

Trip Report – Breckenridge

By Steve Ying

What happens when 167 Texans get together for a week in the snow? You get a wild seven day party known as the TSC Final Showdown! Thirty-eight long trip participants from Space City Ski Club enjoyed an incredible week of skiing and fun in Breckenridge in the first week of March. In addition, we had ten additional short trip participants that included Ann Dorn, Gin Knebel, Ash Moza, Kathy Mitchell, Ann McIntyre and Patti Foltermann. We had a great mix of participants from non-skiers (like Rudi Peterson attending her first trip) to veteran skier Gary Davis, one of the original Big Dogs. Our group also welcomed three new club members, Nancy Spaeth, Alex Lederman and Don Beckham.

The winter was turning out to be a bleak ski season until the two weeks of continuous snowfall welcomed us with three feet of new snow just prior to our arrival. Along with the

four powder days we got during our stay, nobody had any complaints about the ski conditions. The most incredible day was actually in Vail where TC Steve Ying and eighteen others from our club enjoyed an epic 11" powder day.

Aside from the great skiing, the trip was also filled with parties and fun activities. We started the week off with a Saturday night club Welcome Party for which ATC, Cindy Moore ordered us twenty extra-large pizzas. That was enough to keep Jeanne-Marie Garcia busy trying to feed left-over pizza to everyone for the rest of the week. Steve Nickels graciously drove his truck from Houston with an ample supply of beer, wine and party supplies, so we were well stocked for the week. Ann Dorn also baffled the TSA scanner at the airport by bringing a whole baked ham in her carry-on bag which provided a nice side dish to our daily diet of left-over pizza.

One of the week's highlights, was a private 70's/80's dance party organized by Cindy Moore at Napper Tandy's Irish Bar on Monday night, where Mike Mason, our own



The whole gang arrived safely at the Denver airport.

professional dance instructor taught many of us including Lauren and Kevin McCreary, Bobby Goel, Rudi Peterson and Debbie Adams the Hustle while Leyla Ozkardesh & Rita Cardenas hustled the crowd at the foosball table.



Apres Ski with Davis Tucker, Lauren & Kevin McCreary and Joan O'Connor

Our club stayed at the Sawmill Creek Condominiums conveniently located a block from Breckenridge's vibrant Main Street. Deb Cini and Jason LaRosa showed their appreciation by making the short walk nightly to the many drinking establishments. James Holland also eventually learned about the short walk, but not after mistakenly taking a shuttle to Sawmill Creek, Colorado which is a forty-five minute drive away from Breckenridge. He tried to get condo mate Davis Tucker to pick him up at 1AM before realizing Davis didn't have a car.

Afterwards, James emphasized that it is important to say Sawmill Creek "Condominiums" when catching a ride home. Fortunately, the police provided him a courtesy ride since there is no other way back at 3AM in the morning.

In addition to the nightlife, Breckenridge features over a hundred restaurants. The hands-down club favorite was Le Petit Paris, a French restaurant highly recommended by Maria and Keith Koterak, Nancy DuFrane, Marsha Lutz, Jim Slaughter. Stuart Traver, Leyla Ozkardesh and Rita Cardenas. They said the vivacious and animated French

sisters who owned the place were entertaining and made it feel like home. The rest of us ate pizza and ham in our condos that night.

Space City also made an incredible showing at the TSC Racing event by taking first place in the team competition by a wide margin. Congratulations to our Race Director, Craig Campbell for a job well done. We had the most racers which included David Burrows, Pete Mathieu, Bernie Clinton, Robert Samen and many others. Eighteen of our club members in all braved the single digit temperatures that morning. Rick Levi was our fastest racer. We also won six individual TSC medals; Nancy DuFrane (Gold), James Holland (Gold), Steve Nickels (Silver), Jim Slaughter (Silver), Ross Baker (Bronze) and Marti Turner (Bronze).

