

Vail, Colorado by Judy Shiro

For those of you who missed this trip because of the fear of not having enough snow, you really missed out. We had lots and lots of snow. Blue Sky Basin was already open when we arrived – the earliest it has ever been open. After our arrival at Denver airport and the mandatory stop at the grocery/liquor store we arrived at our destination – Lions Square Lodge. After a few confusing luggage deliveries – **Llona Doubet** couldn't find her NEW ski boots – alas, they somehow found their way into **Bob Olsen, Larry Edmondson, Ron Hayes** and **Judy Schiro's** condo. The desk was looking for a brown boot bag and all we found was a blue one. Someone here is clearly color blind. **Melinda Hughes, Pat Piech, Jim Edwards** and **Jim Walker** were not happy with their condo and quickly asked to be moved to a different condo – what luck, ski in-ski out! The people who needed to rent skis went off to rent them and then we all went looking for a place to eat.

Sunday brought sunshine and lots of skiing. My new ski jacket zipper broke and **Brenda Herman** came to my rescue. Seems she packed an extra jacket and she was so kind and sweet to loan me the extra jacket for the remainder of the week. Melinda Hughes set out on a mission to get her ski boots adjusted. And, by the end of the week and several adjustments, she said she had succeeded. **Bruce Lowther** purchased new boots. **Marilyn Swanson, Janet McKenzie, Al Klimas** were seen skiing, Marilyn in her new pink helmet. Couldn't miss her! Victor Blanco said he was tired of seeing Tom Huzzey's rear end on the ski slopes. Said Tom just skied so fast. **Ron Rambin** led his merry crew – **Roberta Rambin, Craig Campbell, Roger Holzman, Bob Olsen, Victor Blanco, Tom Huzzey, Ron Hayes, Nancy DuFrane, Sharon Simandl** and me – all over the blue runs. We had a blast.

Sunday night was our Apres ski at Mezzaluna's with lots of appetizers. **Mark Ehrlich, Steve Slade, Michael** and **Gin Knebel, Tom and Chaille Hutcheson** joined in the fun. **Sharon Smith** was our only non-skier. **Andy Smith** skied to the base every day and had lunch with her. True love at it's best!

Monday night the club dinner was held at Sapphire's. Wonderful food.

Tuesday brought lots of snow. The powder was so high – too high for me – but everyone loved it. Our shadows, **Leslie** and **Andy Cashio** tried to lead us down some supposedly groomed runs – they were not! And, we had a white out at the top of Eagle's Nest Ridge. **Cindy Moore** left us in the dust and **Ann Dorn** followed us very slowly and closely to the Gondola. Whew! After we rode down and had lunch, the sun came out. At the end of the day, Andy Smith ran over Tom Huzzey and knocked him for a loop. Scared me so much that I FINALLY bought a helmet. Lions Square Lodge hosted a wine and cheese party for the lodge's guests. **Marie Henry, Evan Howell, Brenda Herman, Barry Casper, Jason LaRosa** and **Anna Ledowicz**, enjoyed the get together.

Wednesday the short trip left. A few of the short trip people managed to get a few runs in before the bus left. It was a beautiful day. Clear skies.

Thursday, Chair 5 opened with a celebration of hot cocoa, cider and chocolate chip cookies. **Ross Baker** and **Keith Kirkman** both joined in the fun and got a "5" pin for their efforts.

Friday it snowed again. Not as much as on Tuesday, but enough for all of us to enjoy the day. The Vail area was expecting a big storm overnight and true to form, it came. Windy and snowing. So on Saturday, we left an hour earlier than scheduled just to make sure we got to the airport in plenty of time. It snowed on us all the way past Loveland but when we arrived in Denver it was sunny and beautiful. It was a great trip. We all made lasting friendships, but then we are all such a wonderful group – join us next year. It's truly the best trip of the year!

