

BRECKENRIDGE - by Patricia Finch

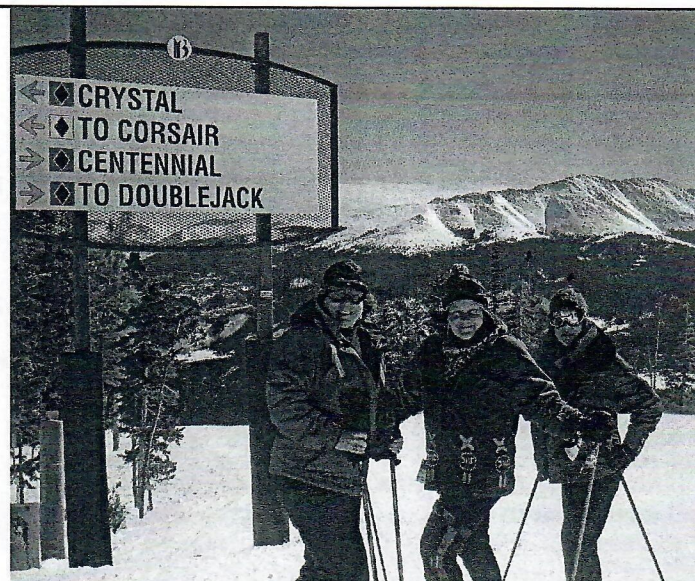
What can I say about Breckenridge? It is a beautiful ski town at a very high altitude with beautiful weather. It was almost like Spring skiing. We all commented that we carried too many clothes. We had 33 participants on this trip- twelve of which were new members, with two first time skiers and one who hasn't been skiing in a long time. We arrived on Saturday to a wine and cheese party with a Breckenridge Resorts representative providing us with information about the ski area. Many participants wanted to know about the Mountain Tour and signed up for it the first morning so they could navigate between the 4 peaks to ski, each having a wide range of skiing ability. On Sunday **Steve Vigil**, **Leigh Peterman** and **Stuart Allen** tried ski school before attacking the slopes. Leigh also took an additional day of lessons and says she is ready to go again. Stuart became ill with altitude sickness which made for a rough trip for him, but he was feeling much better when he got on the bus to come home to a lower altitude.

Keith Kirkman, **Dennis Newell**, **Jim Hodges**, **Janet McKenzie**, and **Frank Adams** did their usual "big dog" runs together. Frank is now a resident of Colorado and has skied most of the Colorado ski resorts. One of our new members **Dawn Williamson** is a very advanced skier and kept up with our regulars. **Gretchen Van Beers** and **Michael Hotho** enjoyed skiing the blue-blacks. We had a lovely couple **Marian** and **Anna Baranowski** who are originally from Poland and were looking forward to the Colorado ski trip. They were quite interested in the various peaks and carefully planned where they wanted to ski. **Christine Marsh**, **Lori Gilliland** and **Leyla Ozkardesh** tried to get in as many runs as possible in one day without killing themselves. Cimarron on Peak 10 was a favorite. **Marsha Lutz** would ski with them in the morning and join **Louella Steller** and others for lunch and skiing in the afternoon. The above mentioned threesome didn't want to give up much skiing time so would forego the mountain dining experience. Christine and Lori finally decided to go to the Oxygen Bar to get an added lift for the next day.

Suzan Meaux, **Steve Vigil**, **Mary Jo** and **Tony Loverdi** were condo mates and also ski buddies. Suzan had not been skiing in awhile but caught on quickly. Steve Vigil took it easy and enjoyed the green runs on Peak 9, while the others searched for blue/black runs to conquer. They would meet at the end of the day and everyone was happy.

Barbara Giesecke had not skied in some time so she also stayed on the greens. She traveled from Ruidoso, New Mexico to join the club and then planned to stay and visit family in Houston after her trip. **Ashok Moza** and **Nance Du Frane** were busy skiing the blues and we couldn't seem to find them until it was time to get on the bus to go home, but they were happy to have gotten so much skiing time. **Mary Ellen Arbuckle** tried skiing but became very tired and realized it was altitude sickness. She too had to get oxygen to feel better, but she did get some skiing in. Because Breck has the highest peak in North America, bottled and canned oxygen is available everywhere - from the clinics to bars to convenience stores!

Marda Waters, **Gayle Dale** and **Helen Kealey** enjoyed the whole mountain experience from the skiing to dining to



photographing all the beauty. We had excellent clear weather that allowed all with cameras to capture some very picturesque scenery - and a few funny ski moments.

Now, who knows where **Marty Kaminsky**, **Craig Campbell**, and **Robert Tripp** skied, but they were tired at the end of the day. Poor Marty was so sun burned that he did not ski the last day. **Steve Slade** was an early bird on the slopes but would end his day early afternoon to have time to relax on his vacation.

We had a pizza party in our condo on the last night and heard lots of stories about how much fun each had at Breckenridge - for which I am truly grateful.

In an ending note, everyone needs to ask Louella what she does with her watch each night when she cannot figure out how to turn off the alarm. **BEWARE THE REFRIGERATOR!**

Thanks Louella for the use of your lovely home for the Post-Trip Party.

