

Adventures in Jackson Hole – Feb 26 – March 5, 2011

The adventure to Jackson Hole began Saturday morning at 4:30 am, when bleary-eyed Space City Skiers met at Houston's Intercontinental Airport to begin their trip. The excitement started to build during the next travel leg from Denver to Jackson Hole. In Jackson, after a short stop for groceries and (lots) of beer and wine, the group was on the way to the mountain. We arrived by noon and three anxious skiers- Ed Freiter and George and Darlene Hirasaki - headed out for a half day of skiing. The rest of the Jackson Hole skiers settled into the condos, headed to the mountain to rent equipment, or rested up after the early morning start. Later, everyone headed to Nick Wilson's Cowboy Bar for the welcome party. The group soaked up the apres ski atmosphere and enjoyed food and drink while learning about the mountain from a local representative. Leslie Hadjo and Cheryl Hughes quizzed the mountain rep for the best dancing spots. Ski groups were formed and plans made for the first day of skiing.

Sunday was a beautiful, blue bird day. There were no lift lines or crowds to slow down the enthusiastic skiers as they attacked the slopes. Keith 'trail boss' Kirkman led 16 'big dogs' down a few token blue slopes to warm up, and then headed for the blacks and trees.

Everyone met at the Rendezvous Café for lunch to exchange ski adventures and fuel up for the afternoon.

At the après ski gathering at the Mangy Moose, Melinda Hughes, Charlie Roberts and Ross Baker paid beer fines for their double releases and/or falling in the lift line. Later that night, the group in condo 7 - Julie and Michael Rothermund,



Bob Olsen, Kamron Kirkconnell, Jim Hodges, Gary Davis, Melinda Hughes and Jill Nanney - enjoyed an Oscar party, featuring Julie's yummy chili and friendly wagers for the best actress, best actor and best picture award..

On Monday, while most of the group was skiing, Gonul and Glenn Youngblood headed to Yellowstone to enjoy the park. After lunch at the Casper restaurant, Leslie Hadjo made several circles around the ski racks looking for his skis. Finally, it became clear that someone had taken Leslie's skis - but not his poles! So, for the rest of the week, Leslie skied on someone else's skis!

That evening, the group dinner was held in town at the Million Dollar Cowboy Steakhouse. To avoid having to take the bus, all eight people in condo 7 piled into Bob Olsen's SUV. Gary Davis said it looked like a clown car when they arrived - people just kept getting

out, one after another. Phillip Taft's brother Dan joined the group dinner and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. Most headed in early, to prepare for the next day's excursion to Grand Targhee.

Tuesday morning, we boarded the Targhee bus at 7:15am, and arrived for our day's skiing at 9am. Darlene and George Hirasaki's nephew Robby, a local resident and a very hot skier, joined for the day's skiing. Jim Townsend checked out the cross-country skiing. There was a short apres ski gathering in the bar. This was followed by more merriment on the bus back to the condos, especially in the back, where Nancy Schultz, Jim Townsend, and Davis Tucker toasted the day's activities with beer and wine. When the group arrived back at the condos, Larry Edmondson had arrived to join the group after a vacation in Vegas

Wednesday was snowmobiling in Yellowstone for trip leader Dennis Newell, Melinda Hughes, Jim Townsend, Ali and Fred Pethick, Jill Nanney, Cheryl Hughes, Ted Widmer, and Jim Hodges. All raved about the beautiful geysers and magnificent scenery. However, there were a few mishaps during the trip. Melinda discovered she had two right-handed mittens - fortunately, both fit, but unfortunately, both fit the same hand!



Adventures in Jackson Hole—Continued

And as instructed by the guide, Dennis Newell ignored concerns regarding gas tanks that registered less than full. Unfortunately, on the return trip, Dennis ran out of gas and had to be rescued by Jim Hodges. Some of his fellow snowmobilers saw Dennis 'slaloming' his snowmobile on a single rail, and suspect that excess speed may have contributed to excess gas usage!

Thursday was a powder day, and everyone rushed out to enjoy the 6 or more inches of accumulated snow. Although Beverly Roberts had a couple of face plants in the deep stuff, Charlie Roberts could be heard whistling and hooting through the woods. Bob 'de bump' Debell also enjoyed the deep snow.

At lunch, Nancy Schultz noted that Bob skied so hard that he had to peel off clothes on the slopes, and bundle up at lunch. At happy hour, the group had to bid farewell to Diane and Ross Baker, as they were leaving the next day so that Ross could fulfill his duties at a Texas Ski Council meeting on Saturday.

On Friday, Jim Townsend led Nancy Schultz and Ali and Fred Pethick on a cross-country skiing expedition. Back on the downhill slopes, the speedster skiers - including Jill Nanney, Bob Olsen, Kamron Kirkconnel, and Melinda Hughes - were enjoying the still-great snow. At the après ski gathering, the group was stunned when they heard that Ed Freiter and Steve Ying had skied - and survived! - Corbet's Couloir. Corbet's is described by Forbes magazine as 'America's Scariest Ski Slope' - a chute entered by dropping 12 feet into a 55 degree slope, with rocks on both sides. We're glad they survived! Melinda was extremely happy with her last ski run of the season and was seen finishing off 9 pitchers of Moose Drool at the Mangy Moose. And continuing the moose theme, later that afternoon back at the condos, Dennis Newell spotted a couple of moose outside the windows at Condo 1. He alerted all the condos of the nearby wildlife. The two Bobs - Debell and Olsen - went for a closer look, but Bob Olsen had to make a hasty retreat when one of the moose made it clear that the attention was not appreciated.

Reluctantly, the group headed home on Saturday. Everyone had an excellent time, and came home with lots of pictures and memories of a fantastic ski trip.

