Ellen Arbuckle "won" a jacket, which was good since she had left hers on the bus. They looked identical! Maria and Dave Pullin won ski goggles.

At the end of a wonderful week, we faced another long day of travel back to Houston. On the bus, Jill wanted to know how much time we had before we reached our destination. Roger answered, "Age you don't ask how much more time you have!" However, one question everyone willingly answered yes to was that of Bob Simpson's - "Did you have as much fun as we did in Sun Valley?"