Down-hill skiing wasn't the only daytime activity. David Weathersby, Don Beckham, Dale Allman and Joan O'Connor snowmobiled to the Continental Divide. Cindy Moore and Mike Mason enjoyed the two million dollar Nordic center. Kate MacDougall and Jeanne-Marie Garcia visited some interesting museums. Jim Slaughter and Stuart Traver loved hot-tubbing with bikini-clad women.



James Holland, Cindy Moore & Mike Mason



Deb Cini, Jeanne-Marie Garcia, Jason LaRosa and TC Steve Ying pub crawling



Rick Levi and Nancy Spaeth posing before the race



Corey Nelson from Sports America Tours with James Holland



Rita Cardenas and Leyla Ozkardesh - Looking pretty



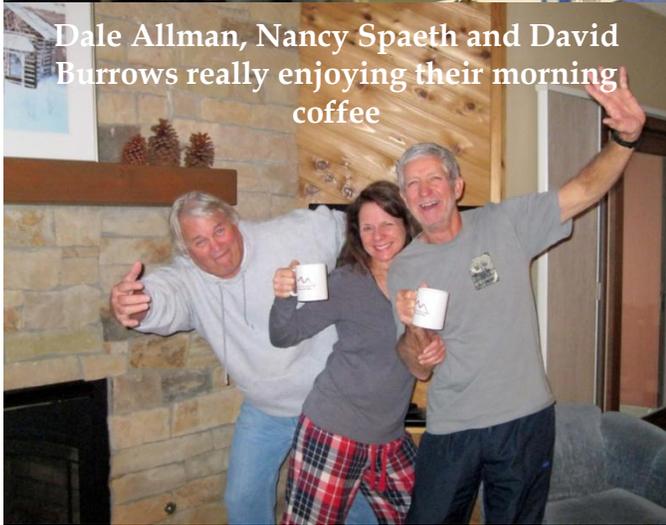
Ross Baker, James Holland, Steve Ying and Steve Nickels lining up for racing



Rita Cardenas, Stuart Travers, Jim Slaughter, Bernie Clinton, Ross Baker Davis Tucker, Kate MacDougall, Jeanne-Marie Garcia and Mike Mason



Awards night with Jeanne-Marie Garcia, Ross Baker, Kate MacDougall, Bernie Clinton, Jim Slaughter, Nancy Spaeth and Nancy DuFrane



Dale Allman, Nancy Spaeth and David Burrows really enjoying their morning coffee



Race Director Craig Campbell (middle) accepting team award with TSC officers Marsha Lutz and Ross Baker

The week was not only fun, but funny. Even before we arrived, Jeri Wilson tried to buy a bottle of Cupcake Chardonnay at the Applejack liquor store. When Jeri asked the young female attendant for Cupcake, she responded by thanking Jeri for the compliment. That funny moment must have

set the tone for the week. When housekeeping accidentally took Barbara Giesecke's thermal pants with the dirty towels, her condo mates John and Cindy McGowan said it was her fault for wearing terry cloth underwear. When Cindy Moore lost the sole of her after-ski boot walking in the snow, she tried to spray glue it back on. She needs to learn about duct tape. James Holland found out that you can get a speeding ticket while cruising a green run. Dale Allman and Joan O'Connor actually commented that they spent the whole week laughing.

As if we needed another excuse to go out to drink and dance more, the TSC had a Pub Crawl on Thursday night with an 80's costume contest. Cindy Moore probably would have won had her neon boots not fallen apart along the way. She vowed to bring duct tape on her next ski trip. Instead, a couple of guys from Dallas won which really surprised them because they said they weren't wearing costumes. However, Steve Ying and Kate MacDougall did win the TSC Scavenger Hunt which involved solving a series of clues about Breckenridge and taking selfies on their smart phones at various landmarks throughout the week. The \$50 prize was the only way Kate could justify going to museums on a powder day.

We finished the week off with the TSC Farewell banquet and dance Friday night. Of course, Space City closed down the party dancing the Hustle. On Saturday we had to take the long trip home. Everyone was sad that our trip was over but, at least we had pizza and ham on the charter bus to the airport.