

Park City I

by Dorann Valka

A trip to be remembered. WOW! You'd think the 2002 Olympics were already here.

Fresh snow and lots of powder made skiing absolutely fabulous! Where can you go to enjoy so many wonderful ski resorts all in one place. The trip started out great. The airport check-in went smooth and we were off to Park City. There was never a dull moment on our journey to Park City. Everyone on the plane was in rare form and hyper to hit the slopes.

Arrival at Park City resort was eagerly anticipated. Our bus driver was not only humorous, but he was a "mountain" full of information. He knew about everything. On the ride to Park City he gave us a great overview of the area, past history, and told funny stories. We no sooner got there and we off to an Apres Ski party where we met Park City II skiers. The Dallas and San Antonio Clubs also joined us there. This made for some great happy hours and parties!

Several shadow skiers also joined us during the week. Cheryl and Walter May stayed with Winston White and Deborah Fritsche who have a house in the Park City area. Bill Landfield, Jas McLaugh, Jerry Montgomery, and Donna and Mark Nielson joined the group early in the week. Fred Khars, a friend of the Hirasaki's, came in from the Aspen area to ski with George.

The week also saw a crowd at the hot tub every night. Alex Bunsch, Mike Montgomery and Nora were regulars, as were D'lain Braunig, Nancy Staples,



worth seeing, the views, fresh snow, and numerous areas allows you to make first tracks making Alta and Snowbird worth the trip from Park City.

Many in the group made it to the TSC Friday night party where they awarded the medals for the NASTAR Races. The club races were tough, there were no gold medals given in any of the clubs. Nancy Sarff was the fastest woman, and Jeff Sarff was there to cheer her

Dorann Valka and Nicki McGone. Others who showed up to ease their muscles were Joe Kulpinski, Doug Ames and Amy Bates. Diana Carfello was seen shopping on many occasions, making her way up and down the shops at Town Center catching all the sales. Lisa Levy and Sandra Wimberly closed the bars down several nights. During the day when they weren't in ski school they were sleeping or shopping. You could find Ted Widmer at all the parties.

Those making an Alta trip included Rita Blasier, Holly Inkofer, Leigh Plough, Maria Alvarado, Alex Bunsch, Larry Edelblu, Micheal Willford, George Hirasaki and Fred Khars. The TSC trips to the Canyons and Deer Valley were overwhelmingly attended, even having great food and a happy hour for TSC. It was the right end to a great day of skiing.

Alex Bunsch also made a day trip to Snowbird. Alta was a little more primitive with wood seats and slow double chair lifts; however, Alta and Snowbird are

on. In the woman's division we had four Bronze medals – Nancy Sarff, Debbie Fritsche, Cherly May, and Lotty Gautschi. George Hirasaki was fastest man. In the men's division we had two Silver medals going to George Hirasaki and Fred Khars, and five Bronze medals going to Alan Bitzer, Phillip Vice, Harry Melnick, Thomas Mullner, and Karl Gautschi. The individual races on Friday were even more exciting. Park City set up a special race for Texas Ski Week. The races were held on Lower Clementine, a black run that will be used in the 2002 Olympics for the Slalom course. Instead of the usual 20 gates, they had 40 gates!! Space City made a sweep in the Senior Division. In the Senior Women's Division, Darlene Hirasaki placed second and Cheryl May placed third. In the Men's Senior Division, George Hirasaki placed second and Fred Khars placed third. Even more exciting, Space City was awarded the Second Place trophy in our Division. Way to go Space City and to all those who raced for the cup on Thursday.



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We hear that **Mike Montgomery**, our trip coordinator, kept plugging in their toaster.....and wondered why the coffee pot didn't perk - wrong plug Mike!

Skiing was first class at Deer Valley Resort. The

personnel were very helpful and the food

was wonderful Deer Valley's Stein Erickson, 1952 Olympic Gold medal winner, gave **Peggy Montgomery**, **Charles Butler**, and **Gary Butler** a personal tour of the mountain.

While at Alta, **Maria Alvarado** (AKA "Edge") was a little nervous coming down the Big Dipper with moguls. But don't worry, **Holly Inkofer** (AKA "Cat") solved the problem. She groomed the path for Maria by sliding down and removing/smoothing out the moguls. Maria was able to safely navigate down. **Leigh Blough** was a friend to everyone on the mountain. She collected skies during single releases and escorted new skiers to their destinations. Although skiing may test many physical skills, no one could handle these types of challenges better than **Rita Blaser** (AKA "Tumbelina"). She not only can perform a downhill 360 while sitting, - but at the same time request two other skiers to "scamper" over to the side, and still finish her act with a smile and a giggle.

D'Lain Braunig kept them busy on the mountain. She wiped out big time! Aided by a lumberjack kind of guy, a skier from Dallas ski club, she got down the mountain in a peculiar way - with her arms clutched around his waist like a cub



to the mama bear. With her skies in between his, they slid slowly down the mountain. What a story for the hot tub.

We all know that losing a pole, glove or ski isn't unusual, but losing the bottom half of your boot???. Ask **Don Eckhardt** what happened while trying to get on the lift. They had to bring him down by snowmobile, he had to waddle over to the ski rental shop and rent a pair of boots. Don had those boots for 20+ years. You might say it was time to buy a new pair! Maybe **Patricia Mengden Eckhardt** will let Don have a new pair of boots if he is good this Christmas!

The trip was a lot of fun, there were no serious accidents - only sore muscles and hangovers were predominant. Thank God for drugs like Ibuprofen to make those sore muscles go away and make you think you are a teenager again, well maybe a lot younger anyway. The trip ended with a memorable tour of the silver mine. **Nancy Staples**, **Lisa Levy** and **Sandra Wimberly**, joined others from Park City II and III on the tour. All in all Park City proved to be a memorable trip. Thanks to all the participants for making the trip coordinator's job easier. Everyone was exhausted and had a great time!