

Trip Report – Lake Louise

On March 5 2016, thirty-three Space City Ski Club members headed to Lake Louise in Alberta, Canada on a Texas Ski Council trip. No need to beg people to travel to this jewel in the Canadian Rockies and stay at the famous Fairmont Chateau. It certainly lived up to the reputation it has established. There was a delay at the airport as several members had to report luggage that had been placed on a later flight, but the group was soon on its two-hour journey from Calgary to Lake Louise.

Upon our arrival around midnight we were met by the very spirited Sandy Best of Ski Canada. Room keys, credentials, and lift tickets were handed out quickly by our adept trip coordinator, Bill Bomberger, and we got to our rooms in record time.

The next morning, we were greeted by the stunning view of the Rocky Mountains and Lake Louise. The hotel itself, built on the scale of a grand hotel, did not disappoint, and while many members headed for the ski slopes, others took time to explore the hotel, ice castle, skating rink and ice wall. There was even a sleigh ride that took people around the lake for an up-close look at the landscape, wildlife and the ice wall. For those who have never walked on a frozen lake, it was quite an adventure.

A quick free shuttle ride took us to the Lake Louise Ski Resort where it was easy to rent equipment and get information about the area. Later that evening, Ski Canada and the TSC hosted a welcome reception where options for events, dining and alternative ski areas were presented. Lake Louise was the ski area of choice for the day.



Tuesday morning gave all of the participants a choice of skiing Lake Louise or Sunshine. For the evening SCSC members were treated to fine dining at the Deer Valley Resort which is known for its preparation of wild game. We enjoyed the chance to get to know the members travelling in this group at such a beautiful venue. Thank you Linda, Stan and Chuck for recommending this lovely restaurant.

Wednesday's adventures started at Lake Louise skiing. Somewhere along the way, Sharon Simandl took out

Gary Elston while getting on the lift. The only injury was to Sharon laughing so hard. That night members had the option to attend a barbeque dinner with a live band back at the Lake Louise Ski Resort. The food was exceptional even if it was not real Texas Barbeque and I think we all agreed the band created a fun evening for all who attended. There are some videos of the outstanding entertainment by the men and women on the trip. Unfortunately, the videos have to stay a secret. What happens on the mountain stays on the mountain.

Earlier that evening, Ski Canada reserved the entire tubing hill for the TSC. There was much whooping and hollering as members went flying down the slopes in tubes either individually or in groups. Some members who had never been tubing on snow were surprised at the thrill of flying down the slopes and we agreed it was exhilarating and FUN!!

Thursday a day trip to Banff was offered so many skiers and non-skiers, who took the day off, decided to explore the picturesque town of Banff and do some shopping. Sandy, Cindy, Joan and Shellie hiked up to the incredible Banff Springs Hotel, also by Fairmont, after hearing

raves about its uniqueness. It was definitely worth the hike! Later we met Sharon Simandl, Linda Kuyper, Marsha Lutz, et al for lunch where they shared a tip about a great jewelry store in town. This is also the place where Ross got the great pictures of the Elk on the frozen stream running through the village of Banff. Bill Bomberger, Cindy and Al Brown, Stan Kuyper, Gary Elston, Ali and Fred Pethick made their way over to Sunshine for a second day at the resort courtesy of extra work by Ski Canada.



Friday was our last day in this beautiful setting and it was a stunner. The skies were clear, the sun was shining and the snowfall over night made for a great ski day. Some of us walked across Lake Louise and wrote "Texas was here!" in the fresh snow. It was a spectacular day for taking pictures and drinking in gorgeous views

before leaving the next morning.



The Fairmont Lake Louise hosted a buffet dinner for the TSC that evening along with live music that looked suspiciously like the same band we enjoyed at the barbeque on Wednesday!



Late that evening, we all realized we had to pack for our very early departure on Saturday morning, but we all made it downstairs in time for our bus back to Calgary where we boarded our flight to Houston. It was difficult leaving our luxury hotel and the surroundings in Lake Louise. I know many of us want to go back soon and maybe stay at the Banff Springs Hotel? Surely it is one of the most beautiful places to visit. Did anyone ever find Ed Freiter or Ross Baker during the trip? Rumor has it they were in love with some trees.

Bill Bomberger,
Trip Coordinator